**Snapshot of the 2021 Club and Society Award Winners**

**First here are the 2021 Pay it Forward Award for Volunteerism recipients.**

This award is given to individuals who, through their service and achievements as a club or society leader, go above and beyond to support and advance the goals of Ohio State. Here are just a few of the comments from the nominations.

* Fellow Buckeyes have benefited greatly from their innovative and selfless leadership.
* During their time as an officer they championed, chaired, and facilitated some very important projects around diversity, food insecurity, mentoring, fundraising, and increased scholarships.
* They were able to utilize the strengths of our board members, acquire skills related to virtual formats and maintain meaningful communication with alumni and students to pivot our activities to embrace the virtual platforms available to all.
* Energy, enthusiasm, excitement, and conviction are just some of the words that describe their passion for our Buckeye students, parents, and alumni.

Congratulations and thank you for all that you do for Ohio State!

**Program of the Year:**

The Program of the Year award celebrates an initiative that is truly exceptional. Each winning group will receive $400.

Because the traditional in-person game watches at Factory Street Pub could not be held, The Ohio State University Alumni Club of Tuscarawas County hosted a very clever Drive-thru Fishing Expedition - Scholarship Fundraiser. They even had special guest volunteer, Miss Ohio Caroline Grace Williams. For a $20 donation, the donor would receive their “catch of the day” which was an Ohio State themed prize worth at least $20. Over $3,000 was raised.

**Innovative Program of the Year:**

The Innovative Program of the Year award celebrates new and unique programming initiatives Each winning group will receive $600.

EE/ECE Alumni Society – Virtual STEM Outreach this is another great example of a group using their networks to create an exclusive and special event.

The Ohio State University Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering is fortunate to have a STEM outreach all-star in Professor Betty Lise Anderson. While these projects are usually facilitated in person, the Ohio State Electrical Engineering/Electrical and Computer Engineering (EE/ECE) Alumni Society hosted an event to bring virtual presentations to your home! to introduce kids (fourth graders and above) to fundamental electromagnetic and electrical principles by having them create, at home with our virtual guidance, a Jumping Jack and Speaker. During the construction of these activities, we’ll explain the underlying scientific and engineering principles in a manner that kids will understand.

The group shipped the project supplies to the participants in advance and after the event used the reimbursable programming funds to cover the costs.

**Alumni Group of the Year** Groups that receive this award must exemplify the mission and values of The Ohio State University Alumni Association and university, with volunteer efforts that exceed expectations.

**Knowlton School Alumni Society**

This society has consistently gone above and beyond the requirements to achieve Scarlet status. This past year they very much embraced virtual programming and did not shy away from having difficult conversations about diversity equity and inclusion. They also maintained personal outreach to recent graduates.

In the summer of 2020, members of the KSAS Board mailed hand-written personalized congratulations letters to every single graduate of the Knowlton School

They also hosted a session with tips to help prepare for the Architects exam and a session on LinkedIn all very relevant to recent and non-recent grads.

Online Mentoring, Resume Review, and Career Day – Virtual format created opportunities for mentors across the wide geographic spread of Knowlton School graduates and increased alumni participation to 55 individuals and expanded our outreach to Alumni in 15 states including Bangkok, Thailand.

Diversity Initiative The nation-wide debate on events of racism caused the Society Board to issue a KSAS Diversity Statement. Going beyond denouncing racism and support for Black Lives Matter, we resolved to be active in addressing this issue and in collaboration with the Knowlton School make immediate changes. We discussed at length how to build momentum for attracting a more diverse student body and thereby realize design professionals that more truly reflect the diversity of our country’s population. To that end, our Statement committed to a program of Listen, Outreach, and Educate.

**Alumni Club of Greater Washington DC**

The Alumni Club of Greater Washington, D.C. (OSUDC), as with all other alumni clubs and our society, had to pivot to virtual programming and responding to social justice and equality over the past year. This required us to find new ways to promote fellowship and further professional relationships among alumni, friends, and former students at The Ohio State University (OSU), while not shying away from topics that The Ohio State Alumni Association (OSUAA), OSU, and OSUDC felt we must address. We embraced this challenge and pushed the club into a new territory with a steadfast focus on advancing the mission and values of OSUAA.

* 16 category 1 events in 7 categories (*events were designed to fall into more than one category)*
* Scholarship Fundraisers – 6
* Awarded a total of $12,500 to 5 incoming OSU first year students from the DC area ($2,500 to each student)

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, OSUDC’s different events engaged 1,400+ alumni in the DC metro area. The first event in our joint Racial Awareness & Change Event Series with the Ohio State Black Alumni Society and the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, “Our Story,” drew over 450 participants. This was one of the largest virtual events hosted by any OSU alumni club over the past year. Our cicada event, “They’re Back,” drew the single largest crowd for a virtual event of any OSUAA or alumni club event over the past year with approximately 700 registrants.

1. **Buckeyes in Law DC Summer Speaker Series:** A 10-part series hosted by OSUDC and the Moritz College featuring virtual conversations with prominent alumni who work in law and policy in Washington, D.C.
   * <https://dc.alumni.osu.edu/event/buckeyes-in-law-2020/>
2. **Racial Awareness & Change Event Series, “Our Story”:** OSUDC created a joint year-long series of events to address the issue of racial equity and justice.
   * <https://dc.alumni.osu.edu/event/webinar-09232020/>
3. Partnered with In Christy’s Shoes for the **Virtual Sole Celebration**: In Christy’s Shoes is a Columbus, Ohio and Washington, DC based area charity that raises funds and provide awareness and funds for programs that support women experiencing homelessness, unemployment, domestic abuse, substance abuse, human trafficking, and brain cancer. The Sole Celebration is a fashion show which is held annually to raise funds.
   * <https://dc.alumni.osu.edu/event/in-christys-shoes-2020/>
4. **OSUDC 2020 Tailgate Favorites Cookbook:** OSUDC crowdsourced recipes from local alumni, compiled them, created a cookbook, and sold copies for $10. OSUDC partnered with 6 other alumni clubs from around the country selling the cookbook to their club splitting the proceeds 50/50. We raised $200 for the OSUDC Spearman Scholarship Fund, as well as funds for 6 fellow alumni clubs’ scholarship funds.
   * <https://dc.alumni.osu.edu/shop/cookbook/>
   * <https://dc.alumni.osu.edu/event/march-madness-2021/>
5. **Script Ohio Craft & Sip!** OSUDC partnered with the College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Society to host a joint event for DC based alumni facilitated by A/R Workshop centered around creating a custom themed Ohio State throw pillow.
   * <https://dc.alumni.osu.edu/event/craft-sip-2021/>
6. **They’re Back! Explaining Cicadas with Provost Bruce McPheron:** OSUDC hosted an event centered around Cicadas, inviting alumni clubs in Ohio and the Mid-Atlantic region to join.
   * <https://dc.alumni.osu.edu/event/webinar-06242021/>

Our greatest success this past year is defined by how we navigated the pandemic and addressed social justice issues. OSUDC adapted in new ways to stay connected, communicate, and provide virtual experiences for our members while not shying away from sensitive issues dealing with race. We embraced technology, innovation, and becoming comfortable with the uncomfortable. This is exemplified by our Racial Awareness & Change Event Series and serves as our single greatest success over the past year.