



Wednesday, March 10, 2004

## Oakland University to award two honorary degrees

Oakland University's Board of Trustees will award two honorary degrees this year. One during the university's spring commencement and one during the its fall commencement on the university's campus.

The two honorary degrees will be awarded to distinguished Michigan Senator Carl Levin and Doris Eaton Travis, former Ziegfeld Follies girl and stage and film actress.

Levin's honorary degree of Doctor of Laws will be given during the School of Engineering and Computer Science, and School of Business Administration's spring commencement ceremony being held May 1. This award recognizes his accomplishments and service within the scope of the arts, sciences, professions and public service, as recognized and supported by the university.

Levin, the longest serving senator in Michigan history, was first elected in 1978 and is now in his fifth term. He is widely admired by colleagues and constituents of all political persuasions for his diligent work on the Armed Services and Governmental Affairs Committees, and for his principled positions on important public issues of the day, such as accountability in government spending and the protection of ordinary citizens from the effects of powerful institutions.

Levin was born in Detroit in 1934, where he graduated from Central High School. He later attended Swarthmore College and earned his law degree in 1959 from Harvard University.

Travis is a distinguished dancer and supporter of the performing arts. Her honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities will be awarded during fall commencement in December. The degree recognizes Travis' accomplishments and service within the scope of the arts, sciences, professions and public service, as recognized and supported by the university.

Travis, a former Ziegfeld Follies girl, had a long career as a stage and film actress. At age 76, she attended the University of Oklahoma, and in 1992, at age 88, she graduated with a degree in History.

Her story has gained national attention from CNN, The New York Times, National Public Radio, "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno, and the "Rosie O'Donnell" show.

At Oakland University, she established the Doris and Paul Travis Professor Program where one faculty member from Music, Theatre, Dance, Art and Art History (a total of four), is selected for outstanding accomplishments in teaching, research and/or professional services, to receive an annual salary supplement of \$5,000 and a faculty development fund of \$1,700.

Doris and her late husband Paul were social friends of Alfred and Matilda Wilson, founders of Oakland University. Doris and Paul frequently visited Meadow Brook Hall during their years living in Michigan.

### SUMMARY

Oakland University's Board of Trustees will award two honorary degrees during the university's spring commencement, which will be held Saturday, May 1, on the university's campus.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Article Start Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2004