



Thursday, April 15, 2004

## Oakland University to hold fifth annual MaTiLdA awards

Oakland University's Fifth Annual MaTiLdA Awards, honoring the artistic achievements of OU students and alumni, will be awarded Monday, April 19, at 6 p.m. Faculty members select award winners based on overall performance of the student.

This year's winners are:

**James Allen Balkenhol** of Fraser, a senior studying private euphonium with Ken Kroesche, assistant professor of music, will receive the Outstanding Student in Instrumental Performance Award. Balkenhol is a non-traditional student at OU. In the late 1980's, he attended Western Michigan University. While there, he was one of four two-term presidents in the history of Phi Mu Sinfonia and was a Collegiate Province representative and a national officer of Phi Mu Alpha.

**Jason Beaubien** of Sterling Heights, a senior theatre performance major, will receive the Patrick and Mercedes Nicosia Meadow Brook Estate Award. He has been a member of the Meadow Brook Estate for the past two years and was in their most recent show, "Starting Here, Starting Now." Other roles at Oakland include the Baker in "Into the Woods;" Charlie Brown in "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown;" Lord Evelyn Oakleigh in "Anything Goes," for which he received an ACTF Irene Ryan Award nomination; Vinnie DiRuzzo in "Lucky Stiff;" and Peter in "Romeo and Juliet."

**Ashley Bogert** of Lapeer, a senior theatre performance major, will receive the Gittlen Achievement Award. She was last seen on the OU stage as Bidy in "Great Expectations." She currently is directing this semester's student-directed project "Private Lives," which runs April 15-18.

**Scarlett Brady** of Macomb, a senior music education major, will receive the Outstanding Student in Music Education Award. At Oakland, she is a scholarship student in both academics and music education. Brady has been seen in the department's productions of "Harrison Loved His Umbrella," "Amahl and the Night Visitors" and "Suor Angelica," and she has been a member of the Oakland University Chorus. Brady is a member of the Michigan Music Association, MSVMA and Michigan Education Association.

**Rodney Brown** of Dayton, Ohio, a senior who is working on an apprenticeship at Michigan's Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, will be awarded the Jacob Decker Dance Award. His professional experience includes appearances with the Dayton Contemporary Dance Second Company, Lincoln Dance Company, Oakland University Repertory Dance Theatre and Oakland Dance Theatre.

**Laurie Burns** of Brady, Ill., a senior in clarinet performance, will receive the Chamber Music Award. She has played for the Sangamon Valley Youth Orchestra, Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra, Oakland Symphony Orchestra and a number of wind ensembles. She participated in the Windsong Clarinet Choir for two years and has performed many compositions in OU's Composers Forums.

**Regina Carter**, a Detroit native who graduated from Oakland University in 1985 with a Bachelor of Arts in music, will be awarded the Alumni Arts Achievement Award in Music. She studied at the Center for Creative Studies and New England Conservatory of Music before returning home to complete her studies at OU. In November, she received the International Achievement Award from ArtServe Michigan at the Governor's Awards for Arts and Culture Gala. Last year, she was nominated for a Grammy for Best Jazz Instrumental Solo for "Fragile," available on her duo album "Freefall," which she recorded with Kenny Barron.

**Shannon Conlan** of Sterling Heights will receive the Jennifer Scott Memorial Award. She began attending Oakland University in the fall of 2003 and currently is working on her master's degree in music, with an emphasis in piano pedagogy. Conlan graduated from Alma College in the spring of 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts in both music and psychology. She is now a teacher for the Music Preparatory Division at Oakland University where she enjoys teaching private lessons.

**James Evola** of Bloomfield Hills will receive the Distinguished Community Service Award. Evola and his wife, Teresa, are the proud parents of three daughters, two of whom are currently enrolled at Oakland University.

**Phill Harmer** of Walled Lake, a senior music theatre major, will receive the Musical Theatre Award. His first role at Oakland was Giorgio in "The Gondoliers." Other roles at Oakland have included Parent in "Harrison Loved his Umbrella," King Balthazar in "Amahl and the Night Visitors," and Max and the Gorilla in "Cabaret." At Meadow Brook Theatre, Harmer has been seen in "A Christmas Caro" and "Romeo and Juliet." Later this spring, he will appear on the Meadow Brook stage as Mortimer in "The Fantasticks" and Paris in "Romeo and Juliet."

**Aaron Hill** of Shelby Township, a junior theatre production major, will receive the Gittlen Theatre Award. He has served as lighting designer for many shows at OU, including "Talking With," "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," "Zastrozzi," "for colored girls..." and the Meadow Brook Estate. His professional lighting design credits include "Could this Be Love" and "Nooners" at Trinity House Theater and "A Cloud of Women" at Marygrove College.

**Christopher Holt** of Troy, a December 2003 OU graduate, will receive the Distinguished Musicianship Award. This month, the Tuba Euphonium Ensemble at Oakland will premiere his latest work, "A Few Minutes with Johanna Loughton (A Bipolar Housewife)." Holt is one of six composers chosen to participate in this year's "Songfest" to be held this summer at Pepperdine University.

**Carly Ketchman** of Memphis, Mich., a graduating senior of music education, will receive the Outstanding Student in Music Education and Outstanding Student in Jazz awards. She has performed in Arts at Noon concerts, senior recitals, and has taught drumming workshops to elementary and middle school students. Ketchman has been a member of the OU branch of the Music Educator's National Conference for four years and recently was appointed vice president of OU's new chapter of International Association of Jazz Educators.

**Rebecca Krystyniak** of Clinton Township, a senior music major, will receive the Outstanding Student Service Award. She currently is serving as librarian for the Oakland University Symphonic Band and Golden Grizzly Pep Band and is administrator of the Oakland University Cooperative Orchestra Library.

**Catherine Lutz** of Howell, a senior music theatre major, will receive the Outstanding Student Service Award. She was a company member of the Meadow Brook Estate and appeared in "Starting Here, Starting Now" last November. For her role in "Wings," she received an Irene Ryan Award nomination and was a finalist at the regional competition.

**Mary Rychlewski** of Ferndale, an Oakland University graduate, will receive the Alumni Arts Achievement Award in Theatre. She is co-founder of Heartlande Theatre Company and has directed her energies toward the development and creation of new work for the stage, whether directing, acting, producing or playwriting. Along with Jan Radcliffe and Heartlande, she has co-produced "Play by Play, Playscape," Writer's Retreats and master classes with the late Uta Hagen.

**Lily Sloan** of Troy, a senior dance major, will receive the Maggie Allesee Dance Award. Sloan, an active choreographer and performer has had her choreographic works presented at Oakland Dance Theatre concerts, Arts at Noon concerts and the American College Dance Festival. She is an outstanding student in The Honors College, vice president of The Honors College Student Association and a recent recipient of an Undergraduate Scholar Research Grant.

**Krysty Swann** of Oak Park, a senior vocal performance major, will receive the Outstanding Student in Voice Performance Award. She is a member of the Oakland Chorale and has participated in the Michigan Opera Theatre Opera Camp Workshop. She recently was cast as Ceprano in the Michigan Opera Theatre's fall production of "Rigoletto."

**Oliver Thompson** of Rochester Hills, a junior composition major, will be awarded the Outstanding Student in Composition Award. He made his debut as a composer at Oakland last winter with a trio for double bass, marimba and flute titled "Clemente DeBold." In addition, he has written pieces for the Jazz Band and recently released a CD of popular music.

For more information on the MaTiLDa Awards, contact the **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** at (248) 370-2030.

#### SUMMARY

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