



Friday, April 16, 2004

## Founders' Day honors benefactors, merchants

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

Dennis Pawley, an Oakland University alumnus and trustee, and his wife, Carlotta, have long been generous supporters and benefactors to the university. Their deep devotion to the institution, which stretches over three decades, has impacted OU students and faculty in countless ways. In January, the Pawleys extended their generous support to future generations by making a \$4 million gift to Oakland. In recognition of the gift and the Pawleys' long history at Oakland, the university named the Education and Human Services Building the Carlotta and Dennis Pawley Hall as part of this year's Founders' Day celebration.

In addition to the Pawley Hall name unveiling, Founders' Day, which took place April 15, also honored Oakland's academic excellence in the areas of teaching, scholarship, research and service at the ninth annual **Faculty Recognition Luncheon**. Later that evening, OU celebrated its recently formed partnership with Rochester by hosting a special dinner for downtown merchants and City of Rochester Mayor Karen Lewis.

Hundreds of OU faculty, staff, students, friends and community members gathered outside Pawley Hall for the special ceremony in which the name of the building was unveiled.

"It is only appropriate that Dennis' name, along with Carlotta's, grace the building before us as a permanent testament to the Pawleys' generosity and leadership," OU President Gary Russi said. "As we stand on the threshold of the university's first comprehensive fund-raising campaign, it is the leadership and commitment to excellence of donors like the Pawleys that will make our campaign successful."

Downplaying the display of his name on the building, Pawley focused his remarks on the impact his gift will have for years to come.

"It's a great day for the university and community, and I'm thrilled to give this gift," Pawley said. "I'm really humbled by these celebrations. But putting your name on a building is not what life is all about. The true measure of your success is not material things, but what you leave behind for future generations."

Pawley also made reference to his active role as an educator at Oakland when he spoke of working with students in the **Pawley Lean Learning Institute**, which he established with a \$1 million gift in 2002.

"People ask me why I spend so much time in the School of Education. I tell them it's because the payback is unbelievable," Pawley said. "To see what students have accomplished after only three or four months of studying lean learning is amazing and very fulfilling. I really get a lift out of talking with students."

"I have a model that I've followed throughout my life: if you can't teach, you can't lead. No matter how much knowledge you have in any field, it's really become a people world, and you need to be able to transfer your knowledge and experience to be successful. You constantly have to be a role model for the people in your organization."

Teresa Hughes, a master's student of training and development in Oakland's Human Resource Development Department, is completing a research project on lean principles. In her remarks, she spoke of the impact the Pawleys' gifts will have on industry.

"I see Dennis Pawley as a spirited man with a large heart. His generosity will not only lead to lean transformation, but to the transformation of students who will get to research opportunities and learn about leading industry standards practiced globally," Hughes said. "The university will strengthen its notable reputation and attract new students. The community will benefit from being involved in research and hiring OU students who are highly educated. Students around our country can use the findings from this project as a springboard to conduct further research. And the

economy will benefit as local industries look to eliminate waste and inconsistency and reduce lead times and defects.”

President Russi also presented a framed photograph of Pawley Hall to the Pawleys prior to unveiling the building's name. A reception was held afterwards in the building's first floor.

“This is a tremendous leadership gift to the university,” said Vice President for University Relations Sue Goepf. “Dennis Pawley's leadership will inspire so many people to devote their energies to their alma mater and lead the future for our students. He constantly gives back to the institution and has supported us in countless ways. It's a beautiful legacy for a beautiful building.”

Pawley Hall, which opened in fall 2002, is a state-of-the-art 130,000-square-foot building housing Oakland's **School of Education and Human Services**. The hall contains 31 classrooms, eight conference rooms, 163 offices for faculty and staff and also houses the Lowry Center for Early Childhood Education. The building is known as one of Oakland's architectural gems and recently was featured in a special issue of the “Construction Association of Michigan Magazine” in a 10-page article about its planning, design and construction. The article states, “This new facility definitely raises the bar, not only in terms of quality teacher education, but also for the many services that the school provides to OU students as well as the surrounding community.”

Pawley graduated from OU's School of Education and Human Services in 1982. He served on the **OU Foundation** Board of Directors from 1993-96 and 1999-2002. He currently is a member of the **OU Board of Trustees** and had served on the board from 1996-98. He is chair and CEO of Pawley Enterprises in Farmington, Mich. In 1997, he and Carlotta donated \$2 million to support Oakland's **School of Education and Human Services** and **School of Engineering and Computer Science**.

During the dinner honoring the partnership OU has with Rochester, a video presentation was made highlighting the unique offerings of Rochester and OU. Eight students from Oakland's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance also provided vocal and dance performances.

“We're hoping that you'll have even more opportunity and reason to come to campus, get to know our students, faculty and alumni and generally benefit from the growth and activities of our university,” said President Russi in his dinner remarks. “In turn, I am expecting that Oakland students, faculty and alumni will frequent your stores, coffee houses, art galleries and restaurants in greater numbers and take advantage of the rich history and amenities of the Rochester community.”

“As plans progress, my hope is that interns will be placed in various businesses, and you will see an OU presence in storefronts and in downtown events, like the tree-lighting festivities, holiday parade, sidewalk sales and others...I am looking forward to an exciting future as our partnership continues to develop and we share our services, products and expertise with each other and our students and residents.”

Hosted by the Office of the President, Founders' Day honors the memory of benefactors Alfred and Matilda Dodge Wilson, who donated 1,500 acres and \$2 million to establish Oakland University.

#### **SUMMARY**

Dennis and Carlotta Pawley have long been generous supporters and benefactors to the university. In January, the Pawleys extended their generous support to future generations by making a \$4 million gift to Oakland. In recognition of the gift and the Pawleys' long history at Oakland, the university named the Education and Human Services Building the Carlotta and Dennis Pawley Hall as part of this year's Founders' Day celebration.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Friday, April 16, 2004

Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Friday, April 16, 2004

Article Start Date: Monday, April 19, 2004