



Inside

Teacher tech | Fastening frontier | An actor's life

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | Spring / Summer 2012

Longtime friends give historic gifts



Donor Honor Roll

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We are pleased to share our Donor Honor Roll with you. It is the thousands of donors who make all our achievements and efforts — from research to artistic performances to student scholarships — possible. This special section showcases the profound impact of giving to Oakland University.



ALUMNI PROFILES

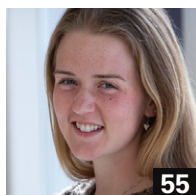
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Behind the stories



One of the great things about my job is that I get to meet and talk to people who are motivated and passionate about helping OU succeed.

It was a great privilege when my executive editor, Lillian Lorenzi, and I met with Steve Sharf and his companion, Patti Finnegan, at their home to learn about the remarkable person behind the school's largest-ever individual donation. As you will discover in this issue's cover story, Sharf is a man of deep insight and convictions.

Despite having had life experiences that might leave another person embittered and emotionally scarred, Sharf has transcended personal tragedy to champion a better future for others. By putting his considerable support behind OU, he is aiming to help others achieve their dreams and aspirations.

It was indeed an honor to speak with OU's departing and longtime provost, Dr. Virinder Moudgil, as he prepared to assume his new role as a university president. Over his 36 years with the university, Dr. Moudgil was instrumental in helping to guide OU from its position as a regional college to an institution of national prominence.

I also was able to spend time talking with Dr. Sayed Nassar, who founded a one-of-a-kind research program at OU. The Fastening and Joining Research Institute he started has become the leading center of research into the previously overlooked field of fastening and joining technology. His work has put OU on the map for those in both civilian and defense industries. It's also earned him recognition as OU's 2012 Distinguished Professor of the Year.

Our spotlight also falls on Alexandra Zorn, a recent graduate who is pursuing her dream of performing on the Great White Way as an actor and singer. No less than the *New York Times* gave her kudos for a recent performance.

We talk with many other difference-makers at OU in this issue. The stories are as varied as their individual pursuits, but they all have something in common: They have all used their OU experience to leverage their efforts and talents to go on to bigger and better things. And that's another great thing about my job — being able to share those stories with you.

Kevin Knapp, Editor



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WXOU wins 'Station of the Year'

WXOU, Oakland University's student radio station, was named the College Radio Station of the Year by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. WXOU took home 10 total wins, including four first places within seven categories.

The station submitted 56 entries to the Michigan Association of Broadcasters College Radio Awards for a range of categories including sports, public service announcements, news and promotions.

The victory by OU, announced in March, ended an 11-year run by Michigan State University's college radio station.

WXOU currently has 11 executive staff members and about 100 volunteer disc jockeys. The station can be heard at 88.3 FM on campus or online at wxou.org. ●



Judy Ableser, Ph.D.

New director named

A new and major institutional academic initiative begun last year at Oakland University now has a full-time director. OU Provost Virinder Moudgil announced that Dr. Judy Ableser will lead The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), taking over from Interim Director Dr. David Lau.

Dr. Ableser, formerly a faculty member at University of Michigan-Flint and at the University of Windsor, will lead the center in promoting teaching and learning practices that foster student success and engagement, and enhance a campus-wide culture that values and rewards effective teaching.



Gwendolyn Thompson McMillon, Ph.D.

Dr. Moudgil says the major goals of the CETL are to support faculty efforts to improve teaching and learning by creating environments in which a diverse student body can achieve maximum learning potential. Future directions for the CETL include a mentoring program for new faculty members, an institute for adjunct faculty, and fostering of research on teaching and learning. ●

Profs pen award-winning book

Associate Professor of Literacy Gwendolyn Thompson McMillon, Ph.D., and two colleagues have authored a book examining the challenges and the promise of advancing literacy among African American students.

Change Is Gonna Come: Transforming Literacy Education for African American Students, a recent recipient of the Edward B. Fry Book Award from the Literacy Research Association, builds on decades of student-achievement-gap research data to pinpoint the source of learning obstacles and how they can be overcome.

The book, co-authored by Drs. Thompson McMillon, Patricia A. Edwards and Jennifer D. Turner, explores student access to literacy education; supports and roadblocks to success; best practices, theories and perspectives on teaching African American students; and the role of African American families in the literacy lives of their children. It is published by Teachers College Press, New York. ●

SON to help meet veterans' needs

The School of Nursing (SON) is supporting a national initiative to enhance nursing instruction in ways that will better serve U.S. military veterans and military families dealing with post-



traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression and other combat-related issues.

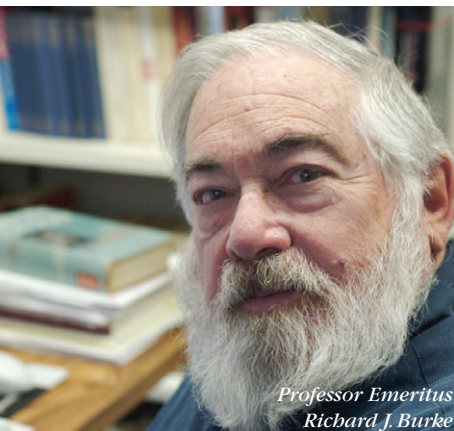
SON Dean Kerri Schuiling said OU will join hundreds of other nursing organizations and institutions in preparing nurses to meet the unique health needs of veterans facing these challenges. Because the majority of U.S. veterans seek care outside of the Veterans Affairs health system, in which veterans are often treated by health care professionals with extensive training in mental health issues, this initiative seeks to make a dramatic and positive impact on the long-term health of hundreds of thousands of veterans seeking care from non-VA providers.

This effort expands OU's already deep and unwavering commitment to serve veterans on a broader level. Late last year, the university's Veteran Transfer Student Services program received a Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrar and Admissions Officers Outstanding Transfer Program Award, and for three consecutive years Oakland has been named a "Military Friendly School" by *G.I. Jobs* magazine. ●

OU mourns professor's passing

Oakland University's first faculty member, Professor Emeritus Richard J. Burke, passed away on February 14, 2012. Professor Burke was hired by Oakland University in 1959 in the Department of Philosophy, and served as the chairperson for the department for more than 20 years. He retired in 2005 after more than 46 years of dedicated service.

Professor Burke taught and mentored thousands of students and sponsored numerous scholarships and contests.



Professor Emeritus
Richard J. Burke

In 2005, he donated the endowment for the Richard J. Burke Lecture Series in Philosophy, Religion and Society. ●

SECS professor earns award



Subramaniam Ganesan,
Ph.D.

Subramaniam Ganesan, Ph.D., was honored with the 2012 Lloyd L. Withrow Distinguished Speaker Award from the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) in April.

For more than a decade, Dr. Ganesan, a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has organized systems engineering sessions at the annual SAE World Congress, bringing international experts to discuss relevant issues in the field. He also has given award-winning presentations and delivered the keynote address at the 2011 SAE World Congress.

In addition, Dr. Ganesan has edited a collection of books on automotive systems engineering. Published in 2011, the four-volume set has helped advance the work of prominent engineering organizations, including SAE and the International Council on Systems Engineering, a nonprofit organization of which Dr. Ganesan is also an active member. ●

Organic farming goes to college

The summer semester will feature innovative courses that utilize Oakland University's own Campus Student Organic Farm as a living classroom.



Two courses offered through OU's biological sciences and Master of Arts in liberal studies programs — Fundamentals of Organic Farming in an Urban Setting, and Permaculture: Theory and Practice — permit students to learn firsthand about and practice sustainable, eco-friendly farming techniques.

Organic farming uses methods such as crop rotation, compost, green manure and biological pest control in order to achieve a variety of long-term benefits, including water conservation, soil fertility and crop nutrition.

Begun as a separate initiative, Student Organic Farmers at OU is a student organization founded in 2010 that is dedicated to nourishing the local community through education, service-learning programs and healthy foods. Along with monthly meetings, the group hosts a number of campus events, including a seasonal farmers' market on campus. ●

Helping those in need

A new student organization at OU is helping to broaden access to vital health care services. Under the supervision of licensed professionals, members of Medical Brigades — a subchapter of Global Brigades — assist with many aspects of the medical profession, from in-take to triage, along with medical consultations and filling prescriptions.

Last winter, 34 OU students, joined by a pair of physicians and dentists, traveled to rural Honduras and provided free health care to about 600 people — including more than 50 gynecological exams — in the mountain top community of Hoya Grande. The group also helped build the infrastructure necessary to bring running water to the



community of El Canton and composed a skit to teach children about the importance of good hygiene.

The impact of Medical Brigades has inspired the launch of more Global Brigades-based chapters at OU. The Architecture Brigades chapter works with rural communities in Honduras to provide educational and health infrastructures through hands-on projects. Public Health Brigades is dedicated to preventing common illnesses through in-home infrastructure development, community leader training and health education.

For more information on Medical Brigades at Oakland, view the website at oumedicalbrigade.weebly.com. ●

SEHS professor wins book award

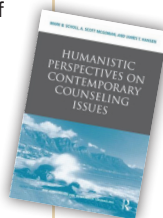
James Hansen, Ph.D., professor of education in the Department of Counseling, recently earned recognition for the book he co-edited, *Humanistic Perspectives on Contemporary Counseling Issues*.



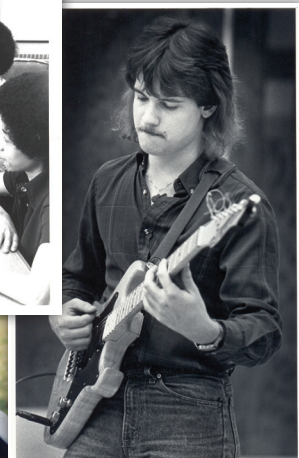
James Hansen, Ph.D.

The book received the 2012 Joe and Lucille Hollis Publications Award from the Association for Humanistic Counseling. The award recognizes leadership and expertise in publishing that is focused on the humanistic philosophy in the field of counseling.

Dr. Hansen, along with Mark Scholl, Ph.D., and Scott McGowan, Ph.D., jointly edited the book that is focused on re-establishing humanism as a vital



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Diversity and opportunity abound in OU student organizations

Everywhere you look, it's clear that Oakland University continues to expand, both academically and physically. The new School of Medicine, the nearly completed Human Health Building and the record-setting student enrollment all provide concrete evidence of this growth.

The university's evolution can also be traced in the volume and depth of student organizations based on campus. Currently, there are more than 200 student organizations based at OU, reflecting a diverse and involved student body.

In the early days of the university, the number of student organizations could be counted on two hands. In 1959, for instance, the organizations listed were the chess club, drama club, ski club, square dance club, the Young Republicans and Young Democrats.

That scant number was reflective of the university's strictly-business attitude toward student activities at the time, says Bill Connellan, CAS '67, a retired OU associate professor of journalism and currently director of academic support at the University of Florida.

"Back then, we were supposed to be hunkering down and studying, not playing," he recalls.

Today, involvement in student organizations is recognized and encouraged as a component of college

life, and it enhances the "OU experience." In some cases, it can even provide additional weight to a student's resume.

"Besides enriching a student's character, organizational activities can complement what's going on in class," says Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities and Leadership Development. "In some instances, students can put into practice a real-world application of what they are studying."

For example, the OU chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) gets students involved in building an actual race car. In the sphere of student government, a number of OU Student Congress (OUSC) members have gone on to become active with larger roles in regional politics. *The Oakland Post* and WXOU radio have long provided springboards for students to enter the field of mainstream media.

Miller notes that other students are able to satisfy an awakening social conscience by supporting community service activities such as Habitat for Humanity, Make-a-Wish Foundation, Alternative Spring Break, and Medical Brigades, the latter of which recently sent 34 OU students to Honduras to provide free health care to people in a remote mountainous region.

She points out that OU student groups also now represent a greater range of cultures and ethnicities, including

Albanian, Asian, Chaldean, Chinese, Japanese, Hispanic, Indian, Lebanese and Ukrainian nationalities. One of the oldest groups on campus, the Association of Black Students, is more than 40 years old.

"We see this growth as a reflection of the multicultural diversity you now find on our campus," she observes.

Miller says faith-based groups have always been strong on campus, with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) one of the largest and oldest groups at OU.

"For a secular school, it's amazing how faith-based groups have been and still are such a strong part of our community."

Starting a student group is relatively simple, Miller says, requiring only four registered students, a faculty adviser and some requisite training through the Center for Student Activities and Leadership Development. She says a new online management system called GrizzOrgs (oakland.edu/GrizzOrgs) helps students register their organizations.

"Joining a student organization is definitely one of the things a student should do before graduating," she adds. "It's one of the best ways to feel connected to OU." ●



continued from p. 5

treatment orientation in contemporary mental health culture. Published last August, the book explores current counseling issues and is geared to offer practicable approaches for counselors and therapists to use in their practice. ●

Keeper of the Dream honors

For the past 20 years, Oakland University's Keeper of the Dream Scholarship has celebrated and recognized student leaders who promote diversity, cultural understanding and community activism.

This year, international relations major Benjamin Eveslage, biology major Subha Hanif and graduate counseling student Tara Michener were recognized for their efforts to promote interracial acceptance and understanding.

Eveslage is a well-known figure on campus as president of the student body. He works to raise awareness and engage students through events related to social, political, cultural and civil rights issues today. Prior to attending OU, Eveslage travelled to Ghana to work and live in a small village, facilitating a school lunch program.

As a pre-med student, Hanif has a personal goal of bringing greater diversity and different backgrounds to campus and the medical profession. After attending a summer medical and dental education program at the University of Virginia, Hanif has been a leader representing minority student issues through organizations such as the Alpha Lambda Delta honor society, Student Congress, University Senate and the Muslim Student Association.

Michener works to foster goodwill and understanding on campus and in the

community. She created the Students Against Bullying student organization and forged alliances with community members to organize events and promote tolerance. Michener is also a published author of three books on self-esteem and anti-bullying.

Oakland's KOD Awards are part of an annual celebration that honors the legacy of late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and rewards OU students who exemplify Dr. King's vision on campus and in the community. ●

New programs begin this fall

Oakland University has approved several new academic programs to begin this fall that may help invigorate Michigan's evolving new economy.

Responding to an anticipated 13-percent increase in graphic design jobs, the Department of Art and Art History will offer a Bachelor of Arts degree in graphic design. Students will gain knowledge and skills in print-specific practices, Web design, motion graphics for film and television, interactive applications, and branding and identity.

The Department of Psychology will offer a Master of Science degree and a doctoral degree in psychology to help answer a significant need for both practicing and research psychologists.

Expanding upon the strengths of an existing concentration in criminal justice, the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work is now offering a bachelor's degree in the discipline.

To learn more about these new programs, visit oakland.edu/programs. ●

Catalog goes online

A new system of providing the campus community with detailed information about Oakland's academic programs is ushering in a host of welcome advantages.

The university launched the Acalog system, which provides online, digital versions of OU's undergraduate and graduate catalogs.

Because the catalogs are available online, access to them is available at any time and in any place where Internet service is available. In addition, the catalogs are fully searchable, and users can view and print any specific portion of the catalog they need — a clear advantage over having to download the entire catalog. To learn more, visit oakland.edu/catalog. ●

OU earns PETA award

OU's new vegan diet course is already garnering interest — this time from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). The university is the new recipient of PETA's Compassionate Campus Award.

The award gives credence to the School of Nursing's new professional development course, "A Lifestyle Change to Improve Health: The Vegan Diet." The seven-week, online course began in September and offers a unique self-study module each week.

Participants learn how a vegan diet offers a well-balanced approach that offers benefits beyond the prevention of chronic illnesses that are often caused by poor choices in diet and lifestyles. ●

Compiled by Kevin Knapp

Match opportunities boost retirees' giving power to OU

AUFD

All-University Fund Drive

Changing Lives, Preparing Leaders

Three retired Oakland University professors made use of matching opportunities during the last All-University Fund Drive (AUFD) to dramatically extend their giving power.

OU President Gary Russi approved a \$5,000 match in university dollars for every planned gift of \$10,000 or more during the fund drive.

Jack Moeller, retired professor of German, made a \$17,000 planned gift to support The Jack Moeller Gift Fund, which offers stipends to OU German majors for study at Oldenburg University in Germany.

David Daniels, retired professor of music, made a \$10,000 planned gift to reinstate a previously established travel fund created by the late Music, Theatre and Dance (MTD) professor Stanley Hollingsworth.

And Michael Gillespie, retired head of the Theatre area for MTD, supported overseas performing opportunities for students with a \$25,000 regular gift.

The matches made it possible for the givers to support programs they care about down the road — and to have an immediate impact, says Angie Schmucker, director of planned giving.

"The offer of President Russi to kick in \$5,000 to whatever purpose the donor designated was just too good to pass up," Daniels says, adding that the Stanley Hollingsworth Fund had almost been depleted.

"Stanley gave the funds for various purposes, especially to aid students to

study abroad. I always thought it was one of the best things the MTD department did, and I want it to continue."

Gillespie's gift was inspired by personal travel experiences and by the excitement he witnessed among OU students who've completed educational journeys supported by Hollingsworth and Brad Glass scholarships.

"I am deeply satisfied to know that my modest contribution will continue to offer numbers of future students the gift of new horizons," Gillespie says.

Moeller says he sees great value in giving German students overseas learning opportunities.

"When the students come back, they are speaking magnificently and, culturally, they are very sensitive."

With matching funds included, total AUFD giving reached \$840,264 — the largest AUFD gift total in OU's history. ●

Couple supports OUWB, Meadow Brook Hall through planned gifts

When it was time for Debra Shea, CAS '76, and husband William Shea to discuss what they wanted to accomplish with their estate, they knew that supporting Oakland University would be high on their list of priorities.

The couple decided to designate a portion of their estate to create a scholarship for the Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) School of Medicine and a portion to support Meadow Brook Hall's Museum Enrichment Fund.

Shea says she and William have been excited to see the medical school launch its inaugural class.

"It's so important right now to support the medical school and help prepare the community for growth with new doctors," explains Shea, whose father was a Detroit-area physician. "It's an honor for us to be part of this."

A planned gift like this from an OU alum is especially meaningful to the School of Medicine, says Founding Dean Robert Folberg, M.D.

"The adoption of these new groups of students, who don't have alumni of their own to support them, speaks volumes about Debra and William Shea," Dr. Folberg adds.

As for Meadow Brook Hall, Shea has loved the site since her early years as a psychology student at OU. "It's just the history and beauty and the dedication of the many, many people who've supported it."



Shea also has felt a connection to the stunning objects of art Matilda Wilson collected and displayed in the mansion. Shea is a passionate collector of antiques.

"She parlayed her wealth into creating the most exquisite and beautiful property," Shea says.

As a self-supporting auxiliary of OU, Meadow Brook Hall values each dollar in support of its educational mission, says Geoff Upward, Meadow Brook Hall's executive director.

"It is especially gratifying to us that, as stewards of Matilda and Alfred Wilson's incredible treasure, an Oakland University family has chosen to support the founders' home in such an impactful way," he says. ●

OUCARES promotes understanding, support for autism community

For nearly a decade now, an Oakland University program has been devoted to improving the quality of life of those impacted by autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

The Oakland University Center for Autism Research, Education and Support (OUCARES) is devoted to promoting understanding and awareness of autism, a neurological development disorder that affects about one in 88 children in the United States.

This community resource, housed in the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS), serves the entire autism community, from youth and adults with ASD to family members, professionals and leaders.

Program offerings include an autism library, counseling, teacher presentations, family support services, a volunteer program for OU students, enrichment presentations, referrals, adult socials, special events and youth activities.

All programs and services strive to promote three primary areas: social participation, independence and well-being.

"OUCARES started in 2004, and we have significantly increased participation levels across the board," David Tindall, director of development with the SEHS, says. "It has become very influential in the community."

The program, in fact, is now expanding its influence beyond the community level. OUCARES presented its fourth annual Quality of Life Symposium in May, where experts shared information on how to best prepare individuals with ASD for life in the outside world. Its keynote speaker was Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, who is also the parent of a child with autism.

The need for autism-related services has been on the rise since OUCARES was established eight years ago. In 2000, fewer than 5,000 Michigan students were diagnosed with ASD. By 2010, that total had surpassed 15,400. And those figures don't include home school students or those whose families have not identified the students as having ASD to their schools.

The SEHS is looking to increase support for OUCARES efforts, Tindall says. Its staff and volunteers need more work space, he says, and they would like supporters to consider creating endowments for some of OUCARES' individual programs.

Currently, OUCARES is preparing for this year's summer camp programs. They will include the Pee Wee program for ages 3-5, Summer Day Camp for ages 6-12 and Film Camp for ages 10-20.

"I instruct one of the recreation programs," Tindall says. "During the last program, a sibling participated with his brother. You could tell they really enjoyed each other. It all ties in with the idea of improving the quality of life for everyone involved."



Kathy Sweeney, director of OU's Autism Center, explains that university support is what makes the autism center such an asset to the community.

"OUCARES is fortunate to have access to amazing resources by being on OU's campus," she says. "We have faculty members involved in autism research with OUCARES families, students representing the majority of our volunteers and an athletic department engaged in OUCARES baseball, soccer and SNAG golf programs, just to name a few examples. So it is a win-win situation for everyone."

Sweeney says the plan is to expand the number of programs offered to a growing autism community.

"OUCARES depends on grants and donations to run the program," she adds. "Donations have come in from many sources, big and small. With the kindness and generosity of donors, OUCARES is able to help in improving quality of life for many families. We are so grateful for that."

"OUCARES is fortunate to have access to amazing resources on OU's campus. With the kindness and generosity of donors, OUCARES is able to help in improving quality of life for many families."

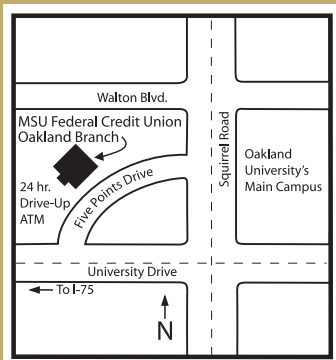
— Kathy Sweeney, director

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**-Serving the OU community
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The Gold Standard

Deborah Doherty, Ph.D., assistant professor of physical therapy, conducted groundbreaking research to determine how physical therapy could improve the quality of life for cancer patients undergoing radiation. Dr. Doherty's study is the first to quantify the deficits these patients suffered after radiation treatment for cancer. She discovered that although these patients were surviving their battle with cancer, they overlooked the painful side effects that could be remedied with physical therapy. As a result of her study, Dr. Doherty created an oncology rehabilitation/physical therapy-screening tool that is currently being used by physical therapists at St. Mary's of Michigan and William Beaumont Hospital in Troy, Mich.

Jerrold Grossman, Ph.D., professor of mathematics, received the newly created College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Engagement Award for his efforts to promote excellence in the teaching and learning of mathematics in elementary, middle and high schools, and his influential work on state and national mathematics competitions. Specifically, Dr. Grossman worked with the Macomb Intermediate School District on professional development for middle school and high school mathematics teachers. Additionally, he has prepared the questions for the annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, which involves about 9,000 high school students. On a national level, he contributes to similar contests sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America. At OU, Dr. Grossman encourages his students, to solve problems creatively so that they can convey the true spirit and importance of mathematics in their own classrooms someday.

Laila Guessous, Ph.D., associate professor of engineering, received this year's Phyllis Law Googasian Award for her leadership and mentoring of fellow faculty members and students. The award honors and recognizes women who have contributed to the advancement of women at Oakland University through distinguished leadership, scholarship, advocacy, mentoring and program development. One of the ways that she supports this effort is by introducing various female automotive executives and industrial mentors to students taking part in the 10-week Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program that she runs in the mechanical engineering department at OU.

Oded Izraeli, Ph.D., professor of economics, researched income inequalities, concluding that too much inequality is not serving the goal that we aspire to as a society. The paper, "Income Inequality, Economic Growth, and the Distribution of Income Gains: Evidence from the U.S. States," indicates that Americans need to be more careful on how we achieve our country's economic goals. The *Harvard Business Review* published a summary of the paper that originally appeared in the *Journal of Regional Science* in the 2011 fall issue. The topic gained national attention during the Occupy Wall

Street demonstrations. Dr. Izraeli found that if people feel they aren't receiving their fair share of economic growth, they are reluctant to make the effort. He co-authored the paper with **Fuad Hasanov**, Ph.D., who was a professor of economics at OU at the time this research was conducted.

Elizabeth Kraemer, associate professor and coordinator of information literacy at Kresge Library, recently co-authored a chapter in the book, *Computer Mediated Communication: Issues and Approaches in Communication*. The chapter is called "The Agile Teaching Library: Models for Integrating Information Literacy in Online Learning Experiences." It focuses on how online library instruction can be used effectively in higher education. Kraemer and her co-author, **Mariela Gunn**, assistant professor at Kresge Library, examined four key methods for integrating library instruction online, including program-wide information literacy instruction; the pros and cons of offering stand-alone, online credit-based courses; the benefits of using online learning modules; and the impact of integrating into the course management systems with a direct link to the Kresge Library.

Barbara Penprase, Ph.D., RN, associate professor of nursing and executive director of workforce development at Oakland School of Nursing at Riverview Institute in Detroit, has developed entry-level nursing vocational programs as a career ladder approach for students who are not able to enter traditional college nursing programs but are considering nursing as a profession. The programs prepare students for the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) or Patient Care Technician (PCT) programs at Riverview and introduce the fundamentals of nursing and basic nursing knowledge. They give students an opportunity to explore nursing and equip them for a more rigorous curriculum associated with the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) or a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). The career ladder approach gives students opportunities to become caregivers at different levels as well as foundation information for pursuing a higher education.

Luellen Ramey, Ph.D., professor emerita in the Department of Counseling, School of Education and Human Services, was appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to the Michigan Board of Counseling in June 2011. This board sets policies and regulates the licensing of all licensed professional counselors in the state. Its primary purpose is to set the professional standards and policies for the state and identify qualified counselors to the public. Dr. Ramey spent 30 years as a full-time OU faculty member and chaired the department from 1995 to 2008. Although she retired in 2011, she continues to instruct two courses a year. Dr. Ramey plans to be back on campus in the fall teaching CNS 664, Practicum in Counseling. ●

By Michele Jasukaitis



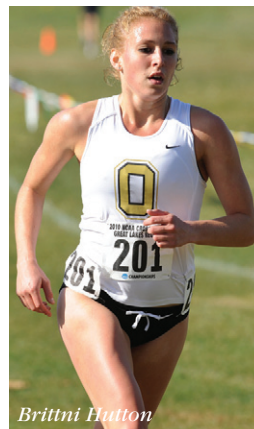
Meghan Bray



Mitch Hildebrandt



Meghan Reynolds



Brittini Hutton



Kenny Wall

Volleyball

The Golden Grizzlies set the school record for most wins in a season since moving to NCAA I in 1998 and reached The Summit League Championship Tournament for the first time. Coach Rob Beam's team won its final six regular season matches to earn the league tourney berth, and finished the year with an 18-11 mark, 12-7 in league matches. Junior outside hitter **Meghan Bray**, who broke her own single-season record with 389 kills and surpassed the 1,000 career kill milestone, was named to The All-Summit League first team. First-year outside hitter **Taylor Humm** was selected to the All-Summit League freshman team. Junior defensive specialist **Alli Kirk** recorded 603 digs on the year, the second most in OU history, and became only the third player in school history to reach 1,000 career digs, the first to do so in her junior year. ●

Men's soccer

The Oakland men's soccer team won three of its final four Summit League matches, including two by shutout, to reach the league championships and the opportunity to defend its 2010 title, but dropped a season-ending 1-0 semifinal match to Western Illinois despite outshooting the Fighting Leathernecks 15-8. The Golden Grizzlies finished the year with a 6-12-1 overall record. Junior defender **John Timm** earned All-Summit League first team honors, while senior goalkeeper **Mitch Hildebrandt**, who posted three shutouts during the season, and senior defender/midfielder **Jon Evans**, who had a team-high five assists, both were named to the all-league second team. ●

Women's soccer

Coach Nick O'Shea's Golden Grizzlies rallied from a third place tie in The

Summit League regular season to win its seventh Summit League championship, the first No. 4 seed to ever do so. Oakland reached the NCAA Championship Tournament for the sixth time in school history, dropping a 2-0 decision at regional No. 1 seed Wake Forest. Junior defender **Kara Weber**, sophomore midfielder **Julianne Boyle** and sophomore forwards **Meghan Reynolds** and **Serena San Cartier** all were named first team All-Summit League. Junior midfielder **Nicole DeLuca** earned second team All-Summit League, while forward **Kyla Kellermann**, midfielder **Erin Ring** and defender **Katrina Stencel** all were chosen to the league's All-Freshman team. Oakland finished the season with a 10-11-1 overall record. ●

Cross country

Oakland's men's team placed sixth and the women's team seventh at The Summit League Championships. Juniors **Brittini Hutton** and **Lia Jones** both earned All-Summit League honors for the OU women's team, placing fourth and 11th, respectively, in the 6K race. It was the second straight year that Jones was all-league. Senior **Kenny Wall** finished 13th in the men's 8K meet and was All-Summit League, while senior **Brandon Griffin** placed 15th. ●

Swimming and diving

Both Oakland University men's and women's teams won their 13th consecutive Summit League Championships in February at the OU Aquatic Center. The two OU teams combined to win 35 of the 36 swimming events, and one of the diving titles. The women's team title was their 18th straight overall conference championship and 21st in the last 22 years, dating back to its NCAA II/GLIAC years. Junior **Anders Jensen** was the 2012 Summit League Men's Swimmer of the Year for

a league record third consecutive year. Sophomore **Vanessa Balogh** won her second straight Women's Swimmer of the Year award and was also The Summit League women's Swimmer of the Championships, setting new league records in both the 400-yard individual medley and the 500-yard freestyle. She also won the 1,650-yard freestyle and was part of three winning relay teams. Junior **Sandra Czerska** and senior **Alyssa Vela** both won three women's individual events and swam on four winning relay teams. Sophomore **Amr el Sayed**, who won both the 500-yard and 1,650-yard freestyle events and was on the winning 400-yard freestyle relay team, was the men's Swimmer of the Championships. Jensen was a two-event individual winner in the backstroke, while senior **Scott Yarbrough** won two individual breaststroke events. Freshman **Mario Rusnak** was named the men's Newcomer of the Championships, while OU head coach Pete Hovland was voted the women's Coach of the Year and the men's Co-Coach of the Year, the first time he has won both awards in the same year. ●

Women's basketball

The Golden Grizzlies were 11-17 on the year, which included a 63-51 win over ACC foe Clemson University, and tied for sixth place in The Summit League regular season with a 7-11 league mark. Junior forward **Bethany Watterworth** was named to the All-Summit League first team for the second straight year. She led the team with 18.7 points per game and currently ranks ninth in career scoring at OU with 1,502 points. Senior center **Brittany Carnago** blocked 82 shots on the year and finished her career with a school-record 276 career blocks. Senior guard **Sharise Calhoun** also reached the 1,000 career point mark, finishing her career with 1,034. ●



Amr el Sayed



Vanessza Balogh



Bethany Watterworth



Reggie Hamilton

Men's basketball

For the fourth consecutive season, the Oakland University men's basketball team reached the 20-win mark and qualified for post-season tournament play, where it won three games and reached the semifinals of the CollegeInsider.com national tournament. The Golden Grizzlies, 20-16, set a school record with 646 free throws made, and their 2,875 points scored were the third highest total in school history. Senior guard **Reggie Hamilton** led all NCAA I players in scoring with 26.2 points per game and a Summit League record 942 points on the year. He was named to the All-Summit League first team for the second consecutive year and to the 2012 Lou Henson All-America team. The 5' 11" Hamilton also won the 2012 Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award as the nation's top senior 6' 0" and under. Sophomore guard **Travis Bader**, who averaged 15.9 points per game, was honorable mention All-Summit League, while freshman center **Cory Petros**, OU's top rebounder with 7.2 per game, was named to The Summit League All-Newcomer team. ●

OU all-academic teams

Nearly two-thirds of all OU student-athletes received the Golden Grizzlies Excellence in Academics honor for the fall 2011 semester. The honor was accorded 212 student-athletes who qualified by earning a 3.0 or higher GPA that semester.

For the fifth consecutive term, Oakland University topped all Summit League schools with 62 student-athletes on the Fall Academic All-League team. Student-athletes must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average (GPA) during their semester of competition and have used a season of eligibility in order to be named to the team. The women's soccer team led the way with 20 all-academic

selections, while volleyball and men's soccer both had 13. In addition, 25 Golden Grizzlies posted a 3.6 or higher GPA, earning the title of Distinguished Scholar. ●

All Access on Fox Sports Detroit

In its ongoing effort to provide more exposure to and educate the public about Oakland University athletics, OU partnered with Fox Sports Detroit for three half-hour episodes of *Oakland Basketball All Access* during the first few months of 2012. The shows, which FSD replayed several times each month, provided a behind-the-scenes look at the Golden Grizzly basketball programs, including interviews with players and coaches, pre-game and halftime locker room speeches and a close-up view of a team road trip.

"Fans have been able to watch our games on TV, but this gave us a chance to show the side of OU athletics people don't usually get to see," says Director of Athletics Tracy Huth. "It lets them see what traveling with a team is like, what a day in the life of a student-athlete involves.

"We hope to continue to do more of these next year," Huth adds. "We can't just expect people to show up on our doorstep; we need to continue to find ways to take our product out into the community." ●

Golden Grizzlies golf classic

The 29th Annual Golden Grizzlies Golf Classic will take place on Monday, July 30, at Katke-Cousins and R&S Sharf golf courses on the Oakland University campus. Hosted by the OU Department of Athletics, the four-person scramble event helps support the Oakland student-athletes. OU coaches, staff and student-athletes will be on hand to meet

and greet participants in this annual fundraiser. For more information or to register for the event as an individual or as a scramble team, go to **ougrizzlies.com/gggc**, or contact Coordinator of Athletics Annual Giving Aaron Epstein at adepesti@oakland.edu or at (248) 370-4034. ●

Grizzly tracks

Oakland men's and women's associate head swim coach **Shawn Kornoelje** was honored in November 2011 by the Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame with the Rick Knas Lifetime Achievement Award. The award acknowledges the exceptional success, sportsmanship and community service of one outstanding individual ... Former two-time All-American basketball player and two-time Summit League Player-of-the-Year **Keith Benson, BIS '11**, made his National Basketball Association debut March 24 with the Golden State Warriors. Benson, who was drafted last spring by the Atlanta Hawks, spent a month last fall playing professionally in Europe and two months this winter with the Sioux Falls (S.D.) Skyforce of the NBA Development League before signing a 10-day contract with the Warriors in March ... Former OU All-American swimmer **Scott Dickens** won the 200-meter breaststroke in March at the Canadian Olympic Swimming Trials and will represent Canada at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. He will compete in both the 100- and 200-meter breaststroke events ... **Mitch Hildebrandt, CAS '11**, has signed a professional contract to play for the Minnesota Stars of the North American Soccer League. Hildebrandt was a three-time All-Summit League goalkeeper for the Golden Grizzlies. ●

Compiled by Fritz Reznor

Photos courtesy of OU Athletics Communications

That familiar voice

Detroit Tigers' broadcaster Mario Impemba does double-duty calling OU basketball *By Fritz Reznor*



"Our credibility just skyrocketed by having Mario aboard. He just exudes professionalism and brings a level of confidence to our program."

— Greg Kampe, OU men's basketball coach

Come November, Major League Baseball broadcasters usually want to relax for several months. It's their time to take it easy after a grueling seventh-month stretch in which they often work seven-day weeks, traveling from city to city and living out of a suitcase every other week. Not so for Mario Impemba.

The Detroit Tigers' television play-by-play announcer, now in his 11th year with Fox Sports Detroit (FSD), spends his winters as the voice of the Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team, doing play-by-play of nearly every OU away game on WDFN 1130-AM, along with three televised home games on Fox Sports Detroit.

Why does Impemba — who was named 2011 Michigan Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association (NSSA) — opt for another dozen or so road trips throughout the winter, particularly to such icy locales as North and South Dakota, when he could be at home peacefully lying on his couch?

Questioning his sanity

"People ask me, 'Are you crazy? All that travel after a long baseball season?'" says Impemba. "But I just enjoy it so much. From the players to the coaches to the sports information staff, it's such a fun time hanging around these guys. It's really not like work."

"There's obviously a big difference between spending three or four days in New York City or Los Angeles, and being in Fargo, North Dakota. But some of

the best times have come on the basketball trips. It's true Americana, getting to see how different people live, different areas of the United States, places you would never visit on your own time."

"And," he adds, "it's a whole lot different traveling with 18- and 19-year-olds. I love listening to the stories college players tell."

In his 18 years in Major League Baseball, Impemba has broadcast games from such historic stadiums as Wrigley Field, Yankee Stadium and Fenway Park. He says he gets a similar thrill calling OU basketball games on the campuses of Kansas, Texas, Michigan State, Arizona and Tennessee, and he congratulates OU head coach Greg Kampe for his ambitious scheduling.

"Greg has put together an incredible schedule year to year, and I've had the pleasure of doing games at some of the great arenas in all of college basketball. Everyone seems to have a 'bucket list' nowadays; mine is to convince Greg to schedule games at Duke and North Carolina," Impemba says, half-joking.

That professional touch

Snagging the Tigers' broadcaster was quite a coup for OU Director of Athletics Tracy Huth, who credits Kampe for suggesting Impemba — who happily accepted the offer — for the position.

"My first reaction was that of relief that we found someone to announce our games," Huth says. "My next reaction was, 'It's going to be Mario Impemba?! Are you kidding me?'"

"Our credibility just skyrocketed by having Mario aboard," Kampe explains. "He just exudes professionalism, and brings a level of confidence to our program. With our fans, it helps us build a relationship with a voice they're comfortable with. And now, we can tell players 'the Michigan Sportscaster of the Year will be calling your name.'"

"Mario is such a humble guy," Huth adds. "He has never made one demand of us — it's always, 'Whatever is best for you guys.' That is a sign of a true professional; it's not about him, it's about what's best for Oakland basketball. Now he is the emcee for our Hall of Honor induction dinner and our season-opening Grizz Madnezz night. He truly is part of the OU athletics family."

While it's not unusual for people in Impemba's position who possess the skills to call multiple sports to move on to more prestigious, higher-paying jobs with a major television network, he says he is not interested.

"I have no aspirations to do that," Impemba insists. "Most guys I have talked to who are now at that level long for the days when they worked one sport and in one city. I'm happy as all get-out to be doing what I'm doing with the Tigers and Oakland University."

Golden Grizzly fans are thrilled, too. ■



The Impemba file

PERSONAL Mario and his wife, Cathy, have two sons: Brett (19) and Daniel (17). Brett was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in the 2011 Major League Baseball Amateur Draft, but instead accepted an academic scholarship to Oakland University and was red-shirted as a freshman in 2012.

FAVORITE SUMMIT LEAGUE CITY/ARENA "Fargo [home of North Dakota State University]. The gym is just that — a gym — but I really enjoy broadcasting games from there."

LEAST FAVORITE ARENA "It used to be Centenary's gym; we literally had 30 or 40 people there one game. I became self-conscious because everyone — the coaches, the players and all the fans — could hear me. Of the current schools, it's The Jungle at IUPUI. It's really a high school gym."

FAVORITE SUMMIT LEAGUE RESTAURANT "The Sunrise Café in Macomb, Illinois — the Sunrise fried chicken cannot be beat. The runner-up is the Pig Out Palace in Henryetta, Oklahoma."

BEST OU MOMENT YOU DESCRIBED ON AIR "From an adrenaline-pumping standpoint, the win at seventh-ranked University of Tennessee in 2010, and the two or three days following that of being on ESPN SportsCenter and Kampe being interviewed by every media outlet in Detroit ... that was special."

FAVORITE OU PLAYER TO WATCH "Derick Nelson. Here's this undersized kid, playing with a broken nose and a bad back, scoring 36 points in the 2010 Summit League championship game. That is something I'll always remember."

FAVORITE OU PLAYER TO INTERVIEW "Ryan Bass; a quiet kid, but he gave me a great interview last season." ●

An actor's life

The footlights shine brightly for talented MTD graduate *By Dan Bodene*



Robert Mannis Photography



Alexandra Zorn (Laurey) and Eric Ankrum (Curly) in Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma! at the 5th Avenue Theatre.

Oklahoma! performance photos
by Chris Bennion

To get started, Alexandra Zorn needs to know who wants what.

"That is always an actor's first question," says Zorn, CAS '09, who recently concluded a month-long run as Laurey in Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical, *Oklahoma!*, at the 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle.

"When I play a role, I first think about what this person wants," says Zorn. "After I decide what the script tells me she wants, I think about what I would want to do if I were in her shoes."

For the *Oklahoma!* role, Zorn figured that Laurey was passionate, spunky, sincere and "incredibly impulsive." To that, she added bits of herself. "I got to mix in my own experiences with love, vulnerability and unintended prejudices to her story — and it was wonderful."

Now back in New York, Zorn is looking at possibilities for her next role, which will add to a resume that includes stints as Maria in *West Side Story* at New York's Gateway Playhouse and in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre.

The talent she brings to her roles is gaining Zorn serious notice in the media. The *New York Times* said Zorn was a “lovely” Maria in *West Side Story* whose “operatic soprano blends smoothly with her co-star’s bell-clear voice for a series of powerful duets.” And *Seattle Magazine* listed one of Zorn’s scenes in its seven top reasons to see *Oklahoma!*

Destined for the stage

Of course, knowing what she “wants” is what led Zorn to her career in the first place — she knew from her childhood in Livonia, Mich., that she wanted to pursue a life in the performing arts.

“There was always music in my house,” she remembers. “It inspired me to pursue music and theater in school and, later, as a career.”

It was at the Broadway Theatre Project in Tampa, Fla., a musical arts education program, that Zorn first heard about OU’s Department of Music, Theatre and Dance (MTD) and was persuaded to try out for the musical theater program.

“I remember when she walked into audition day for vocal music,” remembers Fred Love, associate professor of theater in MTD. “My immediate impression was that she was beautiful, but when she began to sing, my jaw dropped. I had to have her in my program.”

Eventually, Zorn took seven classes with Love, and was directed by him in five shows.

“As she matured, everybody wanted to work with Alex,” remembers Love. “She’s a triple threat — not only a singer who acts; she’s also a phenomenal dancer.”

Outside interests

Zorn’s studies, which earned her a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre, also included classes in some other interests. “Outside of my music, theater and dance courses, which almost took over my life, I tried to take as many courses as I could in art history, anthropology and archaeology. They are huge interests of mine as well.”

To those, Zorn could also now add “travel.” Her roles have taken her literally back and forth across the country, from her current home base of New York City to the West Coast with stops in between. There’s good and bad in that, she says.

“It’s fun and incredibly exciting to leave to do a show, to meet my cast

mates, to sing the score and to meet with the directorial team — but at the same time, it does get hard to be uprooted from my apartment, my friends and my church,” she says. “But in my experience, every show I’ve done has been more than worth it.”

Zorn is now working on her next role, post-Seattle. “I’m auditioning for roles here in New York City that I and/or my agent think I’m right for,” she explains. “Next up is a reading for a new musical based on a well-known fairy tale. I’m very excited to be a part of it.”

This summer, she will be performing in a new musical, *Roman Holiday* (based on the Audrey Hepburn film), which opens at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis in June.

Professor Love says it won’t be a fairy tale if Zorn hits the big time.

“Alex has the drive, the passion and the looks,” he says. “She has what I call ‘it.’ She’s making good connections in the business, and I think she’s on the brink of taking off.” ■



Hot wheels

Campus SAE chapter keeps racing along the right track By Alice Rhein



As one of many stops on the campus tour for prospective engineering students and incoming freshmen, the OU Police and Support Services facility garage is not a particularly flashy point of interest. Most probably see it simply as a nondescript double-door garage.

But to senior Katy Cunningham, who first laid eyes on the cinder-block structure during her orientation tour four years ago, it represented an intriguing place of possibilities. This garage, in addition to housing service vehicles, also is the home base of Grizzlies Racing, OU's chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE).

Today, Cunningham is one of about 30 students who spend from three to as many as 40 hours a week in the garage, designing, building and ultimately competing in a Formula-style race car.

"Actually, it wasn't the cars or the racing that brought me to the garage," recalls the Waterford native. "It was the grease, the machines and the fabrication aspect that

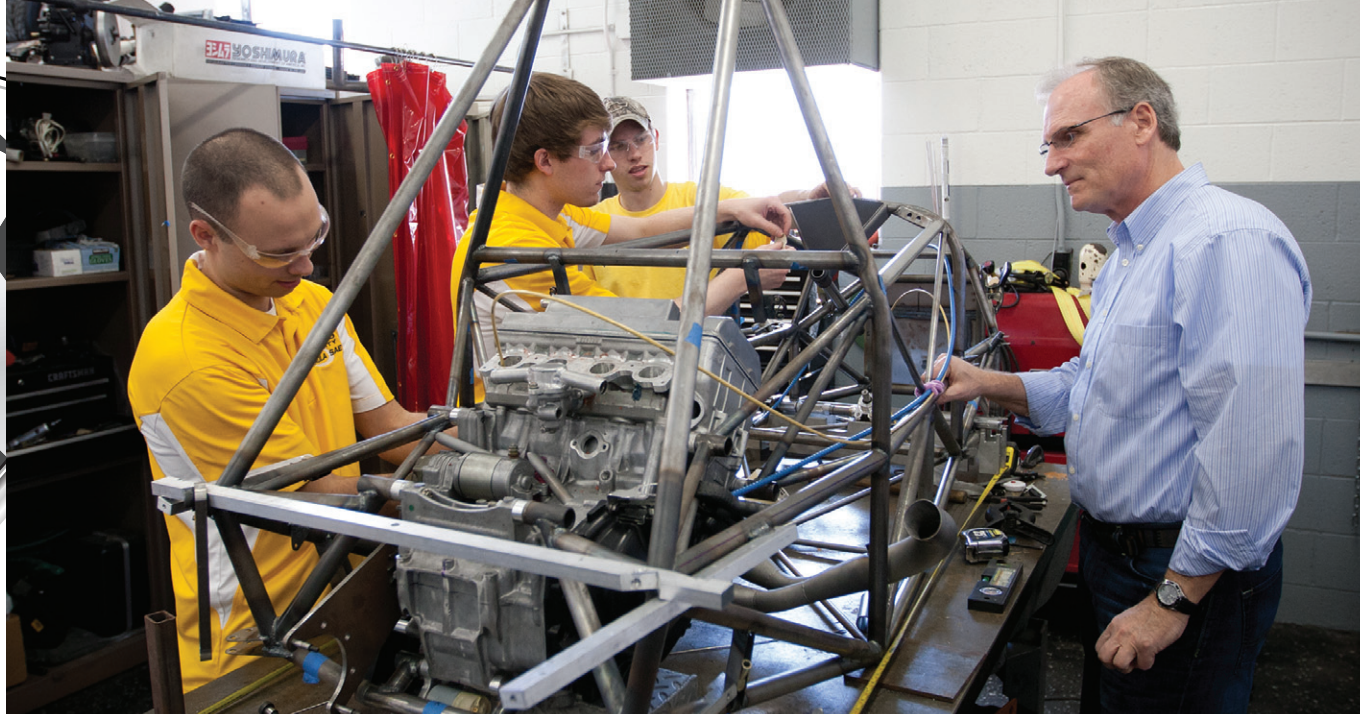
caught my attention. I wanted to make something that was technically difficult and extremely rewarding when finished."

To Cunningham, who graduates this year with a degree in mechanical engineering, the hands-on activity she saw in the PSS garage fit the bill precisely.

Team effort

Every year, OU's SAE team designs and builds a new race car from scratch, using the talents and skills of students and the support of local businesses. The completed project then heads to the track, where it's put to the test. In recent years, Grizzlies Racing has passed with flying colors, competing with other universities from around the world.

If the Grizzlies' unassuming home allows them to operate below the radar to most on campus, the team's winning results have helped raise OU's profile in the



Under the watchful eye of Dr. Brian Sangeorzan, Grizzlies Racing team members (from left) John Smerczak, Mike Pariseau and Dan Tunis work on OU's car for collegiate open-wheel competition. "Problem-solving happens on a day-to-day basis when we figure out how to stay organized and work together," says Evan Fischer, chapter president and mechanical engineering major.

national engineering community. Out of 130 teams on the collegiate formula circuit, OU's rank in overall competition went from 69th in 2009 to 36th in 2010.

It's a long way from the early days for the Grizzlies, when they built their cars in a long-gone, former pig barn on campus.

Brian Sangeorzan, Ph.D., associate professor of mechanical engineering and SAE faculty adviser, says he encourages students to make their SAE membership into what they want.

"It's really an autonomous group," he says of Grizzlies Racing. "They take complete ownership of the project."

He points to this year's car in the Formula SAE competition at the Michigan International Speedway in May; the result of thousands of hours of student work, with financial backing from generous OU supporters, auto suppliers who donate equipment and parts, and the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Dr. Sangeorzan says the OU SAE chapter members are dedicated competitors who represent the university well in events around the country.

"I have gone to events where companies or other universities knew about OU only through the cars we built," he says. "The fact that we're out there doing well is a great outreach effort that reflects positively on this university."

Off to the races

Evan Fischer, current chapter president, says the group runs the enterprise as a small business, creating a product that must be successfully "sold" to customers.

"Our group breeds leaders and team players, and not just in the engineering discipline, either," says Fischer, a third-year student working on a bachelor's in mechanical engineering and French. "There is a serious business side to what we do that corporations appreciate."

Each year, SAE conducts its Collegiate Design Series, which includes competitions that challenge students to design, build and test the performance of a real vehicle. Students look at cost, marketing and business aspects that would be involved in an actual manufacturing company, Fischer says.

For the past decade, the OU chapter's focus has been on building Formula-style race cars, Dr. Sangeorzan notes. Last summer, OU's car set school records at the International Collegiate Competition in California, placing 11th overall out of approximately 100 teams, and 7th in several events.

That's particularly impressive when considering that most of the opposing teams have larger staffs and bigger budgets, Dr. Sangeorzan says, adding that larger universities can have budgets of \$250,000 or more, while OU's cars have been built for less than \$15,000.

Grizzlies Racing participates in events throughout the year, including the Woodward Dream Cruise, the Concours d'Elegance of America, several local autocross races, and the North American International Auto Show.

Students can join the SAE chapter at any point in their OU career, says Fischer. The group offers opportunities in many disciplines, a chance for competition, and the ability to gain insight from year to year. For more information, visit grizzliesracing.com. ■

Alice Rhein is a freelance writer from Huntington Woods, Mich.

Teacher tech

SEHS prepares today's educators for tomorrow's classrooms! *By Susan Thwing*



"These new technologies engage students in hands-on learning and have the potential to improve student achievement. They also assist with communication and collaboration within the school community."

— Michael Lerchenfeldt

Smart boards, digital displays, interactive response devices and audio amplifiers: these high-tech devices are quickly replacing the mainstay chalkboard and overhead projector with interactive products in today's primary and secondary classrooms.

Oakland University's School of Education and Human Services is right in step preparing future teachers for the classroom of tomorrow. Mixing forward-thinking and adaptability is the key.

"These new technologies engage students in hands-on learning and have the potential to improve student achievement. They also assist with communication and collaboration within the school community," explains Michael Lerchenfeldt, SEHS '08, a math and science teacher at Chippewa Valley Schools. "My education courses at OU constantly emphasized the importance of differentiated instruction and multiple intelligences. This has helped me to design and adjust my lessons based on the diverse needs of the students who walk into my classroom."

The real world

The opportunity to 'test' the technology in real-world settings is a crucial factor to feeling confident as a first-year teacher.

Anthony Lewis, SEHS '10, a social studies and language arts teacher at Chippewa Valley Schools, says the intensive amount of in-field placements that he participated in while earning his degree helped give him a true sense of the teaching world.

"We had six field placements, in six different teaching situations — each a total of 10 weeks and 30 hours. That experience really gave me a sense of what is available in the classrooms today," he says. "By the time I was in the actual classroom, I was prepared to teach and use this technology in the best way possible."

It was during these sessions that Elizabeth Sova, SEHS '09, a math, language arts, and poetry teacher to sixth and eighth grade students, was introduced to teaching with technology. "OU has made me a better teacher by providing me with several experiences in observing and teaching in a hands-on environment, and working with different teachers with varied expertise," she says.

Embracing the future

C. Robert Maxfield, Ed.D., associate professor in Educational Leadership, says the high-tech classroom can have positive and negative outcomes — and it's the SEHS's mission to prepare teachers to use the technology to enhance learning, not hinder it.

"If it's done badly, it is just one more thing to 'show' the student, like a PowerPoint, and it becomes the next round of AV equipment," Dr. Maxfield explains. "However, if it's done well, these new devices have the potential to dramatically interact with and engage the student."



Michael Lerchenfeldt



Anthony Lewis



Elizabeth Sova

Sova says she enjoys using a mix within her classroom. "I have an interactive white board, a document camera, and a microphone that I use daily. I use the SmartBoard to motivate students with interesting lessons. They are excited to come up to the board and move things around and write on it. It's a great motivator and holds their attention."

Is she worried that the screen might replace one-on-one interaction? "Not at all. It doesn't replace us; it helps us enhance creativity and exploration."

In addition, downloadable lessons help students stay up-to-date, Lewis says. "Students are focused and excited — the mix of mediums simply augments and enhances what I am teaching."

Rapid response

Immediate assessment is also a plus. According to Lerchenfeldt, "Response devices [clickers] engage students with multiple-choice questions projected on the SmartBoard. Each student submits his or her answer with a clicker that sends a radio-frequency signal to a receiver connected to the teacher's computer. Software installed on the teacher's computer collects the data and displays a bar graph showing the percentage of students who chose each choice. In science and math, this allowed me to formatively assess my students and make an instant decision of whether or not my students understood the content."

Lerchenfeldt says that technology also enhances parent-teacher communication. "The Parent Portal allows parents to monitor their student's progress by providing real-time visibility to their student's attendance and grades. This also has the potential to increase communication between the school and home. Parent involvement is essential for student achievement."

So what's in store for the future?

All three teachers agreed that blogs, distance learning and social networking sites are emerging.

"Today's students should prepare by using these new technologies and acquiring necessary skills," says Lerchenfeldt. "In the 21st century, it is essential to be tech savvy."

"The best thing I learned at OU was to be forward-thinking and adaptable," says Lewis. "With the rapid evolution of technology it's essential in order for you to be successful and help your students succeed." ■

OU MUSIC | THEATRE | DANCE

For information on our performance season, visit

oakland.edu/MTD | facebook.com/ou.mtd | twitter@oumtd





Longtime friends
give historic gifts

A few words from OU President Gary D. Russi

Stephan Sharf has been among the most generous donors Oakland University has had the good fortune to know. His long legacy of gifts has touched just about every area of the university. Mr. Sharf's generosity and love of Oakland University knows no bounds.

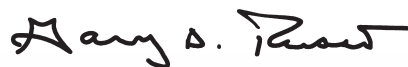
But Mr. Sharf has always been more than just a friend of the university. Over the years, he has contributed to the success of Oakland in a variety of meaningful ways, including serving as a member of the Board of Trustees, as former director of the OU Foundation, as a former member of the President's Campaign Council and as a member of the SECS Advisory Board. He is also the recipient of an honorary doctorate degree of science from Oakland University.

Mr. Sharf's latest gift amounts to \$21 million and is dedicated to enhancing the academic experience Oakland University students receive. It will have a positive impact on the lives of countless students and faculty in the years ahead. His gift not only represents tremendous generosity, but also is a fine testament to the important work all of us are doing to provide a high quality education for our students.

Steve Sharf's abiding friendship and generosity — combined with his love for Oakland University

students, faculty and staff — will leave a lasting impression on our university in perpetuity. We are grateful for Mr. Sharf's kind beneficence.

Sincerely,



Gary D. Russi
President, Oakland University

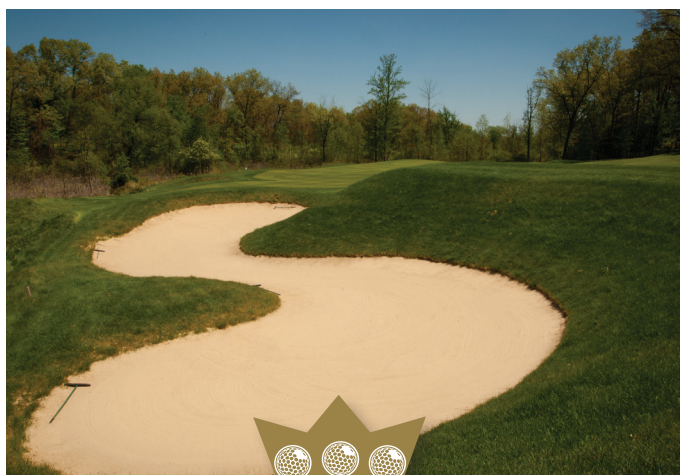




The Steve Sharf Clubhouse will open in June. The first floor will feature a golf pro shop, as well as an outdoor porch for relaxing. The second floor will house the men's and women's locker rooms and a conference room.



Rita and Steve Sharf



- Stephan Sharf and his late wife, Rita, began making donations to Oakland University in April of 1973. Their first nine gifts were directed to the Meadow Brook Theatre and the Meadow Brook Music Festival.
- As their relationship with OU grew, their gifts expanded into academic and student areas, with later contributions directed very specifically to their passions and personal interests, primarily engineering and golf.
- Mr. Sharf further demonstrated this support for the university by influencing gifts from others, particularly the Chrysler Corporation and Chrysler Foundation.
- In 2000, the Sharfs provided lead funding for Oakland's world-class R&S Sharf Golf Course.
- Following Mrs. Sharf's death in 2001, Mr. Sharf continued to give annually and, later, began to involve his new companion, Patti Finnegan.
- In 2007, Mr. Sharf made a significant investment in OU through a planned gift that will support the OUWB School of Medicine, the School of Engineering and Computer Science, student scholarships and the golf course.
- Earlier this year, OU President Gary Russi announced Mr. Sharf's commitment to a donation totaling \$21 million — the largest single gift from an individual in Oakland University history.
- This June, the Steve Sharf Clubhouse opens, which will serve both the R&S Sharf Golf Course and the adjoining Katke-Cousins Golf Course.

A long history of giving, friendship By Kevin Knapp



Patti Finnegan and Steve Sharf

Photo courtesy of Randy E. Pardy of Orlans Associates.

The vision today is as crisp and radiant in his mind's eye as the day it happened in 1947.

Sailing into the New York harbor bound for Ellis Island, aboard a troop carrier with a myriad of other Europeans fleeing their ruined homelands and painful memories of Nazi occupation, Stephan Sharf looked up to see the Statue of Liberty.

Just then, the sun broke through the clouds, illuminating the spiked crown adorning the massive monument's head. To Sharf, weary from the transatlantic crossing, it appeared to him to be the very image of hope for a brand-new beginning.

"I saw that and I made a promise to myself," he recalls today. "I said that if I make it in this country, I will share what I gain with the people who need help here."

In the intervening years since arriving as a penniless immigrant, Sharf has become known as many things: engineering wizard, automotive executive, philanthropist, astute writer, valued consultant, commentator, adviser, survivor, visionary.

But, above all, he is a promise keeper.

That vow he made upon his entry to America years ago has been kept many times over and in many ways. The recipients have been numerous; the gifts typically generous.

Now, this year, the promise has been fulfilled on an even grander scale.

Last February, Sharf pledged a staggering \$21 million to OU — the university's largest-ever gift. A \$14 million planned portion of the gift will be directed to the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS), the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB), and the OU women's golf team for priorities such as scholarships,

research funds and endowed discretionary funds. The remaining \$7 million in planned and cash gifts will be directed to campus operational and capital needs.

In total, it's a crucial windfall for a university that aims to grow and establish its own identity among the larger learning institutions in the state.

Thank you, America

Sharf's latest gift is the capstone to his long history of philanthropy at OU, which includes numerous gifts, such as the funding for an endowed deanship position for the new School of Medicine; the Stephan Sharf Endowed Scholarship for engineering students; the world-class R&S Sharf Golf Course (established in 2000 with his late wife, Rita); and, last year, the course's new clubhouse (slated to open in late June).

"I've been very fortunate to have been able to spend time with Steve and Patti this past year. I think it's important to note how much they truly care about helping OU reach its potential as an instrument of progress for this region. I can tell you, there is no greater friend to the university."

Thanks to Steve's philanthropy, OU is in an excellent position to fulfill its goal of becoming a premier learning institution with a national profile. OU is grateful for his support, and I am personally grateful and proud to call Steve and Patti valued members of the OU family."

– **Eric Barritt**, Vice President for Development,
Alumni and Community Engagement

A former OU trustee and holder of an honorary doctorate of science degree from OU, Sharf, 91, says his historic gift to the university is really a big "thank you" note to the country that took him in and gave him a fresh start after World War II.

"This is what I can do for America, to show what it is really about," Sharf says of his reason for giving. "There is no other country where you can come from the bottom and get to the top. I am proof that you can come over without a penny, and, if you work hard, then people will reward you. Where else can you start out as an hourly worker and wind up serving on the board of directors? That's what America stands for, and that's why I'm giving back to it."

Industrial strength

Given his extensive background in the manufacturing industry — most of it with automakers Ford and Chrysler — it's not surprising that Sharf has a keen interest in promoting SECS in general and mechanical engineering specifically.



The School of Engineering, Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine and the golf program are a few of the many OU programs to benefit from Sharf gifts.



Groundbreaking for the Steve Sharf Clubhouse in October 2011 marked a dramatic new chapter for OU's R&S Sharf Golf Course, further raising its profile in the world of golf. Sharf, at center, was joined by (from left) David Barczys, design principal with architects Niagara Murano; Henry Baskin, chair of OU's Board of Trustees; Maggie Allesee, philanthropist and longtime donor; OU President Gary Russi; Patti Finnegan, Sharf's longtime companion; Bill Rogers, managing director of OU's Golf and Learning Center; and Frank Rewold, president and CEO of construction firm Frank Rewold and Son Inc.

However, it's not simply because he favors his own chosen field. The focus on manufacturing stems from his deep sense of patriotism and a belief that America's future depends on it.

"Manufacturing is what made America great, but now it's making other countries great," he laments. "I hear some people say it's not important anymore to build things or make things with our hands. Well, they're wrong. If this country doesn't return to manufacturing, we won't have anything to sell, and then what? We'll gradually go downhill."

In earmarking a substantial portion of his gift to the engineering school, the retired Chrysler executive also aims to realize his vision of fostering a close working relationship between industry and academia at OU. He says he believes both stand to gain much from each other.

"My dream is to bring industry and university hand-in-hand working together, just like in the medical field today," he says. "One day the doctor is performing operations in the hospital, the next day he's a professor, teaching others what he does in the operating room. I would like to see such a close relationship between OU and industry and share and apply what they learn."

New medicine

Sharf's medical analogy is appropriate, given that he's led the charge in providing funding for the new OUBB medical school. He sagely notes that additional medical schools are a necessity to help train medical staff for the looming health care shortage in this country.

It's also a move that he regards as a "next step" in elevating OU's stature in the national academic arena.

"A medical school raises OU to a new level," he says. "It also comes along at a time when we desperately need doctors and nurses to provide health care for this nation. Right now, we don't have enough, and we continually are bringing in foreign doctors and nurses to fill the need."

Back in 2008, he provided an initial \$4 million to support an endowed deanship position for the new school of medicine. Hailing it as a "visionary gift," OU President Gary Russi said Sharf "has made a lasting contribution to not only the medical school, but to a future generation of physicians and the people whose lives they will impact."

It should come as no surprise that a manufacturing man like Sharf would provide the push for OU's historic move into the medical field, according to Patti Finnegan, his companion for the past 11 years.



Stephan Sharf at OU: Boards, Committees and Honors

- Chairman, Meadow Brook Music Festival
- Lifetime member, President's Club
- Member, SEC Advisory Board
- Member, OU Board of Trustees
- Director, OU Foundation
- Member, President's Campaign Council
- Member, SECS Creating the Future Task Force
- Member, SBA Creating the Future Task Force
- Member, Steering Committee
- Recipient, OUAA Honorary Alumni Award, 2008
- Recipient, Honorary Degree – Doctor of Science, 2007
- Recipient, OUAA Spirit Award, 1998



The 12th hole — dedicated to Sharf's late wife, Rita — offers an inspiring view of the R&S Golf Course's natural, wooded habitat.



The relationship between OU and Chrysler (whose headquarters is on the right) was greatly influenced by Sharf, a former executive with the corporation.



The course's seventh hole is dedicated to Patti Finnegan, who shot a hole-in-one there in August 2003.

"Steve is very fond of the university and really wants the best for it," she says. "There are a lot of things he promotes that are outside his field of expertise, like the medical school. He's really good at seeing the bigger picture."

Above par

It's ironic that, for all the man's largesse, his position as an industry captain and his devotion to supporting higher education, the name Sharf, in the minds of many people, is most closely associated with the pastime of golf. His namesake course on OU's campus is well-regarded; *Golf Digest* ranked the course 21st among Michigan's 855 golf courses.

More ironic still is the fact that the man who gave his name and a small fortune to found the course is not particularly a "golf nut."

"I enjoy playing golf, but I'm not a fanatic," he explains. "The reason I decided to put in the golf course was to draw attention to OU. You see, it always bothered me that

OU was not so well known. But the university had this nice piece of land, and I thought one way to get some notice is by putting in a really nice golf course. A golf course will bring in people who have influence. And if it's a nice course, they will come back."

When Sharf and Finnegan play the course, they take special pleasure in playing the seventh hole — where Patti scored a hole-in-one in 2003 — and the challenging 12th hole that features an "S" shaped layout and a nearby garden, created in honor of his late wife.

"The 12th is a tough hole for the real good golfer, because he can see the green and, if he hits well, he can reach it," Sharf says with a wry smile. "But if he doesn't reach it, he will end up in the 'S' shape sand trap and he will be thinking, 'that S.O.B. Sharf!' — and that is how I want to be remembered."

Senior achievement

Even in his 90s, Sharf maintains his sharp wit, a keen insight and — being the engineer he is — his desire to make things better.



The elevated tees and undulating greens of the R&S Sharf Golf Course make it worthy of even the most seasoned veterans. Pros who have played it include Lee Janzen, Frank Lickliter II, Rocco Mediate and Phil Mickelson.

His great concern for the future of his country leads him to devote his time and energy to yet another philanthropic endeavor, Junior Achievement. He sees it as a way to help the region's disadvantaged youth reach for a piece of the same American Dream that he once grasped for as a hopeful immigrant.

"Many of the kids have had a difficult life, but we try to nurture their talent," he says. "This country needs more engineers, but I tell them you can't get anywhere by taking all the easy classes.

"Not everyone should go to college, I think — some people don't have the mind for it — but if you do, you should get your degree in something that counts."

A happy return

On July 4th weekend of 1986, a massive, three-day celebration was underway in New York City to mark the completion of the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. President Ronald Reagan had hand-picked Lee Iacocca, then the chairman of Chrysler Corporation, to head the private sector initiative to raise funds for the restoration efforts.

As one of Iacocca's top lieutenants, Sharf was part of the Chrysler contingent that sailed into the harbor aboard the RMS *Queen Elizabeth II*. Chrysler had chartered the grand vessel for the event, but Iacocca, who was set to be part of the festivities in New York, was required to fly out in advance. When he departed the voyage in Bermuda, Iacocca gave his cabin — the owner's suite — over to Sharf, who remained to accompany the Chrysler dealers who had been invited along for the celebration cruise.

As the stately ship navigated its way into the harbor beneath a colossal fireworks display marking the celebration, Sharf once again came face-to-face with his inspiration, under markedly different circumstances.

"It was an amazing thing," he says. "When I first sailed into the harbor, I had not one cent in my pocket. Now here I was, I'm seeing the Statue of Liberty again, but this time watching from the owner's suite. I told the old girl, 'you see where I am now?' So, I think she sees that I kept my promise."

Indeed he has — to the great benefit of the OU community and beyond. ■

Photos courtesy of Oakland University Archives (except where noted).



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Healing hands

PT instructor, therapist has world of relief at her fingertips By Mary Gunderson-Switzer

Teresa Stayer still chuckles when she recalls the time a nun at her church asked her shortly after she received her physical therapy degree: "Why did you have to go to school for so long just to walk people around and put them in tubs?"

In reality, the world of physical therapy, or PT, is much more than warm baths. It's the most direct way she knows to help people achieve happier, healthier, fuller lives. "This is the job for me," Stayer says. "Seeing the progress of the people I work with is the greatest reward."

Stayer, SHS '84, who serves on OU's School of Health Sciences visitors board and alumni board, has worked in numerous PT specialties, including pediatrics, geriatrics, sports medicine and in outpatient hospital rehabilitation.

An advocate for PT, both as a practitioner and in the academic arena, Stayer's experience provides her with a broad view of how treatment can alleviate the cause of the pain and not just the symptoms.

PT framework

History is replete with examples of the practice of PT, but most people are unaware of the knowledge, skill and hard work needed to facilitate healing.

It has been around since 460 B.C., when early physicians such as Hippocrates treated people with massage, manual therapy and hydrotherapy. After the emergence of orthopedics in the 18th century, machines were invented to help treat diseases such as gout, through the systematic exercising of joints.

Today, physical therapists evaluate and treat people of all ages who have conditions or illnesses that limit their ability to move and function.

A typical PT plan of care includes education, exercises and manual therapy/manipulation. Stayer's area of expertise is myofascial release, which alleviates pain and restores function in back, neck, jaw, head and male/female pelvic pain. The list of health ailments that can be relieved by this technique is expansive — everything from scoliosis and fibromyalgia to whiplash and migraines — to name a few.

"Fascia" is the tough connective tissue found throughout the body. Trauma, inflammation, poor posture and/or surgical procedures can bind down fascia, resulting in excessive pressure on nerves, muscles, blood vessels and organs.

Myofascial release, then, is a form of soft tissue therapy that involves applying gentle, sustained pressure to eliminate pain and restore motion to impaired functions of the musculoskeletal, nervous or lymphatic systems.

"If you think of the body's spine as a tent pole, the connective tissues are like the guide wires, which can determine the balance or lack of balance of the body," Stayer explains. Alleviating the fascial pressure can allow restoration of balance so that healing can occur.

Such treatment is the mainstay of the business that Stayer co-owns with her husband, Daniel. Spectra Med, Inc. was founded in 1987 in West Bloomfield, Mich., to provide home health supplies, rehab equipment and PT services.

"Ours is a holistic approach that encompasses the treatment of the body, the mind and the spirit," says Stayer, adding that their approach aims at maximizing patient independence.

Physical therapists evaluate and treat people of all ages who have conditions or illnesses that limit their ability to move and function.

Kenneth Hightower, dean of the School of Health Sciences, and Teresa Stayer, alumna and physical therapist, observe the ongoing progress of the Human Health Building (HHB), which represents the future of health science studies at OU.

Set to open its doors to students in the fall semester, the 160,000-square-foot facility is part of OU's goal to transform health education and research in Southeast Michigan. Situated at the southwest corner of campus, the HHB will house both the School of Nursing and the School of Health Sciences.

Construction has been ongoing since the spring of 2010, and the process has been often photographed and filmed. To watch the entire construction process as captured by webcam, visit <http://webcams.christmanco.com/oaklanduniversity>.





"Oakland's program has truly been a springboard for a multiplicity of experiences for me."

— Teresa Stayer

Welcome assistance

Good results abound. Stayer cites an example of one of her patients, who is a quadriplegic.

"She had a very low heart rate of 34, and her doctor wanted to install a pacemaker," she recalls. "But after seven minutes of myofascial release, her heart rate stabilized at 68, and the patient remains pacemaker free."

Another woman had her foot crushed in a car accident. Her surgeon wanted to amputate, but after Stayer helped restore proper circulation to the afflicted foot, the doctor was able to successfully graft tissue to save her foot.

Yet another patient found she could finally achieve a full range of motion in her shoulder after Stayer released scar tissue that had resulted from a breast cancer reconstruction.

These and other success stories affirm to Stayer that she's chosen the right path in life to help bring relief and assistance to others. She credits OU with giving her the background and the confidence to soar.

"Oakland's program has truly been a springboard for a multiplicity of experiences for me," Stayer says. "The clinical internship opened my eyes to all of the PT disciplines."

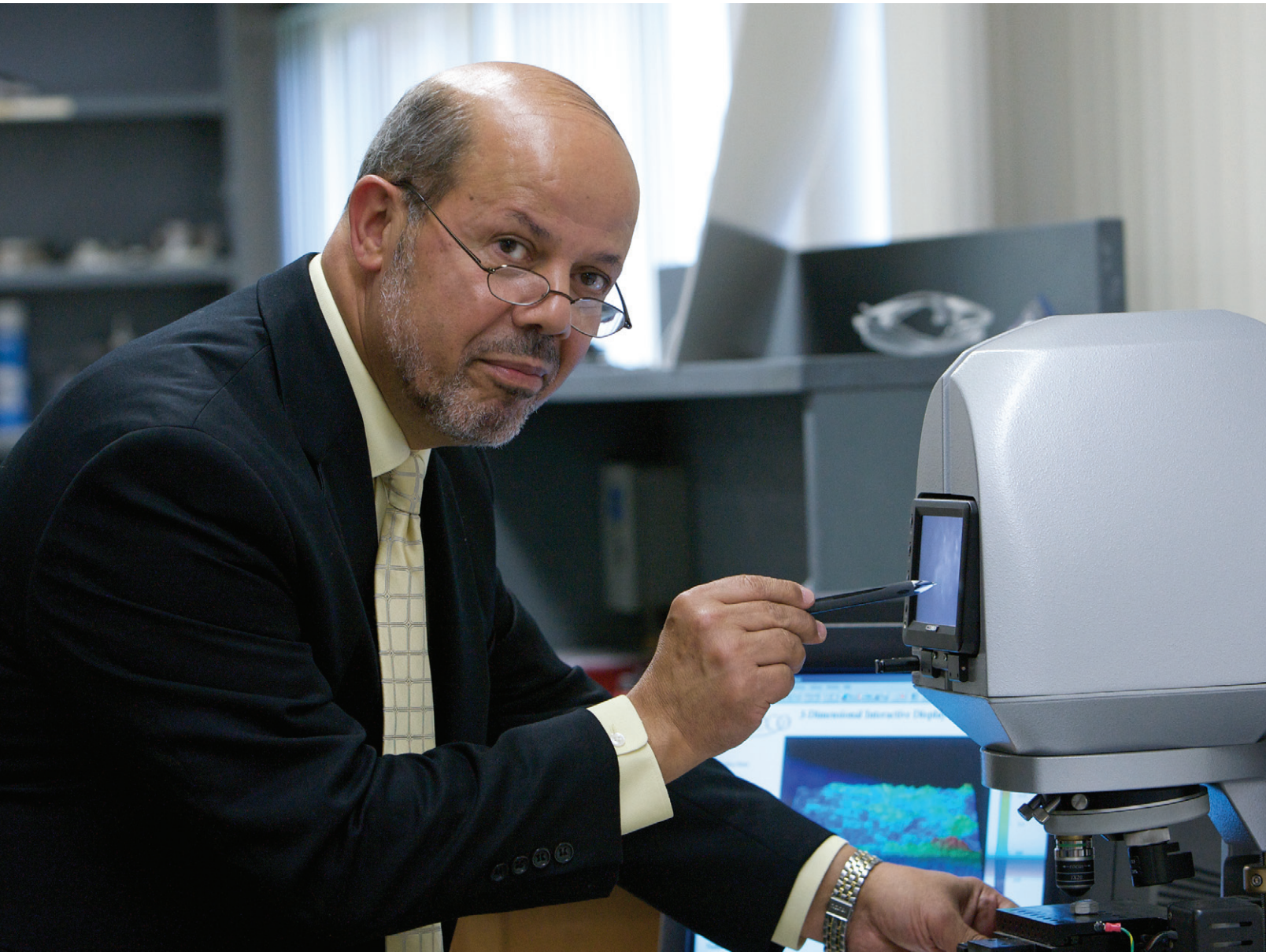
"Now I've been invited back again to OU to teach a class on myofascial release," she says. "I can't wait." ■

Mary Gunderson-Switzer is a freelance writer living in Warner Robins, Ga.



The fastening frontier

Distinguished Professor leads groundbreaking research on fastening technology By Kevin Knapp



Nuts, bolts, screws and glues. They're all common fastening and joining tools that we take pretty much for granted — if we think about them at all. As long as they keep holding things together, we're content to ignore them.

But therein lies the problem. According to a preeminent expert, product designers disregard the fastener's worth at their own peril, as the right fastener at the right place can spell the difference between success and failure.

"We really should be seeing them as potential weak points in any design, instead of treating them as an afterthought," says Sayed Nassar, Ph.D., professor of mechanical engineering. Indeed, in his estimation, a crucial component to the success rate in the mechanical world can be traced to the little-studied function of fastener performance.

However, Dr. Nassar has taken giant steps forward to correct this oversight.

In 2003, he founded Oakland University's Fastening and Joining Research Institute (FAJRI). The only known facility of its kind in the world, the





congressionally-approved FAJRI is an academic, nonprofit research facility that is dedicated solely to the fastening and joining of materials.

From small businesses to the automotive and nuclear power industries, the institute aims to help ensure the safety, quality and reliability of many mechanical and structural systems, machinery and equipment. This niche-research facility pursues fundamental and applied research to develop and disseminate new technologies for the fastening and joining of metals, composites and polymers.

"I find it to be a fascinating research niche that has a wide range of applications in almost every industry," Dr. Nassar explains. "It is surprising there hasn't been more up-to-date research in this area, especially with the advent of new lightweight structural materials, such as composites and advanced polymers."

New recognition

But his is no academic exercise — as an impressive host of important clients will attest. The Department of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and numerous companies in the energy and automotive sectors have given Dr. Nassar and FAJRI a considerable amount of funding and ample accolades.

This spring, Dr. Nassar received even more recognition, being selected as OU's 2012 Distinguished Professor for his preeminence in research, scholarship and commitment to service and teaching.

"I enjoy many things about being a professor of engineering at Oakland," he says. "But the most enjoyable aspect is the consistent high level of confidence, trust and encouragement to set and achieve high goals for myself, my unit and for the university and its community."

The accomplishment he says he has the most pride in is his work with FAJRI. From its humble beginnings less than

a decade ago, the center now can boast of having a highly recognized national and international profile for quality research and cutting-edge technology transfer. Specialty research topics include: shock-induced vibrations, composite fastening, creep-relaxation, adhesive bonding, joining of dissimilar materials, and non-destructive testing using ultrasonics and laser optics.

Prolific producer

As the principal investigator on 19 funded research grants, Dr. Nassar has brought more than \$13 million to the institution from the U.S. Army's TARDEC, National Science Foundation, NASA, Chrysler, Cummins, General Dynamics and DTE. He has also published more than 110 peer-reviewed papers, one book, and is the holder of three patents.

In addition to research, Dr. Nassar is well-known at OU for his teaching and mentoring activities. Recently, two of his students' thesis work was included in a NASA report on space fastener systems. Throughout his career, Dr. Nassar has supervised numerous doctoral and master's students and teaches courses related to his expertise in fastening and joining.

Dr. Nassar says he aims to expand the graduate study options in fastening and joining of materials at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels, increase graduate student enrollment, increase the research volume and scholarly output with externally-funded grants, and implement a self-reliance plan to ensure the continued success and sustainability of FAJRI.

"Developing reliable joints is crucial to product reliability and optimal performance, and particularly true for critical mechanical and structural systems," says Dr. Nassar. "I believe FAJRI will continue to provide not only quality fastening and joining research, but also the technology transfer to help solve related problems in both civilian and defense industries." ■

This story is the 12th in the *OU Magazine* series on Distinguished Professors. Past stories highlighted Shelton Appleton, Michael Chopp, Ron Cramer, Jane Eberwein, Robert Eberwein, Mike Sevilla, Paul Tombouljian, Ronald Finucane, Judith K. Brown, Gopalan Srinivasan and Eddie Cheng. For links to their stories, visit *OU Magazine* online at oakland.edu/oumag.

Tell us about a professor who inspired you. Write to us at Oakland University, Anibal House, 2200 North Squirrel Road, Rochester, MI 48309-4401. Or email your thoughts to OUMag@oakland.edu. Please include your full name, city of residence and phone number.

Animal planet

OU professor's world revolves around learning about — and teaching — the science of how animals think. *By Amy Lynn Smith*



If anyone could talk to the animals, it's Jennifer Vonk, Ph.D.

No, she isn't Dr. Dolittle and, of course, animals don't speak in a language of words. But they do communicate

much about their behavior and emotion, which is the kind of language Dr. Vonk is studying. And what she learns from animals may help tell us more about the human species.

Dr. Vonk, assistant professor of psychology at Oakland University, is deep into research on two overlapping areas: animal cognition and cognitive development.

"My work as a comparative/cognitive psychologist is to figure out what kind of thinking may be similar or different between both closely and distantly related species," Dr. Vonk explains. "I try to piece together what sort of factors in animal behavioral ecology might predict those things."

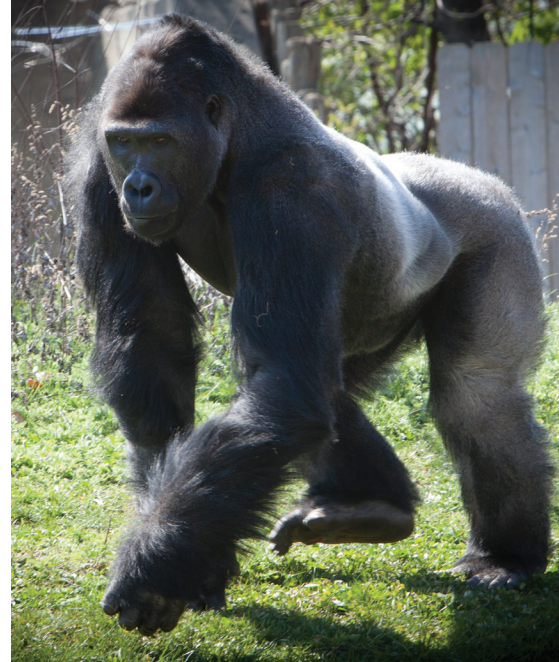
She learns much in her work by evaluating the closest thing in the animal kingdom to humans: the primates, such as gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans. According to Dr. Vonk, these non-intrusive studies help researchers better understand how humans have evolved and may ultimately offer a deeper understanding into human behavior.

Zoo time

As important as that behavioral research is, Dr. Vonk's work is focused also on the animals themselves. She's particularly interested in demonstrating that animal life is just as valuable as human life.

Equally important, she wants to discover if animals have problem-solving capacities that are different from those of humans. This can help improve the understanding of what animals in captivity need in terms of intellectual stimulation and environment.

She's especially excited about a new collaboration with the Detroit Zoo, which Dr. Vonk praises for its emphasis on animal welfare. The collaboration will begin with a



Besides researching ape behavior at the Detroit Zoo, Dr. Jennifer Vonk works with the Mobile (Ala.) Zoo to study American black bears and chimpanzees. Her work involves examining cognitive processes in non-human species to discover if they have parallels in humans.

study of the zoo's gorillas, in an effort to better understand what kinds of cognitive tasks might be enjoyable or stressful to them.

"We're planning on giving the gorillas a variety of tasks where they can choose different things to interact with, or they can learn to tell us what kinds of things they categorize as good things or bad things," says Dr. Vonk. "By better understanding how they think we can help improve their environment."

Studying the cognitive responses of animals is obviously very different from examining those of humans because animals can't use words to say how they feel. Dr. Vonk admits that's a challenge.

"You get a behavioral response, but then you have to make an inference about what it means, and even if they respond like a human would it might be for a very different reason," she says. "There's another level of inference that forces us to be more cautious in how we interpret the findings."

Dr. Vonk wants to learn about as many species as possible. She studied black bears in Mississippi — doing work with them on computer touch screens — and has proposed continuing similar cognitive studies with the many types of bears at the Detroit Zoo.

According to Dr. Vonk, bears have a large relative brain size which, along with their flexible diet, predicts a high degree of intelligence in problem-solving, as opposed to being hard-wired to find food in one particular way. Studying bears' behavior could shed light on how different animals think and process information.

Animal magnetism

Whether she's researching bears, primates or other species, Dr. Vonk's love for animals is at the forefront. It began when she was a child and locked eyes with an

orangutan at a zoo. "It got angry when I kept staring at it, and I just thought it was the most fascinating thing in the world," she says.

Dr. Vonk shares this passion with her students at Oakland University, where she teaches research methods and has many students who work with her, compiling research data in the lab. She's also helping to develop a new graduate program, which will include a class in animal behavior.

The graduate program's curriculum will include a new book co-edited by Dr. Vonk and the chair of OU's psychology department, Todd K. Shackelford, Ph.D. The book, *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Evolutionary Psychology* (Oxford University Press), was published in February 2012.

Ultimately, Dr. Vonk hopes her work will improve both human understanding of animals and the lives of the animals themselves.

"There's always the dilemma of feeling sort of guilty about working with animals in captivity," she says. "But the work we're doing can help us improve animals' interactions with each other, as well as with humans, so we can make their environment as natural and enriching as possible." ■



Earlier this year, Jennifer Vonk, Ph.D. (right), and Todd K. Shackelford, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Psychology, published their handbook on evolutionary psychology.

Amy Lynn Smith is a Birmingham, Mich.-based freelance writer.

An Appreciation: Dr. Virinder K. Moudgil

After 36 years of outstanding service, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder K. Moudgil has left Oakland University to accept the position of president at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, Mich.

Senior Associate Provost Dr. Susan Awbrey has been named interim senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, effective immediately. Dr. Moudgil will begin his new position on July 1.

OU Magazine spoke with Dr. Moudgil as he prepared to transition to this new phase of his remarkable career.

Dr. Moudgil, you have a unique perspective, having been at OU for 36 years — 11 of them as provost — and have been witness to and facilitator for OU's evolution. What do you see as OU's strengths today?

I think it's notable that we graduate more than 100 doctoral candidates a year and are now in the company of the nation's selected few doctoral research universities. Our strengths include having an international visibility, a roster of world-class faculty, outstanding academic programs and competitive athletics, and a proud and accomplished community of alumni. The opportunities for legal education on campus and the launching of a unique school of medicine are significant accomplishments.

Where do you see — or where would you like to see — OU in the next 10 to 20 years?

As a relatively young institution of higher learning, we have made strides in seeking and receiving generous support from our friends, alumni and donors. These efforts must continue to compensate for the decrease in state support over the last decade. Our institutional research platform should also be broadened with more partnerships and external competitive funding. We should aim to be regarded as an "engaged university" that enhances the intellectual and economic capital of the region.

As a dedicated researcher yourself, would you discuss the expansion of research activity at OU during your tenure and the value it has to OU in attracting students and further research funding?

I'm very proud of our faculty engagement in sponsoring undergraduate and graduate student research and creative endeavors. In this area, we stand out among our peers. Our students present their research or perform creative works at regional, state and national academic platforms, and many have traveled abroad, and their presentations and performances have brought laurels to the institution. In the past two years, we have experienced the largest external funding recorded for OU research programs. This trajectory must continue in order to provide our faculty and students with opportunities to excel.

It's been noted that one of your chief contributions has been in mentoring others, both students and faculty members. Why is that important?

I have been very fortunate to work with some outstanding faculty and students. Being in the company of faculty at seminars, scholarly presentations and traveling with them has inspired me. The company of students in the lab or in a classroom has energized me. This involvement is a constant reminder as to why we are mentors and teachers charged with shaping future generations by personal involvement in their academic and professional pursuits.

Looking back, what do you consider to be your most satisfying accomplishments at OU?

The opportunity and ability to work with inquisitive, energized and talented students in the classrooms and in my research laboratory were the most satisfying experiences as an educator. The ability to partner with faculty members for personal fulfillment and the greater good of the university has been most satisfying in my role as the chief academic officer.

What will be the challenge for OU going forward?

In the coming years, OU needs to establish its identity in the academic, social and economic arenas. We must decide who we are and what we want to be in order to be seen and recognized as an institution of distinction. We cannot be all things to all people and still be a university of choice or distinction.

Would you care to offer any parting thoughts?

OU has been a home to me for 36 years, and it was one of the most difficult decisions to make in my life, to move on from OU. But America is the land of opportunity, and, being an American, I salute that possibility. I am very grateful for the opportunities this institution and the campus community have given me. I have received a lot more from OU than I can ever return, and I thank you all.

To see OU's online tribute to Dr. Moudgil, visit oakland.edu/moudgil. ■



 Virinder K.
Moudgil
PROVOST

OUAA Board of Directors

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We would like to extend our appreciation to our board members for their hard work, dedication and generous giving of their time and talent to our alumni programs.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

2012 Grizzly Gala



The message "I AM OU" is not merely an acronym, but a call to action and a point of pride among all alumni. Together, alumni make a difference by joining fellow alumni at events that support scholarships and programs, volunteering their time, making a gift, advocating for OU, mentoring OU students, and sharing their OU pride. Read on to see how your fellow alumni have been participating in the life of the university and to learn more about the many ways you can get involved.

IMPACT A STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE

OUAA announces 2012-2013 scholarship recipients

The scholarship recipients are:

Legacy Scholarship

- Alexandra Hudas of Ray Township, Mich.
- Jonathon Phou of Auburn Hills, Mich.
- Rebecca Starke of Poplarville, Miss.

Frances C. Amos School of Business Administration Alumni Scholarship

- Kevin Redmond of Sterling Heights, Mich.

Thomas A. Yatooma Alumni Memorial for the School of Engineering & Computer Science

- Abedin Sherifi of Royal Oak, Mich.

College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Scholarship

- Kara Dubay of Algonac, Mich.
- Trung Tran of Sterling Heights, Mich.

School of Business Administration Alumni Scholarship

- Rebecca Braga of Shelby Township, Mich.

School of Education and Human Services Alumni Scholarship

- Rachel Butler of New Baltimore, Mich.

School of Health Sciences Alumni Scholarship

- Shelby Anderson of Clinton Township, Mich.

School of Nursing Alumni Scholarship

- Rita Sadik of Sterling Heights, Mich.

Honors College Alumni Scholarship

- Kaitlin Huff of Berrien Springs, Mich.

Black Alumni Scholarship

- Austin Simpson of Rochester, Mich.

Returning Alumni Scholarship

- Stephen Bazinski of Rochester Hills, Mich.
- Robert Strikulis of Westland, Mich.

Working Student Scholarship

- Amanda Kmetz of St. Clair Shores, Mich.
- Lauren LaCross of St. Clair Shores, Mich.
- Alohora-Mayra Magowan of New Baltimore, Mich.
- Travis Peterson of Washington, Mich.
- Christina Venditti of Shelby Township, Mich.

To learn more about OUAA Scholarship Program awards, current and prospective OU students can visit www.oualumni.com/OUAAscholarships.



Alumni gather to support student scholarships

Alumni, friends and community members shared an unforgettable evening April 20, 2012, while supporting student scholarships.

The OUAA's 2012 Grizzly Gala drew 200 guests to the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester, Mich. The evening generated approximately \$22,000, which will directly benefit the OUAA Scholarship Program. The OUAA has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to qualified OU students to date.

In addition to a strolling dinner, silent auction and live entertainment, the Grizzly Gala featured WDIV-TV Channel 4 newscaster **Lauren Podell, CAS '08**, as the emcee. ●

ADVOCATE

Grassroots Grizzlies program enhancements

The Oakland University Office of Government Relations is making some big changes to its Grassroots Grizzlies program.

Beginning this summer, instead of logging into a separate website, you will be able to access information on how to contact your legislator, news on higher education issues in Michigan and around the country, and key legislation — all from the Office of Government Relations website.

The office will also be sending out regular emails to keep you informed on legislative issues and news

impacting OU. If you are interested in joining the Grassroots Grizzlies, please email Michelle Lange at Lange2@oakland.edu. ●

Alumni outside of metro area enjoy gatherings

The OUAA is making it a priority to provide alums outside of Southeast Michigan with more opportunities to enjoy one another's company and cheer on OU athletic teams.

Luke Fleer, associate director of alumni engagement, recently attended alumni gatherings in Houston, Texas; Traverse City, Mich.; Tucson, Ariz.; and Washington, D.C.

Houston

John Eley, CAS '72, and **Barbara Moore, SEHS '77**, hosted a Houston pre-game gathering before the Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team faced the University of Houston last November.

Eley and Moore assisted in the venue location and hosted more than 30 guests with OU Athletic Director Tracy Huth. During halftime, Eley, a former OU basketball player and Hall of Honor inductee, was interviewed by OU's basketball voice Mario Impemba. Their conversation was broadcast back to Detroit on WDFN 1130-AM.

The Houston group, donning black and gold T-shirts, cheered on its alma mater behind the OU men's bench to victory. OU beat the University of Houston 76-74.

Traverse City

Traverse City

More than 20 alumni and friends attended a Traverse City gathering at the Park Place Hotel last fall.

The Park Place Hotel came recommended by Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program (AAP) ambassador **Lynne Lombard, SHS '84**.

Alumni had the chance to socialize, network and offer input on how they would like to remain engaged with their alma mater within an alumni network.

Fleer provided campus updates and opportunities to remain engaged, and Denae May, program coordinator, shared OU's AAP program.

Alums from graduation years 1971 to 2011 attended. **Melissa Winn, SEHS '81**, shared her OU story while reminiscing about a photo that she had recently stumbled across. The photo shows her as a girl, perched atop a sign reading, "Future home of MSU — Oakland," at Squirrel and Walton Roads in the mid 1950s.



We want to hear from you, *Alumni!*

Send us the latest information about you or your accomplishments for future publication in Class Notes. You may include a photo, either a print or high resolution (300 dpi) digital file, if you have one. Class Notes are printed on a space-available basis. Return this form to the address below.

My news

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss

Name

Maiden name

Spouse name

Class year

Major

Degree

☐ Check here if this is a new address

Home address

City

State

ZIP +4

Country

Home # ()

Work # ()

Email

Company

Address

Title

Mail to: Oakland University, Gift Accounting, John Dodge House
2200 North Squirrel Road, Rochester, MI 48309-4401

Tucson

Phil Williams, SECS '64, and **Barbara Williams, CAS '66,** gathered with nearly 20 other Arizona-based alumni in Tucson last fall prior to the men's basketball game against the University of Arizona.



Tucson

Phil Williams helped establish the OUAA in the early 1970s, and Barbara Williams was an OUAA board member for many years in the 1980s. Both cheered on their alma mater behind OU's bench.

Washington, D.C.

Area alumni and friends who gathered at a pre-game reception in Washington, D.C., last November heard remarks from Vice President for Alumni, Development and Community Engagement Eric Barritt, a university update from OU President Dr. Gary Russi, and highlights from the Republican Presidential Debate held on OU's campus from Political Science Department Chair Dave Dulio, assistant professor of political science.

Wearing their OU T-shirts, nearly 30 alumni and friends walked from the pre-game gathering to the American University athletic center and sat behind the OU women's basketball team's bench, excited to cheer on the Golden Grizzlies. Following a tie during the first half of the game, the Golden Grizzlies battled and secured their first win of that season, 68-62.

After the game, the players and coaches entered the stands and thanked the group of D.C. alumni and friends for their support.

"It felt like a home game tonight with all the alumni and friends that were in attendance," Coach Beckie Francis said after the game. ●



Washington, D.C.



Award nominations sought for 2012 recognition banquet

Every fall, the Alumni Awards Banquet brings

together hundreds

of OU alumni and friends to honor achievements in business, community service, volunteerism and more.

Mark your calendars for Friday, Oct. 26, 2012, to join fellow alumni, friends and community members at this special annual event. Nominations for the 2012 Alumni Awards Banquet are currently being accepted through June 25, 2012, in the following categories:

- **Distinguished Alumni Service Award** — OU's highest honor recognizes peerless volunteer leadership in service to OU or its alumni association.
- **Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award** — recognizes outstanding professional achievement and/or contributions to the community.
- **Odyssey Award** — recognizes alumni who seek to exemplify OU's motto, "to seek virtue and knowledge."
- **Spirit Award** — recognizes exemplary volunteer service to the university.
- **Alumni Community Service Award** — recognizes distinctive service of a humanitarian nature or citizenship through community, public or OU service activities.
- **Outstanding Young Alumni Award** — recognizes alumni who have demonstrated the worth of their education through their post-college achievements and who have graduated within the last 10 years.

- **Honorary Alumni Award** — recognizes individuals who have not graduated from OU but who have given outstanding service to the university.

Do you know an exceptional graduate or friend of OU who deserves to be recognized? Let us know! Nomination forms are available online at www.oualumni.com/OUAAwards.

For more information, contact Erin Sudrovech, associate director of alumni engagement, at sudrovech@oakland.edu or 248-364-6136. ●

Fifth annual Brooksie Way run

Oakland alumni and friends are invited to don their running and walking shoes and join the OUAA for the Brooksie Way Half Marathon and 5K, to be held for the fifth year on the campus of Oakland University.

"The Brooksie Way is an outstanding example of a fun, healthy way for the community to come together to support healthy lifestyles," President Gary D. Russi says.



This year's races will begin at 8 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 30, 2012. Registration is available at thebrooksieway.com.

OU alums will receive a \$3 discount on their registration fee of \$25 for the 5k, and a \$4 discount on their registration fee of \$50 for the half marathon. Visit thebrooksieway.com to register.

Alumni volunteers are needed on race day. Contact Luke Fleer at fleer@oakland.edu. ●

MENTOR

Mentoring offers opportunities to touch lives

Ken McCarter, MBA '85, enjoys being involved in the success of the OU students he mentors.

"It's always gratifying to see people achieve their goals," McCarter says, one of nine volunteers mentoring student participants in the School of Business Administration's (SBA) Scholars program.

The Scholars program provides leadership, service and real-world consultancy and research opportunities for students with a strong academic track record.

McCarter began volunteering at OU in 2008 shortly after retiring from his position as Chrysler's vice president of labor relations by joining the SBA's Executives in Residence (EIR) program. EIR volunteers — all experienced business leaders — maintain regular hours on campus and help where they're most needed. In addition, McCarter also teaches in the SBA.

"The Scholars program has utilized the services of the Executive in Residence program, so mentoring was a natural progression," McCarter says.

He and the other mentors are on hand to talk to SBA scholars about their studies and their career goals. He's also been able to help students make valuable networking contacts for job opportunities, and offer students insights about the professional work world they're entering.

McCarter mentored two students during the last school year, including junior marketing major Graziella Pizzo.



"Having a mentor, specifically Ken McCarter, was very helpful," Pizzo says. "I was able to have someone offer me advice, both professionally and academically. It was also a great opportunity to improve my networking skills."

Helping OU students succeed can be especially rewarding for alumni, McCarter adds.

"The students at Oakland are very intelligent, hard-working and, therefore, are good candidates for companies to hire," he says.

For more information about volunteering as a mentor for the Scholars program, contact Judy Martin at martin23@oakland.edu. ●

OPEN THE DOOR FOR OTHERS

Speed Networking program another success

The Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) and OU Career Services hosted another successful Speed Networking event in February.

Modeled after the speed-dating concept, Speed Networking matched alumni professionals with current students for multiple five-minute sessions that allowed students to practice their interviewing and networking skills with the benefit of immediate feedback from their alumni mentors.

Alumni volunteers from all career fields and industries served as mentors to student attendees and provided

valuable, real-world feedback in areas ranging from resumes and interviewing to professional dress and "elevator speeches."

"Your network is everyone you know and who they know," **Rick Fournier, SBA '67**, told students during the event. "Always be ready with your elevator pitch."

Derek Dickow, CAS '02, participated as well. "I was proud to be a part of an event of this caliber geared toward student professional development," he says.

If you are interested in future volunteer opportunities, contact Luke Fleer, associate director of Alumni Engagement, at fleer@oakland.edu or 248-364-6142. ●

Conference creates win-win situation for participants

Oakland alumni and friends are invited to OU's next Student to Professional Conference on Sept. 29, 2012.

The program, now in its third year, was created to engage and retain OU students. Last fall, keynote speaker **Charlie Wolborg, CAS '95**, shared valuable marketing and career strategies. Now the Office of Alumni Engagement is lining up alumni to present at the 2012 event.

"OU is crafting a niche and creating a culture where alums assist in the university's priorities, and current students see the value of an OU experience while learning what is expected of them upon graduation," Luke Fleer, associate director of Alumni Engagement, says.

"Because of the conference, students are now in tune with personal

branding, financial management, conflict resolution, debt management, entrepreneurship and the art of communication prior to graduation," Fleer adds. "All of this can be attributed to OU alums who are giving back."

The conference's first two years saw more than 100 students attend, with 20 alumni session presenters each year. This fall, organizers are hoping to double the student participation.

Already, students are taking a more active role in organizing this event. Alumni presenters are encouraging fellow alums to get involved. And other institutions are taking notice of this event, Fleer says.

"You know it's effective when peer institutions come to observe and take rigorous notes before implementing similar programs on their campuses," he says.

OU alumni interested in being session presenters can email Fleer at fleer@oakland.edu. ●

UPDATE

Charter class 50th reunion coming next year

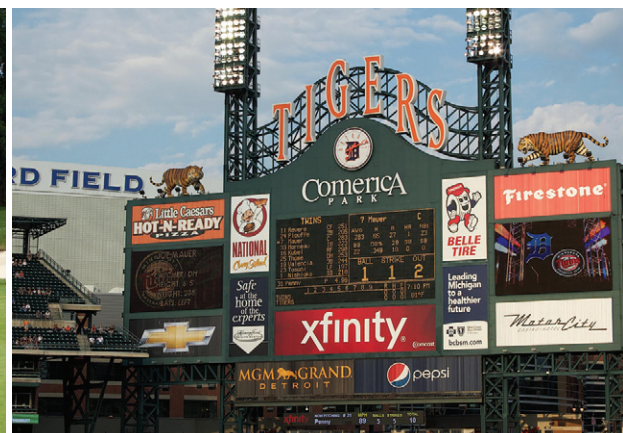
The OUAA is in the planning stages of the charter class's 50th reunion, taking place in 2013.

Charter class members are being sought to serve on the event committee and help spread the word among their classmates.

Those who have early OU and/or MSU-Oakland memorabilia they would be willing to loan or donate to the university can have it displayed during the reunion activities.



Madrid



For more information, please contact Erin Sudrovech, associate director of alumni engagement, at (248) 364-6136 or sudrovec@oakland.edu. ●

Alumna returns to OU to work in alumni engagement



Amanda Fylan

The Office of Alumni Engagement is welcoming a new team member this spring.

As the new alumni engagement and marketing manager, **Amanda Fylan, MTD '10**, is responsible for the development and execution of

alumni marketing strategies, including e-communications, direct mail and social media, along with the alumni section of *OU Magazine*.

She also will be responsible for managing partner, vendor and sponsor relationships in support of the Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA), as well as other alumni programs, events and initiatives. ●

Grizzly Getaway itineraries

Madrid, Spain — A six-day getaway

Experience sun, superb food and great hospitality. Journey through the breathtaking countryside and discover the country's rich heritage of monuments and sights.

Date: Oct. 31 – Nov. 6, 2012

Price: From \$2,359 per person, including airfare

Ancient Civilizations — Oceania Cruises (12 nights)

Follow the echoes of ancient empires and holy lands.

Make stops in Athens, Alexandria, Cairo, Haifa, Jerusalem, Alanya, Rhodes, Patmos, Kusadasi and Istanbul.

Date: Nov. 4 – 15, 2012

Price: from \$2,549 per person ●

SAVE THE DATE

OUAA Golf Challenge Monday, July 16, 2012

Join fellow alumni and friends on Monday, July 16, 2012, for a great day of golf on the R&S Sharf Golf Course on the OU campus. The day includes 18 holes, boxed lunch, afterglow reception and player gift.

Participants who register before June 21 will receive the early-bird rate of \$175 per player. Registrations received June 22 or later will pay the regular rate of \$200. The registration deadline for all golfers is July 3.

Proceeds from the outing support the OUAA Scholarship Program for current students and returning alumni. To date, the OUAA has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarship support. Sponsorship opportunities are also available, including hole sponsors and cart, lunch and player gift sponsors. ●

OU Night at Comerica Park Wednesday, August 22, 2012

Join your fellow alumni and friends for the eighth annual OU Night at Comerica Park. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with an all-you-can-eat food buffet on Party Deck 1. Next, cheer on the Detroit Tigers as they face the Toronto Blue Jays at 7:05 p.m. The lower-level seats for this year's event are fantastic!

Ticket prices are \$35 per person and include food buffet and game ticket.

This year, we are bringing back the charter bus! It leaves from campus at 4 p.m. Seating is limited and available for \$10 per person (in addition to your ticket). Enjoy air-conditioned luxury with Wi-Fi and an onboard restroom as the "OUAA Ballpark Bus" transports you to and from the game.

For more information regarding these alumni sporting events, please contact Christina Simon, outreach coordinator, at (248) 364-6134 or casimon2@oakland.edu. ●





ALUMNI ADMISSIONS AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

As an alumnus of Oakland University, you remember what it was like to cheer for the Black and Gold at sporting events, to participate in student organizations and programs, and to show your school spirit in everything you did. Remain connected to your alma mater and share your experiences with future generations of Golden Grizzlies by joining our growing team of Alumni Admissions Ambassadors.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Join an admissions adviser at a local college fair
- Welcome receptions for admitted students
- Go for the Gold campus visit day
- Housing move-in day
- Academic visit days
- Conference speaker
- Grizzly story time visits
- Represent OU at an out-of-state college fair

LEARN MORE

(248) 370-GRIZ | aaap@oakland.edu | oakland.edu/aaap





WINTER COLLEGE

Golden Grizzlies gather in Bonita Springs, Fla.

The Golden Grizzlies spent a warm, fun-filled weekend at OU Winter College in Bonita Springs, Fla., in mid-February. The second year of this growing event brought together alums from various class years and many "snowbirds" in the Bonita Springs and Naples area.

Former Provost Virinder Moudgil hosted a welcome reception, and four faculty members presented classes during the weekend on various topics of interest:

- **Our Amazing Human Body: An Anatomical Perspective**
Mary Bee, associate professor, biomedical sciences, Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine
- **Inside the 2012 Presidential Primaries**
David Dulio, associate professor and chair, Department of Political Science
- **The Sunny Side of Autism**
Janet Graetz, associate professor of education, human development and child study, School of Education and Human Services
- **The U.S. Economy and the Stock Market: Past, Present and Future**
Ronald Tracy, associate professor of economics, School of Business Administration

Margaret Pigott is a retired OU professor of international programs who attended the event for the first year. "My initial reaction when I received the invitation was that it was an innovative idea because there are a number of retired faculty who spend a great deal of time in Florida in the winter time," she says. "And there are even more retired alumni who are donors. It's a very fine way to share these important topics with retired donors, alumni and faculty."

"I was particularly interested in subjects that I hadn't been familiar with. Professor Mary Bee taught us a great deal about how our body is put together. Knowledge is power. We learned a lot. People our age are interested in learning what bone is aching and how to describe it," Pigott says.

Don Kaegi, also retired, attended two classes and a Friday evening dinner hosted by OU President Gary Russi.

"I thought the classes were very engaging with topical presentations. It exceeded what we expected. Dr. Russi's talk at dinner was pretty eye opening in terms of what the university faces with the state budget situation," Kaegi says. He says he feels the event will grow over time, saying, "The challenge is to continue to come up with classes that are engaging and informative."

Guests enjoyed the beautiful amenities of the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa with part of the weekend earmarked for leisure time.

"It was a beautiful place," Pigott said. "So many options of things we could do. We went on a boat ride to an island and went swimming in the Gulf of Mexico. Others went golfing and shopping."

OU plans to host the weekend again next year, according to Eric Barritt, vice president for Development, Alumni and Community Engagement. "We were thrilled to see so many alumni and friends take advantage of a destination event like this, to connect with each other and with Oakland, and to learn from our faculty. I think the event will only continue to grow."

For a photo slideshow of Winter College in Bonita Springs, visit oakland.edu/wintercollege. ●



Career/Accomplishments

1960s

Gail Bagale, CAS '68, organized the Save Our Children Coalition Summit in 2007. The summit was co-sponsored by Child's Hope and the University of Michigan-Dearborn School of Education, and supported by a host of community service, health care and faith-based organizations. The community was mobilized by the summit, resulting in the formation of the Save Our Children Coalition Project at the University of Michigan-Dearborn School of Education.

Orrin P. Shoemaker, CAS '67, retired from teaching and law enforcement. He is president of the Blue Water Carvers.

Kathryn E. Thoresen, MA '67, was awarded a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2006 from the San Francisco Theological Seminary. Thoresen has been working with the community outreach branch of the Save Our Children Coalition of the University of Michigan-Dearborn School of Education as the coordinator of the Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care.

1970s

Paul G. Angott, SECS '70, is president of Angott Medical Products LLC of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., a startup that hopes to market a low-cost, radiation-free device to screen for breast cancer, and was named Entrepreneur of the Year at the 11th annual Automation Alley Awards Gala. Angott has been granted 40 patents and has launched five companies over the years. Last year, Angott Medical Products won \$25,000 for finishing second in the emerging company division of the annual Great Lakes Entrepreneurs Quest awards event in Lansing, Mich.

Michael G. Ardelean, SBA '72, is the owner of Wirtz & Company Inc. He is an avid sports fan and also enjoys visiting Meadow Brook Theatre for quality entertainment.

Edson Baptista, MS '72, returned to Brazil after graduating and started teaching at the Federal University of Espírito Santo. He held the positions of dean of engineering and president of the University Entrance Examination Committee. He retired from the Federal University of Espírito Santo in 1998. Baptista then went on to work

for the University Tuiuti of Parana in Brazil. He was hired as a member of special projects for the university and as presidency adviser. He later held the position of dean of the School of Exact Sciences and Technology of the University Tuiuti of Parana. In 2000, Baptista was appointed dean of Novo-Millennium College in Vila Velha, Espírito Santo in Brazil. He earned his Ph.D. from SUNY at Buffalo, N.Y., in controls, estimation and automation. He was also a visiting scholar at the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind., working with Professor Dominick Andrizani II on intelligent systems. Presently, Baptista is the chairperson of the computer science department of the University Center Barao de Mauá.

Bruce K. Barclay, CAS '71, is employed as a school bus driver after retiring from the Palisades nuclear plant, where he worked for 21 years. He enjoys transporting the children to school every day and has found what he likes to do in life.

Judith L. Bess, SEHS '76, is a featured artist at the Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery in Mesilla, N.M. Bess taught art at the high school level before entering the corporate world, where she spent 28 years in a variety of managerial and other business positions. After retiring and moving from the Midwest to New Mexico, she returned her focus to art.

Carl E. Christiansen, CAS '78. Brother Christiansen is currently a religious monk living separately and working toward publishing his first small children's book that should be out within a year.

Thomas Burton Collins, CAS '72, is employed by The Diversified Group as a financial adviser and the director of trading. Collins is a specialist in retirement and estate planning and asset and risk management with a professional background in psychology and social work.

Catherine M. Delanoy (Proctor), CAS '75, has 16 choral octavos published by Carl Fischer, Shawnee Press and BriLee Publishing, including best seller *Shalom Chaverim*, Shawnee Press. Her new book, *Warming Up With Rounds (Teaching Music Literacy Using Rounds in the Choral Rehearsal)*, is coming out in the spring of 2012. Delanoy is a teacher at Westmont Junior High School in Westmont, Ill., where she teaches general music and directs their four choirs. Her choirs consistently

earn top scores and honors throughout the state. Outside of school, she sings professionally as a member and soloist with the critically acclaimed Chicago Choral Artists. She can be heard on many of their numerous concert CDs. In addition, she works as a clinician and adjudicator whenever possible. In the summer, she can often be found on a cruise ship lecturing on *Classical Music You Know and Love*.

David F. Douglass, CAS '75, and **Ellen Hargis, CAS '78**, are co-directors for the early music group Newberry Consort. Douglass is a string player and Hargis, his wife, is a soprano. Newberry Consort recently celebrated the launch of its 25th anniversary season. Douglass teaches at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. Hargis is a vocal teacher and stage director whose academic affiliations include the Music Institute of Chicago and Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Monica E. Emerson, CAS '71, received the 2011 Excellence in Leadership Award during an annual black-tie gala on November 4, 2011, at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester, Mich., hosted by the Women in Defense Michigan chapter. Emerson, a resident of Rochester, has been a Navy diversity officer since August 2009, and is principal adviser to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for manpower and reserve affairs. She was previously executive director of the global diversity office at then-Chrysler LLC prior to her retirement in 2008.

Joseph A. Gardella, Jr., CAS '77. As the John and Frances Larkin Professor of Chemistry at the University at Buffalo (N.Y.), SUNY, Gardella is leading a team that received over \$10 million for five years' support from the National Science Foundation and other local sources, to expand the Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Partnership with Buffalo Public Schools. Through this initiative, middle and high school science, technology and special education teachers at 12 schools will take part in innovative professional development programs that include conducting interdisciplinary research during the summer. Many of the schools targeted for the project are designated by Race to the Top as Persistently Low Achieving (PLA) schools. The goal is to encourage teachers to incorporate interdisciplinary content in lessons, and to take an inquiry-based approach to teaching

continued on p. 51



Executive began distinguished GM career while still an OU student

He certainly has every reason to boast about his considerable career accomplishments. But despite having worked his way up through the ranks at General Motors to become vice president, Global Purchasing and Supply Chain, **Bob Socia, SBA '76**, has the demeanor of a man firmly grounded in the practical philosophy of putting in a good day's work.

Perhaps some of this has to do with starting his college career as a scholarship student at Oakland University. Though he studied finance and economics, his scholarship was actually in swimming — something he did competitively for OU's Swimming & Diving program and still does a couple of times a week.

Socia went on to earn his master's degree in business administration from University of Detroit Mercy, but began working at GM even before that. During his senior year at OU, Socia was in the GM Co-Op Program, assigned to the Cadillac Division, where he was hired in 1975.

"I thought the program was an excellent way for the individual to know the company and the company to know the individual," says Socia. "I still feel that way — and it certainly worked out for me."

Indeed, it did. Over the years, Socia worked in GM's finance and materials management areas and, in 1991, was appointed

director of supply management at what was then the Buick-Oldsmobile-Cadillac Group and the Cadillac Luxury Car Division.

From there, his focus became more global, including senior positions at GM do Brasil, GM Europe and GM South Africa. This led to a prestigious post as executive vice president of Shanghai GM, the company's flagship joint venture in China.

"Being able to contribute to the success of the joint venture in China was extremely rewarding," says Socia. "China is the highest growth area in the automotive industry, and General Motors has done extremely well there."

His global view is proving valuable today in his role back in Detroit, overseeing GM's global purchasing, supplier quality, logistics, order fulfillment and supply operations.

"Being on overseas assignments gives you the perspective of how global this company really is," says Socia. "All that experience has certainly helped me tremendously as I work with all the countries and internal organizations to get things done as efficiently as possible." ■

By Amy Lynn Smith, a freelance writer from Birmingham, Mich.

Alumni Profile

"Running keeps me balanced and gives me the energy to persevere ... It really helped my focus when I was writing my dissertation."

– Darryl C. Hill

Alum and professor sees education as a marathon, not a sprint

Lecturing to his undergraduate students one day about the value of lifelong learning, the professor realized that the same lesson applied to the teacher, as well.

"I truly had to walk the talk, even though I was 41 and already established when I started on my Ph.D.," says **Darryl C. Hill, SEHS '10**, and an adjunct assistant professor in Health Sciences.

Already an executive in the health and safety field, Dr. Hill dug in and completed his doctorate in educational leadership at OU — and has never slowed his pace, most appropriate for someone whose favorite form of recreation is long-distance running.

"Running keeps me balanced and gives me the energy to persevere," says Dr. Hill, who has completed seven marathons and expects to run two more this year. "It really helped my focus when I was writing my dissertation."

As a Certified Safety Professional, Dr. Hill maintains a pace that would exhaust most others. He earned his bachelor's degree in occupational safety from Iowa State University, and a master's in hazardous waste management from Wayne State University. He teaches multiple classes for OU's Occupational Safety and

Health Program and also serves on its Occupational Safety and Health Program Industry Advisory Board.

He does all this while working a full-time job as vice president of safety and health of ABB Inc., where he is responsible for programs that protect 25,000 employees in 50 manufacturing sites across North America. Though his office is in Auburn Hills, Mich., he spends nearly half of his time traveling for work, and he still found time to complete a term as president of the American Society of Safety Engineers.

As a professor, Dr. Hill never stops in his pursuit of knowledge, either. He turned a recent tour of the Human Health Building's construction site into a tutorial for himself and his students. When it opens this fall, it will be the first "green" Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified building on OU's campus.

"It was interesting to learn how they considered how the sun radiates through the building and how that impacts controlling the temperature inside," he says. "It was a great tour because I was learning right along with my students." ■

By Rene Wisely, a freelance writer from West Bloomfield, Mich.

that may be more successful in getting students excited about science. The program will also involve wraparound support services for implementation, including graduate and undergraduate students from the academic partners who will mentor teachers and students. The partnership reflects Gardella's long-standing interests in curriculum development for scientists and non-scientists, as well as in mentoring. He and his colleagues hope the project will shed light on how science teachers develop interdisciplinary science inquiry knowledge and share it with students. Improving student outcomes will also be a critical measure of success.

Roy E. Gold, CAS '73, is in his second year as mayor of Coral Springs, Fla., a diverse community of more than 121,000 and the first and only local government to receive the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. A Coral Springs activist since the early 1990s, Mayor Gold has been a community advocate for many years, both as an elected official and a private citizen. He was elected to his first term as commissioner in March 2004, and re-elected in 2008. He was appointed vice mayor from March 2006 through November 2007. He serves in a leadership capacity for numerous groups, including the Coral Springs Principal Education Advisory; the Coral Springs Neighborhood and Environmental Committee; Coral Springs Historical Advisory Committee; Coral Springs Charter School, Board of Directors; and the Coral Springs Museum of Art, Board of Directors, ex-officio member. Mayor Gold, a long-time environmental activist, brought a Broward County Waterway Cleanup Site to Coral Springs 16 years ago. Since then, the site has consistently been one of the largest in the county, in terms of volunteer power. He also founded the Adopt-A-Mile program in Coral Springs in 1990 and has served as the site leader for Broward County Adopt-A-Street since 2002. His interest in education also led him to bring to fruition the Teen Political Forum in 2007. At this annual event, students are able to ask questions of their elected officials, helping bridge the gap between students and government. He serves as the chair of the National League of Cities' Leadership Training Council and is a member of the Florida League of Cities' Board of Directors. He has served on a large number of committees, including Broward County Management and Efficiency Study Committee, Broward County Metropolitan Planning Council, Broward County Water Advisory Board,

and Broward Beautiful. Mayor Gold recently had the honor of receiving an invitation to visit the White House. The Obama Administration was interested in discussing a number of significant topics, such as the American Jobs Act, transportation, infrastructure improvements, and immigration with our nation's appointed and elected officials. Currently, the mayor is co-chief executive officer and co-president of Cambridge Diagnostic Products, Inc. He and his wife, Janet, have two children: Lauren and Michael and his wife Susana and Dylan, the Gordon Setter.

Katherine H. Joslin, CAS '70, was named Western Michigan University's 2011 Distinguished Faculty Scholar. The award is the highest accolade awarded to a WMU faculty member and was presented to Joslin during the university's annual Academic Convocation in September 2011. Joslin's most recent book, *Edith Wharton and the Making of Fashion*, was selected as an Outstanding Academic Title by *Choice* magazine of the American Library Association. Among many WMU awards, she was recognized for her superior classroom skills with an Alumni Teaching Excellence Award in 1997 and given a Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award in 2010. Joslin also has been regularly recognized through the Fulbright Program, winning a Fulbright Senior Specialists Grant to teach in Cairo, Egypt, in 2008, and significant grants as principal investigator in 2000 and 2001 through the Fulbright Summer Institute for Study of the United States.

Leslie J. Stein, CAS '76, was one of 33 lawyers from Plunkett Cooney named in *Michigan Super Lawyers* magazine's 2011 list of Super Lawyers. Those named to the list represent only 5 percent of the state's licensed practitioners.

Erik B. Vigmostad, SECS '76, has co-founded Amanti Art to provide custom framed artwork via Internet websites. All of Amanti Art's products are manufactured and assembled in the United States, and as many U.S.-produced components as possible are used for their products.

1980s

Tim J. Allard, CAS '86, and **Suzanne W. Allard (Silva), CAS '87**, live in Charlottesville, Va., with their two children. They worked for Electronic Data Systems (EDS) for about 12 years

in marketing, sales, executive and leadership development, before starting their own high-performance executive and team consulting business. The Allards followed their dream to own their own business and made a positive difference in the world by launching Odyssey, Inc., in 1999.



Suzanne W. Allard

Since then, they have had the privilege of working with some of America's top executives and organizations. Developing high-performance executives, teams and organizations is their passion, and they feel very fortunate to be doing what they enjoy. In addition to coaching and consulting, they have written, been interviewed and speak on the topic of building a high-performance culture, in which they assert that team and organizational culture is the key to sustained long-term performance and competitive advantage. Both have studied with some of the greats in the field, like Peter Senge, author of *The Fifth Discipline*, and Mr. Allard has been featured in *Smart CEO* magazine. Oakland University is where it all started — the marriage and their budding entrepreneurial dreams — both are still going strong!

Hermine (Bobbie) C. Baker, SEHS '86 and '74, works as the director of counseling for Trinity Family Counseling Center, a ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church and aftercare coordinator for Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home. Both are located in Utica, Mich. Baker has been a professional counselor for 25 years. She is past president of the Michigan Association of Marriage and Family Counselors and now serves on the board. She has contributed to the *Ladies Home Journal* column "Can This Marriage Be Saved?" and *Mademoiselle's* "Real Life Love." She has been interviewed on the *Today* show by Katie Couric in celebration of the 50th anniversary of "Can This Marriage Be Saved?" Baker has written *Grief Reflections: A Quiet Book of Comfort*. Her book is a collection of bereavement messages that she wrote for the Walk With Me grief group that she coordinates for Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home. Its aim is to provide comfort in brief, hopefully insightful words without overwhelming the mourner.

Richard D. Bearse, BGS '84, is employed at MORC, Inc. and New Horizons Rehabilitation Services.

Melinda K. Callahan (Conway), MPA '85, was appointed president of the Crittenton Hospital Medical Center Foundation in Rochester, Mich. Callahan has over 30 years of development experience and leaves the Presbyterian Villages of Michigan Foundation after more than seven years leading the foundation. Before joining Presbyterian Villages, she was executive director of the Rochester Community Schools Foundation for nine years. She previously had served in a number of development, public and community relations positions at the Detroit Medical Center for 14 years. At Crittenton, Callahan will help expand the hospital's donor base and oversee the hospital's \$20 million capital campaign.

James M. Hardin, CAS '80, has been with AC Services since January 2009. Raising funds for charities across the country has strengthened his conservative principles. And yes, there are more political campaigns to come!

Cheryl A. Lewis-Seprino, CAS '80, was asked to work as a makeup artist for the Republican Presidential Candidate Debate that was held at Oakland

University on November 9, 2011, and broadcast on CNBC.

Bernice R. Lopata, MA '84, after 14 years in leadership roles in the Office of Development at Wayne State University, is delighted to be part of Oakland University's Development, Alumni and Community Engagement team. She began her service at Oakland in June 2010 as assistant vice president and campaign director in the office of University Relations and feels it's great to have the opportunity to give back to her alma mater.

Marian I. McClellan (Meisner), SEHS '88, was sworn in as mayor of Oak Park, Mich., on November 14, 2011.

Mark J. Mendola, SBA '86, was named as PwC's U.S. tax leader and a vice chairman of the firm in October 2011. He will



Mark J. Mendola

also serve as a member of the firm's U.S. leadership team and the global tax leadership team. He will be responsible for the network of tax practices across the Americas, including Canada, Mexico and South America. Mendola most recently served on PwC's tax core leadership team as the tax managing partner. In that capacity, he led the firm's tax market and client service strategy and was responsible for industry sectors and several tax business units. Prior to serving in that role, he was the tax leader for PwC's Canadian firm, based in Toronto. In addition to these tax-specific leadership roles, he previously served as the Detroit office managing partner, the global tax and U.S. automotive industry leader and as the lead partner on several large multinational clients. Mendola joined PwC in 1986, serving in the Detroit tax practice. He became a partner in 1998. Mendola is a frequent instructor and speaker, has been active in the greater Detroit community, and is on the boards of several charitable organizations.

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John (Jack) P. Nelligan, SBA '86, was named senior vice president/relationship manager for PNC Wealth Management in Battle Creek, Mich. In that post, Nelligan is responsible for delivering advice and solutions to existing and new PNC Wealth Management clients. The operation is part of The PNC Financial Services Group Inc. Nelligan is an 18-year veteran of banking who was previously senior vice president/relationship manager for PNC Real Estate in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Steven J. Petroff, CAS '89, officially entered the novitiate of the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle (Paulist Fathers) during an August 27, 2011, mass at St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C. The novitiate is his first step toward becoming a Paulist priest.

Janet E. Roberts (Dougherty), CAS '83, was named as Oakland Community College's new executive director of marketing and communications. Her responsibilities include providing leadership in the planning, implementation and management of the college's marketing, internal communications, student recruitment and public relations programs. Roberts is the former director of community relations and fund development for Huron Valley Schools. Before joining Huron Valley in 1999 she was director of communications and government relations for the Michigan Association of CPAs, as well as marketing director for the international accounting and consulting firm BDO Seidman.

Gerald J. Sokol, Jr., SBA '84, was appointed to the permanent position of president and chief executive officer for Vertis Communications. Sokol held the position of interim president and CEO since December 20, 2010, while acting as the company's chief financial officer. Vertis Communications is a results-driven marketing communications company that delivers inventive advertising, direct marketing and interactive solutions to prominent brands across North America. Before joining Vertis as CFO in 2009, Sokol served as executive vice president of AOL Finance, Operations and Strategy for the AOL division of Time Warner. Prior to AOL, Sokol served as CEO, president and acting board chairman for NTN Communications. He has also held the position of vice president of finance and treasurer at Tele-Communications, Inc., which was the largest U.S. cable television company and prior owner of Liberty Media. Sokol earned a Master

of Science degree in finance from the University of Colorado.

Anna M. Steenland (Benincasa), SBA '88, joined Summit Sports, Inc., a Bloomfield Hills, Mich.-based outdoor recreation and sports retailer, as controller. Steenland will be responsible for the accounting operations of Summit Sports, Inc. This includes the maintenance of accounting records, the day-to-day activities of the company's financial accounts, payroll, human resources and operations. Prior to joining Summit Sports, Inc., Steenland was employed as the controller and human resource director at PC Treasures in Oxford, Mich. In her more than 20-year career, she also has worked as a controller at U.S. Equipment Company in Detroit, Aurora Land Development in Shelby Township, Mich., and Bulk International, Inc. in Troy, Mich. She started in the industry as an accountant at Birmingham, Mich.-based Continental Security Services, Inc.

Christopher Walter, SECS '83, was hired by L-3 Communications in Arlington, Texas. He will be working on simulation and training systems for the military.

1990s

Salma I. Ajo (Marougy), SEHS '93, was employed for 12 years with Henry Ford Health System Maplegrove Rehabilitation as a substance abuse therapist. Currently, she is employed by ACCESS in Dearborn, Mich., which is starting an SA Program and where she has a private practice. Ajo enjoys her work and takes pride in helping others who are involved with addiction.

Esther M. Coleman, Ph.D. '94, recently retired from Marygrove College as coordinator of graduate reading. She is presently an adjunct professor at the College of Creative Studies teaching reading courses to art education majors.

George A. Kolibar, CAS '92 and '89, is a full-time professor in general education and instructs students in research writing, speech and literature.

Rhoda L. Miller-Grimes, CAS '92, is married with two sons and resides in Detroit.

Kerri Michelle Cecil Richardson, CAS '99, recently became a new author at AEG Strategic & Eloquent Books. She works for Strategic Book Group. Richardson has partnered with her company to bring

Lion and Kitsune, Space Imagineers to the general public. It is Richardson's very first book!

Delia D. Rodi-Barcys, SECS '91, is the CEO at Niagara Murano, located in Birmingham, Mich. She also sits on the board of directors for the International Women's Forum and is a member of the National Association of Women Business Owners. Rodi-Barcys takes pride in the education that she received while at OU, not only in becoming a successful engineer and designer, but also in giving her a business background and reinforcing her foreign language skills that have strengthened her business internationally.

Guy L. Sferlazza, CAS '91, is celebrating 25 years of presenting his Chautauqua Express Musical Program. He has been performing for families and schools in Michigan since 1986. His family concert, *The World Music Tour*, features exotic instruments and music from around the world. Last January, Sferlazza performed at Oakland University's Meadow Brook Theatre.

Benjamin C. Stasa, SECS '97, is a patent attorney for Brooks Kushman and has been named a Top Patent Prosecutor by Patent Buddy and the *Patent Research Review*. Stasa joins the top 2 percent of the approximately 30,000 registered patent attorneys who have been honored with this designation. As an associate at Brooks Kushman's Southfield, Mich., office, Stasa prepares, prosecutes and advises on patents in the areas of software, computer organization, networks, solid state electronics, electronic circuits and communications. He currently represents three Fortune 100 companies and recently attracted one of the firm's first energy storage clients. Stasa earned a juris doctor degree from the University of Michigan Law School. He also obtained a Master of Science degree in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Michigan, as well as a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Wayne State University. Additionally, he has pursued postgraduate studies in computer and information science at the University of Michigan. A registered patent attorney and member of the State Bar of Michigan and Federal District Court of the Eastern District of Michigan, Stasa is also a member of the San Francisco Intellectual Property Law Association.

Ruth H. Tyszka (Swartout), CAS '93, was sworn in as a federal judge, specializing in Social Security, on August 26, 2011, at the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Tyszka is one of only 1,400 Social Security judges in the country.

2000s

Janet L. Anthony, SEHS '09 and '05, is working toward completing her doctoral dissertation with Capella University and thanks Oakland University for preparing her for future success.

Brooke A. Baker, CAS '09, is employed at Busch Gardens Williamsburg in Williamsburg, Va. She appeared on an episode of the Richmond, Va., CBS television show, *Virginia This Morning*, where she showed off some of her makeup skills.

Andrew D. Bashi, CAS '09, was the recipient of the 2011 C.B. King Award for Student Leadership, given annually to one law student in the country by the National Lawyers Guild. He is currently pursuing his law degree at Loyola University Chicago School of Law and will graduate in May.

Brian A. Bleau, CAS '09, was promoted by The Quell Group to the position of account executive. He joined Quell in February 2011 as an assistant account executive and has played a key role in providing public relations and marketing support to clients in the health and wellness, industrial services and automotive industries. Bleau has performed public affairs duties in the United States Navy, as well as public

relations and communications duties for a local public relations firm, Life Time Fitness in Rochester Hills, Mich., and the Oakland University club hockey program.

Sherene M. Buffa (Pytlak), CAS '07, is a Department of Justice employee, working in human resources. Her first self-published fiction book, *Escapade*, came out in June 2011.

Christina M. Casler (Djordjevic), CAS '06, obtained her BA in communications and has worked on a nonprofit grant music program promoting the arts.

Mamatha Chamarthi (Suravajjala), MS '03, is vice president and chief information officer for CMS Energy and its principal subsidiary, Consumers Energy. Named to the position in May 2010, Chamarthi has overall responsibility for the company's information technology systems. Before joining the company, Chamarthi held a series of increasingly responsible positions during her 16-year career. Most recently, she was the senior manager of information technology at Daimler Financial Services. Chamarthi serves on the boards of the Michigan Council of Women in Technology and Midwest Technology Leaders. She is a member of the Wall Street Journal Executive Taskforce for Women in the Economy. In 2005, Chamarthi was recognized as a Technology All Star by the Women of Color in Technology Institute.

Carolyn P. Darch (Fisher), MED '07, continues to be blessed by being able to sponsor and administer summer Christian day camp programs for economically disadvantaged children in the eastern Upper Peninsula.

Susan A. DeMeulenaere, SON '05 and '99, has been selected as a content panel expert by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. DeMeulenaere will be part of an elite committee determining the content and questions on the Family and Geriatric Nurse Practitioner Board Certification exams. She will travel to the American Nurses Association in Washington, D.C., periodically over the next four years to fulfill her committee requirements. DeMeulenaere is a nurse practitioner at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

Daniel G. Dybowski, CAS '04. Since graduating from Oakland University, Dybowski has been attending graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for a master's degree in anthropology and archaeology. Dybowski aspires to conduct research

and teach anthropology and archaeology at the university level. He owes much of his knowledge to Doctors Richard Stamps, Abdi Kusow, Gary Shepherd, James Dow, Richard Zurel, and Dennis Choate for believing in him from the beginning and giving him a shot at archaeology. Dybowski thanks Oakland University and the Department of Anthropology from the bottom of his heart for providing the inspiration necessary for him to grow and learn theory in a climate conducive for excellence.

Susan A. Harrington, SON '06, received a Ph.D. in nursing from Wayne State University in July 2011.

Alexis A. Jamian, CAS '05, attended S.D.A. Bocconi School of Management



Alexis A. Jamian

in Milan, Italy, and received her master's degree in international public management administration in November 2007. She is currently employed at FAO of the United Nations as a human resource officer in Rome, Italy. Her responsibilities include the development of an Internet recruiting tool that utilizes Oracle-based programming, and acting as a liaison between various business units of the organization for change management functions and organizational culture change.

Daniel H. Lafferty, CAS '00, teaches eighth-grade English at Gray Middle School in Florida. He wrote his first book recently, *Conducting Business with Professor Spice*, and has also co-directed two musicals yearly for the past three years.

Mara E. Mazzoni, CAS '04, has joined the MWW Group — one of the nation's largest public relations agencies — as vice president, digital operations in Dialogue Digital, MWW's award-winning digital marketing, social media and visual branding practice. In this role, Mazzoni will manage cross-discipline teams, working strategically and tactically to

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This current issue, along with past issues, can be found at oakland.edu/oumag.



Motivated alum, now a med student, is in it for the long run

Some might call it a simple life for **Sara Gerhardt Ropp, SHS '11**. As she describes her daily routine, "I study. I run. I eat. I sleep."

Others might rightly call her Superwoman. As one of only four OU alumni in the inaugural class of the Oakland University-William Beaumont (OUWB) School of Medicine, Ropp juggles her studies with ongoing marathon training and the life of a newlywed (she married **Bryce Ropp, CAS '10**, last June).

"Fortunately, my husband is busy, too," she confesses. "He teaches at a school an hour away, offers violin lessons on the side, and is a serious cyclist."

An intense schedule is nothing new for this high-achieving student who attended OU on a full academic scholarship and graduated at the top of the school's honors program. A highly competitive long-distance runner who broke the school's record for the 10,000-meter track race in her freshman year, Ropp's race time at the Disney Marathon qualified her for the prestigious Boston Marathon. Currently, she is training for her fourth marathon, in which she will compete this June.

Ropp says she has learned how to multitask, studying while pedaling on a stationary bicycle for three to four hours at a

time. She spent winter break bicycling 380 miles with her husband across Southern Florida to the Florida Keys.

A native of Macomb, Mich., Ropp has helped coach her high school's girls' cross country team for the past six years, a commitment that helped influence her decision to attend the brand-new OUWB. But it was anatomy instructors Mary Bee, Ph.D., and William Forbes, who helped her discover that she was destined to become a physician.

"Dr. Bee's energy and passion for her subject got me interested. After I took Dr. Forbes' anatomy lab, I knew what I wanted to do," she explains. "When the medical school's opening date dovetailed with my graduation, I knew that's where I was meant to go."

Ropp admits the workload can be overwhelming; her wedding photos remain stacked in a corner rather than neatly placed in a scrapbook and she hasn't watched television in months. But overall, she's pleased with her choices.

"I like that our inaugural class is small and tight-knit," Ropp says. "We're all in this together." ■

Sandra Beckwith is a Fairport, N.Y.-based freelance writer.



Journalism grad and lecturer shows he has the write stuff

Whether it's covering Detroit's highs and lows in manufacturing, politics or people, **John Stoll, CAS '00**, is the go-to guy. He strives to paint a journalistic picture as a writer and editor at Thomson Reuters, the global news agency.

It's a goal he carries through as an adjunct professor and lecturer at Oakland University. Stoll joined Reuters last year as U.S. editor for the manufacturing sector.

"Reuters readers are international, so they like to get a bird's-eye view of something that's making news or relates to them," Stoll says.

It was at OU that the Rochester native first pursued journalism. At a teacher's urging, Stoll wrote several pieces for the *Oakland Post* and the *Oakland Press*. That start made all the difference in the world, by giving Stoll some much-needed confidence.

"I didn't think I was good enough to write for a newspaper, but my professors encouraged me to go out and try it," says Stoll, adding that the experience helped him believe that he could do the job in the real world.

Stoll credits the influences of his professors in both journalism and history — where he was a member of the national history honor society Phi Alpha Theta — for helping him understand how to conduct thorough research.

"At Oakland, you're encouraged to do new research and break new ground," Stoll says. "Those were real tangible tools that I took with me. I have to use those things all the time in my career."

By graduation, Stoll had an internship at Crain Communications that quickly led to a full-time job. He later moved on to work for the *Wall Street Journal* and then veered away from journalism briefly to work in corporate communications for Ford Motor Company, before landing at Reuters.

In 2007, Stoll began lecturing as an adjunct journalism professor at OU.

"Oakland University is a really important place to me, and I like giving back," Stoll says. "It's kind of a second home for me. Teaching keeps me connected." ■

By Cara Catallo, a freelance writer from Clarkston, Mich.

At press time, OU Magazine has learned that Stoll has accepted a position as a bureau chief for the Wall Street Journal and Dow Jones Newswires and will be based in Sweden. We wish him success in his new assignment.

bring digital and social media programs to life. In addition to leading digital operations, she will oversee the growth of MWW's Community Management practice and development of digital IP offerings. Prior to joining MWW Group, Mazzoni worked for Edelman Digital in New York, where she served as vice president, producer. She played a key role in the strategic planning and execution of several major client initiatives, including the launch of Unilever's Dove brand's global Facebook page, one of the first global brand Facebook pages, the first consumer packaged goods augmented reality iPhone application to use markerless tracking technology for Ben & Jerry's; and the rebranding of the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women. Before transferring to New York, Mazzoni served at Edelman Digital's Chicago office, where she led the digital launch of Fuel Up to Play 60, a joint venture between the National Dairy Council and NFL to increase physical activity and access to healthy foods in schools. In addition to Dove, Ben & Jerry's, the American Heart Association, the NDC and NFL, Mazzoni has worked for a number of other iconic brands such as Pepsi, eBay, Heinz, Johnson & Johnson, General Electric and United Airlines, among others.

Robert V. Mele, SEHS '09 and '02, is a full-time faculty member at Macomb Community College in the physical therapist assistant program.

Lance H. Mier, CAS '06, is the manager of entertainment operations at Busch Gardens. Lance traveled to New York City last spring to work on a project and was able to attend Oakland University's Senior Showcase Event and say hello to some of the professors and students.

Joshua J. Miller, CAS '08, was appointed as an assistant prosecuting attorney by Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper. His current specialization is in criminal appeals.

Ihosvany Negret, SECS '07.

After 16 years of retirement from the Cuba National Wrestling Team, Negret came out of retirement, lost 85 pounds and, at 39 years of age, won the gold medal at the 2010 Centroamerican



Ihosvany Negret

Games for Puerto Rico. Negret is currently an adjunct engineering professor at Interamerican University of Puerto Rico and the manager of the Engineering Department at CTS Group, Inc.

Jessica L. Pike, SHS '09, began a new career with the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan to help launch an epilepsy self-management program.

Teri L. Rhadigan (Newood), SEHS '06, recently obtained an Associate of Applied Science in paralegal studies at Macomb Community College (MCC). She graduated in December 2011 summa cum laude. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and president of the Legal Assistants Association (LAA) while at MCC. She intends to stay involved with the LAA and their philanthropic efforts in the future. She actively supports the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team, the March of Dimes, and Habitat for Humanity. Rhadigan has volunteered at the Salvation Army soup kitchen and Forgotten Harvest Inc. She was awarded a scholarship from the Michigan State Bar Paralegal Section.

Sue A. Sharma, SEHS '06, '98 and '89, has been employed at the Michigan Department of Education as a Reading First facilitator, and at Port Huron Area School District as the director for administrative leadership, curriculum and instruction. Currently, Sharma is the visiting assistant professor for education-literacy. Since receiving her doctorate, she has made numerous professional presentations, and has been successful in obtaining an innovation grant. Sharma is very active in professional organizations, is currently the president of the Michigan Reading Association and has been honored with a nomination to Cambridge's Who's Who.

David N. Sokol, MBA '00, was appointed president of Strategic Employee Benefit Services of Michigan.

Thomas S. Ventimiglia, CAS '05, moved to Chicago to work at an advertising agency after graduation. After 18 months, he was recruited by Microsoft to work on its advertising business. After almost four years with Microsoft, he was recruited for an amazing opportunity at LinkedIn. His bachelor's degree from Oakland University has served him well.

James L. Walker, CAS '00, has been hired as the Ohio Historical Society's new chief development officer. Walker, along with a staff of six, will be charged with financially rejuvenating an organization

that has been hit with multi-million dollar budget cuts. He has also worked in fundraising for schools in Texas and Michigan. Walker believes that a history education is vital to creating a well-rounded citizenry and workforce.

Brad M. Westlake, MACC '07, was named accountant and systems administrator for The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. Westlake previously served the nonprofit organization as its accountant since 2008. In addition to his accounting duties, Westlake is also responsible for database administration and improvements; maintaining hardware, software and telecommunications systems; and serving as the primary contact for consultants and service providers in these operations support areas.



Brad M. Westlake

John (Tim) Zipple, SHS '07 and '86, has been working as a physical therapist since 1986 and has been teaching in a physical therapy program full time since 1995. He has lived in North Carolina; Des Moines, Iowa; and now Mt. Pleasant, Mich. Zipple has two grown children in college and has been married for more than 20 years.

2010s

Jonathan Goike, SHS '11, began his studies at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine last fall. He says he was confident he was ready for the challenges awaiting him — and he was right. "I felt really well prepared for medical school based on my OU undergrad classes," Goike says. "I study a lot and work hard, but that is what I expected." Goike, a resident of Rochester, Mich., says he loves the idea of being part of OUWB's founding class.

"I'm excited to be here in the school's first year and to help make a name for it," he says. "It's incredible to work with Beaumont and to keep learning at OU, especially with the culture they have created."



Jonathan Goike



Ashley M. Lorano

Ashley M. Lorano, SEHS '10, was recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Detroit Chapter as a Distinguished Volunteer at the 20th Annual National Philanthropy Day Dinner last November. Distinguished volunteers are the advocates, leaders and mentors whose passion

for their respective causes inspire philanthropic action and community involvement in Southeast Michigan. Lorano has mentored five students through the Winning Futures program. With her guidance, two students received scholarships to help them fulfill their educational goals. Her contribution to the community makes her an amazing role model. In addition to her mentoring, she is a member of the Live to Give Foundation, generating over \$15,000 for charity. Additionally, Lorano started her own grassroots charity, Party with a Purpose, raising \$5,220 for Stand Up to Cancer and \$11,000 to build an orphanage. Lorano traveled to India last December to rescue 12 children from the dangers of poverty, abandonment, child labor and human trafficking and placed them into the orphanage she helped to build through her fundraising efforts.

Kelly A. Patterson (Cole), SEHS '11 and '04, enjoyed the educational leadership program at Oakland University. Patterson is back in the classroom teaching middle division Language and Humanities at Notre Dame Marist Academy in Pontiac, Mich. Patterson cherishes her many happy memories from her educational leadership classes.

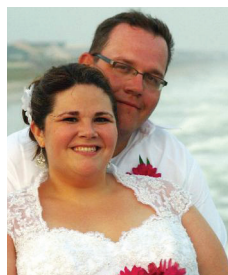
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Engagements & Weddings



Lindsay Bayne and Jay Schrab

Lindsay Bayne, SBA '05, married Jay Schrab of Lake Orion, Mich., and a graduate of Lake Orion High School, on July 12, 2011, in Holden Beach, N.C. They currently live in Lake Orion.

Robert E. Bullock, CAS '70, and Deborah (Duncan) Louise Kinner celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary September 9, 2011. They were married in 1971 in Saint Clair Shores, Mich. The couple met in 1969 while attending Oakland University. The Bullocks moved to Bozeman, Mont., in 1981. Their children are Erin, Lisa and Robert (Bo). Their grandchildren are Cian Scott and Kinner Edwin.

Beverley Emmerich, SBA '02, married Craig Stankiewicz on July 16, 2011, at Saint Florian Roman Catholic Church in Hamtramck, Mich., and celebrated with a reception at MacRay Harbor in Harrison Township. Beverley works as a decision support analyst for Acxiom Corporation, and Craig works as a manufacturing technician for Ford Motor Company. They live in Chesterfield, Mich. Beverley anticipates completing the Oakland University MBA program in 2012.



Beverley Emmerich and Craig Stankiewicz

Julian K. Jan, CAS '94, and **Melissa A. Winter, CAS '95**, were married June 25, 2011, in Birmingham, Mich., at Holy Name Catholic Church in the company of family and friends. Julian holds a master's degree in history from Westminster University in London and an MBA from the University of Phoenix in global management. Melissa holds a master's degree in higher education-student personnel from

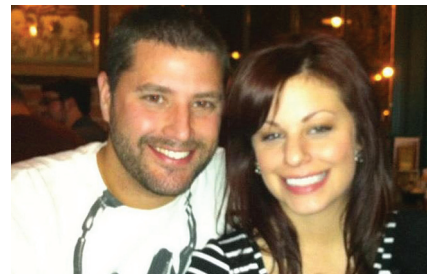


Melissa A. Winter and Julian K. Jan

Kent State University in Ohio. The couple is residing in Doha, Qatar, where Julian is teaching English with Texas A&M University-Qatar, and Melissa is working with the Qatar Foundation & Hamad Bin Khalifa University as the student center assistant director of operations.

Paul W. Larkin, CAS '86, and **Cindy R. Larkin (Kostelic), SBA '86**, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on August 9, 2011.

Adam L. Mager, SBA '03, married Danielle Colombo on May 17, 2012. He will be attending graduate school next fall.



Adam L. Mager and Danielle Colombo

Carrie B. Marr, CAS '04, married Jermaine Farley of Dayton, Ohio, on February 12, 2011, and they welcomed Jordynn Celine Farley into the world on July 5, 2011.

Anne M. Spurlock, SEHS '04, is engaged to be married on October 20, 2012. The wedding will take place in Trenton, Mich., near where she grew up. Her fiancé is a veteran of the Navy.

Births/Adoptions

Megan M. Dirks, SON '09, and her husband, John, announce the birth of their daughter, Madison, on September 8, 2011.

Amrita Singh, BGS '98, and her husband, Binesh Patel, are thrilled to announce the birth of their first child, Simreen Kaur Patel. She was born on July 17, 2011.



Simreen Kaur Patel



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August 11

**ROCKIN' RODS N'
ROCHESTER**
August 12

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September 21

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AMERICAN BAKE SALE**
September 22

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October 4

**TRICK-OR-TREAT
DOWNTOWN**
October 20

**TRICK-OR-TREAT AT
FARMERS' MARKET**
October 27

FALL RESTAURANT WEEK
November 4 – 10

LAGNIAPPE
November 26

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LIGHT SHOW**
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January 6, 2013

KRIS KRINGLE MARKET
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December 2



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Deaths

Fredric E. Hyke, SBA '04,
died July 22, 2011

Jennifer M. Kelly (Hagen), MS '97,
died October 25, 2011

Jeanne H. Kenyon, SEHS '83,
died May 15, 2011

Douglas G. Keyes, CAS '84,
died October 26, 2011

Steven Mahler, SBA '80,
died June 29, 2011

Dana J. Marra (Crick), SEHS '77 and '75,
died December 8, 2011

Annemarie Martz, '04 and '00,
died November 11, 2011

Corine V. McDonald, MAT '78,
died November 29, 2011

Ruth E. McDonald, CAS '65,
died May 13, 2011

Ann C. McGookey (Heyman), SEHS '79,
died September 24, 2011

Timothy McKenna, CAS '84 and '82,
died September 29, 2011

Dorothy R. Metzler (Root), MAT '73,
died December 13, 2011

Ronald L. Miller, SEHS '72 and '63,
died October 12, 2011

Thomas A. Miller, SEHS '79 and '77,
died August 17, 2011

Patricia V. Mullally-Osmulski, SEHS '75,
died August 16, 2011

Jeff Murri, CAS '85,
died February 2, 2012

Belinda S. Nantais, SEHS '81,
died August 22, 2011

Martin K. Petersen, MAT '77,
died July 2, 2011

Scott L. Petersen, CAS '87,
died August 13, 2011

Mark A. Pollick, CAS '76,
died August 13, 2011

Norine Reedy (Nickerson), MAT '76,
died July 29, 2011

Ralph E. Reinhart, CAS '91,
died September 7, 2011

May S. Shreeman, MA '78,
died July 24, 2011

Henrietta A. Smith, SEHS '76,
died July 24, 2011

Annette Stieg, MAT '73,
died October 26, 2011

Dorothy M. Granger Stocky, MAT '74,
died June 9, 2011

William E. Storrison, SBA '83,
died July 24, 2011

Richard G. VanLoo, CAS '68,
died December 20, 2011

Brenda Vesprini, SEHS '83 and '79,
died August 5, 2011

Thomas W. Walker, MAT '74,
died September 13, 2011

Nancy S. Williams, CAS '66,
died December 31, 2011

Mark E. Zito, SBA '80,
died October 17, 2011

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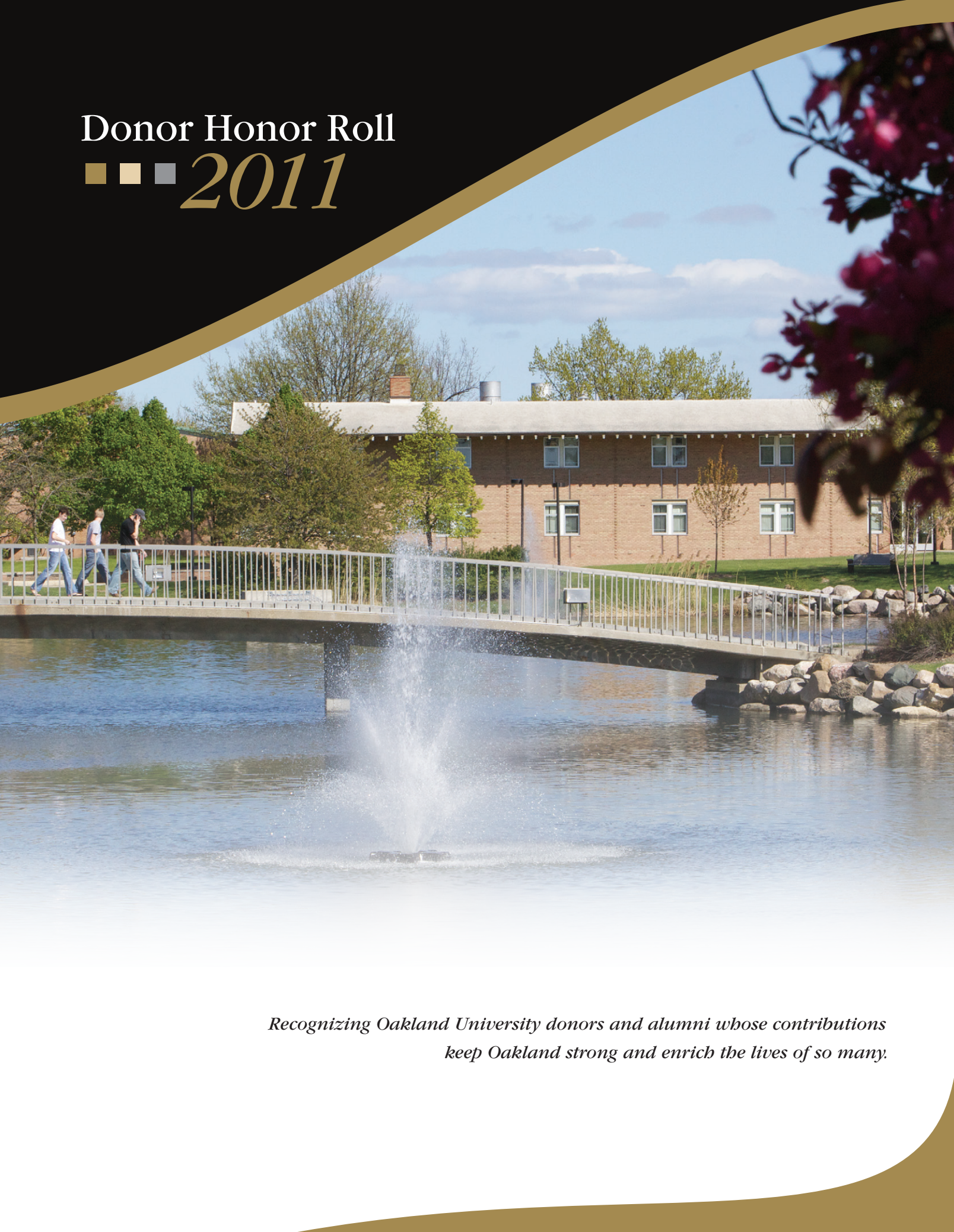
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Oakland Center



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Dear Alumni and Friends,

The success and progress of Oakland University depends significantly on donors like you. By example, you have shown your commitment to preparing leaders, enhancing academic programs and providing resources for numerous other areas of need.

Oakland is fortunate to have the support of not only a strong alumni base, but also many individuals, corporations and foundations that provide gifts to enrich our academic programs, student life, research efforts and student scholarships. Your gifts are critical and needed more than ever as Oakland University seeks to provide the demanding and high caliber programs needed for our state's turnaround and revitalization.

During this, our charter year of the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, we have gained an esteemed first-year class and a medical school that brings distinction and excellence to our region. Private support for the medical school as it takes flight is making a real difference and is very much appreciated.

Your generosity helps provide that measure of excellence for creatively educating young minds — our promise for a bright tomorrow. Thank you for sharing not only your personal resources, but your gifts of advocacy and involvement in the life of OU.

Sincerely,

Gary D. Russi
President

Lifetime Gift Societies

Matilda Wilson Founders Society

The Matilda Wilson Founders Society recognizes donors who contribute cumulative gifts of \$10 million or more or a planned gift of \$20 million. This society honors Oakland University benefactor Matilda R. Wilson and pays homage to her commitment as a university founder.

Anonymous

Matilda R. Wilson Fund

>> **Stephan and Rita* Sharf**

Siemens PLM Software

Varner Society

The Varner Society recognizes donors who contribute cumulative gifts of \$5 million or more or a planned gift of \$10 million. The Varner Society recognizes Oakland's founding chancellor, Woody Varner, and his leadership and vision for Oakland University.

Chrysler Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis K. Pawley

Golden Oaks Society

The Golden Oaks Society recognizes donors who contribute cumulative gifts of \$1 million or more or a planned gift of \$2 million. This society is named in honor of Oakland's charter faculty members, who often referred to themselves as "The Old Oaks."

Gebran and Pat Anton

> **The Beaumont Foundation**

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* deceased > first-time society donation >> increased society level

Meadow Brook Society

The Meadow Brook Society recognizes donors who contribute \$500,000 or more in cumulative gifts or a planned gift of \$1 million.

American Heart Association	Marvin Katke*
Analogy, Inc.	Roger M.* and Helen G.* Kyes
Benjamin H. Anibal*	Lear Corporation
AT&T Foundation	Dr. Berton L. London
Georg Brewer*	MacNeal-Schwendler Corporation
Richard J. Burke*	McGregor Fund
DTE Energy and DTE Energy Foundation	Meadow Brook Music Festival — Women's Committee
Alice Gustafson*	Charles S. Mott*
Sheri and Robert E.* Gustafson	Jim and Ann Nicholson
Margaret T. Heftler*	Henry D.* and Dorothy* Price
Patricia A. Heftler	Roger B.* and Barbara R. Smith
Howard Hughes Medical Institute	Irene M. Kinsey Stare
HP Enterprise Services	Toby S. Stein and Neal E. Alpiner
International Paper Foundation	Texas Instruments and Texas Instruments Foundation
Jack's Place for Autism Foundation	Paul H.* and Doris Eaton* Travis
William H. and Story S. John	Christine L.* and Ivan C.* Wilcox

Steadfast donors receive membership in Black and Gold Loyalty Society

It doesn't matter how large the sum, donors who consistently contribute to Oakland University support student and faculty excellence, and ensure that Oakland remains a university of distinction.

To recognize these consistent contributors, the Office of Annual Giving recently established the Black and Gold Loyalty Society, which recognizes donors who have made gifts of any size to OU consecutively for three or more years. Currently, the society comprises more than 1,200 alumni, friends, faculty and staff.

Alumna Rosie (Van Raalte) Flannigan, CAS '73, has contributed to Oakland for more than 20 consecutive years so she can support others like herself.

"Oakland's excellent reputation and size was the perfect fit for me. It helped me transition from my small world (in Leland, Mich.) to the bigger world," Flannigan says. "I believe in supporting higher education and giving back so that other students like me can attend school and get an education."

A political science major, Flannigan says her liberal arts education provided her with analytical, writing and communications skills that she used as a foundation in her financial career as a division controller for Marathon Oil.

Linda Barc, a staff member in OU's Classroom Support and Instructional Technical Services, splits her donation between two funds — her department's gift fund and the Sharon Wilhelm Memorial Fund.

Pioneer Society

The Pioneer Society recognizes donors who contribute \$250,000 or more in cumulative gifts or a \$500,000 planned gift.

Edwin L. and Gretchen L. Adler	Macomb Town Hall
American Chemical Society	James H. McKay and Marilyn Williamson*
Ascent Logic Corporation	Meadow Brook Theatre Guild
Carl F.* Barnes, Jr. and Anna M. Barnes	Meritor, Inc.
Helen S. and Douglas S. Basberg	Michigan State Federal Credit Union
Henry Baskin	Oakwood Healthcare System and The Oakwood Foundation
Ronald B.* and Janet E. Bennett	Prosig USA, Inc.
Charles S. Mott Foundation	Providence Hospital and Medical Center
The DeVlieg Foundation	Mrs. Melvin C. Raber
Eaton Corporation	Roy E. and Beverly Rewold
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Dr. Michael W. and Diane L. Grieves	Robert L. and Joan Rosen
David* and Charlene Handleman	Louis R.* and Janice K. Ross
Werner G.* and Hilde* Holzbock	St. John Health System
Hubert Distributors, Inc.	Craig M. and Ann S. Stinson
IBM Corporation	Florine* and George T.* Trumbull
ITT Industries	Volkswagen of America, Inc.
J. P. Morgan Chase & Company	Warner Lambert Foundation
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit	William T. Morris Foundation
Kmart Corporation	Christa Yntema*
Paul F.* and Harriet M.* Lorenz	Donna and Walt Young
Lula C. Wilson Trust	

She believes that the Black and Gold Loyalty Society instills pride and will motivate her to donate even after she retires. Since 1999, Barc has donated to multiple funds and likes that she has options ranging from specific to general ones.

"I would hope that a majority of employees donate in support of OU's mission," Barc says, adding that she makes her individual contributions in memory of her deceased husband, who was an OU alumnus.

"Loyal donors are the backbone of annual giving and crucial to Oakland's success. They sustain us. They keep us going," Alysa Hunton, development officer, Annual Giving, says. "We're creating a spirit of philanthropy and encouraging people to give regularly."

A growing list of Black and Gold Loyalty Society member benefits will include invitations to OU events such as men's basketball games, the OU Art Gallery, Meadow Brook Hall and Meadow Brook Theatre. ■

President's Council Society

The President's Council Society recognizes donors who contribute cumulative gifts of \$100,000 or more or a planned gift of \$250,000.

Alps Automotive	David J. and Jane E. Downing	Josephine E. Gordon Foundation	Jeffrey and Gina Petherick
Ameritech Advertising Services	Marc Dutton	A. Randolph and Patricia Roan Judd	Pfizer, Inc.
Analysts International	The E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation for the Blind, Inc.	Annie Kaviuk*	The Pierre V. and Margaret T. Hefler Foundation
Angelo Iafrate Construction Company	Lowell R.* and Della Mae* Eklund	William G. and Geraldine A. Keane	PNC Bank
Anonymous	> Chad K. Elliott	Kelly Services, Inc.	>> PPG Industries Foundation
Margaret Ashdown*	> The Energy Foundation	The Kelly Services, Inc. Foundation	R. Hugh and Nancy Elliott Foundation
Lois Bachman*	Grant R. Fairbanks	Bernie and Nina Kent	Frank and Kathleen Rewold
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The Baskin Foundation	David T. and Jennifer McCarthy Fischer	David Baker Lewis	Gary D. Russi and Beckie Sue Francis
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Jane M. Bingham, Professor Emerita, Oakland University	Samuel* and Jean Frankel	March of Dimes Foundation	Shojin Research Associates
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* deceased > first-time society donation >> increased society level

Meadow Brook embarks on preservation, historical interpretation projects

Meadow Brook Hall has completed a preservation project that will provide a more accurate picture of the history that the 1929 mansion represents.

Meadow Brook used major funding from the Matilda R. Wilson Fund, a charitable foundation Matilda Wilson established in the 1940s, to return the servants' dining and sitting rooms and adjacent service hallway, back to their original functional layout and condition.

A \$30,000 gift from Gary Laidlaw, SBA '64, and his wife, Ann, is funding historically accurate furnishings for the restored areas and a domestic service life interpretation project by an OU student intern.

"The Laidlaw gift is particularly meaningful coming from an OU alum ... an alum closely tied to the early days of the university and one who actually had contact with Matilda Wilson," Geoff Upward, executive director of Meadow Brook Hall, says.

Laidlaw says he has fond memories of visiting Meadow Brook as a student and meeting Mrs. Wilson there. He even recalls playing cards with her. Additionally, he says his support is a way for him to pay back the university for his experience as a scholarship recipient.

"For me, Meadow Brook has been the cornerstone of my Oakland University years," Laidlaw says. ■



Matilda R. Wilson Society

The Matilda R. Wilson Society recognizes donors who contribute \$50,000 or more in cumulative gifts or a planned gift of \$100,000.

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> Michigan Consolidated Gas Co.
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Gary Laidlaw

Alfred G. Wilson Society

The Alfred G. Wilson Society recognizes individuals who contribute \$25,000 or more in cumulative gifts or a planned gift of \$50,000.

Mostafa I. and Antonietta Abuzeid
Cliff and Julie Adams
M. Haitham Al-Midani
Anonymous
Marcia and Eugene Applebaum
Jim and Cathy Aubry
Ralph W. and Barbara Babb

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Don H.* and Perle* Briggs

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Sheikh endowed scholarship established for study abroad students

Inspired by his mother's strong faith and respect for education, Dr. Hamid Sheikh and his wife, Amy Sheikh, CAS '10, have made a noteworthy gift establishing the Hajja Razia Sharif Sheikh Islamic Studies Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship supports students who study the history, traditions and culture of Islam, and expand their studies abroad in a Muslim country.

With their gift, the Sheikhs will be honoring the late Hajja Razia Sharif Sheikh, Dr. Sheikh's mother. Though she was schooled in the Muslim tradition at home, she held a strong belief in formal education and encouraged her eight children to pursue college studies.

"My mother taught us to respect all religions and learn from any source," Dr. Sheikh says.

Oakland University offers a minor in Islamic studies, which incorporates the study of classical and modern Islamic cultures, including its history, religion and society.

Dr. and Mrs. Sheikh have long been impressed by the outstanding teaching quality of OU professors. They also understand the significant impact a study abroad



Amy Sheikh and Dr. Hamid Sheikh

experience has on a student's overall college experience.

"Islam has a very fascinating history that many are unaware of. When Europe was still in the Middle Ages and was stalling in advancements, Muslims were making great achievements in math and science," Dr. Sheikh noted. ■

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Ryan and Raymond Courech

Endowed scholarship fund memorializes devoted OU alum

Long after Raymond Courech earned his degree from Oakland University's School of Engineering and Computer Science, he made it a priority to continue learning and sharpening his skills as an engineer.

It was his devotion to his craft and his gratitude for the education he received from Oakland that led his family to establish the Raymond Courech Scholarship in his memory. The endowed scholarship helps students who are pursuing degrees in engineering.

"I think my dad would be happy to know that he is helping students at OU by giving them additional flexibility and freedom to create a better life for themselves, their family and hopefully society as a whole," Ryan Courech says. "He was a devoted alumnus and was happy to give back to his alma mater."

Courech, who graduated from Oakland in 1979, also was a veteran of the Vietnam War and the first member of his family to graduate from college. During his career as a mechanical engineer, he worked for Boeing, Lockheed Martin and the U.S. Army Program Executive Office of Simulation.

"His education at Oakland not only assisted him in gaining meaningful employment, but also granted him the ability to appreciate and explore other areas of life he was interested in on a deeper level," Ryan Courech says. ■

* deceased > first-time society donation >> increased society level



Couple's gift supports continuing efforts of OU Writing Center

Professor Emeritus Joan Rosen and her husband, Robert, have made another significant show of support for the Oakland University Writing Center. The couple's \$50,000 gift to the Joan Rosen Endowed Fund will help further the mission of the center, which serves the writing interests of students, faculty and staff.

It was a \$300,000 founding grant from Joan and Robert Rosen, combined with seed money from the Mitselfeld family, that made it possible for the writing center to open in 2006 in Kresge Library.

"We would not have a writing center today, I believe, without that donation," Sherry Wynn Perdue, writing center director, says.

Over the years, the center has offered more than 6,000 consultations across all colleges. Graduate and undergraduate students, faculty and staff benefit from a wide range of services that include in-class workshops about proposal writing and plagiarism to the effective use of poster board presentations. Additionally, student

consultants, called embedded writing specialists, attend basic writing classes on a weekly basis as mentors for fellow students.

Rosen says the mission of helping others strengthens their writing skills and will always be close to her heart.

"It's very gratifying; the more people we can teach to write well, the better off we will be," Rosen says.

Perdue says she not only appreciates the Rosens' financial contributions, she also respects Rosen's interest in remaining active at the writing center. Rosen volunteers and works with the center's clients one on one.

"Her attitude is, I'm here for business — let's get something done," Perdue says. ■



Joan Rosen

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Space in Pawley Hall honors late educator's passion for collaboration

Pamela Morehead, late assistant professor of Teacher Development and Educational Studies in the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS), placed great value on collaboration. So it's fitting to those who knew her that SEHS will soon be home to the Pamela Morehead Faculty/Staff Collaborative Space.

"She would have loved it," Linda Tyson, special instructor, Department of Teacher Development and Educational Studies, who was a close friend of Morehead's, says. "She would have liked the idea of a place where faculty can go for critical conversations."

Morehead passed away in December 2008. In her memory, a gift was made to establish the Pamela Morehead Faculty/Staff Collaborative Space on the fourth floor of Pawley Hall. The space includes an inspirational quote wall, comfortable seating, table seating and a coffee machine.

Louis B. Gallien, Jr., SEHS dean, says the new lounge will be a welcome arrival. This space will allow groups of people to meet, talk and share ideas.

"That's what Pamela Morehead was about, and that's what the donor wanted to establish in her memory," Gallien says.

"This gift is a perfect way to honor Pam," Bob Maxfield, associate professor of education, Department of Educational Leadership, says. "She would have been in there stirring up conversations." ■

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New planned gift will bolster Israel travel fund

Bernie Kent, SBA '71, has seen firsthand the powerful impact that the Bernard and Nina Kent Judaic Studies Endowed Israel Travel Fund has made in the lives of recipients.

That's why Kent decided to commit to another \$90,000 planned gift in addition to the original planned gift he made more than 30 years ago. While reviewing his estate plan, he realized that he was in a position to make a more significant testamentary gift now.

"I felt the enlarged fund would significantly allow more people to travel to Israel," Kent says. "Planned gifts expand the scope of gifts made during a lifetime."

The Kents have met a number of the students who have studied in Israel with their help since establishing the travel

fund. During their time there, the students gain valuable insights into Israeli culture, politics and history.

"They return with a new perspective, not just on Israel, but on the Middle East and the world," Kent says. "Many had never been outside of the country before."

The fund targets students in OU's Judaic studies minor, which is part of the religious studies program.

"It's just very gratifying to know we helped people have an opportunity they normally wouldn't have had," Kent says, who also serves as the chairman of Oakland's Judaic Studies Community Committee. ■



Bernie Kent and
 Virinder K. Moudgil

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Barry R. and Evelyn Harper
Bruce C. and Mary Christine Harris
Malcolm A. Harris*
Morton E. and Brigitte P. Harris
Robert A. and Mary Ellen Harrison
Mary Ann and Lyle A.* Hartrick
John F. Harvey
William and Susan M. Harvey
Richard E. and Edith Haskell
Charles F. and Sandra S. Hatter
Daniel W. Hauser

Jeffrey L. Hauswirth
Robert A. and Barbara Dean Head
Richard H.* and Mary Headlee
Henry R. and Mary Jo Healey
Daniel J. Helfrich
John A. and Linda Helling
Michael D. and Kathy A. Henderson
Richard W. Henderson
Thomas M. Henderson and Allison L. Kelly-Henderson
Leonard G. and Irene K. Hendricks
> James Henry and Natalie Cole
Charles R. and Lorraine Hermes
Donald G. and Virginia Heth
Carlton M.* and Dora Higbie
Craig E. Hilborn and Ronda Martinez
Linda L. Hildebrand
> J. Scott and Betty J. Hildum
Kenneth A. and Donna L. Hiltz
Keith A. and Diane Hinshaw
Harry D. and Gayle Genevieve Hirsch
Richard J. Hirsch and Patricia Shafer

* deceased > first-time society donation >> increased society level

Couple's vision creates opportunity for high-achieving students

Because of the foresight of late Oakland University supporters Christine and Ivan Wilcox, an endowed scholarship created by them in 1998 will provide scholarship opportunities for students well into the future.

The Christine and Ivan Wilcox Endowed Merit Scholarship recently received a \$448,000 planned gift from the estate of Christine Wilcox, who passed away in 2010 at the age of 101. Because of Christine's passing, the fund received an additional \$156,800 from the trust of Ivan Wilcox.

Wilcox and her husband, Ivan, an automotive engineer who passed away in the 1990s, had no children of their own, and wanted to help young people in a meaningful way.

The couple established their endowed scholarship to benefit high-achieving students. The fund provides full scholarships once a year to two Oakland University freshmen engineering students.

Recipients must have a grade point average of at least 3.5 and be active in the community. The scholarship is renewable for four years if students maintain their 3.5 GPA and remain enrolled as full-time Oakland students working toward their degree in engineering.

Christine Wilcox, who attended the graduation in the early 2000s of initial recipients Scott Burgess and Annelies C. Rigole, took pride in giving students the opportunity to earn a degree at Oakland. ■



Donors Janice and George Kralovich live near OU and enjoy attending activities and events on campus.

Couple's respect for OU Athletics results in charitable annuity

Oakland University plays an important role in the lives of George and Janice Kralovich. George Kralovich was an adjunct professor at Oakland, teaching business economics and introduction to management courses. He also serves on the OU Athletics Advisory Board. Since the Kraloviches live locally in Rochester, Mich., they enjoy taking their grandchildren to a variety of OU athletic events.

Because of their connection to the university, the Kraloviches made a tangible show of support through a charitable gift annuity benefitting the Athletics department.

"The department has been a plus for the community and for our family," George Kralovich says. "Not only does OU develop exceptional athletes, we've always been impressed with the academic accomplishments the athletes demonstrate."

Donors who establish charitable gift annuities receive a fixed income for the remainder of their lives. The university is able to invest their contribution at a higher rate than an individual could access. After the donor's death, the remaining funds go to a specified recipient — in the Kraloviches' case, OU Athletics. ■

Henry E. and Margaret Hockeimer
Dale V. and Stephanie G.
Hoekstra

William E. and Beverly Hoglund
Gilbert and Sharon Holliday III
Richard J. and Julie Holmes
William G. and Nancy L. Holtman

Michael J. Hoornaert
Charles E. and Kathy Hoover
Dwight L. and D'Ann L. Hopker
Leonard* and Virginia Hopkins

Jeff Hoppie
Raymond and Sharon Horne
Bill S. and Marlene Horner
Jeffrey J. and Karen Hornyak

William H. and Denise M. Horton
Ronald M. and Carol Horwitz
Mark A. Hosea and Sharon L.
Kennedy

Philip J. and Gail A. Houdek
Robert and Nancy Howald
Michael J. Hrabonz

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Huang
Diane Hubert

Josef F. and Juliana Hubert
John Hudak

Harold D. and Rita Hughes
Alan C. Huly

Barry L. Hunt and Kimberly S.
Hunt

Kevin A. and Colleen Huntsman
S. Nasir and Abass Husain

Judith Huttenlocher

Richard P. and Mary Beth
Huttenlocher

Stephen K. and Lois A. Hutton
Noel C. and Nancy Lee Huyck
Stephen L. and Mary L. Hyde
Stuart C. Hyke

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ingalls
Richard D. and Roberta Irwin
J. D. Isaacson

Attorney Frank Jackson and
Dr. Frances Jackson

Lynn S. and Toni Jacob
Jeffrey W. and Susan Jacobson

Bruce T. and Caryn James
Gregory C. and Sandra Jamian
Richard J. and Mary Lou Janes
Stanley R. Janik and Susan J.
Christy-Janik

Kenneth S. and Kimberly M.
Janke

Gregory M. and Susan Janks
Ellenette E. and James R.* Jenkins

Robert H.* and Evelyn* Jeske
David J. Jess

Richard J. and Involut Jessup
Angela R. Jobson

Richard L. and Linda Johns
Eric R. Johnston

Kenneth D. and Collette Johnston
Michael D. and Marion Jordan

Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Jositas
Robert P. and Anne Cotcher Judd

Dennis M. and Marilyn C. Kacy
Mitchell I.* and Zofia Kafarski

Roger J. and Barbara Lee Kalisz

➤ Karol Kampe
Mary G. Kampe

Gary N. and Diane Kanarek

Tai S. and Kyung Kang

George and Trudy Karas

James H. and Laura Kartsonis

Gertrude Kasle

David H. and Nicole M. Kassab

Nancy L. Kassab

Daniel J. Katke

David J.* and Betty L. Katke

John D.* and Jeane* Katke

Russell L. Kavanaugh

Steven and Judith Kavulich

John F. and Mary Keegan

Pauline Keeney

Robert D. and Dolores M. Kefgen

General* and Mrs. Naiff H. Kelel

Robert D. Kelley

John F. and Mary L. Kennedy

John W. and Katherine Kennedy

John G. and Carol Kennelly

Michael W. and Laura Kerby

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Todd and Connie Ketola

Mohammed Jamil Ahmed Khan

Naim A. and Ferial M. Kheir

Lyn Kiehl and Dick Kiehl

Scott R. and Bonnie R. Kilberg

Diana and Karl S. Kilpela

David and Kathleen Kim

Edward N. and Sandra Kyung Kim

Hijoo and Yung E. Kim

Jin G. and Jin Young Kim

Joon Kie Kim

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Frances J. King

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Nancy and Keith R. Kleckner

Eugene L. and Marilyn Klein

Marvin Edward Klein*

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Herb and Mary Klotz

Clifford K. and Donna Knapp

Stephen Kneip

Elaine Knell

Randall L. and Cecilia Knight

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Knoechel

Gary F. and Susan R. Knudsen

Robert H. Knust

Wes L. and Judy Koch

Konrad D. and Barbara A. Kohl

Melvin* and Rosalie Kolbert

Harvey J. and Diane G. Komorn

Michael A. Komorn

Earl C. and Charlotte Koops

Richard J. and June Korzeniowski

Thomas A. and Paula L.

Kosakowski

Ernest M. and Nancy Kosch

Leo and Jeanne Reid Kousin

Ronald A. and Cynthia J.

Kozlowski

Paul F. and Jan Kozowicz

Robert A. and Barbara J. Kraft

Frederick Krause and Kelli
Kulczak



President's Club Society *continues*

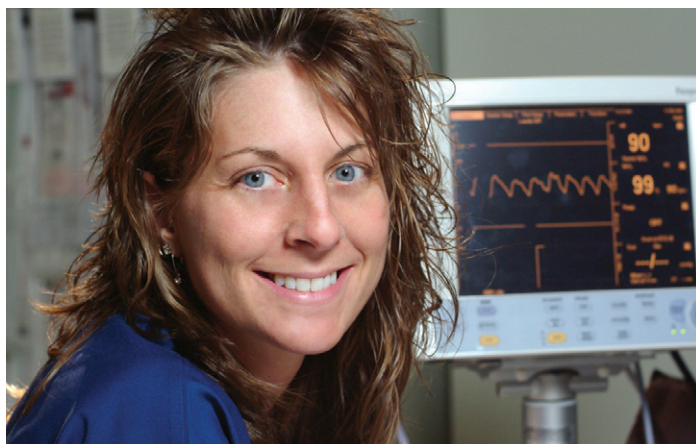
Nathan O. Krause
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 Michael J. and Frances P.
 Lobsinger
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 Jordan London
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 W. Lawrence and Cynthia Long
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 Joseph and Helen Malus
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 Anthony J. Marek, Jr. and Carolyn
 Phelps Marek
 Rita Margherio
 Robert T. and Pamela A. Marin
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 George M. and Carol Marsh
 Donna L. Martin
 Norman R. Martin
 Robert J. and Helen Martin
 Robert S. and Nancy Martin
 Robert T. and Darlene A. Martin
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 Anthony J. Mattar and M. Jane
 Woodbury-Mattar
 Richard C. Matter
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 E. Curtis Matthews*
 George T. Matthews*
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 Mattingly
 William J. and Colleen M.
 Mayhew
 Rodney S. Mays
 Janet Mazzara
 Patricia L. and William J.
 McCaffrey, Jr.
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 Elizabeth A. Dwyer
 R. Patrick and Linda McCarthy
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 William E. and Jane McCollough
 Kenneth J. and Judy McCormick
 Michael D. and Catherine McCoy
 Frank R. and Marcia McCracken
 Donald D. and Sharon McCready
 Dennis E. and Sharon McDermott
 Maureen M. McDevitt
 Terry J. and Ruth McDougall
 Robert J. and Mary Ann McGarry
 J. James and Elena McGowan
 Kevin F. and Janet McGuinness
 M. J. and Elaine McInerney
 Robert Martin McInerney
 Kenneth O. and Constance
 McKee
 Martha McKenney*
 Karen and Patrick McKenzie
 Otis* and Phyllis* McKinley
 Gene and Shirley McKinney
 Jeffrey T. and Gail McLaughlin
 J. Gerald and Gladys* McLean
 John F. McMahon
 John B. and Dora A. McMullen
 Shannan McNair
 Michael J. and Nancy McPherson
 Wilbur N. and Beverly McSorley
 Steven J. and Barbara J. Mead
 Richard A. and Jacquelyn Mealey
 Adeline Hirschfeld-Medalia and
 Nahum Zeitlin Medalia*

* deceased > first-time society donation >> increased society level



Dr. Lisa Flynn, CAS '89

Surgeon excited to award scholarship to first recipient

Dr. Lisa Flynn, CAS '89, contributed \$5,000 once a year, for the last five years, to the Lisa M. Flynn Endowed Fund for Chemistry. Now the fund has reached \$25,000, and it's ready to be awarded.

"I'm very excited," Flynn says.

"I'm going to go to breakfast with the recipient."

Since completing her original commitment, Flynn has pledged to contribute an additional \$25,000 to the fund.

The vascular surgeon also intends to make a planned gift to the university. To Flynn, who majored in biochemistry, the gifts are a way of saying thank you to OU for supporting her when she needed help.

"I was the first person in my family to go to college, and I went because Oakland University gave me a scholarship," Flynn says.

The scholarships from Flynn's fund will cover stipends for biochemistry and chemistry students who are participating in summer research projects.

"The research projects provide an extremely valuable opportunity for students to determine whether research — in medical school or full-time — is a good fit for them, Art Bull, Department of Chemistry chair, says. "These are frequently life-changing experiences."

Flynn worked on research projects with Kathleen Moore, College of Arts and Sciences associate dean and chemistry professor, during her undergraduate training. Recently, Flynn was invited to serve with Moore on the CAS Pre-Medical Council at OU. The council provides oversight and facilitates the student experience in the pre-medical concentration. ■



Soon, the Lisa M. Flynn Endowed Fund for Chemistry will provide undergraduate research awards for students, like the ones pictured here who participated in the program in the summer of 2011.

Jack G. and Lynn Mehl
John W. and Violet Melstrom
Matthew A. and Karen Mendrygal
Joseph F. and Molly Mercurio
Roger P. and Phyllis Merryman
John E. and Mildred Merz
Carl R. and Sheila R. Messing
Lance L. and Debbie Metzger
Cherylann L. Meyer
Robert J.* and Patricia Meyer
Ronald C. and Lorraine Miakinin
Anthony T. and Clarice Michaels
Robert and Ann Micus
Mark S. Migdal and Theresa Ruiz-Migdal
Joseph D. and Leslie Mihalak
David G. and Christine Miles
Carol A. and Patrick G. Milkovich
Jean Ann Miller
Larry W. and Abby L. Miller
Michael and Kyrston Miller
Millie A. Miller
Dr.* and Mrs. Ronald L. Miller
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William C. and Christine Miller
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Grant E. and Jan P. Mills
Robert H. and Mary Milne
Donald A. and Karen P. Milner
Steven C. and Connie Miltenberger
Harold W. Milton and Lynn B. Rose
Peter and Heather Miskech
David C. and Joyce Mitchell
Ernest E. and Beth Mitchell
Susan and Eugene R.* Mitchell
Moufid and Eva A. Mitri
Linda and Hank Mittelstaedt
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Marvin L. and Berta Molasky
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Joe and Rhonda Monro
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Brian M. and Alice Moran
Jack and Karen Moran
James K. and Sally Moran
Paul J. and Jill M. Moran
Thomas J.* and Patricia Moran
William J. Morgan
Christopher L. Morin
Robert B. and Anne Morley
Daniel E. Morris
William J. Morris
W. Edwin and Jane U.* Mosher
>Virinder K. and Parviz G. Moudgil
Thomas O. and Shirley Mueller
Mr. and Mrs. Eddie R. Munson

George Frank and Margaret C. Murasky
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Murdock
>Brian F. Murphy and Antonia Sanchez-Murphy
Edward M. and Nancy A. Murphy
John C. and Donna R. Murphy
Kevin J. Murphy and Susan M. Gerrits
Timothy B. and Paula Jean Murphy
Edward P. and Cynthia M. Murray
Richard D. and Christine Murray
Ronald A. Murray
Timothy James and Patricia Murray
>John and Laura Musachio
John R. and Christine D. Musich
Jack and Penelope Myers
Walter R.* and Suzanne Naas
Gary M. and Mary M. Najarian
James C. and Marian Nancarrow
John C. Napley
Donald W. Nauss
Anthony J. and Carlene S. Nehra
Thomas B. and Sharon M. Nelcamp
Terry L. and Margaret Nelson
Carl and Annette Neppach
Arthur C. and Dorothy I. Nesse
Gwen and Gary Newhall
John and Sharon Newman
George M.* and Kathryn Newton
Christopher and Diane Nicholas
William R. and Barbara Nixon
James K. and Catherine Noble
Artis M. and Justine Noel
Rosemarie Noga
Edward H. and Joyce M. Nolan
Jack A. and Judith A. Nolish
Gordon and Karen North
Ralph T. Norvell*
Michael A. Novak and Loretta Ames
Barbara and Robert Nowikowski
Michael C. and Penelope Nyberg
>Barbara and Randy Oakley
Alyce O'Brien
John P. and Janet O'Brien
Patrick R. O'Connell
Robert L.* and Sue O'Connell
John L. O'Connor
Henry K. and Sonya Oh
Michael R. O'Hara
Patrick M. and Carol Ann O'Keefe
Lou Ann Oles
August and Margaret Olivier
Rick and Mara Lee Olson
Thomas F. and Shirley A. O'Masta
Daniel Fredrick and Eleanor Jean O'Reilly
John and Charlene Orletski
Michael J. and Rachael O'Sullivan

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 Larry J. and Wendy L. Ouimet
 Victor H. and Paula H. Pagano
 James W. Page and Pamela Voss-Page
 Lucille A. Page
 John D. and Charlene Paglino
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 Michael C. and Susan M. Palazzola
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 Vito A. and Angela D. Pampalona
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 Hal M. and Marguerite Pantti
 Linda A. Papa
 Clemon and Ann Joan Pardales
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 George W. and Donna Parolini
 Roy E. and Diane Parrott
 James R. and Helene A. Parry
 James R. and Tracey B. Parry
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 Theodore P.* and Arlene Paulnock
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 D. Mike Pennington
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 Robert B. and Gwen Peuterbaugh
 O. L. and Delores Pfaffmann
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 Thomas J. and Suzanne Phillips
 Henry S. and Ruth Shelley Pinkney
 Stephen D. Pitzer
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 Richard A. and Marjorie Pizarek
 Richard G. and Jean E. Pizzi
 George D. and Beverly Poffenberger
 Mark J. and Sheila Polcyn
 Michael P. and Claudette Polis
 Ralph L. Polk*
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 Jeane D. and John A.* Poos
 Richard B. and Judith A. Porter
 William R. and Leah Auldreich Potere
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 Robert A. and Mary Powell
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 Rajendra and Neeta Prasad
 Roger B. and Linda C. Preede
 George T. and Sarah A. Preisinger
 John Prepolec
 David M. and Mary D. Preston
 Jeffrey E. and Renee Pries
 Thomas W. and Charlene Marie Proctor
 Modris and Ruth Pudists
 Donald C. and Candice A. Purgatori
 Michael B. and Susan L. Quinn
 Tom P. Quinn
 Dale J. and Eunice Raar
 Mary Raden
 Theresa P. and Roger C. Radke
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Radom
 James F. and Marsha L. Rafferty
 Frank F. and Christina Raine
 Kathryn B. Randall
 Daniel and Darla D. Randazzo
 N. S. and Shanthi Rangarajan
 Gregory W. and Helen C. Ranney
 Gladys B. and Bernard D.* Rapoport
 Gary R. Rasmussen
 Richard E. and Dawn Russel
 David C.* and Linda E. Ray
 Edward Raymond
 D. Craig and Ruth R. Rebold
 Chandra S. and Ila Reddy
 Venkat N. and Alvira M. Reddy
 Paul* and Kathleen Rechil
 Jae K. and Seung Za Rhee
 Joe A. and Carolyn Rhinehart
 Thomas P. and Trudy Rhoades
 John J. and Thelma L. Riccardo
 David R. Rice
 Howard T. Rice
 William J. and Joan C. Richards
 Melvin E. Riecher
 Keith E. and Marcia Kae Riemer
 Paul A. and Claudia Riemer
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 Gary I. and Charlotte D. Robson
 Kathryn Gurwell and David H.* Rodwell
 Dennis W. and Nora Roehrig
 Randy J. and Miwa Roemmich
 Werner C. Roennecke, M.D. and Patricia Ignatius
 Erik B. and Kimberly Roeren
 Ronald A. and Vivian A. Rogers
 William M. and Marsha P. Rogers
 William E. and Dorothy Rogerson

Frank S. Rokas
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 Barry M. and Linda E. Rosenbaum
 Martin B. Rosenbloom and June A. Rosenbloom
 Jerome V. and Patricia Ross
 Michael Joseph and Laura Ross
 Robert E. Ross
 Ronald M. and Ilona A. Ross
 Milton H. and Terry Rotenberg
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 Richard Roth
 Marianne P. and Robert B. Roughley
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 John P. and Suzanne Ruff
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 Ramo A. and Valerie Salerno
 Florence F.* and Arthur W.* Saltzman
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Vidal J. and Dolores Sanchez
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 Thomas M. and Veronica Schaden
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 Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Schafer
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 Michael R. and Denise Schinella
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 Robert J. Schneider
 Alan E. and Marianne S. Schwartz
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 Darren Schwartz
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 Harriet P. and John C.* Secrest
 Andrew E. and Alice Segal
 Merton J. and Beverly Segal
 Heinz H. and Veronica Seidel
 Michael and Shelly Semanco
 Dennis J. and Alice M. Seppanen



* deceased > first-time society donation >> increased society level

- Walter J. Sepura
 Nancy J. Sergeant
 Hubert C. and Maureen Serre
 Robert J. and Robin Rutherford Servo
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 S. Martin and Anna Diggs Taylor
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- > **Dr. Douglas Templeton**
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 Dr. Robert L. Tremblay
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Engineering professor applies computer vision to ancient textile analysis

Julia Galliker, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom, is looking for new ways to study ancient textiles and is seeking the expertise of Oakland University's Nilesch Patel, assistant professor of engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS), to help her develop computer-based methodologies to accomplish her study.

Patel specializes in computer vision, which replicates human vision processing capabilities and decision-making using computer software and hardware. The technology attempts to reconstruct, interpret and understand a two-dimensional image in terms of the properties of the structures present.

Patel and Galliker are investigating ways to apply computer technologies based on defined specifications. Their focus is 7th-to-12th century Eastern Mediterranean silk textiles.

"We're trying to come up with algorithms that can measure the qualities that she wants to study," Patel says.

Galliker recently contributed to Patel's research with a donation to the SECS Gift Fund.

Describing the purpose of her work, Galliker says that, unlike more durable materials such as stone and pottery, archaeological textiles are fragile and require careful handling.

"A computer-aided methodology for intensive, but strictly non-invasive investigation can provide valuable information about historic processes and production methods," she says. "We can advance the science of fragile artifact studies while preserving the material for future generations." ■



Parents' gift supports memorial to late management professor

Those who knew Catherine Tyler say she enjoyed few activities more than traveling, except possibly providing travel opportunities for her School of Business Administration (SBA) students.

After the assistant professor of management died in a scuba diving accident in 2007, her husband and children created the Catherine Tyler Memorial International Award Endowment to honor her memory. The award provides support for graduate and undergraduate SBA students who participate in university-approved international internships or study abroad experiences.

The award's ability to impact student lives gained significant momentum recently when Tyler's parents, Robert and Joanne Lane, committed another \$30,000 through their estate. The Lanes hope that the scholarships will provide OU students with the kinds of memorable, transformative travel experiences their daughter valued.

"Kate enjoyed traveling and teaching abroad so much," Joanne Lane says. "She just loved what she was doing."

Lane added that travel is a worthwhile experience for any student as it gives them an opportunity to understand and know other cultures and other people. ■

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OU community responds favorably to AUFD, planned giving opportunity

The Oakland University community responded generously in 2011 to the All-University Fund Drive (AUFD), which for the first time included a planned giving opportunity.

By the end of the campaign, 539 faculty, staff and retirees contributed a total of \$654,420, far surpassing the campaign's \$240,000 goal.

To build excitement for planned giving, OU President Gary Russi approved an AUFD match option. Planned gifts of \$10,000 or more qualified for a \$5,000 match.

Fourteen contributors used that opportunity and named Oakland as a beneficiary for a total of \$388,000 in promised gifts.

"By making a planned gift, our employees demonstrate that Oakland and its programs are important to them. Not only will they leave assets to their family, but they also are allocating a portion of their estate to the university. This is a big commitment and so appreciated by Oakland," Angie Schmucker, director of planned giving says.

Matches also were available for IRA charitable contributions and charitable gift annuities.

Many of the AUFD donations targeted specific colleges, programs or projects. A group of 36 faculty and staff members came together in the School of Nursing to purchase a bench and a tree in honor of their colleague, former Associate Dean Diane Norris, who passed away last October. Additionally, nearly \$64,572 was raised for 48 scholarship funds, an \$18,500 increase over 2010 figures. More than 200 gift designations were selected in total.

The AUFD also raised a combined total of \$8,727 for the United Way of Southeastern Michigan and Black United Fund of Michigan. ■



AUFD chairpersons Michelle Piskulich, associate provost, Pat Nicosia, retired director, Budget and Financial Planning, and Theresa Rowe, chief information officer, University Technology Services, provided leadership during the fall AUFD campaign. (Not pictured: Jane Bingham, professor emeritus, Reading and Language Arts, School of Education and Human Services)

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Students successfully connect with alumni during telefund drive

Oakland University's fall 2011 telefund drive generated approximately \$125,000 in pledges and gifts.

The campaign, conducted by current student employees working from the archives of Kresge Library, gives Oakland alumni an opportunity to support the university.

According to Starr Cornell, director of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving, alumni gifts raise the profile of an alma mater and the value of an Oakland degree while benefiting current students.

"It's been really successful," Cornell says. "I think alums enjoy hearing a current student's perspective about what's happening at Oakland. The students are plugged in to Oakland and are very energetic and engaging."

Student employee caller and physical therapy major Amber Hardway of Noblesville, Ind., was hesitant about her new job. After a few calls, however, her nerves soon vanished and she looked forward to the conversations.

"I loved it," Hardway says. "It's interesting to find your own style (of speaking to alumni)."

"Alumni gifts leverage assistance from corporations and foundations, which often factor in the support of alumni and friends into the organization's funding decisions," Cornell says.

For more information about student participation opportunities, visit oakland.edu/callers. ■



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Athletics department teams up to donate more than \$100,000 in planned gifts

It is not unusual for Oakland University employees to demonstrate loyalty and support for the Department of Athletics, but when a new giving opportunity opened up last fall, the generosity of its own department members rose to new heights.

Six employees used a new planned-giving option that was offered in connection with the 2011 All-University Fund Drive (AUFD). With this new AUFD option, OU President Gary Russi authorized a \$5,000 match on planned gifts of \$10,000 or more.

The planned gifts total more than \$100,000 and benefit various areas of Athletics.

Its contributors include: Tracy Huth, athletics director; Simon Dover, senior associate athletic director; Russ Cunningham, men's and women's head golf coach; Gordie Lindsay, assistant athletic director for development; John Musachio, head baseball coach; and Todd Wohlfeil, director of strength and conditioning.

"We feel the university has invested in us, and this is a way to give back," Lindsay says.

Huth says his decision to make a planned gift was a natural progression of support to the university and, most importantly, the students.

"I've been blessed to support the university on an annual basis," he says. "I'm honored now to be in a position in which my family can provide an opportunity for students at Oakland years from now."

Dover, SBA '88, says the decision to give was not a difficult one for him or his wife, Janice, CAS '89.

"Oakland has been a huge part of our lives and our children's lives," he says. "Our children grew up with OU Athletics."



The employees in the Department of Athletics who committed to making planned gifts include (from left to right): Todd Wohlfeil, Russ Cunningham, Gordie Lindsay, Tracy Huth, John Musachio and Simon Dover.

Musachio says he was inspired by his colleagues. "It's about the people, a lot of hard work shared with a wonderful group of human beings," he says. "I want to make a difference, not only while I'm here, but after I'm gone." ■

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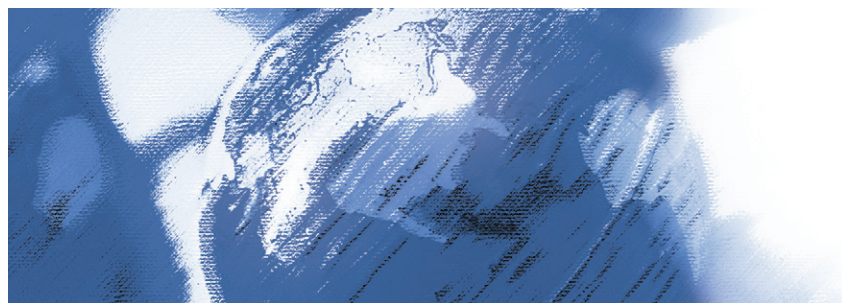
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Grant allows SBA to bring in research professor

A \$100,000 grant from The Energy Foundation enables Oakland University's School of Business Administration (SBA) to welcome Walter McManus as a research professor in Decision and Informational Sciences.

The foundation, a partnership of major donors, strives to solve the world's energy problems. Its mission is to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The foundation awarded the funding for McManus to conduct research at OU in response to a grant proposal submitted by McManus and SBA Dean Mohan Tanniru.

McManus' current research focus is the auto industry and how it can improve its environmental performance.

Prior to coming to the SBA, McManus was a research economist for the University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute and director of the Automotive Analysis Division.

Doing research from Oakland will offer a distinct advantage, he says. "We're closer to the core of the auto industry here with Chrysler right around the corner."

Shortly after his arrival at OU, McManus was among the speakers at an SBA Issues in Marketing Forum held in February. McManus spoke about his research on pricing models for alternative powertrain vehicles. ■



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Hugh and Nancy Elliott honor esteemed doctor with scholarship endowment

To thank Dr. Nasir Haque for his dedication to the medical health field for the past 40 years, Hugh and Nancy Elliott established the Nasir Haque Scholarship Endowment. It will support undergraduate students who will be entering their junior or senior year of study and who have majored in and excelled in the biological sciences.

"Dr. Haque's research and teachings have not only helped our family but also many people in his field of endocrinology," Nancy Elliott says.

As a pediatric endocrinologist, Haque treats children with diabetes, metabolism disorders and other hormonal conditions that involve the endocrine system.

Dr. Haque's relationship with Oakland University dates back to the 1970s when he invited OU faculty members from the Biological Sciences department to participate in research projects at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac, where he was the director of the pediatric residency department for more than 20 years. This program merged two worlds — clinical and biological — under Haque's careful direction.

"My heart has always been with Oakland University," Haque says. "I believe in helping the community I serve."

In addition to assisting the faculty with hospital-based learning opportunities, Haque donated his entire laboratory of high-tech equipment to the OU Department of Biological Sciences.

"Dr. Haque is a very valuable member of our community and a distinguished pediatric endocrinologist," former Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil says. "His long and supportive association with Oakland University is exemplary. His passion for education and support of our academic programs dates to the early 1970s."

Even though he could be retired by now, Haque continues to see patients because he finds the work is still enjoyable and intriguing, specifically regarding coronary artery disease, hormone growth and autism.

The Elliotts want this scholarship to pay tribute to Haque for being the caring and intelligent doctor they call their friend.

"We want to honor him for all his help and guidance throughout the many years we have known him," Nancy Elliott says. "With this endowment it is our hope that further research will be conducted on one of Dr. Haque's favorite projects: autism."

Haque attained the career he first dreamed of as a fourth grader, but he didn't know back then that it would be a journey brimming with breakthrough research and genuine friends ... like the Elliotts. ■



Hugh and Nancy Elliott, pictured here with their son, Chad, at commencement, where Hugh received his honorary doctorate of science, support Oakland University in many ways. Through their most recent contribution, they established the Dr. Nasir Haque Scholarship Endowment, honoring a respected pediatric endocrinologist with ties to OU.

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