



Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mili honored for her role as mentor

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

To recognize her mentorship of many Oakland University students, particularly women engineering students, the OU affiliate of the American Council on Education (ACE) Network for Women Leaders in Higher Education presented Associate Professor of Engineering Fatma Mili with its 2003 Phyllis Law Googasian Award at an award luncheon March 19 in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms.

The award has been presented annually since 1992 to an outstanding woman leader who performs extraordinary service to the university community and demonstrates commitment to the positive development and advancement of women at OU.

Mili received her Ph.D. in engineering at the Universite Pierre et Marie Curie (France) in 1984, after which she joined the OU faculty in the **School of Engineering and Computer Science**. Since then, she has been heavily involved in the recruitment, retention, advising and mentoring of women students in her field.

She currently is the principle investigator on a National Science Foundation-funded program to mentor undergraduate women in research and attract them to graduate studies. She also is the principle investigator on another NSF grant proposal to introduce a degree in information technology with a focus on attracting and retaining more women students in computer science.

Mili has supervised the largest number of master's theses and doctoral dissertations by women in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. Organizations she helped found include a new OU chapter of the Association of Computing Machinery for women CSE students and the International Association of Arab Women in Computer Science. She is a regular participant in the American Association of University Women-funded Explorathon, an annual one-day program presented for middle and high school girls, and coaches a local team in the International MathCounts program.

"I'm proud to be associated with the other women on campus who have won this award," Mili said. "I feel I've been very lucky throughout my stay at Oakland for my association with my students and colleagues.

"Mentorship is often thought of as a one-way endeavor, but I think of it more as a two-way street. Mentoring is a source of inspiration. In a big way, it keeps me going. Every moment I spend with my students is an investment in their future and our future."

Keynote speaker Susan Cischke (SECS '76) went into engineering as an undergraduate on the advice of an OU counselor. Currently, she is vice president of environmental safety and engineering for Ford Motor Company and continues to be involved with the university as a member of the OU Engineering Alumni Board and the **Oakland University Alumni Association**.

"Oakland University is a place that encouraged and supported me in my endeavors," Cischke said. "Dr. Mili is an outstanding example of leadership and a source of inspiration and support for her students. ... Leaders see themselves as servants who have an obligation to people in their institutions and are more concerned with the success of their followers than themselves. They also practice honesty, fairness, conscience and moral authority. Leaders trust their followers enough to believe in their talents and skills. ... Dr. Mili and other leaders practice these concepts and are helping to shape the leaders of tomorrow."

The Googasian Award Luncheon is scheduled each year to coincide with **Women's History Month** events at Oakland University. Award recipients come from any segment of the OU community. Past winners include:

- 2002 – Mary Beth Snyder
- 2001 – Natalie Cole and Martha Zingo
- 2000 – Mary Otto
- 1999 – Joan Rosen
- 1998 – Suzanne Frankie
- 1996 – Jacqueline Scherer
- 1995 – Jacqueline Loughheed
- 1994 – Cathy Rush and Liz Barclay
- 1993 – Margo King

- 1992 – Phyllis Law Googasian

The OU ACE Network for Women Leaders in Education will present a forum for faculty, administrative professionals and interested women entitled "Career Planning and Advancement for Oakland University Women" on Wednesday, March 9, from 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. in the Oakland Center Heritage Room. Participation is limited to 40. For more information, contact Elaine Didier at (248) 370-2486 or didier@oakland.edu. Visit the **Michigan ACE Network for Women Leaders in Higher Education** Web site for information on membership and upcoming events.

SUMMARY

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