

Digest

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Summer 2007

OAKTON^{AT} ARLINGTON



Save the Date!
Saturday, August 18

(See details on back cover.)

Stardust Ball Celebrates 30 Years of Giving



Oakton Educational Foundation President Joan Richards and her husband Trent (center) with “Spirit of Oakton” award winner Harry Tankus.

On May 12, 2007, some 200 supporters of the Oakton Educational Foundation attended the *Stardust Ball* at the Rosewood Restaurant in Rosemont. Celebrating the Educational Foundation’s 30th anniversary, the black tie gala also honored Harry Tankus for his three decades of service to the Foundation and the College.

Beginning with hors d’oeuvres and cocktails, the galactic evening included an elegant dinner and dancing with music provided by the Cagen Orchestra, and “The Diamonds Are Forever” raffle, featuring a pair of one-carat diamond earrings valued at \$6,000. Acclaimed psychic Ross Johnson also offered lively and engaging

entertainment, making even the most cynical guest ask, “How did he do that?”

Arguably the highlight of the celebration occurred when President Margaret B. Lee presented the “Spirit of Oakton” award to Harry Tankus. Former president and chairman of the board at John Crane, Inc.—and the Educational Foundation’s longest serving director—he and his life partner Lila established one of the first scholarship endowments in honor of their eldest daughter Rolana Tankus Fox, who lost a heartbreaking battle with cancer.

Tankus also played an instrumental role in creating Foundation committees to oversee investments and secure planned gifts.

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Foundation Receives Record Bequest

Throughout his life, Keith Dixon was a loyal, compassionate, and generous person known for his support of higher education.

Dixon, a Des Plaines resident who passed away last year at the age of 87, regarded Oakton so favorably that in his will he left the Oakton Educational Foundation \$540,000—the largest bequest ever received in the Foundation’s history. Previously, Dixon established the **Keith and Inez Dixon Scholarship** endowment in memory of his wife for a full- or part-time student with a 3.0 GPA.

After retiring from the Parker Hannifin Corporation in Des Plaines in 1984, Dixon began taking classes at Oakton. With an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, he took a variety of courses, from anthropology to

welding. In fall 2000, at the age of 81, he enrolled in three courses—astronomy, principles of economics II, and computer applications of microeconomic theory—and received an A in all of them.

“He was a kind and gentle man,” recalls Foundation administrative assistant Karen Petersen, who met Dixon when he established the Dixon Scholarship. “He was a very intelligent and philanthropic person.”

“Mr. Dixon found Oakton to be a second home, helping him through a difficult time after his wife passed away,” says Foundation Executive Director Carlee Drummer. “The Foundation deeply appreciates his generosity that will enable future generations of students to earn a college degree.”

Your Life, Your Legacy

Pursuant to IRS Circular 230 on federal tax matters, any U.S. federal tax advice in this article is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, by any taxpayer for the purpose of avoiding penalties that may be imposed on the taxpayer, and the advice was written to support the promotion of the transaction(s) or matter(s) mentioned herein. Taxpayers should seek advice based on their particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor.

Illinois citizens are among the most generous in the United States, giving an average of \$1,425 per household every year. These gifts express a personal commitment to “social good” and enable countless charities to continue to change lives.

Creating a will offers the opportunity to make a difference after you are gone. Providing the last chance to remember loved ones and ensure that your assets are distributed appropriately, a will creates a legacy that benefits a favorite charity.

Without a will, your state decides how to disperse your assets. Unfortunately, dying intestate can lead to family fights

and even dissolution of the estate.

The Foundation urges every friend and supporter to take the time to prepare a will and consider including a bequest to the Oakton Community College Educational Foundation. The bequest can be designated for scholarships, literacy, campus enhancements, the general fund, or to establish an endowment in memoriam. A bequest makes it possible for your resources to continue to “give back.”

To receive free information about wills and bequests, or to discuss how your gift can make a difference, please call Lisa Fischer, manager of Major and Planned Gifts, at 847.635.1611.

Stardust Ball *continued*

With his visionary leadership and guiding spirit, the Foundation's assets today have topped \$10 million. As President Lee noted in her remarks, "We will not see his like again."

Raising a record amount for the Student Scholarship Fund, the *Stardust Ball's* lead sponsors included Allstate, Walgreen, and anonymous friends of Oakton. Additional underwriting came from Brickyard Bank, Chase, John Crane, Fisher Container Corporation, Glenview State Bank, HSBC-

North America, Insurance Auto Auctions, Lawson Products, Maier's Bakery, Mr. and Mrs. Trent Richards, Riebandt & DeWald, P.C., Sikich L.L.P., Dr. and Mrs. Thomas TenHoeve, and WineStyles.

Foundation Director Rosemary Geisler and Pam Hermanek served as co-chairs for the event. Other members of the *Stardust Ball* fundraising committee included Foundation Directors Don Hermanek, Mark Kraus, Daniel N. Lubner, James Riebandt, and Robert Wasson.

1. Foundation Director Harry Tankus and his wife Lila with their daughter Ilyce Benton of Philadelphia and granddaughter Melissa Benton of Los Angeles.

2. (From left) Bob Goldberg and Dodie Weinstein with Foundation Director Allen Kravis and his wife Sue, a member of the Foundation's Development Council.

3. Foundation Director Brian Little (far right) with his guests (from left) Tracie Anderson, Louise Sherman, and Jaclyn and Kevin Schroer.

4. Oakton Trustee Jody Wadhwa and his wife Florence.

5. (From left) Foundation Director Mark Kraus and his wife Dorri, with Janet and Karl Runge.

6. Oakton President Margaret B. Lee and her son Tippy (far right) with Harry and Lila Tankus.



OAKTON AT ARLINGTON



Saturday, August 18

Noon

Enjoy the races from the private International Room. A luncheon buffet, four-hour open bar, and silent auction promise to make this a fun-filled afternoon.

Proceeds support scholarships and special programs that further the College's mission.

Tickets are \$85.

Limited trackside seats are \$100.

To order, call 847.635.1893.

Oakton Mirrors the Community

Oakton Community College's name signifies its mission: to educate, inspire, and serve the *community*. As the cost for higher education continues to increase, the need for affordable, academically-rigorous colleges is greater than ever. *Today, more than 11 million students enroll in community colleges, nearly 50 percent of all undergraduates in the United States.*

This figure suggests what we at Oakton already know—that students rely on community colleges to prepare them for future success and lifelong learning. Oakton's 3,073 full-time and 7,525 part-time students represent a wide variety of ethnicities, ages, and financial needs, but all choose to "start here and go anywhere." Thanks to the generosity of Oakton's donors, many students have access to an excellent education they could not otherwise afford.

The federal government recently

acknowledged the value of community colleges when the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution on May 1, 2007, honoring April as National Community College Month. The resolution notes that community colleges, like Oakton, offer more diverse learning environments than many four-year universities and provide greater flexibility for non-traditional students. Representatives also say, "community colleges mirror the communities that support them."

Clearly Oakton's mission, which includes encouraging "students to be capable global citizens guided by knowledge and ethical principles," reflects these ideals.

"Community colleges have long been a hidden treasure that more and more people are now learning about," says Oakton President Margaret B Lee. "I am proud that the nation recognizes all the benefits that community colleges provide."



Oakton Community College Educational Foundation
1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016

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The Foundation Digest commemorates the Educational Foundation's past and future commitment to Oakton Community College. Published three times a year, the Digest contains news about College programs and services and reports on Foundation accomplishments.