



Wednesday, January 22, 2003

## Keeper of the Dream banquet set for Feb. 11

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Oakland University will celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by giving four OU students \$5,000 scholarships at the 11th annual **Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Banquet** on Tuesday, Feb. 11, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion.

Established in 1992 to provide funds for student scholarships, Keeper of the Dream awards recognize students who have demonstrated strong citizenship, scholarship and leadership in breaking down cultural stereotypes and in promoting racial understanding. The event itself serves to connect the campus community, underscores the university's commitment to diversity and involves the southeast Michigan community in OU's service mission.

Edsel B. Ford II, a member of the Board of Directors of Ford Motor Company and great-grandson of company founder Henry Ford, is the keynote speaker. Through his family's legacy, Ford personifies this year's theme, "The Dream in You."

This year's scholarship recipients are:

- Crystal Allen, an elementary education major from Flint;
- Steven Townsend, a biochemistry major from Detroit;
- Crystal Wilkerson, an elementary education major from Ortonville;
- Sumeera Younis, a women's studies and sociology major from Shelby Township.

### **Crystal Allen**

Allen will receive the Champion Enterprises Inc. Keeper of the Dream Award.

Besides balancing and excelling in a challenging academic program, Allen has become a member of many student organizations and volunteered her time to help others in the community. She has made a variety of contributions to Oakland by serving as an orientation assistant and a connections peer leader in the Office of New Student Programs. She also was selected as the 2002 Greek Female Leader of the Year, received the Oakland University Alumni Association Black Affiliate Award and the Oakland University Volunteer Service Award. She works as a resident assistant in the Department of Housing and as a teaching assistant at Lowry Early Childhood Education Center.

### **Steven Townsend**

Townsend is this year's recipient of the William Beaumont Hospitals Keeper of the Dream Award.

Townsend has found time outside his demanding schedule to act as a positive role model through leadership positions as a peer mentor for the Office of Equity and orientation group leader and connections peer leader for the Office of New Student Programs. He also served as a reader for the blind by participating in the Books on Tape program through Oakland's Disability Support Services Office and has logged more than 1,500 hours of work at Henry Ford Hospital. He also acts as a supplemental instruction leader and tutor for the Academic Skills Center.

### **Crystal Wilkerson**

Wilkerson is this year's Bank One Keeper of the Dream Award recipient.

Since 2000, Wilkerson has been an active member of the AmeriCorps Oakland team and has completed more than 1,800 hours of service to the Pontiac community. She tutored at-risk children involved with Pontiac Area Transitional Housing (PATH) daily at their school, after school and during the summer to provide academically based enrichment programs. In recognition of her contributions, Wilkerson's AmeriCorps peers named her "Ms. AmeriCorps" the past two years. She also has been named to the Oakland University Dean's List consistently since beginning school in 1999, is a member of the SMEA-OU (Student Michigan Education Association), Oakland's Golden Key International Honour Society, and currently is president of the AmeriCorps Alumni Association.

### **Sumeera Younis**

Younis is this year's recipient of the Oakland University Alumni Association Keeper of the Dream Award.

Younis has contributed to the impact of interracial and intercultural relations at Oakland through her extensive leadership roles. She is active in the Honors College Students Association and is president of the Muslim Students Association. She also has been active in Student Congress, OU Greens, Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and the Women's Issues Forum. In addition, Younis volunteers as a teacher at the Islamic Association of Greater Detroit and coaches high school junior varsity and varsity debate forensics.

Individual seats for the banquet are \$100 and tables of 10 are \$1,000. Reservations are due in the Office of Special Events by Thursday, Jan. 23. For more information on the Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Banquet or to buy tickets, contact the Office of Special Events at (248) 370-4915. Historical information on the program can be found on the **Office of Equity** Web site.

#### **SUMMARY**

Oakland University will celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by giving four OU students \$5,000 scholarships at the 11th annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Banquet on Tuesday, Feb. 11, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, January 22, 2003  
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, January 22, 2003  
Article Start Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2003