

A Journey Worth Taking: How PCO's Top Traditional Program Graduate Found Her Path

While researching Alzheimer's brain pathology for her master's thesis, **Shirin Ludwig, OD '26**, spent countless hours studying mouse cells in a lab. Over time, she realized she was looking for something more – a career that would allow her to work directly with people and see the impact firsthand.



That led her to the **Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO)** at Drexel University, where she recently graduated as the top student in the **Doctor of Optometry Traditional program** in the Class of 2026.

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PCO Valedictorian Conquers Challenge, Inspires Others

She doesn't really believe she has any special superhero powers, but those close to **Anna German, OD '26**, might think otherwise.

Consider this: Dr. German graduated from the **Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO)** at Drexel University as valedictorian of

the Class of 2026. And, she and her husband, Campbell German, a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps, made a conscious decision to start their family right in the middle of Dr. German's rigorous **Accelerated Scholars Doctor of Optometry (OD) program** at PCO.

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Junean Marshall, OD '05, is 'Optometrist of the Year'

Junean Marshall, OD '05, has been named the 2026 "Optometrist of the Year" by the Pennsylvania Optometric Association (POA). She has been a practicing optometrist for more than 20 years and serves on the education committee of the POA, helping provide continuing education courses for optometrists across Pennsylvania.

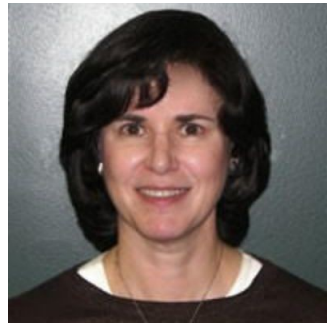
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Perry Umlauf, OD '87, Gets Meritorious Service Award

Perry Umlauf's, OD '87, experience at PCO, and how it laid the foundation for his nearly 40-year career of accomplishments. And, now he can add another. Dr. Umlauf has been named the H. Ward Ewalt Meritorious Service Award recipient by the Pennsylvania Optometric Association (POA).

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Provost Award Winner

The Office for Faculty Excellence and Academic Culture at Drexel University has named **Elise Ciner, OD, FAAO**, professor at the **Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO)** on the Elkins Park, Pennsylvania campus, as the 2026 Provost Award winner for Outstanding Advanced-Career Excellence in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity.

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Rising Star Award

As recognition of **Kaitlyn Kolzow Reda's, OD '19, FAAO**, enthusiasm and dedication to the profession and for her willingness to mentor students at the **Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO)**, she recently received the inaugural "Rising Star Preceptor Award" at PCO's annual preceptors' fair.

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Quiz Bowl Winner

Melad Tannous '28OD, had an idea what the final question would be for the annual Quiz Bowl at the **Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO)**. But he went all-in and it proved to be the right decision. Tannous finished first among the six contestants and will represent PCO at the 2027 EyeQ championship.

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Join Us at PCO's Alumni and Friends Reception at Optometry's Meeting

Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) and Dean Josephine Ibironke invite PCO alumni and friends to join us during Optometry's Meeting for an evening of connection and celebration from **5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 18**, at the Sheraton Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. We will begin by recognizing **Steven Eiss, OD '95**, for his nomination to the American



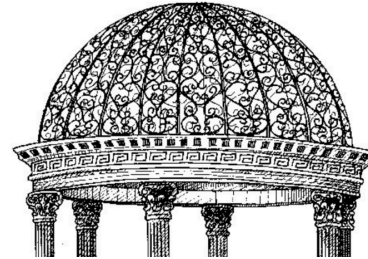
Optometric Association Board of Trustees and for his longstanding leadership and advocacy on behalf of the profession. During the meet and greet, guests can enjoy complimentary drinks and appetizers while connecting with fellow alumni and colleagues.

[Click here to register for the event.](#)

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WE SALUTE



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