

Friday, September 4, 2015

Young alums create scholarship honoring Golden Grizzly spirit

A group of Oakland University's most spirit-filled alumni is giving back – or rather, paying it forward – to its alma mater in the form of a new scholarship. OU graduates Ryan Mostiller (*SECS '10, SBA '15*), Anthony Lewis (*SEHS '10, SEHS '15*), Corey Schmidt (*CAS '10*) Danny Malendowski (*SBA '11, SBA '12*), Mark LeMerise, (*SECS '11*), Ben Fielder, (*CAS '08*), and husband and wife Anthony Gallina (*SBA '08*) and Victoria Martinuzzi (*CAS '10*) jointly created and funded the Golden Grizzly Spirit Award to recognize an OU student with exceptional school spirit.

"All of us were very involved when we were students, especially with athletics and the Grizz Gang," said Mostiller, who earned a bachelor's and master's degree from OU. "We wanted to find a way to honor a student who goes above and beyond in showing school spirit. We didn't really see any scholarships that matched that description, so we decided to create one ourselves."

The group set up a \$1,000 award, with hopes of increasing the gift amount and number of donors to the scholarship each year. The scholarship is open to both undergraduate and graduate students and will be awarded to a student in winter 2016. Preference will be given to students involved in the **Grizz Gang**, the OU student organization that Mostiller, Fielder and Gallina co-founded during their undergraduate years. The Grizz Gang has become a mainstay at OU basketball games, with members stationed in the bleachers – decked out in black and gold. Many of the original Grizz Gang members have maintained close ties with OU and each other, Mostiller said. Some are season ticket holders to OU basketball games.

Got Spirit?

Apply for the Golden Grizzly Spirit Award **here**.

"These young OU alums are leading by example in how alumni can come together to give back and enhance the student experience in a meaningful way," said Luke Flee, regional director of development for OU. "Their original idea and gifts have created a perfect fund-able initiative that will recognize current students for their golden grizzly pride and school spirit."

A scholarship committee will be formed to select the winner of the Golden Grizzly Spirit Award. Mostiller said he looks forward to that day and hopes the scholarship will inspire others to make an annual contribution correlated to their passion.

"Everyone can find something to support," Mostiller said. "Whatever your passion is, funding a scholarship is a great way to help others follow that passion too. Every gift makes a difference."

To learn more about OU scholarships and giving opportunities, visit the **website**.



Victoria Martinuzzi (Pictured in 2012)



Ben Fielder (left) and Anthony Gallina (Pictured in 2008)



Left to Right: Ryan Mostiller, Anthony Lewis and Corey Schmidt (Pictured in 2010)



Danny Malendowski (left), Mark LeMerise (Pictured in 2010)