



## News & Information

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### **OPTOMETRY IS THE NAME OF THE GAME!**

*Southern College of Optometry wins Varilux® Optometry Super Bowl XIV*

DALLAS – (July 19, 2005) – Cheering students in costumes, disco lights, blaring music and terms such as corneal dystrophy filling the air could only Optometry Super Bowl sponsored mean one thing -- the highly anticipated Varilux by Essilor of America. For the third consecutive year, the Southern College of Optometry (SCO) took home the esteemed crystal Super Bowl trophy and \$1,000 prize money. This year's energetic event at the 108th Annual American Optometric Association (AOA) Congress and 35th Annual American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) was held in Dallas, Texas at the Gaylord Texan™ Resort & Convention Center.

Students from all nineteen optometry schools in North America, Canada and Puerto Rico, traveled to compete in this annual event which drew over 1,100 people. SCO has Shawn Beilby to thank for bringing home the coveted crystal bowl and bragging rights to his school. The crystal Super Bowl trophy will go to his school where it will be held until next year's event. Second place and \$750 went to UC Berkeley's Andrew Wong and third place and a prize of \$500 went to Rakesh Tailor of Inter-American University in Puerto Rico.

"It's an honor to be in the ranks with the most talented Optometry students across the country," said Shawn Beilby, this year's Varilux Optometry Super Bowl champion. "This year's competition has been one of the highlights of my optometry studies. It definitely proved to be a very challenging and exciting experience."

The competition's winning question was, "A lens is decentered 3 mm up and creates a 2.10 D base down prismatic effect. What is the power of the lens?" The answer was, "-7.00 D."

"Our event gives Optometry students the chance to increase their understanding of the field as well as network with their peers. They are the future of Optometry," said Rod Tahrán, O.D., F.A.A.O., vice president of professional relations and clinical affairs for Essilor of America.

#### This year's panel of judges included:

- Tommy Crooks, O.D., vice president of the AOA
- John Potter, O.D., vice president for Clinical Services for TLC Laser Eye Centers and moderator for the very first Optometry Super Bowl in 1992
- Lisa Wade, O.D., vice president of Institutional Advancement at Southern College of Optometry
- Jim Thimons, O.D., medical director of Ophthalmic Consultants in Connecticut and clinical professor at Pennsylvania College of Optometry and New England College of Optometry
- Irv Borish, O.D., often called the "Father of Modern Optometry"

For the fourth consecutive year, the event was hosted by David Seibel, O.D., private practitioner with a practice in St. Louis and Chair, Cornea and Contact Lens Section of AOA.

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®, Crizal®, Airwear®, Thin & Lite® 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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