

Summer, 2016



Beta Sigma Kappa

Ocularum

Chancellor's Corner

Kierstyn Napier-Dovorany OD, FAAO

Upcoming Meeting

- American Academy of Optometry
- General Membership Meeting and Lunch Meeting
- Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016
- 4:30-5:30pm
- Anaheim Marriott Grand Ballroom A/B

Central World Council

Kierstyn Napier-Dovorany, OD, FAAO

Chancellor

Nicole Quinn, OD, FAAO

Chancellor-Elect

Lindsay Elkins Moran, OD, FAAO

Vice Chancellor

Ilana Gelfond-Polnariiev, OD, FCOVD

Treasurer

Mira Silbert Aumiller, OD, FAAO

Executive Director

Over the past 2 years the Central World Council has been evaluating our organization and its role in the profession of optometry. As an elite group of optometrists and optometry students, we want to ensure that we uphold our distinction in optometric scholastic excellence. We have diligently reviewed many other medical professions honors society membership criteria and compared it to our own. This comparison has been very insightful and has led the Council to begin the process to change our membership criteria. We have queried and requested comment from many groups that are invested in Beta Sigma Kappa, including students, the Board of Regents, and the ASCO executive board which is composed of the dean/president of every ASCO member school or college of optometry.

As a result, we have drafted new membership criteria that we believe reflects the utmost interest of the members, the profession, and the general public. For students, this change will enhance the prestige of recognition for scholastic

achievement. It will also improve recognition of this achievement with other groups, such as residency advisors. For the profession, it will ensure that we are holding our honors students to a similar level as other medical professional honors societies. For the public, it will provide consistent evidence that BSK members have achieved high scholastic standards.

In addition, we reviewed the bylaws dictating selection of Central World Council members and updated it to reflect the current process of Council membership selection.

As always, we are very proud of our members. Our student members are as active as ever, as is evidenced by the chapter updates in this issue. We continue to honor our graduating members in the US, Canada and Puerto Rico, with the gold and black and gold cords that signify academic excellence in the field of optometry, as well as the Silver Medal that is awarded to the graduating member with the highest academic record at each optometry school. Finally, we are proud to be a strong

supporter of optometric research by supporting scientific inquiry for students, residents, and faculty through our 4 different grant programs.

I heartily thank you for your membership in Beta Sigma Kappa. Our members support scientific attainment, academic excellence and the ethical practice of optometry through application and dues payments. BSK members represent scholastic excellence as honor students in the schools and colleges of optometry, as well as noteworthy professionals in the field—educators, scientists, and practitioners. I invite you to our annual membership meeting held in conjunction with the American Academy of Optometry's annual meeting in Anaheim, CA this year.

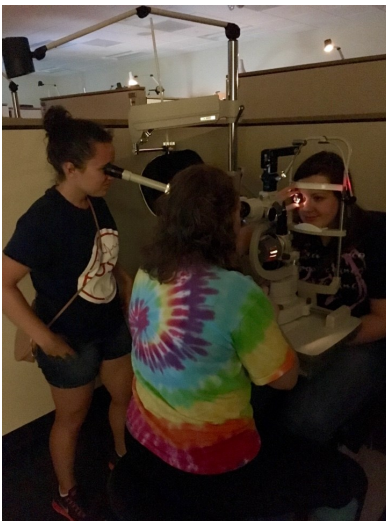
Cheers!

BSK Chapter Updates

SCO

Southern College of Optometry
Advisor: Lindsey Elkins OD, FAAO

This year we inducted 68 new members, and graduated 58 fourth year students. In between those two events, BSK has remained active in the SCO community by facilitating annual mock practicals for the first year students, that focus on chair skills and retinoscopy. This year, we have added two new 78D and 90D funduscopy workshops to benefit the second year students. In addition to study help, our chapter also coordinates blood drives every semester. This past year our drives were so successful that we earned the award Education Group of the Year from Lifeblood. This award represents the college or university in the Mid-South region that donated the largest total number of units of blood to Lifeblood during the year 2015. It's been a great year, and we're looking forward to 2016-2017!



SCO BSK students at their mock practical.

NECO

New England College of Optometry
Advisor: Nicole Quinn, OD, FAAO

NECO's BSK Chapter had a successful year in 2015-16 with 49 members being recognized at graduation. The main event for the Chapter was the Mock Proficiencies, where BSK members mentor first and second year students helping them master their clinical skills. President Clifford Scott and Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert DiMartino recognized the members during an induction ceremony during Visionaries Day. The 2016 recipients of the BSK Silver Medal were Valedictorians, Kaylyn Marie Cummings, OD and Mackenzie Anne Egan, OD.

OHIO

Ohio State University, College of Optometry
Greg Nixon, OD, FAAO

The Ohio State University College of Optometry BSK chapter had another successful academic year in 2015-16. We inducted 31 new members into the chapter at our annual welcome dinner. Our chapter continued an annual service activity of conducting a mock clinical skills practical for our Opt IIs. This is a collaborative event where BSK upperclassmen help the second year students prepare for their clinical practical and subsequent entrance into our intern rotations. The chapter also continued our tradition of providing evidence based reference manuals to all third year optometry students nationwide. These manuals serve as a valuable resource to take on fourth year externships by summarizing impactful clinical studies that influence contemporary standards of care. We have already begun preparing for the third edition with expanded and updated content to distribute this upcoming spring .

BSK Chapter Updates

NOVA

NOVA Southeastern University, College of
Optometry

Advisor: Julie Rodman, OD, FAAO

The 2015-2016 academic year was an exciting one for the Nova chapter of Beta Sigma Kappa. There were celebrations, starting with the fantastic induction dinner our executive board hosted to welcome 38 new members into our society. We also celebrated our successes at the end of the year with our annual fundraising event to raise money for the Lighthouse of Broward County. Our chapter this past year was also deeply involved in assisting the Nova student body learn and succeed. As individual and group tutors, our members shared their knowledge with their peers. As a chapter, we also put on our annual Mock Clinical Proficiencies weekend, where we simulate the practical exam Nova students need to master in order to move on to their primary care rotations in order to help out our OD2s. All-in-all this past year was a success, and we look forward to the upcoming year!



NOVA BSK Students

UABSO

University of Alabama, School of
Optometry

Advisor: Nicole Guyette, OD

UABSO BSK chapter held our annual Induction Ceremony for new members and elections for new officers during the fall semester. At this ceremony, 19 new members were inducted (3 seniors, 1 third year, and 15 second years). Our officers for 2015-2016 were Kelly Cleary, President; Courtney Hazelwood, Vice President; Allison Cheek, Secretary; Emma Scott, Treasurer.

In the Spring semester, we held our annual fundraising breakfast, selling bagels and fruit to help support our Mock Boards event. At the Awards Ceremony for graduation, we celebrated and honored 25 graduating members (21 were members all 4 years!). During the summer semester, we hosted a Mock Boards event that allows 4th year students to practice for Part III boards.



Annual UAB BSK New Member Banquet

BSK Chapter Updates

WUCO

Western University College of Optometry

Advisor: Kierstyn Napier-Dovorany, OD, FAAO

This past year the club has had the opportunity to participate in several on-campus activities including:

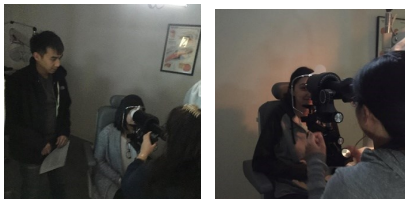
Preview Days

Several days throughout the year where we welcomed prospective students and informed them about both the WesternU program and optometry in general.



OD 2019 Retinoscopy and Keratometry Mock Proficiency

In order to help our first years prepare for their first major clinical proficiency, we organized a mock proficiency in February to give them a practice scenario that mimicked the real proficiency environment. Club members volunteered by helping with set-up, organization, sitting as patients, grading, and tutoring.



OD 2017 NBEO Part 3 Information Session

In May we organized a faculty panel presentation where WUCO faculty members with NBEO Part 3 experience discussed each station and highlighted important tips and common mistakes to avoid in order to ensure that our rising 4th years have a successful 1st attempt with NBEO Part 3.

MCPHS

Massachusetts College Pharmacy & Health Sciences

Advisor: Amy Falk, OD

It has been a very busy and exciting year for MCPHS's BSK chapter! This past October we inducted new members; the ceremony was fun and filled with family, friends and current members. Most of the new BSK members are either tutors or peer mentors, helping the classes below to become successful students. One of our favorite events of the past year was holding mock proficiencies for the first years as practice for their end of semester clinical proficiency. The highlight of the past year was graduating our first class as an accredited university, in which 20 students were BSK members! We are currently working on preparing our fall fundraiser to help us fund opportunities like travel grants for members attending the AOA or Academy meetings. We are looking forward to another successful year ahead!

<http://betasigmakappa.net/>

BSK Chapter Updates

BERKELEY

University of California, Berkeley School of
Optometry

Advisor: Richard Van Sluyters, OD, PhD

UC Berkeley's BSK chapter has had a great year. We welcomed 57 new members and graduated 51 fourth-year students. Our 119 members have continued the tutoring tradition, providing over 270 hours of private, group, and pre-clinic tutoring. We have also hosted two boot camps for UCBSO's students, one for first-year students to improve their retinoscopy skills, and another for second-year students to prepare for clinic and working with the electronic medical record. For the ten members that contributed the most tutoring hours, we celebrated with a cookie social. We ended off the year with our annual BSK banquet, thanking our members for their hard work in their personal academic achievements as well as giving back to fel-



UMSL

University of Missouri-St. Louis, College of
Optometry

Advisor: Julie Dekinder, OD

The BSK chapter at the University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry is committed to fostering academic and clinical excellence within the school. The main service that BSK provides throughout the year is a mock clinical privileging exam. With this event, second year students get the opportunity to practice their clinical skills prior to taking their proficiency to gain clinical privileges. Third year students provide helpful feedback and first year students sit as patients. This is an excellent event that brings together students and enhances clinical skills and



For more information about our grants, including application instructions, go to <http://www.betasigmakappa.net/bsk-grantlist-2016.pdf>

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Please review the bylaw changes listed below, to be voted on at the General Membership meeting 11/10/16 by all present BSK members

Membership requirements:

Sec 3. An Honor Student Member shall be a student in a school, college or department of optometry whose dues are timely received and (a) who maintains a cumulative grade point average (GPA) equivalent to at least 3.5 (where C=2.0 and A=4.0) ~~during the first professional year, or at least 3.4 cumulative GPA for the first two professional years, or at least a 3.3 cumulative GPA for the first three professional years, or at least a 3.2 cumulative GPA for the four professional years~~ at the conclusion of each professional year, or (b) if the above criteria are not applicable, whose institution has established a merit-based system of determining membership eligibility which is satisfactory to the Central World Council. An Honor Student Member shall automatically ~~become~~ be eligible to become an Active Member upon graduation.

CWC election of officers:

ARTICLE X

Elections

Sec.1. Election of officers shall take place during the annual meeting of the Society held in odd-numbered years.

Sec.2. There shall be a nominating committee consisting of the Central World Council. If the CWC deems that further members are required, then one (1) to three (3) Active, Honorary or Life Members will be requested. The outgoing Chancellor shall serve as Chair of the nominating committee ~~and the remaining members shall be appointed by the Chancellor-Elect.~~

Sec.3. The Nominating committee shall recommend and report to the Central World Council one or more names for each office to be filled.

Sec.4. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the election, provided that all nominees agree to serve if elected.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BOARD OF REGENTS

Willard B. Bleything, OD, MS, FAAO, FCOVD, FNAPO, Chair

Ann E. Clark, OD, FAAO

Anthony P. Cullen, MSc, OD, PHD, DSc, FCOptom, FAAO, DipCLP

Thomas Freddo, OD, PhD, FAAO

Elizabeth Hoppe, BS, OD, MPH, DrPH

Gerald E. Lowther, OD, PhD

Joan Stelmack, OD, MPH

David Troilo, PhD, FAAO, FARVO

Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD

* Please see our website for our BOR complete bios

