



News & Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ESSILOR OF AMERICA ANNOUNCES 2008 VARILUX STUDENT
GRANT AWARD WINNERS**

National award goes to Illinois College of Optometry student Casey C. Bartz

DALLAS – (April 11, 2008) – Optometry students across the country submitted case studies in hopes of winning the annual Varilux® Student Grant Award from Essilor of America, Inc. Twelve students were awarded \$1,000 each in grant monies from Varilux, and from those winners one national award was given. This year, the honor of the national award belongs to Casey C. Bartz, a third-year student at Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago, who wrote the winning case study.

“We are dedicated to contributing to the education of tomorrow’s industry leaders.” said Dr. Rodney Tahran, vice president of professional relations and clinical affairs. “Essilor is proud to sponsor this program for more than 20 years, but it is only one part of our ongoing commitment to optometric education, optometry students and the optometric profession.”

Bartz and his advisor, Tahira Bedgood, will each receive an all-expense paid trip for two to the joint meeting of the American Optometry Association (AOA) and the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) to be held in Seattle, the week of June 25–29. Bartz will be an honored guest at the 17th Annual Varilux Optometry Super Bowl, the highly anticipated annual event sponsored by Essilor, and will receive \$1,000 in prize money.

Judges reviewed all case studies based on criteria such as dispensing skills, application of Varilux lenses to the patient’s needs, analysis of the care, and analysis of the lens design and lens performance.

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Bartz's study "Analysis of a Patient's Visual Needs and its Direct Application to Varilux Lenses" is available to view at www.essilorusa.com under the "Services" section.

Other 2008 grant winners are listed below:

- Nary Chum, Southern College of Optometry
- Scott Gunderson, University of California at Berkeley School of Optometry
- June Wang, Pacific University College of Optometry
- Elizabeth Lane, Michigan College of Optometry
- Brandon Mayes, Northeastern State University
- Graham Räsänen, NOVA Southeastern College of Optometry
- Krystal Largey, Pennsylvania College of Optometry
- Jennifer E. Nance, Indiana University College of Optometry
- Carrie Renee Haare, University of Alabama College of Optometry
- Juan Menjivar, University of Houston College of Optometry
- Toan Thach, Southern California College of Optometry

Essilor is the leading manufacturer of optical lenses in the United States and is the market leader in progressive, high-index and anti-reflective coated lenses. A pioneer in the development and production of ophthalmic lenses, Essilor employs more than 8,500 people throughout North America. Essilor manufactures optical lenses under the Varilux[®], Crizal[®], Thin&Lite[®], DEFINITY[®] and other Essilor brand names. Essilor Laboratories of America (ELOA) is the largest, and most trusted, optical lab network in the U.S. and offers a wide choice of services and lens brands, including Essilor premium lenses, to eye care professionals across the nation. Essilor of America, Inc. (Essilor) is a subsidiary of Paris-based Essilor International, S.A., a publicly held company traded on the Euronext Paris stock exchange (Reuters: ESSI.PA).

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