



Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Golden Key inducts new members

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

Oakland University's **Golden Key International Honour Society** chapter welcomed over 300 of the university's best and brightest students and five faculty and staff members in a special induction ceremony Monday, Nov. 26, at Meadow Brook Theatre.

The OU chapter inducted 312 new members and five OU faculty and staff as 2001 Honorary Members. Membership to Golden Key is offered by invitation only to the top 15 percent of the junior and senior class. Both full- and part-time students qualify.

"Being a member means that all my hard work has paid off," said new inductee Jennifer Pilcher, a junior elementary education major. "I've always worked hard in school for academic achievement. Even in high school I worked for that. Now I'm privileged to be able to put my membership on my resume and have scholarship and community service opportunities."

Gerald Compton, laboratory manager and adjunct assistant professor of chemistry, delivered the keynote address, in which he asked students to choose a career based on their absorption in an academic subject, to prioritize study time by understanding concepts, to get to know their professors, and become involved in activities that develop leadership skills.

Lastly, Compton offered this advice to upperclassmen: "Remember, your degree from OU is merely a learning permit."

Following the keynote speech, junior nursing major Heidi Joonhee Kook-Willis and senior psychology major Kim Lewis each received Ford Motor Company/Golden Key Undergraduate Scholarships, presented to outstanding junior and senior initiates. Golden Key officers then recognized and distributed certificates to each of the new inductees.

The ceremony opened with an address from Christina Alsager, OU Golden Key president. Alicia Perkins, Golden Key Great Lakes regional director, then delivered her remarks. Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities, then delivered congratulatory remarks and pinned the OU chapter officers.

Chapter officers gave recognition to each of the 2001 Honorary Members: Lizabeth Barclay, professor of management; Helen Ellison, assistant director of the Office of Diversity and Compliance; Carol Anne Ketelsen, OU AmeriCorps coordinator; Frances Meuser, assistant professor of Spanish; and Barry Winkler, professor of biomedical sciences.

"Being a member is wonderful, especially since I was nominated by the students," Winkler said. "Being nominated partly by Honors College students also makes it very nice. It came as a total surprise. I think it's a great honor and I've told a lot of people about it."

The ceremony concluded with OU Golden Key Vice President Michael Chapa presenting the reading of the charge before Alsager delivered the closing remarks.

OU Golden Key members are invited to attend the next society meeting on Thursday, Nov. 29, at noon in the Lake Superior Room of the Oakland Center, or at 5:15 p.m. in rooms 128-130 of the **Oakland Center**. For more information, see the **OU Golden Key International Honour Society** Web site, or contact them at (248) 370-4254 or ougoldenkey@hotmail.com.

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