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Compton named 2003 Outstanding AP

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

After 34 years as laboratory manager for Oakland University's **Department of Chemistry**, Jerry Compton says the most rewarding aspect isn't working with test tubes, beakers or other lab equipment but with people.

"I really enjoy working with my colleagues and students," Compton said. "In addition to managing the teaching labs, hiring teaching assistants and other administrative duties, I teach one section of general chemistry every semester. I think my duties as an administrator help me as a teacher, and my students benefit by having me here on campus, even though I have 'part-time' status as an instructor. I like my job because I'm not far removed from the students."

For his superlative management of the teaching labs, contributions to a large number of department projects and university committees, innovative teaching, and other professional activities, Compton was named Outstanding Administrative Professional for 2003. The award is given annually to an AP who has demonstrated extraordinary effort in support of the institutional mission and strategic plan, has shown a cooperative spirit, and has performed community and university service.

"When I learned that I received this award, I took a look back at those who received it in past years," Compton said. "To be put in that class is very rewarding. It's like being put on the all-star team. It's really an honor to be grouped with the previous award winners."

In addition to managing and maintaining the teaching laboratories, which close to 1,000 students pass through each year, Compton hires all department teaching assistants and graders, coordinates the annual lab safety meetings, provides support for department researchers, processes administrative paperwork for the department's graduate students, monitors the department's general fund account, authorizes general fund purchases, and administers the department's undergraduate scholarship awards. He also is chair of the University Instrument Shop Committee and supervises its personnel, has contributed to many departmental and university committees, and acted as a liaison between diverse areas of the university.

"I also enjoy organizing teachers nights for local high school chemistry teachers and judging local high school science fairs,"

Compton said "It was also an honor to be the keynote speaker at the Golden Key International Honour Society's induction ceremony (in 2001). I've had a very supportive staff all these years and department chairs who have allowed me the freedom to perform my job and be creative." Compton will receive an award plaque and \$1,000 stipend at the AP Assembly award ceremony on Friday, Oct. 3, at 3:30 p.m. in the Oakland Center Banquet Room. The ceremony is open to all students, faculty and staff. For more information, contact Jennifer Gilroy at (248) 370-4582 or gilroy@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

After 34 years as laboratory manager for Oakland University's Department of Chemistry, Jerry Compton says the most rewarding aspect isn't working with test tubes, beakers or other lab equipment but with people. For his superlative management of the teaching labs, contributions to a large number of department projects and university committees, innovative teaching, and other professional activities, Compton was named Outstanding Administrative Professional for 2003.

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