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Six students receive Hildum scholarships

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Oakland University's **Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism** recently recognized six outstanding communication students by awarding them Donald C. Hildum scholarships. The scholarship recipients were selected based on a combination of criteria, including academic achievement, community and university service, and financial need.

A total of \$2,500 was dispersed in varying amounts to the winners, who include juniors Jewells DuGuitis, Rebecca Flanary, Xavier Golightly, Renee Jacques, Jodi Priestly and senior Michelle Kish.

"Each of the winners share a strong commitment to university and community involvement," said Valerie Palmer-Mehta, visiting assistant professor of communication and member of the Hildum scholarship committee. "We're exceptionally pleased with the winners. They all have great grades and went above and beyond in terms of volunteer work."

In addition to working as a student assistant in the Undergraduate Admissions Office, Priestly also serves as a counselor and youth mentor in Teens for Christ Ministries and the Covenant Hills Camp. She also is a member of the Campus Crusade for Christ.

"I'm very passionate about the organizations I'm involved with," Priestly said. "I think the more involved you become, the more you'll benefit from the college experience. You become more connected to people. When I was young, I was a member of Teens for Christ Ministries and I attended the Covenant Hills Camp. Those organizations have given a lot to me, and it's great to be able to give back to them. I'll definitely continue to volunteer my time after I graduate."

The scholarship was established in 1995 upon the retirement of Don Hildum, founding member and former chair of the communication department. Since his death in 1996, the scholarship has continued in his name as a tribute to him and his empathy for students in financial need.

"Don and his wife recognized how difficult it is for some students to pay for college," Palmer-Mehta said. "They took the funds they used to spend on their own children for college and invested it in other students through this scholarship."

Applications for the Hildum scholarships are accepted each fall semester. All communication majors are eligible except for those graduating at the end of that semester. Students interested in applying for the scholarships and those who would like to donate funds can call the **Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism** at (248) 370-4121.

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