

Feeding America honored **Rachel Bristol**, executive director and CEO of **Oregon Food Bank**, with the **2009 Dick Goebel Public Service Award** for distinguished work in the area of public policy and advocacy on behalf of hungry Americans. Feeding America announced the award March 1 at its 2009 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference, a gathering in Washington, D.C., of more than 450 anti-hunger advocates, sponsored by Feeding America and the Food Research Action Center.

The **Better Business Bureau** serving Alaska, Oregon and Western Washington announced its **2008-2009 Business of the Year Torch Award** winners for Oregon and Southwest Washington: **Large Business of the Year: Kettle Foods Inc. (Salem); Small Business of the Year: Bamboo Sushi (Portland); Community Involvement Award: The Mac Store (Headquarters: Lake Oswego); Customer Service Award: Lumi Adult Foster Care Home (Portland); and Innovative Business Practices Award: Silk Espresso (Gresham).**

Steven Strauss, a professor of forest biotechnology at **Oregon State University**, has been named the **2008 Forest Biotechnologist of the Year** by the **Institute of Forest Biotechnology**. Strauss, a pioneer in the genetics and applied biotechnology of forest trees, was selected for this honor by the **Forest**

Biotechnology Partnership, an international group of forestry and biotechnology professionals. He is the first recipient of this award, which recognizes "the forest biotechnologist who best exemplifies responsible uses of forest biotechnology, and actively promotes science, dialogue and stewardship through their work."

The **U.S. Small Business Administration** announced that **Tara O'Keeffe**, president and founder of the Sisters-based **O'Keeffe's Co.**, manufacturer of the Working Hands, Healthy Feet and Life Out There cream, has been selected as the **2009 Oregon State Small Business Person of the Year**. O'Keeffe is the first individual from Central Oregon to win the Oregon Small Business Person of the Year award.

NAI Norris, Beggs & Simpson brokers received high honors at the **Commercial Association of Realtors'** annual awards dinner on March 5. Executive Vice President **Chris Johnson** was named **Investment Broker of the Year**, Vice President **Scott MacLean** was named **Industrial Broker of the Year**, Associate Vice President **Mike Tharp** was given the **Distinguished Service Award** and Executive Vice President **H. Roger Qualman** was named **Humanitarian of the Year**.

Holland & Knight partners **Joshua Husbands** and **Alan Jensen** received the **2008 Excellence in Writing Award for Best Overall Trust & Estate Article** in the **American Bar Association's Probate & Property Magazine**.

The award is in recognition of their article, "**Split Dollar Life Insurance Funding: You Mean People Still Do That?**" that will be published in the May/June edition of the magazine. Husbands and Jensen are one of six award recipients chosen nationally from various categories by the magazine's editorial board.

Portland-based **Lyon Films** has been recognized by the **Aurora Awards** for two recent projects. The Aurora Awards' top prize, "**Platinum Best of Show**," was awarded for a project for **PDM International** received in the **Religious Issues/Report/Documentary** category. A project for the **Agri-Business Council of Oregon** and **OR-OSHA** was awarded a "**Gold Award**" in the **Issue Awareness** category.

NorthWest Crossing, Central Oregon's largest mixed-use neighborhood, has been awarded a **2009 Guildmaster Award** for exceptional customer satisfaction.

PR Week awarded **Shannon Riggs** of **Lane PR** its **2009 Young Professional of the Year** award, which recognizes the outstanding achievements of a public relations professional that has been in the industry for less than three years.

The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** has recognized the **Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance** with a **2009 Energy Star Partner of the Year** award for its outstanding contributions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by delivering information and services to increase energy efficiency.