As we draw closer to the end of the quarter, we all begin to prepare ourselves for sending our students out of our own care and into someone else’s, bringing them one step closer to becoming an independent optometrist. Dr. Harvey S. Raskind, a Family Physician as well as a preceptor for over forty years, says, “Praise is very important and builds confidence in students.” These final sessions that you have with your student provide a great opportunity to give remarks to not only the group of students you may have but also as individual students.⁰ One article, “Ensuring a Successful Preceptorship” * highlights two kinds of feedback that have proven effective — formative and summative. Formative feedback should be provided frequently, and if possible at the end of each clinic day. It does not have to be long and provides an opportunity to discuss the day and future goals. Effective feedback should not be judgmental, and it should reinforce what has been done well and what needs improvement. Summative feedback is given at set times during the rotation and focuses on reviewing the goals and objectives of the rotation. These should be held privately and done in a timely, professional, and empathetic manner. Remember that students will also evaluate their preceptors. It’s been suggested that preceptors are judged not only on their knowledge but also on personal qualities, such as enthusiasm. These evaluations will be made available to you at the end of the school year. Reviewing these evaluations may help you self-evaluate your skills and work on what can be done differently the following year.

“Of this I am assure, that he will be the best practitioner who begins his life work as a student among patients, learning for himself under guidance how to observe, how to think, learning what disease is, and how it is to be treated.” - William Osler, 1901

Important Dates:
End of the Summer Quarter: August 21, 2020
Student Evaluations Due: August 24, 2020
Beginning of Fall Quarter: August 31, 2020

Dr. Samantha Rice graduated from Northwestern University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry. She earned her Doctor of Optometry degree from the Illinois College of Optometry and was recognized as valedictorian upon graduation. She then completed a residency in pediatrics and binocular vision at the same institution. Dr. Rice worked at the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago and provided bilingual optometric care to a diverse patient population. Dr. Rice is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, as well as a member of the American Optometric Association and the College of Optometrists in Vision Development. Her primary areas of interest are pediatrics, special needs populations, and vision therapy.

Clinical Rotations Spotlight

Samantha Rice, O.D., FAAO
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

Every year we plan an event for our students and preceptors to get to know one another prior to students finalizing their preference selections for their fourth year rotations. Part of our mission statement is to “emphasize and promote...a sense of community” between our students and their future colleagues. This event provides for that opportunity in a relaxed, face-to-face setting. Last year, we held the event at our University, but due to current global circumstances and our desire to keep everyone safe and healthy, we adapted our plans into a virtual setting. This year we had preceptors from 29 different sites speaking on their location, patient care, expectation, and goals. The students were also given an opportunity to engage with their potential preceptor by asking questions to help to help them decide their rotation preferences. Preceptors also were able to get a sense of who our students are and who they will be working with in the near future.

If you would like to be a part of this event and others like it in the future, please contact Nadine Antonio at nanton@midwestern.edu so you can be placed on our contact list.

2021-2022 Rotations and COVID-19 Updates

As the world around us continues to shift to help ensure everyone’s safety, Chicago College of Optometry is also working hard in adapting and accommodating to these sudden changes, especially when it comes to the various state regulations with social distancing and state restrictions. Our university’s COVID–19 Response Team have regularly been coordinating with our colleges to remain ever mindful in navigating our students’ health and future. What this means for both current and prospective preceptors is that there may be adjustments to students’ start dates and rotation schedules. Please keep an eye out for any emails from Assistant Director of Rotations Dr. Daniel Deligio and Sr. Administrative Assistant Nadine Antonio for any updates regarding such in the coming weeks. We appreciate all of your patience and flexibility as we strive to keep everyone happy and healthy.