



Monday, September 30, 2002

OUAA honors alumni, friends, students

The Oakland University Alumni Association honored six individuals and celebrated their leadership, achievements and service to the university at the eighth annual Oakland University Alumni Awards Banquet Sept. 27.

"I am continually amazed by the generous contributions of our alumni award winners," said Adrienne Bass, director of Alumni Relations. "These remarkable individuals represent the heart, spirit and essence of our university."

Several Oakland University students also were recognized with alumni scholarship awards. Former OUAA Chair Marianne Fey presented their awards and spoke about the OUAA's scholarship endowment.

"Through the OUAA's alumni scholarship fund, the alumni association awards a growing number of scholarships each year. And, this year is no exception," Fey said. "The number and value of these scholarships has increased in recent years, bringing our total endowment to approximately \$680,000."

Held on the east lawn of Meadow Brook Hall, the event included a grand reception, dinner and program featuring entertainment by the Sun Messengers – the official band of the Detroit Pistons – followed by an evening of dancing. Lisa Jesswein (CAS '89), female character voice talent and executive producer of the "Breakfast Club" on WNIC, was the mistress of ceremonies.

"Oakland is a special place for me as it is for so many, and I truly believe that armed with an Oakland degree, you can accomplish your goals in life and attain your dreams," Jesswein said. "Oakland gives students the tools, know-how and practical experience to land a first job, make a career change, go after that next promotion, or on to graduate school... whatever the case may be."

Speaking directly to alumni in the audience, President Gary Russi said the Oakland experience can be life changing and transforming. "I encourage you to pass on the word – for you as alums are what make this university strong... you are our greatest ambassadors."

Russi also encouraged alumni to take advantage of Oakland's many campus offerings.

"In your free time, attend an award-winning play at Meadow Brook Theatre. Bring your children, parents or friends to Meadow Brook Hall to see where Oakland's founders made their home. Attend a Division I sporting event at our athletics center, or listen to a President's Colloquium lecture during your lunch hour. Whatever your interest may be, there are plenty of opportunities to come back to campus for personal enrichment," Russi said.

Joined on stage by Russi and Fey, Jesswein presented the awards to the following individuals:

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Oakland University's highest alumni honor, recognizes outstanding alumni leadership and service to the alumni association or the university.

David Doyle (CAS '80), vice president, Marketing Resource Group

Since graduating from OU, Doyle has provided support to the university in various ways. Through his leadership as chair of the Board of Trustees from 1998-2000, the university embarked on two major capital improvements – Elliott Hall of Business and Information Technology and the Education and Human Services Building. He also guided the board's prioritization of the "Creating the Future" recommendations, within the context of the university's strategic goals, and aided in the Land Use and Development Guidelines and Campus Master Planning process. A board member since 1995, Doyle was chair of the University Affairs Advisory Committee and Finance and Personal Advisory Committee. He also was a member of the Investment Advisory Committee. Through his relationships with other government entities, he has helped OU secure necessary resources to make tremendous strides in achieving its goals.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognizes outstanding professional achievement or contributions to the community.

Dr. Susan Quattrociochi (CAS '72), director, Northeast Tech Prep Consortium; director, Call to Parents

By combining her educational background with community service, Quattrociocchi is helping innumerable students and their parents grapple with the many options of higher education. Through her position as director of the Northeast Tech Prep Consortium in Washington, she recognized an extremely important and often overlooked side of education – the responsibility of parents in the educational process. She also created a highly successful outreach program – Call to Parents. The program is receiving nationwide acclaim as well as state support and funding. During the past two years, Quattrociocchi has trained more than 650 educators and presented to more than 10,000 parents, teachers, and business and community leaders. In August, she received the Washington State Career and Technical Education Outstanding Service Award. While attending OU, she was a non-traditional student, raising five children. After graduating with departmental honors in sociology, she was awarded a fellowship to the Rackham School of Graduate Studies at the University of Michigan.

ODYSSEY AWARD

Recognizes alumni who seek to exemplify OU's motto: "To Follow Courage and Knowledge."

Heidi Van Arnem (BGS '89), founder and CEO of Can! (awarded posthumously)

Van Arnem's vision for the future was that one day there would be no barriers between people with and without disabilities. She was making her vision a reality when her life was cut short last year at age 35. A quadriplegic since 16, Van Arnem didn't let her wheelchair slow her down. After graduating from Oakland University, she opened a full-service travel agency, Travel Headquarters, specializing in the travel needs of wheelchair users. As the travel industry was undergoing radical changes, she closed her agency and created a business that could reach and help more people. In 1998, she founded Can!, a company providing an online forum for people affected by disabilities. Can! also assists companies to better serve the needs of customers or employees who are disabled. Van Arnem formed the nonprofit Heidi Van Arnem Foundation to Cure Paralysis, which received a proclamation from Michigan Governor John Engler recognizing Spinal Cord Injury Awareness and Prevention Month in 1998.

SPIRIT AWARD

Recognizes exemplary volunteer service to the university.

Michael Palazzola (SBA '78), partner, Derderian, Kann, Seyferth and Salucci, P.C.

Palazzola earned an accounting degree from OU in 1978 and is still a familiar face on campus by attending, supporting and helping to plan many alumni events. Through his work on the Alumni Ambassador Program, he is dedicated to recruiting top-talent high school students to OU. As a partner in an accounting firm, he also actively recruits OU graduates for employment. Palazzola has been a member of the Oakland University Accounting and Finance Advisory Board since its inception in 1992, serving as chairman for the last two years. In his role on the advisory board, he is invaluable to OU faculty in assembling executives from the community to provide advice on the School of Business Administration's accounting and finance program. Palazzola is currently a member of the Oakland University Accounting and Finance Reunion Committee and the Oakland Mentoring Program. He also has participated in the Oakland Accounting Program class project, acted as host for the CPA Small Firm Tour Day for several years and volunteered during the Oakland telefund.

HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD

Recognizes non-OU alumni who have given outstanding service to the university.

Richard Stamps, associate professor, Sociology and Anthropology Department

Words synonymous with OU Associate Professor Richard Stamp's include inspirational, outstanding, enthusiastic, involved, inspiring and dedicated. Since arriving at OU in 1974, he is consistently the highest student-rated teacher in the Sociology and Anthropology Department. He was recognized with OU's Teaching Excellence Award in 1986 and the Michigan Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities Distinguished Faculty Award in 1987. He lives by the phrase "think globally, act locally" and has organized numerous tours of China providing hundreds of OU students, faculty and alumni with rewarding cross-cultural experiences. This spring, he was a member of the Oakland educational delegation that visited China as part of Oakland County's Automation Alley trade mission. Between 1976 and 1983, he received more than 40 funded contracts to perform archaeological surveys for the state, including directing the acclaimed archaeological investigations at the boyhood home of Thomas Edison in Port Huron. Stamps also works ceaselessly to place OU students in internships in archaeological, curatorial and museum management activities throughout Oakland's service area.

HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD

Recognizes non-OU alumni who have given outstanding service to the university.

George Wibby, American Red Cross (awarded posthumously)

When Wibby passed away last year at age 90, OU's athletics program lost its number one ambassador and supporter. Wibby's long history with Oakland began in the 1960's when he was the first official for the swimming and diving program. He was a familiar face at all sporting events, especially basketball games and golf outings. After retiring from the American Red Cross, he coached golf and worked as a golf ranger at Katke-Cousins Golf Course. Wibby and his wife were two of the early contributors to help raise money for the Athletics Department. He established the Jewel Wibby Scholarship Fund, created in his wife's honor

after her death, to help promising athletes. To recognize Wibby's dedication and service, OU created the George Wibby Award. The award is presented annually to an employee who exemplifies his spirit and humanity.

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS

The following students received scholarships for their outstanding academic achievement, student leadership, and university and community involvement.

- **Bryan Austin** – Honors College Alumni Scholarship
- **Tonia Babi** – School of Business Scholarship
- **Emily Fulton** – Frances C. Amos School of Business Administration Alumni Scholarship
- **Paul Halicki** – School of Engineering and Computer Science, Thomas A. Yatooma Memorial Alumni Award
- **Rami Hasani** – Frances C. Amos School of Business Alumni Scholarship
- **Bozena Johnson** – School of Education Alumni Scholarship
- **Shelby Jones** – Black Alumni Affiliate Scholarship
- **Dennis O'Connor** – College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Scholarship
- **Sarah Phillips** – Frances C. Amos School of Business Alumni Administration Scholarship
- **Jeri Raab** – School of Nursing Alumni Scholarship
- **Alicia Sossi** – Alumni Memorial Scholarship
- **Dennis Werner** – School of Engineering and Computer Science Scholarship

SUMMARY

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