

October 2025

History in the Making: Fall Commencement Filled with Firsts

It's a good thing Juhee Hwang, OD '97, and her husband Troy woke up early and drove from Lansdale, Pennsylvania to Fairfax, Virginia – a total of approximately 175 miles one way – to pick up Dr. Hwang's mother and get her back in time to see her grandson graduate later that afternoon.



Patrick Hwang, MMS '25, had followed in his mother's footsteps to Salus University, albeit in a different program. And, now his mom was hooding him during his commencement ceremony just before he walked across the stage to receive his diploma as a newly minted graduate of the [Salus at Drexel University Physician Assistant Studies](#) program.

And, his maternal grandmother didn't want to miss that.

The Class of 2025 embarked on their academic journeys as students of Salus University and concluded them as proud graduates of Drexel University's [College of Medicine](#), Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies and the [College of Nursing and Health Professions](#), marking a historic transition following the July 2025 merger of the two institutions. [Read more.](#)



Graduate Sees BLVS Need and is Determined to Fill the Gap

After three years in the working world, Maci Filopanti '25O&M was noticing it was rare that people in her profession – [Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments \(TVI\)](#) – were also certified in [Orientation and Mobility](#).

She believed something was missing in the world of

supporting children with blindness and low vision.

"More and more people qualify each year for the visual services we provide," said Filopanti. "Once I saw what the students needed, I thought there was a need for more dually certified instructors. I knew continuing my education had to be in Orientation and Mobility – there's such a great need for services for both children and adults."

A TVI and O&M teacher is a rare thing in the grand scheme of educational and adult support services. Up until now, it’s been difficult to find those who are dual-certified in blindness and low vision education. [Read more.](#)

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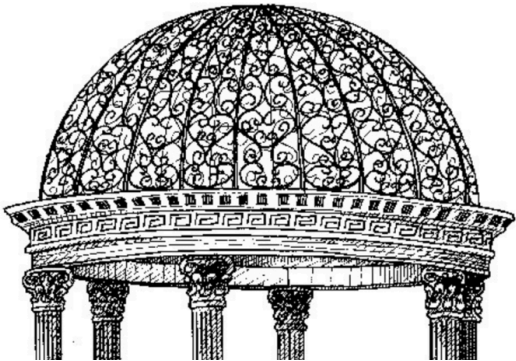
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ALUMNI & FRIENDS



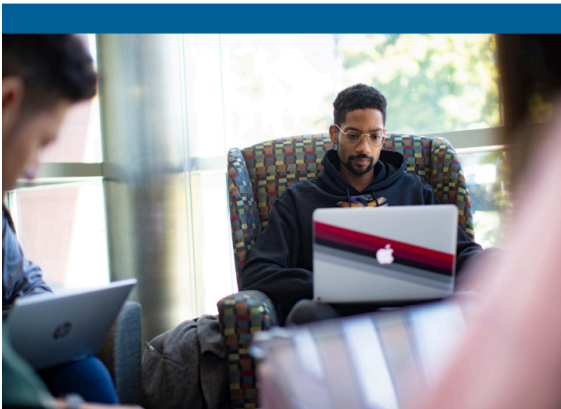
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