

**Oakland University
Twelfth Annual
Faculty Recognition Program
April 18, 2007**

Dr. Russi:

- Welcome to the 12th annual Faculty Recognition Luncheon at Oakland University.
- As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Oakland University on this Founder's Day, we are also celebrating the professional achievements of our faculty who have helped us achieve success.

- I commend our Board of Trustees for their ongoing support of our faculty and their creative endeavors.
- With us today are Board of Trustees members Penny Crissman and Ann Nicholson. Will you please stand and be recognized?
- Also with us are members of the OU Alumni Association.
- Please stand and be recognized as I call your name:
 - Sue Evans
 - Julie Granthen

(Lead applause)

- Today we will honor the creative contributions of Oakland University's finest teachers, researchers and scholars.
- Before we continue with the awards presentation, let's enjoy lunch.

[Lunch is served.]

Dr. Russi:

- I hope everyone enjoyed lunch.
- Thank you to Chartwells who provided our delicious meal and the Special Events staff, along with the Provost's Office, for arranging our program.
- Each Founders' Day, we look forward to formally recognizing, encouraging and supporting faculty teaching and research excellence, scholarly productivity, creative achievements and community service.

- Your contributions in and outside of the classroom enable Oakland University students to enter the workforce or graduate school highly prepared and ready to make a difference in the world around them.
- Many of you have had your work published in leading journals, earned prestigious research grants and are renowned experts in your fields.
- It is with great pleasure and extreme honor that I introduce our speaker today, Distinguished Professor of Education, Ronald Cramer. Professor Cramer exemplifies excellence and represents the very best Oakland University has to offer.
- Please join me in welcoming Professor Cramer.

(Lead applause)

Professor Cramer:

Thank you, Dr. Russi, for your kind introduction.

[Insert speech here]

Dr. Russi:

- Thank you Professor Cramer. Please accept this gift as a token of our thanks. [Present gift.]
- I am now pleased to introduce the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Virinder Moudgil.

(Lead applause)

[Faculty members are requested to approach the dais stage left and stand until Dr. Moudgil concludes the introduction. Dr. Moudgil will then offer congratulations, shake hands, and the faculty member should walk across the stage to Dr. Russi who will congratulate, shake hands and present a small token. Faculty member will then exit stage right and return to his/her seat.]

Dr. Moudgil:

- Thank you, Dr. Russi, and good afternoon everyone. Let me add my greetings and welcome you to this very historic event as we celebrate our 50th anniversary.
- As I call your name, please approach the stage from your right, and stand to the right of the podium. Please exit the stage to the left.
- It is now my pleasure to formally recognize my outstanding colleagues who have set the highest standards in teaching, research, scholarship, creative activities and service.

- For the past 50 years, our faculty members have helped distinguish Oakland as an institution of excellence committed to providing a distinctive academic experience to our students.
- Many of you present here today participate in and support undergraduate research endeavors. By including students as partners on challenging research projects, you provide valuable hands-on learning experiences and mentorship.
- You are also setting Oakland University apart as an academic institution that delivers a unique, real-world education beyond classroom instruction.

- We gather here today to show appreciation to our faculty in the presence of peers and our extended family members. Colleagues, you are being honored for your enthusiastic, unwavering dedication to your students, your passion for your profession, your commitment to Oakland University.
- I will now present the 2007 faculty award winners.
- When I announce your name, please approach the podium to receive your award.

College of Arts and Sciences

Eddie Cheng, Associate Professor, Mathematics and Statistics

- Eddie Cheng is deeply involved in his role of teacher, mentoring students at all levels both inside and outside the classroom. He is the 2006 recipient of the Michigan Mathematical Association of America's Distinguished Teaching Award.
- Under his leadership, The Oakland University Summer Mathematics Institute has grown and flourished, providing college courses and credit for the top high school students in the state.

- In addition, he is in his second of three years as director of the Michigan Math Prize Competition, a statewide high school mathematics competition.
- Professor Cheng is also a noted scholar and widely published author. It was recently voted by our Board of Trustees that Professor Cheng be promoted to full professor, effective at the start of the fall 2007 semester.

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi.]

Dagmar Cronn, Professor, Chemistry

- Dagmar Cronn served as the chair of the General Education Committee, and was the driving force behind the rapid and successful implementation of the new general education program.
- Under her leadership, a large number of courses were reviewed and approved as meeting the specific outcomes associated with knowledge foundations, explorations, and integration.
- She is also the director of the Environmental Health program, where she established an advisory council composed of faculty from across campus and practitioners from the community to assist her in restructuring this program.

- A much-liked and admired teacher, Professor Cronn is known for her genuine commitment to student service and learning.

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi.]

Kenneth Kroesche, Associate Professor, Music, Theatre and Dance

- Kenneth Kroesche has distinguished himself as a nationally recognized euphonium soloist, as well as a sought-after trombone and low brass specialist, conductor and scholar.

- As a leading proponent of the euphonium (or tenor tuba), this past year he has performed as a solo recitalist at international, national and regional tuba-euphonium conferences which denote the highest recognition achievable in his field.
- He also provided a chapter for the *Guide to the Euphonium Repertoire*, published this year. The chapter is a comprehensive bibliography of primary and secondary source materials for the euphonium.

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi.]

Weldon (Don) Matthews, Associate Professor,
History

- Reviews of Weldon Matthews' book, *Confronting an Empire, Constructing a Nation: Arab Nationalists and Popular Politics in the Palestine Mandate*, have called it a meticulously researched analysis of the emergence of Palestinian nationalism in the mid-twentieth century.
- The book provides an important foundation for understanding the evolution of Palestinian politics in the post-colonial period. It is a significant contribution to the literature concerning wider patterns of Arab nationalism.

- He was invited to attend a conference with leading scholars on contemporary problems in Arab-Israeli relations last summer. His inclusion in this group is recognition of his stature as an expert in Arab nationalism.

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Frances Meuser, Associate Professor, Modern Languages

- Frances Meuser has worked tirelessly as a liaison between the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and both the School of Education and Human Services and the Michigan Department of Education.
- She served on the statewide Education committee that formulated the new Michigan Standards for Preparation of World Language Teachers.
- At Oakland, she has worked with colleagues to amend the secondary education modern languages programs to the more versatile K-12 certification option.

- She also modified the existing secondary methods course and designed the new elementary methods course, as a result, her work will present a seamless learning experience to our students.

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi.]

J. Patrick Piskulich, Associate Professor, Political Science, who is not in attendance today.

- As the interim MPA director, Patrick Piskulich has instituted several reforms to the program, which resulted in increased student enrollments and the introduction of higher admission standards.
- As director of the Public Affairs Research Laboratory he has conducted applied research for area governments and nonprofit organizations. PARL provides students with first-hand experience in applied research and is an important mechanism for community outreach efforts by Oakland University.

Mark Rigstad, Assistant Professor, Philosophy

- Mark Rigstad is the founder and guiding force behind both the Oakland University Environmental Quality *and* the Global Security forums that have attracted speakers with national and international reputations.
- His Web site, JustWarTheory.com, has received more than 31,500 hits in eight months from around the world and is listed as a reference Web site by numerous universities and international organizations.

- He also coached the 2004-2005 Oakland University Ethics Bowl Team and led the team to a regional competition in San Antonio, Texas.

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Gary Shepherd, Professor, Sociology and Anthropology

- Gary Shepherd studies a Christian religious group derived from the 1960s counterculture whose 10,000 core members live in communal homes all over the world and engage full time in missionary activities.

- During his 2005 sabbatical, Gary observed and recorded domestic and religious activities, including channeling of spiritual messages, in 23 different communal homes located in 16 countries on six continents.
- His recent articles published on the subject are co-authored by his brother, Gordon Shepherd, a sociologist at the University of Central Arkansas, and led to their receipt of the Thomas Robbins Award for Excellence in Research on New Religious Movements in 2006.

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Rachel Smydra, Special Instructor, English

- Rachel Smydra constantly explores new avenues to enrich and enhance the opportunities of Oakland students by developing new courses or by redesigning existing courses for online delivery.
- Whether it is a course on blogging, business writing or the fundamentals of grammar, Smydra has demonstrated a deep commitment to high quality instruction.
- She is a member and chair of disciplinary hearings on the Academic Conduct Committee.

- Her research has been well received at regional and national conferences and has led to invitations to serve as a facilitator on a Plagiarism Panel with OU students and as a presenter at a Senate Teaching and Learning Committee Faculty Luncheon.

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi.]

Jacqueline H. Wiggins, Professor and Chair, Music,
Theatre and Dance

- Jackie Wiggins has served as chair of Music, Theatre and Dance (MTD) since 2002. She is a tireless advocate for faculty and students in MTD, always making her case based upon the quality and commitment of the people she works with and the students whom they serve.
- While chair, the department completed a self-study for national accreditation, submitted proposals for a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre, and a Ph.D. in Music Education. The first Ph.D. was awarded at the December 2006 commencement.

- She is widely considered an international leader in the constructivist approach to music education, as well as a recognized scholar who understands the value of quality service and leadership within her own institution.

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi.]

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Rajeev Singhal [ra-JEEVE sen-GAL], Assistant Professor, Accounting and Finance

- Quality publications represent professional excellence. One of Rajeev Singhal's papers was accepted for publication by the *Journal of Financial Economics*, a top-tier journal in finance.
- He has also presented papers and chaired a session at the Financial Management Association meeting as part of his professional activities.

- He served as chair of the Finance Recruiting committee, a member of the Accounting Recruiting committee, and chair of the Accounting and Finance Scholarship committee.

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi.]

**KaSaundra (Kasey) M. Tomlin, Assistant Professor,
Economics**

- On the SBA's Student Evaluation of Teaching instrument, Kasey Tomlin is lauded for her enthusiasm, her classroom organization and management, her application of concepts to the real world, her clear and concise explanations, and the way she challenges her students intellectually.
- Students frequently comment that she cares about them and their success in her courses.

- Her commitment to teaching excellence is also reflected in her willingness to serve on teaching and other instruction-related committees at both the school and university level.

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SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Debatosh Debnath (DEB-a-tosh deb-NATH),

Assistant Professor, Computer Science and
Engineering

- Debatosh Debnath is recognized for his role as a representative and advocate of the School of Engineering and Computer Science on the universitywide committee for General Education.
- He was instrumental in fashioning new general education courses under the new general education requirements.

- He also is recognized for providing outstanding leadership in organizing regular research seminars within the Department of Computer Science and Engineering.
- It is primarily through his efforts that the department has been running regular seminars for the last few years. This has led to better interaction among the faculty and increased research and funding activity.

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi.]

Zissimos Mourelatos, Associate Professor,
Mechanical Engineering, who is not in attendance
today.

- Zissimos Mourelatos' research accomplishments in the areas of Noise, Vibration and Harshness, Tribology and Design Under Uncertainty have been impressive.
- He is widely published and has been awarded almost a million dollars in external funding from General Motors, DaimlerChrysler, the U.S. Army and Federal Mogul.
- In recognition of his excellent scholarship, Dr. Mourelatos has recently been elevated to the grade of fellow in the Society of Automotive Engineers, and he was recently promoted to full professor at Oakland, to become effective in August of this year.

School of Education and Human Services

Thomas Pedroni, Assistant Professor, Teacher
Development and Educational Studies

- Thomas Pedroni has published five national refereed journal articles, six invited chapters in books, published one book, *Market Movements: African American Involvement in School Voucher Reform*, and is currently finishing another, *Educational Markets and the Dispossessed: Agency, Identity and Subalternity in Unsettling Educational Times* for which he is the editor.

- He has made scholarly presentations at 14 international and national professional meetings.

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi.]

Robert Schwartz, Professor, Reading and Language Arts

- Bob Schwartz is the chair of the Research Committee of the International Reading Recovery Program. He had previously led the Research Committee for the U.S.-based program.

- He has published in major journals published by the International Reading Association. He also published a study in an extremely well respected publication, the *Journal of Educational Psychology*.
- The research reported in this article was recognized by the What Works Clearinghouse, a division of the U.S. Department of Education's Institute for Education Science, as meeting their highest evidence standards for clinical trials. From more than 100 studies in this review, Schwartz's article was one of three studies to meet these standards.

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi.]

Julia Smith, Associate Professor, Educational Leadership

- Julia Smith came to Oakland University with a significant record of published research in refereed journals.
- A number of these articles were authored or co-authored as a result of her association with the Center for Human Growth and Development at the University of Michigan and the Consortium for Chicago Public Schools Research.

- She is presenting three research papers at this month's American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference concerning different elements of teachers' views of their work as teachers.

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi.]

School of Health Sciences

Charles McGlothlin, Assistant Professor,
Occupational Safety and Health

- Charles McGlothlin renamed and revamped the Occupational Safety and Health program, responding to student and community needs, and spent two years gathering student-centered data to gain national accreditation.
- He was recognized by the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) as the 2006 Educator of the Year.

- He was recently interviewed and published by the *Oakland Business Review* and the American Society of Safety Engineers regarding his innovative Master of Science in Safety Management degree offered in the fall of 2006.
- He has received research grants and material support from DaimlerChrysler, ASSE, and the Midwest Cooperative Education and Internship Association.

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi.]

School of Nursing

Cheryl Riley-Doucet [DO-SET], Assistant Professor,
School of Nursing

- Cheryl Riley-Doucet's primary research interests include geriatric and family nursing, environmental interventions for patients with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and education for nurse preceptors.
- A recipient of an OU research fellowship to study Alzheimer patients, she collaborated with faculty from the School of Engineering and Computer Science to develop a plush, stuffed whale that senses agitation in elders and activates stimuli such as music or lights.

- She presented findings from this work at a prestigious Gerontological Society of America symposium.
- She published an article in the *Journal of Family Nursing* and has another at press in the *Journal for Nurses in Staff Development*.

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi.]

Kresge Library

Anne Switzer, Information Services and Outreach Librarian and Assistant Professor, Kresge Library, who is not in attendance today.

- Anne Switzer has created many successful outreach programs including popular book clubs for the Circle of Sisterhood network for African American students; for gay, lesbian and bisexual students; and alumni.

- She also developed panel presentations on “Remembering Rosa Parks” and “African American Students in a White Culture,” and created Library Web pages to support campus events.
- Her highly successful initiatives in this area resulted in her nomination for the Presidential Diversity Award.

- Please join me in recognizing these outstanding colleagues for the contributions they make to the university, to their fields of study, and most importantly, to their students.

(Lead applause)

[Assessment Excellence Award Presentation]

- Last year we introduced a new Assessment Excellence Award to recognize a department which models the North Central Association's "culture of assessment" goal by integrating assessment findings with program revisions. The recipient department will receive \$5,000 and recognition on a plaque displayed in the lobby of Kresge Library.

- The 2007 Assessment Excellent Award Winner is the Studio Art Program in the Department of Art and Art History. I invite the chair, Andrea Eis, to receive this award on behalf of the department. Your program's Assessment Plan and Report exemplifies the ways in which assessment as a process is essential to maintaining the highest academic values.
- Studio Art's assessment plan was well-conceived and thoroughly implemented, and in its report demonstrates what the North Central Association terms a "mature culture of assessment."

- Studio Art's achievement of excellence in this endeavor illustrates that assessment is not only possible but vital for disciplines where outcomes are not easily quantified but where student learning is evidenced in accomplishment of artistry.
- Congratulations to the Studio Art program.

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi and poses for photo.]

- I would now like to introduce the 2007 Distinguished Professor, Ronald C. Finucane (FA-NEW-CAN).
- Professor Finucane is an internationally recognized expert in medieval history and is regarded as an outstanding scholar by his colleagues, he has also been described as one of the foremost medieval historians of his generation.
- With four major book publications to date, and nearly two dozen articles and book chapters, he has established a reputation as a scholar who has brought distinction to Oakland University.

- His dedication to rigorous teaching and service to his department and the wider university community merit the rank of Distinguished Professor.
- Professor Finucane joined the Oakland University faculty in 1991, and served as chair of the department of History from 1991 to 2000. Under his leadership he rejuvenated the department and committed his energies to creating a more productive scholarly environment for faculty and students.
- Professor Finucane's teaching has been extensively praised by both undergraduate and graduate students, as evidenced by his nomination for the 2004-2005 Teaching Excellence Award.

- He has contributed to the field of medieval history with four books: *Miracles and Pilgrims*, *Appearances of the Dead: A Cultural History of Ghosts*, which was republished in paperback as *Ghosts: Appearances of the Dead and Cultural Transformation* and translated into Italian, *Soldiers of the Faith: Crusaders and Moslems at War*, and *The Rescue of the Innocents: Endangered Children in Medieval Miracles*.
- The significance of Professor Finucane's work has been officially recognized by some of the most prestigious scholarly entities in the world, including The American Council of Learned Societies, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He was also awarded an Oakland University Research Excellence Award in 1998.

- A particularly significant and rare honor for an American scholar was the election of Finucane as Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in London, the most distinguished historical organization in the U.K.
- Finucane's impressive scholarly contributions to the field of medieval history, as well as his excellent record as a teacher and departmental leader, have contributed significantly to Oakland as a university of distinction.
- Congratulations to Distinguished Professor of History, Ronald Finucane.

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi and poses for photo.]

- I will now recognize the 2007 recipients of Oakland University's Excellence Awards.
- When I announce your name, please approach the podium to receive your award and be photographed.
- This year's winner of the Teaching Excellence Award is **Peter Bertocci**, professor of Anthropology.
- Professor Bertocci was instrumental in creating the program in Anthropology and the combined major in Sociology and Anthropology with a rigor that allowed OU students to be accepted into prestigious graduate schools such as Harvard and the University of Chicago.

- Former students of Professor Bertocci are currently in academic positions, including: professor of Anthropology at Trent University, historic archaeologist at University of Colorado, and senior care and support adviser for HIV/AIDS programming in Africa.
- According to one of his colleagues, “Peter Bertocci is an inspiring and selfless teacher, with the best interests of his students at heart, with a devotion to his discipline and with the ability to provide inspiration to his colleagues.”
- Oakland University is proud to confer upon Professor Bertocci the 2007 Oakland University Teaching Excellence Award.

(Lead applause)

[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi and poses for photo.]

- **Linda Benson**, professor of modern Chinese history and director of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program, is this year's Research Excellence Award winner.
- Professor Benson is an expert on the 20th century history of Xinjiang, a predominantly Muslim region in northwestern China, and has authored five books including *The Ili Rebellion* which remains the standard source on the subject, and *China's Last Nomads* which chronicles the history and status of China's Kazakh people.

- Professor Benson is also the author of numerous chapters and journal articles focusing on Muslim China and Chinese minority policy in the northwest.
- She earned a 2004 Fulbright Hayes award, and holds a master's degree from the University of Hong Kong and a doctorate from the University of Leeds in the UK.
- Oakland University is proud to confer upon Professor Benson the 2007 Oakland University Research Excellence Award.

(Lead applause) [Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi and poses for photo.]

- **Daniel Aloï**, assistant professor of engineering, is this year's New Investigator Research Excellence Award recipient.
- His research areas include electromagnetics, antenna design, and all aspects of Global Positioning System.
- He has authored several papers in prestigious IEEE Transactions, and also published research results in several conference proceedings.

- He was instrumental in establishing a specialized GPS laboratory at the Oakland County International Airport. He is also in the process of establishing an Automotive Antenna Measurement Instrumentation (AAMI) facility at OU, made possible with a \$400,000 award from the National Science Foundation.
- OU is proud to confer upon Professor Aloï the 2007 Oakland University New Investigator Research Excellence Award.

(Lead applause)[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi and poses for photo.]

- Oakland University also recognizes excellence in teaching by a non-tenure track or part-time instructor.
- This year's recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award is **Timothy Briggs**, special lecturer, Rhetoric. He believes that everyone in class should have the opportunity to learn and teach.
- He mentored the 2005-06 Writing Excellence Award winner, who said Briggs' teaching style is creative and inspiring. A colleague notes that Briggs recognizes "the stretch toward excellence is full of guesses, experiments and intellectual wild goose chases...that are as valuable to growth as the end product."

- A former student, studying to become a teacher, sums up Briggs' impact by saying, "you sometimes come across a professor who teaches their students not only about the material in the lecture, but about ways to be successful and ways to spread their own wings."
- Oakland University is proud to confer upon Timothy Briggs the 2007 Oakland University Excellence in Teaching Award.

(Lead applause)[Dr. Moudgil shakes professor's hand; professor progresses to shake Dr. Russi's hand, then receives gift from Dr. Russi and poses for photo.]

- I will now turn the program over to Dr. Russi, who will offer concluding remarks for this historic faculty recognition program.

Dr. Russi:

- Thank you for joining us today, and congratulations to each of this year's deserving recipients.
- You help bring innovation and opportunity to our institution.
- Your dedication and commitment enhances the quality of Oakland University and the education of our students.
- And, will the award winners please remain here if you can for a moment for our first ever group photograph.
- Have a good afternoon.