



What is your educational background?

UNC Chapel Hill, BS Biol, 1996

SCO, OD, 2001

SUNY, Pediatric Optometry Residency, 2001

What was your motivation to become an optometrist?

Lifelong interest & glasses as a young kid

Tell us about your optometry school experience and how it shaped your desire to do a residency.

Prior to optometry school, I enjoyed several opportunities to work with children, including working as an Assistant Leader for a local Girl Scout troop and teaching young children at church. I became interested in pediatric care during my 3rd year of optometry school, when we began seeing older kids come through our primary care clinics. I had enjoyed participating in school vision screenings during our 2nd year as well, and early clinical experience solidified that interest.

Tell us about the residency program.

I spent a fantastic year in pediatric optometry at the State University of New York College of Optometry. Working with Dr. David FitzGerald (always a capital

G!) as my supervisor was a privilege; I learned a tremendous amount from him about infant care. I am honored to say that he quickly became a close friend and mentor. During the year, I also had the opportunity to learn from a number of other notable optometrists in the areas of pediatrics and vision therapy, including Harold Solan, Dr. Israel Greenwald, Dr. Ira Krumholtz, Dr. Sid Groffman, Dr. Neera Kapoor, Dr. Ida Chung, and Dr. Marilyn Vricella. All of these (and many more) showed me the wide variety of philosophies and treatment protocols available to us in pediatric care. Fitz (he goes by no other name) also inspired in me a love of teaching that provided me with a completely new direction for my future, and I'm so grateful!

What was your path to becoming an educator?

See above

What led you to come back to SCO as an educator?

Throughout my years at SUNY (I stayed on faculty there for a total of ten years to the day from the start of my residency) I always imagined one day being able to have a lifestyle more similar to what I had grown up with: a house outside the city and (finally!) a dog! I loved the people I worked with at SUNY, and I enjoyed life in NYC, but living in the Big Apple carries a level of background energy that can get to be a bit much as one gets older! I had stayed in touch with several friends back at SCO, and when one mentioned at an alumni event that they were looking for peds people—and my husband and I realized that the timing was right—we were off to Tennessee.

When did you join OEPF and why?

I joined OEPF in 2018 when I became a Director/Trustee for the organization. I had been introduced to the behavioral philosophy when I returned to SCO, and I quickly fell in love with the holistic nature of the diagnostic and treatment ideas contained in it. To have an opportunity to serve the organization as a Board member seemed like something that I might do at some point, but the need arose to fill a position, and I was thrilled to accept!

What are your responsibilities as Board Chairperson?

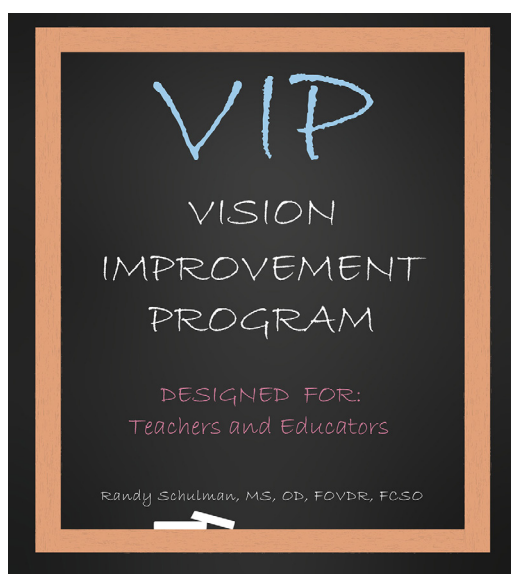
As Board Chair for OEPF, my responsibilities largely involve working closely with our President

and CEO, Line Vreven, to ensure that the Foundation continues to run smoothly day-to-day. Through the internationally known Clinical Curriculum, our newly established Wednesday night lecture series, several chat groups for both students and practitioners, and a wide variety of publications, our mission of providing up-to-date, inspiring education in behavioral vision is well supported. We also sponsor the International Congress of Behavioral Vision (ICBO) once every four years, which brings together vision therapy organizations from all over the world in one location to learn from, collaborate with, and enjoy growing friendship with doctors and therapists who all love VT! Our next ICBO will be March 1-4, 2028, in Las Vegas, Nevada. We will also celebrate OEPF's Centennial, so it's going to be a fantastic celebration—we'd LOVE to see you there!

You also serve as the Managing Editor for OVP, how did that happen and what does that entail?

I began working with OVP's forerunner, the Journal of Behavioral Optometry, in 2011, serving as their Associate Editor. When that journal's run came to an end and we founded OVP, it was natural for me to move into the same role at the new publication. After a year or so, I was promoted to Managing Editor and have thoroughly enjoyed working with Dr Marc Taub and the Associate Editors to bring you this amazing international collaboration!

Check out this new book from OEPF!



How do you think OEPF can serve the next generation of optometrists?

As we learn more and more about the links between neuroscience and vision rehabilitation, it has become more and more obvious to me that the behavioral philosophy—a holistic approach to vision therapy that pays close attention to the patient's underlying reasons for the visual adaptations that they have made—is the best way to help guide patients to their best visual potential. Moving into the future, OEPF can not only help established providers become more experienced with their VT, but it can also inspire whole new groups of ODs who want to expand their practices into new and exciting areas of patient care. We're here for you, come check us out!

What are your hobbies and how do you relax in your non-optometry time?

I'm a bit of a homebody, so I enjoy spending time there with my husband and our dogs! I love to read and crochet and be able to relax doing "nothing" on occasion, but I also love seeing new places and being able to travel when the opportunity comes along. I have had several opportunities to lecture in locations across the world, including Israel, South Africa, Mexico, Canada, and most recently Poland.

A bit more than a hobby now, I am also a semi-professional musician. I have played a number of instruments since childhood and still perform on flute fairly regularly. I started singing as a young child in church choirs and picked up that again when I moved to New York; I met my husband David in the Marble Collegiate Church choir in the city, a classical tenor who inspired me to keep learning. We've been singing together in various choirs and organizations ever since! I am currently a member of the choir at First Baptist Church in Memphis (my home congregation), and I do gig work for a number of others, most notably St. John's Episcopal Church, with whom I have had the honor of traveling to both Ireland and the UK to participate in choral residencies at St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin and Liverpool Cathedral in England. I am also a member of the Memphis Symphony Chorus and the Memphis Symphony Chamber Choir, so my weeks are kept busy! I honestly wouldn't know how to live a life without music and am so grateful for the opportunities I've had.