20 YEARS

M.Sc. Vision Science and Business (Optometry)

Aalen University

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GREETING – RECTOR
PROF. DR. HARALD RIEGEL

I am very proud of this international master's degree program at Aalen University, now reaching 20 years of success.

Specific to this master's degree program is that students from all over Europe and other parts of the world succeed in closing the gap between the teaching content of their first university degree and the ever-expanding requirements of practice in the field of optometry.

Aalen University was already a pioneer 40 years ago with the first Germany-wide diploma degree program in ophthalmic optics; 20 years later, the optometry master's degree program, unique in Germany at that time and is still unique, remains an educational model.

I am motivated and look forward to the challenge of promoting this very special international master's degree program at Aalen University in such a way that today we can look forward to the next anniversary.
You have my full support!



GREETING – PAST RECTOR
PROF. DR. GERHARD SCHNEIDER

As the Rector of Aalen University, I was responsible for the development of the internationally focused master's degree program M.Sc. Vision Science and Business (Optometry) which has continued to gain my support over these past 20 years.

I am particularly enthusiastic about the international level of outreach with this degree program resulting in a wide range of diversity among the enrolled students. Over these past 20 years over ten nations have been represented among the students completing this program. Also, I am pleased to recognize the 20-year collaboration between Aalen University and some of the world's most respected US optometry colleges and universities. Affiliations with the New England College of Optometry, Boston, Massachusetts, and the Pacific University College of Optometry, Forest Grove, Oregon have created a role model profiling Aalen University.



I was particularly impressed by the resilience for this international degree program in the very challenging time of the COVID 19 pandemic. I wish this master's degree program and the highly committed team of lecturers from the US and Europe that the success story of the past 20 years will continue.

GREETING – PAST RECTOR
PROF. DR. DR. DR. H.C. EKBERT HERING

I am extremely pleased to be able to wholeheartedly congratulate the optometry program on its 60th anniversary. The fact that we are able to celebrate this extraordinary event is thanks to two visionaries:



First, Prof. Heinz Diepes, whom we were able to bring to us on the Ostalb as a proven expert in ophthalmic optics from a secure job at the HFA cologne. He was the right man in the right place and has developed this course of study in an exemplary manner as the first diploma course of study in ophthalmic optics in Germany and has shaped it as a model for others.

Secondly, Prof. Dr. h.c. Dietmar Kümmel, who, together with optometrists from renowned American universities, established the first international master's program at Aalen University. It was a pleasure for me to be able to support my colleague Kümmel in his innovative ideas, and I would also like to thank my then chancellor Heinz Kistner. In his pragmatic way, he succeeded in elegantly overcoming the considerable administrative and organizational hurdles. Thus, new fields always require visionaries who are strong in implementation as well as benevolent and competent companions.

These two innovative academic training programs in ophthalmic optics and optometry have visibly raised the profile of Aalen University both nationally and internationally. To this day, these study programs are attractive to students who enjoy studying with us from all German states and from abroad: Excellent teaching, successful industry transfer and fascinating research in the livable and lovable city of Aalen and connected to the international academic world. That is and remains the secret of success to be celebrated this year.

My wishes for the next 60 years are: Let us all, with open eyes and clear vision, recognize and seize the national and international opportunities for the further successful development of these study programs at Aalen University. May the appropriate visionaries and implementers help us to do so.



GREETING – DEAN OF THE FACULTY
PROF. DR. RAINER BÖRRET

As Dean of the Faculty of Optics and Mechatronics, I congratulate the part-time master's degree program M.Sc. Vision Science and Business (Optometry) for the successful and exciting 20 years. From the beginning, I appreciated the potential of this degree program for our faculty, and in particular, with regard to the team of professors who arrive from the USA more or less every four weeks.

Thanks to the top-level internationally experienced lecturers, the consistent market orientation and the conception of this part-time fee-based course, it has been successfully established in competition with other master's courses in Germany and beyond. This is due to the tireless and consistent commitment of the Dean of Studies Prof. Dr. Anna Nagl, and her team of lecturers, lab instructors and other support staff. In addition, there has been excellent support from the administration of Aalen University, endorsing this unique course format - which is demanding in every respect - and difficult to compete in the long term. Special COVID-19 travel challenges have emerged these past two years and this has set the stage to develop alternative teaching delivery methods, particularly important given the central theme featuring international faculty resources and the role of on-site laboratory instruction. Due to the perfect organization of the responsible persons at Aalen University, resilience has prevailed; this program offering has proven its ability to carry on. As to the module of which I am in charge of in this master degree program, I appreciate the spirit of all professors and students and their enthusiasm for optometry. A special thanks goes to one of the graduates of our diploma and master's degree and entrepreneur Katja Schiborr. She, as a lecturer at Aalen University, is in every respect to the practical relevance and perfect organization of this and many other modules.



For my part, I will continue to do everything for the future of this flagship course to continue to be successful.

A big THANK YOU to every single person in the administration of Aalen University!



Student Department



International Department



Financial Department



HR Department

GREETING – DEAN OF STUDIES PROF. DR. ANNA NAGL

The international M.Sc.Vision Science and Business (Optometry) degree program stands as a ‘model’ of how a master’s degree can be established and satisfy a specific need within the graduate-professional education market. This degree program is a prime example of how entrepreneurial thinking and commitment has lead to long-term success within the program offerings at a university. There are some unique features to the program. The five-day pattern of the teaching modules was proactively aligned with the needs of this market. Course content was designed to meet a unique need, this determined ‘up-front’, arising from planned discussions with those in practice; all graduates of the bachelor level courses common to Europe. Also, the best international team of professors and lecturers was selected for teaching these topics.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of the course over the past 20 years.

A very special thank you goes to the founder, Prof. Dr. h.c. Dietmar Kuemmel and our US partner universities, the New England College of Optometry in Boston, Massachusetts, and the College of Optometry at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. Both have been loyal teaching participants in this master’s course for over 20 years and have always sent their best lecturers.



This part-time master’s degree program is, primarily, about acquiring practical, world-recognized clinical optometric competencies.

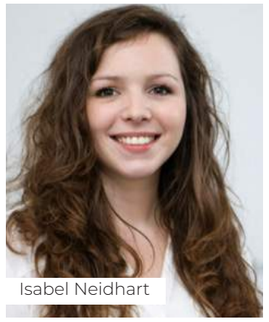
And, over the years, it has also been shown that “networking” and the associated continuous exchange of experiences are extremely important for current and former students. A special thank you goes to our fantastic alumni association „Aalen Friends of Optometry e.V.“. The annual alumni event, initiated by Prof. Dr. h.c. Kuemmel in Benediktbeuern, has become a real classic. The 20th anniversary celebration, in the first part of July, will be a time for celebration - an international event packed full with top speakers. The “Karl Amon Optometry Award” for the best master’s thesis is also one of the special features of this master’s degree program and will be awarded for the 15th time mid of November.

The passion for optometry and the commitment of all active participants, including the alumni, has provided the incentive along with motivation, for the next 20 years of the Aalen M.Sc. Vision Science and Business (Optometry) Master’s program. Our aim continues to be the provider of the best possible graduate professional education and training in the field of clinical optometry with a special focus upon, but not limited to, nations within Europe.

And of course, a big thank you to everyone who recommends our master’s degree program M.Sc. Vision Science and Business (Optometry). The personal recommendation is a very valuable asset and the best compliment for a degree program!



A big THANK YOU to all employees and the faculty of Aalen University


Isabel Neidhart


Thomas Hofman


Dieter Hohl


Beate Schön


Prof. Dr. Dirk Flottmann


Dr. Bernd Dörband



Prof. Dr. Jürgen Nolting
Reinhard Liebhäusser


Thomas Hauber


Bernhard Buschle



Prof. Dr. Jürgen Nolting
Brigitte Kohn


Prof. Dr. h.c. Dietmar Kümmel


Katja Schiborr


Georg Scheuerer



Prof. Dr. Steffen Kreikemeier


Nepal student Silu Bhitrikoti
Volker Meyer


Thomas Wollherr
Georg Scheuerer


C. Befort, A. Herrmann and T. Wollherr


Matjaž Mihelčič

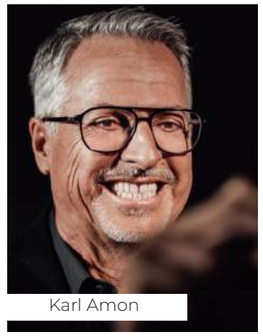


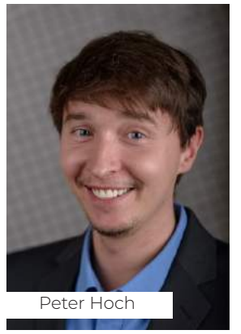
Simon Weindel


Leonie Schretzenmayer
Ralf Michels


Philipp Heller


Ralf Michels


Karl Amon


Peter Hoch


Max Haindl


Walter Schinko


Oliver Buck


Stephan Berner


Prof. Dr. Ralf von Baer


Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Kleppmann


Mike Wyss


Katharina Breher

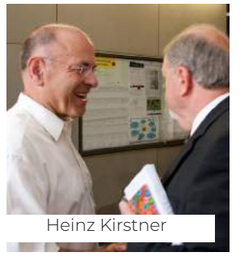

Rudi Spiller


Frank Tannek


Prof. Dr. Jürgen Stiefl


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Oliver Strobel


Heinz Kirstner


Rebekka Heitmar


Yvonne Gier

Damjan Žunić

Dr. Nina Müller

Anna Knaus

Benni Lanzinger

Prof. Dr. Harry Bauer

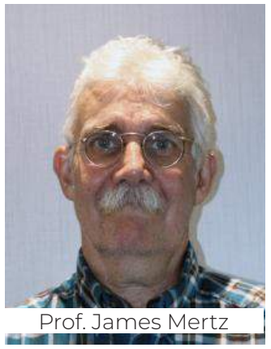
Andy Dätwyler

A big THANK YOU to all the faculty of the New England College of Optometry, Boston, MA, USA


Prof. Bina Patel


Prof. Antony Cavallerano


Prof. Debora Nickla


Prof. James Mertz


Prof. Kathleen Krenzer

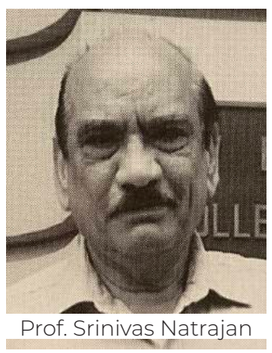

Prof. Jinjong Chung


Prof. Joanne Caruso


Prof. Laureen Kirkness


Prof. Brandon Zimmerman

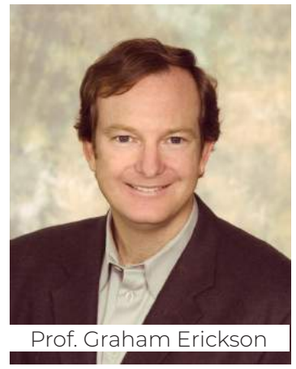

Prof. Diane Adamcyzk

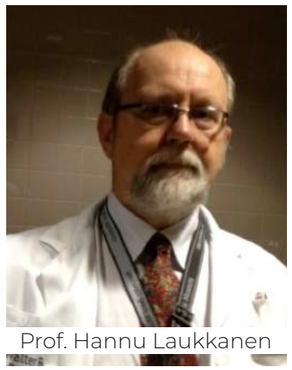

Prof. Srinivas Natrajan

A big THANK YOU to all the faculty of the Pacific University College of Optometry, Forest Grove, OR, USA


Prof. Willard Bleything


Prof. Karl Citek


Prof. Graham Erickson


Prof. Hannu Laukkanen


Prof. Lorne Yudcovitch


Prof. John Lowery


Prof. Fraser Horn

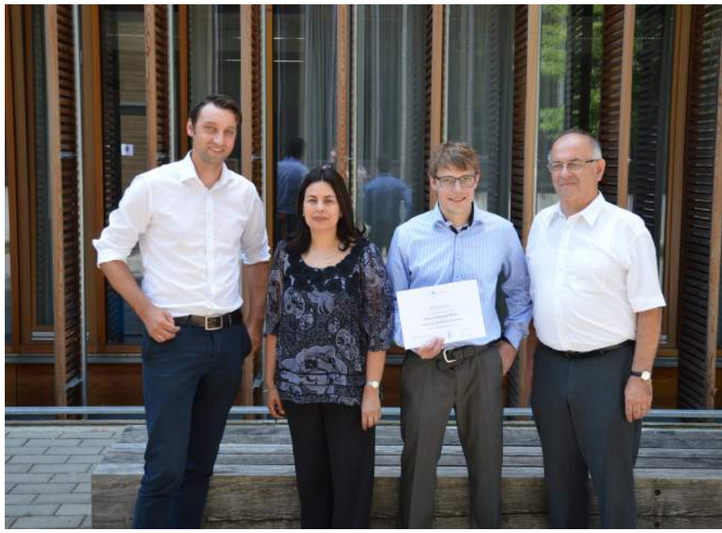

Prof. Scott Cooper


Prof. Ryan Bulson

















GREETING – PROF. DR. H.C. DIETMAR KÜMMEL

At the end of November 1999, together with Anna Nagl, I went to the USA and Canada to try to get places for our optometry students from Aalen for a semester abroad at American optometry schools. Dr. Gunkel, then managing director of the ZVA with many international contacts, had recommended the New England College (NECO) in Boston as the „first address“. The second stop was the Optometry School at the University of Waterloo in Canada, where students from Aalen were already working on their diploma theses. And then we also wanted to take the opportunity to make contact with other optometry schools in the USA at the American Academy of Optometry, which took place in Seattle in 1999. Bachelor‘s and master’s degrees were not yet an issue at all at German universities at that time. In the field of ophthalmic optometry, however, the PCO - now Salus University, Philadelphia - was already on its way to Europe with a master’s course in Clinical Optometry.

In Aalen, they were very reserved about this course. Our first stop was Boston and we were amazed at how friendly we were received and how uncomplicated it was to be granted a place to study abroad. In the office of David Heath, Vice President of NECO, with a beautiful view of MIT across the Charles River, the subject of the PCO course came up and David Heath spontaneously asked: „Why don‘t we do something like that together? Bina Patel and Joanne Caruso - who were present at the conversation with David Heath - brought to Seattle already a week later what should be included in a joint optometry master‘s from NECO‘s experience and what could be added to it from NECO. At that time, these were already all the study modules that still stand for the quality of this study program, which started two and a half years later in Aalen. In Waterloo, we also talked about the Clinical Optometry Master from PCO and Lyndon Jones then also brought proposals for a joint project back to Seattle. However, there would have been much bigger obstacles to a partnership with the State University Waterloo than with NECO.

So it was already clear that there would be a „next step“ with New England College. With Wid Bleything from the Pacific University, whom we had the pleasure of meeting in Seattle, „Master‘s“ was not yet a topic. Wid only got involved when our first draft curriculum was ready.

Two weeks before Christmas 1999, Anna Nagl and I came home not only with semester abroad places for our Aalen students at NECO and Pacific University, but also with the concept of an optometry master’s program, which we had not even remotely envisaged when we started our journey.

In January 2000, we began to turn the idea into a concrete course of study, which was able to start in the winter semester of 2002 with the first eight students. Even the name of the program led to heated controversy. Our Scottish colleague at the time, Gael Gordon, literally „got the cow off the ice“ with the proposal „Vision Science and Business“. It was also a stroke of luck that our friend Wid Bleything suggested including highlights of the Pacific Optometry course in our master’s programme. Thus, in addition to the study content that was to be covered by NECO, similarly extensive study content from Pacific University was added.



The curriculum was based on the 4 pillars

- „Ocular Disease“ with all the necessary basics (NECO);
- „Pediatric Optometry, Vision Therapy, Sportsvision“ (Pacific);
- „Corporate Management“ (Aalen)
- the „Master Thesis“.

This basic concept still stands today, supplemented by further study modules that have proven necessary and useful during the past 20 years.

Looking back on 20 successful years, we must of course also mention those without whose help none of this would have been possible. The then Rector Ekbert Hering stood by the whole thing benevolently. Michael Bauer, Vice-Rector and Head of the then new Media Centre, and his team - above all Constanze Richter - built up the exemplary e-learning concept and we were able to acquire considerable funding for it, without which it would have been inconceivable to start the study program with 8 students. The then Chancellor Heinz Kistner was a reliable advisor and companion in all questions of financing and contract design. Pascal Cromm, head of the International Office, was able to help us with everything we needed to know about the bachelor’s degree, master‘s degree, contacts abroad, etc. We also had the support of our advisors in the International Office. Not to forget our responsible advisors in the Ministry of Science - and especially Mr. Stimmler - who were particularly concerned about the success of this new master’s program. And, of course, our American friends, who were „on the mat“ in Aalen from the very beginning and did and still do an excellent job in their teaching.

GREETING – DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF OPTOMETRY AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERITUS-IN-RESIDENCE

DR. WILLARD B. BLEYTHING

Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon, USA

It all started with a phone call in 1998 from a Pacific University optometry graduate who was practicing in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He was hosting a visit of an Aalen University optometry student who was doing her required clinical practicum in his practice. This call was prompted by a comment from this student visitor that Aalen University was looking for an optometric college, within the United States, with whom they could connect for some joint programs of study. My reply was "yes" - let us explore this idea further.

A subsequent meeting took place in Seattle, Washington (USA) during a national optometric congress. Professors Dietmar Kuemmel, Dean and Anna Nagl, representing Aalen University, were there along with me representing Pacific University. I had invited Dr. David Heath to the discussion, from the New England College of Optometry; this College and Pacific had worked together on the development of a similar program in Italy some time back. Dean Kuemmel showed particular interest in offering an advanced level course in optometry terminating in the master's degree. The goal was to enlarge upon the current scope of optometric practice in this region of Europe, and the vehicle proposed was to be a joint degree program with optometric colleges and universities in the United States. Discussions continued and on January 10, 2000 it became 'official'; the President of Pacific University, USA and the Rector of Aalen University of Applied Sciences, Germany, signed an "Agreement of Cooperation" document. It was now time to explore various ways for these two institutions to carry out the purpose of this agreement.

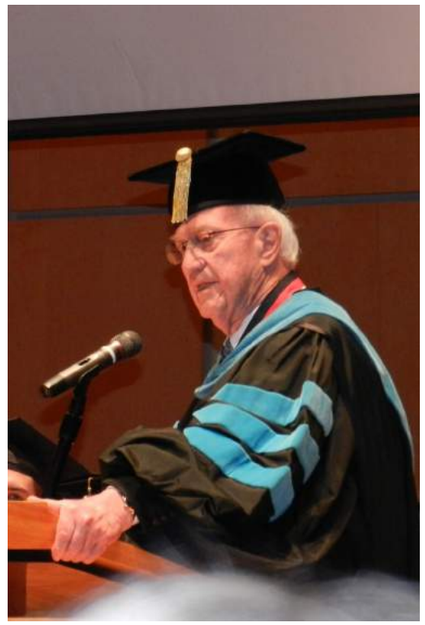
As it works out, I was going to be visiting Germany with a tour in the summer of 2000. While there, Prof Anna Nagl met up with me in Munich and whisked me off to a luncheon meeting in Aalen. A very productive discussion took place that included professors Dietmar Kuemmel and Anna Nagl along with Ms. Nina Mueller, the Aalen University student whose comment had started the whole discussion.

It was at this meeting that I was invited to do some lecturing at Aalen University. I did this, doing an elective course in Pediatric Optometry for the then enrolled Aalen U optometry students.

The course extended over five days, was 'tucked-in' between their regular semesters and took place in February and March of 2001 and again in 2002. Other Pacific U faculty taught a similar series of electives at Aalen University dating from February 2001 through November of 2002. These continued through 2003. Aalen students started to do 'study – abroad' visits at Pacific University with the aim of completing requirements for the Aalen U Diploma Thesis. Nina Mueller was the first to do this in August 2000 and worked with Pacific University faculty on a contact lens research project. By June of 2003 a total of 3 Aalen students had completed their diploma thesis and 5 other students had done practicum work at Pacific University. To date, it estimated that 30 Aalen U students have spent time as a Visiting Scholar from the start of this cooperative agreement in 2000. Planning of the MSc degree curriculum began in 2000 and was framed around three broad area of instruction: I Vision Science, II Clinical Optometric Science, and, III Business.

Elements in areas I and II were to be taught by Pacific University College of Optometry and the New England College of Optometry with the Business courses being taught by Aalen University. In June 6, 2003, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed thus documenting the curriculum content along with the relative course-teaching roles for Pacific University College of Optometry with Aalen University. A parallel document was also prepared to indicate course responsibilities of the New England College of Optometry. While the initial Memorandum of Agreement between the three institutions was drafted in 2003, updates and revisions are done each two years.

We salute those at Aalen University who recognized the need for developing this unique graduate program of studies in optometry. Interest



continues to be strong with a global audience of students being represented in each entering class; this program is making a difference in the provision of vision care to a broad range of people throughout the world.

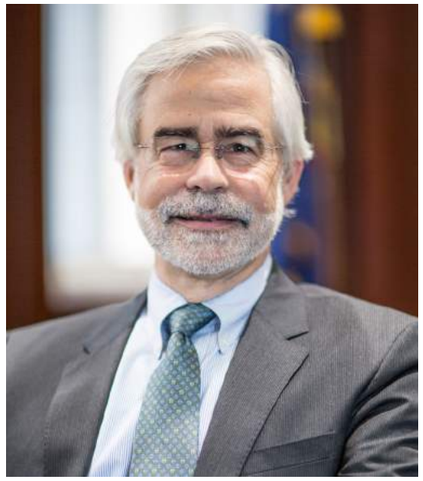
GREETING – PRESIDENT & PROFESSOR DR. DAVID HEATH

The State University of New York College of Optometry, New York, USA

It is with great pleasure that I offer my congratulations upon the 20th Anniversary of the Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Vision Science and Business (Optometry) program. This program reflects an innovative collaboration between Aalen University, the New England College of Optometry in Boston, Massachusetts and Pacific University College of Optometry in Forest Grove, Oregon.

At the time the program was developed, I was serving as the Vice-President and Dean of Academic Affairs at NECO. In December 1999, then Dean Prof. Dietmar Kuemmel and Prof. Dr. Anna Nagl visited our College in Boston to share their vision, learn about our programs and to explore how an M.Sc degree program might be designed and executed effectively through international collaboration. There was an immediate sense of purpose and comradery, and the beginnings of a new and lasting partnership emerged. Dr. Joanne Caruso and Dr. Bina Patel of NECO's Center for the Advancement of International Optometry plunged into developing the details of the curriculum and a model for delivering the coursework.
I left NECO in 2007 to become President of the State University of New York College of Optometry in New York and so have not been involved since. When Dean/Prof. Nagl contacted me about the 20th anniversary, I found it remarkable (and a bit startling) that 20 years have passed. Clearly, the program has been an overwhelming success and the commitment of the leadership and faculty from all three institutions is evident as so many have been engaged from the beginning. I'm proud to have been a part of the original development of the program and commend the University of Aalen, NECO and PUCO for this successful endeavor.

Congratulations on the first 20 years and best wishes for continuing success in the years ahead.



JOIN US – STUDY INTERNATIONALLY



Become a

Master of Science (M.Sc.) Vision Science and Business (Optometry)

and study at one of Europes most modern institutions at Aalen University!

Take advantage of a strong community, small study groups, intensive learning and active exchange with professionals from all fields of activity. In Aalen you have the chance to complete part of your master's degree at our partner universities abroad. And you can choose from a wide range of modules in the field of optometry. Become a specialist in your field now.

Your Future starts here – get informed:

https://www.optometry-master.com/infoen

GREETING – PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ PROFESSOR OF OPTOMETRY, VICE PRESIDENT AND DEAN OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

DR. HOWARD PURCELL AND DR. ERIK WEISSBERG

New England College of Optometry, Boston, MA, USA

For all of us, we have come to understand through our personal and professional experience, just how essential collaboration is for effective advancement. This is true for the growth of both individuals and organizations.

We learn best from each other, through the benefit of hearing different perspectives, challenging our own assumptions and sharing different experiences and knowledge. The partnership that we have all established is a wonderful living example of how and why collaboration works and why we value it so highly.

Congratulations to Aalen for 20 amazing years and we all look forward to what the future holds.





GREETING – PROFESSOR OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

DR. BINA PATEL

New England College of Optometry, Boston, MA, USA

Congratulations to all the Aalen master graduates. Your achievements, success and dedication that you have made to the profession, leadership, and the care you provide to your patients is amazing. Thank you for the foresight of Professor Dr. h.c. Dietmar Kuemmel and Professor Dr. Anna Nagl for their dedication to make the program possible. I have many fond memories and feel very fortunate to meet so many of you from different walks of life, learn from you, share life experiences, friendships and be able to laugh at so many wonderful moments. Forever grateful for the opportunity to teach, to meet you and for your kindness to me – thank you.





GREETING – CEO „AALEN FRIENDS OF OPTOMETRY E.V.“, ALUMNI AND DOCENT GEORG SCHEUERER

After my bachelor‘s degree, the master’s degree was the next logical step. After an intensive search, I chose the part-time Master degree program at Aalen University with the two strong partners from the US, the New England College of Optometry, Boston, MA, and the College of Optometry at Pacific University, Forest Grove, OR. I am very happy with this decision and recommend this Master degree program at Aalen University to anyone interested in further education.

I‘ve learned a lot, I made lots of new good friendships and I still have a lot of fun in Aalen, meanwhile as a lecturer. The two summer school sessions in the US are thanks to a wonderful organization and fantastic fellow students unforgettable.

The skills imparted in the master’s degree are very valuable for day-to-day work with customers. I would like to thank Dietmar Kuemmel, Anna Nagl, Wid Bleything, Bina Patel and everyone who founded this great study program and continue to support it. For me it was the best professional decision to have taken the course. The international alumni network lives and grows. I am very happy to be a part of it and to shape it. I would like to warmly congratulate the Aalen optometry bachelor‘s and master‘s degree on their birthdays.



GREETING – ECOO PRESIDENT-ELECT, ALUMNI AND DOCENT DR. MATJAŽ MIHELČIČ



It is of great pleasure to see the Aalen Master Degree Program blossoming. It not only brings the important wide – scope view of optometry to German students, but, in the past 20 years, it became the “top of the game” choice for residents of many other European countries and even for colleagues who come from as far as Nepal and Thailand. I wish it will serve to many more generations of enthusiastic young people and bring the fresh wind of best “Primary eye care” service to the broadest spectrum of population.







GREETING – MANAGING DIRECTOR ZVA DR. JAN WETZEL

Aalen University can be very proud of its master‘s degree program in Vision Science and Business (Optometry). When Professor Dietmar Kuemmel founded the course in 2002, it was not foreseeable whether it would be a success. Unlike in the Anglo-Saxon countries, optometry in Germany cannot look back on a distinct academic tradition. The measure of the profession in this country is and remains the master craftsman (“der Meister”); training to this level imparts the necessary content to run a business, to work professionally at a high level and to train. However, the great success of the master‘s degree program in Vision Science and Business (Optometry) shows that there are many German opticians and optometrists whose striving for excellence goes beyond. For 20 years, Aalen has offered them a place where they can quench their thirst for knowledge. However, they do not lose themselves in the academic ivory tower but keep the connection to practice: About two thirds of the students come from an ophthalmic opti cian‘s business or manage one. The content taught is also practice-oriented, as regular surveys of former students show.

For example, alumni state that they very often apply the skills acquired in the master‘s program in their everyday professional lives and would take up the program again if they were faced with the decision once more.



There can be no greater praise for the study program, its founder Professor Dr. h.c. Dietmar Kuemmel and the team around Professor Dr. Anna Nagl. As the representation of the interests of German opticians and optometrists, the ZVA would like to thank them very much for their great commitment and wish the course every success for the next 20 years.

The offer that has been created here is unique in this form, not least due to the cooperation with the American partner universities and the optional trips to the United States. Mark Twain said: „Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness“. So, what this master‘s program in Aalen offers goes even beyond Vision Science and Business (Optometry).

ACADEMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Academic Advisory Council with German and international experts in optometry was founded in 2010 for the master’s degree and has been meeting annually ever since, usually also with the students to exchange ideas and experiences.







GREETING – ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR & COORDINATOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM EUROPE AND ISRAEL
JOANNE CARUSO, O.D.

I cannot believe it has been 20 years that we have been doing the Aalen Master's Program. I fondly remember in December of 1999- Dean Dietmar Kuemmel and Prof. Anna Nagl traveled to the New England College of Optometry to meet with Dr. David Heath who was Academic Dean at our college at that time and me – I am the NECO Coordinator of International Programs in Europe and Israel. The purpose of their visit was to explore the possibility for NECO to collaborate with Aalen, University on a 2-year Master Program in Optometry in Aalen Germany. The New England College of Optometry had experience in delivering Programs in Europe as we had in 1997 completed an ASIP-OD Program in Verona, Italy and had also done overseas teaching with Optometry Schools in Spain and France. They were also speaking with Dr. Wid Bleything at Pacific University and this would be a collaborative effort for our 3 schools. We met with Dean Kuemmel and Prof. Nagl and then I recall we went and had a lovely Italian dinner in the North End of Boston with them.



The program that we developed with them was that NECO would do the Basic Science Curriculum: Anatomy, Histology, Physiology, General and Ocular Pharmacology and the Premier course of Introduction to Ocular Disease with Labs that teach the students techniques such as Slit Lamp, Direct and Indirect Ophthalmoscopy, Goldman Tonometry, Visual Fields, Gonioscopy, Dry Eye techniques etc. The program was developed with the ability for our college to export our faculty to Aalen, Germany to teach these courses. The first Master's Program started in 2002 and our first class had 8 students. This has grown over the 20 years to over 25 students! Our first class of students were from Germany and Switzerland and now the Master students have been from Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Luxemburg, Israel, Italy, Nepal, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, and Thailand. It truly is an International Program!

It was an honor for me to be able to teach in Aalen in the Introduction to Ocular Disease Course and Laboratories in the First Module and to travel for the Second and Third Module also. Aalen is such a wonderful place and the Eichenhof was so warm and friendly. We were really lucky that Dean Dietmar Kuemmel coordinated the program from the Aalen Side for many years and he would also travel to the Stuttgart airports and pick us up and bring us to Aalen. And Prof Nagl is doing a wonderful job continuing the Master's Program. The students were always very friendly and so eager to learn to be able to advance the profession of Optometry in their respective countries.

I also had the privilege to coordinate and organize and host these students for the 2-week program in Boston.



The 2-week program was filled with lectures from Optometrists and Ophthalmologists; visits and observation at Community Health Centers, Veteran Administration Hospitals, Lasik Centers, Private Optometry and Ophthalmology Practices and Polymer Technology. They had hands on Workshops in Foreign Body Removal and Punctal Plug Insertion. They were able to have lectures from Optometrist Researchers from Boston Children's Hospital, MIT, and Mass Eye and Ear Infirmary. It was a great way for them to see how Optometry is practiced in the United States and to get exposure to a variety of lecturers in Boston. And they got to do this all in Historic Boston!

Congratulations to all the Aalen Master Students that went on this Optometry journey to increase their knowledge and skill and be better able to take care of their patients. NECO has been honored to have been able to be on this Optometry Journey with you. We hope to continue teaching Aalen Master's Students for another 20 years!!















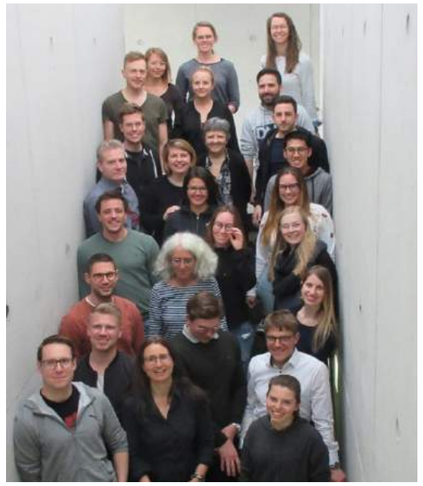






GREETING – ADJUNCT PROFESSOR DR. DIANE ADAMCZYK

Congratulations to all who have been a part of the Master‘s Program in Aalen. It‘s been an honor and pleasure to be a part of this program and group of students and faculty who are instrumental in leading the way in optometry in Europe. Best wishes for the next 20 years!



The best memories are getting to know all the students and our dinners together - learning about each other‘s countries, food and customs.

GREETING – ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DR. KATHLEEN KRENZER

I recall teaching my first class in the Aalen program - we were in the small library in the Gartenstrasse, very close quarters - and remember thinking that I was looking at the future leaders of optometry in Germany and Switzerland. Although the scenery and technology has changed and the geographies expanded, I still see the future leaders of the profession! I am in awe of the dedication and the enthusiasm of the students to their program. It is truly an honor to have been part of their journeys for the last 20 years and I treasure the friendships I‘ve made!



GREETING – ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DR. LAUREEN KIRKNESS AND DR. JIN JONG CHUNG

We feel so fortunate to have been a part of the program for all these years. Teaching in Aalen has kept us in touch with our optometry roots as well as connecting us with so many wonderful colleagues! It has truly been a thrill to meet everyone who has participated in the program; we feel that we are a part of a very special family!

The Aalen program has been the one constant in our lives; we’ve been on the move over the past 20 years – since we first started with the original class of 8 in 2003, we have lived in Massachusetts, Wiesbaden, Vilseck, San Antonio, Texas, Arlington, Virginia, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and finally, Irvine California. No matter where we were living, coming to Aalen has always felt like coming home.

We’ve worked in the old Gartenstraße location as well as the fabulous new Campus Burren facility in the Anton-Huber-Str. We’ve seen the program grow from a couple of slit lamps and BIOs to having a wealth of excellent equipment. We’ve been honored to be included as part of a teaching team of world-class optometrists and educators – from Bina & Joanne to Raj, Diane and Tony – and all of the rest of the faculty.

We’ve all benefited from the



vision (pardon the pun!) of Dietmar Kuemmel, who has vision (pardon the pun!) of Dietmar Kuemmel, who has untiringly supported and promoted the program since its' inception, and Anna Nagl, who has carried the baton and seems to have boundless energy.

We've learned so much from everyone... from how to cook Weißwurst to how not to be a "Weichei", and who to ask for front-row tickets to the Munich opera (Anna Nagl!) and how to enjoy Swiss chocolate!

We're so proud to see former students picking up the reins and teaching in the program: Georg, Nina, Oliver, Lukas, Matjaz and so many who have been teaching outside the program as well. In small steps, everyone who participates in the program has been making progress for optometry, and progress for optometry means better care for patients everywhere.

With our heartfelt thanks and gratitude,

Jinjong & Laureen



GREETING – ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND DISEASE
DR. ANTHONY CAVALLERANO

Congratulations to all the Aalen students from the last 20 years of the master's program. Your hard work at Aalen reflects the commitment you have to your patients and the profession. You have proven to be a life-long learner, and you are to be highly commended. I also remember with fondness some fun times spent with many of you at Rambazamba and in Benediktbeuern. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of your journey, and I wish you luck in the future.

GREETING – ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND DISEASE
DR. JAMES MERTZ

The interaction with the Aalen students has been exceptional. I wish to congratulate all students and this program for 20 years service in the education of optometric professionals.

GREETING – ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DR. BRANDON ZIMMERMAN

Teaching at Aalen is a unique experience where you truly get to know the students deeply. The immersive programs allows the professor/student relationship to become real, and I still speak with students from 10+ years ago.

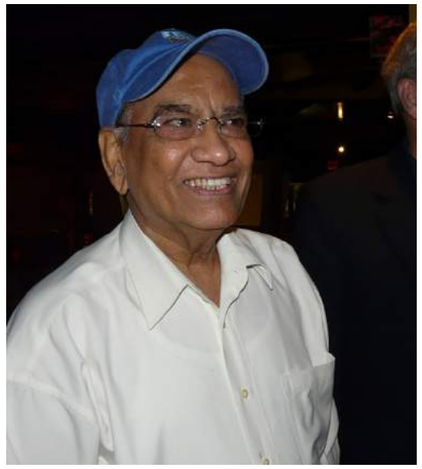


GREETING – PROFESSOR OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND DISEASE DR. DEBORA NICKLA

My heartfelt congratulations to Aalen University for the 20th anniversary of our joint master's Program! It has been a pleasure to have been involved from the very onset of the program, along with Dr. Bina Patel. We were the first professors to go to Aalen to do taping of segments of our courses. I have many fond memories of dinners out with the students and have developed friendships other instructors from various countries. I always enjoyed my stay in the Eichenhof hotel, which had delicious food, and I liked walking around the little town in my hours off from teaching. Prof. Dietmar Kuemmel was a kind and committed host at all times and went out of his way to do fun activities with Bina and myself, most notably one time, a visit to see the cathedral town of Ulm. It has been an enriching and rewarding experience for me in many ways, and I hope to be able to visit and teach there again, in person, some day.

GREETING – PROFESSOR EMERITUS DR. SRINIVAS NATRAJAN-RAJ

I loved teaching the students in Aalen and would not mind going there 100 more times. The students were very respectful, attentive, and eager to learn. Above all, they were all very friendly.







20 YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASTERS DEGREE IN OPTOMETRY

Good things remain relevant, continue to develop and endure the test of time. 20 years are a sign of quality and deserve to be celebrated.

We congratulate Aalen University and look forward to the next generation of optometrists!



ALLES WIRD GUT.

falco-linsen.com

falco

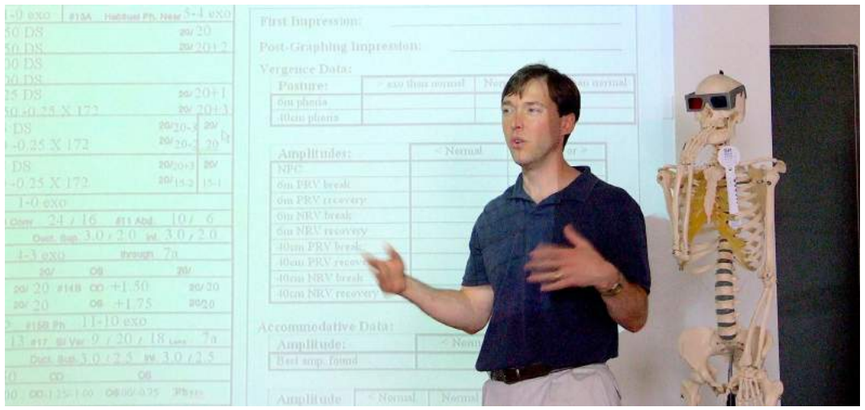


PACIFIC

GREETING – DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF OPTOMETRY DR. SCOTT C. COOPER

Ever since meeting Prof. Dr. h.c. Dietmar Kuemmel and Prof. Dr. Anna Nagl over 20 years ago, I've had the privilege of working with Dr. Wid Bleything to develop the "Pacific part" of the master's program, and the honor of helping deliver much of that program alongside several of my esteemed colleagues. The ongoing success of this program can be attributed to the dedication and talent of everyone involved, including each student who made the commitment to advanced studies, recognized the benefit to themselves and the profession, and encouraged others to do the same.

It's been an honor and unending intrigue to meet them, and I treasure each connection. By increasing their knowledge and expertise, each plays a part in raising the standards and standing of optometry, worldwide, to the benefit of their community. This master's program and its alumni contribute to the momentum of change for greater scope and prestige of optometry across geography and time. I've been lucky to be in a position to watch this evolution. I also recognize how fortunate that I have expanded my circle of international colleagues, live approximately a total of 8-9 months at the Waldhotel Eichenhof, see the migration of the program from the Gartenstrasse to its new location Campus Burren, and watch the evolution of international optometry over the past two decades. I have countless wonderful and entertaining memories, and look forward to many more in the future.



GREETING – EMERITUS CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF OPTOMETRY
DR. HANNU LAUKKANEN

More than a score of years ago, a new educational initiative was conceived by Professors Dietmar Kuemmel and Wid Bleything. This innovative program would transplant advanced North American optometry to Germany and Europe. This audacious enterprise would bring visiting U.S. professors to Aalen University and students from Germany and beyond to Pacific University and the New England College of Optometry for cutting-edge optometric education. There were many formidable obstacles to this Master's program: logistics, student recruitment, program cost, language barriers, the educational tradition of European opticianry, etc. Despite these barriers, the Aalen University Master's Program in Vision Science and Business (Optometry) not only survived — but thrived!

This was in large part due to expert guidance and nurturing by Professors Kuemmel, Bleything and Nagl. It has been absolutely phenomenal to see the transformation of refracting opticians into optometrists along with the expansion in the scope of European practice. Gartenstrasse to Burren, from a venerable old building to a sleek new high-tech facility. Past graduates are now diagnosing and treating previously undetected binocular vision problems, providing pediatric eye care, vision therapy, sports vision, as well as recognizing and managing disease. An astounding 20-years! Hearty congratulations to all the bold students, professors, support-instructors and institutions that changed optometry in Europe and beyond!
A toast to the next 20-years!



GREEETING – ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF OPTOMETRY
DR. RYAN BULSON

It has been an honor to be involved with the M.Sc. degree program of studies in optometry at Aalen University since 2015. Each new session, I am inspired by the excitement of the students and the passion for expanding their clinical knowledge and, as a result, the quality of care they provide to their patients.

It is a credit to the program that we often have M.Sc. alumni return to teach within the program and that those who complete the program become leaders in the optometric profession back home.

It is these leaders that will forge the future path of optometry in Europe and Asia in much the same way that leaders in the USA vastly expanded the scope of the optometric profession over the past several decades.

It is this mission, as well as the excellent German bier, that maintains my passion and enthusiasm for the M.Sc. degree program of studies in optometry at Aalen University. Congratulations on 20 years and best wishes for another 20!





















STUDENTS AND ALUMNI STATEMENTS

FERDINAND FLEISSNER
graduated in 2019



Where do you work?
In my own company

In which field do you work?
- Own business
- University

Are you a member of a training organization?
- VDCO
- American Academy of Optometry

Are you a member of a professional association?
ZVA

Completely new experiences especially from Anglo-Saxon optometry. Found many new friends, which encourage regular professional exchange. In the daily work many areas of optometry are applied in more depth.



This means that optometrists are at the cutting edge of optometry and have an internationally recognized qualification that also facilitates collaboration with other professional groups. At the same time, you gain business knowledge for successful management. Thank you for your time!

FLORIAN AMBROS
graduated in 2020

Where do you work?
- Ambros – Optik und Akustik in Tiefenbach
- Optik & Optometrie Sehstern in Nittendorf

In which field do you work?
- Own business
- Lecturing (seminars, workshops, lectures mostly on binocular vision, pediatric optometry)

Are you a member of a training organization?
- VDCO (Board member)
- RAL Quality Association

Did you get another degree?
hearing care specialist in Mainz

GEORG BAUR
graduated in 2015

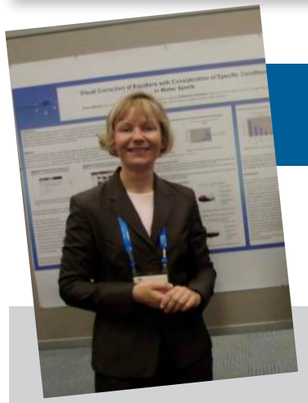


Where do you work?
Carl Zeiss Vision GmbH

In which field do you work?
- Industry
- team leader VTS Marketing

Have you made any publications?
various articles on the subject of optometric screening (DOZ, Focus, Optic+Vision, Der Augenoptiker)

Without the master's degree, I probably wouldn't have gone into the industry. As far as working in optometry, I have learned that there are always multiple ways to approach different types of ophthalmic problems (e.g. Vision Therapy and MKH). I learned to take a closer look at an apparently simple visual problem of a person and to understand the systemic background of the ocular symptom. Especially important at the Master was the global network of inquisitive and forward-thinking colleagues, who often became friends.



HEIKE HÄDRICH
graduated in 2008

It was a great impact to get more insights in many areas of optometry - not only the one I am currently working in. Regarding my profession it allowed me to take on responsibility for the Professional Affairs team in DACH.

In which city/country do you work?
Aschaffenburg & Munich, Germany

In which field do you work?
- Industry – Alcon Vision Care,
Head Professional Affairs DACH

Are you a member of a professional association?
- WVAO
- EuDES

The master's course was a great experience and I am very happy haven taken that chance.

JESSICA GRUHL
started in 2020



Where do you work?
Avermann Contactlinsen

In which field do you work?
Contact Lens Institute

In any case, the expanded expertise has positively influenced the quality of my work and once again deepened my interest in research and science!



LUKAS ZURBUCHEN
graduated in 2019

Good repetition with many specializations of my bachelor's degree and European Diploma Optometry at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland.

Where do you work?
Ophthalmology practice Aare

In which field do you work?
Practice

Have you made any publications?
professional articles

Are you a member of a professional association?
SBAO

NIKLAS MÜLLER-AMON
graduated in 2020



Where do you work?
Amon + Sebold Optik GmbH

In which field do you work?
- Optometry
- Sales
- Contact Lens

Are you a member of a training organization?
- VDCO
- RAL Quality Association

Both personally and professionally, the degree has developed me tremendously. More confidence in eye examinations and in assessing abnormalities in the eye. As a result, a high reputation with customers and in cooperation with ophthalmologists.



PATCHAPHICHA YOKKUMPOL
graduated in 2021

In which city/country do you work?
Thailand

In which field do you work?
University: Rangsit University

Are you a member of a training organization?
WCO: World Council of Optometry

Did you get another degree?
- Doctor of Optometry, OD., Rangsit University
- B.Sc. Visual Science, Rangsit University

Are you a member of a professional association?
Association of Thai Optometrists

Have you made any publications?
Rangsit Journal of Arts and Science RJAS 2019

The Master's degree in Vision Science and Business (Optometry) has given me a deeper understanding of my field and professional direction. I have learned a lot from Aalen University. Being an international student has not only changed the knowledge I gained at the university, but also my attitude and lifestyle. It gave me more opportunities to work all over the world. As a university lecturer, I can use the knowledge from my master's degree to teach my students and develop optometry careers in Thailand.

STEFANIE WÖHRLE
graduated in 2021



Where do you work?
Blickwinkel - Practice for Naturopathy and Optometry

In which field do you work?
- Own business
- Practice
- Lecturing

Did you get another degree?
alternative practitioner

Are you a member of a professional association?
BDH (Bund deutscher Heilpraktiker)

Especially the NECO year has brought my understanding of structural, medical, or pharmacological causes with regard to the classification of symptoms to a new level.



YVONNE GIER
graduated in 2020

Where do you work?
Hecht Contactlinsen GmbH

In which field do you work?
- Industry (Hecht Contactlinsen)
- Clinic (University Eye Clinic Freiburg)
- Lecturing (Hecht Contactlinsen)

Have you made any publications?
professional article: Optometry and Contect Lenses

The Master's degree enriches my work every day. In contact lens fitting at the Eye Clinic of the University Hospital Freiburg, my knowledge of eye diseases and medications is extremely helpful. Also at the Technical Service at the Hecht Contactlinsen GmbH I can support customers and colleagues with my expertise. Due to my studies, I was able to meet many competent and interesting people who still accompany and inspire me. I am happy to be part of such a great community and am grateful for this broadening experience. I wish the master's programme many more generations of committed students. Congratulations!




IDEAL















PASCAL BLASER
graduated in 2010



In which city/country do you work?
Lausanne

In which field do you work?
- until 2021: Custom Contact Lens industry
- now: Myopia control spectacle Lenses

Are you a member of a training organization?
- VDCO
- WVAO

Have you given lectures for others?
topic: Contact Lens and Myopie Control
- Swiss Lens
- MyopiaCare
- Hoya Lens

Completely new experiences especially from Anglo-Saxon optometry. Found many new friends, which encourage regular professional exchange. In the daily work many areas of optometry are applied in more depth.



DR. GREGOR ESSER
graduated in 2008

The Master's degree was an important building block for several promotions, e.g.:
- Head of Basic Research Optics, Senior Manager
- Head of Research Optics, Director
- doctoral thesis, which was the continuation of my master's thesis.

Where do you work?
Director Research & Development Optics, Rodenstock, Munich

In which field do you work?
Spectacle Lens Industry

Are you a member of a professional association?
Optical Society of America (OSA)

Have you received any recognition/award for your masters degree?
2014 for the subsequent PhD thesis: Premis extra ordinaris of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

MICHAEL SCHWARZ
started in 2004



Where do you work?
private practice owner

In which field do you work?
- specialized in VT University
- Contact Lenses

Are you a member of a training organization?
- SBAO (Member of the committee till 2005)
- Optikschweiz
- VDCO
- IVBS

Are you a member of a professional association?
In Switzerland optometrists are finally official partners in healthcare since 2020

Please, always

have a look first!



STEFAN LAHME
graduated in 2007

My practice was focused to optometry before the master program, but after it we made ever more steps toward expanding our scope of practice. As we are 3 Aalen M.Sc. working together our strength's in optometry is very deep.

Have you given lectures for others?
VDCO
SBAO
WVAO
Hochschule Nordwestschweiz Olten

Are you a member of a professional association?
- ECOO
- ZVA
- BAO
- and others

RAL Gütegemeinschaft Optometry: the first association only for Optometrist in Germany that will try to expand the rights of optometrists as a group with nearly the same level of education in Germany. Most important the right to use diagnostics. We brought the case to legally perform perimetry and tonometry as a profession to the highest German court. We secured the rights to perform this important procedures.

TOBIAS HERRMANN
graduated in 2006



In which city/country do you work?
Landquart, Switzerland

In which field do you work?
- Spectacles
- Contact Lenses
- Vision therapy

Have you given lectures for others?
- seminars for optometrists in near plus perscribing for pre-presbyopes
- PresentaKons at WVAO and SBAO annual meeKngs about near plus prescribing for pre-presbyopes

Without the master degree I would not do want I do now. 60-70% of my turnover is related to vision therapy and therapeuKc plus lens prescribing. I was able to change the lives of many people.



OLIVER BUCK
graduated in 2012

Where do you work?
own shop in Mengen, Germany

In which field do you work?
- Own business
- Lecturing (seminars, workshops, lectures mostly on binocular vision, pediatric optometry)

Have you made any publications?
- articles
- books

Are you a member of a training organization?
- WVAO
- BOAF

The master's program was the starting point for my optometric career – Primary Eye Care – Binocular Vision and pediatric optometry have been added to a classical optical store! Best decision ever concerning education :) Thanks to all the wonderful people from NECO, Pacific University, Aalen University and the colleagues all over the world!!

ANDREAS BERKMANN
graduated in 2015



Where do you work?
own praxis for optometry

Have you given lectures for others?
- for the WVAO
- In practice vision therapie and primary eyecare
- Carl Zeiss Academy „ Using the slitlamp as a screening instrument“

Are you a member of a professional association?
- VDCO
- WVAO
- ZVA
- BOAF

Thanks to the master's program we have a much better reputation towards the physicians.
Our schedule is completly booked until 4 months.

Thanks to the master's program I have way more knowledge.

DANIEL RÖMMEL
graduated in 2015

Where do you work?
own business in Herzogenbuchsee, Switzerland

In which field do you work?
- Own business

Are you a member of a professional association?
SBAO

Did you get another degree?
no

STEPHAN BERNER
graduated in 2010

Where do you work?
In my own company

In which field do you work?
- Own business
- private practice

Are you a member of a training organization?
WVAO

Are you a member of a professional association?
ZVA

The master‘s program helped me starting my way in Pediatric Optometry!



ANNA BACHMANN
graduated in 2021

Where do you work?
Augenzentrum Aachen

In which field do you work?
practice

The studies have given me a better understanding of the clinical routine in the practice, the diseases and the treatment strategies of our physicians. I think the studies have increased the quality of my work immensely and made me even more independent. In the two years, I was able to learn once again how extensive the work as an optometrist can be and how exciting this profession, the eye and the ability to see are. I am also immensely grateful for the people I have been able to meet during this time and the network that the international program makes possible. Congratulations on the 20th anniversary and I wish everyone involved a lot of joy, fun learning and good acquaintances for the next 20 years.

ANNA KATHARINA KNAUS
graduated in 2020



Where do you work?
In my own company

In which field do you work?
- Own business
- optic, optometry

Are you a member of a professional association?
ZVA

Through the master‘s degree, I was able to expand my expertise enormously and now benefit daily in my own business from the experience and knowledge gained.
The relationships established through the master‘s degree are also very often a great help and support.

THE FUTURE OF OPTOMETRY



We are looking forward to gathering for a symposium on the future of optometry, which will be held in German.

Enjoy an exciting program with top-class speakers and interesting topics from the world of optics.

Friday, 11/11/2022, 11.11 a.m.

Auditorium and lecture hall building
Aalen University,

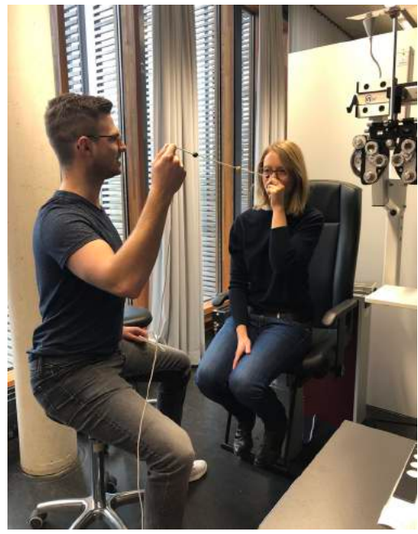
Beethovenstraße 1, 73430 Aalen, Germany






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MEMORIES

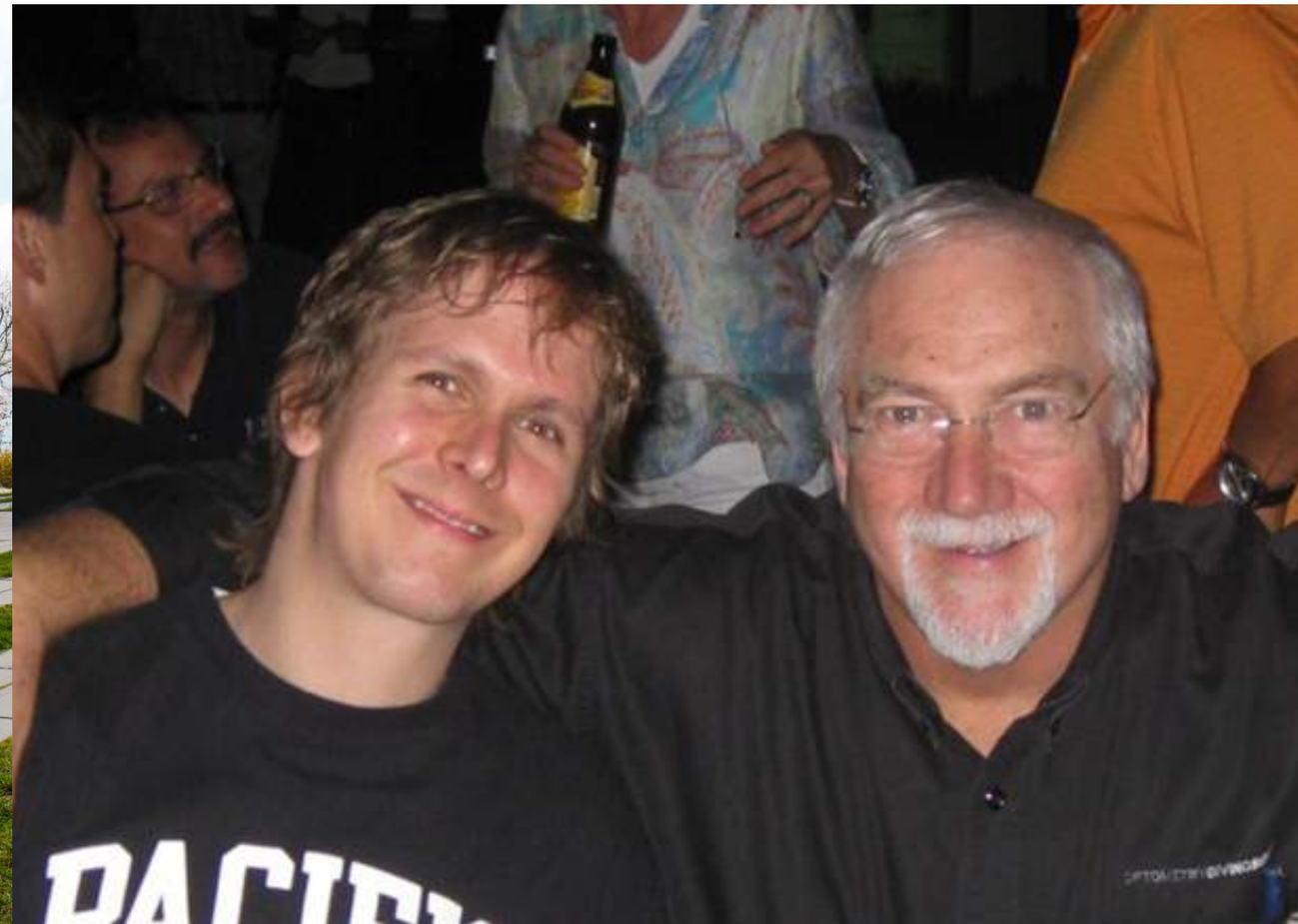


UNEXPECTED MEETING WITH BRIEN HOLDEN – MARIO REHNERT

Once again, it was a nice end to an educational day of study. A balmy summer evening allowed nothing else than a casual barbecue on campus and manifesting what we had just learned with chilled beer. Stimulating conversations with the lecturers and fellow students found an unexpected increase when the world's most recognized contact lens princeps Brien Holden from Australia joined us.

Brien was in Aalen at the time at the invitation of Zeiss and did not miss the opportunity to follow the convivial smell of the evening and join in the student hustle and bustle.

We had a great evening with intense technical discussions and even more fakery. We ran into each other a few more times after that until Brien passed away much too soon in 2015. He will remain in my memory because of his jovial and open-minded nature.



MEMORIES FROM THE „FUCHSBAU“ – MICHAELA KRAMMER AND FRIENDS

In the summer of 2018, Steffi (from Nürnberg) and I (Michi from Munich) started our part-time master's degree at Aalen University. We met at the alumni meeting in Benediktbeuern, where we shared a room. The first hurdle that had to be overcome was to find an affordable flat for the present times in Aalen. Steffi was in the boys' flat (6-7 boys from the program and Steffi) and I shared my breakfast table with 5 half-naked craftsmen.

These circumstances increased my motivation to improve our living situation and thanks to Bavarian recommendations from former students, the flat called Fuchs was found very quickly. After the long days of lectures and internships in the Boston section, our Fuchsbau became a cozy place for us to relax. Despite the lack of free time, the business modules also enabled us to get to know something of the university town of Aalen with its historic city center, beautiful cafes and restaurants. We went climbing, bouldering and in the Limes Therme together.















Thanks to Steffi's first-class contacts with the legendary boys' flat, we were invited to a Swiss cheese fondue together with Prof. Diane Adamczyk. As is customary in Switzerland, many glasses were poured behind the "bandage" for strengthening and for good digestion. Touched by the German-Swiss hospitality, Prof. Adamczyk raved about the musical „Sound of Music“. We all didn't know that, so we watched "Dinner for One" with her. The guys tried very hard to ensure that our glasses never went empty and so we almost sang the lyrics (if we would have known them) from "Sound of Music" together with a hoarse voice and reddened eyes.

The Boston year ended and the Pacific year began. Moreover, two Tyrolean boys (Chris and Max) suddenly enriched our student life in Aalen. The clever guys (foxes...) quickly recognized the advantages and size of our Fuchsbau. And so their application preparations began ... after they had convinced us with an excellent Kaiserschmarrn and presented our landlady with a bouquet of flowers, the Fuchsbau was complete.

Now four people were busy cooking, exercising, learning and discussing. Contact was made with the Croatian connection in the apartment below us (Dachsbau) and almost always a Kaiserschmarrn meal took place, to which a selection of fellow students were invited.

And then Corona came. But the Fuchsbau held together. There were Fuchsbau Zoom meetings and in August 2020 Chris became Heidi's father, a real Tyrolean girl. We had a very nice time at the Fuchsbau and experienced a lot together. Steffi, Chris, Max and I (Michi).



2021 MASTER‘S STUDENTS WORKING WITH THE EYEPORT

In the October 2021 Vision Therapy module, Master‘s students had the opportunity to personally experience and work with an advanced vision training instrument, the EYEPORT. The EYEPORT is a classic example of clinical research that has translated well to private practice and directly benefited large numbers of vision therapy patients. The original EYEPORT instrument validation study was designed and completed at Pacific University by Aalen‘s very own visiting professor, Dr. Hannu Laukkanen in conjunction with another world class vision researcher, Dr. Jeffrey Rabin.



“A Prospective Study of the EYEPORT Vision Trainer System”, Manuscript co-authored with Rabin, J. Optometry Journal of the American Optometric Assoc., October 2006 (Vol. 77 No.10), pages 508-514.

KARL AMON OPTOMETRY AWARD 2021

The annual scholarship (2000 €) receives a master’s graduate of Vision Science and Business (Optometry) at Aalen University, who demonstrates high scholastic standing and exhibits integrity, dedication, and a high level of commitment in promoting the profession of optometry. The student’s written thesis should be clinically applicable and demonstrates the potential in expanding the professional scope in clinical/patient care.





Great evening with great atmosphere, great food, great jukeboxes and a really spectacular optics equipment collection in the garage (Chris L. did not want to leave) Thanks Pat!

Bernhard Neuberger



„Two tired faces during the lectures, after watching a patriot game all night (because of the stressful time difference) … only exciting optometry topics, indulgent and great professors and a beer can solve such problems :) „

Master Alumni and Board Member VDCO Florian Ambros together with lecturer Dr. Kathleen Krenzer, Lukas Zurbuchen in the background



Now it‘s gonna be loud with Heavy Metal and Optometry! ;-) Hendrik has two kids Emma and Karlo and got his Master‘s degree in 2017. He did his Master‘s Thesis in cooperation with Aalen University and University Eye Hospital Basel, Switzerland. He implemented OCT technology to the optical store he works in and held a webinar about „Coincidentally findings with OCT“ in February 2021 for Optometry and contact lens associations of Germany (VDCO) and Switzerland (SBAO). He also plays the drums for his Symphonic Metal Band INNER CORE.



This was „MY best Masters Moment ever“ in August 2013 after the hardest and particularly last exam in Ocular Diseases Part 3. Thanks a lot to all our Professors from Portland and Boston, to Dr. Nagl and Dr. Kümmel and especially to my wonderful Classmates 2011 - 2013 for an unforgettable time!

Annette Pfund



„During our stay at the New England College of Optometry in Boston, we visited Cape Cod for a weekend. Four friends and I asked a person that walked by to take a picture of us. I guess that one of us should have checked the photographer‘s vision.“

Isabelle Schaefers, Luxembourg/Malawi

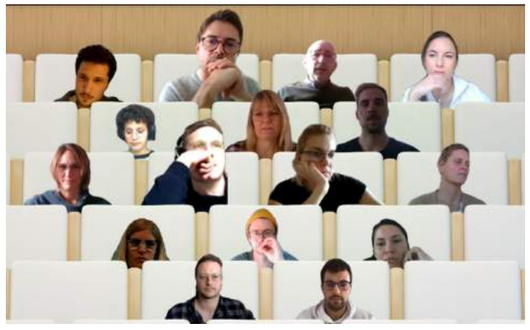
„After I graduated from the Bachelor‘s program in Optics and Acoustics in Aalen, I worked in our family business in the heart of Tübingen and simultaneously participated in the part-time Master‘s program in Vision Science and Business (Optometry).
The studies were a fantastic experience. Congratulations on your 20th birthday!“

Karolina Pohl





Anna Nagl says: Gregor Esser has a dream career: Diploma and master‘s degree from Aalen University, PhD graduate from Aalen University‘s partner university, Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya & Director Research & Development Optics, Rodenstock, Munich, Spectacle Lens Industry Gregor (on the right end) assisting pediatric exam



Congratulations!
The Master students of 2020/2021 warmly congratulates on the 20th anniversary!
We are so happy that we can finally swap the virtual online lectures for face-to-face lectures!
We are having a great time!

Jessica Gruhl

Majdak (right): I enjoyed gaining new optometric knowledge at Aalen University.

Natasa Vujko Muzdalo, Croatia (left): Studying at Aalen University, I gained knowledge and skills that guided me and contributed to my professional work and success. The professionalism of the professors and their immense effort to pass on their knowledge to the students made the moments spent in Aalen great and that I always remember them with fondness.







Weekend on Cape Cod a great time with optometry friends during our time at NECO in Boston!

Markus Ritzmann, Switzerland

We had so much fun studying and spending time together. We often spend our free time together, exchanging learning experiences. We cooked together, exchanged cultures and food of each nation. The fondest memories are made when gathered around the table. Practicing is not stressful but fun when we do it together. I met my best friend here. We travel abroad together, and we have the intention that we will continue our journey in the future. „Studying a master‘s at Aalen gave me the skills that I needed to operate in the real world and another important thing that I have gained is.... „friendship“

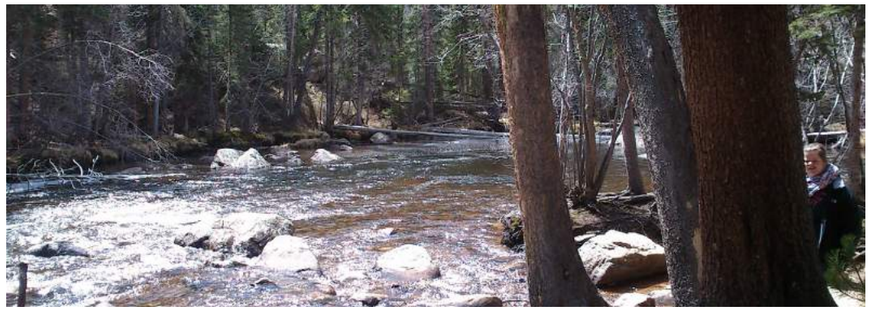
Picha Yokkumpol and Eleonora Fatifati, Thailand and Italy





„New standard: double examinations - efficiency is key“

Katharina Breher



Before our summer school at the College of Optometry at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon, US in 2011, we decided to fly to Denver. The four of us started the trip a few days earlier (on the weekend before the lab sessions) to see the Blue Mountains in Colorado. A group of 2 students visited the OD Lynn Hellerstein‘s practice in Denver area and the other two went to OD Jen Simonson‘s Boulder Valley Vision Therapy Center. In the middle of the week, the teams swapped locations. Of course we also went on short trips. Even though my phone didn‘t have at that time an excellent camera, I decided to snap a picture of the beautiful Blue Mountains landscape. In one of my snapshots, I accidentally caught my fellow student. I didn‘t notice this straight away. It was only when I saved my pictures that I noticed something familiar in this photo. My fellow student hid behind a tree but was curious enough to watch my photo session.

Ricarda Urban



„I am very pound of what I have learned from M.Sc. Vision Science and Business (Optometry) program, Aalen University which are not only knowledge but also important skills. Thank you very much for all that you have done for me because you have made me be a person who can help and inspire others.“

Sutthisaranyupong Chanyo, Thailand



The NECO study year during Corona will remain unforgettable for us, for better or worse. The organisation and implementation of the lectures was a challenge for everyone involved. We all tried to make the best of it so as not to let it spoil our fun.
You definitely discover interesting features at Zoom and the professors also try to make the lessons more interesting with some unusual guests.

Stefanie Wöhrle



„I am Silke Lohrengel from Bollschweil. I did my master 2010 and had a great time in aalen as during the US visits 2008 and 2009. I learned so much!! The professors are doing such a great job!. The crazy bars at the west coast (pacific) are still the best. Now I am working in my own praxis with vision therapy, special contact lens fittings and lecturing and are absolutely happy with this.“



„To join the Aalen M.Sc. Masterclass (Optometry and Business) was the best decision in my professional life. Learning intensively with international well-known lecturers, making new friends and networking with fellows let us grow in a prospered health-care profession.“

Markus Hofmann, Switzerland



The time spent in Boston, Pacific and Aalen was enriching, both professionally and personally. We miss the time with the class of 2013 and the Professors and Lecturers. Thank you all again for the great time.

Ursi Hall and Johannes Schlegel, Switzerland

„In the Aalen master’s degree program, you not only get knowledge, but also friends for life“

Roman Nadler und Markus Ritzmann, Switzerland



Congratulations to 20 years full of knowledge, friendship, fun and internationality!
This masters programm connects people with the same passion around the globe.
Keep it up!

Anna-Katharina Knaus



„I really enjoyed my time in Aalen. Not only at the university, but also in student life...“

Andreas van der Heide



Congrats to the 20th birthday of this amazing masters programm! It was a pleasure to be part of it.

Ann-Isabel Mattern



OUR CURRENT MASTER'S STUDENTS

In the Master's programme in Vision Science and Business (Optometry) at Aalen University of Applied Sciences, all laboratory courses were also offered as scheduled in attendance during the Covid 19 pandemic, but in the past academic year in parallel in Germany, Switzerland and Croatia. We are happy that our current master's students were able to start their laboratory courses at the Aalen University in August 2021.

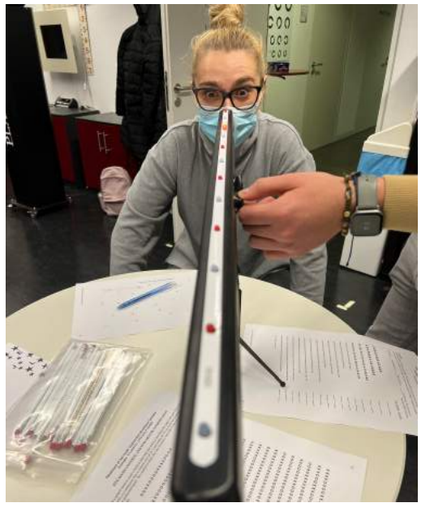
Although the summer semester 2021 was the third „Corona semester" for students and lecturers, the part-time Master's programme M.Sc. Vision Science and Business (Optometry) in particular also succeeded in holding all laboratory courses in attendance as planned in the spring.

The 20 VSB Master's students from Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia and Nepal started their laboratory courses together on site in the laboratory building for optometry on the Burren campus of Aalen University.



They apply the theoretical knowledge they have acquired over the past four weeks in the „Binocular Vision Labs" under the direction of Prof. Hannu Laukkanen from the College of Optometry at Pacific University in Oregon in the USA and Katja Schiborr from Würzburg, together with Oliver Buck, Markus Hofmann and Frank Tannek, and prove the skills they have acquired in a theoretical and practical examination.

„We attach great importance to the exchange with and among the students and have initiated everything necessary to make these important attendance days of the laboratory courses possible now, of course," says the Dean of Studies, Prof. Dr. Anna Nagl. The students appreciate this and deliberately chose Aalen University: „Aalen has an incredible international network that enables an exchange of experts. We have been working for over ten years and are happy about the opportunity to study while working," say students Angelina Di Benedetto and Barbara Waltisberg from Switzerland. „Even after many years in the profession as a self-employed optician/optometrist, further education and qualification are indispensable: expanding knowledge in the special optometric orientation of Aalen, personal development and professional advancement. This is what makes you stand out from the masses of opticians," emphasize the two students from the Rhineland, Torsten Dautzenberg and Kai Jaeger.





OUR ALUMNI



FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR 2002/03



ACADEMIC YEAR 2004/05



ACADEMIC YEAR 2006/07



ACADEMIC YEAR 2008/09



ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/11



ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/13



ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/15



ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/19



ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/17



ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/21

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Aalen  and Appenzell?  Fits!*  , says Bernd Brückner.** 

Bernd, what was the motivation for your studies?
I was looking for new impulses for my work, wanted to broaden my horizon and meet with professional colleagues.
What was the experience like?
I had two great years. To get this high-quality education was truly my best decision. It all just fitted!

Founding a company in Switzerland and studying at the same time. How did you manage that?
In retrospect, I ask myself the same. It was exhausting. Especially working and writing the MA-thesis at the same time. But on the study weekends in Aalen I immersed myself in a different world. I felt like a young student again.

Appenzeller Kontaktlinsen – what's special about them?
The answer is quite simple: They fit in every way. As an innovative company, we are ahead of the game and produce individual lenses that are perfectly tailored to customer needs and guaranteed a successful fitting.

* Appenzeller Kontaktlinsen's slogan is simply "passt" ("fits").
** Aalen alumnus Bernd Brückner M.Sc. Vision Science and Business, optometrist, is a co-founder of the renowned Swiss contact lens manufacturer. His optometry master's degree (2009–2011) in Aalen also coincided with the founding period.

(TBD) imprint/legal notice etc

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(Optometry)
Aalen University

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