

The 'eyes,' have it!

Dobie grad
Kelly Tran puts focus
on being successful
optometrist

Kelly Tran doesn't have a problem with looking you straight in the eyes and telling you what she thinks.

That's her job.

The 1993 Dobie High School graduate has found success as an optometrist and recently opened her own practice, Kelly Thai-Lan Tran and Associates, in Houston's Galleria Mall.

Tran knew she wanted to be involved in a health-related field most of her life, but it was during her college years at Baylor University that she decided to pursue optometry. She received her bachelor's degree in biology from Baylor, then earned her doctorate from the University of Houston's College of Optometry.

"You meet many interesting people in this business," she said. "Not only do you help people see better, but as an optometrist, you get to know your patients on more of a personal level. Helping them to see better is very rewarding."

An honor student at Dobie, academic success came easily to Tran. She's found that love for learning continues to serve her well in her career.

"Even though my focus is on the eyes, it's necessary to understand how the rest of the body works because many conditions affecting your general health also affect your eyes," she said. "There are also constant advances being made in vision correction. I think it's very important to keep up with the latest products

and procedures so you can recommend the healthiest options to your patients."

In a large market such as Houston, Tran said the road to success comes only through dedication. She remembers words of wisdom from her former Dobie Latin teacher, Richard Golenko, that she applies in her career today.

"He did a great job of inspiring and nurturing a spirit of determination in me," Tran said. "Laziness did not cut it. Through his guidance, my classmates and I experienced the rewards of hard work."

While Tran loves operating her own

more responsibility. But it's been rewarding and I'm really enjoying being my own boss."

During her high school years, Tran was not only a gifted student, but she was also involved in a variety of activities. She was a member of several academic teams and was part of the Lariette drill team.

"I remember the long, grueling drill team practices after school," she said, "but the pep rallies and football games were so much fun."

Tran and her younger brother and sister



Kelly Tran, a 1993 Dobie High School graduate, operates her own optometry practice in the Galleria area.

all have attended Dobie, Beverly Hills Intermediate School and Moore Elementary.

She said the lessons she learned during her school years set the stage for her success today.

practice, she says it doesn't come without a few challenges.

"I'm really comfortable with the clinical aspect of it all, but the business aspect has been a little bit more challenging," she said. "It is a lot of paperwork and

wonderful thrill of victory during local and statewide academic competitions," Tran said. "Success is really addictive. I remember the great sense of satisfaction I got from my high school achievements that has lasted me to this day." ★