

The 7th annual trip to the Atlantic Coast in Nicaragua was a success. The trip was in collaboration with Bob Peck, Director from Williams College and Elise Harb, MS, OD, Assistant Professor at the New England College of Optometry. In addition, two other NECO Alumni, Katie Fields, OD and Jacky Kong, OD and 12 Williams College students participated. Communities attended were identified by the FADCANIC organization in Nicaragua, which focuses on the growth and autonomy of the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. In total, eye care was provided to 8 Atlantic Coast communities and a total of 4,150 patients were examined. 3,027 pairs of sunglasses and 2,448 prescription glasses were dispensed. In addition, approximately 50 pairs of prescription glasses are being made by kind donations from New England Eye (the clinical arm of NECO) and NECO student time for those patients that had extreme refractive errors. The primary conditions seen were typical, including significant uncorrected refractive errors, pterygiums, cataracts and ocular trauma.