Professor Olivas was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Ohio State University, College of Education and Human Ecology, according to a press release issued by the university.

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Education and Human Ecology society selects outstanding alumni for honors

Columbus, Ohio – In recognition of their contributions to college athletics and higher education law, a former Ohio State administrator and an alumnus of the College of Education and Human Ecology at The Ohio State University were inducted into the Hall of Fame recently.

In addition, seven alumni received awards for their achievements in disability advocacy, educational administration and evaluation, social foundations of education, hospitality management, human resource development, literacy education and youth physical activity.

The Hall of Fame inductees are: Phyllis Bailey, retired professor and administrator of the Ohio State Department of Athletics; and Michael A. Olivas, an internationally respected expert in higher education and immigration law.

The recipients of college alumni honors are:

Award of Distinction: Edward Rensi, retired president of McDonald’s USA; the late Julianna Cochran Rogers, an early advocate of the rights of the handicapped; and Darrell K. Root, a major contributor to evaluating educational programs.

Career Achievement: Joetta Beaver, an advocate of Reading Recovery in North America; AAhad Osman-Gani, internationally known professor of human resource development; and Wayne J. Urban, an expert in the social foundations of educational tenets.

New Leader: Leah Robinson, who fights childhood obesity, particularly in African American children.

The Education and Human Ecology Alumni Society board of directors select the honorees for the college awards from nominations of alumni and, in the Hall of Fame category, alumni and former college administrators or faculty.

For complete biographies, see ehe.osu.edu/news.

HALL OF FAME

Phyllis Bailey, of Columbus, Ohio (43220), professor emeritus of athletics and physical education, and associate director emeritus, Ohio State Department of Athletics

A pioneer in women’s sports, she oversaw the transition from a handful of clubs to 18 varsity teams for women during her 39 years as coach and administrator at Ohio State. Beginning as the Buckeyes’ first women’s varsity basketball coach, she served as assistant athletic director during the transition to Title IX equality. As a mark of the changes she had wrought, her last
duty as associate AD gave her responsibility for men’s as well as women’s basketball, the first time gender was not the only basis of her assignment.

Michael A. Olivas, of Houston, Texas (77204), MA ’74, English; PhD ’77, Higher Education and Organizational Theory

As the internationally respected William B. Bates Distinguished Chair of Law at the University of Houston, his writings and advocacy have shaped public policy to help people of color, poor people, immigrants and migrant workers. His efforts enable them to be full-fledged participants in achieving the American Dream, especially in accessing higher education. He wrote the leading casebook on higher education law and lectures and consults internationally. Early in his career, he worked with the Ohio Board of Regents to ensure that migrant farm workers receive Ohio residency status and can attend the state’s public colleges.

AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Edward H. Rensi, of Downers Grove, Ill. (60516), BS ’90, Business Education

He developed many fast-food concepts now taken for granted: Chicken McNuggets, drive-throughs and Extra Value Meals. Rensi, who first attended Ohio State in the 1960s, started in the hospitality industry as a part-time manager trainee and retired as the top executive of McDonald’s USA. Throughout his career, he was admired for solving societal challenges, including aiding families of seriously ill children by developing Ronald McDonald Houses.

Julianna Cochran Rogers (posthumous award), formerly of Columbus, Ohio (43229), BS ’70, Education; MA ’74, Speech Communications

An early advocate for the rights of people living with physical and learning limitations, she overrode barriers to enroll at Ohio State after recovering from polio. On campus, she lobbied fiercely to improve accessibility for all students and became a model for the installation of handicap-accessible facilities. In her professional career, she pioneered the recognition of the needs of students with dyslexia. She died in 2000.

Darrell K. Root, of Miamisburg, Ohio (45342), MEd ’57; PhD ’71, Educational Administration and Educational Evaluation

A retired professor, University of Dayton, he made major contributions to the technique and art of evaluating educational programs, ensuring the best courses of study for children, college students and business professionals. In addition to helping to create the PhD in evaluation at Ohio State, he was central to evaluating Ohio’s Praxis exam for beginning teachers, and helped develop the CIPP evaluation model of context, input, process and product.

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Joetta Beaver, of Worthington, Ohio (43085), BS ’66, MA ’73, Education

She is a teacher of teachers, creating leaders by presenting new concepts and methods for reading instruction worldwide. As one of the first Reading Recovery teacher leaders, she was among the visionaries who brought the program to North America. Because of her later guidance of the Reading Recovery Council of North America, 2 million struggling first graders
nationwide have learned to read and write. An educational consultant, she also analyzes districts’ use of assessment data to maximize teaching and learning.

AAhad Osman-Gani, of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, MA ’87, Business Administration; PhD ’92, Human Resource Development

An internationally known professor of human resource development, IIUM University, he has almost single-handedly advanced HRD principles and concepts throughout Asia. Because of his energy, academic HRD programs are well established at universities in that part of the world. His 150 articles and consulting on international and cross-cultural management have had a major impact on global businesses that must successfully blend employees from varying backgrounds and languages.

Wayne J. Urban, of Tuscaloosa, Ala. (35487), MA ’65, Higher Education; PhD ’68, History of Education

A professor at the University of Alabama, he uses social foundations of education tenets, especially those of Ohio State’s famous social foundations program of the 1960s, to address contemporary issues of social justice. He emphasizes the importance of social engagement to make a difference in issues of race, class and equity. He draws on historical and sociological perspectives to expand understanding of African American education, teacher unions and other policy matters.

NEW LEADER AWARD

Leah Robinson, of Opelika, Ala. (36801), MA ’02; PhD ’07 Sport and Exercise Science

As faculty at Auburn University, she focuses on health disparities in young children, particularly those of African descent, with the goal of developing motor skills and physical activity to avert obesity and cardiovascular disease in later life. Only four years into her scholarly career, she has received numerous professional accolades. However, the most important aspect of her academic work is her dedication to the health of children from underrepresented groups.

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NOTE: High-resolution photos of the honorees are attached.