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**News & Information**

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**ESSILOR OF AMERICA ANNOUNCES 2006 VARILUX STUDENT GRANT AWARD WINNERS**  
*National Award goes to Jennifer Wong from Indiana University College of Optometry*

**DALLAS** – (May 25, 2006) – Optometry students across the country submitted case studies in hopes of winning the annual Varilux<sup>®</sup> Student Grant Award from Essilor of America. This year, the honor of the national award belongs to Jennifer Wong, a third year student at Indiana University College of Optometry, who wrote the winning case study, “New Progressive Addition Lens Design: Utilizing Varilux Ipseo Lens for Non-Adapt PAL Wearers.”

“It is rewarding to know that students are learning about the benefits and advancements that Varilux lenses offer patients,” said Dr. Rodney Tahrán, vice president of professional relations and clinical affairs for Essilor. “Essilor has always been dedicated to empowering students studying optometry. We know that supporting the educational process helps to prepare students to become the industry leaders of tomorrow.”

Wong and her faculty advisor, Dr. Susan Kovacich, will each receive an all-expense paid trip for two to Optometry’s Meeting, the 109<sup>th</sup> Annual American Optometry Association (AOA) Congress, and the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) Conference to be held at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, in June 2006. Wong will also be an honored guest at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Varilux Optometry Super Bowl, the highly anticipated annual event sponsored by Essilor, as well as receiving \$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

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## **Varilux Student Grant Award Winners/Page 2**

performance. The winning student from each school receives a \$1,000 grant and an entry into the national judging for the chance to become the national winner. The contest is open to third and fourth year optometry students.

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 over 6,100 people in more than 100 facilities throughout the 50 states. Essilor manufactures optical lenses under the Varilux<sup>®</sup>, Crizal<sup>®</sup>, Thin&Lite<sup>®</sup>, DEFINITY<sup>™</sup> 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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