



Thursday, March 27, 2003

Feminists recognized at celebration

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Students, faculty and staff honored the achievements of students in their learning and promotion of women's issues at Oakland University's second annual Women's Studies Celebration. The award luncheon and ceremony were held March 27 in the Oakland Center Lake Superior Room.

"We encourage student participation across all disciplines in celebrating the feminist community," said Women's Studies Program Director Suzanne Spencer-Wood. "We also like the more informal atmosphere of the event and the interaction of students and faculty, which we feel is very important."

Senior English major Elizabeth Pellerito took first prize in the 2002-2003 Women's Studies Essay Contest for her paper "Gender, Class and Power: Rape in Eighteenth-Century Literature," which she completed for her ENG 370 class. Contest entries were to be work from any OU course in any discipline that used a feminist perspective or feminist theory or methods. Kevin McHale and Maxine Wood won second and third prize, respectively.

Recognition was given to the leadership of the Women's Issues Forum student organization for their visible promotion of feminist events at OU, such as various brown bag lunch discussions, a breast cancer awareness table and a dress-for-success charitable clothing drive.

"The Women's Issues Forum has been incredibly active since they first began in September 2001," Spencer-Wood said. "They've really taken off since then and have used ideas from other campuses and generated many ideas for activities themselves."

Special recognition also was given to Women's Studies Administrative Assistant Claire Cooper for her behind-the-scenes contributions to the program.

"I think it's important to recognize the achievements of women in universities and in our society," said junior political science major Sarah Cook, who attended the event. "I think our Women's Studies Program should be very strong to reflect the fact that women are an integral part of the world."

Oakland University's Women's Studies Program offers a major and minor. The program is an interdisciplinary field devoted to the description and analysis of gender systems in historical and contemporary cultures around the world. For more information on the program, course offerings, faculty, resources and events, visit the **Women's Studies** Web site or call (248) 370-3221. Also visit the News @ OU Web site for more information on upcoming **Women's History Month** events.

SUMMARY

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