

Contributors

Ashley Cerku is a junior in the Department of English and Writing/Rhetoric at Oakland University. Her inspiration comes from the many things that are overlooked in life, including objects, places, emotions and people. She resurrected the Student Writers Group at OU, after it disbanded in 2005, and is currently the President. She helped release the group's third edition of *Swallow the Moon*, a journal composed of writing and art pieces of Oakland University students. Cerku is also a student in the Honors College and President of the Honors College Student Association, as well as a member of Alpha Lambda Delta and Golden Key honors societies. She plans to become a novelist and writer to inspire others.

Geoffrey Brieger, Professor Emeritus of Organic Chemistry, is currently investigating the fate of toxic organic compounds in the environment; i.e., the fate of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) in conjunction with zebra mussels, who are known to process enormous volumes of Great Lakes water, and consequently ingest considerable quantities of organic and inorganic pollutants. Another key research interest is in the biologically active components of herbal medicines, with concentration on the identification of the active ingredients in Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) fruits and St. John's Wort. He also continues to carry out research in organic synthesis, with an emphasis on the discovery of new methods.

Robert Conner is an undergrad History major at Oakland University with an additional major in English. He has a 3.7 GPA and is a two-time Deans List student at Oakland. His achievements at Oakland University include receiving the OU History Department's prestigious George Matthews Scholarship in History. He has also received the Distinguished Transfer award at Oakland for his time spent at Macomb Community College where he earned his Associates Degree in History. Robert's historical interests include the Colonial, Early American, and Civil War periods, as well as both Japanese and Ancient Roman History. He is currently set to graduate in May of 2012 after which he plans to enroll for a Masters degree in either History or Historic Preservation.

Joe DeMent grew up in Southern California. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1944 before his 19th birthday and ultimately served for 6 years. He was in the 25th Medical Battalion in the Philippines, and later in Austria, during and after World War II. He returned to California to finish college in 1953 and began his graduate work at Indiana University in 1954. From the addresses he had typed on the short stories, it appears that he wrote them either while he was an undergraduate or during the year he lived in the city of Detroit before he moved to Bloomington. Although family and colleagues were familiar with some of the poetry Joe had written in the 1960s and 1970s, none ever knew that he had written these short stories. These stories were found in his files, along with decades of notes and papers, after his death on July 7, 2010.

Amanda Deschamps is a senior studying Writing and Rhetoric and Women and Gender Studies.

Dana Driscoll is Assistant Professor in Writing and Rhetoric at Oakland University. She teaches courses in first-year writing, peer tutoring, global rhetoric, research methods, and literacy. Her research interests include the transfer of learning, research methodologies, and writing program administration.

Sherman Folland is Professor of Economics. He publishes numerous articles focusing on health economics. With two colleagues, he is also author of the leading textbook in that field, *The Economics of Health and Health Care*. He is currently under contract with the University of Bergen, Norway, to help develop a research program on the relationship of social capital to health.

Annie Gilson, Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing, has been at OU since 1999. Her novel, *New Light*, came out in 2006; she is currently working on three others, *A Book of Mirrors*, *The Oracle of Knowing and Unknowing*, and a young adult fantasy novel, *Skyrider*. She took a trip to Turkey for the section of the novel excerpted from *A Book of Mirrors* here; this trip was funded in part by an Oakland University Research Grant.

Alice Horning is Professor of Writing & Rhetoric and Linguistics. She teaches reading, composition and business writing in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, and psycholinguistics, language variation and change, and literacy in the Department of Linguistics.

Her research is focused on the psycholinguistics of literacy in print and digital environments.

Jeffrey Insko is Associate Professor of English. He teaches and writes about antebellum U.S. literature and culture. He is partnering with the Rochester Public Library, with the help of an NEH grant, to plan and produce a series of events on the work and life of Louisa May Alcott, author of *Little Women*.

Dr. Barbara L. Joyce, a clinical neuropsychologist, is the Director of Curriculum Evaluation and Associate Professor of Biomedical Science at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. In this role, she is responsible for aligning staff to support the development and implementation of the curriculum effort based on best evidence practices in education and instructional technology, and promoting faculty excellence and innovation in curriculum development, instructional design, instructional delivery, assessment of student learning, and scholarly/creative activity. Previously, Dr. Joyce was the Director of Instructional Design for Henry Ford Hospital and Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at Wayne State University; Associate Director of Behavioral Science at Genesys Regional Medical Center; and Director of Behavioral Science at Sinai Hospital in Detroit.

Kasia Kietlinska, a Special Instructor in the Writing and Rhetoric Department, teaches freshman writing courses. She is interested in ESL issues. She has a Master's degree in English from the University of Gdansk, Poland, and she has completed all requirements, except the dissertation, for a Ph.D. in Language and Literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

J.P. Piskulich is an Associate Professor of Political Science. He is also a member of the Cinema Studies faculty.

Michael Pytlik currently teaches courses at Oakland University in Judaic Studies and Anthropology. He has a degree in History from Saginaw Valley, a master's in Jewish Studies and is working on a doctorate in Jewish Studies from Spertus Institute in Chicago. He is focusing on how archaeology can engage biblical studies and enhance our understanding of the early Israelite monarchy. He has excavated at several sites in Israel, including biblical Gerar, and a medieval site near Haifa. He has dug three seasons at Khirbet Qeiyafa,

where he has established a archaeological field school for students of Oakland University in conjunction with Dr. Richard Stamps, professor of Anthropology at Oakland. Pytlik teaches for the Detroit Jewish Federation and at various synagogues in the area.

Laura Riggs began her archiving experience as a work-study student at Oakland University, where she developed a passion for history and experience in archiving. Her research is augmented by her work as a volunteer at Meadow Brook Hall. She has also organized and preserved print materials from the Matilda Dodge Wilson collection. This work cemented a respect for the benevolence of Mrs. Wilson, which spurred her to further research this unique woman. Currently a resident of Armada, Ms. Riggs is the Vice-President of the Armada Area Schools Board of Education, and is employed at Macomb Community College. She is currently archiving the historical materials of the Congregational United Church of Christ of Armada.

Richard Stamps is Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology. Professor Stamps has travelled widely for his research, and he has supervised research by many Anthropology students on trips abroad, including trips to China and Israel.

Jason Storms is a junior in the Oakland University Honors College studying English and Psychology. During his time at Oakland, he has received two writing excellence awards from the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, and was a finalist in the English Department's 2011 Flash Fiction Contest. Jason has worked as a research assistant and teaching assistant in the Psychology Department, and is the current editor-in-chief of the *Honors College Echo*. His academic interests include social and political psychology, 20th and 21st century American literature, and creative non-fiction. After Oakland, he hopes to pursue an M.F.A. in creative writing or a PhD in psychology.

Jennifer Van Vliet is a 2011 graduate of the Honors College. Her essay is a revision of her Honors College thesis project.

Susan Walsh is an advertising writer and strategist—essentially, a professional inter-disciplinarian. Throughout her career, she has produced and written television commercials, short films and videos, national print, Internet and social media campaigns. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Susan is currently planning for a more scholarly life after advertising, pursuing a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Oakland University.