

Office of Advancement

William E. Heaton Jr.
Vice President of Advancement
714.449.7464
Fax 714.992.7878
wheaton@scco.edu



Southern California College of Optometry

News Release

May 22, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCCO Commencement 2009

FULLERTON, CA --- Ninety-one members of the Southern California College of Optometry's (SCCO's) Class of 2009 received their Doctor of Optometry degrees during ceremonies on Friday, May 22. Family and friends numbering more than 1,200 gathered to witness the hooding of the 91 new optometrists; the special recognition given to the Commencement Speaker; the honoring of two faculty members; the achievements of optometrists completing residencies and fellowships; and the expression of appreciation given to the returning graduates of the Class of 1959.

The Valedictorian for SCCO's One-hundred and Fifth Commencement Exercise was Maryn Caprice Peinovich, B.A., Fullerton, CA. Four members of the Class of 2009 graduated, *Summa Cum Laude*; 11 earned *Magna Cum Laude* honors; and 12 students attained *Cum Laude* recognition. Members of the Class of 2009 represented 18 states and Canada. In addition to California, members of the Class of 2009 were from:

Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

SCCO bestowed upon its Immediate Past President Lesley L. Walls, O.D., M.D., D.O.S., D.O.S., the title, President Emeritus. Dr. Walls served the College as President from 1997–2008. Dr. Walls received the award following the presentation of his Commencement Address, "Prerequisites for Happiness as a 21st Century Doctor."

Two faculty members were honored during the morning Commencement Exercise for their years of service to the College and contributions to the profession. The title Professor Emeritus was granted to David G. Kirschen, O.D., Ph.D., and the title Distinguished Professor Emeritus was conferred posthumously upon Michael W. Rouse, O.D., M.S.Ed. Thirty optometrists were also recognized for the completion of their one-year residency programs and one optometrist was honored for the completion of a Fellowship in Research. In addition, members of the Class of 1959 were celebrated as they marked the fiftieth anniversary of their graduation from optometry school.

The Southern California College of Optometry is a private, non-profit, educational institution dedicated to providing the highest quality optometric education through excellence in teaching, patient care, research, public service and institutional management. SCCO grants a four-year, professional degree, Doctor of Optometry (O.D.). A baccalaureate degree is a requirement for admission. The College's superior clinical education program provides patient care experiences in community optometric clinics; exposure to the delivery of optometric care in multi-disciplinary settings; and experiences in practices serving a wide variety of ethnic and socio-economic patient groups.

###