

Presentation of the Ohio Optometric Association's Warren G. and Ruth P. Morris  
Optometrist of the Year Award to Dr Karla Zadnik

Presented by Dr. Joseph Stuebaker

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Good evening!

Do you some of you more seasoned optometrists remember that scene from the original movie the Poseidon Adventure back in the early 1970s? When I was a ten year old boy I still remember the awe and humility I felt at seeing the sheer, natural power of that tidal wave as it appeared on the ocean's horizon. When I received recognition as last year's OOA Warren and Ruth Morris Award winner, I felt like the skipper of that vessel. I was and still am incredibly overwhelmed—and humbled—as a recipient of this award.

And here I am again this evening with the same feelings of awe and humility, in a year that seems to have passed away in the short span of a single day, as I introduce this year's Ohio optometrist of the year!

Warren and Ruth Morris epitomized the words "boundless dedication" in the profession of optometry through their legendary service to five generations of patients and countless, adopted "optometric kids." They left an incredibly positive impact upon professional optometry in their quest to preserve and enhance the wonderful gift of vision for humanity.

This year's award recipient is following the same incredible path of service. As a scholar, researcher, academic leader and author she continues to make incredible contributions to eye care and vision science. Just a cursory glance at her legacy of achievement leaves one positively awed and, frankly, bewildered at one person's ability to accomplish—what for many—would equate to multiple lifetimes of work on behalf of the profession that I know she passionately loves. We share a commonality in that the roots of our love for optometry run deep and emanate from our family tree. In fact, this year's award winner's grandfather, who was an optometrist and inventor, practiced until the very last day of his life at age 91.

This year's recipient is a 1982 and 1992 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry where she received both her OD and PhD degrees. She was designated the "Female Optometrist of the 20th Century" by *Review of Optometry* and has mentored countless young professional men and women over the last quarter century. She has been a faculty member at The Ohio State University College of Optometry since 1996. In 1999, she was appointed the Glenn A. Fry Professor in Optometry and Physiological Optics and served as Interim Dean in 2004. Subsequent to her tenure as Interim Dean, she was named Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies at the College, a title she held until her recent appointment as Associate Dean. Her accomplishments as a respected researcher, academician and optometric advocate are nothing short of unbelievable in the sheer magnitude of their scope and impacts upon the advancement of our profession.

In this era of dynamic change, it gives me great optimism in the future of optometry that our profession includes colleagues of the highest caliber of intellect and character exemplified by this year's very worthy recipient of the Ohio Optometric Association's Warren G. and Ruth P. Morris Optometrist of the Year Award—and it is my sincere honor and privilege to present this Award, along with it's hallmark, traveling remembrance, to my deeply respected colleague and friend, Dr. Karla Zadnik.