

2006



Vincent Aveni



Vera Blaine

SUMMER COMMENCEMENT

Distinguished Service Awards

Alumni and other friends of Ohio State are a passionate lot. They remember their Ohio State ties, serving as ambassadors of the university around the world.

But a handful of alumni, retired faculty and administrators and friends who have forged connections with the university truly stand out. For this outstanding group, the university trustees established the Distinguished Service Award in 1952.

Distinguished Service Award winners to be honored at Summer 2006 Commencement are:

VINCENT AVENI

Six years after Vincent Aveni received his bachelor's degree in business from Ohio State, he founded Realty One in his hometown of Cleveland. The company has been hugely successful, and Aveni has never forgotten how much Ohio State helped him accomplish.

Aveni's service to Ohio State has been prolific, including such highlights as his work on the latest fund-raising campaign committee and his aid to scholarship and housing programs for business students and athletes.

Fisher College of Business Dean Joseph Alutto called Aveni and his wife "unofficial ambassadors for Ohio State in the Cleveland area. They are generous with hosting Ohio State faculty and staff and provide a stage for us to share with the Cleveland community the exciting progress being made here at Ohio State."

VERA BLAINE

Vera Blaine has always had faith in Ohio State.

Blaine, known as Vickie, came to the university to study dance in 1952 before it even had a dance department. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Ohio State before joining the dance faculty in 1958 and becoming chair of the department in 1983.

Colleagues praise Blaine for her commitment to making dance a priority in elementary and high schools, for her tireless efforts to bring diversity to the dance department and the university and for putting Ohio State on the dance world's radar.

Professor Donald Harris, former arts dean, said Blaine's work made it "clear to all that there was an important center for dance in the nation that was not located on the east or west coasts but was situated here in the nation's heartland."