



Monday, September 24, 2001

Alumni, friends honored at awards banquet

The **Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA)** honored eight OU friends and alums at the university's alumni awards banquet Friday, Sept. 21, at Meadow Brook Hall.

"Our honorees are truly dedicated alumni and friends of the university," said Adrienne Bass, interim director of alumni relations for OU. "Through their time, talent and energy they have made a difference today - and that difference will continue into the future."

Various university representatives, including OU President Gary Russi, welcomed the 300 attendees that gathered to honor the award recipients.

In his opening remarks, Russi acknowledged this as a difficult and unsettling time for our nation. He also said "It's part of the healing process for us that we are able to take time to celebrate special people like our alumni award recipients who do their part to make our world a better place."

OU alum, WXYZ-TV anchor and meteorologist, Kim Adams was mistress of ceremonies. In her first speaking engagement since the attack on America, Adams spoke of her pride in being an Oakland graduate.

"Never have I been more proud to call Oakland University my school," she said as she related several examples of how OU students and employees have reacted in the days following the terrorist attacks. One example she gave was of an Arab-American OU employee who attended a forum on OU's campus and talked about the respect and caring she's receiving from her colleagues since the attack.

Despite completing graduate work at several other universities, Adams said, "whenever someone asks me where I went to school, I always say 'Oakland University.'"

The awards presented at the banquet include the Distinguished Alumni Service Award, which is OU's highest alumni honor that recognizes outstanding alumni leadership and service to the Alumni Association or the university; Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, recognizing outstanding professional achievement or contributions to the community; Odyssey Award, which recognizes alumni whose lives exemplify OU's motto "to seek virtue and knowledge;" Spirit Award, recognizing exemplary volunteer service to the university; and the Honorary Alumnus/a Award, which recognizes non-OU alumni/ae who have given outstanding service to the university.

Besides honoring award recipients, the event helped raise money for the OU Alumni Scholarship fund.

"Your support tonight gives Oakland the ability to make a difference in the lives of some very special, bright and hard-working OU students," said John Ganfield, OUAA treasurer and first vice president for BankOne.

2001 Alumni Award Recipients

Distinguished Alumni Service Award

- James Wilbert, School of Business Administration '73, is a managing partner for Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP. He has served on the OUAA Board of Directors since 1995, is a founding member of the OU Accounting Department Advisory Board and a charter member of the School of Business Administration Alumni Affiliate Board. He also is a member of the SBA Board of Visitors and OU President's Club.

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

- Robert McGowan, MA '74, CAS '67, is the senior vice president and partner of Smith-Winchester. He has spent more than 10 years supplying the Food Bank of Oakland County with fresh, organically grown vegetables. McGowan serves on the Oakland County Food Bank Board of Directors and is involved with Imagine/Render, Habitat for Humanity, Leadership Counsel and Michigan State University Extension Oakland County. He also produces the "Capabilities" brochure for the Hunger Action Coalition Detroit.

The Odyssey Award

- Patricia Book, CAS '72, is the associate vice president for Outreach and executive director for the Division of Continuing Education at Pennsylvania State University. She is involved with the University Continuing Education Association and the International Committee at Penn State. She also is a member of the International Council for Distance Education World Conference Planning Committee, National University Continuing Education Association Board of Directors and is the chair of the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts. Book has published numerous conference and technical reports.

The Spirit Award

- Stanley Babiuk, School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) '73, is the senior vice president for project development at ANR Pipeline Company. He is a member of OU's President's Club and the OUAA Board of Directors, in which he serves as the chair of the Nominating and Bylaws Committee. He also is a member of the Foundation Board of Directors at State University of New York Oswego. Babiuk is actively involved with OU's School of Engineering and Computer Science and supported a Graduate Fellowship and Engineering Scholarship program in cooperation with ANR Pipeline Company.
- Chris Catallo, CAS '90, is the vice president and founder of Sv3 Media Group in Rochester. He worked with Oakland University on a contract to redevelop its Web site. He has participated in OU's Applied Technology in Business Program and contributed two two-year student scholarships through Sv3 Media Group. Catallo also has hired many Oakland University students and alumni into his company.

Honorary Alumnus/a Award

- Margaret Allesee is a retired teacher and journalist. She is the OU Foundation director and is a member of the School of Nursing Board of Visitors, Meadow Brook Theatre Board, and the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance Board. She is a major contributor to the School of Nursing for an endowed chair in gerontology. Allesee also is a board member for the Karmanos Cancer Institute, Cranbrook, Women's Survival Center, Michigan Opera Theatre, Common Ground Sanctuary, Lighthouse in Pontiac.
- John Savio, is the vice president of the Oakland University Branch of the MSU Federal Credit Union. He has served as a member of the OU Senate Athletic Advisory Committee, OU Athletic Mascot Committee, OU Presidential Task Force- Creating the Future, School of Business Administration Board of Visitors and President's Club. He also is involved with Project Upward Bound, the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce, Boys and Girls Club of Auburn Hills and the Kid Saver Program for Avondale Schools.
- George Seifert is the director of the Rochester Foundation. He also is a member of the OU Foundation Board, Investment and Gift Policy Committee, School of Business Administration Board of Directors and is an adviser to the Dean for the School of Business Administration. He also has provided scholarship funds to students in the College of Arts and Sciences.

SUMMARY

The Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) honored eight OU friends and alums at the university's alumni awards banquet Friday, Sept. 21, at Meadow Brook Hall.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Monday, September 24, 2001

Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Monday, September 24, 2001

Article Start Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2003