

## **Ian R. Ward**

### **Outstanding Alumnus Award**

Ian R. Ward, a 1976 LSSU business administration/management graduate, has been chosen as the recipient of this year's LSSU Outstanding Alumnus Award.

The East Lansing resident has been a member of the LSSU Foundation's board of directors for more than 12 years, including several years as chair of the finance committee and member of the executive committee, and is a longtime proponent and generous donor.

Ian is senior vice president of investments, operational services and real estate for Auto Owners Insurance Co., one of the largest insurance companies in the nation and the largest in Michigan. He is one of 11 officers in the Lansing office, and he is in charge of managing the financial portfolio for the entire organization and its business operations. He's worked there for 37 years.



In his position, he encourages his company to hire LSSU graduates, brings recruiters to campus, and speaks to classes whenever he has an opportunity.

"The quality of the education I received at LSSU prepared me well for the career that followed," Ian said. "In the investment field, I continually interact with individuals with degrees from many larger schools and I feel the small-class environment and common-sense approach at LSSU has served me well.

Ian's Laker connections run deep. He was a successful student-athlete and leader when he was a student, and was part of the 1974 hockey team that was inducted into the LSSU Athletic Hall of Fame. His wife Toni is an alumna, and their son Brad was a student-athlete when he was an LSSU student. The Alumni Association presented him with the Kenneth J. Shouldice Achievement Award in 2000.

"Ian is a humble, successful business leader who is respected by his classmates and fellow board members," said Tom Coates, executive director of the LSSU Foundation. "We are very fortunate to have someone with his business acumen on the board, and he has been so supportive of LSSU in many ways. He is an outstanding example for our students to emulate."

Ian encouraged more alumni to get involved on campus.

"I have enjoyed my involvement with the LSSU Foundation," he said. "It has allowed me to stay in touch and give back to the alma mater that has been so good to me and my family. The future of LSSU depends on strong support from alumni, and I encourage all alumni to consider supporting LSSU with your talent, time, and financial resources. For me, it is all about the students and their future, and helping LSSU stay vibrant for years to come."

The LSSU Alumni Association's Outstanding Alumnus Award, established in 1968, is the highest honor that the association presents. It recognizes recipients for their personal and professional accomplishments and their involvement with LSSU, highlighting the significant achievements of alumni who serve as leaders in our region, state and nations.