



**Amber  
Cumings**  
OD, FAAO

**FRIDAY  
FELLOW  
Q&A**

**Q: Where are you located?**

A: Chicago, Illinois, United States

**Q: What year did you earn your Fellowship?**

A: 2019

**Q: What year did you earn your doctorate?**

A: 2018

**Q: What inspired you to pursue optometry as a profession?**

A: I always loved going to the eye doctor as a kid and when a middle school career fair featured an optometrist, I became inspired to consider the option as a serious choice. Throughout the following years, I did research presentations about eyes and the technology being developed to see better. I shadowed my local optometrist and saw how interactive he was with patients. In the end, being in healthcare was important to me, but I really wanted to find a career that allowed me to get to know my patients and positively impact their lives.

**Q: What is your most rewarding patient or professional experience?**

A: During a neuro-optometric exam, I had a patient who couldn't walk across a room without almost falling over. I discovered a slight amount of prism could help the patient see her world a little better and it happened to profoundly help her balance and coordination as well. When I had her walk around with the trial glasses, she started crying because she could walk upright and in a line without the help of her husband. She gave me about six hugs that day.

**Q: How did you become involved with the Academy?**

A: I attended conferences during school and became the student liaison for my college.

**Q: What has your involvement meant to your career?**

A: The Academy has pushed me to expand my knowledge base for optometry, so that I can always be searching for ways to help my patients more.

**Q: What is the best part of being an OD?**

A: Getting to see the changes in my patient's lives when they're given a pair of glasses or go through vision therapy and the positive impact it has on a daily basis.

**Q: Tell us a fun fact about you or an interesting hobby you have?**

A: I like to freehand sketch portraits in my spare time.



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