

**Oakland University  
Alumni Awards Banquet  
Oakland Center Banquet Rooms  
November 7, 2009, 6 p.m.**

**6 p.m. Reception**

**6:30 p.m. Adrienne Bass – Welcome:**

- Good evening and welcome alumni and friends to the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Alumni Awards Banquet!
- I'm Adrienne Bass, director for Alumni Relations and the Oakland University Alumni Association.
- It is a pleasure to welcome you back to Oakland University. We have a wonderful evening in store for you tonight.
- We are here to thank and recognize a select group of individuals who have distinguished their alma mater through their exemplary contributions in the workforce and society.
- Through their efforts, they give back to Oakland and their communities through their time and service.
- It is also our privilege to be joined by Marla Drutz, [Drootz] the vice president and general manager of WDIV who is serving as our mistress of ceremonies for our awards program later in the evening. Welcome, Marla.
- Those of you who are members of the Oakland University Alumni Association know how critical it is to provide the kind of programming and alumni engagement activity that is so essential to a thriving alumni program at a major university.
- The work that we do in the alumni association serves to carry Oakland's reach and impact even further into the community and to provide services and support to Oakland alums. If you are not a member I urge you to consider joining.
- We offer many ways to connect and we hope you will consider getting involved.
- There are many people who make this evening's program possible and I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to thank a few of those people.

- First, I'd like to introduce our **Board of Trustee members** who are with us tonight and whose involvement and guidance is so critical to this university.
  - Jacqueline Long, chair of the OU Board of Trustees is here, representing the board. Jackie will you please stand?
- I would like to ask members of the **Alumni Association Board of Directors** who are here this evening to please stand and be recognized for their valuable contributions to Oakland. If you would please stand.
  - Beth Benson
  - Gregg Garrett
  - Julie Granthen
  - Adam Kochenderfer
  - Theresa Stayer
  - Cindy Thieme
  - Anthony Thornton
- I am pleased also to see so many of our administrative leadership, Oakland's **vice presidents and deans** with us tonight.
- Would you please stand and be recognized?
- And, finally I see that we have a number of **past alumni award recipients** here tonight. Would you please stand and be recognized?
- Thank you all for being here.
- We have a number of individuals who served on our **awards selection committee** who had the daunting task of selecting this evening's award recipients.
- Please stand as I call your name and let's hold our applause until all have been introduced:
  - Barry Klien
  - Julie Granthen
  - Al Mann
  - Theresa Stayer
  - And Garry Gilbert, who could not be with us this evening.
- My thanks to each of you for your time and input into this difficult decision.

- I am now pleased to introduce the chair of the OU Alumni Association Board of Directors, Greg Garrett.
- Gregg is the chief IT strategy officer for Volkswagen of America, where he leads a team that defines the North American IT strategy and fits it within VW's North American market and global IT plans.
- He was instrumental in launching the Enterprise Architecture Interest Group, which supports Oakland's School of Business Administration.
- Greg holds an MBA from the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University and a bachelor's degree in Systems Engineering from Oakland University.
- While at Oakland, he was the founder and first coach of the men's Lacrosse Club — a well established club sport at Oakland today.
- Greg is married to fellow OU graduate, Amy Block Garrett.
- Please help me welcome Greg Garrett.

**Greg Garrett:**

- OU prepared me to make meaningful contributions to society and the workplace. My public service to OU has provided me with a means to give back in a way that has enriched my life.
- There are more than 83,600 OU alumni. Although we are global and living in more than 70 countries internationally, we are fortunate to have more than 76 percent of our alumni living here in southeast Michigan.
- It's time to look around you and help support the university by identifying others who can help grow our great alma mater and add to the value of an OU degree.
- Our role in the alumni association is to connect alumni with each other and with OU. To reiterate what Adrienne said, please consider providing your time and service to the university.
- The alumni association supports many activities, but most importantly *today*, in the economic climate in which we find ourselves, we are focused on providing student scholarships for deserving students... and career networking and career guidance support.
- Never before has it been so important to keep our Alumni Association scholarship fund strong.

- Last year our endowment fund totaled more than 1.2 million dollars, allowing us to provide 41 scholarships to high achieving students who deserve an Oakland education.
- I am pleased to recognize this year's scholarship recipients who are in the audience.
- All of these students have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, student leadership, and university and community involvement.
- Would all of the OU scholarship recipients please stand at your seat so that we can recognize you.
- You set an outstanding example for the Oakland University community and we salute your hard work and achievements.
- I now have the distinct pleasure of introducing the president of Oakland University, Dr. Gary Russi.
- Dr. Russi has provided the leadership and direction that has transformed Oakland into the dynamic university it is today.
- During his thirteen years he has overseen the growth of campus on many levels... from record-breaking student enrollment growth, to academic programs, student life, and facilities growth; he has developed Oakland into an institution for which we can all be extremely proud.
- Please help me welcome, Dr. Gary Russi...

**Dr. Russi:**

- Thank you, Greg. And thank you for all your hard work on behalf of the OUAA.
- And, thank you to the alumni association for the significant scholarship support you provide for students.
- Good evening alumni and friends of Oakland University!
- Each year, I am proud to learn about the accomplishments of our individual alumni who help make Oakland University an exceptional university. Your success contributes to Oakland's success and the positive reputation we carry in the marketplace.
- Oakland has evolved into a doctoral, research-intensive university offering 132 undergraduate degree programs and 117 graduate and certificate programs. Oakland was recognized in 2009 by *Forbes* magazine as one of America's Best Colleges. And we are consistently chosen as one of *U.S. News and World Report's* America's Best Colleges.
- Your university continues to grow.
- This fall, we posted a 4.1 percent increase in fall 2009 student enrollment, marking the 12th straight year of enrollment growth. The increase in our freshmen class on a percentage basis is the largest in the state.
- The university's student population now numbers 18,967, including students participating in the Macomb 2 Oakland concurrent enrollment program. I attribute our enrollment growth this year to the rapidly expanding, positive image of OU's outstanding learning experiences. We have known it for a long time. Now others are noticing.
- While the governor and legislators grapple with an ever bleaker state budget picture, higher education institutions find ourselves in a unique role to be agents of turnaround. Oakland University is especially well positioned to help lead southeastern Michigan back to economic prosperity.
- Over the next several years, health care will lead our region in job creation. And, Oakland University will prepare the health care professionals that are needed now and in the future to meet the demands of an aging population.
- Progress for the opening of the new Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine is continuing. The medical school has filed an application for preliminary accreditation to the Liaison Committee for Medical Education. And,

this week we just completed a successful site visit with the accreditation team. We plan to open the doors of the medical school in 2010. We expect to begin recruiting students this spring... and begin classes in the fall of 2011 with a charter class of 50 students.

- The School of Medicine, working with Oakland County, will also position southeastern Michigan as a thriving center for biotechnology and biomedicine — accelerating the state's transition from a manufacturing-based to a knowledge-based economy.
- Thank you for your ongoing interest and support of Oakland University.
- I know we're anxious to get on with the program.
- Let's begin with dinner, and then we'll recognize this year's alumni honorees.

**Dinner is served**

**Adrienne Bass:**

- Good evening. Please continue to enjoy dinner as we proceed with tonight's program.
- I would like to invite Dr. Russi, Gregg Garrett and Marla Drutz [Drootz] to join me at the podium.

*(Russi, Garrett and Drutz move to stage)*

- I am delighted to introduce our mistress of ceremonies for our program this evening, Ms. Marla Drutz [Drootz].
- Marla was named vice president and general manager of WDIV-TV Detroit in July 2008.
- She joined the WDIV Local 4 family after spending 19 years at WXYZ-TV where she was director of Programming and Special Projects for the E.W. Scripps Company.
- Marla has received numerous professional awards including Emmy Awards, first-place awards from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters and a "Top Woman in Management" Award from the Detroit Chapter of American Women in Radio and Television.
- She was selected as one of Detroit's "Top 40 Under 40" by Crain's Detroit Business. She was also selected by Corp! Magazine as one of Michigan's Top Businesswomen.
- Marla is a member of the National Association of Television Program Executives and the Adcraft Club of Detroit. She serves on the executive board of the Michigan Chapter of the International Women's Forum and is a board member of Leader Dogs for the Blind and Oakland Family Services.
- Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, Marla holds a bachelor's degree from Ohio University in journalism and communication. While she didn't graduate from this "OU" we're still glad she's here!
- Please give Marla a warm Golden Grizzlies welcome..!

## Marla Drutz:

- Thank you, Adrienne. It's great to be here and an honor to spend an evening with so many people who are important to the success of Oakland University.
- It's time to meet some of the outstanding alumni and friends of the university who are your greatest ambassadors. They touch Oakland University in many ways.
- Some are succeeding in their careers and showing the world what outstanding people Oakland graduates.
- Others are sharing their special gifts with Oakland by working on committees and volunteering their time. Regardless of how they touch the university, we are fortunate they are part of the Oakland family.
- It is my honor to announce the 2009 Oakland University alumni award winners.
- We will begin with the **Distinguished Alumni Service Award**. This is Oakland's highest alumni honor and recognizes outstanding alumni leadership and service to the Alumni Association or the university.
- **Jackie Long** has dedicated her life to nursing and helping others. In her role as chair of the OU Board of Trustees, she continues to help others by guiding Oakland on a path to success.
- Jackie is a registered nurse and the former director of program development at North Oakland Medical Centers, where she also served as nursing supervisor and manager of outpatient clinics, coordinator of hospital staff education, and staff nurse.
- She is experienced in program administration and grant development, including awards exceeding \$2 million from local, state, federal and private funding sources.
- Jackie also gives of her time as a board member for the Oakland University Alumni Association. She has rendered significant additional service through her involvement on the OU School of Nursing Affiliate Board, sharing her valuable experience and guidance in the field of nursing.
- Jackie holds a bachelor's in Nursing from Oakland and a master's in Nursing from Wayne State University.
- It is an honor to present Jackie Long with the Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

*(Lead applause)*

*(Jackie approaches stage. Marla gives her an award, shakes hand. Dr. Russi shakes Jackie's hand and takes photo with Marla. Jackie shares a few words and returns to seat.)*

- We will now present the **Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award**, which will be presented to two individuals. This award recognizes professional achievement or contributions to the community.
- **Beth Gotthelf** [Got-helf] has a passion for environmental law and devotes her knowledge and expertise to ensuring the protection of our natural resources.
- An attorney and shareholder with Butzel Long, Beth heads up the environmental, energy and land use practice. Beth is also active in the State Bar of Michigan, Environmental Law Section, and served as past chair of the section.
- In addition to her career, Beth's gives of her time and talents by serving as past president of the board of trustees for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society; trustee of Jewish Vocational Services; member of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, State Government Relations Committee; and former member of the board of directors for the University Cancer Foundation.
- A source of pride to her alma mater, Beth is listed as one of the "Top 100 Michigan Super Lawyers" and as one of the "Top 50 Female Michigan Super Lawyers."
- I am pleased to present Beth Gotthelf with the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award.

*(Lead applause)*

*(Beth approaches stage. Marla gives her an award, shakes hand. Dr. Russi shakes Beth's hand and takes photo with Marla. Beth shares a few words and returns to seat.)*

- **Ken McMillan** has dedicated his life and personal gifts to helping others who are less fortunate. Ken is the director of medical services for the Kola Health Outreach Program for Homeless Native Americans in Minnesota, where he delivers primary care and substance abuse treatment.
- He has returned many people to more functional, independent lifestyles, and drastically reduced the population's reliance on emergency room visits for

primary care and detoxification treatment. More than an office doctor, his selfless attitude has earned he and his wife, Ginny, the respect of many.

- Born in the Congo to missionary parents, Ken served as a missionary with Cross World from 1981 to 1999. He worked as a surgeon and medical director of a 100-bed hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire); served as a public health officer of the Rethy Health District in the eastern part of the country; and founded and directed the Rethy Nursing School.
- Dr. McMillan's work makes the world a better place for all of us.
- I am pleased to present Dr. Kenneth McMillan with the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award.

*(Lead applause)*

*(Ken approaches stage. Marla gives him an award, shakes hand. Dr. Russi shakes Ken's hand and takes photo with Marla. Ken shares a few words and returns to seat.)*

- We will now move on to the **Odyssey Award**, which will be presented to two individuals.
- This award recognizes outstanding professional achievement or contributions to the community. The award recognizes alumni who seek to exemplify Oakland University's motto "to seek virtue and knowledge," and is someone who is committed to making a difference in the community, and the world around us.
- **Kevin Grazier** [Gray sure] is not content to sit still, as evidenced by his impressive accomplishments.
- Kevin is an investigation scientist and science planning engineer for the Cassini Imaging Science Subsystem, Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.
- In addition, he conducts research involving computer simulations of solar system dynamics, evolution and chaos with other university and national laboratory collaborators.
- Interested in sharing his knowledge with others, he teaches classes in planetary science, astronomy, cosmology and the search for extraterrestrial life. And, he has been a longtime planetarium lecturer at the well-known Griffith Observatory at Santa Monica College.
- Combining his science background with entertainment fun, he currently serves as the scientific advisor for the PBS series, *The Zula Patrol*, and the SciFi Channel

series *Battlestar Galactica* and *Eureka* as well as other movies and series currently in development.

- Kevin holds an undergraduate degree in computer science from Purdue University and a degree in physics from Oakland University.
- He completed his Ph.D. at UCLA in planetary physics.
- I am pleased to present Kevin Grazier with the Odyssey Award.

*(Lead applause)*

*(Kevin approaches stage. Marla gives him an award, shakes hand. Dr. Russi shakes Kevin's hand and takes photo with Marla. Kevin shares a few words and returns to seat.)*

- **Paul McGhee's** success and positive approach to life reflects highly on Oakland University. Paul is the founder and president of The Laughter Remedy.
- He provides keynote addresses and workshops for both corporate and health care clients and has delivered programs for hospitals and other health care organizations across the country. His applied humor and therapy work has been featured in the *New York Times* and *USA Today*, and on *The Learning Channel* and *PBS* as well as other national and international press outlets.
- Paul has spent more than 20 years conducting basic research on humor and laughter while teaching at the university level. He is internationally known for his humor research, and has published more than 50 scientific articles and 13 books on humor.
- Through his unique program, Paul guides others on using humor to become more effective in the workplace and how to cope with job stress. Since we can all use a little humor in the workplace these days we are indebted to Paul's contributions.
- Paul received his bachelor's in Psychology from Oakland, a master's in Experimental Psychology from Bucknell University, and a doctorate in Developmental Psychology from The Ohio State University.
- I am pleased to present Paul McGhee with the Odyssey Award.

*(Lead applause)*

*(Paul approaches stage. Marla gives him an award, shakes hand. Dr. Russi shakes Paul's hand and takes photo with Marla. Paul shares a few words and returns to seat.)*

- The **Spirit Award**, recognizes exemplary volunteer service to the university. We will present this award to two individuals.
- In addition to her active roles in service to Oakland, **Cindy Thieme** [Theme] succeeds in her career as well – a testament to her OU education.
- Cindy is the Detroit Director for Wired, CondeNast, Traveler and Cookie Magazines, responsible for managing more than \$5 million in revenue.
- In 2001, Cindy was named Salesperson of the Year for Cookie Magazine. Previously, she was the Detroit Manager for TV Guide media. She has also held sales positions at Parade Magazine and Disney Publishing, as well as agency account management positions with Campbell-Ewald and Donor Advertising.
- Even with her busy schedule Cindy finds time to give back. At Oakland, she has been a member of the alumni association for nine years and a member of the OUAA Board of Directors since 2001, serving as chair of the Marketing and Membership Committee for the past six years.
- Cindy has also served as a member of the School of Business Administration Marketing Advisory Committee.
- Cindy holds a bachelor's degree in Management from Oakland University and an MBA from Wayne State University. She is an adjunct faculty member in the Marketing Department at Oakland, serving since 2001.
- I am pleased to present **Cindy Thieme** [Theme] with the Spirit Award.

*(Lead applause)*

*(Cindy approaches stage. Marla gives her an award, shakes hand. Dr. Russi shakes Cindy's hand and takes photo with Marla. Paul shares a few words and returns to seat.)*

- The example that **Jonathon Crawford** sets for young people is invaluable and an inspiration to us all.
- Jonathon has used his life experiences to positively influence others as a mentor and role model for young people in the greater Detroit area.

- A retired teacher and Detroit Public Schools principal, Jonathon took on the challenging role of single father of four when his wife passed away due to liver failure. He did not give up.
- In his early 40's, Jonathon completed a bachelor's in Teaching at Oakland, graduating with honors. By the time he completed his career, Jonathon devoted 28 years to Detroit Public Schools – six as a teacher at Joy Middle School and the remainder as a principal.
- He also earned a master's in Guidance Counseling and Administration from Michigan State University.
- Today, Jonathan continues to work with young people as a reading and math tutor, and as a mentor and role model. He also serves as an OU Alumni Admissions Ambassador, volunteers for 4-H and tutors at the Detroit Public Library.
- The MSU Extension Office recently named Jonathon its Mentor of the Year. And, he was nominated for recognition in the 2009 Governor's Service Awards, attending a reception this past June at the Governor's estate.
- I am pleased to present **Jonathan Crawford** with the Spirit Award.

*(Lead applause)*

*(Jonathan approaches stage. Marla gives him an award, shakes hand. Dr. Russi shakes Jonathan's hand and takes photo with Marla. Jonathan shares a few words and returns to seat.)*

- Our next award, the **Honorary Alumnus Award**, recognizes an individual who has not graduated from OU, but who has given outstanding service to the university. We will present two awards.
- **Ron May** is a senior vice president for DTE Energy in Detroit where he is responsible for major generation construction and performance projects at Detroit Edison's power plants.
- Ron previously served as senior vice president of DTE2, an enterprise resource planning project. Prior to that, he served as senior vice president of Energy Distribution at Detroit Edison.
- At Oakland, Ron has played an important role with the School of Engineering and Computer Science, serving as chair of their advisory board for the past five years. He has shared a wealth of guidance and input through his knowledge and expertise in industry.

- Ron has also helped to secure funding for OU's Fastening and Joining Research Institute. And, he has served as an active member of the President's Campaign Council during Oakland's first-ever campaign.
- Ron earned a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan and completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard.
- He has also completed graduate course work at Eastern Michigan, Youngstown State and Pennsylvania State Universities.
- We are thrilled that although he graduated with the maize and blue, Ron's heart truly lies with the black and gold!
- I am pleased to present **Ron May** with the Honorary Alumni Award.

*(Lead applause)*

*(Ron approaches stage. Marla gives him an award, shakes hand. Dr. Russi shakes Ron's hand and takes photo with Marla. Ron shares a few words and returns to seat.)*

- **Brooks Patterson** is a name widely known in Oakland County and beyond. He holds a storied career... always putting the citizens of the county and the state first.
- Brooks was first hired as an assistant Oakland County prosecutor. He has also worked in private practice, specializing as a trial attorney in both civil and criminal courts.
- In 1972, Brooks ran for Oakland County prosecutor and for the next 16 years served as the county's chief law enforcement officer, earning a reputation as "the crime victim's attorney."
- In 1992, Brooks won election as Oakland County Executive. He has been re-elected to office every four years since then by wide electoral margins.
- At the county, Brooks has launched many innovative and successful programs including Automation Alley, Wireless Oakland, Emerging Sectors and the Oakland Medical Initiative.
- Brooks has always been a friend to Oakland University. From 1991 to 1993 he served on the OU Board of Trustees, and was instrumental in discussions about the future growth of the university.

- Brooks holds a bachelor's degree and a juris doctorate from the University of Detroit and served as editor of the Law Review.
- I am pleased to present **L. Brooks Patterson** with the Honorary Alumni Award.

*(Lead applause)*

*(Brooks approaches stage. Marla gives him an award, shakes hand. Dr. Russi shakes Brooks' hand and takes photo with Marla. Brooks shares a few words and returns to seat.)*

**Marla Drutz continues:**

- Congratulations again to each of our award winners. It's truly inspiring to hear how you have shared your time and talents with Oakland and the world around us.
- Thank you for your continued support of Oakland University.
- It has been a pleasure to serve as your mistress of ceremonies tonight. Enjoy the rest of your evening!

**Adrienne Bass:**

- Before we conclude our program, I would like to present a gift to our mistress of ceremonies.
- Marla, on behalf of Oakland University and all of us here tonight, thank you taking part in tonight's program, and for making it such a memorable event.

*(Present gift – Lead applause)*

- I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Alumni Relations staff who has worked so hard to make this evening possible. You do a tremendous job, not only for this event, but all year long!
- I would like to ask all of the award recipients to please remain for a group photo.
- Thank you for coming and good evening.

11/3/09