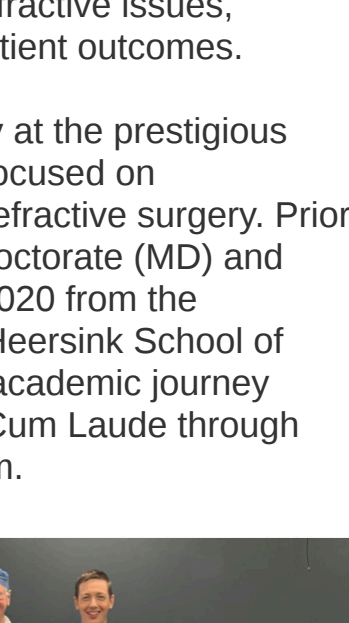
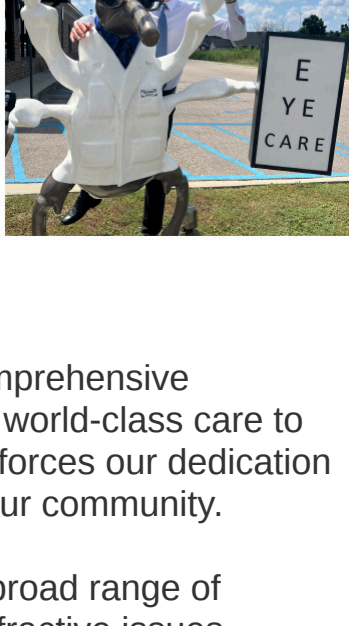


## DR. MARIUS HEERSINK BEGINS HIS PRACTICE IN DOTHAN

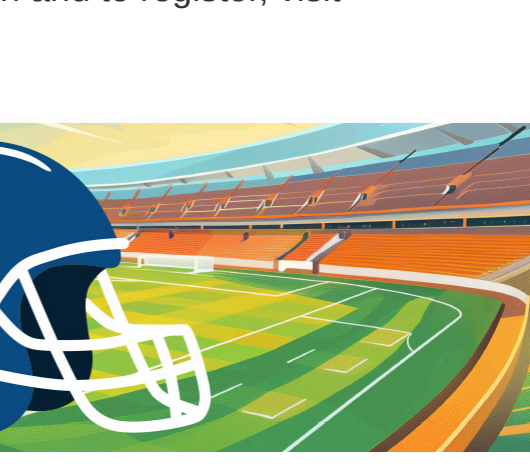
We are excited to announce that Dr. Marius Heersink joined the Dothan medical staff on August 15th. His first request was to personally meet as many of you as possible. We traveled to Opp, Andalusia, Enterprise, Dothan and Marianna so he could introduce himself, see your practices and meet your staff. We had a lot of fun along the way! If we didn't drop by your office, we're happy to schedule a future visit, or introductory phone or video call. Please email [smclean@eyecentersouth.net](mailto:smclean@eyecentersouth.net) with a request and we'll coordinate. We also hosted a staff luncheon, and a MD/OD dinner to welcome him back home to Dothan. Thank you to those of you who took time out of your busy week to attend. Dr. Marius was overwhelmed with the warm reception he received. He is committed to building strong relationships with each of you and providing excellent care to the patients you refer.



Dr. Heersink brings extensive expertise in comprehensive ophthalmology and is committed to delivering world-class care to patients across the Southeast. His arrival reinforces our dedication to providing the highest level of eye care for our community.

Dr. Heersink's practice will include treating a broad range of conditions, including cataracts, cornea and refractive issues, utilizing the latest technologies to enhance patient outcomes.

Dr. Heersink recently completed his residency at the prestigious Wills Eye Institute in Philadelphia, where he focused on comprehensive ophthalmology, cornea, and refractive surgery. Prior to this, Dr. Heersink earned a Dual Medical Doctorate (MD) and Master of Business Administration (MBA) in 2020 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Heersink School of Medicine and Collat School of Business. His academic journey began at UAB, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude through the Early Medical School Acceptance Program.

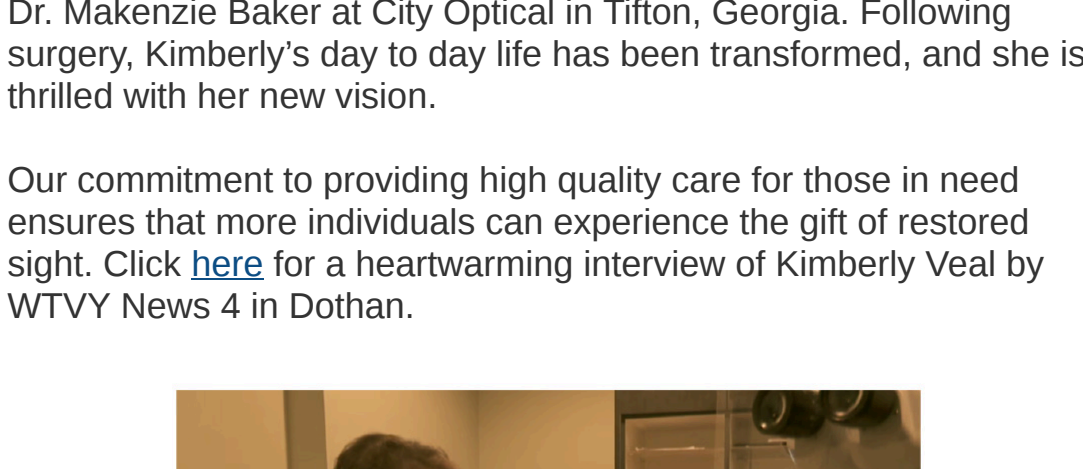


This background positions him well to contribute to the Eye Center South team, bringing a strong blend of clinical expertise and business acumen.

Click to view a recent interview Dr. Heersink had with WTVY News 4, <https://www.eyecentersouth.net/our-doctors/marius-heersink-md/>.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR 2025 CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR FEB. 7-9, 2025

Eye Education Foundation is gearing up for a Super Bowl-themed Continuing Education Seminar, set to take place from February 7-9, 2025. This dynamic three-day event will provide attendees with up to 20 hours of COPE-approved credits, including 6 hours of CEE/TQ. The seminar will blend football-themed fun with serious learning, offering sessions on the latest in vision care technology and treatment, and keynote addresses from leading experts in optometry. Dive into both the spirit of the Super Bowl and the future of vision care! For more information and to register, visit [www.eyeeducationfoundation.net](http://www.eyeeducationfoundation.net).



Follow us on Facebook @EyeEducationFoundation for updates throughout the year.

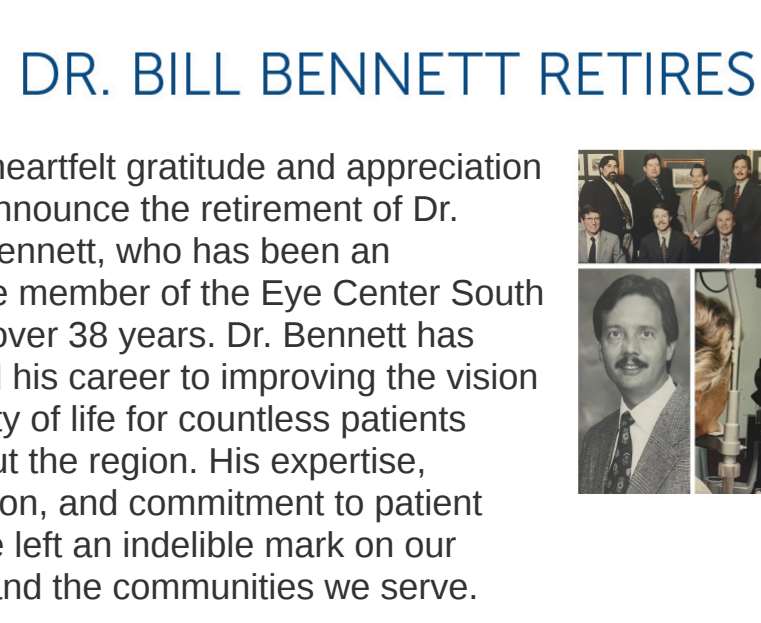
## PRACTICE NEWS

### GIFT OF SIGHT PATIENT SPOTLIGHT

Eye Center South's Gift of Sight program has provided life-changing cataract surgery to individuals in need for over 36 years. This initiative offers free cataract removal surgery to people without insurance who demonstrate financial and medical necessity. The program has restored vision for countless individuals, allowing them to regain independence and improve their quality of life.

A recent beneficiary, Kimberly Veal was referred by her optometrist, Dr. Makenzie Baker at City Optical in Tifton, Georgia. Following surgery, Kimberly's day to day life has been transformed, and she is thrilled with her new vision.

Our commitment to providing high quality care for those in need ensures that more individuals can experience the gift of restored sight. Click [here](#) for a heartwarming interview of Kimberly Veal by WTVY News 4 in Dothan.



## ECS CLINCHES MULTIPLE AWARDS ACROSS AL AND FL LOCATIONS

Eye Center South has recently earned several prestigious award recognitions, celebrating its exceptional service and expertise in eye care across various locations:

**Destin, FL:** Eye Center South's Destin location was honored with the "Best of Destin" award for "Best Eye Care Clinic" for the sixth consecutive year by VIP Destin Magazine. The award was received at a Black-Tie Gala, underscoring the community's strong endorsement of their specialty eye care services. We also were honored by Emerald Coast Magazine with the Best of Emerald Coast Award for Best Eye Care Clinic. In addition, this office won the "Finest of the Emerald Coast" distinction by the Fort Walton News Herald. Our Surgery Center partner in Destin, The Destin Surgery Center was also recently distinguished as a "Best Ambulatory Surgery Center" by U.S. News and World Report.

**Panama City, FL:** The Panama City office and Dr. Zsolt Bansagi were finalists in the News Herald Best of Bay Awards in the Best Eye Care Clinic and Best Eye Care Professional categories. In addition, our surgery center partner, Northwest Florida Surgery Center was recognized as a "Best Ambulatory Surgery Center" by U.S. News and World Report.

**Tallahassee, FL:** Dr. John Bell was a finalist in the Tallahassee Democrat, Best of Tallahassee Awards in the Best Eye Care Professional category.

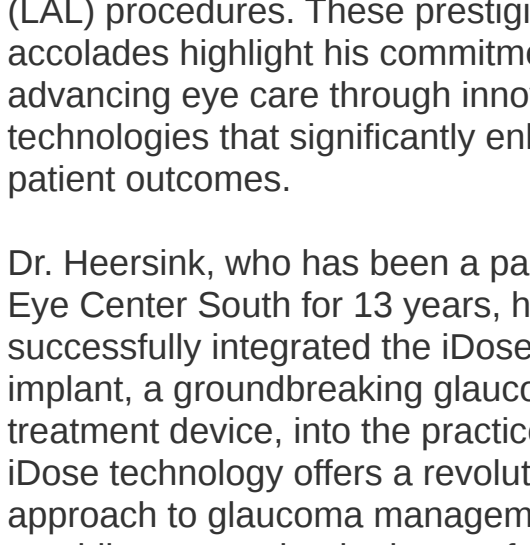
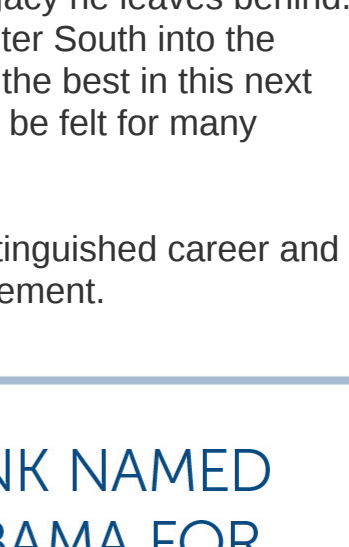
**Dothan, AL:** The Dothan location won awards from the 2024 Dothan Eagle Best of the Wiregrass contest in multiple categories. These included Best Ophthalmologist, Dr. Sebastian Heersink; Best Plastic Surgeon, Dr. Richard Bryant, Best Ophthalmology Clinic, Best Cataract Surgery, and Best Eye Surgery reflecting their broad impact in specialty eye care.

**Montgomery, AL:** The Montgomery office and Dr. Doug Owens were finalists in the Best of River Region Awards hosted by the Montgomery Advertiser in the Best Eye Care and Best Eye Care Professional categories.

## PHSYCIAN & STAFF NEWS

### DR. BILL BENNETT RETIRES

It is with heartfelt gratitude and appreciation that we announce the retirement of Dr. William Bennett, who has been an invaluable member of the Eye Center South team for over 38 years. Dr. Bennett has dedicated his career to improving the vision and quality of life for countless patients throughout the region. His expertise, compassion, and commitment to patient care have left an indelible mark on our practice and the communities we serve.

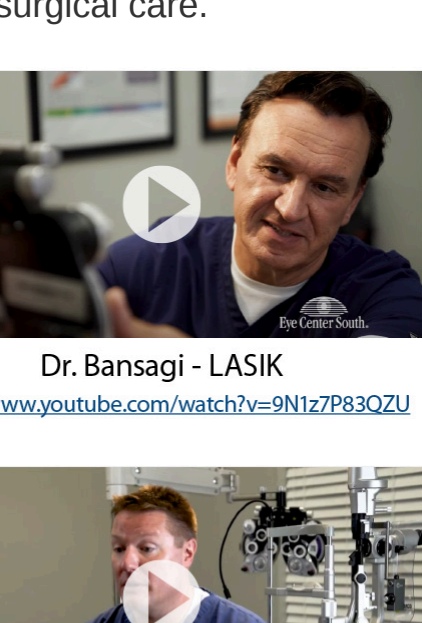


Dr. Heersink added, "We will miss Dr. Bennett's presence in the clinic, but we are incredibly grateful for the legacy he leaves behind. His contributions have helped shape Eye Center South into the world-class facility it is today. We wish him all the best in this next chapter of his life, knowing that his impact will be felt for many years to come."

Please join us in celebrating Dr. Bennett's distinguished career and wishing him a well-deserved and fulfilling retirement.

## DR. SEBASTIAN HEERSINK NAMED TOP SURGEON IN ALABAMA FOR iDOSE AND LIGHT ADJUSTABLE LENS PROCEDURES

Dr. Sebastian Heersink of Eye Center South has been recognized as Alabama's top surgeon for his expertise in iDose and Light Adjustable Lens (LAL) procedures. These prestigious accolades highlight his commitment to advancing eye care through innovative technologies that significantly enhance patient outcomes.



Dr. Heersink, who has been a part of Eye Center South for 13 years, has successfully integrated the iDose implant, a groundbreaking glaucoma treatment device, into the practice. The iDose technology offers a revolutionary approach to glaucoma management by providing a sustained release of medication over a 3-year period, reducing the need for daily eye drops. His proficiency with this device has led to improved treatment compliance and quality of life for countless glaucoma patients.

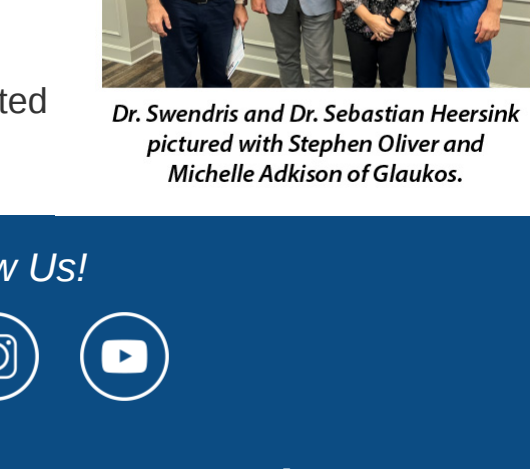
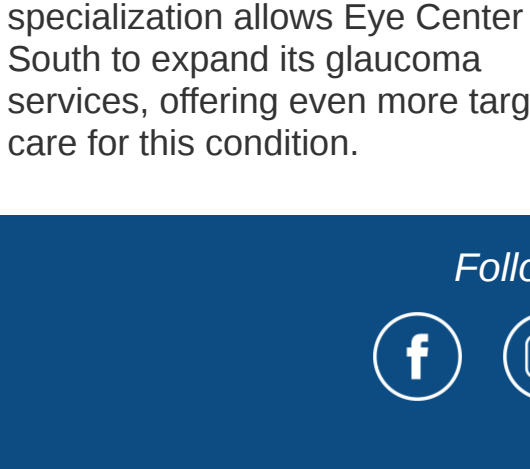
Additionally, Dr. Heersink's work with the Light Adjustable Lens has set new standards in cataract surgery. LAL technology allows for the post-operative adjustment of lens power, enabling patients to achieve optimal vision correction tailored to their specific needs.

His pioneering work continues to elevate the standard of care at Eye Center South and placed him at the forefront of ophthalmic surgery innovation in Alabama.

Eye Center South continues to lead in providing cutting-edge treatments that offer patients the best possible outcomes.

## NEW VIDEO RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR PATIENTS

Click the links below for new patient friendly videos highlighting Dr. Bansagi, Dr. Leoncavallo and Dr. Henkel that share what to expect at a cataract or glaucoma evaluation appointment at our Destin or Panama City offices. These videos can be found on their Doctor Profile pages on our website should your patient like more information on what to expect at their appointment with us. As always, we appreciate your trust in us and thank you for referring your patients to our doctors for specialty/surgical care.



Dr. Bansagi - Cataract  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNk9xTqrR38>

Dr. Bansagi - LASIK  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9N1z7P83OZU>

Dr. Leoncavallo - Cataract/Glaucoma  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CkI2ognNjMc>

Dr. Henkel - Cataract  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWl3TokvdRo>

## DR. BANSAGI CELEBRATES 20 YEARS WITH EYE CENTER SOUTH

Congratulations to Dr. Bansagi on 20 incredible years with Eye Center South, practicing at our Panama City and Destin, Florida offices. Over the past 2 decades, his dedication, expertise and leadership have made a profound impact on our patients and team. No doubt if you've referred patients to Dr. "B," they come back to you with stories of how much they like him! We couldn't agree more. We thank him for his dedicated years of service and look forward to many more to come.



Dr. Swendris and Dr. Sebastian Heersink pictured with Stephen Oliver and Michelle Adkison of Glaukos.

## DR. SWENDRIS TO EXCLUSIVELY TREAT GLAUCOMA PATIENTS

Dr. Ron Swendris, who is a vital member of our staff, will now be focusing exclusively on treating glaucoma in our Dothan and Andalusia clinics. Dr. Swendris's specialization allows Eye Center South to expand its glaucoma services, offering even more targeted care for this condition.

