



Friday, December 17, 2004

## Bequest aids two women's studies students

By *Rebecca Wyatt*, OU Web Writer

Dorothy Beardmore committed much of her life to supporting education. She was a member of the **State Board of Education** for 16 years starting in 1985 and served as the board's president, vice president, secretary and treasure and never missed a meeting. Prior to that, she served on the school board for **Rochester Community Schools** and the Board of Education for **Oakland Schools**. Her support for education lives on even after her death through the Women's Fund Women's Studies Student Educations Awards in memory of her, which recently were awarded to two OU students.

Jasmine Aten and Heather Brewer received the awards, which were awarded by the Women's Fund of the **Community Foundation of Greater Rochester**, another organization Beardmore was involved in that provides funding for women who need money for rent, car repairs, child care and other necessary services. The award provides the students \$1,000 for the 2004-2005 academic year and is to be used specifically for women's education.

Aten, an anthropology and women's studies major, relies on financial aid to pay for her classes, but financial aid doesn't cover everything and her education was in jeopardy.

"It (the award) means I can finish school, which I probably wouldn't have been able to do without it," Aten said. She said with the scholarship she is able to afford the classes she needs to graduate.

Brewer, a women's studies major with a concentration in social work and a minor in Spanish, pays for classes with grants, loans and scholarships. Having this money helps her afford books for her classes.

The students qualified for the awards by having an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher, a GPA of 3.5 or higher in women's studies, financial need and service to women's studies or social organizations. According to Suzanne Spencer-Wood, director of OU's **women's studies program**, both recipients have been very active in women's studies.

Aten is the president of the **Anthropology Club** and is involved with the Women's Issues Forum.

"Women's studies gives me a broader perspective than I get from anthropology," Aten said. "It makes you think about things in a different way."

Brewer is vice president of the **Women's Issues Forum** and has been involved with the group since her freshman year. She was instrumental in last year's Women's Fair, which won the Center for Student Activities Outstanding Political and Social Awareness Program Award.

Brewer said it was her involvement in the Women's Issues Forum that sparked her to become a women's studies major. She said it was the people she met and the information she received in the classes that made her feel apart of something.

"It's so important that every university has a women's studies department because it is empowering for women and it is crucial that women's perspective be brought into academia," Brewer said.

Without worrying about how she'll finance her undergraduate education, Aten has been able to focus on what she wants to do after graduation. She plans to explore schools for a graduate program to study archeology, women's studies and history.

Brewer expects to graduate after the fall 2006 semester. She also intends to go to graduate school to study social work. Eventually, she would like to be a women's studies professor.

**SUMMARY**

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