Committed to being a multi-specialty "Center of Excellence" for Ophthalmology and Optometry, serving patients throughout the Southeast. Our mission is to provide exceptional eye care, enhance vision, and improve the quality of life for our patients through innovation, compassion, and expertise.
Our history runs deep, with the Denney Family practice opening in 1962, taking it full circle to when they joined forces with the Heersink family in 2019 and created what we know today as Vision Center South. Along the way, we’ve marked multiple milestones that have shaped our journey.

- **1962**: Denney Vision
- **1980**: Eye Center South
- **1982**: Surgery Center South
- **2019**: Eye Center South aligns with Optometry
- **2019**: Denney Vision rebrands to Vision Center South
- **2022**: Vision Center South relocates and Digital Lab Opens
CORPORATE OFFICE

Founded in 1980 by Dr. Heersink and Dr. Fortin, Eye Center South has grown from a single practice in Dothan, AL, to 6 locations across the Southeast. Starting with just 2 ophthalmologists, the team has expanded to include 14 ophthalmologists. Along the way, we’ve undergone 5 renovations to accommodate our growth.
In 1984, we constructed the first outpatient surgery center in our area. This Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC), equipped with 12 operating rooms, offers a 23-hour admit option and functions as one of the highest-volume multispecialty surgery centers in the US.
It was a monumental moment for our organization when the Heersink and Denney Families united to create our optometry service line. Co-management has always been a passion for Dr. Heersink and Dr. Denney, and our practice was founded on the cooperation between these two groups of doctors, something we are immensely proud of.

Naturally, we wanted our flagship optometry location to be headquartered on our main campus, so we began planning for a significant move and a new name for our brand-new service line. In 2022, Denney Vision relocated from downtown Dothan to our 7-acre campus inside the medical tower.
We designed a state-of-the-art optical boutique inside the Medical Tower, featuring over 1,500 frames and space for 10 optometrists. This inaugural Vision Center South location currently serves approximately 150 patients per day and houses our externship program.

Since then, we have expanded to four additional locations in Alabama and Florida, increasing our optometrists from 7 to 11.
After relocating, we embarked on another milestone by constructing a state-of-the-art centralized manufacturing lab. This lab, equipped with cutting-edge technology, produces lenses for multiple optical locations across the Southeast.

In addition to lens production, our onsite warehouse houses a full inventory of frames and lenses. The staff, with over 100 years of combined operating experience, ensures the highest quality standards.

If you're interested in learning more about the digital lab's functions, we can customize your rotation to include a "day in the lab."
Pictured L to R: Dr. Andrew Maxwell (Preceptor), Dr. Ashley Bowers, Dr. Kirk Jones, Dr. Eliza McCauley, Dr. Dan Denney, Dr. Deepa Mishra, Dr. Bentley Hill

DOTHAN FLAGSHIP LOCATION & EXTERNSHIP SITE
Dr. Andrew Maxwell has been an integral part of our effort to provide the best vision and eye care available. Maxwell received a Bachelor’s of Science in Chemistry from the University of West Alabama in 1980 and went on to the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he received his Doctorate of Optometry in 1984.

Dr. Maxwell is a member of the American Optometric Association, Alabama Optometric Association, and the Southeast Area Optometric Society where he has served as past president.

Dr. Maxwell is a native of Alabama and was raised in the small southwest town of Butler. He is a devoted family man, and he and his wife, Karen, have been happily married since 1985. They have two daughters; Hannah and Lydia. Dr. Maxwell also serves on the Providence Christian School board and is an active member at Mount Gilead Baptist Church where he serves as a Sunday school teacher and elder. He enjoys spending his free time with his family.
SATTELITE LOCATIONS

Pictured L to R: Dr. Kelly Smith- Enterprise, AL, Dr. Julia Gannon- Wetumpka, AL,
Dr. Tiana Mathieson- Brewton, AL, Dr. Hyrum Wahlquist- Marianna, FL
Pictured L to R: Dr. Marnix Heersink, Dr. Jean Fortin, Dr. Irene Ludwig, Dr. Richard Bryant, Dr. Sebastian Heersink, Dr. Mary Kate Moring, Dr. Harsha Sen, Dr. Ron Swendris, Dr. Marius Heersink

DOTHAN MAIN CAMPUS

Subspecialties Include: Cataract, Refractive, Facial Cosmetic, Oculoplastic, Retina, Cornea, Strabismus, Pediatric, Glaucoma
Pictured L to R: Dr. Andy Leoncavallo - Destin, FL, Dr. Austin Henkel - Destin, FL, Dr. Zsolt Bansagi - Panama City, FL, Dr. John Bell - Tallahassee, FL, Dr. Doug Owens - Montgomery, AL

SATTELITE LOCATIONS

Subspecialties Include: Cataract, Refractive, Glaucoma, General
WHAT WE OFFER

Externships
Advice From Experts
Shadowing Opportunities
Education Driven Atmosphere
SURGICAL ROTATIONS

During your externship, you’ll have the chance to accompany patients throughout their clinic appointments and surgeries.

With many of our patients undergoing both on the same day, you’ll have the rare opportunity to witness their entire journey, enhancing your understanding and skills.

It's a unique experience that allows for continuous growth and learning, from initial consultation to post-operative care.
STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT

Multiple OCTs
Optos
B Scans
Fundus Photography
Fluorescein Angiography

Lensometers
Keratometers
IOL Masters/ ARGOS
Topographers
Meibographers

Visual Fields
Anterior Ultrasounds
Anterior OCTs
VEPs
ERGs

Updated:
Slit Lamps
Phoropters
Epics
Indirects
Our hours are Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, our practice offers a structured schedule with Dr. Andrew Maxwell as the primary preceptor.

You will also be scheduled to rotate with several other ODs and MDs, along with the opportunity to observe surgeries and procedures.

With an average of 35-40 patients a day, both refractive and medical, you’ll have plenty of opportunities to learn. Your patient load will be tailored to your progress and preferences.

We provide all necessary equipment and handle pre-screening and diagnostics, relieving you from tech work so you can focus solely on examinations, interpretations, refining your skills, and becoming more efficient. Additionally, we offer on-site training to familiarize yourself with our EHR and computer systems, ensuring a smooth transition into our practice environment.
We work closely as a team to efficiently and effectively serve our patients. Our practice offers comprehensive employee training programs, guided by experienced doctors, allowing for self-directed learning and mentorship.

Certified scribes and opticians are available to assist patients and support you with chart documentation and accuracy.

We have a centralized billing, coding, and insurance department, streamlining administrative processes for your convenience.

We believe in cultivating a positive and enjoyable work environment where we like to have fun while delivering exceptional care!
During your externship, you’ll have the unique opportunity to shadow prosthetic procedures with Mr. John Imm. Many of his patients are fitted for prosthetics in the morning, and he personally molds them on-site for a customized look and fitting later in the day.

We dedicate a full day to our leadership team, where you’ll gain insights into various business aspects of our practice.

You’re welcome to attend our annual continuing education seminar. Held every February, this event attracts over 120 optometrists to Dothan for a weekend of learning, complete with credit hours and excellent speakers.
WHY CHOOSE US?

Dr. Bentley Hill is a real-life example of how one externship can change the path of your career. Dr. Hill was an extern in 2021, and that started us down a path of great conversations and career goals, which ultimately led to her being employed at Vision Center South directly after graduation.
Our goals for you are to enhance your abilities as a clinician, refining your skills to provide optimal care for diverse and challenging patient populations. Gain efficiency and confidence in your practice while exploring various clinical settings and collaborating with different doctors.

This journey will not only improve your communication and teamwork skills but also empower you to choose the ideal practice setting that aligns with your passion and expertise.
If you are interested in seeing a wide variety of patients, on a state-of-the-art campus, with access to optometry, ophthalmology, surgery, prosthetics, and a digital lab, we would love to see you at Vision Center South!

For externship opportunities or if you just want to visit and shadow, we are flexible, offering a variety of shadowing opportunities year-round, and you can contact us anytime! Email: adunn@eyecentersouth.net