

Schmidly honors OSU staff at convocation

Oklahoma State University faculty, staff, and administrators were honored at the fall convocation Thursday.



[Joseph Geilfuss](#)

Administration Reporter

Will Gungoll/O'Collegian President David Schmidly applauds the faculty, staff, and administration being honored during the annual fall convocation Thursday.

Amid black and orange banners in the Student Union Atrium, Oklahoma State University President David Schmidly awarded OSU faculty, staff and administrators at the convocation Thursday.

Schmidly announced regents, awards and other faculty and staff awards, but the highlight of the convocation were the President's Service awards, Eminent Faculty award and the Loyal and True award.

The winners of these awards did not know they had been selected until Schmidly announced them.

The Presidents' Service awards were given out in three categories: faculty, staff and administrator. Schmidly said there was typically only one award given to faculty, but he wanted to make sure outstanding leadership was awarded.

The first award was given to Mohammed Bilbesi, an associate professor of architecture. Under his advisement, the American Institute of Architecture Students chapter at OSU has had membership increase 300 percent. Bilbesi was recently named the top architecture teacher in the nation by the institute.

The other recipient was Carol Moder. Moder, an associate professor of English at OSU, was instrumental in changing the university's retirement program, according to a press release.

The recipient in the staff category was Jeff Sweeden. Schmidly said he was known as the go-to-guy in the physical plant.

The Atrium crowd stood up and applauded Ranga Komanduri as Schmidly recognized his achievements by awarding him the Eminent Faculty award. The Eminent Faculty award is given to someone "who has made sustained contributions to scholarly-creative activity, teaching and service," according to the program.

Komanduri received a \$10,000 award and a trophy for his accomplishments.

Another prestigious award that drew loud applause from the crowd was the Loyal and True award. Schmidly said the award personifies the spirit of OSU through devotion, personal sacrifice and commitment.

Campus Life Director Kent Sampson and OSU alumnus Milt Morris were given the awards for their service to the university. Morris refused university payment as he worked as the Interim Assistant Vice President for Communications for a year.

Schmidly wrapped up the convocation with the accomplishments that OSU has made during the past year.

He noted record high enrollment, a higher average ACT score for incoming freshman, new buildings and the creation of the strategic plan.

Convocation Award Winners

President's Service Awards, given for outstanding service to the university.

Faculty Category

Mohammed Bilbesi, associate professor of architecture, and recently named as the top architecture teacher in the nation by the American Institute of Architecture Students.

Carol Moder, associate professor of English and former chair of the OSU Faculty Council, who worked on getting changes adopted to OSU's retirement program.

Staff Category

Jeff Sweeden, foreman of truck services for the OSU Physical Plant. He is described as the "Go-To Man" when you need something done.

Administrator Category

Carol Olson, director of University Research Compliance — a long-time OSU administrator who provides coordination and leadership in all research compliance issues.

OSU "Loyal and True" Awards to two outstanding individuals who personify the OSU spirit.

Milt Morris, an OSU alumnus who served the university for one year without pay as Interim Assistant Vice President for Communications.

Kent Sampson, OSU's "contagiously optimistic" Director of Campus Life, a tireless administrator and colleague who is also one of the nicest guys in the world.

Eminent Faculty Award Goes to Professor Komanduri

Professor Ranga Komanduri received the OSU Eminent Faculty Award that recognizes the highest level of faculty achievement. Komanduri is a Regents Professor in the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

From OSU Headlines

For more info and a transcript of Schmidly's speech, go to <http://osu.okstate.edu/news/>