

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Oakland to honor high achieving alumni during 21st annual Alumni Awards Banquet

The Oakland University Alumni Association on Friday, Sept. 18, will once again present the Alumni Awards Banquet, which honors alumni who have earned success in business, community service, volunteer leadership and other areas.

Now in its 21st year, the Alumni Awards Banquet also recognizes previous alumni award recipients. This year, President George W. Hynd will offer opening remarks at the celebration, set to be held at the Oakland Center. Neal Ruhl, CAS `08, who is coordinator of broadcasting and social media for Oakland's Athletics department, will oversee the event as master of ceremonies.

2015 Alumni Award Winners

The Distinguished Alumni Service Award will go to **Tony Moscone, SBA `89**, who is owner and general manager of Wixom-based Total Sports Complex and owner of Cattails Golf Club in South Lyon. This is the highest alumni honor awarded and it recognizes peerless volunteer leadership in service to OU or its alumni association. Moscone regularly organizes charity golf outings for Autism research at the University, and in January, helped Oakland open its 108,000 square foot sports dome.

Robert Gibbs, CAS `77, president of Gibbs Planning Group in Birmingham, will receive the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. Gibbs is considered by many to be one of the foremost urban retail planners in America, and has a clientele list that include General Motors, Florida Hospital, The Walt Disney Company, Taubman Centers and many more.

Steven D. Townsend, Ph.D., CAS `05, has been named recipient of the Odyssey Award, which honors alumni whose lives exemplify the university's motto to "seek virtue and knowledge." Dr. Townsend, assistant professor in Vanderbilt University's Department of Chemistry, has had an ovarian cancer vaccine candidate evaluated in a clinical trial. He has also developed novel ways to synthesize and study pro- and antibiotic molecules found in breast milk.

OU cheerleaders **Garry J. Gilbert, CAS `95 and `02**, and **Holly Shreve Gilbert, CAS `05**, will receive the Spirit Award. Garry is Oakland's Journalism program director and Holly is instructor and chief program adviser for the same program. The Gilberts have a combined 41 years of service at the University and continue to give back in many ways.

Downtown Detroit Partnership Chief Operating Officer **Kelly Kozlowski, CAS `08**, will receive the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. Kozlowski has worked for the Detroit Free Press, Automation Alley and the OU INCubator. She also serves as president of the Oakland University Sail Board, which oversees OU's student newspaper operations.

The Alumni Community Service Award will be awarded to Auburn Hills City Manager **Thomas A. Tanghe, CAS `88 and `90**, who has 25 years of local government experience and has helped develop plans for a classroom building, housing and more for Oakland and other local colleges.

Don and Jan O'Dowd, President Emeritus and former first lady of OU, will be given the Honorary Alumni Award, which is for those who may not have graduated from Oakland but have contributed greatly to the University. Don O'Dowd, Ph.D., founded OU's Psychology Department, has served as University provost, was chancellor of OU and was appointed the first president of the independent Oakland University – a role he held through 1979.

Another Honorary Alumni Award will go to **Mary Beth Snyder**, former vice president of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Oakland. Snyder, among many other achievements, helped expand student housing and the student center at OU, along with assisting in improving food options and advising for freshman on campus and shaping many aspects the way of life students experience today.

For more information about the 2015 Alumni Awards Banquet, visit oualumni.com/OUAAwards.



Tony Moscone



Robert Gibbs



Steven D. Townsend



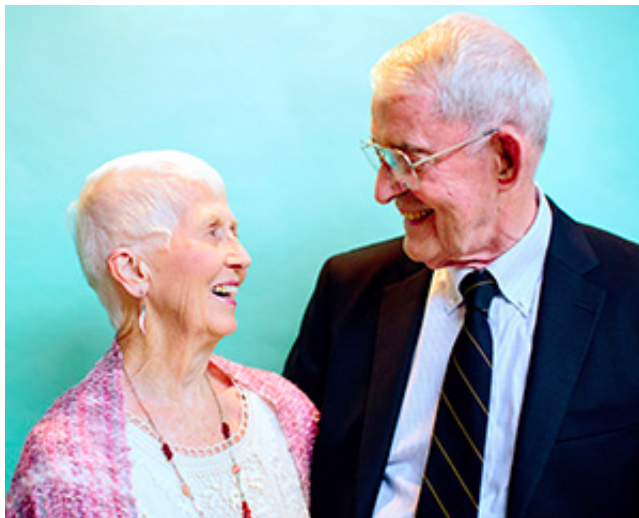
Garry and Holly Gilbert



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Mary Beth Snyder