

## Dr.s Smith and Lingel Award for excellence in Systemic Disease

This is a 4<sup>th</sup> year award to be presented at the Welcome to the Profession Ceremony. Currently award includes a certificate and \$500.00.

In early January the systemic faculty determines those from the graduating class who are the 5 highest academic performers in each of the systemic courses: Opt 537 Systemic Disease and Medications I, 637 systemic Disease and Medications II, and 638 Systemic Disease and Medications III. If not already included in the above, the individuals from the graduating class that served as TAs for Opt. 638 and tutors for systemic disease classes will be added to the list. This is a maximum of 20 possible individuals. The systemic faculty then reviews the list and nominates up to 8 individuals from this group they consider to most embrace the importance of systemic disease in optometric practice.

These nominees are sent to R&A who determines those nominees that meet an overall GPA of 3.5, have been in good standing academically and professionally throughout their time in the program and have received all passing semester grades in clinic. R&A informs these individuals that they have been nominated for the award and invites the nominees to write an essay up to one page in length.

The topic of this essay is: The importance of general health to the optometric physician and the patients they serve and how the nominee sees him or herself:

- Implementing the concern for systemic disease in their practice
  - Contributing to the body of knowledge related to the importance of systemic disease in optometric practice
- or
- Promoting the importance of systemic disease in the profession

The students will be given 2-3 weeks to write the essays and submit the essay along with a brief personal biography to the R&A committee. The R&A committee can choose a reasonable due date based on the current calendar.

The essays received will be forwarded to Drs. Smith and Lingel, who will read the submissions and make the final determination of the award winner until we are no longer able or no longer wish to serve in that capacity, after which R&A will do this final step.