Rising Stars

Oakton’s stars shone brightly at the 2007 Scholarship Banquet, as students and donors gathered to celebrate the annual scholarship awards. During the evening, the Foundation presented some 200 scholarships totaling more than $210,000. Keynote speaker, Vincent Acuri, past recipient of the Karen Kline Wilmette Harbor Rotary Club Scholarship and American Legion Nursing Scholarship, commented, “These scholarships were instrumental in fulfilling my dream.”

This year, generous donors established 13 new scholarships including:

*Africa and East Asia Women’s Scholarship.* Erick Mann, Ph.D., chair of Oakton’s historical and policy studies, established this scholarship to assist a woman native of sub-Saharan Africa or Southeast and East Asia. The recipient is Nnenna Nwog, who aspires to work in anesthesiology.

*Thomas and Terese Conway Scholarship.* Terese Conway endowed this scholarship to honor her late husband, Thomas, a professor of history at Oakton who touched countless lives during his long tenure at the College. The recipient is Neethu Peter.

*Excellence in Professional Government Management.* In honor of the Village of Skokie’s engaged citizenry who instituted the Council-Manager form of government in 1957, this endowment assists Skokie residents planning to pursue a career in government administration. The recipient is Devin Morris, an editor of Oakton’s student newspaper, the *OCCurrence.*

*William Frick and Company RFID Technology Scholarship.* William Frick and Company started this scholarship for students taking classes in Radio Frequency Identification. The recipient is Dan Hackensee, who says, “My heart is in technology.” William Frick and Company also has provided significant hardware support for the RFID lab located at the Skokie campus.

*June Garland Scholarship.* A gift from the Geraldine J. Laff Foundation, this scholarship honors June Garland, who served the Educational Foundation for 20 years managing special events and the scholarship program. The recipient, Rajni Ghimire, plans to become a nurse.

*Christopher Jost Memorial Scholarship.* Endowed in memory of a non-traditional Oakton student who was killed by a drunken driver, the Christopher Jost Memorial Scholarship provides funding for an adult...continued on page 2

Jim LaPalermo (left) gives the James and Ann LaPalermo Scholarship to beaming RFID student Matt Overeem.

---

Inside

- Rosewood Restaurant
- Wentcher Scholars
- Annual Dinner
- IRA Opportunity
- Foundation Welcomes New Director Arnold D. Cowen
- Ready, Set...Celebrate
Oakton’s stars shone brightly at the 2007 Scholarship Banquet, as students and donors gathered to celebrate the annual scholarship awards. During the evening, the Foundation presented some 200 scholarships totaling more than $210,000. Keynote speaker, Vincent Acuri, past recipient of the Karen Kline Wilmette Harbor Rotary Club Scholarship and American Legion Nursing Scholarship, commented, “These scholarships were instrumental in fulfilling my dream.”

This year, generous donors established 13 new scholarships including:

**Africa and East Asia Women’s Scholarship.** Erick Mann, Ph.D., chair of Oakton’s historical and policy studies, established this scholarship to assist a woman native of sub-Saharan Africa or Southeast and East Asia. The recipient is Nnenna Nwog, who aspires to work in anesthesiology.

**Thomas and Terese Conway Scholarship.** Terese Conway endowed this scholarship to honor her late husband, Thomas, a professor of history at Oakton who touched countless lives during his long tenure at the College. The recipient is Neethu Peter.

**Excellence in Professional Government Management.** In honor of the Village of Skokie’s engaged citizenry who instituted the Council-Manager form of government in 1957, this endowment assists Skokie residents planning to pursue a career in government administration. The recipient is Devin Morris, an editor of Oakton’s student newspaper, the OCCurrence.

**William Frick and Company RFID Technology Scholarship.** William Frick and Company started this scholarship for students taking classes in Radio Frequency Identification. The recipient is Dan Hackensee, who says, “My heart is in technology.” William Frick and Company also has provided significant hardware support for the RFID lab located at the Skokie campus.

**June Garland Scholarship.** A gift from the Geraldine J. Laff Foundation, this scholarship honors June Garland, who served the Educational Foundation for 20 years managing special events and the scholarship program. The recipient, Rajni Ghimire, plans to become a nurse.

**Christopher Jost Memorial Scholarship.** Endowed in memory of a non-traditional...
The Educational Foundation hosted its annual dinner July 25 at the Westmoreland Country Club in Wilmette.

Among those attending were (standing, from left) Arnold Cowen, American Designer Cabinets; Mark Kraus, Rabjohns Financial Group/New England Financial; Jim Pribel, Chicago Mercantile Exchange; Howard Singer, Foundation president; Sharon Rossmark, Allstate Insurance Company; Rosemary Geisler; Joan Richards, Wheels Inc.; Don Hermanek, Insurance Auto Auctions; Brian Little, HSBC-North America; Fred Thompson, Bank One (retired); Carlee Drummer, executive director of the Educational Foundation; Dan Luber, Lawson Products; (seated, from left): Allen Kravis, United Stationers (retired); Don Fisher, Fischer Container Corporation; Jody Wadiwa, Board of Trustees liaison; Sylvia Footlik, Footlik & Associates; Margaret Lee, president of Oakton; Harry Tankus, John Crane, Inc. (retired); Jerry Horwitz, Horwitz & Associates, Inc.; Joan DiLeonardi, Board of Trustees liaison; Carolyn Noonan Parmer, attorney (retired).

Wentcher Scholars Celebrate in Chicago

Ernest C. Wentcher (center), one of Oakton’s most generous benefactors, recently hosted a celebration for the Wentcher Scholarship recipients in downtown Chicago. Mr. Wentcher provides full tuition support for 20 Oakton students each year who intend to continue their education at a four-year college or university. Attending the party were (from left) Dustin Santiago; Alain Dario Castaneda-Ballard; Thomas Milan; Siobhan Mischke; Kristin Santiago; Monica Johnson; and Kimberly Dotseth.

Foundation Hosts Annual Dinner

In October, the Educational Foundation hosted a rare performance of the lost music of Victor Neustadtl. A contemporary of the renowned Gustav Mahler, Neustadtl composed the opera Das Innere Licht, performed in Prague in 1930 under the legendary conductor Kurt Adler. Nazis destroyed the original composition, and Neustadtl’s works were thought to be lost forever. Other works survived, however, and recently were discovered by Neustadtl’s granddaughter, Dodie Weinstein, who lives in Glenview. The premier concert featured soprano Amy Zumfelde, associate professor of German and humanities at Oakton, with historical commentary by opera scholar Patrick Casali, and piano accompaniment by Garfield Sallman. Proceeds from the event benefited the Student Scholarship Fund.
Last Chance for IRA Gifting

Time is running out for those seeking to take advantage of a special gifting opportunity available through the Pension Protection Act of 2006. The deadline is December 31, 2007.

Seniors who are over age 70 1/2 are able to gift a charity up to $100,000 directly from their individual retirement accounts (IRAs)—without including the amount in their taxable income. While the IRA gift does not qualify for a charitable deduction, no taxes are paid on the withdrawal.

Making a gift to charity directly from an IRA can be a tax-saving strategy for seniors receiving Social Security. Individuals with incomes greater than $25,000 or couples filing jointly with incomes of more than $32,000 may have their Social Security payments taxed up to 85 percent. Every year, more retirees are taxed on their benefits because the original formula does not get adjusted annually as routinely happens with other income tax brackets. Plus, the IRS formula requires that retirees include “tax-free” money that usually is excluded from other tax purposes, such as proceeds from tax-free municipal bonds or Roth accounts. Many seniors dislike these federal rules about taxing social security payouts. After all, they already have paid taxes on the money.

Since the IRA rollover to a qualified charity like the Oakton Educational Foundation satisfies part or all of the minimum distribution requirement, giving charitable gifts from an IRA can help seniors maintain a lower taxable income and thus avoid paying some or all of this tax.

IRA transfers to charity also may be helpful to seniors:

- Who are required to take minimum withdrawals but don’t need additional income;
- Who live in states where a charitable deduction is not available for state tax purposes (e.g., Massachusetts);
- Who do not itemize and who make charitable gifts in an amount less than the current standard deduction;
- Whose major assets reside in their IRAs and wish to make significant charitable gifts before the end of 2007.

Pursuant to IRS Circular 230 on federal tax matters, any US 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. For information about making an IRA charitable gift to the Oakton Educational Foundation, please call Lisa Fischer at 847.635.1611.

Foundation Welcomes New Director

The Oakton Educational Foundation proudly announces the appointment of Arnold D. Cowen to its board of directors. A longtime friend of the College, Cowen is president and owner of American Designer Cabinets, Inc., a Wilmette-based company he founded in 2005. Prior to starting his own business, Cowen, a 42-year resident of Wilmette, worked as a store and sales manager for Kitchen Distributors of America for two decades. Cowen holds a bachelor’s degree in business from Roosevelt University. When he is not working in the building trade, Cowen enjoys theater, travel, and rooting for local sports teams. His wife Phyllis is the executive director of Centre East in Skokie.
Friends of Oakton gathered for a fun-filled day at the races in Arlington Park, on Saturday, August 18, 2007, and raised more than $60,000 for student scholarships. The annual fundraiser featured many unique live auction items, including a golf weekend at the American Club in Kohler, Wisconsin; the chance to cook with Chef Michael Maddox of Le Titi De Paris; four tickets to Jersey Boys at LaSalle Bank Theater; and a 1.5 carat diamond heart pendant from Wahl Jewelers.

Another popular “auction item” was the opportunity to sponsor scholarships for deserving Oakton students. Generous bidders Alice Barnhart, Paulette Levy, John Moshak, Carolyn Parmer, Doreen Schwartz, and Valerie Westphal created three new scholarships, which were presented at the Educational Foundation’s Scholarship Banquet in September. The Foundation this year awarded some 200 scholarships to Oakton students pursuing their academic dreams.

1. Big wins mean big smiles for (standing, from left) Gary Ziols, Pat Dalzell, Patty Opfer, Sue Schuldt, and Sandy Chambers; and (seated, from left) Sue Ziols, Noel Dalzell, Kurt Schuldt, and Dan Chambers.

2. Marilyn Appelson (standing, left) and Foundation senior vice president Sylvia Footlik (standing, right), watch the races with friends Fred and Corky Lane.

3. Foundation directors Allen Kravis (left) and Jim Pribel get a kick out of their “photo finish.”

4. Steve Amari waits for the perfect cut.

5. Pam Hermanek (left) and Foundation director Joan Richards model two live auction items.

6. Diamonds get more attention than horses from Foundation assistant Kate Tillotson (left) and Dorri Kraus, who admire the live auction item from Wahl Jewelers.

7. Auctioneer Norm Andrews excites the crowd.

8. Foundation director Brian Little with wife Anise (front) enjoy the afternoon with (back row, from left) Jessie Abrams, Loretta Abrams, George Okammor, and Chenai Okammor.


10. Foundation director Daniel Luber and Karen Wickman look forward to the live auction.

11. Foundation director Mark Kraus and wife Dorri celebrate their winnings.
Save the Date

This annual fundraiser showcases Chicago’s best legal minds in parodies of political, sports, and show business celebrities.

A reception follows the performance.

Tickets are $75.
Call 847-635-1893.

Proceeds benefit the Oakton Educational Foundation Scholarship Fund and the Charles N. Goodnow Chicago Bar Association Scholarship.

The Chicago Bar Association’s 84th Annual CHRISTMAS SPIRITS REVUE

Saturday, January 26, 2008
8:30 p.m., Footlik Theater, Des Plaines Campus
Sponsored by the Oakton Community College Educational Foundation.

OFFICERS
Howard S. Singer, President
Sylvia Footlik, Senior Vice President
Brian K. Little, Vice President
Carolyn Noonan Parmer, Vice President
James Pribel, Treasurer
Carlee Drummer, Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Arnold D. Cowen, American Designer Cabinets
Donald E. Fisher, Fisher Container Corporation
Sylvia Footlik, Footlik & Associates
Rosemary P. Geisler
Douglas S. Gourley, Citigroup Private Bank
Donald J. Hermanek, Insurance Auto Auctions
Gerald A. Horwitz, Horwitz & Associates, Inc.
Mark H. Kraus CLU, Rabjohns Financial Group/New England Financial
Allen B. Kravis (retired), United Stationers, Inc.
Margaret B. Lee, President, Oakton Community College
Brian K. Little, HSBC - North America
Daniel N. Luber, Lawson Products, Inc.
Richard A. Morris, ROI Consultants
Carolyn Noonan Parmer (retired), Attorney
James A. Pribel, Chicago Mercantile Exchange
Joan C. Richards, Wheels, Inc.
Sharon B. Rossmark, Allstate Insurance Company
Howard S. Singer
Eugene Slade, Walgreen Company
Harry Tankus (retired), John Crane, Inc.
Fred E. Thompson (retired), Bank One
Thomas M. Tippett (retired), Allstate Insurance Company
Robert R. Wasson, John Crane, Inc.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES LIAISON
Jody Wadhwa

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.