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ESSILOR ANNOUNCES 2010 VARILUX STUDENT GRANT WINNER
Top Honors Awarded to New England College of Optometry Student

DALLAS – (April 21, 2010) – Essilor of America, Inc., the nation’s leading manufacturer of optical lenses, today announces the winner of the annual Varilux® Student Grant Awards, a nationwide competition among optometry students. 17 students were awarded \$1,000 each in grant money from Varilux, and from those winners, one national award was given.

This year, the honor of the national award belongs to Kevin Mathes from New England College of Optometry in Boston. Mathes wrote the winning case study using a creative fit for Essilor Anti-Fatigue™ single vision lenses, an aspheric lens designed for patients between the ages of 18 and 45 who suffer from symptoms of visual fatigue.

“Essilor remains committed to investing in the education of tomorrow’s industry leaders,” said Dr. Rodney Tahrán, vice president of professional relations and clinical affairs, Essilor of America. “The annual Varilux Student Grant Award Program is just one of the many quality educational programs Essilor continues to offer for both students and professionals.”

Mathes and his staff advisor Jim Pelham will each receive an all-expenses paid trip for two to the joint meeting of the American Optometric Association (AOA) and the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) in Orlando, June 16-20. Mathes will be a guest at the 18th Annual Varilux Optometry Student Bowl, the highly anticipated annual event sponsored by Essilor, and will receive \$1,000 in prize money.

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Judges reviewed all case studies based on criteria such as dispensing skills, application of Varilux lenses to the patients' needs, analysis of the care and lens design and lens performance. Mathes' report is available to view at <http://www.essilorusa.com> under the "Services" section.

Other 2010 winners are listed below:

- Lindsay A. Sicks, Illinois College of Optometry
- James P Scherman, University of Missouri St. Louis College of Optometry
- Frank Kuchera, Pacific University College of Optometry
- Dale Choi, University of California at Berkeley School of Optometry
- Tammy Nguyen, University of Houston College of Optometry
- Elizabeth Roush, Indiana University College of Optometry
- Heather R. Bowen, The Ohio State University - College of Optometry
- Julius Tiu-Lim, Southern California College of Optometry
- Ashley B. Fox, University of Alabama College of Optometry
- Meagan Steg, NOVA Southeastern College of Optometry
- Chris Butcher, Northeastern State University
- Averi Van Dam, University of Waterloo, School of Optometry
- Marc Kenneth Lay, State University New York College of Optometry
- Jeremy Dell, Southern College of Optometry
- Cara Wolfish, Pennsylvania College of Optometry
- Thomas Qili Xie, Universite de Montreal Ecole d'optometrie

About Essilor

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 9,000 people throughout North America. Essilor manufactures optical lenses under the Varilux®, Crizal®, Thin&Lite®, Xperio™ and 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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