

THE OKEMOS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OKEMOSALUMNI.ORG

For Immediate Release
October 18, 2017

Contact: Rod Ellis
Pres., Okemos Alumni Association
616-437-3706
rodellis1000@aol.com

Okemos High School (OHS) Alumnus to Receive MSU Top Philanthropy Honor
Dr. Thomas Yunck will also discuss the satellite data revolution at OHS, open to the public

East Lansing, Michigan – The Okemos Alumni Association is celebrating prominent scientist Dr. Thomas Patrick Yunck, who will receive the Philanthropist Award from Michigan State University on Thursday.

Yunck, who set Okemos High School records in cross country and track in 1966 and 1967, will return for an informal alumni reception, and to speak to students at Okemos High School on Monday, October 23, 2017. At 3 PM that same day, he will speak about “The Coming Revolution in Satellite Data” to Okemos students, faculty, alumni and the general public. Yunck’s company is launching those “revolutionary” satellites now.

“We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Dr. Yunck back to Okemos to celebrate his lifetime of achievement and generous giving to help others, and our planet,” says Rod Ellis, chair of the Okemos Alumni Association’s Education Foundation. “He exemplifies the excellence that is made possible by the outstanding educational quality and citizenship cultivated at Okemos High School.”

Yunck founded GeoOptics, Inc., which provides the most detailed picture possible of our planet’s atmosphere, surface and subsurface. The company studies how environmental changes impact weather, water, air quality, vegetation, ocean circulation, invasive species, and solar activity, and how these factors affect people on local, regional, and global scales.

He received a BSEE from Princeton University and a Ph.D. from Yale University.

The long-time NASA technical manager and researcher pioneered the use of GPS for civil and scientific applications. He is past chairman of the Foundation for Earth Science, and an inductee into the Space Foundation’s Space Technology Hall of Fame. In 1988, Tom wrote the first proposal for exploiting GPS signals to sound the Earth’s atmosphere for weather and climate applications. Since then, he has been involved in every aspect of its development and validation. He holds the basic patent on the “state space” approach to Wide Area Differential GPS positioning, which has grown into a \$100 million per year industry.

The Okemos presentation, “The Coming Revolution in Satellite Data,” will be offered free to the public on Monday, October 23, at 3:00 in the Okemos High School Kiva. The Michigan State University Grand Awards Gala will be held on Thursday, October 19 at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing, MI 48824.

For more information, please contact Rod Ellis at 616-437-3706 or rodellis1000@aol.com

#####