



For Immediate Release  
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### **Salus University 2021 Alumni and Presidential Medal Awards Announced**



**Elkins Park, Pa.** — Salus University has announced the 2021 recipients of the Alumni Association Awards and the Presidential Medal of Honor Awards. Both groups of awardees will be honored during this year's awards ceremony on Monday, September 27 at 6 p.m. at the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia.

Recipients from across the University community were chosen by their peers through a nomination and voting process. Among the highest honors bestowed by the University, the

Presidential Awards distinguish faculty and alumni work that extends well beyond its campus while the University's Alumni Association also annually recognizes the contributions and achievements of outstanding graduates and friends of the institution. This year's honorees are listed below.

### **Alumni Association Awards**

Physician Assistant Alumnus of the Year

**Scott Geller, MS, MMS '16, PA-C**

Geller, of Jamison, Pennsylvania, has been practicing with Gastrointestinal Associates Inc., a private practice located in both Rydal and Chalfont, Pennsylvania. They are affiliated with the Abington-Jefferson and Holy Redeemer Healthcare Systems. Geller continues to support the Physician Assistant (PA) Studies program at Salus as a lecturer in the clinical medicine and surgery course, and through his contributions as a Program Advisory Board member.

Albert Fitch Memorial Alumnus of the Year

**Mitchell J. Fink, OD '69, FAAO**

Dr. Fink, of Boca Raton, Florida, has served his community for more than 51 years in private practice in Willingboro, New Jersey. His many years of service, as both a Fellow and Diplomate in the American Academy of Optometry (AAO), exemplifies what it means to be a true caring practitioner. His many accolades include, but are not limited to, captain and Doctor of Optometry in the U.S. Army who served in Vietnam and he has also been a professor of Cornea and Contact Lens Practice at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) at Salus for 30 years.

Blindness and Low Vision Studies Alumna of the Year

**Jule Ann Lieberman, MS '13**

In 2005, Lieberman, of Devon, Pennsylvania, opened a retail business, EZ2C Products, selling assistive technology and tools for vision loss. This led to the establishment of the non-profit EZ2C Foundation, which provided consultation and training in the use of technology and tools for those with vision loss. She joined TechOWL, Institute on Disabilities at Temple University (formerly known as Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology) in 2013 as assistive technology specialist and continues to provide information and assistance, consultation, demonstrations and public awareness training in the use of assistive technology.

Audiology Alumna of the Year Award

**Jonette Owen, MS, AuD '03**

Dr. Owen, of Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, has served the Salus community in a variety of roles for more than a decade. Currently the assistant dean for the Practice and Assessment of Audiologic Medicine at the Osborne College of Audiology (OCA) at Salus, she is responsible for establishing, implementing, assessing and improving best practices for student clinical education throughout both of the program's three- and four-year tracks, in addition to identifying and establishing off-campus clinical sites for students. She has also been an assistant professor since 2010, teaching courses in Audiometric Principles and Clinical Problem Solving.

Public Service Award

**Lisa R. Stottlemyer, OD '98, FAAO**

Dr. Stottlemyer, of Elkton, Pennsylvania, is chief of the Wilmington VA Medical Center Eye Care department. She has spent more than 20 years serving veterans in Wilmington, Delaware. She is a fellow of the AAO and has authored many publications as well as the chair of Wilmington's optometry student program and an educator for the residency program. Dr. Stottlemyer is also a founding member of Promise in Sight, a non-profit that provides eye care in Central America.

#### Special Recognition Award

##### **Elizabeth Tonkery, OD, MPH '13**

Dr. Tonkery, of Wyncote, Pennsylvania, is associate dean of the Accelerated Scholars program and associate professor at PCO/Salus. She is also a member of several professional organizations, including the American Optometric Association (AOA), AAO and the Pennsylvania Optometric Association (POA).

#### Presidential Medal of Honor Award

##### **Giri Sundar, PhD, CCC-A, FAAA**

Dr. Sundar, of Succasunna, New Jersey, is director of the Distance Education Programs and assistant professor in the University's Osborne College of Audiology (OCA).

##### **Sarah Appel, OD '79, Resident '81**

Dr. Appel, of West Windsor, New Jersey, is director of Pediatric Low Vision Services, co-director of the Special Populations Assessment and Rehabilitation Center (SPARC) and is a professor in the PCO/Salus Advanced Studies program.

##### **John J. Fitzgerald III, DO, FACOG**

Dr. Fitzgerald, of Gwynedd, Pennsylvania, is medical director of the Physician Assistant (PA) Studies program and director of Clinical Education programs at Salus.

#### Reade Fahs

Fahs, of Atlanta, Georgia, is Chief Executive Officer of National Vision Inc., one of the largest optical retailers in the country. Fahs is a member of the Salus Board of Trustees and currently serves on the Institutional Advancement Committee and the Institutional Policy and Curriculum Committee.

#### About Salus University

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology. Salus operates four clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, speech-language pathology and occupational therapy services. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit [www.salus.edu](http://www.salus.edu).