

August 2021

Summer Study Starts Diverse Undergrads on the Path of PCO Success

The Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) at Salus University recently welcomed a cohort of 14 PCO/Salus [Doctor of Optometry](#) applicants to its recently relaunched [Summer Enrichment Program \(SEP\)](#), renamed the Robert E. Horne SEP as a tribute to its founder, for high-achieving students of color. This year, the program's recruitment efforts placed a special emphasis on Black and African American students who are historically underrepresented in health science.



A closing ceremony, which featured special guest Robert E. Horne, wrapped up the events in mid-July. Horne, former vice president and dean of Student Affairs who retired from Salus in 2012, originally established the program in 1977.

[Read more](#)



Orientation Week Rolls Out the Welcome Mat in Person

Last year for the first time, Orientation Week was a hybrid experience for students — mostly virtual with some on-campus elements of small groupings based on programs, practicing social distancing and mask-wearing rules established to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. But this year, everybody was back face-to-face and masked.

Orientation Week is designed to introduce students to important resources critical to their personal and academic success, as well as provide the opportunity to get to know faculty and fellow students.

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White Coat Ceremony: Five Times the Emotion and Excitement

The annual White Coat ceremony, which capped off Orientation Week at the University, had a bit of a twist this year. Because there was no face-to-face ceremony last year due to COVID-19 protocols, this year's event featured five separate White Coat ceremonies over a two-day period Aug. 19-20.

Leading off the festivities on Aug. 19 was the ceremony for the Doctor of Audiology — Accelerated Program Class of 2023, the Doctor of Audiology Class of 2024 and the Doctor of Optometry — Advanced Placement, Traditional and Scholars Program Class of 2024, the classes who had an online ceremony with their individual programs last year.



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First ever OT Diploma Day: Festive, Fun and Face-to-Face

The [Occupational Therapy](#) department held its first-ever OT Diploma Day July 14, 2021, at the Hafter Student Community Center on the Elkins Park, Pennsylvania campus. More than half the graduating Class of 2021 attended the event, which included the presentation of diplomas.

“Our grad school experience got turned a little upside down by COVID and obviously we couldn’t have a graduation (in-person),” said **Kiersten Nice, MSOT ‘21**.

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