I. Good Evening

[Greg von Lehmen]

Good evening. I’m Greg von Lehmen...and as Provost I would like to welcome all of you to UMUC’s 2011 Academic Achievement Dinner...and thank you for joining us.

Tonight is an evening of great celebration...as we honor the exceptional achievements of our faculty, our staff, and our administration...whose many contributions to teaching and learning exemplify the very essence of this university as a global community of scholars and teachers.

But first things first. Let’s attend to our tables and to each other. The formal ceremony will begin after dinner.

Thank you!

II. Start Program/Remarks

[Greg von Lehmen]

Again, welcome! I hope that you enjoyed dinner, as well as each other's company.

Of course, this is the time of year when we are very much looking forward to our worldwide commencements. Which are for us, as a university, the crowning events of the academic year...both here at home and overseas. But every year at around this time, we also look forward to spotlighting the many academic achievements of our faculty, staff, and others across the university...who so admirably support UMUC's core educational mission.
To officially begin the evening, I want to introduce you to those members of UMUC’s senior leadership team who are here in attendance. Will members of the cabinet please stand—and remain standing—when I read your name.

George Shoenberger – Chief Operating Officer

Gene Lockett - Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Javier Miyares – Senior Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness

Michael Frank – Senior Vice President of Academic Programs and Dean, Graduate School of Management and Technology

Marie Cini – Vice President and Dean, School of Undergraduate Studies

Dennis Blumer – Senior Advisor to the President

Marky Campbell – Senior Vice President for Partnerships and Strategic Alliances

Nadine Porter – Vice President of Human Resources

Nancy Williamson – Vice President and General Counsel

Cathy Sweet-Windham – Vice President of Institutional Advancement

Blair Hayes – Director of Diversity Initiatives

Pete Young – Chief Information Officer and Vice President for Information Technology

Sean Chung – Vice President for Office of Enrollment Management

Andrea Y. Hart – Senior Executive Assistant to the President

And, finally our President, Dr. Susan C. Aldridge…who will join me on the platform for the presentation of the awards. Dr. Aldridge?

I would also like to introduce a number of very important guests: If you could please stand when I call your name:
From the Board of Visitors, we have – the Chair, Dr. Donald Orkand, and members Susan Butta-Cavender, Bill Wood, and Joseph Bowen. We are honored to be joined by UMUC Alumni Association President, Nathaniel Alston, as well as past presidents, current and past members of the Board of Directors, including Pamela Stokes Eggleston, Theresa Poussaint, Debra Young, Patricia Toregas, Mary Ann Hakes, Fran Volo-Stech, June Taylor, Joan Lee, Cheryl Adams, Ralph Young, Patricia Westlein, Shondraya Levy, Melissa Penn and Constance Scott.

From our Art Advisory Board, we have Thomas Li.

Also attending are members of the Faculty Advisory Council, Dr. Margo Coleman, Dr. Theodore Stone, Dr. Terry Hinch, Mr. Robert Miller, Ms. Jennifer Diffin as well as the ex-officio member Dr. Marcia Watson.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Dr. Beverly O’Bryant, Dean of the School of Professional Studies at Coppin State University...who brings greetings from her own university community. We appreciate your taking time out of your busy schedule and thank you for being a part of this exciting event.

IV. Presentations [Greg von Lehmen]

Tonight we are here to recognize a group of extraordinary individuals...each of whom has contributed in some significant way to this university’s educational mission...and in doing so, exemplifies some form of academic achievement. And, so, we are privileged to count them among our faculty, staff, administration, and alumni.

Before we formally begin, however, I would like to explain the logistics. As you accept your award tonight, please enter the stage from your left to receive recognition. Once we finish presenting your award, you may then return to your seat, by exiting from stage right.

And now I would like to introduce Dr. Michael Frank, Senior Vice President of Academic Programs and Dean of the Graduate School of Management and Technology, who will present this evening’s graduate awards. Dr. Frank?

[Dr. Frank]

Thank you, Dr. von Lehmen. As you know, the Academic Achievement Dinner is a special event at UMUC…and one of those occasions when we take time out of our
busy lives to recognize members of our own UMUC community for their many remarkable accomplishments.

That said, I’m happy to be here tonight...to share this evening with all of you.

The first award I will present is the Stanley J. Drazek Teaching Excellence Award....named for UMUC’s second president…and one of this university’s most influential figures.

Dr. Drazek was, above all, a champion of teaching excellence. So it is only fitting that this award is given in his honor. Moreover, it is most appropriate that our Drazek Award winners were nominated by their students and selected by their peers....for their effective and innovative teaching methods...their commitment to UMUC’s educational mission...and their consistent record in maintaining only the highest academic standards.

The Graduate School of Management and Technology is delighted to award this year’s Drazek to two of its outstanding faculty members...Dr. Stuart Hardy and Dr. Linda Smith.

Drs. Hardy and Smith will you please join me at the rostrum?

Dr. Stuart Hardy has played a central role in UMUC's Master of Science in Environmental Management program since 1998. In addition to delivering over 100 class sections in this popular and certainly relevant field of study, Dr. Hardy has implemented a number of learning activities...designed to make the online classroom far more engaging and user-friendly. And according to his students, Dr. Hardy never misses an opportunity to encourage and support their success with his down-to-earth teaching style...lively classroom discussions...and innovative efforts to broaden their learning horizons.

Since joining UMUC's faculty in 2002, Dr. Linda Smith has taught more than 50 graduate class sections...from intercultural communication and leadership...to organizational theory and behavior...to managing people in technology-based organizations. Moreover, as an avid researcher and long-time practitioner in the management field...she uses her vast knowledge and diverse experience to empower her students...inspiring them to achieve even more in their own lives and careers.

So please join me in congratulating Dr. Hardy and Dr. Smith for their extraordinary success.
Will Dr. Ronald Benson, Dr. Barbara Happ, Ms. Paula O’Callaghan, and Dr. Marvin Turner please join me at the rostrum?

Students nominate both undergraduate and graduate faculty members each semester for Teaching Recognition Awards…individuals who are not only exceptional, but also dedicated teachers. And I am proud to add these deserving graduate school professors to the list.

Congratulations to all of you.

The Graduate School’s remarkably gifted team of administrators, faculty, and staff are frequently cited for their efforts by a variety of professional and academic organizations….a few of which I would like to recognize, as well.

Will the following individuals please join me on the stage: Dr. Bryan Booth, Dr. Robert Goodwin, Dr. Les Pang, Dr. Irena Bojanova, and Dr. Stella Porto.

In March, the UMUC Doctor of Management program...led by Dr. Bryan Booth, Executive Director, Business and Executive Programs Department... received the prestigious 2011 Best Distance Learning Program of the Year Award from the Maryland Distance Learning Association. MDLA is a state-wide organization that advocates for and promotes the coordination and use of distance education across Maryland and the surrounding region.

The United States Distance Learning Association also presented UMUC with four outstanding achievement awards at their annual conference this month. As the first nonprofit association in the United States to support distance learning research and development...the USDLA now boasts more than 20,000 global sponsors and members. So these awards are not only recognized nationally, but internationally, as well.

Our Master of Business Administration program, under the direction of Dr. Robert Goodwin...Chair of our Business and Executive Programs Department...took home the 2011 Best Practices in Distance Learning Programming – Silver Award. Of course, this award recognizes the many years of dedicated commitment and exceptional innovation on the part of our graduate school administrators and MBA program faculty.

Moreover, the USDLA honored Dr. Irena Bojanova and Dr. Stella Porto...with its 2011 Award for Outstanding Leadership by an Individual in the Field of Distance Learning...while their colleague Dr. Les Pang...received the 2011 Excellence in
Distance Learning Teaching Award - Platinum. Both of these illustrious awards were designed to highlight extraordinary achievements in scholarly research and writing...leadership and service...in support of effective distance education.

The University Professional and Continuing Education Association...or UPCEA...also tapped Dr. Porto for two of its highest honors...the 2010 Award for Applied Research in Distance Education...and the 2010 Individual Award for Outstanding Faculty Service. Needless to say, these awards acknowledge her remarkable accomplishments in the field of distance education...while underscoring her longstanding commitment to lifelong learning.

Please join me in congratulating these exceptional award recipients!

Next, I would like to invite the following individuals to join me on the stage: Dr. Christine Hannah, Dr. Rosemary Hartigan, and Ms. Paula O’Callaghan.

Dr. Christine Hannah, Program Director, Business and Executive Programs Department, has been appointed by the Academy of Management to a three-year term as Chair of its Teaching Theme Committee. Founded in 1936, AOM is the leading global scholarly management association...with 20,000 members from 110 nations.

Paula O'Callaghan, Collegiate Assistant Professor, and Rosemary Hartigan, Associate Chair, Business and Executive Programs Department, won the Best Paper Award at the 2010 North East Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference in Ithaca, New York....for their paper entitled, "Gossip, The Office, and the First Amendment,” coauthored with Jerome O'Callaghan of SUNY Cortland.

Please join me in applauding these outstanding faculty members!

And last, but certainly not least, would Dr. Irena Bojanova, Dr. Jim Chen, Dr. Irmak Renda-Tanali, Dr. Barbara Schwartz-Bechet, Dr. Claudine SchWeber, and Dr. Wendy McDonough please join me at the podium.

This year, we established a UMUC Faculty Research Grant Program in an effort to foster additional and important academic research. A Selection Committee...chaired by the Orkand Chair in Management and Technology, and comprising both deans and a diverse group of faculty members...reviewed numerous applications before selecting the following UMUC faculty and faculty-administrators to receive stipends: Fall 2010:
Wendy McDonough, a faculty member from the School of Undergraduate Studies for her research entitled: A Study of Multimedia to Enhance Teaching, Social, and Cognitive Presence in Online Courses

Claudine SchWeber: Disaster Management, Continuity of Operations and Organizational Resilience, with the assistance of Dr. Marcia Bouchard

Irmak Renda-Tanali: Assessing the Benefits of Web-Based Scenario Simulation Exercises for Homeland Security Management Courses at UMUC

Summer 2011:

Irena Bojanova: Conducting Immersive Group Projects for Core Graduate Level IT Courses

Jim Chen: Enhancing Ethics Education in Cybersecurity and Information Access

Barbara Schwartz-Bechet: Can Course Design in the MAT Program Promote Personalized Learning Through E-Learning and E-Teaching Practices?

I am also proud to announce that Dr. Barbara Schwartz-Bechet received the Professional Partnerships Grant from the University System of Maryland. This grant underwrites collaborative projects between postsecondary institutions and local school systems...with which to promote achievement among PK-12 students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

Please join me once again in congratulating these award winners!

I will now turn the program over to Dr. Marie Cini, Vice President and Dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies. Dr. Cini?

[Dr. Marie Cini]

Thank you, Dr. Frank.

As were those awarded in the graduate school, faculty members in the School of Undergraduate Studies were nominated by their students and chosen by their peers to receive the Stanley J. Drazek Award for Teaching Excellence.

And this year’s recipients are certainly deserving of this honor.
Will Dr. Sarah Felber and Dr. Sharon Levin please join me at the podium?

Having joined UMUC's undergraduate faculty in 2005, Dr. Sarah Felber has since distinguished herself as an accomplished teacher in cultural anthropology, linguistics, and advanced writing and grammar. And as her students will undoubtedly tell you, she is an enthusiastic scholar-practitioner...who readily shares her love for writing and language. In fact, she is particularly adept at using interactive technology to provide both instruction and feedback...to the delight of her students. And in addition to teaching, Dr. Felber mentors new faculty...test pilots new courses in writing and grammar...and serves as Course Chair.

Dr. Sharon Levin first came to UMUC in 1992...and since then has established a phenomenal reputation as an accounting instructor. Of course, she will be the first to tell you that her teaching philosophy is a work in progress...as she continues to integrate new learning theories, teaching resources, and learning technologies in response to the ever-changing needs of her students. So as you might imagine, they consistently attribute their success to Dr. Levin's enormous energy, profound involvement, and unfailing determination as a teacher...a mentor...and a friend. She also provides exceptional faculty leadership as a course and final exam chair...a peer mentor...and course development team writer for the first online international accounting course.

Please join me in a very big round of applause for these spectacular teachers. And congratulations to both of you.

Will Dr. Gay Claiborne, Ms. Ilene Frank, Dr. Joyce Henderson, Dr. Nicole Lynch, Ms. Barbara Puffer, and Dr. Irina Vlasova please come to the podium.

These phenomenal instructors were nominated by their students to receive Teaching Recognition Awards...having time and again proven their dedication to and enthusiasm for the profession.

So I would ask that you join me in congratulating them on this much-deserved honor.

Like the Graduate School, the School of Undergraduate Studies has attracted an exceedingly talented group of administrators, faculty members, staff, and, of course, students...many of whom are recognized by professional organizations and associations for their extraordinary contributions.

Will Dr. Linda DiDesidero and Dr. Merrily Stover please join me at the podium.
Dr. Linda Di Desidero...UMUC's Academic Program Director for Communication Studies, Journalism, Speech and Professional Writing was recently elected President of the College English Association, Middle Atlantic Group...which is certainly a well-deserved honor, given her exceptional use of the English language.

As a past winner of both UMUC's Teaching Recognition Award and its Stanley J. Drazek Award, Dr. Merrily Stover is known throughout the university for her exemplary academic leadership. So it is no surprise that she was recently elected to chair the Federation of Small Anthropology Programs...of the American Anthropological Association.

Please join me in congratulating these two faculty members on their remarkable professional achievements?

And now, I will turn the podium back to Dr. von Lehmen, who will announce the next group of awards.

[Greg von Lehmen]

Thank you, Dr. Cini.

UMUC has long been committed to providing the highest quality education to adult students, no matter where they live and learn. Which is why those of us here in Adelphi must never forget the efforts of our colleagues on the other side of the world...who face many of the same challenges, as well as others that are very different...in meeting the needs of their students.

As with the stateside Drazek Award recipients, faculty members who work in Asia and Europe were chosen for their effective and empowering teaching methods...along with their commitment to UMUC’s high standards for academic excellence.

That said, I would like to acknowledge our overseas award winners Dr. Stephen Garrigues and Dr. Nancy Matton from the Asian Division...and Dr. Michael Apichella and Ms. Deborah Griggs from our European Division.

In addition, we have three Teaching Recognition Award recipients from each of the two divisions to honor: Dr. David Ramsey, Ms. Woo-Ill Shim, and Dr. Steven Shirley from Asia....along with, Ms. Molly Affleck, Dr. Eva Heisler and Dr. Joseph Sepe from Europe. And I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Heisler for earning the Emily Dickinson Award from the Poetry Society of America.
Although these esteemed faculty members were not able to be here for this ceremony, I ask that you will give them all a hearty round of applause for their extraordinary accomplishments.

Will Ms. Kathryn Klose, Dr. Heike Raphael-Hernandez, Dr. Steve Knodel and Sonya Marie Mercer now join me at the podium?

Every year, the University System of Maryland's Board of Regents' presents its prestigious Faculty Awards...designed to publicly acknowledge exemplary faculty members throughout the system...for their many contributions in sustaining its longstanding tradition of academic excellence.

As the USM's highest honor, these awards are given in four categories: Teaching, Mentoring; Scholarship/Research/or Creative Activity; and finally, Public Service. And it is my distinct pleasure to introduce three of our own faculty members who were among this year's award winners.

In her role as Associate Chair and Program Director, Management, Accounting, and Finance Department, Graduate School of Management and Technology, Ms. Kathryn Klose continually demonstrates outstanding initiative and uncommon creativity. As a dedicated and energetic instructor...who teaches almost entirely online...Ms. Klose has successfully leveraged her ties with the local finance and accounting community to benefit her students...while attracting new faculty, curriculum enhancements, and program mentoring support from among the industry's most talented practitioners. She also spearheaded a now widely recognized project to create, develop, and implement an innovative Master of Science in Accounting and Information Systems (MSAS) program.

So it's no wonder that her CV will now include the University System of Maryland's Board of Regents' Faculty Award for Mentoring.

Dr. Heike Raphael-Hernandez ...from our European Division...was also tapped by the Board of Regents to receive its Faculty Award for Research. During her twenty years of service as a faculty member for UMUC Europe, Dr. Raphael-Hernandez has become known far and wide as both an accomplished teacher and prodigious writer...with an expertise in cross-cultural literature and film.

As one of her colleagues, Stephen Small wrote: “Her work is analytically sharp, empirically rigorous, and thoroughly inter-disciplinary. She has influenced scholars working in these fields, both in the USA and in Europe, and continues to carry out
research that demonstrates compelling breadth of coverage, and impressive depth of 
analysis...She is without doubt a leader in her fields and her research framework; 
theoretical traditions and research interests have been tremendously well thought out, 
imaginatively conceptualized, superbly formulated, and outstandingly researched.”

And while Dr. Raphael-Hernandez couldn't be here with us tonight, I know you join 
me in congratulating her, as well.

Dr. Steve Knode is our third Board of Regents' Faculty Award winner...this time in 
the Teaching category. As Program Director, Business and Executive Programs 
Department...in the Graduate School of Management and Technology...Dr. Knode is 
one of those professors who naturally rises to the top.

His teaching approach is based on the five “Es”...engage, explain, exemplify, 
empathize, and empower. So with that in mind, he typically begins each class with a 
provocative idea or prediction...chosen to stimulate a lively exchange of information 
and ideas...a tactic he also uses with his colleagues. And as a recognized expert in 
intelligent agent technology and decision support software...he demonstrates an 
uncanny knack for incorporating them into the learning environment.

As one student wrote, “Dr. Knode did an excellent job of articulating complicated 
subject matter in a clear and concise fashion. While studying the course materials, I 
found myself inspired to learn more about the topic and to determine how I can 
leverage the various technologies in my place of employment.”

The USM Board of Regents also recognizes exceptional staff members from among 
the system's 12 institutions with a series of prestigious awards. And this year, Ms. 
Sonya Marie Mercer received the Regents' Exempt Staff Award, Certificate of 
Recognition and Appreciation for Honorable Mention for Outstanding Service to 
Students in an Academic or Residential Environment.

Sonya Marie came to UMUC in 2002 and is currently the Director for EDCP 100- 
Principles and Strategies for Successful Learning, and the Better Opportunities for 
Online Education (BOTOE) Scholarship program. And for those of you who have 
worked with her, you know that she is an extraordinary administrator and teacher, 
who has devoted her professional life to helping our students build theirs.

Indeed over the past year, she has worked long hours to ensure that our military and 
veteran students get off to a successful start at UMUC...having now designed and 
implemented an EDCP 100 class just for them...along with a workshop to prepare 
faculty members for meeting the unique needs of these very special students.
So once again...I ask that you give these award winners a big hand for their spectacular achievements.

Will Ms. Michelle Samuels-Jones, Ms. Kimberly Bonner, Dr. Richard Schumaker and Mr. Brian Schneider join me at the podium?

UMUC has a longstanding tradition of leveraging technology to greatly improve its operational efficiency and effectiveness. And our automated transfer credit and degree audit system is one of this university's most spectacular entrepreneurial achievements. Which is why the Center for Transforming Student Services...or CENTSS...recognized this system, by presenting our Office of Student Affairs with a 2010 Innovation Award for the Administrative Core area. So tonight Michelle Samuels-Jones, Associate Provost and University Registrar is here to represent the Student Affairs team.

Next, the MERLOT Library and Information Services Editorial Board recognized Kimberly Bonner’s VAIL (Virtual Academic Integrity Laboratory) Tutorial, with its Award for Exemplary Online Learning Resources – MERLOT Classics 2011. This award is made on the basis of such criteria as Quality of Content, Potential Effectiveness as a Teaching/Learning Tool, and Ease of Use...all of which are certainly embodied in this wonderful tutorial.

Richard Schumaker was elected 2010 Maryland Distance Learning Association President and will serve as the 2011 Vice-President. As president and now vice-president, Richard has focused his energy in two directions...inclusion and outreach...both of which have made a tremendous impact on the organization's membership and visibility.

Mr. Brian Schneider, adjunct professor in English and communication for UMUC Europe, was awarded the gold medal...along with a $1500 prize...for Best Short Story in the 2010 Faulkner-Wisdom Awards...joining such other past winners as National Book Award winner Julia Glass, as well as bestsellers Stewart O'Nan and Moira Crone.

Schneider...a former US Air Force Sergeant, who holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from UMUC and a Master of Arts Degree in English from the University of British Columbia...has published several short stories. He is also working on his first novel about his experiences with the war in Afghanistan and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder.
But In the meantime, you can read his award-winning story, "Goodnight Uncle Vincent," in the Spring 2011 issue of the New Orleans literary magazine, Double Dealer. And while he couldn't be here with us tonight, I know you join me in congratulating him as well.

So please give all of these honorees a big hand.

Will Dr. Rana Khan and Dr. Arhonda Gogos please join me at the podium?

Now, it is my distinct pleasure to announce the Provost’s Award for Best Paper in Online Education Research. This award was established not only to encourage excellence in online education, but also to promote cutting-edge research among our faculty here at UMUC. And the winner is chosen from among those who have taught either fully online or hybrid courses...and have submitted original, unpublished papers...which exemplify the same high standards as any peer-reviewed journal submission.

So I am truly delighted to present this...the third Provost’s Award...to Dr. Rana Khan and co-author Dr. Arhonda Gogos...for their paper entitled, Mentoring of Biotechnology Graduate Students Through Virtual Media: An Ongoing Study of Challenges and Impact. And I would like to give you a brief overview of its research findings.

The Professional Science Master’s Biotechnology program here at UMUC developed a unique online mentoring program that pairs students with mentors from the biotechnology industry. This program has been in effect for three semesters now, and has grown to include 41 mentor-mentee pairs. Even more impressive, the program retention rate has risen from 79% between the first and second semester, to 87% between fall 2010 and spring 2011.

As this paper reports, the fall 2010 end-of semester questionnaires indicate general participant satisfaction...while pointing to specific gains in students' ability to identify and pursue their career goals. And in analyzing program participant outcomes against those among an identified group of non-participants...the study found that both GPAs and course completion rates were significantly higher among our mentees.

Of course, as the program progresses, Dr. Khan and Dr. Gogos will not only reevaluate their research findings periodically...but also examine the effects of program participation on career prospects after graduation.
But for now, I want to congratulate you both on receiving this award...and wish you continued success in your research efforts.

I would now like to invite Dr. Stephen Holowenzack and Dr. Paul Keller to the stage.

The designation of Professor Emeritus is one we take very seriously here at UMUC...awarding it only to those faculty members, who throughout their distinguished careers...have consistently embodied academic excellence and innovation...while always putting our students first. And there is no doubt that Dr. Holowenzak and Dr. Keller have truly earned this honor.

There is no one at this university more committed to serving our brave men and women in uniform than Stephen Holowenzak.

In his more than 20 years here, this very special member of our UMUC family has never once missed an opportunity to lead and serve...without fanfare or self-promotion...complaint or hesitation.

Whether as a collegiate professor...the academic director in our Asian division...or in his current position as senior program manager for faculty services and communication...he has always given generously and enthusiastically of his talent, his time, and his resources, particularly when it comes to our military students.

And while there are dozens of wonderful stories about Dr. Holowenzak's many outstanding accomplishments...there is one that truly exemplifies the unassuming nature of his profound and abiding patriotism.

On September 11, 2001, he was working in Asia. But as you might imagine, he was deeply saddened by the day’s tragic events...and moved to in some small way remember the many heroes who lost their lives during these attacks.

So from his post in Japan, he purchased more than 100 American flags...one for each member of UMUC's headquarters there...and left them in a box with a simple, but anonymous, note to take one, as a show of solidarity and support. And by the end of the day...and for many months later...Dr. Holowenzak's flags were proudly displayed on every desk...as a perpetual reminder of this university's own patriotic spirit.

Needless to say, he is the very first UMUC faculty member to receive the esteemed status of Professor Emeritus.

Likewise, Dr. Paul Keller has put in many long years to support both our students and his colleagues as a valued program director and faculty member in the Graduate
School of Management and Technology's Department of Information Technology Systems. And following his retirement last year, I am delighted to report that he continues to teach for us.

Dr. Keller was an early champion of distance learning...and prior to coming to UMUC had already developed several technology-enhanced learning products... including The Distant Classroom: a computer-based conferencing, electronic mail, and chat system. He also served as the Director of Academic Computing and, earlier, Computing Coordinator for UMUC from 1983-1989.

Upon returning to this university in 1991, Dr. Keller provided extraordinary administrative leadership as the Computer Systems Management program morphed into the Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) Informatics Specialization. What's more, he volunteered to take on the role of program director in the Information Systems and Services (ISAS) specialization...and served for many years as the department’s liaison to the Office of DoD Relations.

Of course, Dr. Keller cultivated and inspired a wonderful group of capable and creative faculty members...and in the past five years, seven of them were Drazek Award nominees...two were Drazek Award recipients...and two received the Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Mentor Awards.

Even more important, however, he has always been there for his students, enthusiastically providing them a learning experience that was as empowering as it was effective...a commitment that earned him the Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Mentor Award in 2003. And as the consummate scholar-practitioner, he became a real world role model for his students...serving on a number of distinguished IT boards and committees...while founding and editing Minerva ¾: A Newsletter of Applied Informatics for the Arts and Sciences.

So I am indeed pleased to recognize Dr. Keller as a UMUC Professor Emeritus...and ask that all of you join me in applauding both of these exceptionally gifted and tremendously dedicated educators.

[Greg von Lehmen]
As you might imagine, UMUC’s graduate and undergraduate faculty of highly credentialed scholar-practitioners are recognized time and again for their individual, as well as their collective contributions. And while UMUC is not a research institution – research is important to the teaching mission, and these truly outstanding men and women publish extensively on any number of research topics.
To be sure, it would take the better part of this evening...and probably well into the morning...to acknowledge all of the many books, articles, reports, and professional presentations they have authored and edited.

So, we have chosen just a few of them for tonight’s ceremony...as exemplary recipients of the university's Notable Professional Publication and/or Presentation awards. For those in attendance this evening, I would ask that you stand as I call your name and remain standing as a group. Please hold your applause until all names have been called.

[Names from program]
Dr. Amjad Ali
Dr. Robert Beauchamp
Dr. Ulrich Bernath
Dr. Lisa Blaschke
Dr. Sally Blostrom
Dr. Irena Bojanova
Dr. Bryan Booth
Dr. Jane Brindley
Ms. Michelle Carroll
Dr. Alan Carswell
Mr. John Coogan
Ms. Megan Davis
Dr. Cynthia Davis-Sbaschnig
Mr. Mark de Jong
Dr. Linda Di Desidero
Dr. Donald Donahue
Ms. Lenore England
Dr. Michael Frank
Ms. Li Fu
Dr. George Ann Gregory
Dr. Sharon Hadary
Dr. Rosemary Hartigan
Dr. Marwa Hassan
Dr. Eve Heisler
Dr. Jim Howard
Ms. Katherine Humber
Dr. Rhonda Jones
Dr. William Joyce
Dr. Lisa Kahn
Dr. Rana Khan
Ms. Allison Kipta
Dr. Steve Knode
Dr. Gila Kurtz
Dr. Linda LaMacchia
Dr. Tobe Levin
Dr. Jay Liebowitz
Dr. Bruce Lubich
Ms. Barbara Mann
Dr. Katherine Marconi
Mr. Robert Miller
Mr. Stephen Miller
Dr. Leila Monaghan
Ms. Katie Nailer
Ms. Paula O’Callaghan
Dr. Robert Ouellette
Dr. Loyce Pailen
Dr. Les Pang
Dr. Sandeep Patnaik
Dr. Virginia Pilato
Dr. Stella Porto
Dr. Rukmini Potdar
Mr. Joseph Rawson
Dr. Irmak Renda-Tanali
Dr. Susan Sadowski
Dr. Augustine Samba
Dr. Barbara Schwartz-Bechet
Dr. Claudine SchWeber
Dr. Moe Shahdad
Dr. Darlene Smucny
Mr. David Starr-Glass
Dr. J. Charles Sterin
Dr. Claudia Stier
Dr. Theodore Stone
Dr. Merrily Stover
Ms. Cynthia Thomas
Dr. Christine Walti
Ms. Yu-Hsiu Wang
Dr. Katherine Woodward
You have all distinguished yourselves as extraordinary knowledge leaders...and we congratulate you on your enormous accomplishments.

Each year, our UMUC president awards two of the university’s highest distinctions -- the President’s Medal and the Distinguished Alumnus Award --- to deserving members of the UMUC community. Dr. Aldridge?

[Dr. Aldridge]

Good evening. I’m thrilled to be here with each of you tonight, to celebrate the many individual accomplishments of our UMUC family members...as we reflect on yet another year of remarkable progress in fulfilling our mission as a worldwide, world-class university.

So I consider it a great privilege, as the president, to present two of the evening’s most distinguished honors. As in the past, this year’s award recipients have not only proven their devotion to this institution and its students time and again...they have also established themselves as leaders in both the UMUC community and the community at large.

I am pleased to present the President’s Medal to Dr. Donald Orkand and Kim Orkand... both of whom hold a particularly cherished place in our hearts at UMUC.

For those of you who know Kim and Don...you also know that there is no end to their personal commitment when it comes to this university and its students. Indeed, they have gone above and beyond the call for many years now...doing so much for so many....which is why the name Orkand is synonymous with philanthropic generosity here at UMUC. We were delighted to welcome them into our university community when Don first joined the Board of Visitors in 2001. Shortly after that, they endowed the Orkand Chair for UMUC’s then newly established Doctor of Management program.

But their generosity didn’t stop there....because they also launched the Orkand Endowed Scholarship...which provides much-needed financial support to hardworking undergraduate students....along with the Orkand Family Military Scholarship...which covers textbook costs for military service members and tuition assistance for their spouses.

Moreover, UMUC has reaped the many benefits of Don’s remarkable leadership, as the Chair of its Board of Visitors. In fact, now that he has stepped down from that position...we hope he will continue to provide us with his wise direction and...of course...his wonderful candor.
So in honor of the Orkands and their many, many contributions to this great university…I am delighted to award them both the UMUC President's Medal. And while they could not be here with us tonight, I ask that you join me in a big round of applause.

As all of you know, we treasure our alumni here at UMUC. So much so that we recognize one of our remarkable legacies each year with a very special award. This year, we have designated Catherine Kuenzel as our Distinguished Alumna.

Having earned her bachelor's degree here in 1999, Catherine truly epitomizes the UMUC ideal...as an accomplished and experienced knowledge leader in the rapidly emerging field of cybersecurity. During her 20-year career in information technology, she has consistently proven her professional versatility...across a range of functions...from account management and business development...to running a large services solutions group at Northrop Grumman.

Catherine joined the Northrop Grumman IT team in 2002... as director of National Security Agency business operations...and a year later went on to head the company's cryptologic systems division. And today...she is vice president of federal mission programs...overseeing the development, delivery, operations, and maintenance of secure networks, applications, and solutions for the enterprise systems that support the mission critical operations and services of Federal Civil Agency customers.

Prior to joining Northrop Grumman...Catherine was area vice president of the advanced programs group at Oracle Corporation...where she was responsible for directing the team that markets and sells database and application suite solutions to the intelligence community. She also served as vice president for Lucent Technology's advanced program group.

Moreover, as an avid cybersecurity professional...Catherine is always more than willing to share what she knows with other aspiring cyber warriors. And in keeping with that commitment...she serves on both the CEO Industry Advisory Council for the American Council for Technology and the Board of Directors of the AFCEA Intelligence Committee. I am also happy to announce that she will soon join our esteemed Cyber Think Tank here at UMUC.

Needless to say, it is a privilege to present this year's Distinguished Alumna...Catherine Kuenzel.
I will now turn the program back over to Dr. von Lehmen, who will say a few last words. Thank you to all for attending tonight’s celebration. We certainly applaud your contributions and value your support.

[Greg von Lehmen]

Now on behalf of Dr. Aldridge and the entire UMUC community, I want to congratulate tonight’s award recipients for the spectacular example they have set for both their colleagues and our students. And I am confident that they will continue to set the bar for excellence in everything they do.

I would also like to thank our Awards Planning Team...a group of exemplary staff leaders...who are always willing to go above and beyond in making events such as this one memorable. Angie Hart, Senior Executive Assistant to the President; Angela Hutchison, Assistant Director of University Events; Kelly Myers-Gatzke, Marketing Client Services Manager; a number of staff volunteers including Samantha Schweinhart, Harold Pittenger, and Dawn Koschnitzki; and Amanda Knapp, Chair of the Academic Achievement Dinner and Executive Assistant to the Provost.

I also thank all of you for joining us tonight. Your support means the world to us...and we are grateful that you could share in this journey. As you leave here tonight, I hope you will take a few moments to reflect on the many thousands of students who have graduated or will graduate from this great university on Saturday. UMUC is indeed a better place for having served them all.

If you were an award winner tonight and had the opportunity to take your photograph in advance of the celebration, be sure to stop outside the ballroom to pick up a special reminder of this wonderful event. Also, to those award recipients who received multiple recognitions tonight please be sure to stop by the table outside to receive your additional certificates.

Good night and have a safe trip home.

Susan C. Aldridge, PhD.
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