

2006 Founders' Day - Faculty Recognition

April 18, 2006

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Dr. Gary Russi, president – Welcome Remarks

Welcome to the 11th annual Faculty Recognition Luncheon at Oakland University.

Thank you for joining us as we salute this year's accomplished teachers, researchers and scholars.

I would like to take a moment to thank the Oakland University Board of Trustees for their constant support of our faculty and their creative endeavors. With us is Board of Trustees Chair Penny Crissman.

Also with us are directors of the OU Alumni Association.

Please stand as I call your name:

- Leo Bowman
- Susan Evans
- Julie Granthen, and
- Adam Kochenderfer

On this Founders' Day, we celebrate the creativity and scholarly achievements of our faculty and reflect on our progress as an institution since 1957, and as we approach our 50th anniversary.

Each Founders' Day, we look forward to formally recognizing, encouraging and supporting faculty teaching and research excellence, scholarly productivity, creative achievements and community service.

Your contributions in and outside of the classroom enable Oakland University students to enter the workforce or graduate school highly prepared and ready to make a difference in the world around them.

Many of you have had your work published in leading journals, earned prestigious research grants and are renowned experts in your fields.

Our speaker today, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry Michael Sevilla, exemplifies that excellence at Oakland University.

Please join me in welcoming Michael Sevilla.

Michael Sevilla, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry

Thank you, Dr. Russi, for your kind introduction.

I have been asked to say a few words about receiving the rank of Distinguished Professor. First let me say that I am pleased to have attained this honor as it is the highest professorial level at Oakland University.

When considering this honor I realized that I did not achieve it on my own. In fact, I believe that we could all agree that our successes are not achieved by our individual efforts alone. A whole supporting organizational structure literally from birth is needed to allow each of us to make our contributions.

Our gifts could not be fully realized without this social structure that support and encourages our efforts. For academics none of us can claim more than a modest contribution to the overall acquisition of knowledge and understanding of this world. One must recognize those that came before, those who paved the way to a clearer understanding of our respective fields but even more so to those who personally guided the individual along the right path.

Thus, honors and awards such as these presented to you today are not only symbols of our individual successes but also the success of us all as a community. With this in mind I would like to offer my sincerest gratitude to all those who led me on the right path.

This includes parents, teachers, professors, colleagues, co-workers and especially Oakland University for providing me the opportunity and the excellent milieu to do what I love most -- research and teaching. It is in this way that I do my part to complete the circle by helping the next generation.

Dr. Moudgil: Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Thank you, Dr. Russi, and good afternoon everyone.

I am honored to formally recognize these outstanding individuals who have set the highest standards in teaching, research, scholarship, creative activities and service.

Through their remarkable accomplishments, our inspired faculty members distinguish Oakland as an institution committed to delivering a distinctive academic experience.

Many of you here participate in undergraduate research endeavors. By including students on challenging research projects, you provide valuable hands-on learning experiences. You are also setting Oakland University apart as an academic institution that delivers a unique, real-world education beyond classroom instruction.

We gather here today to show you our appreciation in the presence of your peers and family members. Your enthusiastic, unwavering dedication to your students, colleagues and Oakland University makes all the difference.

I will now present the 2006 faculty award winners.

College of Arts and Sciences

Peter Binkert, Professor and Chair, Linguistics

The Hispanic Outreach Program, created in 1998 under Professor Binkert's direction, provides free English classes to residents of Pontiac through the support of corporate and government sponsorship.

The ESL Endorsement Program to Teacher Certification, also championed by Dr. Binkert, will start its third cohort in fall 2006 and he has helped develop a partnership with the Arts and Technology Academy of Pontiac.

During his term as chair, Peter Binkert has overseen significant growth within the Department of Linguistics, which in 1988 had 12 student majors and four faculty and now consists of more than 70 undergraduate and graduate majors and seven full-time faculty members.

Todd Estes, Associate Professor, History

The past year was an extremely productive one for associate professor of History, Todd Estes. His scholarly interests, which extend across a broad range of topics, from the art and practice of writing early American history to recent electoral politics, resulted in the publication of three book reviews, two essay reviews, two journal articles and the presentation of a paper at the annual convention of the American Historical Association.

Capping these achievements was the publication of his book on early American politics, *The Jay Treaty Debate, Public Opinion, and the Evolution of Early American Political Culture*, by the University of Massachusetts Press.

The past year's projects have served as inspiration for a new summer project funded by an Oakland University Research Fellowship; Dr. Estes has titled this new study "The Campaign for the Constitution: Political Culture and the Ratification Contest."

Alice Horning, Professor, Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism

Alice Horning has a long history of providing intellectual leadership to the Rhetoric program. Her recent work in revision, literacy development and the psycholinguistics of reading and writing, singled out for the president's colloquium lecture two years ago, is just one example of her continued efforts to deepen understanding of the writing process.

Dr. Horning has been a major force in the development of several Oakland University initiatives, including the Writing Center, Festival of Writing, and Community Book Program. In addition, her most recent co-edited volume with Anne Becker, called *Revision: History, Theory and Practice*, drawing on the experiences of Oakland University faculty, demonstrates her ability to engage others in serious study and reflection.

Last year, working with student affairs, Professor Horning contributed her own funds to create a special emergency loan program for students with health issues, an initiative that will have direct impact on their well-being.

David Kidger, Associate Professor of Musicology, Music, Theatre and Dance

Outstanding historical scholarship is a hallmark of David Kidger's talents and resulted in the recent publication of a noted solo-authored book and important edited manuscripts. The book, *Adrian Willaert: A Guide to Research*, published in 2004 by Routledge, New York, presents for the first time a complete appraisal of the manuscript and print sources of one of the principal composers of the Renaissance period and a most important figure in the musical life of 16th-century Venice.

The book provides a complete appraisal of the scholarly literature on Willaert and his music.

Linda Morrison, Assistant Professor, Sociology and Anthropology

Linda Morrison is an outstanding scholar in the sociology of mental health who has focused her research on the patients' rights movement. In particular, she has investigated patients' advocacy social movement organizations and how they seek to acquire a measure of power over peoples' lives in relation to established medical and scientific institutions.

Her book, *Talking Back to Psychiatry: The Psychiatric/Survivor/Ex-Patient Movement*, was published in 2005 by Rutledge Press and represents the culmination of her research over the past ten years.

Due to her insightful analysis and understanding of the struggles between advocacy groups and legitimized power structures, she has been invited to speak before a variety of scientific and patients' rights audiences.

Ingrid Rieger, Assistant Professor of German, Modern Languages and Literatures

Ingrid Rieger has distinguished herself within the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures by her innovative and highly communicative style of teaching that makes learning a foreign language fun for students and quickly builds their level of proficiency.

Her classroom atmosphere is enjoyable yet challenging and demanding. Language acquisition and cultural knowledge are aided by the use of skits, interviews, games, music and video production. This past year, she co-produced a video titled "Pathways to Learning German at Oakland University," with a graduating senior in German.

The video present insights into the learning process in the foreign language classroom and highlights of the student filmmaker's exchange year at the University of Oldenburg, Oakland's partner university.

Janice Schimmelman, Professor, Art and Art History

Jan Schimmelman's book on the American tintype has been accepted for publication by the American Philosophical Society, the oldest scholarly association in the United States. This is a prestigious venue and an appropriate one for a book that represents the culmination of many years of study and collecting.

The book will fill an important need for scholars of American social history, history of art and history of photography, as well as collectors and enthusiasts. American tintypes are a rich source of information about American social history and popular art, yet they have never to date been the subject of a comprehensive published study.

Mark Severson, Professor and Chair, Chemistry

Dedicated service to the Department of Chemistry and Oakland University is inherent to Mark Severson, who has served in a variety of key roles in his 23 years at Oakland. As chair of Chemistry, he is highly regarded throughout the department for his leadership skills and even-handed approach to problem-solving.

Severson also serves as the chair of the Dean Advisory Committee, coordinating the search for a leader for the College of Arts and Sciences. He is also chair of this year's College of Arts and Sciences planning committee for the "Environmental Explorations" theme, responsible for the conception of various related events and activities.

In service to his discipline, Dr. Severson has twice served as organizer of the Telluride Summer Research Workshops, in 2000 and 2004, prestigious gatherings that bring together the top 20 to 30 researchers in this subject area.

Anna Spagnuolo, Associate Professor, Mathematics and Statistics

In the past year Anna Spagnuolo has continued her widely recognized work studying fluid flow in porous media, collaborating with colleagues at the University of Michigan on studies modeling disease in the human body, specifically *Virbrio cholerae*.

She has also collaborated with colleagues in her own department on modeling and solving problems related to an artificial heart pump.

With researchers in the Departments of Biological Sciences and the School of Engineering and Computer Science, she has developed models for studying brain tumors and cancer detection.

Gopalan Srinivasan, Professor, Physics

Gopalan Srinivasan exemplifies excellence in scholarship for his research into the physics of magnetoelectric interactions in heterostructures of ferromagnetic and ferroelectric oxides.

As a result of prolific research and findings, he published more than 25 research papers in the most prestigious scientific journals in his discipline during 2004 and 2005. Dr. Srinivasan has received research grants from a variety of sources within government and industry, including

Delphi Automotive, the Army Research Office, the Office of Naval Research, and the National Science Foundation.

School of Business Administration

Xiadong Deng, Assistant Professor, Decision and Information Sciences

During his brief time at Oakland University, Professor Xiadong Deng has been active in research.

His research in behavioral and motivational issues related to information technology and knowledge work has led to seven journal articles, one book chapter, and nineteen refereed conference proceedings articles.

He has published his research in some of the most prestigious journals in the information systems field including the Journal of Management Information Systems, Information & Management, and Decision Sciences.

Mark Simon, Associate Professor, Management and Marketing

During this past year, Mark Simon has developed and taught three new courses, including International Entrepreneurship, Marketing Entrepreneurship and Retail Management. He has also supervised eight independent studies. Working closely with Walgreens, he has provided his students with unique, real world opportunities.

Walgreens is allowing Oakland students to place six products in 25 of their stores, donating the profit to Oakland. Students apply what they learn in class to select the goods, negotiate the terms and manage the inventory. In addition, they develop unique personal selling and merchandising strategies to sell the goods.

Dr. Simon was the faculty adviser for the student organization, Students In Free Enterprise. Last year, SIFE conducted nearly 100 workshops in more than a dozen programs, for more than 1,000 economically disadvantaged teens. These programs range from teaching personal financial skills to a ten-day residential entrepreneurship camp.

School of Education and Human Services

Janet Graetz, Assistant Professor, Human Development and Child Studies

Janet Graetz joined Oakland University in fall 2003, and has contributed significantly to the efforts of the department, university and the profession. Her service includes responsibility for the departmental website, contributing as a member of the E-Lis advisory group, coordinating the Special Education Accreditation review with the Council for Exceptional Children, and serving as a representative to the Equity and Multicultural Committee, and consultant to Lowry Early Childhood Educational Center regarding behavioral issues.

She is also heavily involved in activities related to autism, both under the auspices of Jack's Place for Autism at OU and with Oakland students identified with Asperger's syndrome. Dr. Graetz has provided leadership for the department in the area of technology, including training for faculty in WebCT, modeling new innovations.

James Hansen, Associate Professor, Counseling

James Hansen has single-authored more than twenty refereed articles in the top-tier journals of the counseling profession. Notably, eight of these have been accepted for publication by the *Journal of Counseling & Development*, the flagship journal of the American Counseling Association.

Professor Hansen's primary scholarly focus is theoretical and philosophical issues in counseling. Specifically, he is interested in epistemology [ee pist i mology], neopragmatism, and theoretical integration of counseling orientations.

Dr. Hansen has also contributed multiple articles to counseling literature in the areas of professional identity development and critical analyses of contemporary mental health culture. Dr. Hansen's work is widely cited by counseling theorists and researchers.

Michael Long, Associate Professor, Human Resource Development

Michael Long serves as chair of the Department of Human Resource Development, and is the academic coordinator of the Labor and Employment Studies minor. He presents each course from a labor/management neutral point of view, and speaks in terms of employment rights and responsibilities as they apply to all employees.

In realization of the evolving nature of the labor/management/employment environment, Professor Long concentrates on universally held principles and their application to the current employment environment.

Dr. Long brings to the classroom his skills and expertise as a lawyer, honored labor/employment relations neutral, and an experienced instructor.

School of Engineering and Computer Science

Fatma Mili, Professor, Computer Science and Engineering

Fatma Mili has been leading efforts in nurturing and diversifying scholars in the areas of computing and information technology. She was recently awarded two federal grants totaling \$857,000. The grant from the National Science Foundation, her second, is for mentoring undergraduate students in research in computing with a special focus on female students.

The second grant -- from the NSF/NIH -- is for mentoring students from engineering, sciences, and health in their research of bioinformatics with a focus on minority students. A

multidisciplinary effort involving faculty from four different schools at Oakland, it exemplifies teamwork and the spirit of cooperation we cherish so much.

Sayed Nassar, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering

Sayed Nassar is the founding Director of the Fastening and Joining Research Institute and heads a congressionally funded research team of nearly 20 graduate researchers, visiting scholars and faculty.

At Oakland and as a principal investigator, Professor Nassar has obtained \$6.85 million in external funding to support his research in fastening and joining. His research sponsors include the US Army, Tank Automotive Research & Development Engineering Center, the National Science Foundation and DaimlerChrysler.

Dr. Nassar's major scholarly accomplishments include more than 50 peer reviewed publications, editing and co-authoring a major reference and textbook: *The Handbook of Bolts and Bolted Joints*, serving as lead inventor of a widely used patented technology for the real-time diagnosis of automotive conveyors, and most recently, heading up a four-way Collaborative Automotive Research Initiative between FAJRI, the University of Stuttgart-Germany, DaimlerChrysler and Mercedes Benz.

Eye Research Institute

Ken Mitton, Assistant Professor, Eye Research Institute

Ken Mitton joined Oakland University in 2001 as an assistant professor of Biomedical Sciences in the Eye Research Institute. Mitton investigates mechanisms by which specific genes in the retina are regulated during development, and also during the course of potentially blinding eye diseases such as macular degeneration.

In his work, Professor Mitton has discovered a new retinal protein, called Fizz1, which may function as an important repressor of gene expression in this ocular tissue. His long term goal is to apply his results to future sight-saving treatments, possibly linked with gene therapy.

To continue his research on Fizz1, Dr. Mitton was recently awarded a four year \$1.1- million grant from the National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health.

Kresge Library

Robert Slater, Digital Information Services Librarian and Assistant Professor, Kresge Library

Since he was hired as digital information services librarian in 2002, Robert Slater has applied his technological expertise, positive attitude, energy, enthusiasm and professional knowledge to lead Kresge Library in delivering digital resources and developing tailor-made, virtual library services to enhance teaching, learning, and research at Oakland University.

Professor Slater serves as co-chair on the Library's Web Team, and is a member of the Academic Computing Committee, the Senate Library Committee, the ad hoc telecommunications committee, the ad hoc copyright committee, and the library's CAP. A notable example of this unique merger of service commitment and professional expertise is the Web pages he designs, either as a solo endeavor or in collaboration with his librarian colleagues, to support and promote events, celebrations and speakers at Oakland University.

School of Nursing

Karen Dunn, Assistant Professor, Nursing

Karen Dunn's clinical practice and research is focused on improving the lives and well-being of community-dwelling older adults.

Dr. Dunn published four articles this past year, three as single author. Her research focuses on health promotion and successful aging practices such as the use of religious and non-religious coping with chronic pain, and through the identification of self-care holistic activities that community-dwelling older adults utilize to stay vital and active.

Professor Dunn submitted a grant each to the National Institute of Nursing Research and the Health Resources and Services Administration to increase the quality of life among residents in assisted living homes.

Her research has been selected for recognition and awards given by two nursing organizations, the Midwest Nursing Research Society and Sigma Theta Tau, the International National Honor Society for Nursing. (Pause)

Please join me in recognizing these outstanding colleagues for the contributions they make to the university, to their fields of study, and most importantly, to their students.

Assessment Excellence Award Presentation

This year, we are introducing a new Assessment Excellence Award to recognize a department which 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.

I am pleased to present the 2006 Assessment Excellence Award to the Psychology Department in the College of Arts and Sciences. The Department of Psychology's Assessment Plan and Report model the North Central Association's "culture of assessment" goal.

The department's educational goals flow from the university mission statement; student learning outcomes are linked to the program goals, and multiple and complex measures have been established to evaluate students' successful learning.

Further, the Psychology Department's learning outcomes are referenced to the national context, and the department has developed embedded assessment measures to ensure students take the assessment seriously.

Virtually all psychology faculty participate in assessment activities, and results of the assessment form the basis for program reforms such as standardizing PSY 100 and designating all 300-level classes as "writing intensive."

Excellence Awards

I will now recognize the 2006 recipients of Oakland University's Excellence Awards.

When I announce your name, please approach the podium to receive your award.

This year's winner of the Teaching Excellence Award is Dagmar Cronn, professor of Chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences. Colleagues praise Dagmar Cronn's enthusiasm, dedication and teaching abilities.

"She can be seen for hours in any given day talking to students and helping them," said a colleague. Dr. Cronn was among the first faculty to embrace the use of WebCT and she researches "best practices" for addressing student needs.

Professor Cronn served tirelessly as the Chemistry Department's chief adviser, collaborated in developing interdisciplinary curricula, and made major contributions to Oakland's curriculum as chair of the general education committee.

Students concur that she exemplifies teaching excellence, saying "I will never forget the warmth that she radiated through an obviously genuine concern for the success of each student" and her teaching style is described as "light years ahead of the passive format of lecture-textbook-exam."

Oakland University is proud to confer upon Professor Cronn the 2006 Oakland University Teaching Excellence Award.

Qian (Beth) Zou, assistant professor, Mechanical Engineering, is this year's New Investigator Research Excellence Award recipient. Beth Zou's research in the area of lubrication, friction and wear, called tribology, with specific emphasis in automotive tribology, fastener tribology, friction/wear modeling and testing, thin film lubrication, and micro/nano tribology has resulted in 26 refereed publications and has attracted grant support from such agencies as the National Science Foundation, the US Army Tank Command, and General Motors.

Her work has been recognized nationally with a National Science Foundation summer fellowship award and the Science and Technology Progress Award from China.

In Dr. Zou's short time at Oakland University, she has graduated one master's student, and her research group currently includes three master's and three doctoral students.

We are proud to confer upon Professor Zou the 2006 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 recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award is Tushar Raman Oza, special lecturer, Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism. Tushar Oza is described as a professor with "high expectations of every individual in class" who brings "great energy and respect" to the classroom.

Students comment that Mr. Oza is an instructor with "great passion for teaching and compassion for students," who creates "unique learning strategies and situations." They further comment that the "knowledge shared and learned" from Mr. Oza will impact the rest of their lives.

A student said Mr. Oza's "deep knowledge of the course material and ability to create a comfortable and open line of communication" makes him a "powerful educator." Faculty colleagues describe Mr. Oza as an "inspiring and creative teacher" whose greatest instructional gift may be the commitment to excellence he expects from himself and his students.

Oakland University is proud to confer upon Tushar Oza the 2006 Oakland University Excellence in Teaching Award.