

# OCC honors outspoken teacher at graduation

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Folks at Oakland Community College are apparently willing to let bygones be bygones — at least when it comes to handling out honors.

One of seven people named Outstanding Faculty Members at Friday's OCC commencement exercises in the Pontiac Silverdome, Don Nichols, a somewhat outspoken and controversial professor.

Last October, for example, as Michigan approached the fall elections, Nichols raised some eyebrows at OCC when he wrote a letter to The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers encouraging people to join the movement to oust incumbent politicians.

It was bad enough that OCC, like other state schools, was trying to get more money from the state Legislature.

But Nichols' letter was an official

stationery and had been metered through the school's stamp machine — giving the incorrect impression OCC sanctioned his call to "THROW" the incumbents out.

"THROW" was a Florida-based organization named in honor of its philosophy — "Throw the Hypocritical Biscuits Out."

NICHOLS WAS CALLED on the carpet for his actions, according to OCC spokesman George Cartsonis.

But the matter was forgiven — and virtually forgotten — after Nichols apologized and paid for his indiscretion — less than \$2.

"He only sent one letter," said Cartsonis. "And it was clearly an oversight on his part."

Forgiveness was easier, Cartsonis said, because the letter did not prompt public reaction — or comments from state or federal legislators.

"Furthermore, Nichols is truly a beloved faculty member," Cartsonis said. "The people who nominated him described him as a zealous, appealing professor truly dedicated to the interests of students."

Nichols said he too was surprised about being nominated for faculty member of the year honors.

"I was a dean for the Orchard Ridge Campus for about 20 years," he said. "Some of the decisions I made irritated some of my coworkers. I was involved in evaluations, and sometimes they didn't think I evaluated them fairly."

NICHOLS SAID he was told that 27 students, faculty members or staff employees nominated him for faculty member of the year.

Forgiveness of them were affected by my decision. I'm glad to see they are so fair."

Also receiving faculty of the year honors at OCC Friday were Paula

Barthel of Rochester Hills, and Richard Burt of Troy from the Auburn Hills Campus; Ruth Grass of Milford, Kathleen Grill of Union Lake and Richard Knapp of the Highland Lakes Campus; and Marilyn Kokozka of Plymouth from the Orchard Ridge Campus.

Among the 1,000 students who received associate's degrees Friday were Judith Wiser of West Bloomfield and Richard A. Blonde of Rochester Hills, both members of the OCC Board of Trustees.

Blonde received three degrees, one in business administration and two in applied sciences.

He said being a student while sitting on the Board of Trustees had good and bad points.

"It gave me a student's perspective," he said. But his fellow students — once they learned of his dual role — were not hesitant to bend his ear about what they saw as problems.

THEY DIDN'T HASSLE him, Blonde said. But they'd complain about tuition, scheduling or other typical student concerns.

Named as Outstanding Alumnus was Marshall Backeroot of Lapeer who earned an associate's degree from OCC before attending Michigan State University where he obtained bachelor's and master's degrees.

Backeroot subsequently joined the faculty at OCC and taught landscape technology at the Auburn Hills Campus.



By photo

Don Nichols is outspoken and sometimes controversial. But that didn't stop the students, faculty and staff at the Southfield-Royal Oak campus of Oakland Community College from selecting him as an Outstanding Faculty Member.

## Air traffic control workshop, exam set

The Federal Aviation Administration is searching for qualified men and women to become Air Traffic Control Specialists. Salaries for Air Traffic Controllers range from \$21,000 to \$60,000.

To qualify for the position, you must have three years work experience and/or education above the high school level and meet medical, psychological and security requirements.

Oakland-Pontiac Control Tower is sponsoring a workshop for those interested in taking the Air Traffic Controllers exam. The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 15, at Oakland Community College, Highland Lakes Campus, 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake in the Student Activities Center, Room 108.

The ATC exam, conducted by the

Office of Personnel Management, will be held at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 19, at the McNamara Building, 477 Michigan Ave. Room 592, Detroit.

The workshop and exam are both free of charge and open to U.S. citizens between the ages of 18-30. For more information and/or to register for the workshop, contact Pontiac Tower at (313) 664-3150.

**AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE**

**10% OFF**

W/COUPON • EXPIRES 6/22/91

**FREE TIRE ROTATION with LUBE, OIL & FILTER**

**\$16.95**

W/COUPON • EXPIRES 6/22/91

**\$10 OFF ANY BRAKE WORK**

W/COUPON • EXPIRES 6/22/91

**TOM HALBEISEN**

**GOODYEAR**

BRIMMINGHAM 647-3370 ROYAL OAK 548-0110 ST. CLAIR SHORES 293-1110

**GOODYEAR CERTIFIED AUTO SERVICE**

IN HOURS: MON-FRI 7:30-7:00 SAT 8:30-4:00 P.M.

**Leewards**

**DOLLAR DAYS**

**T-Shirts**

**2 for \$7**

Reg. \$10.00

**1 oz. Tulip Fabric Paint**

**2 for \$3**

Reg. \$4.99

**Long Stem Silk Flowers**

**2 for \$1**

Reg. \$4.99

**Plastic Canvas Sheets**

**5/\$1**

4/\$1

**Summer Tableware**

**2/\$1**

Reg. \$2.99

**Mini Wicker Baskets**

**2/\$1**

Reg. \$2.99

**2 oz. Acrylic Paint**

**1.00**

Reg. \$2.99

**Gold Metal Frames**

**1.00**

Reg. \$2.99

**Assorted Yarns**

**1.00**

Reg. \$2.99

**Doll Hats**

**99¢**

**Snap Blade Knife**

**FREE**

15" x 20" Prints **2.00**

30" x 36" Aida **4.00**

Cross-Stitch Fabric **5.00**

16" x 20" Poster Frames **5.00**

4 oz. Bag Curly Doll Hair **5.00**

Crochet Hook Sets **\$2 \$4 \$6**

**Leewards**

STORE HOURS: Mon-Fri 9:30-9:00 Sat 9:30-6:00 Sun 11-6:00

Rochester Hills Lansing Novi & Ann Arbor Locations

The culture you contribute • The culture you community •

**SEMI ANNUAL SALE**

Save on select spring merchandise throughout the store

**SAVE 20%**

Men's suit, sport coats and dress shirts

**SAVE 25%**

Men's sport coats, dress shirts, slacks, belts

**SAVE 30%**

Men's sport coats, dress shirts, slacks, belts, ties, socks

**SAVE 20%-30%**

**GRAHAM & GUNN**

Sarasota, Md.  
2845 West Bay Parkway Road, Suite 200  
Sarasota, FL 34235