College of Syntonic Optometry Faculty

Philip C. Bugaiski, OD, FCOVD, FCSO

Dr. Bugaiski is a native of upstate New York, and first developed an interest in optometry as a result of childhood vision challenges which were treated with vision therapy. Graduating from Penn State with honors, he was awarded one of six national scholarships for optometry from the US Air Force. He received his optometric degree from State University of New York College of Optometry in 1998, was commissioned as an Air Force Captain, and served at Pope AFB, NC and Lakenheath RAF, England. With an honorable discharge, Dr.



Bugaiski settled in Charlotte and founded The Developmental Vision Center in 2005. His practice specializes in Vision Development and Pediatric Optometry, Vision Therapy, Syntonics, Sports Vision Training, and Vision Rehabilitation. A second location was added in 2011.

Out of the office, Dr. Bugaiski is an active member of The College of Optometrists in Vision Development and The College of Syntonic Optometry. He has lectured about developmental optometry on a local, national, and international level, and directs charitable vision missions to Mexico for Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity. He also is active with his church, volunteering with the music ministry and homeless ministry. Dr. Bugaiski sings with the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte, the chorus of The Charlotte Symphony, and serves as a member of their Board of Directors.

Robert Fox, O.D., FCOVD, FCSO

Dr. Fox is a 1985 graduate of the SUNY State College of Optometry. He then completed a residency in Rehabilitative Optometry at the Northport VA Medical Center. Dr. Fox is a frequent lecturer on syntonics, lens prescribing, and vision care following strokes and brain injuries and has published articles in the JOVD and the Journal of Optometric Phototherapy. Dr. Fox practices behavioral and syntonic optometry in Schenectady, New York

Raymond Gottlieb, O.D., Ph.D., FCSO, CSO Dean

A UCBSO grad, he wrote "The Psychoneurology of Nearsightedness" (PhD thesis) and Attention & Memory Training (OEP 2005) & co-produced The Road Without Glasses Method DVD (Cambridge Institute for Better Vision) for presbyopia reduction.

Simon Grbveski, B Optom, FCOVD, FCSO

Geoff Heddle, O.D., FCSO

Dr. Heddle's passion in Optometry originated from his obsession with sports. Sports was also his connection to Syntonics. His curious encounter with an Applied Kinesiologist, who measured his blindspot, was the catalyst to try to gain a greater understanding of the interconnectedness between the Autonomic Nervous System and the visual system (beyond knowing which meds are sympathomimetic to pass his pharmacology class exams!).

Dr. Heddle realized that Syntonics is his BEST and QUICKEST way to influence the ANS. Syntonics is an invaluable tool in his toolbox for providing patient care.

Additionally, Dr. Heddle has served as a lecturer on sports vision development and as an editor for the Journal of Behavioral Optometric Association Foundation (BOAF).

Dr. Heddle is in private practice near South Bend, IN.

Brenda Montecavlo, O.D., FCOVD, FCSO



With a high level of commitment to her patients

, Dr. Montecalvo strives to provide the very best cutting-edge optometric services. With 30 years of specialized certification in optometric vision therapy, Dr. Montecalvo's expertise makes her a highly sought after practitioner and lecturer. She has dedicated her life to helping adults and children overcome their vision problems.

Besides private practice, Dr. Montecalvo is Past-President of the Ohio Optometric Association, Chair of the American Optometric Association Vision Rehabilitation Section, Past President of the Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Association and Associate Clinical Educator for Western College of Optometry and the Ohio State University College of Optometry.

Dr. Montecalvo frequently lectures internationally to general and developmental optometrists about neuro-optometric rehabilitation, optometric vision therapy, and therapeutic lens prescribing.

John Pulaski, O.D., FCSO, CSO Treasurer

In Waterbury, Connecticut he runs a multi-office, multi-doctor general optometry practice that specializes in CL, VT, Syntonics and neuro-optometric rehabilitation and general optometric care for nursing homes.

Cathy Stern, O.D., FCOVD, FNORA, FCSO

Dr. Cathy Stern OD, FCOVD, FNORA, FCSO is a current board member of CSO and maintains a private practice near Boston limited to vision therapy, syntonic phototherapy and neuro-optometric rehabilitation. She enjoys teaching and is currently faculty for NORA Curriculum II and physician mentor for MIT ReDx (Rethinking Engineering Design Execution for Digital Health). She was previously faculty for the CSO Basic Course and the COVD Brain Injury course. Her current interests include collaborating with other professionals on assistive devices to enhance visual perception and helping optometrists add myopia control and vision therapy to their practices. Dr. Stern believes the eye and vision are key players in prevention, enhancement and rehabilitation for lifelong success.

Mary Van Hoy, O.D., FCSO, FCOVD, CSO President

With over 40 years of practice as an optometrist, Dr. Van Hoy established a vision therapy only clinic in 2008 in Indianapolis, Indiana. She was elected the President of the College of Syntonic Optometry in 2012.

Larry B. Wallace, O.D., Ph.D., FCSO

Larry B. Wallace, O.D., Ph. D., is a Doctor of Optometry and has a Ph.D. in Ocular Phototherapy. He has practiced for over 40 years in Ithaca, N.Y. He has served as President of the International Light Association and President and education director for the College of Syntonic Optometry, an organization dedicated to education and research in the field of light and color therapy. He has invented and patented the first micro-current device to treat eye disease. He has published numerous articles and research on phototherapy. Dr Wallace has lectured and taught workshops around the world in the field of phototherapy and rehabilitative optometry. He is also a certified low vision specialist in New York, and offers alternative care for eye disease. He has worked extensively in the field of optometric neuro-rehabilitation, postural restoration, and treatment of head trauma and brain injury.