



Tuesday, February 19, 2002

Keeper of the Dream recipients announced

Four Oakland University students each will receive a \$5,000 scholarship and one will receive the Special Recognition Award at the tenth annual **Keeper of the Dream** scholarship banquet on Wednesday, Feb. 20, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion.

The **Keeper of the Dream** banquet celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Created to provide funds for student scholarships, the awards recognize students who have demonstrated strong citizenship, scholarship and leadership in breaking down cultural stereotypes and in promoting interracial understanding. **Martin Luther King III**, the second oldest child of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, will be the keynote speaker at the banquet.

This year's scholarship recipients are:

- Ashli Bobo, a junior journalism major from Huber Heights, Ohio;
- Rhonda Hanna, a sophomore English major from Shelby Township;
- Joi Olden, a junior theatre performance major from Oak Park;
- Diana Pochmara, a junior majoring in elementary education from Lake Orion.

Erin Liebner, an English major from Monroe, will receive the Special Recognition Award.

Ashli Bobo

Bobo will receive the Champion Enterprises Inc. Keeper of the Dream Award.

She has been involved in many student programs at Oakland University, including being a peer mentor, orientation group leader, a university ambassador representing OU to prospective students, dancer with the multicultural Intrigue Dance Troupe and a member of University Student Congress, Association of Black Students and the American Women in Communications, an organization dedicated to resolving conflict through positive communication.

Rhonda R. Hanna

Hanna is this year's recipient of William Beaumont Hospitals Keeper of the Dream Award.

Hanna is both a peer mentor and a diversity ambassador for the Office of Equity where she facilitates communication between diverse individuals and groups. She is involved with the Student Allocations Funding Board, OU Law Society and Student Program Board. She also has served as a legislator and student services director for University Student Congress. Hanna has lectured in area elementary schools about Egypt and cultural awareness from her Egyptian-American heritage and has volunteered on the youth council of St. Thomas Presbyterian Church.

Joi C. Olden

Olden will receive the Oakland University Alumni Association Keeper of the Dream Award.

She is a member of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, holds the office of secretary for Sisters In Christ, and sits on the executive board of the Association of Black Students.

Olden also has served as an orientation group leader for the Office of New Student Programs, a peer leader with the Office of Equity Connections Program, and was a student co-chair of the African American Celebration 2001.

Diana L. Pochmara

Pochmara is this year's recipient of the Bank One Keeper of the Dream Award.

In September 1999, Pochmara became a member of the AmeriCorps Oakland team. She was placed at the Baldwin Church and Center in Pontiac, where she was part of a team that provides after-school tutoring and enrichment programs for K through 12 students.

Erin Liebner

Liebner, this year's recipient of the Special Recognition Keeper of the Dream Award, has served as an orientation group leader,

a peer leader for both Connections and ExplORations, and is a member of the Coffee Talk Diversity Series and vice president of the Gay/Straight Alliance.

For more information on the **Keeper of the Dream** banquet or to buy tickets, contact Tamera Lund at (248) 370-4915. Historical information on the program can be found on the **Office of Equity** Web site.

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