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Glen Oaks science graduate now a Doctor of Optometry



CENTREVILLE---Years of study and hard work are paying off for 2003 Glen Oaks Community College graduate Kimberly Dillivan. She earned a Doctor of Optometry degree (OD) from the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University, Big Rapids. The 2009 Valedictorian of her graduating class was awarded the Beta Sigma Kappa Silver Medal Award and the George N. Holcomb Memorial Scholarship for further research and education. Dr. Dillivan was also awarded the Dr. Jack W. Bennett Memorial Scholarship while a third year student based

on her potential and high ideals of professionalism.

Dr. Dillivan visited Glen Oaks Community College last week to say hello to old friends and meet Dr. Gary Wheeler, President (above). While a student at Glen Oaks, the Centreville High School graduate was the first recipient of the John Ward Memorial Faculty Scholarship while earning an Associate of Science degree. Her activities at Glen Oaks included membership in Phi Theta Kappa, the international academic society for two-year college students, and assisting other students as a tutor. Dr. Dillivan said she easily transferred all of her Glen Oaks credits to Ferris State University and appeared on the Dean's List on her way to a Bachelor's of Applied Biology before entering the optometry school. "My Glen Oaks counselors helped guide me through the requirements for Ferris State. Then the many scholarships I qualified for at Ferris State also eased the financial transition," Dr. Dillivan said.

The visit was Dr. Dillivan's first opportunity to see the Dale E. Gray Science Building and remodeled nursing laboratories at Glen Oaks. "The new facility is very impressive," she remarked. Dr. Dillivan said she enjoyed classes at Glen Oaks taught by Gerald Barkley, Professor of Math and Science, and Frank Janca, Professor of Science. "I also took part in a Study Abroad summer trip to Spain with Jeanne Reed, Professor of Sociology, and Judy DeMink, Professor of Spanish," she said.

As a fourth year optometry student, Dr. Dillivan joined Dr. William J. Denton, a 2000 MCO graduate, in a presentation at the SECO International Convention, March, 2009, at Atlanta, Georgia. This major, world-wide gathering for the optometry trade featured their information on "The Corneal Collagen Shield – a Review of Technology." Kimberly worked for Dr. Denton during her spring rotation at the WJB Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, South Carolina and she will be completing her residency at the Dorn VA Center beginning in July, 2009.

Dr. Dillivan spoke of the coming residency in South Carolina.

"This is quite an opportunity for me. The Dorn VA Center is a 180 bed hospital and has a tremendous facility dedicated to work in optometry," Dr. Dillivan explained. Her residency in primary care ocular disease starting in July includes work with Dr. Denton, Dr. Christian Jordan and Dr. Jeff McGill.

A June 13 celebration honoring Dr. Dillivan's accomplishments has been planned by her parents Mark and Mary Vargo and Patrick and Louise Dillivan, along with her sisters, Kendra (Michael) Eldridge and Tonda (Eliseo) Navarrete. Dr. Dillivan said her goal is to purchase an optometry clinic in this area.