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**University of Wisconsin Oshkosh  
Opening Day Assembly  
Music Hall  
Tuesday, September 6, 2005**

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**Scenario**

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**Stage party: Chancellor, Provost, Vice Chancellors, Foundation President, Award Recipients**

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**Welcome and Introduction**

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CHANCELLOR WELLS:

Welcome to the start of the 2005-2006 Academic Year at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. Opening Day is a time for us to celebrate the character, passion and commitment of UW Oshkosh people and to recognize notable achievements with awards and honors, which reminds me of Robert Frost.

Frost enrolled at Dartmouth College and later at Harvard, but he never earned a formal degree. He became America's most highly esteemed poet in the 1950s and early '60s, and he received a host of honors, including four Pulitzer Prizes and forty-four honorary degrees. In his later years, he was fond of saying that he had been educated "by degrees."

I always enjoy presenting honors and awards to outstanding faculty and staff members here at UW Oshkosh. Being an educator is not easy these days, given that the state of higher education in the US, as documented by NPR and PBS education correspondent John Merrow, is "Declining by Degrees."

I am heartened, however, to report that we are doing our part to reverse that tide here at UW Oshkosh, by carrying on a proud tradition in higher education, one that started here 134 years ago -- of educating students to some degree!

If we take a look at the lay of the land, we'll see that we will be engaging in major assessment and planning processes this year. We will be preparing the North Central Association [NCA] re-accreditation self study, and we will be debating and refining our seven key operational plans. Due to the inclusive, interactive and transparent structure of our on-going strategic planning process, we are well positioned to undertake the institution-wide self study. We will also assure and advance the quality of the education

we provide here at UW Oshkosh by aligning our day to day operations with our mission, vision, core values and strategic directions.

We are laying the ground work for the NCA re-accreditation on-site visit in Spring 2007. We have NCA committees that are gathering data, and we have a web site and a newsletter to inform you of developments in the process. During this academic year, the University will engage in an extensive self-study process, which offers us an opportunity to review and reflect upon our strengths, weaknesses, and challenges as an institution of higher education. I encourage you to learn about the NCA Higher Learning Commission Accreditation criteria, which are available on the University's homepage under "Featured Sites." And I want to stress, that for the self-study process to be truly valuable, the entire campus community should participate

And that holds true for strategic planning -- the other related and all-encompassing process in store for us this year. As many of you know, we are launching a new set of strategic action initiatives that come primarily from the four colleges, and we are continuing to give high priority status to three university-wide initiatives: General Education, the Student Compact, and the Faculty Compact. Plus we have added two new ones: the Cross-College Collaboration Initiative, and the Key Operational Plans Initiative.

The university's operations are being guided by the on-going development and revision of seven key operational plans. Although the university's operations are complex and interrelated, they are covered under seven plans, which are:

1. Academic Program and Student Outcomes Assessment Plan
2. Enrollment Management and Student Support Plan
3. Human Resource Support and Development Plan
4. Information Technology Plan
5. Finance and Budgeting Plan
6. Facilities Master Plan
7. Advancement and Relationship Development Plan

What, you may ask, do we hope to accomplish with these plans? We hope to:

- Align the everyday operation of UW Oshkosh with our Governing Ideas to achieve desired strategic directions and goals
- Articulate a common set of data driven assumptions about where we are going to be 5 or 10 years from now.
- Design more thoughtful, efficient and effective ways to operate on a day to day basis.

We are asking that each one of you take the time to help identify and think about the issues and concerns facing our university community. Our strategic planning documents are available on our home page under "Featured Sites." We seek your advice on the best way to proceed to resolve the dilemmas and challenges we are facing.

We will use drafts of the seven key operational plans to help develop and frame a campus-wide discussion. The resulting advice and insightful ideas will be used to revise and enhance the key operational plans.

Why should you get involved?

Various solutions will be discussed, some will be tried, and they will require changes in the way we do things, and those changes will affect you, what you do, and how you do it. So why not engage yourself in the NCA self study and strategic planning processes and have a say in determining the future of UW Oshkosh? Why not work on the idea of things being better? Why not engage in a broader dialogue –one that reaches beyond your area of specialization -- with other members of the university community? Generally speaking, I think you will find it can be intellectually stimulating and very fulfilling. Thank you.

Now, I would like to introduce Provost and Vice Chancellor Lane Earns.

PROVOST EARNS:

Thank you Chancellor Wells. Good morning, everyone. Thank you for rising early this morning and honoring our annual award winners. This is my 19<sup>th</sup> opening day ceremony at UW Oshkosh and over the years I have witnessed numerous peaks and valleys. While there is no denying that these have been difficult budgetary times, I would not be standing here before you today if I did not believe that we have the ability to move forward with our academic mission. This year, we have a variety of programs and projects that I believe will help us focus our energies on our core values of teaching students to think critically and become socially responsible citizens of the world.

As the Chancellor mentioned, the most important project in the upcoming year involves working toward University accreditation. Tied into this and to our on-going strategic planning process will be the development of our key operational plans. The centerpiece of the key operational plans will be the Academic Program Plan, which will help shape the direction of academic programs over the next five years. All of you will have ample opportunity to be involved in this process.

As part of our efforts to champion the value of a liberal education for all of our students — an endeavor led for some time on this campus by Dean Zimmerman — we have become part of the Wisconsin initiative to rethink liberal education in the state. This initiative has, in turn, partnered with a national effort launched by AAC&U (the Association of American Colleges and Universities) called LEAP (Liberal Education and America's Promise).

While continuing to support traditional scholarship and the values of a liberal education, we have also strengthened the University's ties with our outside constituencies through a variety of outstanding collaborative programs developed by all four colleges. We are also examining the possibility of state funding to support our innovative efforts surrounding the Graduation Project and a Bachelor of Applied Studies degree.

Recent campus ventures that continue to prosper include the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Program (which will be profiled the last week of this month in the Provost's Teaching and Learning Summit); the Office of International Education (which now has a new office on the first floor of Dempsey); the National Student Exchange Program (which in its first year of operation placed 22 of our students at other US campuses); the American Democracy Project (which will be directing Constitution Day activities on September 16<sup>th</sup>); and Shakespeare-on-the-Fox (which will continue our collaborative efforts with the PAC and the Grand Opera House).

A new activity this year will be the development of an undergraduate research journal. The journal, established through funding from Student Differential Tuition, will be edited by a University faculty member. In addition, we will continue to support vital academic programs such as those operated by the Faculty Development Board, the University Honors Program, the Women's Center and the Grants Office.

The campus will also be involved in two survey projects this year: one is a UW System effort called the Equity Scorecard, and the other is a national undertaking known as the National Survey of Student Engagement. You will receive more information on these projects in the near future.

And finally, as Tom Keefe will elaborate on in a few minutes, we are well on our way to laying the groundwork for the New Academic Building.

In other words, while these may indeed be difficult times, we have a number of exciting academic programs and projects in place to move us forward over the course of the upcoming year.

[Following the Provost and Vice Chancellor's opening remarks, three members of the UW Oshkosh senior Administrative staff spoke briefly:  
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Petra Roter.  
Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, Tom Sonnleitner.  
President of the Oshkosh Foundation and Executive Director of Development, Tom Keefe]

### **Presentation of Awards**

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

Traditionally, at our Opening Day ceremony, we recognize the outstanding achievements of the engaged and talented members of our faculty, and our academic and classified staffs with the presentation of awards. Today, we have the honor of conferring eight University-wide awards, two system-wide Regents awards and nine named professorships.

These awards celebrate what we are all committed to in Oshkosh – the promise of engaging people and ideas for common good. The people receiving these awards embody the character, passion and commitment to teaching excellence, scholarly achievement

and partnerships that we are admired for. The people you will see here today exemplify our vision of who we are. Our vision is to be a national model as a responsive, progressive, and scholarly public service community. We will begin with the Endowment for Excellence Professorship.

### Endowed Professorships

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

The Endowment for Excellence is a living link that binds the University to its community by establishing a perpetual bond between local sponsors and faculty members, which benefit the students we serve. Through this program, we recognize tenured faculty members for their proven teaching ability, for their research accomplishments, and for their overall contribution to the University's environment for learning. Today we are pleased to confer upon seven members of our faculty the named Endowment for Excellence Professorship.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Roxana Huebscher** from the College of Nursing please come forward? Dr. Huebscher was named Nurse Educator of the Year by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, and she received the Clinical Practice Excellence Award from the Fox Valley Health Professional Organization. She currently serves as Interim Graduate Program Director of the College of Nursing and as Vice President of the UW Oshkosh chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society. Through her book, *Natural Alternative Complementary Health Care Practices* and two dozen articles, she has made significant contributions to the field of holistic healthcare. We are proud to present Dr. Roxana Huebscher the TRISS Endowment for Excellence Professorship.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Stephen Huffman** from Finance in the College of Business Administration please come forward? Dr. Huffman received the EAA/C.R. Meyer Endowed Professorship in 1998. He prepares students to be life-long learners by engaging them in the Student-Managed Endowment Fund, and in the College of Business Administration's globalization initiative. With support of the UW Institute of Global Studies, he presented a UW System Symposium on the Relationship between Business and Mexican Culture. He also developed a Job Shadow Course in Mexico with UW Oshkosh Vander Putten Funding. He has also published 19 refereed articles on Risk Management and Market Efficiency. We are proud to present Dr. Stephen Huffman the John E. Kerrigan International Endowment for Excellence Professorship.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Richard Kalinoski** of the Theatre department in the College of Letters and Science please come forward? Richard Kalinoski has gained an international reputation for his creative and intellectual capabilities as a playwright. His play, *Beast on the Moon*,

has been produced in 17 countries and translated into 12 languages. That same play won five Moliere Awards-- the most ever awarded to an American play. It was named one of 5 "must see" plays in New York City for the summer of 2005, and *Beast on the Moon* is part of the repertory of the Moscow Art Theatre and the State Youth Theatre of Armenia. Mr. Kalinoski is a past recipient of the Wisconsin Arts Board Literary Fellowship. We are proud to present Mr. Richard Kalinoski the John E. Kerrigan Endowment for Excellence Professorship.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Daniel Lehrmann** from the Geology department in the College of Letters and Science please come forward? Dr. Lehrmann works in collaboration with students to study the environmental catastrophe that nearly wiped out life on earth 251 million years ago. Under his tutelage, students have conducted field work in south China, Turkey and southern Japan. He has been awarded over \$250,000 in research grants from external sources such as the Petroleum Research Fund, the American Chemical Society and the National Science Foundation. We are proud to present Dr. Daniel Lehrmann the SNC International Relations Endowment for Excellence Professorship.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Susan McFadden** from the Psychology department in the College of Letters and Science please come forward? Dr. McFadden collaborates with psychology students on research and on conference papers and articles. She has co-authored or co-edited numerous books on adult development, aging and the psychology of religion. She is a 1999 recipient of the prestigious Regents Teaching Excellence Award, which recognizes only two faculty members a year among the 13 four-year campuses. She received the UW Oshkosh Distinguished Teaching Award in 1993 and was named a Rosebush Professor in 1997. We are proud to present Dr. Susan McFadden the Oshkosh Northwestern Endowment for Excellence Professorship.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Carolyn Wells** of the Social Work department in the College of Letters and Science please come forward? Dr. Wells is the co-author of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> editions of a text, *The Social Work Experience: an Introduction to the Profession*. She helped develop the first Service Learning course, and the new MSW program at UW Oshkosh. She has served as an accreditation site visitor for the Council on Social Work Education, and she helped facilitate the re-accreditation of the Social Work department's baccalaureate program. Dr. Wells was recently certified as a music practitioner, and she plays harp music at bedside for ill and dying patients. We are proud to present Dr. Wells the Edward H. Rudoy Endowment for Excellence Professorship.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Robert Wise** of the Biology and Microbiology department in the College of Letters and Science please come forward? Dr. Wise collaborates with students in his plant stress physiology lab to study the problem of low crop yields in relation to global climate change. He has co-authored many articles with students on the effects of heat, cold and drought stress on plants, including aspens, cotton and duckweed. Recently, he has begun to study the effects of leaf temperature on photosynthesis in an attempt to protect crops as global climate change increases. He has received over \$100,000 in grants from the Faculty Development Board and almost \$770,000 in grants from the US Department of Agriculture for this research. We are proud to present Dr. Robert Wise the F. John Barlow Endowment for Excellence Professorship.

PROVOST EARNS:

In recognition of exceptional contributions to the University's environment for learning, the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh hereby confers upon Dr. Roxana Huebscher, Dr. Stephen Huffman, Mr. Richard Kalinoski, Dr. Daniel Lehrmann, Dr. Susan McFadden, Dr. Carolyn Wells and Dr. Robert Wise the Endowment for Excellence Professorship.

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

The Endowment for Excellence Professors are a community of critical, creative and constructive thinkers who approach academic and social issues in an informed and principled way, and who actively engage in collaborative scholarship with the broader community that benefits from our educational and cultural programs. Their accomplishments help distinguish UW Oshkosh as a regionally based and globally connected learning community.

We are honored to have in attendance a number of prior recipients of the Endowment for Excellence Professorship. Would those of you assembled here today who were previously presented with this award please stand to be recognized by your friends and associates? Please see the program for the names of all Endowment for Excellence Professors.

#### Rosebush Professorship

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

We also have the Rosebush Professorship named for John McNaughton Rosebush, who directed University development and the UW Oshkosh Foundation in the 1970s. One of the University's most coveted awards, the professorships are granted for excellence in teaching, professional achievement and public service. The Rosebush University professorships serve to reinforce the connection between teaching and research recognizing that teaching is primary and that research strengthens the teaching function. We are honored today to bestow on two members of our faculty the 2005 John McNaughton Rosebush University Professorship.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Gregory Adler** of the Biology and Microbiology department in the College of Letters and Science please come forward? With more than \$420,000 support from the National Geographic Society, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Science Foundation, Dr. Adler has conducted experimental research in Panama, French Guiana, Venezuela and Vietnam to determine what limits the population density of tropical animals. He has collaborated with students on research and on dozens of refereed articles on tropical rodents, and many of his students have gone on to pursue doctoral degrees in Biology. He is a former recipient of the Curwood Endowed Professorship and of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Short-Term Visitor Fellowship. We are proud to recognize Dr. Adler as a Rosebush Professor.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Kathleen Corley** of the Religious Studies and Anthropology department in the College of Letters and Science please come forward? Dr. Corley is the author of three books and more than 20 articles on women's roles in the Bible and on Feminist myths and perspectives. Her scholarship has been supported by six UW-Oshkosh summer research grants. Dr. Corley has been named a fellow at both the Institute for Research in the Humanities in Madison and at the Coolidge Research Colloquium in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She currently holds the *Oshkosh Northwestern* Endowment for Excellence Professorship. We are proud to recognize Dr. Corley as a Rosebush Professor.

In recognition of exceptional professional accomplishment and achievements in research, scholarly activity, teaching and service, the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh hereby confers upon Dr. Gregory Adler and Dr. Kathleen Corley the 2005 John McNaughton Rosebush University Professorship.

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

The Rosebush Professors are a distinguished group of faculty members whose achievements have helped to promote our vision of UW Oshkosh as a model of a responsive, progressive, and scholarly public service community known for its accomplished record of engaging people and ideas for common good.

We are honored to have in attendance a number of Rosebush Professors. I ask that the prior recipients of this award gathered here today stand to be recognized by your friends and associates. Please see the program for the names of all Rosebush Professors.

#### Distinguished Teaching Award

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

Each year the University recognizes the teaching excellence of its faculty and instructional academic staff members with the Distinguished Teaching Award. The student-faculty

relationship is the most central relationship in the university. It is distinguished by active learning, mutual respect and collaborative scholarship. Today we are proud to give five members of the faculty and instructional academic staff the University's Distinguished Teaching Award.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Donna Altepeter** from the Department of Social Work in the College of Letters and Science please come forward? Ms. Altepeter teaches human behavior in the social work environment, and social justice and social work. Her students, including the ones she advises, all benefit from her first-hand experience as a social worker. She has worked with clients on oncology and medical/surgical units at hospitals and with emotionally disturbed adolescents at a residential treatment facility. She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the Academy of Certified Social Workers. Congratulations, Ms. Altepeter for this most-deserved honor.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Joyce Andrews** of the Music department in the College of Letters and Science please come forward? Ms. Andrews is a specialist in vocal music by contemporary British women composers. She has performed in hundreds of engagements with renowned organizations including the New York City Opera and the New Jersey Symphony. Her recordings include *Emily Dickinson Songs*, and *August was Foggy*. She also has recorded for the film industry with Merchant-Ivory Productions. Congratulations, Ms. Andrews, on this most-deserved honor.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Richard Kalinoski** from the Theatre department in the College of Letters and Science please come forward? Mr. Kalinoski founded an annual student playwriting contest, which has given 9 of our student playwrights the opportunity to have their work heard by a public audience. His play about race entitled *Between Men and Cattle* will open in Oxford, Ohio in March, and a new play, *A Crooked Man*, will open in Buenos Aires in 2006. Mr. Kalinoski received the Osborn prize for best new play by an emerging playwright in 1996. Congratulations, Mr. Kalinoski, for receiving the Distinguished Teaching Award.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Kay Neal** from the Communications department in the College of Letters and Science please come forward? Dr. Neal has coordinated the speech communication program, directed the audience debate program and helped to revise curriculum at UW Oshkosh. Her aptitude for teaching was recognized by the UW System Regents Excellence in Teaching Award in 1992, and by the Andrew Weaver Award for Outstanding University Communication Education from the Wisconsin Communication Association in 1997. Congratulations, Dr Neal, for on this most-deserved honor.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Barbara Rosenthal** from the Art department in the College of Letters and Science please come forward? Ms. Rosenthal teaches drawing, figure drawing, two-dimensional design and watercolor courses at UW-Oshkosh. She also serves on the art department's portfolio review committee. Her own art has been exhibited throughout Wisconsin. She is a member of ArtSpace Collective, an artists' co-op in Oshkosh, where she served as secretary and vice president. Congratulations, Ms. Rosenthal, for receiving the Distinguished Teaching Award.

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

The importance of effective teaching cannot be overemphasized at our University. We are honored today by the attendance of a number of the past recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award. Would those assembled here today who previously were honored through receipt of this award stand to be recognized? The names of all past winners of the Distinguished Teaching Award appear in the program.

Barbara G. Sniffen Faculty Governance Service Award

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

The Barbara G Sniffen Faculty Governance Service Award commemorates exceptional service by a member of this University's faculty. We are proud today to honor the member of our faculty who has been selected to receive this award for outstanding service in governance.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Lee McCann** from the Psychology department in the College of Letters and Science please come forward? Dr. McCann has been an elected member of the Faculty Senate for 22 years, and he has served four terms as its president and 15 years on its Executive Committee. He helped to formulate the bylaws for the College of Letters and Science and to revise the Faculty Constitution and the Faculty Personnel Rules. Dr. McCann has also co-authored books and articles on good practices for recruitment and teaching. The service record he has compiled over the course of his career at UW Oshkosh is truly exceptional. Congratulations, Dr. McCann, for receiving the Barbara G. Sniffen Faculty Governance Service Award.

CHANCELLOR WELLS

I would ask the past recipients of the Barbara G. Sniffen Faculty Governance Service Award to stand and be recognized, but we just instituted this award last year, so there is only Dr. James Simmons to recognize. Will he please stand?

Outstanding Service Award

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

As we have now recognized the faculty and instructional academic staff for the scholarship of teaching, research and service, it is appropriate that we also recognize those who make this campus community so strong and vibrant. The University's Outstanding Service Award recognizes the exceptional contributions of non-teaching faculty and academic staff, emphasizing excellence in providing student and professional support services. It is our pleasure to present this year's award to an exceptional member of the Academic Staff.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Timothy Danielson** of Admissions and Affirmative Action please come forward?

Mr. Danielson is an assistant director of admissions who was named a Chancellor's Leadership Fellow in Administrative Services in 2002. Since 2004, he has devoted his Fellowship time to assisting the director of Human Resources and Affirmative Action by helping to facilitate new programs such as one for supervisors to grow leadership from within the University, and the SUCCESS Program, which stands for "supporting a unique change concept to employ students successfully." His efforts to recruit talented students to the university benefit us all. Congratulations, Mr. Danielson, for receiving the Outstanding Service Award.

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

Service is so important that it is only proper that we ask the past recipients of the University's Outstanding Service Award to stand and be recognized by the assembly. Please see the program for the names of people so honored.

Outstanding Performance Award

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

The University also recognizes the contributions of classified staff, limited-term employees and project appointment employees through the Outstanding Performance Award. The Award recognizes excellence in providing service to the University community and emphasizes its importance to the academic environment and overall reputation of the

University as a whole. Today it is our pleasure to present two members of the classified staff the 2005 Outstanding Performance Award.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Jill Reichenberger** from the Oshkosh Student Association please come forward? Ms. Reichenberger came to UW-Oshkosh in November 1993. She is a program assistant in the OSA office where she assists students who are developing leadership skills through their participation in student governance. She is the newly elected chair of the Classified Staff Advisory Committee, and she is active in its Team-building and Personal Development Program. Congratulations, Ms. Reichenberger, for receiving the 2005 Outstanding Performance Award.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Julie Wilkinson** from the registrar's office please come forward? Ms. Wilkinson is an information systems resource technician in the registrar's office, where she has worked since 1997. She helped to implement TitanWeb, the electronic academic record where students register for classes, and PeopleSoft, the computerized student information system. She serves on the Finance Committee of the Classified Staff Advisory Committee, and is active in its Team-building and Personal Development Program. Congratulations, Ms. Wilkinson, on this very special honor and recognition.

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

Each day we have all benefited in countless ways from the fine work performed by this University's classified staff. Would the past recipients of the Classified Staff Outstanding Performance Award please rise? The names of all past winners are listed in the program.

Academic Staff Regents Award for Excellence

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

The Regents Excellence Award recognizes two non-instructional academic staff members System-wide who provide essential services to the university while demonstrating excellence of performance, personal interaction, initiative and creativity, and outstanding achievement. The \$5000 award acknowledges the exceptional service to the University made by members of the non-instructional academic staff. We are pleased this year to have a recipient on our campus.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Beth Heuer** please come forward? Ms. Heuer is Director of Human Resources and of Affirmative Action. She helps ensure that this campus offers a productive place to work and a tolerant environment for learning. She assisted Chancellor Wells when he chaired the Northeast Wisconsin Educational Resource Alliance (NEW ERA). She strengthened

the role of classified staff in campus affairs by creating the Classified Staff Advisory Council, which has become a System-wide model of human resource development. Congratulations Ms. Heuer on receiving the 2005 Regents Academic Staff Award for Excellence.

Regents Teaching Excellence Award for Academic Departments & Programs

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

The Regents also grant one Teaching Excellence Award for Academic Departments & Programs each year. This award recognizes an academic department that demonstrates exceptional commitment to and effectiveness in teaching. The \$5000 award supports further program enhancements, such as professional development or teaching-related supplies and expenses. We are very pleased that one of our departments was chosen to receive this distinguished award this year.

PROVOST EARNS:

Would **Colleen McDermott and Beatrice Holton and the members of the Department of Biology and Microbiology** please come forward? The members of the Department of Biology and Microbiology actively engage in collaborative research projects and in co-authoring scholarly articles with undergraduate and graduate students. Having received over \$1.6 million in research grants from external agencies since 1996, the department offers students access to sophisticated equipment in specialized labs, including the Industrial & Environmental Microbiology Laboratory, the Electron Microscopy Facility, and the Biomolecule Separation Lab.

The members of this department exemplify the spirit of collaboration and cooperation that invigorates academic life by promoting enthusiasm for teaching and learning both in the field and in the lab. Congratulations Dr. McDermott and Dr. Holton and all members of the department of Biology and Microbiology for receiving the 2005 Regents Teaching Excellence Award for Academic Departments and Programs.

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

The student-faculty relationship is the most central relationship in the university, and the members of the Biology and Microbiology department have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to developing mutually reinforcing relationships that involve students, faculty and staff. The Department of Biology and Microbiology joins the Chemistry and English departments as recipients of this prestigious award, making UW Oshkosh the only campus in the UW System to boast having three of its departments recognized by the Regents for Teaching Excellence. Would the members of the Chemistry and English departments stand to be recognized?

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

Please join Provost Earns and me in recognizing and applauding all of our award recipients. Through their actions, they embody all that is great in this University's faculty and staff.

As part of our Opening Day Ceremony, it also gives us great pleasure to recognize the members of our faculty who have received tenure or promotion during the 2004-2005 academic year. Please refer to your program for a list of the names of those so honored.

PROVOST EARNS:

The awarding of tenure is an expression of the University's recognition of past performance and its confidence in future contributions to the University and to the profession. It has been a fact of life in academic circles that the standards for awarding tenure have risen steadily during recent decades. This distinction is awarded only after close examination of the candidates' credentials at the department, college and university levels. Similarly, promotion in rank, which is recognition for having reached significant milestones in a successful academic career, is awarded only after equally rigorous scrutiny. For these reasons we wish to give special recognition to those colleagues who received tenure or were promoted in rank during the 2004-2005 academic year. Will those faculty members please stand?

CHANCELLOR WELLS

Please join Provost Earns and me in extending congratulations to these outstanding faculty members.

CHANCELLOR WELLS

In honoring these members of our faculty, we are also honoring the talent and dedication of all those entrusted with the teaching mission of our University, who share a special dedication to what I think is our most important core value—that which couples a high regard for academic freedom with a commitment to professional responsibility. Through your pursuit of scholarship in all its forms—teaching, research, service—you enrich the lives of your students and all members of the University and the community.

#### Introduction of New Faculty and Staff

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

In today's program we see listed the names and departments of the new faculty and staff who have joined our academic community. At this time, I cordially invite our new colleagues to please stand and receive our warm welcome. Also, we are honored today to be joined by some of our retired faculty and staff members, and I cordially invite them to stand and receive our appreciation and welcome.

#### Conclusion

CHANCELLOR WELLS:

The quality of our people and the kinds of accomplishments represented here define who we are, and what we can be. We cannot hope to get through the upcoming year without facing some difficult challenges, but we can respond with the best that is in us if we can maintain the climate set here today. And we can do that by recalling that the people and accomplishments honored today represent us and our colleagues and what we do every day.

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