



## BOARD MEMBER FEATURE:

### Matthew Jones, O.D.

#### PROFILE

Dr. Jones was born and raised in Effingham, IL, and attended the University of Illinois and the Illinois College of Optometry (class of 2008). He became interested in the field of optometry after attending VOSH-style trips with his father, who is also an optometrist, and witnessed how proper vision correction could change someone's life. After graduation, he joined his father's rural private practice and has since, become an advocate for getting doctors into rural settings. Dr. Jones was awarded Young O.D. of the Year in 2013 and was named Effingham IL Top Community Leaders under 40 in 2015.

#### LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

Dr. Jones is an identical twin! He is an avid University of Illinois fan and a "political junkie". He also makes a point to continue to take volunteer annual medical trips.

#### WHAT HE LOVES MOST ABOUT HIS JOB

"I love making a difference and helping people. I love working with a variety of patients." Aside from patient care, "I also enjoy the entrepreneurial aspect of developing businesses."

#### UNUSUAL OR SURPRISING DIAGNOSIS

"A 30-year-old female came to me with headaches and high blood pressure during her pregnancy. We discovered a brain tumor."

#### ADVICE FOR NEW OPTOMETRISTS

"Practice in a rural setting and live like a college student for as long as you can. For example, don't start spending 'doctor money' for several years."

#### HOBBIES

Dr. Jones is a father of three and an avid volunteer. He volunteers for medical missions, his local church, and the AOA Leadership Institute, to name a few. He is a big Illini sports fan. He also owns a small hobby farm and enjoys doing anything outside.