

Illinois College of Optometry



The One Hundred Seventy-eighth Commencement

SATURDAY, MAY FIFTEENTH TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-ONE ELEVEN O'CLOCK

ICO Lecture Center
Chicago, Illinois

The Profession of Optometry

Today's optometrist is a vital member of a comprehensive health care team. The optometrist delivers full scope eye care in a variety of practice settings. These range from solo, associate and group modes, as well as interdisciplinary environments such as hospitals and health maintenance organizations. Other opportunities include a career in academics, research or health care administration. All 50 states now authorize optometrists to utilize pharmaceutical agents in the diagnosis of ocular disorders and diseases and authorize optometrists to medically treat eye diseases. All 50 states and the District of Columbia require that licensed optometrists regularly attend continuing education programs for license renewal.

As primary care providers, optometrists offer patients a wide range of services, including diagnosis and management of anomalies of visual functions, diagnosis and participation in the management of various ocular and systemic diseases and the provision of general health screening, education and counseling. Optometric care provides for the maintenance and enhancement of visual efficiency and ocular health which are so important to people of all ages. The profession offers a humanistic, intellectually stimulating and financially secure position as a valued member of the community.

“Doctors of Optometry (ODs) are the primary health care professionals for the eye. Optometrists examine, diagnose, treat and manage diseases, injuries and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures as well as identify related systemic conditions affecting the eye.”

-The American Optometric Association

The One Hundred Seventy-eighth Commencement

Order of Exercises

- I. PRELUDE Organ Concerto in B-Flat, Op. 4 No. 2
George Frederic Handel
- II. PROCESSIONAL Fanfare and Processional
Douglas Wagner
- Prelude to Te Deum
Marc-Antoine Charpentier
- III. PIPES AND DRUMS Scotland the Brave
Doonaree Pipe Band
- IV. WELCOME Erik Mothersbaugh, O.D.
Dean of Student Affairs
- V. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS Mark K. Colip, O.D.
President
- VI. INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER Dr. Colip
- VII. COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS Gary A. Leshner, Ph.D.
*Professor Emeritus
of Pharmacology and Toxicology*
- VIII. SPECIAL PRESENTATION Dr. Colip
- IX. VALEDICTORY RECOGNITION Stephanie Messner, O.D.
Claire Elizabeth Skorseth will be acknowledged.
*Vice President for
Academic Affairs/Dean*

- X. DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY IN MEMORIAM Dr. Colip
Thushanth Thanikasegaran will be recognized.
- XI. ADMINISTRATION OF THE OPTOMETRIC OATH Kelly Frantz, O.D.
Professor of Optometry
- XII. CONFERRING OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY Dr. Colip
Dr. Messner will hood the candidates, assisted by Helen Gabriel, O.D., Associate
Professor of Optometry and Bruce Teitelbaum, O.D., Associate Professor of Optometry,
Associate Dean for Faculty.
- Dr. Mothersbaugh will present the candidates.
- XIII. WELCOME FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Casey L. Hogan, O.D.
*Vice-President
Alumni Council*
- XIV. INTRODUCTION OF THE ALMA MATER Dr. Mothersbaugh
Graduate & Faculty Choir, 2011
- XV. CLOSING REMARKS Dr. Colip
- XVI. RECESSIONAL Toccata in F Major
Charles-Marie Widor

Congratulations to the ICO Class of 2021!

Commencement Speaker

Gary A. Leshner, Ph.D.

Over 35 years, Dr. Leshner has taught more than 5,000 ICO students. Starting as an Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, he retired in 2019 as a full professor and the Assistant Dean for Didactic Education.

Dr. Leshner holds a Ph.D. from Purdue University with a major in Pharmacology and Toxicology.

During his tenure at ICO, he has guided thousands of students through the complexities and nuances of pharmacology helping students understand not just which drug to use for a particular disease but also why these drugs are chosen and how systemic medication can lead to potential ocular complications. Thus, empowering students to think critically about prescribed drugs – especially when the drug of choice is not best for their patient. The skills students have gained from Dr. Leshner’s class have been reflected on ICO’s NBEO pharmacology scores for decades – invariably ICO students score above the national average.

Dr. Leshner’s love of teaching is perhaps also reflected in the many awards he has received at ICO. He has been named Outstanding Faculty of the Year by the Class of 1986, 1990, 2002, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2019, and 2020. He also received the Trustee’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in May 1990. He has served as ICO’s Director of Research, as a Faculty Representative for ICO’s Board of Trustees and served as Chairman for both the Department of Basic and Health Science and the Faculty Promotions Committee.

Many students will remember the cartoons or use of a drug-related video spoof at the start of class. They may also remember the “Jeopardy” game at the end of the year and the Drug of the Day questions, designed to help review material covered in class.

Most of all, they may remember Dr. Leshner’s great passion for the national parks. In Dr. Leshner’s classes, students visited each of the national parks one lecture at a time. Interestingly, as current and former students explore these national parks, they often write to Dr. Leshner sharing their experience with him. Since retirement, Dr. Leshner and his wife Lynn have enjoyed time with their family and continue to visit national parks whenever they can.

About the Commencement Ceremony

The pageantry enacted each year on campuses all over the world is the solemn climax and recognition of the graduates’ years of study and preparation for responsibility. To help spectators understand the significance of the ceremonies, the following description is furnished.

Procession

The Grand Marshal leads the procession, bearing the ceremonial Mace, emblematic of the authority of the college.

The climax of the processional brings to the platform the Trustees of the college, the Dean, honorary degree recipients, college officers, and finally the President of the college. As his badge of office, ICO’s President wears a medallion, emblematic of the history of the college.

Caps

Candidates for degrees wear the regulation cap. Those who already hold doctoral degrees or who are heads of institutions wear gold tassels.

Gowns

The doctor’s gown has velvet panels down the front, and voluminous bell-shaped sleeves on which there are three velvet bars. The velvet is usually black, but may be blue for philosophy or green for medicine and optometry.

Hoods

The doctor’s hood is easily recognized by the width of the velvet edging, the wide panels at either side, the greater length, and the full exposure of the lining. The hood is also lined with the color of the college or university granting the degree (the holder of a degree granted by Illinois College of Optometry wears a hood lined in blue and white).

The list of hood colors most frequently viewed in ICO’s ceremony are: Optometry is seafoam green, Library Science is lemon yellow, Philosophy is dark blue, Social Work is citron, Science or Honorary degree is gold, Arts, Letters, Humanities is white, Education is light blue, Business Administration is drab, Medicine is green, Theology is scarlet, and Law is purple.

The Graduating Class of 2021

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Amandeep Buttar	+Jasmine April Li
+^Claire Nicole Cordoba	+^Olivia Rae Nichols
+Kimberly Fazio	Valerie A. Okakpu
Benjamin Mark Hinson	+^Fareesa Siddiqui
Smriti Jain	+^*William Jorgen Skoog
+Grace Seyun Kim	+^Claire Elizabeth Skorseth
+^Alyssa Marie Lancaster	

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

+^Melissa Caceres	Alesha A. Patel
Natasha Chawla	Jake David Rancic
Dustin Lee Deutsch	+Kelsey Elizabeth Sykora
Navneet K. Hans	Erica Taylor Tritsch
^Kelsey Tyler Jennings	+Carley McKenzie Ward
Brian Austin Li	

CUM LAUDE

+^Samiha Abusharekh	Kasey Nicole Lenhart
+Julie Ann Bricker	Avery Leysen
Aysha Nadeem Chaudhry	+Benjamin James Michalicek
+Allyson M. Hall	^Abigail Rene Norris
Ashley Marie Henkel	+^Janette Pérez
+Christie Kamil	Tam Tran

+These graduates have distinguished themselves by being accepted into post-doctoral programs.

^These graduates have distinguished themselves by completing three years in the Accelerated Clinical Program.

*These graduates have distinguished themselves by completing requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Visual Science Degree.

The Graduating Class of 2021

Continued

Farzana Abdul Ali	+Erin MacKenzie Klukas
Ashley Farin Abiva	David Korsak
+Justin Abraham	Testin Tai Jun Kwong
Zuneera Anjum	Chelsea Leigh Laden
+Alin Augustine	*Nikkie Jo LaLonde
Jennifer J. Baek	Jessica Courteney Larson
Jose Martin Barrientos	Katrina Li
William Charles Baseleon	+Jessica Cathleen Lim
Tracy Becherer	Yu Sheng Lu
Pranaya Bista	+Sana Atifa Malik
Lexye Nichole Bruegman	+*Renee Marogy
Elia Elizabeth Calderón	Mariah Leigh Metoxen
Megan Nicole Callahan	Peter Nicholas Miller
Bartlomiej Celer	Nikita Minhas
Jeffrey R. Chamberlin	Andrew Morua, Jr.
Kwok Fung Chan	*Nabil F. Moussawel
Phoebe Tung Chow	Hussein G. Mouzaihem
+Thomas Peter Collins II	Ángel Muñoz
Conner Richard Crumbliss	Christine B. Nguyen
+Carson S. Day	Nathan Paul Pecha
Brett M. DeFauw	Anna Lee Percival
Pooja Desai	+Riya Rose Philip
Gurleen Dhanoa	Liliya Polyek
Jagdeep S. Dhillon	+Luiza Livia Prodan
+Lester M. Efiayayi	+Rabab Rafique
Fatme Elsayed	+Claire Rocken
Tamiko Escalante	Hasan Salam
+Ashley Ann Esser	Faqar Saleh
+Owen Tucker Files	Goli Sammak
Kelsey Jean Fitzgerald	Kalyn Elizabeth Schaefer
+Randi-Jo Kimberley Francis	Junghee Seo
Emil A. George	+Amy M. Shah
Monica Ghabour	Ed J. Shin
Jason Norice Go	Navreet K. Singh
+Salvador Gonzalez, Jr.	+Erica Leigh Smith
^Chelsea Marie Goodman	Lindsey C. Smith
Daniel James Hanacek	Zack Solomon
Scott T. Hansen	+Bazla Sarwar Sukhera
Owen David Henry	Aleksandra Susol
Joab Howell	Antionette Thavarajah
Zachery L. Hulet	Zachary Thomason
+Adam Hulisz	Margaret Thien Ngoc Tran
Tekarra Mae Humphreys	Michelle Tran
Amanda Rose Ico	Alyssa Danielle Valenzuela
Alina Ishtiaq	+Jeff Allen Villena
Fatima Javed	Alyssa Ngoc Vu
Doris Jin	Todd Andrew Wedel
Zachary C. Kamachi	+Chenying Michelle Yang

Honors & Awards

Samiha Abusharekh Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society	Carson S. Day Gold Key Honorary Society Exceptional Tutor Award
Alin Augustine American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow	Pooja Desai Dr. Deannda Roder Memorial Scholarship
Tracy Becherer Gold Key Honorary Society	Dustin Lee Deutsch Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society
Julie Ann Bricker Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Enhanced Vision Student Award	Lester M. Efanayi Gold Key Honorary Society C. Clayton Powell Scholarship E. Richard Tennant Memorial Scholarship ICO Alumni Association Scholarship
Lexye Nichole Bruegman Gold Key Honorary Society Philip E. Wells Trust Award Southwest Contact Lens Scholarship Walmart Scholarship	Tamiko Escalante American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow
Amandeep Buttar Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society Natelle and Curt Brown Endowment	Kimberly Fazio Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Gold Key Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society Cribb Leadership & Service Award Drs. Elliot and Lorayne Politser Scholarship ICO Alumni Association Scholarship Trustees Scholarship Student Association President Class Representative
Melissa Caceres Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society Dr. & Mrs. Rudolph H. Ehrenberg Research Award Dr. Derrald Taylor Low Vision Residency Award ICO Scholarship for Underrepresented Populations	Randi-Jo Kimberley Francis Gold Key Honorary Society American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow 2020 Dr. Marvin R. Poston Leadership Award - NOA 2020 VSP AAOF Practice Excellence Scholarship 2019 AAOF Student Giving Matching Travel Grant C. Clayton Powell Scholarship Cribb Leadership & Service Award 2019 Dean's Office AOA Travel Fellowship Drs. Elliot and Lorayne Politser Scholarship ICO Alumni Association Scholarship ICO Scholarship for Underrepresented Populations Private Practice Award Richard J. O'Brien II Memorial Award AOSA Trustee Colleague of the Year
Elia Elizabeth Calderón ICO Scholarship for Underrepresented Populations	
Aysha Nadeem Chaudhry Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society Colleague of the Year Award Philip E. Wells Trust Award Class Representative	
Natasha Chawla American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow Presidential Scholarship	
Phoebe Tung Chow American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow 2020 VSP AAOF Practice Excellence Scholarship	Emil A. George Class Representative
Claire Nicole Cordoba Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow Dr. George L. Demetros Memorial Scholarship Illinois Optometric Education Scholarship Ruth A. Trachimowicz, Ph.D., O.D. Scholarship Walmart Scholarship William Feinbloom Low Vision Award	Jason Norice Go Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Dr. Newton K. Wesley Ortho-K Award
	Salvador Gonzalez, Jr. Exceptional Tutor Award ICO Scholarship for Underrepresented Populations Philip E. Wells Trust Award Class Representative

Honors & Awards

Allyson M. Hall Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Gold Key Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society	Erin MacKenzie Klukas American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow AOA 2020 Leadership Society
Navneet K. Hans Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society	Testin Tai Jun Kwong Dr. Newton K. Wesley Ortho-K Award
Ashley Marie Henkel Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society Dr. & Mrs. Rudolph H. Ehrenberg Research Award	Chelsea Leigh Laden Southwest Contact Lens Scholarship
Benjamin Mark Hinson Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society Dr. George L. Demetros Memorial Scholarship	Alyssa Marie Lancaster Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Gold Key Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society Cribb Leadership & Service Award Drs. Elliot and Lorayne Politser Scholarship Faculty Scholarship Illinois Optometric Education Scholarship Metro Optics Contact Lens Scholarship Class Representative
Adam Hulisz E. Richard Tennant Memorial Scholarship Eschenbach Low Vision Student Award	Kasey Nicole Lenhart Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society
Tekarra Mae Humphreys American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow COVID Travel Scholarship Dr. Henry J. Luckhardt Memorial Award	Avery Leysen Ocular Instruments Award of Excellence ICO Scholarship for Underrepresented Populations
Amanda Rose Ico Illinois Optometric Education Scholarship	Brian Austin Li Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow Exceptional Tutor Award Floyd and Shirley Mizener Scholarship
Smriti Jain Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society Elmer & Blanche Pieper Memorial Scholarship Walmart Scholarship Salutatorian	Jasmine April Li Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society
Fatima Javed American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow	Katrina Li Trustees Scholarship Alcon 4th Year Optometry Student 2021 Case Report Award
Kelsey Tyler Jennings Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow	Sana Atifa Malik E. Richard Tennant Memorial Scholarship
Doris Jin American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow	Renee Marogy American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow
Zachary C. Kamachi Turner Scholarship	Mariah Leigh Metoxen ICO Scholarship for Underrepresented Populations
Christie Kamil Tomb and Key Honorary Society	
Grace Seyun Kim Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society Philip E. Wells Trust Award	Benjamin James Michalick Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society Gold Key Honorary Society Tomb and Key Honorary Society Tsang Family Scholarship

Honors & Awards

Andrew Morua, Jr.
ICO Scholarship for Underrepresented Populations

Ángel Muñoz
ICO Scholarship for Underrepresented Populations

Christine B. Nguyen
American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow

Olivia Rae Nichols
Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society
Tomb and Key Honorary Society
Dr. George L. Demetros Memorial Scholarship
Lawrence P. Feigenbaum Clinical Optometry
Memorial Award
Metro Optics Contact Lens Scholarship
Polly Flink Eastland Memorial Award

Abigail Rene Norris
Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society
Tomb and Key Honorary Society

Valerie A. Okakpu
Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society
Tomb and Key Honorary Society
African American Scholarship
C. Clayton Powell Scholarship
ICO Scholarship for Underrepresented Populations
Presidential Scholarship

Anna Lee Percival
Good-Lite Pediatric Equipment Award

Janette Pérez
Dr. Stanley Gorman Memorial Scholarship
ICO Scholarship for Underrepresented Populations

Riya Rose Philip
Exceptional Tutor Award
American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow

Rabab Rafique
American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow
ICO Alumni Association Scholarship
Optelec Excellence in Low Vision Award
Student Association Scholarship

Jake David Rancie
Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society
Tomb and Key Honorary Society

Faqar Saleh
Dr. Richard Newth Memorial Scholarship

Junghee Seo
Gold Key Honorary Society
Dr. Newton K. Wesley Ortho-K Award

Amy M. Shah
American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow
Trustees Scholarship

Fareesa Siddiqui
Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society
Tomb and Key Honorary Society
American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow
Dr. George L. Demetros Memorial Scholarship
Trustees Scholarship

Navreet K. Singh
American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow

William Jorgen Skoog
Tomb and Key Honorary Society
Faculty Scholarship
Johnson & Johnson 2021 Award of Excellence in
Contact Lens Patient Care
Tsang Family Scholarship

Claire Elizabeth Skorseth
Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society
Tomb and Key Honorary Society
Beta Sigma Kappa Medal
Good-Lite Pediatric Equipment Award
Ocular Instruments Award of Excellence
Trustees Scholarship
Valedictory Award

Erica Leigh Smith
Class Representative

Lindsey C. Smith
GP Contact Lens Clinical Excellence Award
Williams Group Scholarship

Bazla Sarwar Sukhera
American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow

Kelsey Elizabeth Sykora
Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society
Tomb and Key Honorary Society
Dr. Henry J. Luckhardt Memorial Award
Ruth A. Trachimowicz, Ph.D., O.D. Scholarship
American Academy of Optometry Student Fellow

Tam Tran
Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society
Gold Key Honorary Society
Tomb and Key Honorary Society
ASCO 2021 Student Award in Clinical Ethics
Cribb Leadership & Service Award
ICO Research Award

Honors & Awards

Erica Taylor Tritsch
Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society
Tomb and Key Honorary Society
Trustees Scholarship

Jeff Allen Villena
Gold Key Honorary Society
Colleague of the Year Award

Alyssa Ngoc Vu
Gold Key Honorary Society
Dr. Deannnda Roder Memorial Scholarship

Carley McKenzie Ward
Certificate of Commendation-Highest ICO Score on
Part 1-NBEO

Graduates who are members of an honorary society wear colored cords to signify their society.
ICO Beta Sigma Kappa chapter members wear solid gold cords and four year members also wear a black/gold intertwined cord.
ICO Tomb & Key members wear gold and blue cords.
ICO Gold Key members wear gold stoles with a black key.

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Chelsea Bradley, O.D.

Greta Gregg, O.D.
Nhat Nguyen, O.D.

Senior Director, Library and Faculty Member

Christine Weber, M.L.S.

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ICO Residency Program**

**Pediatric Optometry & Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation
Illinois Eye Institute**

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Christina Nguyen, O.D.

Cornea and Contact Lenses & Ocular Disease, Illinois Eye Institute

Kyle Martin, O.D.

Vision Rehabilitation, Geriatrics, & Ocular Disease, Illinois Eye Institute

Arnoldo Trevino, O.D.

Katie Walker, O.D.

Ocular Disease & Primary Care Optometry, Illinois Eye Institute

Megan Byer, O.D.

Nora Kuby, O.D.

Pedram Pourhosseini, O.D.

Alessandra Roa, O.D.

Negar Sohbati, O.D.

Cornea and Contact Lenses & Anterior Segment, Davis Duehr Dean

Noelle Bock, O.D.

**Ocular Disease, Anterior Segment & Glaucoma
Minnesota Eye Consultants**

Julia Osowski, O.D.

**Ocular Disease, Cornea and Contact Lenses & Low Vision Rehabilitation
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center & Edward Hines Jr., VA Hospital**

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Jessica Burtner-Islam, O.D.

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Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center**

Kenny Fritz, Jr., O.D.

Gabriela Finger, O.D.

**Primary Care Optometry & Vision Rehabilitation
Minneapolis Veteran Affairs Health Care System**

Joshua Falk, O.D.

Megan Horter, O.D.

Ocular Disease & Anterior Segment, Associated Eye Care, Stillwater, MN

Lucas Schmidt, O.D.

**Ocular Disease, Refractive and Ocular Surgery & Anterior Segment
Vance Thompson Vision, Sioux Falls, SD**

Kristin Walton, O.D.

Chief Marshal

Kelly Frantz, O.D.

Professor of Optometry

Flag Bearers

U.S. Flag

Connor Robbs

Third Professional Year

ICO Flag

Macy Koepke

Third Professional Year

The Optometric Oath

- With full deliberation I freely and solemnly pledge that:
- I AFFIRM that the health of my patient will be my first consideration.
- I WILL practice the art and science of optometry faithfully and conscientiously, and to the fullest scope of my competence.
- I WILL uphold and honorably promote by example and action the highest standards, ethics and ideals of my chosen profession and the honor of the degree, Doctor of Optometry, which has been granted me.
- I WILL provide professional care for those who seek my services, with concern, with compassion and with due regard for their human rights and dignity.
- I WILL place the treatment of those who seek my care above personal gain and strive to see that none shall lack for proper care.
- I WILL hold as privileged and inviolable all information entrusted to me in confidence by my patients.
- I WILL advise my patients fully and honestly of all which may serve to restore, maintain or enhance their vision and general health.
- I WILL strive continuously to broaden my knowledge and skills so that my patients may benefit from all new and efficacious means to enhance the care of human vision.
- I WILL share information cordially and unselfishly with my fellow optometrists and other professionals for the benefit of patients and the advancement of human knowledge and welfare.
- I WILL do my utmost to serve my community, my country and humankind as a citizen as well as an optometrist.
- I HEREBY commit myself to be steadfast in the performance of this my solemn oath and obligation.

Alma Mater

Let our voices loudly ringing Echo far and near Songs of praise thy children singing To thy memory dear.	Years may dim our recollection Times its change may bring Still thy name in fond affection ICO we sing.
Alma Mater, Alma Mater Tender, fair and true Gratefully with love unfailing All our vows renew.	Alma Mater, Alma Mater Tender, fair and true Gratefully with love unfailing All our vows renew.

Illinois College of Optometry

The Illinois College of Optometry has the reputation and distinguished legacy of being among the world’s leading optometric institutions. Since its founding in 1872, the college has educated and trained optometrists to become independent primary health care providers who not only examine, diagnose, treat and manage eye diseases and vision disorders, but are capable of diagnosing related systemic conditions in which vision problems are often an early symptom. ICO is also home to the Illinois Eye Institute. The heart of the college’s clinical division, the IEI is a nonprofit multi-specialty eye center with more than 100,000 annual patient visits.

Throughout its history, ICO’s evolution has closely paralleled the development of the profession of optometry. And, the dedicated efforts of ICO leadership, faculty, staff, students and alumni have propelled the institution to remain at the forefront of optometry. From admission to commencement and beyond, ICO is committed to preparing aspiring optometrists to succeed in today’s health care environment by providing excellence in optometric clinical education.

