Q: Where are you located?
A: Las Vegas, Nevada, United States

Q: What year did you earn your Fellowship?
A: 2008

Q: Where did you earn your doctorate?
A: Southern California College of Optometry

Q: What inspired you to pursue optometry as a career?
A: It wasn’t “what” inspired me to pursue optometry as a career, but “who” inspired me. My ophthalmologist as a child was so caring and passionate about his job that it really taught me there are people who really enjoy their job and are good at it! He inspired me and encouraged me to keep my grades up and pursue my dreams and goals of entering the field of medicine. I decided to truly pursue optometry once I was a 3rd year in college because it really embodied what I wanted to accomplish in life but also allowed me to have a social life and family life.

Q: What is your most rewarding patient or professional experience?
A: My most rewarding professional experience is working with children. There have been countless times when a child receives their first pair of glasses and they have the BIGGEST smile on their face. Even with COVID-19 and children having to wear their masks, those smiles behind those masks are hard to hide! It melts my heart every single time.

Q: How did you become involved with the Academy?
A: My mentors from SCCO as a student and UHCO as a resident inspired me to pursue my fellowship with the Academy. They were my role models and some of the smartest and kindest people I have ever met. Who wouldn't want to be part of that cohort?

Q: What has your involvement meant to your career?
A: Being involved with Academy is an honor. There are no other meetings that have some of the best speakers and lectures available for our profession. I always look forward to Academy because I know I'll get the best continuing education there is.

Q: What is the best part of being an OD?
A: Although this is as cliché as it can get, the best part about being an OD is helping patients. From getting them their first pair of contacts or glasses to catching systemic diseases early and referring them out, we do what we do because we want to help. Not only do we help our patients see, but I know a lot of us also see our patients as family and love to get to know them as individuals and not just another “chart” or number.

Q: Tell us a fun fact about you or an interesting hobby you have?
A: I was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada, and have more than 200 blood relatives who reside here. Pre-COVID, it was hard to go out and about without seeing someone you’re related to or knows someone that you’re related to.