Focused on Her Future

Business plan helps OD create a practice that meshes with the community ethic
Each year, WO acknowledges those ODs who graduate with the highest academic ranking. This year, 16 women earned top honors from North America’s 22 optometry schools and colleges.

**Chelsea Richards, OD**, was honored as valedictorian at Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry with a 4.0 GPA. From Lake Orion, Mich., Dr. Richards will become an associate optometrist at the Eye Center of Lenawee in Adrian, Mich.

**Illinois College of Optometry’s top graduate in the class of 2013 was Ashley Roehl, OD**, of Algonquin, Ill. Dr. Roehl plans to practice primary care optometry in the Chicagoland area after graduation.

**Stephanie Ramdass, OD**, of Toronto, Ontario, graduated at the top of the class at Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry. Dr. Ramdass will spend the next year in a cornea and contact lens residency.

**Erika Anderson, OD**, of Wyndmere, N.D., was named the top graduate of Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry’s first graduating class. Dr. Anderson will work in Chinle, Ariz., providing eye care with Indian Health Services.

**The New England College of Optometry Class of 2013 valedictorian was Sharlette Liezl So Saldana, OD**. Dr. Saldana, of Los Angeles, will complete a residency at the San Francisco VA Medical Center following graduation.

**Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry’s top graduate, Megan N. Kirkpatrick, OD**, of Tulsa, Okla., will fulfill her residency training at Child and Family Eye Care Clinic in Wichita, Kan.

**At Southern California College of Optometry, Mallori Aschenbrenner, OD**, of Minot, N.D., graduated at the top of her class. She is joining her sister in her Denver practice, where Dr. Aschenbrenner eventually plans to become a partner. She’ll also work elsewhere.

**Southern College of Optometry recognized Ashley Lynn Helton, OD**, of Luka, Miss., as its 2013 valedictorian. Dr. Helton looks forward to a career in pediatric optometry.

**Irene Tran, OD**, was the top graduate at State University of New York State College of Optometry. Dr. Tran, of Parsippany, N.J., will complete a residency in ocular disease at the school.

**At University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry, Desiree Cadiz, OD**, was named the Class of 2013 Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK) Silver Medalist, an honor which recognizes a graduate who demonstrates outstanding academic achievement, excellence in and enthusiasm for clinical care and dedication to BSK, the school and the profession of optometry. Dr. Cadiz, of Ventura, Calif., will focus on primary care and low vision during a residency.
at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System.

Samantha S. Rieger, OD, of Basking Ridge, N.J., was named valedictorian of her class at the Rosenberg School of Optometry, University of the Incarnate Word. Dr. Rieger has reenlisted as a captain in the U.S. Army and is looking forward to providing eye care for service members and their families while proudly serving her country.

Courtney Danae Perry, OD, of Ballinger, Texas, was head of the class of 2013 at the University of Houston College of Optometry. Dr. Perry will join a Plano, Texas, practice as an associate, specializing in pediatrics.

University of Missouri, St. Louis, College of Optometry’s top graduate, Caryn La Buda, OD, of Joliet, Ill., will take a residency position at the Marion VA.

At the University of Montreal School of Optometry, Noémie Jean-Louis, OD, of Montreal, Québec, graduated at the top of her class and held the role of class president. She plans to complete a residency in rehabilitation of the visually impaired.

Jessica Marie Witzel, OD, of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, received the honor of being the valedictorian at University of Waterloo School of Optometry. Dr. Witzel plans to work in a full-scope private practice in the prairie provinces, focusing on her interests in interprofessional communication and ocular disease with systemic association.

Western University of Health Sciences’ College of Optometry’s top graduate Monique Nadine Kenien, OD, plans to return to her hometown of Los Angeles to practice in the area. In a few years, she plans to join forces with her father, a dental surgeon, to create a one-stop eye and dental practice.

The three newest optometry schools celebrated their inaugural graduating classes this year. Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry; Rosenberg School of Optometry, University of the Incarnate Word; and Western University of Health Sciences’ College of Optometry each had a female OD as their top graduate of 2013.

Allergan and Women of Vision Invite You to Afternoon Tea

Energy Management: Bringing Your Full and Best Self to Your Patients, Family, Friends, and Colleagues

Learn how to achieve higher performance across all facets of your life through spiritual alignment, mental focus, emotional connection, and physical energy.

Presenter:
Marty Babbington, Certified Trainer, Human Performance Institute

Featured Panelists:
Millicent L. Knight, OD • Margie R. Recalde, OD • Glenda B. Secor, OD, FAAO • Jennifer L. Smythe, OD, MS, FAAO

June 27, 2013, 3:00–4:30 PM, San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina, Marina Ballroom D

Program content intended for women.

Register online at: www.OptometristsMeeting.org (Event Code 0175)