



*Pennsylvania College of Optometry
College of Education and Rehabilitation*

*George S. Osborne College of Audiology
College of Health Sciences*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Salus University President Announces He Will Step Down

(Elkins Park PA, August 8, 2011) – Long time Salus University president, Thomas L. Lewis, OD, PhD, whose leadership of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) resulted in unprecedented growth that led to the establishment of Salus University, has announced he is stepping down effective June 30, 2012.

Dr. Lewis, the institution's second longest serving president, led the transition of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry from a single to multi-purposed institution with the addition of a variety of degree programs that built on PCO's legacy of educating health care professionals. As a result of this growth, Salus University was established in 2008. Today the university consists of four distinct colleges that offer 10 accredited degree programs in optometry, audiology, physician assistant studies, blindness and low vision rehabilitation and education, and public health.

During Dr. Lewis' 23 year tenure as president, Pennsylvania College of Optometry moved from the Oak Lane section of Philadelphia to its present campus; the Hafter Student Community Center was built; an innovative curriculum featuring early introduction of clinical skills that became a model for other colleges of optometry was launched, and the university's largest clinical teaching facility, The Eye Institute, was successfully renovated.

Initiatives accomplished during Dr. Lewis' tenure as president include an international Master of Science (MSc) degree program in clinical optometry; master's degree and certificate programs in Orientation and Mobility, and Vision Rehabilitation Teaching; a Doctor of Audiology (AuD) professional degree; a Master of Medical Science (MMS) degree program in Physician Assistant Studies; a wholly online Master of Public Health degree program; and Master of Science/PhD dual program in Biomedicine (to begin 2012).

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Dr. Lewis began his 45 year association with Salus as a student in 1966. He earned a Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree at PCO, followed by a PhD at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. After he finished an NIH post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Ophthalmology at Washington University in Missouri, he returned to PCO as a faculty member. In 1979 Dr. Lewis was appointed vice president and dean of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry before becoming its fifth president in 1989.

Well-known and well-respected in the optometric profession, Dr. Lewis is past president of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO); the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO); and the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO).

Dr. Lewis is a current board member of Jeanes Hospital and the executive committee of the Optometric Glaucoma Society. He is the recipient of many awards and recognitions, among them the Distinguished Scholar Award of the National Academies of Practice in Optometry and Education Person of the Year for the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Lewis, who will begin a one year sabbatical on July 1, 2012, informed the Salus Board of his decision to step down some time ago and the Board's executive committee currently is in the process of choosing a search firm.

Salus University was established by the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) in July 2008. Now the University's founding college, PCO was founded in Philadelphia, PA in 1919, and has long been recognized as a leader in the education of health care professionals. Salus University has three additional colleges: the George S. Osborne College of Audiology, the College of Education and Rehabilitation, and the College of Health Sciences. For information on the ten accredited degree programs offered by Salus University, please go to: www.salus.edu

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