Christopher Putnam
OD, Phd, FAAO

FRIDAY FELLOW
Q&A

Q: Where are you located?
A: San Antonio, Texas, United States

Q: What year did you earn your Fellowship?
A: 2007

Q: Where did you earn your doctorate?
A: Pacific University College of Optometry

Q: What inspired you to pursue optometry as a career?
A: I was inspired by optometry, which provides the ability to provide direct, primary clinical care while allowing for a rewarding work/life balance.

Q: What is your most rewarding patient or professional experience?
A: The opportunity to work with clinical and graduate students to instill a passion for clinical care and translational research.

Q: How did you become involved with the Academy?
A: I was introduced to the Fellowship application process by my first USAF commander and continued my involvement by serving on the Region 6 admittance committee.

Q: What has your involvement meant to your career?
A: The importance of the collaborations and networking found at annual meetings and subcommittees cannot be overemphasized. Without engagement with providers and researchers outside your daily circle, a career can stagnate and you will miss emerging trends and treatments.

Q: What is the best part of being an OD?
A: Interaction with patients, students and colleagues.

Q: Tell us a fun fact about you or an interesting hobby you have?
A: Our neighborhood has formed an intramural team that competes against other neighborhoods, and we have enjoyed successes that range from kickball dominance to chili cook off championships.