

**Oakland University
Fourteenth Annual
Faculty Recognition Luncheon
April 15, 2009**

Dr. Russi:

- Welcome to the 14th annual Faculty Recognition Luncheon at Oakland University.
- Today we are recognizing, and celebrating, the professional achievements of Oakland University's faculty.
- Together we will honor the creative contributions of our finest teachers, researchers and scholars.
- Before we continue with the awards presentation, however, let's enjoy lunch. [*Lunch is served.*]

Dr. Russi:

- I hope that you enjoyed lunch.
- The achievements of the faculty we honor today are commendable, distinguished and noteworthy.
- To begin our program, it is with pleasure that I introduce our speaker today, Susan Hawkins, associate professor and chair of the Department of English.
- She was the 2008 Teaching Excellence Award recipient.
- Please join me in welcoming Professor Hawkins.

Professor Hawkins:

Professor Hawkins Remarks

Dr. Russi:

- Thank you, Professor Hawkins.
- I want to take a moment to recognize our Board of Trustees for their ongoing support of our university, its faculty and academic programs.
- With us today is Board of Trustees member Rick Flynn. Rick, will you please stand and be recognized?
- I would also like to acknowledge Board member Monica Emerson. Monica?
- Also with us is a member of the President's Campaign Council, Walt Young. Walt, will you please stand?
- To present this year's awards, I am now pleased to welcome the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Virinder Moudgil.

[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. Welcome to our Faculty Recognition program.
- Before we begin, I want to take a moment to recognize our emeriti faculty who have joined us today in support of their fellow faculty and their creative, educational endeavors.
- I would also like to welcome our special guests, the Oakland University Public School Academy.
- Please rise.
- Every year I take great pleasure, and honor, in formally recognizing you, my dedicated colleagues.
- You have set the bar high in exemplary standards for teaching, research, scholarship, creative activities and service.
- You have helped distinguish Oakland as an institution of excellence, committed to providing a distinctive, comprehensive, academic experience to our students.
- Your participation in, and support of, student research endeavors provides valuable hands-on learning experiences and mentorship.
- By including students as partners on challenging research and creative projects, you enrich their educational experience.
- You are also setting Oakland University apart as an academic institution that delivers a unique, real-world education beyond classroom instruction.
- We honor you today for this enthusiastic, selfless dedication to your students, your passion for your profession, and your commitment to Oakland University.
- I will now present the 2009 faculty award winners.

- When I announce your name, please approach the podium to my left to receive your award and proceed across the stage to Dr. Russi before returning to your seat.
- We will begin with the **College of Arts and Sciences**

Ferman Chavez

Associate Professor, Chemistry

- Ferman Chavez is an excellent instructor whose dedication and expertise has led to notable external funding.
- In 2008, he received a five-year Career Development Award from the National Science Foundation, a testament to his persistence in this difficult economy.
- In addition, he has maintained an active research group that has resulted in six peer-reviewed publications, numerous presentations, and student contributions to Meeting of Minds.
- Professor Chavez's efforts not only advance education, but engage in outreach activities with key OU constituent groups.

Christopher Clason

Professor of German, Chair, Modern Languages and Literature

- As chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Christopher Clason has been instrumental in launching majors at OU in Japanese and Chinese.
- He has also worked diligently to strengthen our Italian offerings and implemented an upcoming Hebrew program.
- Last October, Professor Clason played a key role in bringing the 2008 International Conference on Romanticism to Oakland University.
- In addition to his leadership of the department, Clason has served as a member of the University Assessment Committee, chair of the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee, and chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Elections Committee.

Arik Dvir

Associate Professor, Chair of Biological Sciences

- As chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, Professor Dvir has distinguished himself with his high energy and his leadership skills.
- The department launched the Biological Communications specialization in the Ph.D. program, complementing the chemistry and physics specializations.
- He worked collaboratively to develop and implement a joint undergraduate program in Engineering Biology.
- Under his leadership, the department is delivering more classes to students and recruiting outstanding faculty, advancing biological sciences at OU.

David Garfinkle

Professor, Physics

- In 2008, David Garfinkle received the honor of being elected Fellow of the American Physical Society – an honor given to no more than one-half of one percent of society members.
- Also highlighting his expertise, Professor Garfinkle's co-written paper "*Charged Black Holes in String Theory*" has received more than 600 citations in scientific literature – evidence of the major impact he has had in his field.
- In comparison, 100 citations for work is considered significant.
- In addition, Professor Garfinkle is the co-author, with his brother Richard, of the book "*Three Steps to the Universe: From the Sun to Black Holes to the Mystery of Dark Matter.*"

Derek Hastings

Assistant Professor, History

- Derek Hasting's scholarly accomplishments in the past year are particularly impressive.
- Oxford University Press will publish his book, "*Rethinking the Roots of the Nation: Religious Identity and the Birth of the Nazi Movement.*"

- The book examines the impact of a Catholic-dominated culture in Munich on the formation of the Nazi party at the end of World War I.
- Reviewers of the manuscript have all lauded the depth of his research and the insightful quality of his analysis.
- The Oxford University Press was so impressed they have requested an advance option on his next book.

Marshall Kitchen

Associate Professor, Rhetoric

- Marshall Kitchens has been a driving force in the enhancement of the reputation of his department, and Oakland University, on a national level.
- He has been instrumental in the development of the new Department of Writing and Rhetoric.
- As chair of the department he administers nearly 300 sections of writing courses each year.
- Professor Kitchen also recently assumed the directorship of the Meadow Brook Writing Project.
- As director he has worked with teachers in the Macomb Intermediate School District to enhance their professional development as well as delivered a three-day seminar to more than 90 teachers and 50 administrators.

Valerie Palmer-Mehta

Assistant Professor, Communication

- Valerie Palmer-Mehta is a nationally recognized expert in the exploration of how women influence public culture.
- Her work has led to interesting and challenging ideas about public discourse, political power and gender.
- In addition, her chapter in the book *Black Women's Intellectual Traditions: Speaking Their Minds* was part of a volume that received the 2007 Letitia Woods Brown Memorial prize.

- Professor Palmer-Mehta has made a valuable contribution to our understanding of concepts that influence democratic decision-making.

Lakshmi Raman

Assistant Professor, Psychology

- Lakshmi Raman works in developmental psychology at Oakland University.
- She has published a series of research papers in leading journals with worldwide readership.
- Her research focuses on the impact of social and cultural factors on children's physical illnesses.
- Her research will benefit parents and medical personnel in knowing how children process information, and then how best to interact with and treat children.

George Stoffan

Assistant Professor, Music

- George Stoffan's recently released recording features music from contemporary East European composers.
- Titled "A Postcard from Europe," the recording was lauded by *Detroit Free Press* music critic Mark Styrker [Stri-ker].
- In addition to recording, Professor Stoffan performed at the 2008 International Clarinet Association conference in Kansas City.
- He also has performed with the Ann Arbor and Toledo symphonies, at the Troy Public Library concert series, and as principal clarinetist with the Pontiac-Oakland Symphony.

Sally Tardella

Special Instructor of Studio Art

- Since 2006, Sally Tardella has given her time and enthusiasm as adviser to the student art organization, La Pittura.

- Under her guidance, the organization has won the Student Organization of the Year award for two consecutive years.
- In addition, Tardella's involvement on the Studio Art Assessment Committee was one of the keys to the program receiving the University Assessment Award in 2007.
- Tardella serves on numerous committees and boards within the university and community, including as chair of the Fred M. Braun Lecture Committee and the Meeting of Minds committee, and on the board of the Creative Arts Center in Pontiac.

We now turn to the **School of Business Administration**

Donna Free

Special Instructor of Accounting

- In addition to her work as instructor, Donna Free is the Faculty Coordinator of the Master of Accounting program.
- Under her direction, this program has grown from 14 students to more than 70 – a 400 percent increase.
- Free is active in the department, serving as chair of the Learning Assurance Plan Committee and as Faculty Adviser for the student organization, OASIS.
- In addition, she is helping to move the SBA forward by chairing the Career and Development Task Force, which has developed a plan to provide more career and development opportunities to business students.

Karen Markel

Assistant Professor, Management

- Karen Markel's research is centered on adolescent workers, work/life balance and disabled workers.
- Her research on employed adolescents led to the first model to ever examine the inter-role conflict between work and school and was published in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*.

- Her recent grant from Developmental Disabilities Institute at Wayne State University has permitted her to blend this work with research on persons with disabilities.
- In addition, Professor Markel is involved in an historical trace that will examine family friendly workplace policies.

*And now, the **School of Education of Human Services***

Eric Follo

Professor, Education

- During Eric Follo's 49-year career (18 at OU), he has been a leader, a mentor and a teacher.
- He was instrumental in the development of many new instructional degree programs.
- These include Oakland's Ph.D. in Education and the master's in Educational Leadership program, among others.
- He has also been an integral part in developing or redesigning many of the 17 different courses he taught at Oakland.
- In the Ph.D. program, Professor Follo has chaired four dissertation committees and currently serves on five others.

John McEneaney

Professor, Education, Reading and Language Arts

- John McEneaney has a profound interest in the intersection of philosophy, cognitive psychology and human response to information.
- Professor McEneaney had two published articles, in the same year, in *Reading Research Quarterly*.
- Getting published in this journal is regarded by many people in reading and language arts research as being the pinnacle of their publication record.

- In addition, McEneaney has been published in a wide variety of print and online journals as diverse as *Journal of Educational Computing Research*, *International Journal of Social Education* and *Reading Teacher*.
- He received the National Reading Conference's Albert J. Kingston Award, given to the person who contributes most to the activities of the premier literacy research institution.
- As a Kingston awardee, he joins a distinguished list of recipients, many of whom are in the Reading Hall of Fame.

Luellen Ramey

Associate Professor, Education, Counseling

- Luellen Ramey has served as an Oakland University faculty member since 1981 and provided leadership as chair of the Counseling Department for the last 13 years.
- As a result of her leadership, the department experienced tremendous growth in programming, faculty and recognition.
- Ramey was instrumental in the development of the doctoral program, multiple counseling specializations, Macomb programming, the Counseling Center and the Adult Career Counseling Center.
- More recent efforts include initiating a formal collaboration with the University of Botswana to exchange knowledge and skills of counseling through an international lens.

We now turn to the **School of Engineering and Computer Science**

Michael Latcha

Associate Professor, Engineering, Mechanical Engineering

- In preparation for the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology visit in fall 2008, Michael Latcha led the way with an overhaul of the school's assessment process.
- This included enhancements to program objectives, program outcomes, alumni surveys and on-line course evaluations.

- In addition, Professor Latcha has shown great innovation through the development of the school's multidisciplinary Senior Design Program.
- This is one of only a few such programs in the country and has led to a great deal of national attention for Oakland University.

Jia Li

Assistant Professor, Engineering, Electrical, Computer Engineering

- With research support from the National Science Foundation and General Motors, Jia Li established the Signal Processing and Wireless Communications Laboratory in OU's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.
- Also, in collaboration with General Motors, TRW and OnStar, a test-bed has been constructed to evaluate the performance of intra-vehicle wireless sensor networks.
- Li has many on-going research projects in collaboration with other research institutions, including William Beaumont Hospital, University of Michigan Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine.
- Her collaboration with Yang Xia, professor of Physics, led to a \$2.2-million grant from The National Institute of Health in 2008.
- Li has received external funding from some of the most prestigious organizations, such as National Science Foundation, National Institute of Health, General Motors, and Aerospace Corporation.

*We will now move on to the **School of Health Sciences**.*

Patricia Wren

Assistant Professor, Wellness, Health Promotion and Injury Prevention

- Patricia A. Wren's research is focused on quality of life, functional status and other patient-centered outcomes.
- Wren has co-authored a dozen peer-reviewed publications on such important and varied health topics as ulcerative colitis, glaucoma, female pelvic floor disorders and sleep apnea.

- Wren was the principal investigator on a \$300,000 study sponsored by National Institutes of Health and National Eye Institute titled, “Concordance of Clinical and Quality of Life Measures.”
- She currently serves as the evaluation specialist on a summer research program for undergraduate students interested in nanotechnology at Auburn University, in Auburn, Alabama.
- She is a consultant developing a novel, valid disease activity index for clinical research in ulcerative colitis funded by the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America.

*We will now present awards to faculty in the **School of Nursing***

Barbara Harrison

Assistant Professor, Nursing

- Funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research, Barbara Harrison’s research focuses on the memory and cognitive features of dementia behaviors.
- Her manuscript on a model for “Use of Preserved Implicit Memory” for people with dementia was also published in *American Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease*.
- It also received international interest from colleagues in South Korea, where Harrison was invited as the 2008 keynote speaker in Seoul at the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Korean Gerontological Nurses Association.
- Her significant scholarly contributions at Oakland University include being a principal investigator and a co-investigator on two Oakland-Beaumont research projects in 2008.
- The results were presented at an international Gerontological Society of America conference in November 2008.

We now turn to the **Eye Research Institute**.

Andrew Goldberg

Associate Professor, Biomedical Sciences

- Andrew Goldberg's research focuses on the science of vision and the role that the retina plays in the visual process.
- He studies an important protein called peripherin/rds, which is present in the photoreceptor cells of the retina.
- In 2007, Goldberg successfully renewed his National Institute of Health grant to study the role of peripherin in the retina for a period of five years and a total award of \$1.8 million.
- In 2008, Goldberg also received three years of funding from the E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation for the Blind.
- Goldberg was chosen for the award by the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board, which is comprised of vision researchers from Harvard, UCLA and Yale.

Let's thank all of our recipients.

- We will now award the Assessment Excellence Award in recognition of a department that 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 2009 Assessment Excellence Award Winner is the Music Program in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance.
- I invite John-Paul White, Music Program Director, to join me to receive this award on behalf of the school.
- The Music Program exemplifies the assessment of student learning outcomes as an integral part of the teaching and learning process.
- Faculty work collaboratively to embed assessment as a process to continually learn more about the impact of their program on what students know and are able to do.
- The faculty of the Music Department is to be commended for the effort they put into their assessment activities.
- They fully demonstrate what the North Central Association terms a "mature culture of assessment."

I will now recognize the recipient of the 2009 **Distinguished Professor Award**.

- **Judith K. Brown**, professor of Anthropology, has been a dedicated teacher at Oakland University for more than four decades.
- She is a trailblazer in the anthropological study of women's lives in societies across the cultural spectrum.
- Brown's cross-cultural research on the sexual division of labor, women's life cycle, female hierarchies, and domestic violence has been instrumental in carving new paths of inquiry regarding sex and gender.
- Her influential article, "A Cross-Cultural Study of Female Initiation Rites," was first published in 1963 and has since become a classic.

- Brown has also been credited with being among the first anthropologists to examine domestic violence as a cross-cultural problem.
- Brown's vital contributions to the field of feminist anthropology, her dedication to teaching and mentoring, and her service to national professional organizations and to Oakland University merit the rank of Distinguished Professor.

I will now recognize the 2009 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 **Barbara Penprase**, associate professor of Nursing.
- Professor Penprase began her Oakland teaching career in 1996 with specializations in medical-surgical nursing, critical care nursing, nurse leadership, organizational change, and hospital administration and management.
- Penprase developed and implemented the Accelerated Second Degree Nursing program at OU including collaborative relationships with Beaumont Hospitals and St. Johns Health Systems.
- She has been involved in or the primary project director for more than \$3 million in funding to support the ASDN program.
- She was also one of four faculty members who developed and implemented the online RN-BSN.
- Penprase's dedication and enthusiasm for innovation has provided scores of students the opportunity to continue their education and achieve their dreams.
- We are proud to confer upon Barbara Penprase the 2009 Oakland University Teaching Excellence Award.

- **Andrei Slavin**, professor of Physics, is this year's **Research Excellence Award** winner.
- Professor Slavin joined Oakland University in 1991.
- He is a specialist in linear and nonlinear spin wave dynamics in finite-size magnetic samples and has published more than 130 research papers in this field.
- His current research interests cover the areas of current-induced magnetization dynamics in magnetic nano-structures, Bose-Einstein condensation of magnons at room temperature, and microwave signal processing using parametric interactions of spin waves in magnetic films.
- Oakland University is proud to confer upon Andrei Slavin the 2009 Oakland University Research Excellence Award.
- **Huirong Fu**, assistant professor of Engineering, is this year's **New Investigator Research Excellence Award** recipient.
- Huirong Fu's most current research includes a National Science Foundation CCLI program grant in which she is studying, in collaboration with professor Xiaodong Deng and Patrick Corbett, the first phase of *Information Assurance and Security Education with a Multidisciplinary Collaborative Approach in a Realistic Environment*.
- She also received an Australian Research Council Linkage grant to research, in collaboration with Liren Zhang, *Networked Ultra Wideband Radar Sensor for Positioning, Target Tracking and Communications in Urban Environments*.
- Professor Fu has published more than 17 journal papers and 38 conference papers on her work.
- OU is proud to confer upon Professor Fu the 2009 Oakland University New Investigator Research Excellence Award.
- Oakland University also recognizes excellence in teaching by a non-tenure track or part-time instructor.

- This year's winner of the **Excellence in Teaching Award** is **Masae Yasuda**, special lecturer in Japanese.
- Masae Yasuda's goal is to open the door for students who are interested in Japanese language and culture.
- Her belief that Japanese should be conveyed to students as a real means to communicate with people, not just an academic subject, inspires students to persist in learning difficult and challenging material.
- Yasuda says that "when learning is fun, students learn more," and thus creates a learning environment where students can excel.
- Her students second this with comments including: "She is so happy and joyful, that she inspires us, not only as a native Japanese speaker, but also as a person."
- Oakland University is proud to confer upon Masae Yasuda the 2009 Oakland University Excellence in Teaching Award.
- I will now turn the program over to Dr. Russi, who will offer concluding remarks for our faculty recognition program.

Dr. Russi:

- Congratulations to each of this year's exceptional and deserving recipients.
- Your dedication and commitment enhances the quality of Oakland University, the awareness of our comprehensive, distinctive programs, and the educational experience of our students.
- We are also acknowledging today the successful conclusion – one year early – of "Innovation and Opportunity – The Campaign for OU."
- I hope each of you will join our students, staff, alumni and friends downstairs in the Fireside Lounge to celebrate reaching our campaign goal.
- Thank you, and have a good afternoon.