
Alumni Banquet

October 22, 2021



homecoming2021

Ottawa University Alumni

Alumni Banquet

Friday, October 22, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Vox Fortis

Serena Eichhorn, Conductor

“Ode to the Creator”

Dr. Harold Popp

Master of Ceremonies

Derek Chappell '87

Greetings

Dr. Reggies Wenyika
President, OUMW

University Update

Dr. Bill Tsutsui
President and CEO, Ottawa University

In Memoriam

Rev. Dr. John Holzhüter

Brave Braves

University Chaplain

Invocation

Director, Fredrikson Center for Faith and Church Vitality

Dinner

50-Year Class Welcome

Class of 1970 Planning Committee
Class of 1971 Planning Committee

Class Recognition

Courtney Klaus '05
Director of Alumni Programs

Recognition & Presentation of Awards

Kate Wilcox '05
President, OUAA
Ms. Klaus

Association Awards

Honoree Responses

Dr. Harold Popp '59

Distinguished Service Award

Mitch Barnhart '81

Outstanding Achievement Award

Michael '16 and Regan '16 (Aeschliman) Jones

Recent Alumni Award

Dr. John Holzhüter

Esther Ruth Award

Kevin Eichner '73

2021 Chief Executive Leadership Award - Case District VI

Unveiling of the Eichner Portrait

Honorary Membership in OUAA

This award is designed to be a prestigious honor granted by the Ottawa University Alumni Association (OUAA). Once recognized, honorary members hold alumni status throughout their lifetimes and are entitled to all the rights, privileges and benefits of any member of the OUAA. A limited number of memberships are granted in any given year and some years it may not be awarded. Nominations for this award must come from an officially recognized member of the OUAA Board of Directors. A campus OUAA board member may only nominate one candidate or couple per year for membership. Nominees are taken to the OU Board of Trustees Committee on Advancement for approval.

Criteria:

- Friend of Ottawa University (individual or couple)
- Distinguished themselves over a considerable period of time by devoting a significant amount of time, energy and talent toward promoting the mission of the University
- Service to OU in regard to enhancing activities at a particular campus, or promoting and supporting the University-wide structure, or both

Outstanding Achievement Award

This award, established in 2005, recognizes individuals who have made an impact in their chosen field of endeavor, whether over a span of many years or in a relatively short timeframe. Recipients' life stories demonstrate what one can do with an OU education. The number of awards given annually varies.

Criteria:

- A graduate of the University
- Has made accomplishments in the context of their paid career, or for a civic personal interest which they have pursued, with or without pay
- Accomplishments have had an impact on the world, nation, state, or community (e.g. volunteer community leadership roles, lobbying for important legislation, humanitarian accomplishments, help filling gaps in the social safety net, etc.)
- Demonstrates a strong sense of ethics consistent with the values of a Christian education, and will be admired for both their accomplishments and their personal values
- Exemplifies the best of the Ottawa spirit and serves as a meaningful role model for current and future OU students

Association Awards

Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes individuals or couples who have demonstrated exceptional service in the church and/or community over a span of time. Established in 1974, the Distinguished Service Award is the cornerstone of the OUAA award system. No more than one or two awards are granted each year.

Criteria:

- Alumni or friend of the University (individual or couple)
- Has demonstrated professional competence, accomplishment and/or service within their church or community
- Exhibits abiding loyalty to Ottawa University

Esther Ruth Award

This award recognizes individuals for their volunteer service that has enhanced student life and benefited Ottawa University as a whole. Established in 1987, recipients are named in honor of Esther Ruth Bemmels, who provided loyal and steadfast service to OU students for more than 30 years.

Criteria:

- Alumni or friend of the University
- Has given a significant amount of time to volunteer service for the benefit of Ottawa University
- Shows initiative, understanding and leadership
- Promotes the University's mission and purpose
- Exemplifies the Ottawa University spirit

Recent Alumni Award

The Recent Alumni Award was established by the OUAA Board of Directors in 2013 and is designed to recognize recent graduates who have attained a significant level of achievement and potential for accomplishment in the early years following graduation.

Criteria:

- A graduate of the University within the last 10 years
- Meeting significant challenges in pursuit of professional goals
- Service to community and others
- Service to church
- Significant alumni participation and support

Ottawa University Alumni

Dr. Harold Popp '59

Distinguished Service Award



A wise man once said that music is the universal language of mankind – one that speaks straight to the soul. When you look at the journey taken by Ottawa University's Harold Popp '59, there is no doubt that music has provided the soundtrack to his life. Popp arrived on the OU campus in the fall of 1955 with music in his heart and a degree in music education in his sights. While at Ottawa, Popp immersed himself in his studies, learning and playing music, with trombone being his instrument of choice. This seminal time in Popp's life laid the foundation for an extraordinary career spent educating young minds in the art of music. Spanning nearly six decades, 56 years to be exact, Popp was a music educator serving primarily at six universities, including his alma mater. At Ottawa, he was a faculty member from 1977 to 1984 and Chairman, Division of Arts & Humanities. He served as Chair of Music Education at Eastern New Mexico University and Chairman of the Music Department at the University of South Dakota. His other professional experience included stints as assistant dean at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, acting associate dean for the school of music at Florida State University, director and professor emeritus at Wichita State University, and adjunct professor at Indiana University. Popp's own pursuit of music has been manifested in his prolific trombone playing and original music composition. As a trombonist, he has played on the United Service Organizations (USO) Tour, and sat in with the Kansas City Philharmonic, South Dakota Symphony, New England Symphony Brass Quintet, and Tallahassee Symphony. He has also performed solo recitals, and been a guest soloist with ensembles in several states throughout the country. As a composer, Popp continues to publish choral and instrumental works for solo works and chamber ensembles performed internationally. He has also had three commissions by the U.S. Army Band in Washington, D.C. His passion for music also led him to serve as a conductor for church choirs in several states, as well as for a variety of music groups, such as the Ottawa Community Band, Delano Wind & Brass ensembles, and the University of South Dakota Symphony Orchestra. Popp has published extensively and served as editor of the *Kansas Music Review* and the *International Trombone Association Journal*. He's also traveled extensively, serving as a speaker for state, national and international conferences and conventions, and as a consultant for the National Association for Schools of Music, North Central Accreditation Council, and the National Association for Music Education. His textbook *Discovering the Creative Impulse* has been used at several universities.

In the church, he has volunteered as a solo trombonist, Sunday school teacher, lay speaker, worship, music and arts chair, and life group leader. He has also served as an instructor of courses in Arts & Christianity, as a study group leader on the works of C.S. Lewis, and as a writer of meditations, short stories, poetry, and philosophy and religious articles. In addition, Popp has been a Cub Scout and Scout master for the Boy Scouts of America. Finally, in serving his alma mater, Popp was a member and past president of the Ottawa University Alumni Association. Sharing in his journey is a large and loving family. Popp's wife, Vicki (Schrey) Popp, is a 1961 OU graduate. They have three grown children: two sons, Michael and Christopher Popp; and a daughter, Debbi (Popp) Ponella. Along with them is daughter-in-law Amy (Sonju) Popp, son-in-law Philip Ponella, and seven grandchildren: Taylor, Tony, Luke, Victoria, Julia, Vaughan, and Autumn. Popp's parents, Asa and Nellie, started a family legacy at OU in the 1920s, that extended to him and his wife, and also includes a brother, Clair; a sister, Carol; a nephew, Mark; a niece, Connie; and two cousins, Lorrel and Dorothy.

Association Awards

Mitch Barnhart '81

Outstanding Achievement Award

Mitch Barnhart is entering his 20th year as Director of Athletics at the University of Kentucky, and continues to add to his accomplishments as one of the foremost leaders in collegiate athletics.



The 2019 “AD of the Year” as selected by the SportsBusiness Journal, Barnhart’s acumen was put to its strongest test in 2020-21. As if it were not enough to guide UK through the severe challenges in health care, competition and finances caused by COVID-19, he also served as chair of the NCAA Men’s Basketball Committee, a task which required him to take a lead role in re-creating and executing the organization’s most prominent event in the midst of a pandemic. Working alongside the NCAA staff, in the span of only two months, Barnhart and the tournament committee scrapped the time-tested format and invented a new procedure by bringing all 68 teams to one location and supporting them with numerous health and safety protocols.

Meanwhile in Lexington, UK finished 12th among 358 D-I teams in the 2021 National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) Directors’ Cup all-sports standings, the third-best finish in school history, the fourth year in a row in the top 20, and ninth in a row in the top 30. UK’s championships in swimming and diving and volleyball give the university a total of five during Barnhart’s term, joining men’s basketball in 2012 and rifle in 2011 and ’18. The consistent performance is a result of Barnhart’s work since his arrival in the summer of 2002. He has steadily invested in the growth of all UK teams, while maintaining a singular commitment to the holistic development of Wildcat student-athletes. UK athletes have set records for graduation rates and maintained a perfect mark in the 17-year history of the NCAA Academic Progress Rate, making UK one of just two SEC schools to never incur an APR penalty.

Investment in the success of UK student-athletes in all facets has been a theme of the Barnhart era, beginning with the provision of funds for full coaching staffs and scholarship allotments for every UK sport. Barnhart has also strategically invested in improvements to UK Athletics’ facilities. Investments in new construction and renovation to facilities include the Joe Craft Center; new stadiums for track and field, softball and soccer; the UK Golf House; and the Wildcat Coal Lodge dormitory. The home of Kentucky football, Kroger Field, underwent a \$126 million renovation completed in 2015 and the \$45 million Joe Craft Football Training Facility opened a year later. A new \$49 million baseball stadium – Kentucky Proud Park – opened in fall of 2018.

Prior to UK, Barnhart served four successful years (1998-2002) as athletics director at Oregon State University. Before OSU, he worked in athletics administration posts at Tennessee (1986-98), Southern Methodist (1983-86), Oregon (1983), and San Diego State (1982-83). He is a native of Kansas City, Kan, earning his bachelor’s degree from Ottawa University in 1981 and a master’s in sports administration from Ohio University in 1982.

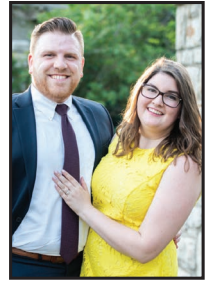
Barnhart and his wife, Connie (Brown) Barnhart '81, have three children: Kirby and her husband, McKenzie; Blaire and her husband, Andrew; and Scott and his wife, Cassie. They have four grandchildren: Cooper, Reece, Gunner and Rylee.

Ottawa University Alumni

Michael '16 and Regan '16 (Aeschliman) Jones

Recent Alumni Award

They spent four years preparing for a life of significance, and now Michael and Regan Jones, both 2016 Ottawa University graduates, are living one. Just five years after leaving Ottawa, the two are making an impact in their prospective fields.



Michael was a Presidential Scholar who earned his OU degree in business economics and accounting. He graduated magna cum laude after earning a spot on the Dean's List all four years. An audit practice senior and digital advisor for Ernst & Young LLP, one of the Big Four accounting firms, Michael's primary roles involve leading a team serving a client that is a \$30-billion multinational company. He is also a leader at EY in transforming the profession to quickly adopt data analytics. He is currently working on CPA licensure.

Regan was a Provost Scholar who earned her OU degree in history and English. She graduated summa cum laude, with distinction in history and English, after earning a spot on the Dean's List four-years straight. She also earned the Excellence in Literature Award her senior year. Regan is the government and law teacher at Basehor-Linwood High School. She has earned several honors in her first four years as an educator, including being named a 2018 Teacher of Promise, earning a 2019 Horizon Award nomination and in 2020 was voted Most Inspirational Teacher by the student body at Shawnee Heights High School.

Beyond their burgeoning professional careers, Regan and Michael are living a life of significance through service to others. Both have served on the University's alumni board since 2019. They are also active in their faith, serving as youth leaders at Prairie Baptist Church in Prairie Village, Kan., and Michael sits on the church's finance and missions committees.

Regan is the daughter of Roger and Robyn Aeschliman, and the granddaughter of Eldon and Mary Jo Aeschliman, all of Topeka, Kan. Michael is the son of Tim and Clareen Jones of Shawnee, Kan.

Association Awards

Dr. John Holzhüter

Esther Ruth Award

John Holzhüter is an educator and long-time advocate for the needs of disadvantaged youth. He currently serves as the University Chaplain for Ottawa University. Holzhüter also leads the Fredrikson Center for Faith and Church Vitality, which initiates and develops programming to strengthen and enrich the faith experiences of OU students.



Holzhüter is the spiritual leader of the University through his service as chaplain. In leading the Fredrikson Center, he focuses on and advances the mission of Ottawa University through its programming, which includes spiritual programming for theologians, church leaders, faculty members, pastors and laity, students and community members. The Fredrikson Center also provides a spiritual house for community events. His previous roles at the University include classroom and community facilitation, serving as director for OU theater productions, and developing and managing grant-funded programming.

Since 1999, he has worked as an efficiency and process-improvement consultant for several federal government agencies and has served on task forces for the last three Kansas governors. He specializes in profit/not-for-profit partnerships and private, state, and federal grant funding and compliance.

Prior to Ottawa, Holzhüter served as a secondary-school administrator, and as the director of an alternative high school. He spent two years as president of the Winter Center for Restorative Justice, a nonprofit that provides services to the frail, the underserved, or those in high-risk environments in 20 Kansas counties. Holzhüter has also led large nonprofit agencies from start-up to national service footprints. In addition to past Chaplaincy roles with the Veteran's Administration and VVA-Chapter 912, he has served as a WorkForce Development Specialist, assisting current and former military personnel, senior citizens and with restorative justice case referrals.

A widower following the death of his beloved wife, Linda, he lives in Ottawa, Kan. He has two grown sons, Sean and Scott.

Holzhüter earned his BA degree in fine arts from Marymount College in Salina, Kan., and a MA in Education from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. He also holds a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity from Trinity College and a Doctor of Psychology from Merton, both constituent colleges of the Oxford University.

Ottawa Scholarship Fund

The Ottawa Scholarship Fund provides needed operating support for the current fiscal year (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022).

Contributions for the Ottawa Scholarship Fund will be used in the following ways to further the mission of Ottawa University and to enhance the total experience for each of our students:

1. Provide scholarships to students.
2. Strengthen our liberal arts curriculum and faculty development.
3. Develop additional depth in our schools: Arts and Sciences, Business and Education
4. Enhance student activity programs, including athletics, performing arts, religious life, and volunteer services.
5. Enhance the Adawe LifePlan Center, launched in the fall of 2009, to strengthen life and career planning, advising, personal coaching, skill development, experiential learning, and study abroad.

Thank you for your thoughtful and prayerful consideration of financial support for Ottawa University. For more information about making a gift to the Ottawa Scholarship Fund, please contact the Office of University Advancement.

Heritage Roll of Honor

The Heritage Roll of Honor is a listing of donors who have included Ottawa University in their estate plans. More than 500 individuals or families have provided for Ottawa's future in some way, whether it is by provisions in a will or trust, a charitable gift annuity, an endowed scholarship, or many other possibilities. Because of their generosity and dedication to the ministry and purpose of Ottawa University, all of these donors are inducted as members of the Heritage Roll of Honor.

In Memoriam

Sept. 7, 2019 – Oct. 4, 2021

Stephen A. Bradley	2009	Kenneth H. Koger	1960
Leota V. Bruce	1961	Alice Joy Lewis	
Barbara Bueller	1974	Ruth Losh	1947
Timothy E. Buis	1991	Alice L. Maas	1946
Mary E. Bundy		Bonnie Martin	
Louise Burke	1954	Jack P. Martinez	1958
Jack C. Burton	1953	Patricia Mason	1968
John Bushman	1962	Dottie Matthew	1952
Dorothy R. Butler	1957	Andrew R. McCluney	2013
Gardner Champlin	1972	Richard E. Meiers	1953
Orville R. Chapman	1952	Keith Miller	1962
Phyllis A. Chesbro	1967	Justin W. Moenkhoff	2001
Charles E. Clinkenbeard	1950	Gwen Nance	1968
Ronald Coldsnow	1954	Aladine Neuenschwander	1952
Timothy R. Conard	1992	Dwight Neuenschwander	1952
Robert H. Cramer	1957	Joel Nordeen	1951
Julie Currier	1976	M. Rosalie Osburn	1976
Samuel K. Detwiler	1973	Alberta Davida Otto	
Lisa A. Disney	1979	Carol A. Pember	1959
Carolyn J. Dodds	1970	James R. Poland	1950
Evan A. Doran	1992	Henry Ray	1976
Richard C. Esterlund	1964	Robin K. Robins	1970
Amber S. Evans	2008	Susanne Sammer	1972
Beverly A. Fink	1956	Michael A. Sancho	
Harry A. Fink		C. Jeanne Schmidt	1943
Virginia A. Flusser	1953	John L. Schmidt	1965
Mark E. Flynn	1975	Robert Schoonover	
Carl D. Foust	1952	Richard H. Schwartz	1958
Michael L. Fowler		Edgar W. Seymour	1952
John E. Gaddis	1953	Mary L. Sheldon	
Keith Gaeddert		Gary N. Shofner	1959
Kenneth C. Garner	1951	Sylvia H. Smith	1969
Gwen Garrigues	1950	Gale D. Stelting	1960
Charles E. Gillette		Clemma L. Stone	1949
Donald J. Haden	1945	Timothy D. Stone	1990
Lois E. Hamilton	1948	Richard B. Suarez	2002
Walter J. Hauenstein	1955	Dorothy L. Swearingen	1964
Ronald L. Haug	1957	Laurie L. Swift	1971
David L. Hiebert	1957	Harry C. Talbott	1957
Bonnie L. Hilbert	1964	Lowell L. Tarr	1956
Frank K. Horton	1972	Lois B. Thompson	1955
Bruce Hoskinson		Jeanne Tiffany	1969
Samuel Howard		Darlene Vaughn	1959
Robertta M. Hughes	1967	Paul A. Volcker	
Robert W. Hull	1947	John E. Walburn	1964
Ralph Hunt	1960	Harry R. Walthall	1953
Willard D. Inskeep	1956	Myrtice M. Watts	1961
Juanita Janssen	1941	Marvin H. Wilson	1960
Keith R. Kaminski		Winston L. Worden	
Ronald L. Kerr	1956	James C. Wright	1960
Robert F. Knight	1959	Douglas R. Zimmerman	1970

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Contribute online at www.ottawa.edu.

In Appreciation

Ottawa University gratefully recognizes the alumni and friends who volunteered their time and talent to make 2021 Homecoming a memorable occasion!