



MAGAZINE *fall 2015*

Kahn Santori Davison, CAS '01
2015 Kresge Literary Arts Fellow



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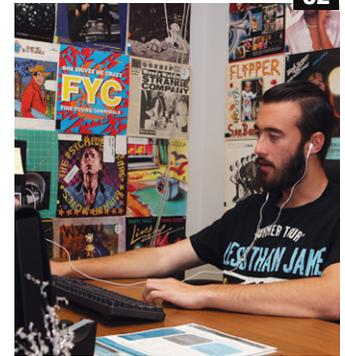
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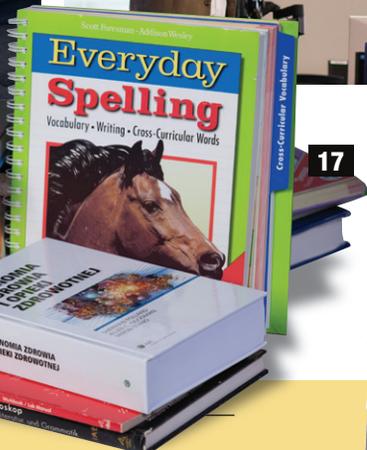
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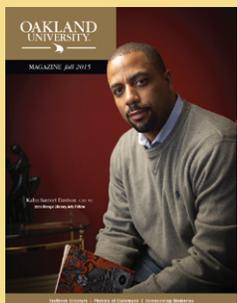
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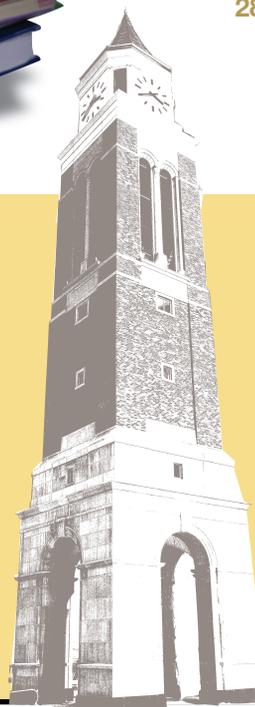


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ON THE COVER



Kahn Santori Davison, CAS '01, continues to transform a personal tragedy early in his life into rays of hope that are reflected in his poetry, photography and other artistic works. This spring, the Kresge Foundation recognized him as a Literary Arts Fellow. He received a cash prize and one year of intensive development support. See story on page 28.



Oakland University is a doctoral research university located on 1,443 acres of scenic land in the cities of Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills in Oakland County, Michigan. The University has 136 bachelor's degree programs and 137 graduate degree and certificate programs. Oakland is a nationally recognized public university with more than 20,500 students. Academics include programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Business Administration, School of Education and Human Services, School of Engineering and Computer Science, School of Health Sciences, School of Nursing and School of Medicine.



We have much to celebrate this fall: 17 consecutive years of growth, record enrollment, the highest student GPAs and ACT scores on record, and a new medical school class, to name a few. I would like to extend a special thanks to the OU staff for their diligent efforts this summer to complete numerous campus projects that led to a smooth start for the fall semester.



President George W. Hynd

OU set a record enrollment of 20,711 students. The 2,716 first-time students are the most in University history and a six percent increase over 2014.

We welcomed 315 freshmen to the Honors College, its largest entering class. Their academic profile is strong: nearly 40 percent

are Presidential Scholars who achieved at least a 3.9 GPA and an ACT score of 31 or above while in high school.

OU's strategic plan and goals are fully in place, with operations, goals and resources all assessed in light of student success, our ultimate goal. Even in the face of state underfunding, we are determined to provide a robust teaching and learning environment and comprehensive student services.

We have set aside funds for additional faculty, more academic advisers and increased financial aid. To meet the demand for new facilities to serve our growing student body, OU has invested more than \$200 million in new facilities in the last five years.

As enrollment nears 21,000 students, we are developing a master facility plan that aims to ease the shortage of classroom space, update the IT infrastructure and create a vibrant, on-campus community with a new residence hall and Oakland Center expansion.

We are also committed to raising our research profile. The Carnegie Foundation currently classifies OU among 92 U.S. doctoral research universities (DRUs). DRUs offer a wide range of baccalaureate programs and are committed to graduate education through the doctorate.

Provost James Lentini is guiding several searches that are currently underway for research faculty with active portfolios that include external funding, and is providing our researchers with high-tech and state-of-the-art equipment. Other initiatives include a national search for an associate vice president of research and working with the Division of Academic Affairs to recruit more teaching faculty.

In the coming year, OU will increase its civic engagement with key initiatives with the City of Pontiac, our collaboration with Detroit's Focus: HOPE and the School of Nursing and the work of the Autism Center.

While Oakland and the Pontiac community have ties dating back more than 40 years, a formalized partnership emerged one year ago this November. The collaboration provides service learning for OU students, college readiness for Pontiac residents, communications for the City and economic development for the region.

Robert Maxfield, associate professor in the Department of Organizational Leadership, former interim dean of the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS), and former school superintendent in the Farmington and Berkley Schools, coordinates the Pontiac partnership.

We relocated our Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) and Practical Nurse (LPN) certification programs to the headquarters of FOCUS: Hope in Detroit. In 1968, Father William Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis co-founded Focus: HOPE as an intelligent and practical solution to the problems of hunger, economic disparity, inadequate education and racial divisiveness. Approximately 200 LPN and CNA students study toward in-demand jobs. Students can also continue their studies toward Nursing degrees.

OU's Autism Center is known for its work in the community with children and families experiencing autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Janet Graetz, associate professor of Education, Human Development & Child Study, is chairing a new Autism Council as a central point for collaborative research on campus. The Council focuses on research exploring quality of life, parent and family support, promoting success in higher education and expanding community partnerships.

All of these efforts point to our goal of providing services with a positive impact on the community, state and region. We want Oakland University to be known as a first-choice institution that provides students with access to an exceptional education, whether undergraduate or graduate, that results in a lifelong return on their investment.

As my first full year at OU comes to a close, I am grateful for the warm welcome that you have extended to Alison and me as we settle into our campus home at Sunset Terrace. We are honored to be a part of OU history by living in the traditional home of OU presidents.

Wishing you and your families safe and happy holidays.

George W. Hynd
President

Introducing Oakland University's Newest Deans



FOCUSED AND FEARLESS

Dean of Graduate Education has clear vision for growth *By Susan Thwing*

Every now and then you meet someone who knows exactly what needs to be done — and exactly how to do it.

With a clear vision for expansion and a set strategy to enhance recruitment, retention and effectiveness, Claudia Petrescu, Ph.D., OU's new dean of Graduate Education, has her to-do list prepared.

And she's begun to check things off that list.

"I gave Provost Lentini two pages of what I want to work on this year and what I'd like to accomplish," she said with a smile.

As dean, Dr. Petrescu provides academic leadership and vision in the advancement of graduate education via strategic planning within Academic Affairs. Reporting to the provost, she supports and directs academic planning initiatives while monitoring the quality of graduate programs and ensuring they maintain Oakland University's overall mission.

In a recent interview, Dr. Petrescu offered insights on what is next for graduate education at OU:

You officially came on board August 10. How are you assessing the scope of graduate education at OU?

"I have been on a journey of deep discovery. I have been meeting with key individuals to identify areas of improvement and potential growth. It's been a comprehensive process of discovery, but I am feeling confident that I have a strong picture."

What are your initial goals?

Right now I am working to identify student and faculty needs. We are focusing on the entire student life cycle — not just admission processes, but their experience during the whole time they are here and beyond. We will be working to develop a culture that enhances the individual's success both as a student and within his or her career. It will be a comprehensive experience that motivates alumni to come back and continue to be involved — to stay a part of Oakland University for a lifetime."

And then long term: how do you see graduate education evolving?

"Currently, we have 137 graduate programs. We are going to analyze the job market and determine what its needs will be. We want our programs to be adaptable to the changing market and to help our graduates find the balance between specialization and flexibility so that as the market evolves, their skills will follow."

Previously, graduate education applications took some time to process; a lot of the forms were still, literally, paperwork. Will that change, and how?

“This is one of our major goals. We want to analyze the whole process and bring it online in a way that is more efficient, effective and timely. I am working with staff to fully understand their needs and the students’ needs. Currently, we are working on incorporating into our work software that will make the application process paperless, which we hope to launch by the next academic year.”

What role does graduate education play in the success and growth of OU?

“Graduate education is one of the main areas of planning that will put Oakland University in a much more strategic position. Demographic changes mean eventually there will be a decrease in undergraduates. However, more graduates want to come back after they have been working awhile or had families, in order to specialize and take the next step in their careers. These are the students we need to focus on, so we have the programs in place to meet their needs.”

How important is graduate education to a person’s career growth and fulfillment?

“It’s essential in today’s marketplace, especially with our global economy and global competition. The work world is not static; it is ever-changing. A graduate education and/or specialization gives you the edge.”

And about you — what has been the key to your own success?

“I enjoy a good challenge. And I have developed the skills to tackle those challenges. Transforming OU’s graduate education is my next good cause. But this will be a collaborative effort between the Provost’s office, academic units, faculty, staff and students. We will work together to develop new strategies for recruitment, retention, and service to our students. I am very excited about what’s to come.” ➤

Susan Thwing is a freelance writer from Rochester Hills, Michigan.

Claudia A. Petrescu joined Oakland University in August 2015. She received her doctorate in Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh and graduate degrees from Duquesne University, Babes-Bolyai University (Romania) and the National School of Public Administration and International Relations (Romania). Prior to joining Oakland University, Dr. Petrescu served at Eastern Michigan University in several administrative roles, including director of EMU’s National Leadership Alliance program, faculty associate for policies and procedures for the Graduate School, and assistant to the Dean of College of Arts and Sciences for strategic planning. Her research focuses on nonprofit management. Dr. Petrescu holds the rank of professor in the Department of Political Science.

CONNECT PEOPLE, SUPPORT DREAMS

School of Education and Human Services dean values community, social aspects of learning

Dean Jon Margerum-Leys, Ph.D., continues the thread of OU history tracing to 1967 and the School of Education and Human Services’ (SEHS) first dean and founder, Laszlo J. Hetenyi, Ph.D. He arrives at his new role, “not to radically change the place, but with the intent that we’re all going to be successful because of the groundwork that we have laid.”



Describe your role as dean and how you envision the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS).

My two jobs as dean are connecting people and supporting people’s dreams. We’re focused on making a difference in partnership with our communities through

human resource development and educational leadership, counseling, teacher preparation, early childhood education and special education. The string that ties our programs together is community involvement. The bottom line is that the interactions between people are what matter. The social aspects are the nuts and bolts we build with.

What attracted me to the SEHS is the emphasis on community and community partnerships: what Mary (Otto) did as a dean and what (former interim dean) Bob Maxfield has put into place (coordinating OU’s Pontiac Community Initiative, among other things). When you look at Bob’s trajectory and the position he is in right now, this is not out of character with the School of Education and Human Services. We do work in community really well.

Elaborate upon your background and how it shaped you.

The way I frame myself is through family background and caring a lot about what happens to other people’s kids. That has been our family tradition since the early 1930s, particularly in urban settings. My grandmother is one of my personal heroes. In 1932,



“The bottom line is that human interaction still reigns supreme. You can layer Mark Zuckerberg and Common Core and all those things on top. At the heart of it, it’s still going back to telling stories and connecting people ... the social aspects are where the learning happens.”

in the midst of the Great Depression, she was one of only two teachers hired by the Philadelphia Public Schools. She taught mostly fifth and sixth grade for 25 to 30 years. In 1976, my mom started teaching journalism in the Milwaukee Public Schools. I have a cousin who is a special education teacher in a Chicago district. My wife, Julie, is a former preschool teacher. It’s the family business.

You have doctoral and master’s degrees in educational technology. Share your thoughts about technology and online learning.

Theoretically, I’m a social constructivist. Social constructivism holds that you only learn when you create things with other people. An example I use is when my dad, my brother and I built a log cabin in 1980. The only power tools we had were a pickup truck and a chainsaw. I learned a lot about construction and geometry and project planning because we were making something, and we were working together.

I do not think that we or the nation are going to go more into Massively Open Online Courses (MOOCs) — those seem to be fading. The completion rate is not promising. It is possible to build community systems online, but those systems will need to build in human interaction. The direction will be programs that support communities that work for the members’ geography and schedules. The part I see that we need to be on guard against is universities that take money from students who go into it with no intention of changing their lives, who want the easiest thing. Michigan’s public universities could be smarter about working together to use online education to gather communities. Online can help us target real needs that might be too small for any one area, but if offered for the state, make sense for an individual institution.

The bottom line is that the human interaction still reigns supreme. You can layer Mark Zuckerberg and Common Core and all those things on top. At the heart of it, it’s still going back to 1932, to telling stories and connecting people. That’s true in teaching, too. The social aspects are where the learning happens.

Talk a bit about autism programs. Is it possible to connect programs, even with the public universities getting together? Do you foresee OU functioning that way?

I've never had a child on the autism spectrum; I had a child who was very, very sick. In 2003, our daughter, Meagan, was diagnosed with an inoperable malignant brain tumor, a type of tumor that is essentially 100 percent fatal. Meagan passed away June 21, 2004. We learned about the level of community and caring and support that a family can get, about the lengths to which people will go to support their kids.

Through that lens, I've watched families dealing with autism and learned the lengths that they'll go to support their children. I respect that tremendously. They want to live their lives; they want their kids to have friends. The number one thing that we hear from parents is, "what happens when I'm not around anymore?" That question deserves an answer, and they deserve our help. The ultimate aim for many families is what so many of us take for granted: to have employable skills, to have friends.

We can help with that. In Michigan, we have a legal obligation and certainly we have a moral and social obligation to help. I'm proud of the work that we do. Look at the film camp. I watched a kid on the last day stand up and smile from ear to ear, and he said, "I have friends." The value of that is huge.

The Autism Center brings it together for us. We are in the business of trying to find out what works and sharing information to the best of our ability. That's what universities do. The public universities are in the business of sharing what works. We are not the hedge fund manager who's going to raise the price of a pill from \$15 to \$700, that's not who we ever were or will ever be. That's why we're worthy of the public support. We receive money from the people of Michigan, and we have an obligation to spend it well. We, by and large, do, helping families and communities and preparing professionals to go into the field.

There are several ways, but one of them is to find out what works for autism, as well as in other areas in which we're working, and share that information across Michigan. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) works pretty well. So far, the numbers are pretty promising, and it's been shown to be reasonably effective. We are trying to identify people early, to find interventions that help them, and distribute the knowledge. On the other hand, the usual model of most treatment plans has kids coming in 4, 5, 6 days a week, and their parents usually drive them. That part of the work is not as easily shared between institutions in Michigan. We can't

have an ABA center here and then not have another one until Lansing and hope to scale it up, because it doesn't work for families. The parts that are family-centered are going to have to stay geographically localized.

Now, let's cut it another way. Every one of those kids becomes an adult. Autism is life long, as far as we know. I think there's always going to be a certain level of collaboration and handing off from one development level to another. In K-12 education in Michigan, we work with people to age 26. People, I sure hope, live longer than 26 years, and what happens to them next? Well, that's probably going to be some other organization. It's still going to be intensely local, I think, but if you cut a long lifespan, I think that's an opportunity for collaboration.

What are your hobbies?

At one time I was a professional musician, and I still play the saxophone occasionally. I don't have much time because being a dean is kind of a busy thing to be. We just hired a professor who's a drummer, so I think we're about ready for a band. I have a new bike (a Harley-Davidson® Road King). A bunch of us around here ride motorcycles to recharge. We're all human beings. The work that we do is really important; it should also be fun. Yeah, I have a good time most days. ➤

Jon Margerum-Leys, Ph.D., joined Oakland University on July 1, 2015, with more than a decade of experience as an academic administrator. He has successfully recruited, hired and retained top faculty, developed new academic initiatives and teacher education programs and encouraged diversity and community partnerships. His teaching experience spans K-12, community college, undergraduate, and graduate classrooms. Most recently, he was dean of the School of Education at California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo and spent 13 years in administration and academics at Eastern Michigan University. He holds doctoral and master's degrees in educational technology from the University of Michigan, a master's degree (with distinction) from Cal Poly and a Bachelor of Music degree in instrumental music education from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Margerum-Leys frequently presents on teacher technology education, and he has written numerous peer-reviewed articles in scholarly journals.

“The Autism Center brings it together for us. We are in the business of trying to find out what works and sharing information to the best of our ability ... We receive money from the people of Michigan and have an obligation to spend it well.”

GETTING A LEG UP

Business school continues experiential learning with Foundation-backed investment course *By John Turk*

The Data Analysis Lab in the School of Business Administration's Elliott Hall is not unlike a given corner of a top-tier financial investment firm. It features a glowing stock ticker, 10 dual-screen Bloomberg financial terminals and clocks marking the world's time zones. While the lab itself is a dazzling illustration of the experiential learning coming out of the business school, what students are doing in the lab is more intriguing.

On September 30, Oakland University and The Kresge Foundation of Troy, Michigan, announced a \$2-million student-managed investment fund that complements a new course that teaches students the essentials of portfolio management, stock selection and portfolio evaluation. One of the largest of its kind in Michigan, the student managed-fund has been carved out of Kresge's \$3.5-billion investment portfolio. The goal: offer real-world investment experience to OU undergraduates while exposing them to local career opportunities in investment management.

This fall, Finance Professor Ranadeb Chaudhuri, Ph.D., began teaching the 400-level Managing Investment Funds out of the lab with a focus on security analysis techniques and investment approaches used by professional investors.

Kresge Vice President and Chief Investment Officer Rob Manilla, who earned a bachelor's degree in Finance from Oakland, said Kresge created the student-management investment fund to bolster a talent pipeline of candidates to fill local investment jobs.

"The curriculum and hands-on experience offered in this class will better prepare OU graduates for the job market," Manilla said, "and by exposing students to a broader range of investment roles, we are optimistic that we will be able to retain our locally trained talent — who typically head to New York City for their first professional experience — to explore and fill the many rewarding job opportunities that exist within metro Detroit's public, private and philanthropic sectors."

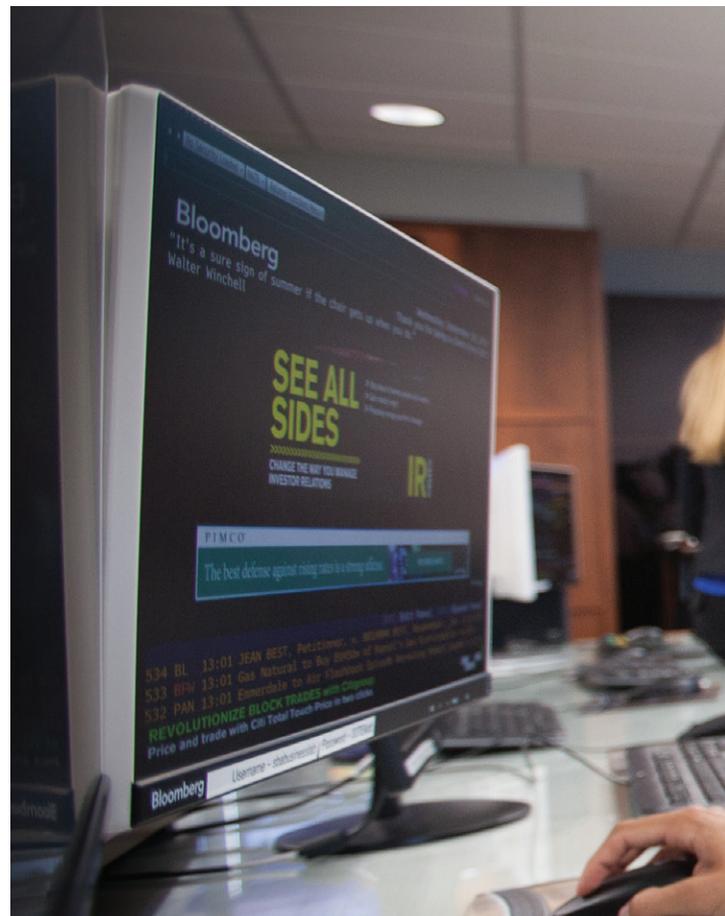
Students monitor the portfolio throughout the semester and make buy, sell and hold recommendations to Kresge based on the performance of their selected stocks. Advisory board members also supplement the class curriculum by serving as guest lecturers and sharing their experiences in the asset management profession. A member of Kresge's investment team officially conducts the stock transactions.

Growing interest

Nivedita Mukherji, Ph.D., associate dean of the School of Business Administration and an associate professor of Economics, said her hopes are that after learning the material, students will use the knowledge they gain from the course to start to make investment decisions that can be applied anywhere. "Other courses are probably more theoretical in

nature; this course will be bringing the theory closer to how financial analysts actually practice using data and making investment decisions."

The Bloomberg Professional service offered at the data lab's terminals allows students to search current and historical financial data on individual equities, stock market indices, fixed-income securities, currencies, commodities, futures and foreign exchange for both international and domestic markets. Worldwide financial market data, company profiles, company financial statements and filings, top analysts' forecasts and



news interviews by leaders in business and finance are also readily available.

The Bloomberg Professional service is only available in the lab. Dr. Mukherji said the data lab's various uses have put it in high demand, as well. "We are keeping it open on weekends during the regular semester due to the heavy usage. Students are really interested and excited about this."

Interest in the lab is increasing during a trend across all fields in data analytics, Dr. Mukherji noted. "Big data is everywhere," she said. "The area is very much into how to access and process large amounts of data and info and make decisions based on that. We are starting a minor in Business Analytics and a master's-level track for it. This lab is a perfect fit for that program."

Students are not the only ones who want to use the powerful machines. Most business school instructors, such as Finance Professor Ellen Zhu, Ph.D., either already use or are preparing to use the lab for their classes.

"I use data to teach students to build financial models with Excel spreadsheets," Dr. Zhu said. "In my Financial Modeling class, students work on building models to evaluate securities and then create an optimized investment portfolio, and because our

dataset (in the lab) is so powerful, students should be able to focus on both international and domestic markets.

"The idea is simple," she continued. "They'll get the data from the lab and apply the skills they learn in class to build the best portfolio by themselves. I think students will benefit from it."

Just as classroom work uses real-world data, the benefits of the lab once students are outside the classroom will be exponential, Dr. Mukherji said. Students can also become certified in their use of Bloomberg Professional — an easy resume addition for students who already need to learn the program.

"There are many modules and resources within the Bloomberg terminals," she said. "If you go through all these resources, you can take a series of tests and get Bloomberg certification. Then you can put that on your resume.

"Students don't need to be taught for that; they can just complete the whole sequence," she added. "And for someone going into a finance-related field, they would find it to be very useful. It may give them a leg up finding jobs once they graduate."

Visit oakland.edu/business to learn more about the student-managed investment fund, curriculum and Data Analysis Lab. 🌙

John Turk is an OU Media Relations writer.

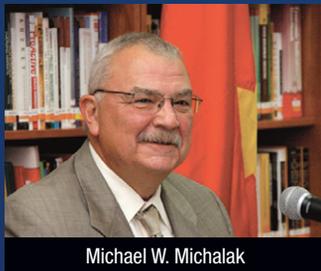


Finance majors Ziad Almufti (right) and James Saavedra explore company profiles and analyst forecasts on one of the Data Analysis Lab's Bloomberg terminals.

PHYSICS OF DIPLOMACY

Former Ambassador to Vietnam assumes new role in Asia *By Alice Rhein*

When he retired from a 30-year diplomatic career that included Ambassador to Vietnam from 2007 until 2011 and postings to Japan, Australia, Pakistan, China and Washington, D.C., Michael Michalak, CAS '68, expected to use his expertise in Asian affairs in a consultant role. Then, he got a call from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).



Michael W. Michalak

“They were looking for someone who could work with their membership on trade issues, to raise the visibility of U.S. business in ASEAN, and to build relationships between the U.S. business community and foreign governments, and between the American government agencies in the region. So I said, “That sounds like exactly what I do,”” said Michalak, who became the senior vice president and regional managing director of the US-ASEAN Business Council in September.

It didn't take much convincing for him and his wife, Yoshiko, to move to the vibrant city and island of Singapore, where Michalak oversees the Council's six offices, leads regional advocacy efforts and offers his perspective on what key role U.S. businesses can play in ASEAN, particularly if countries agree to expand trade in the Pacific Rim.

When Michalak left his post as ambassador to Vietnam in 2011, he relocated to Seattle, Washington, and served as senior adviser to the private sector host committee of the U.S. Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). He continued to work in Vietnam, where he served on the board of an American-owned finance company, continues to serve as a consultant to several businesses and is a member of the founding board of Tan Tao University, an educational institution based on the American liberal arts model that Michalak likens to OU.

“Just like OU, there is a close relationship between faculty and students,” said Michalak, whose travel plans this fall included attending an awards ceremony for the first graduating class of Tan Tao.





“My OU liberal arts education came through. Having a broad education gave me the tools that got me that far. From there, I found I was a much better diplomat than a physicist.”

— Michael Michalak, CAS '68



During his tenure in Vietnam, education was priority, resulting in a nearly threefold increase in Vietnamese students studying in the U.S. Foreign policy and human rights issues were constant and complex challenges. As Michalak noted, half the job was reacting to the crisis of the moment, and the other half was moving forward on strategic goals. “Being an Ambassador is an amazing assignment. People would ask me, ‘What is a typical day?’ There are no typical days.”

An undergraduate physics major at OU, Michalak subsequently earned a master’s in applied physics from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and worked at NASA for four years before beginning his diplomatic career. As he recalls, it was at the urging of some friends to take the Foreign Service Exam.

“My OU liberal arts education came through. Having a broad education gave me the tools that got me that far. From there, I found I was a much better diplomat than a physicist,” said Michalak, who also received a second master’s degree, in public administration, from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

The Foreign Service was not without danger. In 1979, Michalak was one of nearly 140 diplomats who secured themselves in an interior metal room or “vault” at the American Embassy in Islamabad as Pakistani protesters burnt it to the ground around them. His voice still wavers when he recalls the two servicemen and two staff members who lost their lives.

“It was an intense time,” said Michalak, who received a group award for valor for his actions during the crisis.

As he embarks on his latest career in international business, the 69-year-old Detroit native reflects on how he went from physics student to foreign diplomat. “The atmosphere at OU nurtured a spirit of inquiry and taught me to be curious for the rest of my life,” Michalak said. “Many of the laws of physics helped me put foreign policy into a rather unique perspective. Nature always tends to its lowest energy level. Bureaucracies do that all the time.” 🌞

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





RACE TO SUCCESS

By Sandra Beckwith

Road to racetrack began at OU

How many people can say they have their dream job? Rob Metzger, SECS '05, is one.

"Growing up, my dad would ask me why I spent so much time playing computer games, and I told him it was because I wanted to be a NASCAR driver," Metzger said.

Today, he is as close to that as he can be without sitting in the driver's seat.

Living the dream at Hendrick Motorsports in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he can call people like racing star Jeff Gordon his

friend, Metzger designs and manufactures race car components for NASCAR drivers Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jimmie Johnson and Kasey Kahne. Hendrick Motorsports has earned a record 11 car owner championships and 237 victories in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series since 1984. Metzger has been part of the team since 2010.

As a vehicle design engineer, he designs custom parts and components for the company's race cars.

"We design about 85 percent of what you see on a car when you turn on the TV," Metzger said, citing dashboards, steering wheels, suspension, carbon composites, pit equipment and other components.



OU déjà vu

“It’s like college all over again,” Metzger noted. “We work on a car Monday through Thursday, prepping for the weekend race. The qualifying laps on Friday and Saturday are like the pop quiz, and Sunday is the big test. When the race is over, the whole world knows whether you did your job and passed.”

Metzger said that his job is a lot like his senior project at OU when he and three friends designed and built a roll cage. Under the guidance of Associate Professor Lorenzo Smith, Ph.D., and using software acquired with a student discount, the team simulated forces the car would encounter on the track to make sure their design specifications would produce a roll cage that would remain rigid and protect the driver.

“This is exactly what I’m doing now,” he said. “I’m trying to get components to deflect and yield and use computer tools to predict what will happen so everything moves the way we want it.”

The road to the racetrack for Metzger started at OU, where Professor Patrick Dessert, Ph.D., supported the students through the PDMC (Product Design Manufacturing Center) Motorsports Team as they designed and created parts used to convert a Dodge Neon into a racecar that conformed to Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) regulations — and then raced it on weekends. They used their track experiences and engineering principles to continually refine the vehicle every week.

World-class educators like Professor Patrick Dessert, Ph.D., Associate Professor Lorenzo Smith, Ph.D., and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Chemistry Jerry Compton made it possible for senior engineering students to apply their classroom knowledge to real-life situations.

Internship started career

An undergraduate internship with the Dodge SRT/Magna Steyr group yielded a job offer after graduation; networking brought Metzger closer to the motorsports world when he accepted a position in Martinsville, Virginia, then later as lead race engineer for a NASCAR truck team. A few more career changes brought him to the Hendrick team as a design engineer.

Grateful to his parents for the OU opportunity and to his wife, former OU student Marianne (Crawford), who left Michigan so they could pursue his career, Metzger reflects on what he has been able to accomplish.

“Sometimes I look back and pinch myself. Sure, the job has its challenges and frustrations, but I know I’m lucky to do what I love and be at the top of the game,” he said.

Unlike his college experiences, though, today anyone can see how well he and his team perform in that game when they watch the NASCAR Sprint Cup on Sundays. 🏆

Sandra Beckwith is a freelance writer from Fairport, New York.

“When the cars roll in here, they’re just tubing and plate. Engineering designs and creates the parts; fabricators and mechanics assemble the vehicles on the main floor with those parts,” he said, adding that his job doesn’t end there.

The crew chief provides final input about what is needed for the upcoming weekend’s race. With those requirements in place, computer simulation programs test the set up, and adjustments continue. The driver takes a lap; his feedback, combined with computer reports, prompts additional engineering modifications.

TWINS RUN IN THEIR FAMILY

Bowman brothers are double trouble for Golden Grizzlies foes *By Fritz Reznor*

The similarities shared by Oakland University junior distance runners Andy and Jake Bowman of Marlette, Michigan, are remarkable, even beyond their DNA and their identical age and physical appearance.



At a 2014 cross country meet, Tyler DeLange (center) runs between the Bowmans, shown wearing headbands and sunglasses. Jacob is on the left and Andy is on the right.

The brothers both have won the Golden Grizzly Open cross country meet, Andy in 2014 and Jake in 2015. Both have been named the Horizon League Runner of the Week during their careers. They both are majoring in Environmental Sciences with grade point averages hovering around 3.5, and both are considering careers in wildlife management. And both were members of the Horizon League Academic Honor Rolls for the fall 2014 and spring 2015 semesters.

But to call them twins would be a misnomer; along with their sister Abigail, a junior Criminal Justice major at OU, they are, in fact, a set of triplets.

“Everyone would always ask us if we were twins,” Andy said, “and we’d say, ‘No, we’re triplets, actually.’ But there comes a time, especially since we’re not around her as much as we are each other, we just go with the twin thing.”

As expected, the two often get mistaken for each other — “Even our dad gets us mixed up,” Jake said — but Golden Grizzlies cross country and track Coach Paul Rice, BGS ’97, claims that after two years and six full seasons of seeing them almost daily that he’s getting better at telling them apart.

“It’s tough if you haven’t seen them a lot,” he admitted. “On the course, it’s easier because they have different forms of running. Jake is more of a middle distance runner, so he has more of a sprinter form. Andy has that true distance runner form, and when he gets after it, his mechanics aren’t as smooth as Jake’s.”

Rice says he has learned to differentiate them more by their personalities than by their appearance.

“Andy tends to be a little more serious about things,” he said, “while Jake is a little more laid back, a little more witty. On the

athletic side, Andy is definitely more committed to high-level, high-mileage training to see how far he can push himself. Jake, I think, has learned his limits over the years and knows what his body can handle. He does his training to fit that and doesn’t over-train. But they are very committed, and they take both athletics and academics very seriously.”

The brothers did have some differences, however subtle, while growing up. Both competed in cross country and track and field at Marlette High, but in the winter Jake played varsity basketball, while Andy was a standout on the wrestling team.

It had always been a given that the two would continue their bond by attending the same college, and with older sister Alyssa already enrolled at Oakland, it seemed a natural fit that they were Golden Grizzlies-in-waiting. But that plan nearly went awry after other colleges began recruiting Andy for wrestling.

“I was getting offers from some Division II and Division III schools,” Andy recalled. “I was thinking maybe I would do that because I liked wrestling more than running at the time, so I thought Jake and I might be separated. But our parents, especially Mom, wanted to keep her kids together, and it has worked out.”

While both compete in indoor and outdoor track and field at Oakland, they have developed separate niches. Andy placed second in the 5,000-meter run at the 2015 Horizon League outdoor championship meet and finished third in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at both the 2014 and 2015 outdoor league championship meets. Jake has finished second and sixth in the 3,000-meter run at the past two Horizon League indoor championship meets.

It is on the cross country courses where the two go head-to-head. In August of this year, Jake, the 2013 Horizon League male

BLACKTOP COURT, NEW LIGHTS AND SOUND SYSTEM ENHANCE O'RENA

By Fritz Reznor

Freshman Runner of the Year and a two-time Second Team all-league performer, and Andy finished 1-2 at the Golden Grizzly Open, a meet that Andy had won the previous year.

So is there a sibling rivalry?

"There's some trash talking," Andy admitted, "but it's all friendly, and no one gets their feelings hurt."

"It's just friendly bantering," Jake countered. "We will press each other's buttons at times, but Andy and I have never really been that way with each other."

Their coach just rolls his eyes.

"They bicker a lot, like brothers do," Rice said. "They compare notes, and they'll still bring up high school meets — how one outdid the other at a certain meet. But they do feed off each other."

And for the Bowman "twins," it seems to be working out well. ➤

The women's volleyball team properly christened the Athletic Center O'rena's new Blacktop court on September 17 with a 3-1 win over Western Michigan University in the Golden Grizzlies Invitational opening match.

The unique floor design and addition of LED lights and HD sound create a dramatic effect as players are introduced, generating excitement among fans and players.

"It really has the feel of a big-time Division I program now," senior setter Ciara Schultz said. "The administration has done so much to really elevate the atmosphere during my four years here."

"That first night when the O'rena went completely dark and they started flashing the lights during the introductions gave me chills," Schultz's teammate Allia Knight said. "It really pumps you up."

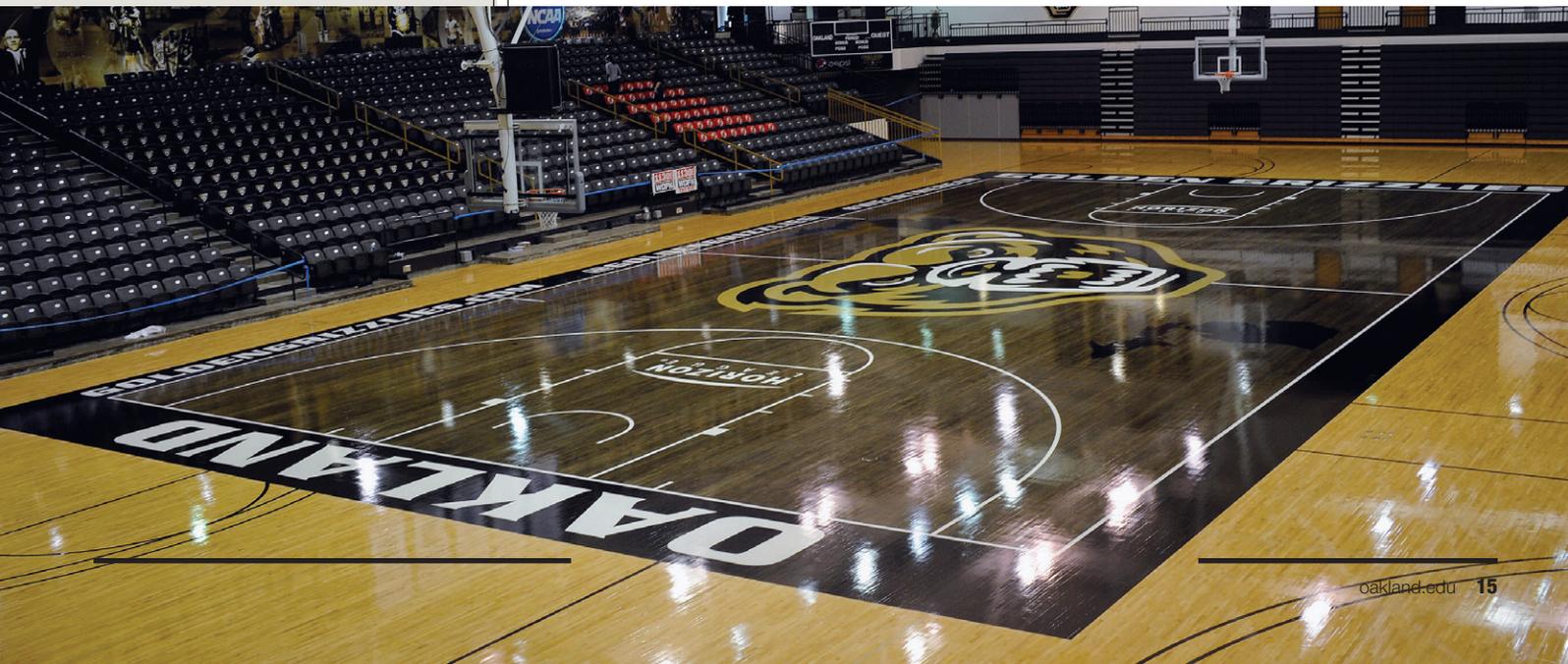
The Blacktop court, which features an all-black surface with the Bear Head at center court flanked by silhouettes of the

state of Michigan, was chosen in an online vote of more than 10,000 participants earlier this year.

"Our players love it," Oakland women's head basketball coach Jeff Tungate said. "It's different, it's unique, and with the new lighting and sound system it's a great atmosphere to play in. During summer camps, all the campers talked about was the chance to play on the new court. Our players have had nothing but positives to say about it."

Senior basketball player Olivia Nash agreed. "I think it's cool that they went with something new and extreme, and I think the fans will really enjoy it." ➤

Fritz Reznor is a freelance writer from Pleasant Ridge, Michigan.



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Record number of games televised this season



Alumni and fans will be able to watch more Golden Grizzlies men's basketball games on television this year than ever before. Twenty of the team's 27 games, including all 17 home games and every Horizon League away contest, will be televised during the 2015-16 season. Non-league road games on December 19 at Washington and December 30 at Virginia will also be aired.

"Having so many televised games on national, regional and local platforms is a huge win for Oakland University," said Senior Assistant Athletic Director for Public Relations Scott MacDonald. "The Golden Grizzlies will play more ESPN games than any other Horizon League school, and we are hosting a record three games on ESPNU or ESPN2.

"We are also excited about continuing our partnership with WXYZ-TV with local games on TV20 Detroit. This helps our brand and will allow the country see our unique Blacktop floor, LED lights and high-definition sound that will provide one of the best college atmospheres in the country."

Go to goldengrizzlies.com for the full 2015-16 Oakland University men's basketball schedule. ➤

2015 -16 Golden Grizzlies Men's Basketball TV Schedule

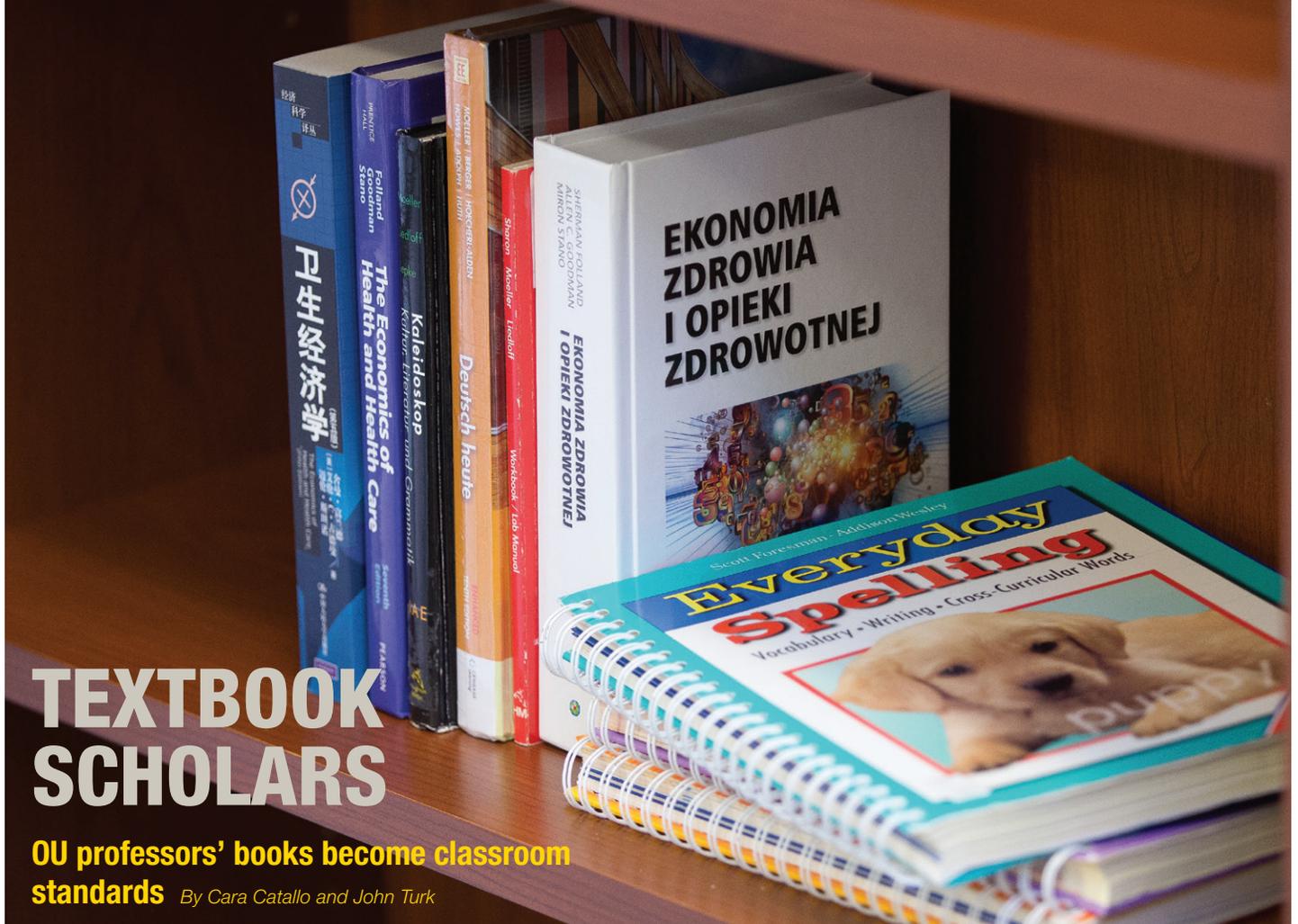
December 7	BINGHAMTON – TV20	7 p.m.
December 19	at Washington – Pac-12 Network	4:30 p.m.
December 22	MICHIGAN STATE (at The Palace of Auburn Hills) – ESPNU	7 p.m.
December 28	CHICAGO STATE – TV20	7 p.m.
December 30	at Virginia – ESPNU	6 p.m.
January 2	CLEVELAND STATE – TV20	3 p.m.
January 4	YOUNGSTOWN STATE – TV20/American Sports Network	7 p.m.
January 8	VALPARAISO – ESPN2 or ESPNU	TBA*
January 10	UIC – TV20	3 p.m.
January 16	at Detroit – WADL-TV	3 p.m.
January 19	NORTHERN KENTUCKY – TV20	7 p.m.
January 25	at Milwaukee – TV20/American Sports Network	9 p.m.
January 29	WRIGHT STATE – ESPNU or ESPN3	3 p.m.
February 11	MILWAUKEE – TV20	7 p.m.
February 13	GREEN BAY – TV20	3 p.m.
February 15	at Wright State – ESPNU (Tentative)	TBA*
February 19	at Valparaiso – ESPNU	8 p.m.
February 21	at UIC – TV 20/American Sports Network	4 p.m.
February 26	DETROIT – ESPN2 or ESPNU	TBA*

HOME GAMES IN ALL CAPS

All times Eastern Standard Time

*Check goldengrizzlies.com for updated starting times.

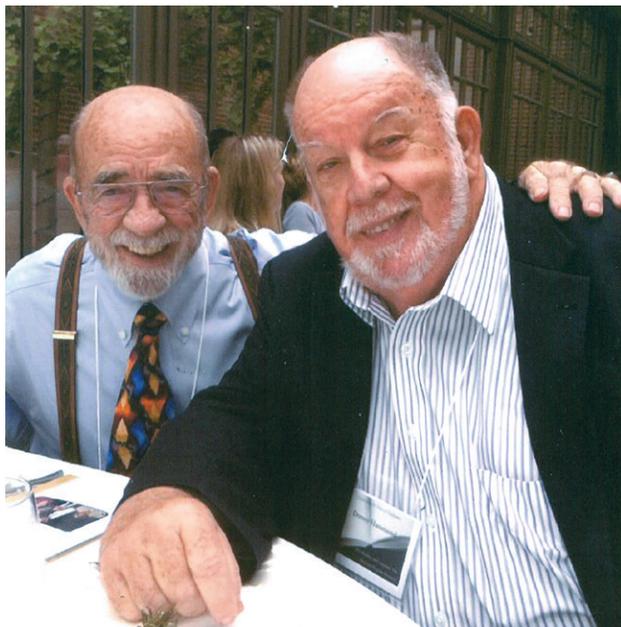




TEXTBOOK SCHOLARS

OU professors' books become classroom standards *By Cara Catallo and John Turk*

Among the hallmarks of academic prestige for university faculty are writing scholarly publications, literary works, scientific journal entries and authoring textbooks. OU professors are the authors of classic textbooks in reading, language, spelling and business that thousands of students in U.S. classrooms learn from each day. Each book tucked into a backpack or on a bookshelf shines a quiet spotlight on the dedication of Oakland University scholars.



Dr. Ron Cramer (left) and colleague Dr. Dorsey Hammond.

‘Johnny Appleseeds’

Professor Emeritus George Coon, Ed.D., considers Distinguished Professor Ronald L. Cramer, Ph.D., and Professor Emeritus W. Dorsey Hammond, Ph.D., the Johnny Appleseeds of Oakland University. With circulation of their celebrated spelling and reading textbooks in the 70-million range, Dr. Coon said few match his former colleagues’ work on a national level.

Drs. Cramer and Hammond met as doctoral students at the University of Delaware. They agreed that if one started publishing, he would include the other. After both joined OU — Dr. Cramer in 1967 and Dr. Hammond three years later — the agreement took hold. In 1976, they began writing *Everyday Spelling* for Scott Foresman and Company.

The textbook became the basis of student instruction, Dr. Coon said.

“It kind of took off, and it became a big seller,” Dr. Hammond recalled. “We thought it might last two to three years, and it lasted 35 years.”

The professors published subsequent textbooks and separate books, including professional texts for future educators. “It was a very nice run,” Dr. Hammond said.

Everyday Spelling did give the educators a sense of satisfaction that their books were in public schools across the nation.

Filling the gap



Dr. Moeller

During the early 1970s, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of German Jack Moeller, Ph.D., wrote — along with Professor Helmut Leidloff of Southern Illinois University — several high school and college German language textbooks to fill what they considered a void.

“Many of the German texts were old fashioned grammatical, and by the time I was teaching, we were more into speaking and writing,” Dr. Moeller explained. “For the college texts, some were of that type — old fashioned — and we thought they needed to be modernized as well. We tried to make them more streamlined.”

Oakland was one of the leading proponents of moving toward oral teaching of the language, rather than the standard at the time, which involved only reading and writing. Forty years later, German language teaching has continued to evolve using materials that help students gain a genuine proficiency in the language, along with information about current German cultural affairs.

The textbook-writing process is long, yet worth the outcome, Dr. Moeller said. Although he retired in 1992, he continues to revise *Deutsch heute*, now in its 10th edition, with co-authors, Simone Berger from Starnberg, Germany, and Professor Gisela Hoecherl-Alden at Boston University. The text comes with an audio-enhanced e-book and many interactive features. He and co-authors Simone Berger and Professor Anja Wieden of Oakland University also recently finished the ninth edition of *Kaleidoskop*, a text for intermediate German. This year, *Deutsch heute* is in 200 schools across the nation, and *Kaleidoskop* is in 175 schools, according to publisher Cengage. However, the total varies from year to year.

While textbook-writing is important in any discipline, it is extremely so in language education, Dr. Moeller said.

“Many students either change languages after high school, or they haven’t had a language until they come to a university,” he explained. “We do have majors in our program, but much of our activity is with first- and second-year students, and that’s true at most universities and colleges.”



Dr. Stano

Global reach

Miron Stano, Ph.D., has wide recognition with a textbook he co-created in the early 1990s with colleagues Allen Goodman, Ph.D., who teaches at Wayne State University, and Sherman Folland, Ph.D., who recently retired from his role at Oakland, to forward the field of health care economics.

While *The Economics of Health and Health Care* is considered a niche book, it was created at a time when health care reform attained the national spotlight. His ideas were even discussed by a federal task force created to craft health care reform policy.

Since the first edition went to press in 1993, the textbook has become a best-seller in the field, according to Pearson Higher Education. Added Dr. Stano: “Yale University used it in three courses in the same semester some years back.”

With 1,100 references and translations into Chinese, Korean, Portuguese and Polish, Dr. Stano’s book is a valuable resource for instructors. While he enjoys the recognition the text and Oakland have gained, Dr. Stano said he also is proud it formed the foundation for new instructors.

“Many of the new instructors and those who graduate with doctoral degrees have seen and possibly been trained with our work,” Dr. Stano said. “So it forms the foundation for many future courses and instructors and gives them an approach — something to lean on in terms of developing their courses. And I know we can’t last forever. We hope, of course, that at some point someone will come along and use this — as well as other works — and push the field even further when it comes to the pedagogy.”

Research helped shape OU

Research that often culminates in publications, including textbooks, has in part made OU what it is today, said Dr. Hammond, who left Oakland in 2001 to chair the reading department at Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland. Now semi-retired, he teaches one class at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland.

“To see what Oakland University has become in the last 40 years, you can’t help but be proud for that journey.”

Dr. Cramer agreed. “I had other job offers in 1967, but I took the right offer. A new and growing university is a challenge. I’ve seen enormous growth in all aspects of what a university ought to stand for: teaching, research and service.”

Added Moeller: “OU has always attracted top-notch people doing original research.”

At Oakland, all full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty are expected to engage in research or other creative endeavors, with specific standards existing within each discipline. “Faculty publications and creative works are important to teaching and learning, expanding the boundaries of our knowledge and abilities, and contributing to the improvements of our communities and world,” said Provost James P. Lentini, DMA, senior vice president for Academic Affairs and professor of Music.

Faculty research and creative activity helps OU serve the public function of enhancing students’ understanding of who they are and the world they live in, which can lead to breakthroughs in science and technology or improving the lives of others, Dr. Lentini added. “Faculty research enhances the teaching mission and creates a richer learning environment for students.”

“Faculty publications and creative works are important to teaching and learning, expanding the boundaries of our knowledge and abilities, and contributing to the improvements of our communities and world.”

– **James P. Lentini**, DMA, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs and professor of Music

Senior Associate Provost and Professor of Education Susan Awbrey, Ph.D., said most professors who are writing textbooks want to share their knowledge. “We’re really proud of the Oakland University faculty who are so dedicated to the education of students that they take time to write these textbooks. We’re especially proud when a textbook is nationally adopted, which many of them are. It really shows the high quality of Oakland University’s faculty and their methodology. Excellence in teaching is integral to the mission of the University.”

Most professors today are more likely to use a hybrid of traditional textbooks and their own materials and publications. Whether it is through a textbook or research-rich presentation at conferences near and far, the aspiration to educate propagates the strong work borne from the University’s mission.

The Kresge Library and the Senate Library Committee celebrate faculty authors through the annual Authors at Oakland. Visit library.oakland.edu/events/library_events/authors/ or the Faculty Scholarship Collection at our.oakland.edu/handle/10323/1956. ➤

Continued Contributions

Many professors who leave their academic mark on the University want to continue a legacy of assisting student success. That’s why Drs. Cramer, Hammond, Moeller and Stano have all established endowments for students who have shown outstanding academic achievement.

The Ron Cramer and W. Dorsey Hammond Reading Legacy Fund was established in 2013 to support doctoral students in the Reading and Language Arts department in perpetuity. The endowment, given twice a year to eligible students, is meant specifically to support students in dissertation research, participation in professional conferences and tuition costs.

In 2014, Dr. Moeller and his wife, Hilda, created the Jack Moeller Oakland University Endowment for German Study and International Travel. The endowment, largely for tuition help for students with high standing, is also used for room and board, housing, books and travel awards. It was set up in part to celebrate the distinguished professor’s retirement from the Department of Modern Languages and Literature.

Dr. Miron and Haija Stano’s belief that education, leadership and participation are among the keys to success inspired them to donate to the School of Nursing and the Honors College. The Miron and Haija Stano Endowed

Scholarship Fund was set up in 2009 to provide scholarship awards to students who show leadership, involvement in the community and academic achievement. Dr. Stano said that in his 30 years at Oakland, he has noticed that students are more successful when involved in school activities or organizations or are committed to community service. The Stanos hope that their endowment allows eligible students to work fewer than 15 hours a week so that they can participate in more school-focused activities. ➤

Cara Catallo is a freelance writer from Royal Oak, Michigan. John Turk is an OU Media Relations writer.

GOLDEN GRIZZLY SPIRIT AWARD

Spirited memories inspire new scholarship

United by school spirit and motivated by a desire to give back, eight young alums pooled their money to turn their OU memories into meaningful support for today's students.

"We wanted to find a way to honor a student who goes above and beyond in showing school spirit," explained Ryan Mostiller, SBA '15, SECS '10. "We didn't really see any scholarships that matched that description, so we decided to create one. All of us were very involved when we were students, especially with Athletics and the Grizz Gang."

Mostiller and his fellow alums created the \$1,000 Golden Grizzly Spirit Award scholarship for OU students. Preference will be given to students active in the Grizz Gang, a spirited mainstay at OU basketball games. The first award will be given next winter.

"Whatever your passion, funding a scholarship is a great way to help others follow that passion, too," Mostiller said. "Every gift makes a difference." ➤

By Jennifer Heil Bonacorsi, CAS '94, a freelance writer from Lake Orion, Michigan.

Show your school spirit!

Support the new Golden Grizzly Spirit Award

"Regardless of when you graduated, your defining moments at OU will resonate with current students," said Luke Floor, regional director of Development at OU.

"Think about what inspired you, and talk to your alumni friends. Turn those experiences into support for today's students."

WAYS TO GIVE

- Send your gift in the envelope included in this issue of the *Oakland University Magazine*, noting "Golden Grizzly Spirit Award."
- Visit <http://bit.ly/GrizzlySpirit>
- Contact the OU Annual Giving Office: (248) 370-4504; email: giving@oakland.edu

Golden Grizzly Spirit Award Founding Donors

Ben Fielder, CAS '08
Anthony Gallina, SBA '08
Mark LeMerise, SECS '11
Anthony Lewis, SEHS '15, '10
Danny Malendowski, SBA '12, '11
Victoria Martinuzzi, CAS '10
Ryan Mostiller, SBA '15, SECS '10
Corey Schmidt, CAS '10

Alumna aims to help those who will help



Ruth Pfaehler knows what it is like to work your way through college, careful not to squander any opportunity. She now wants to give back to Oakland University students in similar circumstances.

Late last year, Pfaehler, SEHS '02, CAS '75, and her husband, Kris, endowed

\$55,000 to establish the Ruth and Kris Pfaehler Scholarship to go to an OU transfer student in need of financial assistance. Recipients must have at least a 3.0 GPA, and major in a "helping profession," such as nursing, health sciences, biological sciences or teaching.

"I was lucky enough to understand the opportunity I had to attend OU and the value of higher education," Pfaehler explained. "I want to offer that opportunity to someone else who may need the extra little bit to help them reach their goal and who is willing to work hard for it as well."

Pfaehler worked at hospital labs and clinics throughout college before embarking on a career in pharmaceutical sales, later becoming a counselor, all the while gaining a lifelong appreciation for the helping fields. She said she hopes that scholarship recipients will go on to serve underserved communities if they feel the calling to do so. She also hopes the scholarship will help transfer students, who sought OU like she did, to reach their potential.

"Oakland was very user-friendly," she explained. "I really honestly felt it was a welcoming culture, and I still feel that way."

Today, Pfaehler volunteers as a mediator and especially enjoys working with first-time youth offenders. She and her husband feel fortunate to be in the position to establish meaningful avenues of giving. OU is grateful that Pfaehler reached out to her alma mater to help worthy students better prepare for such purposeful careers, said Kelly Brault, interim executive director of Planned and Annual Giving.

"Ruth's vision of supporting 'helping professions' will have a ripple effect by impacting students in their education, as well as those they help or heal in their careers," Brault said. ➤

By Cara Catalo, a freelance writer from Clarkston, Michigan.



“I wanted to create a fund that would encourage other OU students to get involved and to reward student organizations dedicated to leadership training and development.”

– Mike Carbone, CAS '86

Former student body president creates endowment for today's student leaders

Mike Carbone, CAS '86, was that student you saw everywhere on campus — leading new student orientation, mentoring peers at the Oakland Center or heading up a Student Congress meeting as student body president.

Whether he was hanging with fellow Theta Chi members or organizing what is now the Greek Programming Board, his constant smile reflected how much he enjoyed whatever OU experience was filling the pages of his agenda that week.

He still smiles when he remembers those experiences.

“A lot of people think that you go to college, get your degree and you're done,” said Carbone, compensation business partner at IT company Cisco. “But for me, the degree was secondary to the rich experiences that OU offers. As a commuter student, I knew it would be especially important to be engaged in many areas of campus life in order to make the most out of my education.”

Carbone wanted to ensure that these experiences would continue to help students develop the social, communication and professional skills they would use in the workplace. “I wanted to create a fund that would encourage other OU students to get involved and to reward student organizations dedicated to leadership training and development.”

He created The Michael G. Carbone Student Life Leadership Award to support the University's top student organizations and its most active student leaders.

The award is funded through lifetime gifts and will be endowed through a charitable bequest. “A charitable bequest, made in your will or trust directing a gift to OU, is one of the easiest ways a donor can leave

a lasting impact on the University,” said Kelly Brault, interim executive director of Planned and Annual Giving.

For Carbone, “the goal is to make it possible for promising student leaders to get the kinds of experiences and training that will help them soar after they leave OU,” he said. “I hope this will resonate with past leaders and make it possible for these growth opportunities to continue.” ➤

By Sandra Beckwith, a freelance writer from Fairport, New York.

For more information on making a charitable bequest to Oakland University, contact the Office of Planned Giving at (248) 370-4504, or giftplan@oakland.edu.

Maccomb-OU INCubator wins grant for Michigan Cyber Node

More OU students will be better prepared to work in the cybersecurity field, and more businesses will have access to much-needed cybersecurity services, thanks to a generous grant awarded to the Maccomb-OU INCubator.

The \$204,000 grant is from the New Economy Initiative, a project of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. It will help the Maccomb-OU INCubator create a Michigan Cyber Node — a location in the Michigan Cyber Range where students and professionals advance their cybersecurity skills — as part of Michigan Governor Rick Snyder's Cyber Security Initiative.

The organization is uniquely suited to maximize a cyber node's potential. It is located in the Technology Advancement SmartZone of Sterling Heights, Michigan, and it has already developed strategic business partnerships. Access to OU resources also made it an ideal candidate for the grant, said Maccomb-OU INCubator Executive Director Julie Gustafson. Student interns already play key roles in the project's planning, design and execution.

Housed within the Maccomb-OU INCubator offices in the Velocity Collaboration Center building, the new node will be named the Velocity Node. It will open in the first quarter of 2016 to provide:

- Certificate classes in partnership with Merit Network. The certifications can stand alone or help enhance four-year degrees in the cybersecurity field.
- A lab for exercises in which teams practice defending against cyberattacks and look for software flaws in order to increase security.
- Services for small businesses that include testing software in order to help thwart cyberattacks.

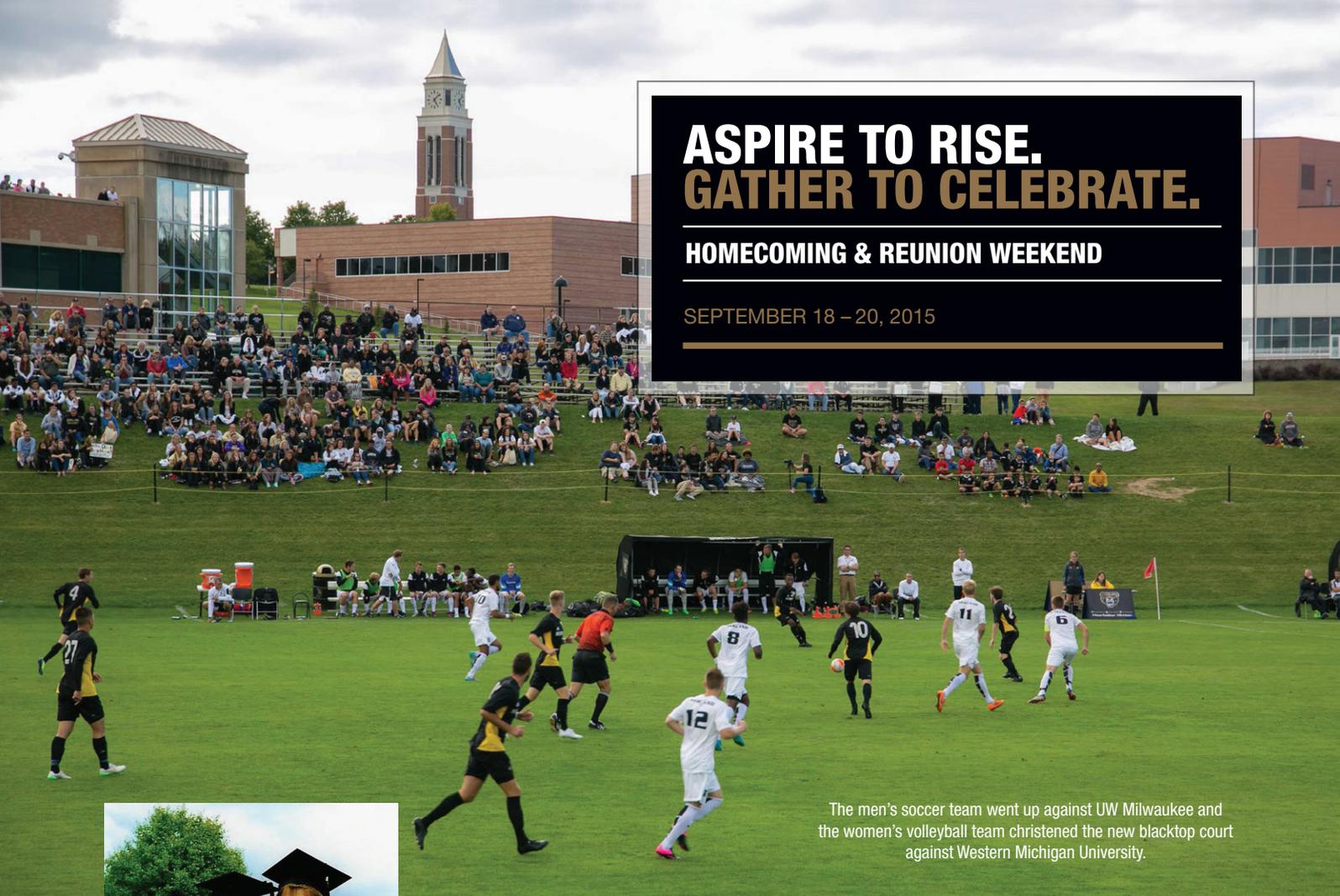
"This is exciting new territory — we're the first Cyber Node in Michigan to be marketing to and open to the general public," Gustafson said. "We're already reaching out to businesses throughout southeast Michigan."

Follow the Velocity Node's progress at macouinc.org/cyber. ➤

By Jennifer Heil Bonacorsi, CAS '94, a freelance writer from Lake Orion, Michigan.

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at oualumni.com.



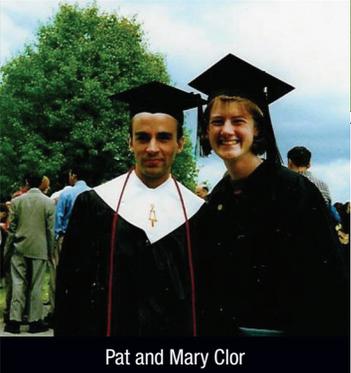


**ASPIRE TO RISE.
GATHER TO CELEBRATE.**

HOMECOMING & REUNION WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 18 – 20, 2015

The men's soccer team went up against UW Milwaukee and the women's volleyball team christened the new blacktop court against Western Michigan University.



Pat and Mary Clor

“My husband and I met in the dorms and were lab partners in many classes. We have been married for 10 years and have two wonderful children. We were the first of Prof. Latcha’s ME classes to build a catapult.”

— Mary Clor (Crova), SECS '97





A) President George Hynd and First Year Advising staff, which won the office decorating contest. B) Joan Rosen, professor emerita of English. C) Ray Newak; Pat Darzi, '67; Dolores Gelemey, '64. D) Mary Wermuth, '65, former OUAU president (1973-74). E) Enjoying the soccer game. F) Class of '65 members Betty Youngblood and David Baker Lewis. G, H) Cheering on Club Football to victory. I) Gregory Webb, son of Steven '05 and Stacey Webb.



David Jackson / The Oakland Post



Pioneers and Grizzlies reconnected at tailgates, reunions and golden anniversaries and on fields, tracks and courts to create indelible memories of 2015 Homecoming & Reunion Weekend.

Alumni, students and faculty toured the new Engineering Center as part of the School of Engineering and Computer Sciences' 50th anniversary. Attendees at the 50th Anniversary and Rededication of Lowry Center for Early Childhood Education placed a time capsule as part of the observance.

The Class of '65 held a 50th reunion luncheon at Meadow Brook Hall. At the Oakland Center, retired faculty and staff reunited over breakfast while the classes of 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015 gathered for the Milestone Reunion Brunch.

At the Red Ox Tavern, Master of Public Administration (MPA) alumni gathered for a night of networking. Program Coordinator Suzanne Rossi said the MPA has a solid list of 300-plus active alumni as "the program has significantly grown since 1978 as people understand the diversity in this degree. Graduates can basically do anything in general management — it's a public service career," she said.

On the field, OU's Club Football team was victorious (27-20) against UW Milwaukee. The men's and women's soccer teams also went up against UW Milwaukee, losing 1-0 in double-overtime and 2-1 in overtime. The women's volleyball team took

to the new O'rena blacktop court for the 2015 Golden Grizzly Invite, edging out Western Michigan (3-1); Eastern Illinois (3-2); Dartmouth (3-1), and falling to No. 13 Ohio State (3-1).

Alumni who were OU athletes met on fields, at tailgates and receptions. After competing in a friendly match, alumni men's soccer players headed for a reception with their families at the Red Ox Tavern and tailgated prior to the men's Homecoming soccer game.

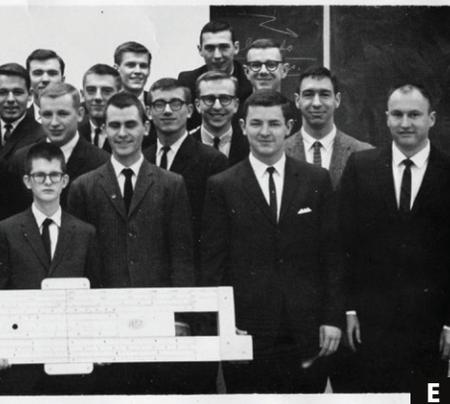
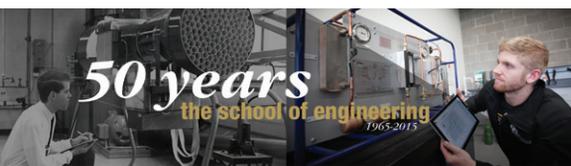
Track and Cross Country alumni held a barbecue and two half-mile runs on the new OU track and a one-mile cross country race. OU's cross country has moved to Division I since the program was organized in 1964, with outdoor facilities to accommodate Division I athletic events, including tennis and track and field meets, said Scott Collins, athletic Alumni Coordinator for Cross Country/Track.

The Grizz, an inflatable bounce house and bungee run, face painting, music and snacks returned for the OU Alumni Association's popular Family Festival and the 2nd Annual Midnight Block Party capped the weekend. 🐾



J) Reunion of the Black Alumni Chapter of the OUAA and Center for Multicultural Initiatives. **K)** Alumnus Vincent Tinch and family. **L)** Michigan Opera Theatre founder and former Music Dept. Chair David DiChiera and MTD Chair Jackie Wiggins. **M)** Dr. Judy Brown, distinguished professor of Anthropology. **N)** Dr. DiChiera and Mary Schwark, '65.





A-C) MTD's Black and Gold performance extravaganza included music, senior Dance major Tess Keesling's choreographed "... Against the Sunset" and musical theatre talent. **D)** A long line for SECS robotic pens handed out by Director of Development Rick Rachner. **E)** OU Engineering Society members in 1964. **F)** Games of skill at the tailgate.

"I and about 12 others were in OU's first graduating class of Engineering students in 1968. I remember Professors Gilbert Wedekind, William Hammerle, Richard Shank and the Dean, Professor John Gibson. We were close back then. Prof. Hammerle had us all over to his house one Friday night. Prof. Gibson had the first graduating class over to his house in Lake Orion for a lasagna dinner that Mrs. Gibson had prepared. Prof. Wedekind was my favorite professor. He was always well prepared and paid attention to details. He was a model for me during my teaching career."

— Ray Barcalow, SECS '68



A) Family Festival fun for the young. B) Grizz greets Geraldine and Michael Huey. C) Mark Qu and daughter. D) School of Nursing and the Student Nursing Association tested OU knowledge at the Homecoming Hunt. E) Lowry teacher Ann Ratteree (center) with teachers Lisa Ross (left) and Dawn Rewalt. F) Journalism major Oona Goodin-Smith in the Twister room at the tailgate. G) Lowry Director Julie Ricks-Doneen welcomed guests.



LOWRY CENTER REDEDICATION and 50th Anniversary





PROSE AND KAHN



This poem, which illustrates how Kahn explores and sees hope, is about his parents and, in the end, him.

Clean

Mrs. Little, church member, remembers Wanda.

Her mother buried her
in her wedding dress.
This bewildered most
but not me.
I remember when the double doors
of the sanctuary opened up
and I thought, “Good God from Zion,
that gal is clean!”
Mrs. Smith knew her and that fella’
wasn’t going to work out.
But I don’t think she could
have seen *this* coming.
Hell, the boy cried forty days
and forty nights before he ever said “I do.”
I had the pleasure of seeing
little Ms. Wanda every week
in my Sunday school class.
Her black patent leather shoes,
white gloves,
always so clean.
That’s how Mrs. Smith kept
her children.
Them white teeth smiled
every time I asked her a question,
cause you know she was the smartest thing since King Solomon.
Oh yeah, I
swear that gal was on the honor roll
every card-marking.
Mrs. Smith wasn’t going to have it any other way.
And talk about playing some music,
A few Easters ago Ms. Wanda had that baby grand chirping so
good
I thought Jesus himself would walk out that piano!
Mrs. Smith was so proud.
Then Wanda started messing with Lola’s boy.
Mrs. Smith didn’t take too kindly to that,

but I didn’t see nothing really wrong with the fellow.
He was strong as Sampson,
complexion of Harry Belafonte,
and he carried his opinion like my Uncle Willie used to
carry his knife: sharp and quick on the draw.
Mrs. Smith wasn’t impressed,
she felt her child deserved better.
I figured after Ms. Wanda brought her own beautiful child into the
world
her mother’s attitude would change —
it didn’t.
I just don’t think she felt that boy was clean enough for Ms. Wanda.
But that ain’t nothing unusual,
I’d probably be the same
if I’d had a daughter.
But like my mammie used to say,
you gotta live your own life
and die with the consequences.
I asked Mrs. Smith was them papers correct
’cause it just don’t seem possible for no man
to blow his own chest out with no shot-gun.
She gave me a look that told me, “I’d betta’
mind my own business,”
so I did.
Rumor said Ms. Wanda was thinking about
running off with some white-collar fellow,
but I paid that hearsay no mind.
People love to gossip,
especially church folk.
I closed my eyes,
looked at Ms. Wanda one more time, said a prayer.
Sista’ Sharon worries for
Ms. Wanda’s little boy.
I don’t.
He’ll get raised just like his mamma.

PROSE AND KAHN

Rays of hope permeate poet's work *By Rene Wisely*

Word came in June during a spirited game of tug-of-war.

Kahn Santori Davison, CAS '01, answered his cell phone just as his daughter's kindergarten class, which he was chaperoning, began the tug-of-war event on field day.

"When it's someone from Kresge, and she is asking if it's a good time to talk, I wasn't going to say no because she could call someone else," Davison said. "I backed up as quickly as I could," to hear the words that would move his career forward.

He won.

The Communication major was named a 2015 Kresge Literary Arts Fellow, a reward for his vision and a nod to his role in elevating the profile of metro Detroit's artistic community.

The honor comes with a year of intensive professional development support and a \$25,000 prize, enough to help him cut back on his multiple "day" jobs.

Davison built a growing photography business, shooting weddings, senior pictures and the like. He writes freelance pieces for the *Metro Times*. He competed in poetry slams and has published poetry books, including *Blaze* (Willow Books), which was released in July. He taught creative writing at Detroit Impact Community Center and InsideOut Literary Arts Project. He even launched his Primal Immortality T-shirt line last year using a Kickstarter campaign.

"When you have your own business, you tend to accept every opportunity to make money, and that takes time, time that you're creating for someone else and not creating for yourself," Davison said. "Now I can spend more time creating for myself."

Davison, who is married with four children and lives in Westland, Michigan, is focusing on composing more poetry and writing his autobiography.

A common theme has emerged in both genres: his personal tug-of-war.

Davison was 13 months old when his father murdered his mother, a teacher, and then killed himself in Detroit. His father may have intended for Davison to die as well because he left him in a closed bathroom with the gas stove burners turned on.

"This was in 1977, and things like this didn't happen as often as they do now," he said.

Despite the tragedy, rays of hope permeate Davison's work. He received a strong upbringing from his conservative grandparents, who put him in Catholic schools, raising the only child with strict rules.



"My grandpa was an electrician, and he had all of these stories about life," Davison said. "I think that's where I learned some of my storytelling skills."

Davison confesses that his grandparents helped him lead a sheltered life and credits Oakland University for making him worldly.

"All of my people skills come from OU," he said. "Being from the inner city, I hadn't been around too many other people other than African-Americans. Most of my Communication classes were based on group work and presentations, so I had the opportunity to work closely with Caucasian students, Western Indian, Jewish and so forth. For a kid that had very limited contact with folks outside his race, that was a big deal for me."

He also learned the importance of connecting on a grassroots level from his favorite OU teacher, Communication Professor Shea Howell, Ph.D., who oversaw his field experience, a voluntary community service that helps OU students understand the relationship between communication and community.

They worked together at Detroit Summer, a longstanding youth organization Dr. Howell co-founded. She designed it to bring young people together with community groups to rebuild the city through planting gardens, painting murals and other hope-building projects.

"It was the first time I'd ever been an activist," Davison said.

He is good at it, Dr. Howell said.

"Kahn was especially active as a spokesman for the role of art in social change, and I am sure he will use the Kresge Fellowship to not only deepen his own work, but to strengthen our larger community and its commitment to justice," Dr. Howell said.

He is ready to win the tug-of-war. ➤

Rene Wisely is a freelance writer from West Bloomfield, Michigan.

LEADERSHIP OU

Students gain valuable mentorship, networking

Leadership OU provides students with opportunities to refine their leadership, mentoring and networking skills by connecting them with successful OU alumni. In addition to being paired one-on-one with an alumni mentor, students participate in an exclusive alumni speaker series from September to April.

Once a month, students hear a prominent speaker who lives and works in the metropolitan community. Speakers from the 2015-16 schedule include The Honorable Ruth A. Johnson, Michigan's secretary of state, and Kristina Marshall, president and CEO of Winning Futures. Presentations take place at the speaker's workplace, where students experience leadership team panels and behind-the-scenes tours.

Leadership OU speaker **Lauren Podell, CAS '08**, is a reporter and anchor for WDIV-TV Local 4 News. "For me, it was a full-circle moment," she said. "It was an honor to meet students who

are in the top of their class and are career-driven. Some were still undecided, some knew exactly what they wanted to do with their future — but all of them had a drive to learn and grow and prepare for life beyond Oakland University."

Oakland University alumni interested in becoming involved with Leadership OU as a mentor or speaker are encouraged to contact Hallie Bills at (248) 364-6121 or hjbills@oakland.edu.

Please visit oualumni.com for a full schedule of Leadership OU speakers. 🌟



Front (left to right): Annie Meinberg, Madalyn Potts, Holly Lustig, Cassandra Hock, Hallie Bills, Dema Iskander, Victoria Clark, Rose Starceski. Back (left to right): Jamil Johnson, Rachel Roberts, Aaron Helander, Yeriko Vargas, Adam George, Angelica LeDonne, Daskyra Hood, Daniel Gildner.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

By Susan Thwing

Milestone anniversaries for WXOU, Student Congress, Gender and Sexuality Center

This is a year of milestone anniversaries for OU student organizations.

This year, WXOU (88.3 FM) radio is celebrating the station's 50th birthday as the OU Student Congress reaches 45 years and the Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC) arrives at its 10-year mark. WXOU and the GSC held open houses and reunions during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend.

WXOU, which has received the College Station of the Year Award from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Foundation (MABF) for three consecutive years, gives budding campus personalities

the chance to host and DJ their own shows.

Christine Stover, WXOU's current adviser, began her career as a student DJ at WXOU from 1999 to 2002.

"WXOU showed me what it would really be like to work in radio," she said. "It was a great sandbox where I could test it out and determine if I had the personality and gumption to make it."

The station started in 1966 as a carrier current-based station run by two students in Van Wagoner Hall. Following several location moves and upgrades, in 1974 the

station changed call letters and developed an advisory board. The station also started to receive funding from the student activities fee.

Thomas Discenna, a former adviser and associate professor of Communication, "came in in 1993 when the station was just applying for an FM broadcasting license from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The process of getting the antenna in place and the station broadcasting took longer than expected, but in September 1996, the station began airing on 88.3 FM under the call letters WXOU," he said.

WXOU's Sierra Rush (left) interviews guest Jillian Endsley.





OU students (from left) Daskyra Hood, Stephanie Roffi and Maritza Figueroa.

In April 2005, WXOU focused more on Internet broadcasting, allowing the station to reach an even bigger audience. The station now broadcasts 24 hours a day.

OU students speak

“Your voice. Heard.”

While the OU Student Congress slogan has only been around for a few years, the sentiments of the phrase have been in action for 45 years at Oakland University. Student government became a constant voice in campus-wide decisions and has steadily grown — including officially becoming OU Student Congress (OUSC) 35 years ago — to drive and influence initiatives, voting power and student events for the betterment of the University.

With 23 legislators, one Greek Life representative and one Residence Halls Association representative, “we have become a collaborative voice working with the Board of Trustees and University leadership,” OUSC vice president Madison

Kubinski said. “When we speak, we know we are heard, and our opinions are sought on most student life decisions.”

Recent initiatives include the “It’s On Us” sexual assault awareness program, tuition equality forum and adoption of a preferred name resolution. Past initiatives include opening the Kresge Library 24/7, suspending classes on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, developing the Gender and Sexuality Center, initiating the Bike Share program, providing free Scantrons and blue books and placing hammocks around Bear Lake for student enjoyment.

“We are involved in every aspect of OU life,” Kubinski said. “OUSC involvement is a great learning experience for us all.”

Promoting inclusion and understanding

The Gender and Sexuality Center student initiative originally was staffed by volunteers, said Coordinator Grace Wojcik. Ten years ago, OU leadership made GSC an official center and expanded its reach, with a major expansion in 2011.

The Center serves women and the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex Questioning and Allies (LGBTIQA)

communities. The staff provides and fosters a campus environment that promotes inclusion and understanding around issues of gender and sexuality through education, outreach and advocacy for all members of the OU community.

“Since 2011, we have physically doubled in size and grown in the number of student organizations advised via GSC,” Wojcik said. “Last year, the Center advised more than 1,000 people. We’ve added a lot of important components, including Pride Week, the Queer Peers Mentor Program and Safe on Campus Training.”

Expansion will continue as GSC enters its next decade.

“We hope to find a bigger space so we can add more professional staff and grow our programs,” Wojcik added. “And we are working with Admissions now to ensure that future students know that OU is an LGBT-affirming campus.” ➤

Susan Thwing is a freelance writer from Rochester Hills, Michigan.



Oakland University, Wayne Law partnership offers fast track to bachelor's plus law degree

Through a new partnership between Oakland University and Wayne State University Law School, students can earn both a bachelor's degree and a law degree in six years, versus the traditional seven.

Students will transfer 30 credits from courses at the law school back to Oakland to meet bachelor's degree requirements. To apply, Oakland University students must have completed a minimum of 75 credits in an approved undergraduate degree. OU's Bachelor of Integrative Studies is the first program approved for the partnership. The list of eligible majors is expected to expand as the program moves forward. Students also must take the Law School Admission Test and meet all other Wayne Law admissions requirements. During the fourth (senior) year at Oakland, students will



attend Wayne Law and will begin with the first two semesters of credits at Wayne Law (30 credits) transferring back to Oakland for completion of the bachelor's degree.

Students who have completed their Oakland requirements must apply by June 1 to begin taking classes at Wayne Law in fall 2016.

Current and prospective Oakland students can contact David Lau at (248) 370-3229 or lau@oakland.edu for more information about the partnership. Contact Wayne Law Admissions at (313) 577-3937 or lawinquire@wayne.edu for more information about Wayne Law. ➤

SEHS, Judson Center collaborate on Autism Connections Program

The School of Education and Human Services (SEHS) and Judson Center, a nonprofit human services agency in Royal Oak, Michigan, are combining their expertise to provide high-quality services to individuals and families in southeast Michigan who are affected by autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other disabilities.

OU will evaluate Judson's programs for clients, suggest improvements to increase impact, and help launch programs focused on best practices. OU gains an applied research site, especially in the area of employment opportunities for adults on the autism spectrum, an area the two have already been working on jointly, said Janet Graetz, Ph.D., associate professor of Education, Human Development and Child Study and Special Education coordinator for SEHS.

Judson will also provide more opportunities for graduate students in OU's autism program to gain experience in the field and enable OU to get feedback from Judson's staff on professional development needs. By working together, the two will be able to translate the research behind autism into practice, Dr. Graetz said.

OU and Judson have also been working on a small-business incubator to employ individuals on the autism spectrum. They teamed with Smiles for Children and the Autism Alliance of Michigan to launch a small, laundry service business. Also launched this year were an organic greens farm on OU's campus and an office services business providing shredding, mailing and scanning services. ➤



Photo by Eric Reikowski

Drew McDonald of Clarkston (front) and Christopher Wattai of Troy work at a laundry service on campus as part of Extraordinary Ventures Michigan, an OU-Judson Center initiative with the Autism Alliance of Michigan and Smiles for Children.



Stephen P. Weiter Is new dean of University Libraries

Stephen P. Weiter is the new dean of University Libraries and associate professor. He will serve as the libraries' chief academic and administrative officer and provide vision, leadership and planning for the library staff.

Weiter will also create and maintain collaborative relationships within the University and surrounding communities, foster professional development of library employees, support library fundraising, guide technology advancement and academic offerings and assure the libraries' central role in the University's intellectual life.

Weiter was most recently director of college libraries for the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He has been principal law librarian for automation and technical services at the New York State Appellate Division Law Library in Rochester, New York, and a network information services librarian for Finger Lakes Library System in Ithaca, New York. Since 1997, Weiter was an adjunct instructor in the Syracuse University School of Information Studies.

Weiter holds a Master of Library Science degree from the Syracuse University School of Information Studies, a Master of Arts in International Relations from the Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Louisville. He also completed studies at Harvard University's Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians. ➤

Nancy Schmitz is assistant vice president, Student Affairs and dean of Students

Nancy Schmitz is OU's new assistant vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Students. She had served as the assistant vice president for Student Affairs since 2001 and as interim dean of Students since May of 2013.

Joining the Oakland University staff in 1983, Schmitz held positions in Student Affairs that included serving for a decade as assistant dean of Students and as director of the health and counseling centers.

Paul R. Schroeder appointed associate vice president for Enrollment Management

Following a national search, Paul R. Schroeder was appointed associate vice president for Enrollment Management.



Paul R. Schroeder

He comes to Oakland University after serving as vice president for enrollment management at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois. There, he was responsible for the school's admissions and financial assistance functions and had a track record of increasing recruitment of both incoming freshman and transfer students.

Schroeder led the president's enrollment, marketing and branding task force at Bradley. He increased transparency of enrollment management opportunities and challenges with the cabinet, deans and university community. He also provided direction and collaborated with Bradley's marketing office in the production of new publications and university messages.

Prior to his work at Bradley, Schroeder served as senior educational manager at The College Board, Midwestern Regional Office in Rosemont, Illinois; was director of admissions at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia; and spent nearly 20 years at Michigan State University in various roles, including senior associate director of admissions.

Currently working towards a Ph.D. in higher education administration at Michigan State University, Schroeder also earned a master's degree in labor and industrial relations and a bachelor's degree in business administration, both from MSU. ➤



Schmitz was instrumental in developing the First Year Advising Center and the University's Crisis Volunteer Corps, as well as enhancing the service delivery model in the health and counseling centers. Her work on many University committees addresses student retention and graduation rates.

Schmitz earned a master's degree in counseling and personnel from Western Michigan University. Before joining OU, she worked at Grand Valley State University and Dakota State College in Madison, South Dakota. ➤



Kristin Rohrbeck

Kristin Rohrbeck leads Center for Autism Outreach Services

Kristin Rohrbeck was promoted to director of the Center for Autism's Outreach Services (OUCARES). She is the responsible for the Center's direction, planning strategic initiatives for OUCARES, fundraising and dealing with budgetary responsibilities.

Rohrbeck previously served as the Center's program coordinator, managing the development, implementation and evaluation of more than 40 recreational programs for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Her background includes experience in diverse educational settings. She worked as a psychology instructor at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, and with The Learning Experience in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Rohrbeck also spent nearly three years as a behavioral therapist at The Autism Peace, where she managed an in-home behavioral therapy program for a child with autism.

Her master's degree in developmental psychology is from The Ohio State University and she earned bachelor's degrees in psychology and Spanish from the University of Michigan. oakland.edu/oucares

Professor, alumnus among 2015 Kresge Artist Fellows

English Professor Jeffrey Chapman, Ph.D., and alumnus Kahn Santori Davison, CAS, '01 (see story, page 30) were among 18 metro Detroiters who received a 2015 Kresge Artist Fellowship from the Kresge Foundation. In addition to the \$25,000 award, they receive a year of intensive professional development support.

Dr. Chapman, who teaches creative writing at OU, was recognized as a literary arts fellow for his fiction and graphic novels. His stories and comics appear in publications throughout the country and blend the day-to-day, mundane world with the fantastic, mythical world.

OU English Department Chair Kathleen Pfeiffer, Ph.D., explained that Dr. Chapman's work creates an interactive experience for the reader: "Professor Chapman has developed a very cinematic approach to graphic literature, developing multiple points of view and cultivating visual and textual perspectives that move the narrative through space powerfully and effectively; these are narratives that invite the reader to participate in making meaning through image and text alike. Particularly in his graphic memoir *Exile*, the relationships between image and text reveal extraordinary aesthetic sophistication."

Davison was recognized as a literary arts fellow for poetry. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and is a music writer for the *Metro Times*.



Jeffrey Chapman, Ph.D.



Kahn Santori Davison



Prof. Chaunda Scott in South Africa on Fulbright Specialist Award for diversity education

Associate Professor Chaunda L. Scott, Ed.D., is developing higher education diversity education curriculum in Cape Town, South Africa, on a Fulbright Specialist Award. The highly competitive Fulbright Specialist Program promotes linkages between U.S. scholars and professionals and their counterparts at host institutions in more than 140 countries worldwide.

Dr. Scott provides professional development workshops that focus on diversity education and workforce diversity education for higher education administrators and faculty. She will also replicate the OU Diverse Voices Conference model she founded 17 years ago as a forum where students, faculty, administrators and community members discuss the value of human diversity. Dr. Scott is president of the conference.

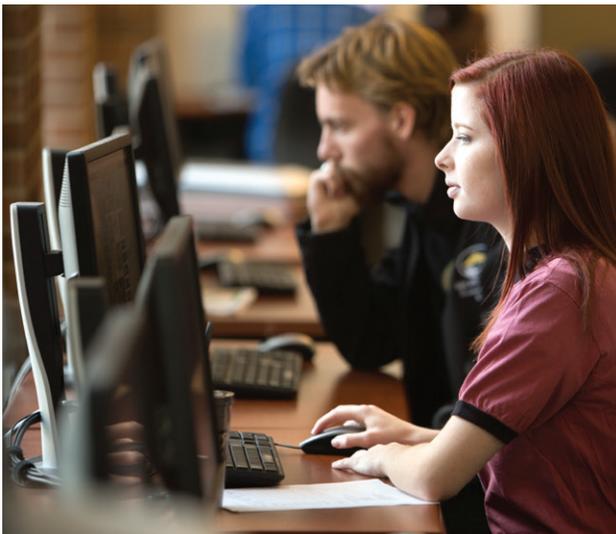
At OU, Dr. Scott is graduate coordinator of the School of Education and Human Services' (SEHS) Master of Training and Development Program in the Department of Organizational Leadership and the diversity and inclusion specialist for the SEHS Office of the Dean.

OU Debuts 4+1 BS to MPA Program

Students in Oakland University's Public Administration program now have the opportunity to graduate with a bachelor's and master's degree in five years. The 4+1 B.S. to MPA program allows students to earn a Master of Public Administration degree in one calendar year, after completing a bachelor's degree in Public Administration. In this accelerated program, students take 12 graduate level credits at undergraduate tuition rates.

"Students in this program save 12 credits of graduate tuition, and earn an MPA degree in one year instead of two," MPA Program Coordinator Suzanne Rossi said. "That gives them an opportunity to put their education to work sooner, at a significant cost savings."

The program consists of 42 credits for the bachelor's degree (plus general education courses) and 40 credits for the master's degree. To be eligible to apply, students must have a minimum 3.2 overall GPA after completing required undergraduate public administration courses. ➤



Dani Cojocari / The Oakland Post

Laverne Cox conveys justice, equality message

LGBT advocate and transgender actress Laverne Cox opened the OU Student Life Lecture Board Series with her talk, "Ain't I a Woman: My Journey to Womanhood" on October 8 at the O'rena. OU's Gender and Sexuality Center was co-sponsor.

Best-known for her role as Sophia Burset on the Netflix series *Orange Is the New Black*, Cox also produces documentaries on transgender issues. Her work, combined with a message of moving beyond gender expectations to live more authentically, landed Cox on the cover of *TIME* Magazine, where she was also named one of *TIME*'s 100 Most Influential People of 2015. *Glamour* magazine named her one of its 2014 Women of the Year. ➤

Corp! names Center for Multicultural Initiatives one of 12 'Diversity Champions'

Corp! magazine recognized OU's Center for Multicultural Initiatives as one of 12 Michigan "Diversity Champions" at its Salute to Diversity Award winners' conference in Detroit in September. The Diversity Champions are nonprofit or community organizations that create or promote special programming, education or other initiatives that focus on diversity.

"The *Corp!* magazine award as a Diversity Champion is an honor for our entire team," Program Director Omar Brown-El said. "The Center for Multicultural Initiatives was established more than 20 years ago to advance Oakland University's commitment to diversity. We remain committed to that vision today by developing strategies and programs that engage all students to attain academic excellence and social success." ➤



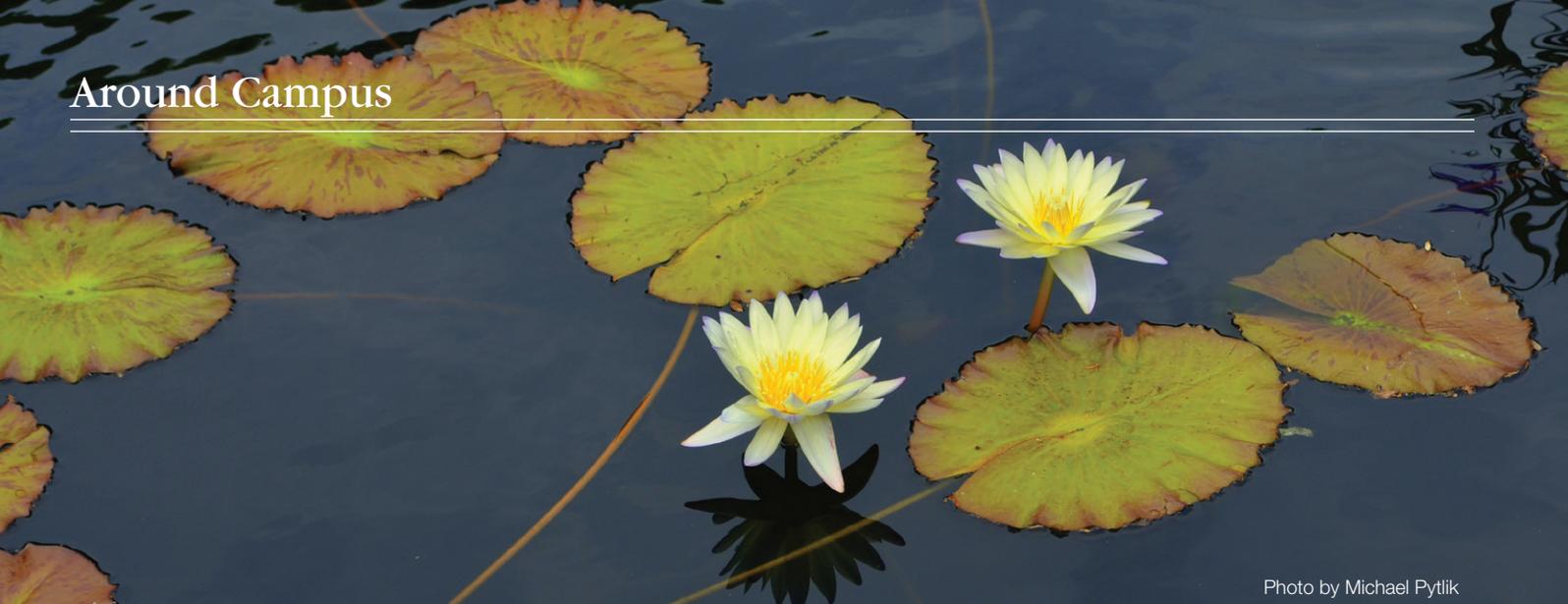


Photo by Michael Pytlík

OU establishes Center for Religious Understanding

Oakland University has created the Center for Religious Understanding (CRU) to increase awareness and understanding of various faith traditions. CRU will provide academic, research and partnership opportunities for individuals and organizations across Oakland's campus and to the general public.

Director Alan Epstein, Ph.D., special instructor of Political Science, said the Center provides a forum for people of diverse backgrounds to discuss issues with civility.

"Engaging the campus and surrounding community to talk about controversial matters, but in a very non-threatening atmosphere, to reach some common understandings, is an important component of our institutional purpose," he said. "We don't see this being done systematically on other campuses in our area."

The Center's mission focuses on:

- Collecting and organizing resources for the interdisciplinary exploration of religion in society at Oakland University;
- Investigating religious identity and its role in society through inquiry in the humanities, social and natural sciences, and engagement with the creative and performing arts;
- Facilitating dialogue around religion and public issues by establishing associations between CRU and its fellow academic units at Oakland, area collaborators and individual religious communities;
- Expanding religious literacy on the Oakland University campus and in the wider community.



The Center will complement academic courses, seminars, student projects, internships and study abroad opportunities. The University currently offers an independent major and general concentration in Religious Studies, as well as minors in Judaic Studies, Islamic Studies and Christianity Studies.

"It would be a real shortcoming of any university to allow students to graduate without some understanding of religious topics or traditions," Dr. Michael Pytlík, director of OU's Judaic Studies program, said. "In order to be a good citizen ... students need to know some of these things. Religious literacy is an important part of it. I think that will be one function of the center."

For more information, contact Dr. Epstein at (248) 370-2358 or visit www.oakland.edu/religiousstudies/center-for-religious-understanding/

Online or print? *You decide.*

If you would rather read OU Magazine online, please go to oakland.edu/oumag for more information. ➤

OU HONORS HIGH-ACHIEVING ALUMNI DURING 21ST ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDS BANQUET

On September 18, the Oakland University Alumni Association honored alumni who have earned success in business, community service, volunteer leadership and other areas. The celebration included special recognition of previous alumni award recipients.



Distinguished Alumni Service Award

The Distinguished Alumni Service Award is Oakland's highest alumni honor. It recognizes peerless volunteer leadership in service to OU or its alumni association.

TONY MOSCONE, SBA '89

Owner, General Manager, Total Sports Complex
Owner, Cattails Golf Club



Tony Moscone

Tony Moscone has always remembered OU and remains involved on and off campus. In 2013, Moscone incorporated his main business, Total Sports Complex, into a unique public-private entity partnership on campus with the 108,000-square-foot Oakland Dome that opened in January. With its substantial practice space, the Dome keeps student athletes on campus, introduces young student athletes to Oakland and is host to external events.

In 2012, Moscone gathered a team of alumni to develop the Smiles for Children annual golf tournament that has resulted in more than \$30,000 in donations for the OU Center for Autism Research Education and Support (OUCARES).

Moscone began his career in facilities management by assisting with developing, opening and managing Cattails Golf Course in South Lyon, Michigan. He was named Total Sports general manager in 2006 and expanded its business footprint to Novi, Farmington, Rochester, Saline, Ypsilanti, Monroe and northern Ohio.

Taught early by his Italian immigrant parents Emidio and Benedetta the importance of education, family and friends, Moscone was further mentored by older brothers Mario and Frank to believe that with a focus on work, respect and integrity, anyone can be successful. In 2015, Moscone and his wife, Janine, SBA '96, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. They are the parents of Nicolas, Julianna, Alessandra and Giovanni.

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award recognizes outstanding professional achievement or contribution to the community.

ROBERT GIBBS, CAS '77

President, Gibbs Planning Group
Birmingham, Michigan



Robert Gibbs

Robert Gibbs has developed innovative methods that apply traditional urban planning principles to more than 500 new town centers, cities and universities across the Americas and Pacific Rim. He is also a founder and recognized leader in the Congress for the New Urbanism, having pioneered the implementation of its sustainable principles of Traditional Town Planning as an antidote to suburban sprawl.

His expertise has been sought for more than two decades by some of the country's most respected mayors, renowned architects and successful real-estate developers. Planetizen recently voted him one of the Top 100 Urban Thinkers. In 2012, the Clinton Presidential Library honored Gibbs for his life contributions to urban planning and development, and the City of Auckland, New Zealand, honored him for his planning innovation.

He is president of Gibbs Planning Group, which he founded in 1988 to serve clients that include General Motors, Florida Hospital, The Walt Disney Company, Taubman Centers and others.

Gibbs teaches urban retail planning at the Harvard Graduate School of Design Executive Education program and is the author of *Principles of Urban Retail Planning*. He lectures frequently throughout the country and has contributed to numerous books and publications.

Gibbs holds a master's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Michigan and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and the American Society of Landscape Architects. He is married to Elizabeth, a doctoral student at OU. The couple, who have two adult sons, met while Bob was living in the OU residence halls as an undergraduate.

Odyssey Award

The Odyssey Award honors alumni whose lives exemplify Oakland University's motto to "seek virtue and knowledge."

STEVEN D. TOWNSEND, PH.D., CAS '05

Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry Vanderbilt University

Dr. Townsend has had an ovarian cancer vaccine candidate evaluated in a clinical trial, and he has developed novel ways to synthesize and study pro- and antibiotic molecules found in breast milk.

His undergraduate research was on oxidative damage to nucleic acids by synthesizing molecules capable of generating free radicals in close proximity to DNA and RNA. In 2005, Dr. Townsend completed a Ph.D. in organic chemistry under the mentorship of Gary Sulikowski as a UNCF/Merck Predoctoral Fellow at Vanderbilt University. He focused his thesis on the synthesis of the drug-like molecules.



Steven D. Townsend



Frankie Townsend accepted the award

Working in Dr. Sam Danishefsky's laboratories as National Cancer Institute Postdoctoral Fellow in Cancer Pharmacology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Columbia University, Dr. Townsend synthesized the

hormone erythropoietin and an ovarian cancer vaccine candidate that was evaluated in a Phase 1 clinical trial.

In 2014, he returned to Vanderbilt University as an assistant professor of chemistry, researching the glycobiology of human milk. When his wife, LaToya,

CAS '06, became pregnant, Dr. Townsend became fascinated with the nutritional makeup of breast milk. He began to develop novel ways to synthesize HMOs and explore their pro- and antibiotic properties.

Ultimately, his goal is to develop a new kind of infant formula that contains multiple HMOs that duplicate some of human milk's nutritional and protective qualities.

The Townsends are today the proud parents of Allyson, who just turned two.

Spirit Award

The Spirit Award recognizes exemplary volunteer service to the University.



Garry J. Gilbert and Holly Shreve Gilbert

GARRY J. GILBERT, CAS '95, '02

Journalism program director Oakland University

HOLLY SHREVE GILBERT, CAS '05

Instructor and chief program adviser for Journalism Oakland University

With a combined 41 years of service, Garry and Holly Gilbert have made a tremendous impact on Oakland's Journalism program and serve as mentors for current students and young professionals. In 2014, the couple established the Gilbert Endowment for Safeguarding the Public Interest — a scholarship that will be available to any student in OU's College of Arts and Sciences.

A student of the history of American journalism, Garry has worked as a reporter, editor and executive director in print and online journalism for 30 years. In 2006, he accepted an invitation to

join the faculty at Michigan State University as a visiting editor and lecturer before returning to OU in 2007 in his current role as director of Journalism.

Garry has earned multiple journalism honors, including a Media Orthopaedic Reporting Excellence Award from the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and a first-place award from the Detroit chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists for a health-science article about a phenomenon called post-traumatic growth. A longtime supporter of OU, Garry established *The Oakland Press* Endowed Scholarship for Journalism Excellence in 1999.

Holly Shreve Gilbert, is also a freelance writer and graphic designer who includes storytelling for new media and media design among her areas of expertise. She is also a champion of the dying art of obituary writing. In 1999, Holly co-authored the mass-market book, *What You Need to Know about Ritalin*. She has twice been a fellow at The Poynter Institute for Media Studies. Her Bachelor of Arts degree is in mass communication from Western Illinois University and her Master of Arts degree is in Liberal Studies from OU.

Holly has taught at OU since 1994. She is chief academic adviser for the journalism program and serves as professional adviser to *The Oakland Post*, the independent campus newspaper. She cheerleads for student media at every opportunity.

Outstanding Young Alumni Award

The Outstanding Young Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated the worth of their education through their post-college achievements and, generally, have graduated within the last 10 years.

KELLY KOZLOWSKI, CAS '08

Chief Operating Officer Downtown Detroit Partnership

With years of experience as a journalist for multiple online and print publications, Kozlowski transitioned her skills into economic development in

2008. She served as collaborative manager at the OU INCubator and went on to work for Automation Alley, first as a business accelerator



Kelly Kozlowski

client coordinator and then as a communications officer, public affairs director and, finally, senior director. As chief operating officer at the Downtown Detroit Partnership, Kozlowski is responsible for internal operations and strategic initiatives at one of Detroit's most influential organizations.

Before transitioning to economic development, Kozlowski worked for the *Detroit Free Press*, covering a wide range of topics as a Web reporter. As a professional writer, she also contributed to *The New Cool* — a nonfiction book by Neal Bascomb detailing the world of FIRST robotics.

Kozlowski is president of the Oakland University Sail Board, which oversees OU's student newspaper operations. She also volunteers as journalism and public relations mentor to one of Michigan's largest FIRST robotics teams (Team #217), teaching journalism, publishing, marketing and presentation skills to high school students.

Early in her career, Kozlowski joined the OU Journalism Program as a part-time instructor teaching undergraduate newswriting. She was awarded the Adams Entrepreneurial Fellowship in 2009 and was named one of L. Brooks Patterson's *40 Under 40* in 2013.

With a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism, Kozlowski is studying toward a master's degree in Public Administration at OU. When not at the office or molding the next generation of journalists and PR professionals, she enjoys reading the newspaper (yes, the paper newspaper) at her neighborhood pancake joint.

Alumni Community Service Award

The Alumni Community Service Award recognizes distinctive service of a humanitarian nature or citizenship through community, public, or OU service activities.

THOMAS A. TANGHE, CAS '90, '88

City Manager
Auburn Hills, Michigan



Thomas A. Tanghe

Tom Tanghe's commitment to his alma mater is evident in the many hours he spends volunteering for and supporting events on campus.

"Tom's support for Oakland University is deep and generous," Associate Provost Michelle Piskulich said. "He is a regular volunteer at new student welcome receptions and commencement ceremonies. He attends Convocation, building openings and brings members of City Council to campus to show off his alma mater. Tom is an ambassador in the College of Arts and Sciences and consistently places OU students in internship positions in the City of Auburn Hills."

As assistant city manager of Auburn Hills, Tanghe visualized increasing economic development by creating a student-centered downtown. He and his team worked with OU and other local colleges to develop plans for a classroom building, a student study-gathering space and housing.

His 25 years of local government experience include former assistant city administrator of Lathrup Village, Michigan, and former executive director of the City of Southfield, Michigan, Downtown Development Authority.

His Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Master of Public Administration degree, and post-graduate coursework in local government management and human resources are all from OU.

He is a graduate of Leadership Oakland and The Grantsmanship Center in California, completed the Michigan Economic Developers Association economic development curriculum and attended the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia. In 2011, the Michigan Local Government Management Association presented Tanghe with the Excellence in Local Government Management award.

Tanghe and his wife, Leslie, who is on the staff of the Kemp Klein Law Firm in Troy, Michigan, have two sons, Joshua, 19, a sophomore at Oakland University, and Jack, 12.

Honorary Alumni Award

The Honorary Alumni Awards are given to individuals who have not graduated from OU, but who have given outstanding service to the University.



Jan and Don O'Dowd

DON AND JAN O'DOWD

President Emeritus and
Former First Lady
Oakland University

The two Fulbright scholars met in 1951 on a ship sailing from the U.S. to Great Britain. Janet L. Fithian was traveling to her post at Leeds University in England, and Donald D. O'Dowd was to study at Edinburgh University in Scotland. Two years after meeting, they married and established the foundation for a combined career destined to affect higher education across the nation.

Early in their careers, Jan worked for a psychological testing service while Don completed his Ph.D. In 1955, Don took a job teaching psychology at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, and the

O'Dowds promoted Jan to manager of the "O'Dowds' enterprise."

As Don was tapped to become Wesleyan's acting dean of freshmen, Jan's activities expanded to include administering to three O'Dowd children: Daniel, Diane and James.

The family moved in 1960 to Rochester, Michigan, where Don began what was to be a 20-year commitment to the newly established MSU-Oakland. He founded the Psychology Department and, in 1961, was appointed dean. In 1966, his title changed to provost and, in 1969, it changed again to vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and provost. He also served as dean of graduate study and professor of Psychology.

On the departure of founding Chancellor D. B. Varner in 1970, Don became acting chancellor of Oakland University. Soon after, he was appointed the first president of the independent Oakland University by its charter Board of Trustees, a role he held through 1979 when he was designated president emeritus. During this time, the O'Dowds welcomed their fourth child, John, and Jan's duties grew further to include serving as a conscientious and gracious First Lady.

"We are certainly deeply grateful for ... all of [Don and Jan's] many efforts to create a University that has allowed us to evolve as we have," said Betty Youngblood, CAS '65, OU vice president for Organizational Development and Strategic Planning.

Don was named executive vice chancellor of the State University of New York system in 1980. In 1984, he was appointed president of the University of Alaska Statewide System of Higher Education, where he remained until he retired in 1990.

Jan and Don live in Santa Barbara, California, where they are involved with a number of local nonprofit organizations. Both are active in teaching courses for a vital "Learning in Retirement" organization. In addition to their four children, the O'Dowds have five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Honorary Alumni Award

MARY BETH SNYDER

Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (retired)
Oakland University

Although she has three alma maters, Mary Beth is forever grateful to OU for the career satisfaction and personal friendships that this community afforded her.



After serving in a variety of student affairs roles at the University of California, The Ohio State University and Iowa State University, Snyder spent the entire second half of her career at OU leading its Student Affairs and Enrollment divisions.

Much of her work centered on building a better campus environment for students and creating programs aimed at improving their overall success in life. She was part of the team that expanded student housing and the student center, brought OU students their first on-campus banking, grew enrollment while raising the academic profile of incoming classes, gave students better indoor and outdoor recreation space, opened the freshman advising center and improved food options across campus. Snyder

also had a hand in developing a comprehensive scholarship program, bringing students their first picture identification card, the Bear Bus, a disc golf course and the infamous "Bike Share" program.

"Her passion, accessibility and engagement of everyone in the campus community will forever make her a legend in the history of the University," said Glenn McIntosh, Oakland University vice president for Student Affairs.

Snyder has always kept a foot in the academic side of student life with her occasional teaching and advising activities at Iowa State and in Oakland's Educational Leadership program. In early 2000, she was asked to be a member of a select team of researchers involved in a national study that documented high impact educational practices at a variety of colleges and universities and was cited in the 2005 book, *Student Success in College*, by George Kuh, et al.

Her 2013 retirement coincided with a generous contribution by OU friends and donors R. Hugh and Nancy Elliott, which made possible her dream of a carillon tower located in the center of campus.

Snyder has since kept her calendar free of meetings except for helping Meadow Brook Hall with its Dodge Brothers history project and building a house in downtown Rochester. Her son continues to pursue his Ph.D. in California, which gives her a reason for frequent visits to San Francisco, her favorite U.S. city. 🐾

oualumni.com/OUAAwards



Kiera Woodward and her aunt, Amy (Shekal) Cowie



Madison Ekstrom and her mother, Michelle Culton-Ekstrom

OUAA ANNOUNCES 2015 LEGACY SCHOLARS

Six incoming freshmen and two transfer students represent the 2015 cohort of Legacy Scholars. In addition to academic merit, eligibility for the Legacy Award and Legacy Transfer Award is based on Legacy status. An applicant must be the child, grandchild, sibling, niece or nephew of an OU alum. These awards are not automatic; recipients are selected from the applicant pool by an alumni committee.

Each Legacy Award recipient receives a \$12,000 scholarship (\$3,000 per year for up to four years), and each Legacy Transfer Award recipient receives a \$6,000 scholarship (\$3,000 per year for up to two years).

Congratulations to the 2015 Legacy Scholars and their Legacy relatives:

Madison Ekstrom, North Branch, Michigan. Madison's mother is Michelle Culton-Ekstrom, who graduated in 1989 from the School of Education and Human Services.

Emily Jozefowicz, Shelby Township, Michigan. Paul Jozefowicz, Emily's uncle, is a dual graduate (1992 and 1997) of the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Milan Puscas, Troy, Michigan. Milan's mother, Kathleen Wisner, graduated in 2000 from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Avery Ragatzki, Novi, Michigan. Avery is the daughter of Paul Ragatzki, a 1982 alumnus of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Alyssa Ruggirello, Macomb Township, Michigan. Joseph Ruggirello, Alyssa's father, received his Bachelor of General Studies degree in 1992.

Kiera Woodward, Clarkston, Michigan. Kiera is the niece of Amy (Shekal) Cowie, a 1993 alumna of the College of Arts and Sciences.

2015 Legacy Transfer Award recipients

Brice Eidson, Madison Heights, Michigan. Brice is the daughter of Melissa Ambrose-Eidson, a 1989 graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Lucia Seprino, West Bloomfield, Michigan. Cheryl (Lewis) Seprino, Lucia's mother, graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1980.

Legacy Scholarship applications available

Do you know a Legacy student who plans to attend OU next fall? Legacy students are defined as individuals whose parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle graduated from Oakland University.

The OUAA offers a \$12,000 renewable Legacy Award (\$3,000 per year for up to four consecutive years) for which your Legacy student may qualify. Applications and eligibility criteria are online at oualumni.com/ouaascholarships.

Eligible students must apply for the award by Monday, January 4, 2016. This award is not automatic — all completed applications will be forwarded for review and selection by an alumni and student committee.

For more information, contact Erin Sudrovech, associate director for Alumni Relations, at (248) 364-6136 or sudrovec@oakland.edu.

For more information on Legacy Family initiatives, as well as the opportunity to complete our Legacy Family Identifier form, visit oualumni.com/legacy. ➤



Alumni Basketball Gatherings

Golden Grizzlies men's basketball is just around the corner! In addition to an exciting contest against Michigan State University at the Palace of Auburn Hills on December 22, mark your calendar to join fellow alumni and friends on campus during these special events this season.

- **SBA Alumni Night** – Friday, January 8, vs. Valparaiso
- **Legacy Family, Alumni Admissions Ambassadors Day and SON Alumni Day** – Sunday, January 10, vs. University of Illinois Chicago
- **CAS Alumni Night** – Tuesday, January 19, vs. Northern Kentucky
- **SECS Alumni Night** – Thursday, February 11, vs. University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
- **SEHS Alumni Day** – Saturday, February 13, vs. University of Wisconsin Green Bay



Can't get back to campus because you live out of the area? No problem! We're also planning regional alumni gatherings at the following locations:

- **Athens, Georgia** – Tuesday, December 1, at the University of Georgia
- **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania** – Saturday, December 5, at Robert Morris University
- **Toledo, Ohio** – Saturday, December 12, at the University of Toledo
- **Ferndale/Detroit, Michigan** – Saturday, January 16, at the University of Detroit-Mercy
- **Chicago, Illinois** – Sunday, February 21, at the University of Illinois Chicago

More details on all of these events will be provided via email. Make sure we have your updated information by visiting oakland.edu/ualumni.com and selecting "Keep in Touch." ➤



2016 Winter College

February 4 - 6, 2016: Bonita Springs, Florida

YOU'RE INVITED.

Relax your body and rejuvenate your mind in sunny Florida at OU's 2016 Winter College.

Join President George W. Hynd and connect with friends, alumni and faculty in a casual atmosphere at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa.

Visit oakland.edu/wintercollege for more information, including hotel reservation instructions and program updates. ➤



Experience Cuba firsthand with Grizzly Getaway Travel

Pack your suitcase and your love for learning when you travel with Oakland University Grizzly Getaway Alumni Travel to Cuba, February 25 – March 4, 2016.

Experience Cuba firsthand on a once-in-a-lifetime journey designed to highlight the country's unique artistic heritage. A cosmopolitan melting pot blending Spanish, African, Caribbean and North American influences, Cuba is home to some of the world's greatest painters and features a vibrant art scene. Throughout this enriching program, travelers will delve into the country's compelling history and artistic evolution while touring renowned museums and galleries. Limited space available.

This exclusive opportunity is provided by Go Next, Inc., a qualified people-to-people sponsoring organization permitted to conduct educational exchanges in Cuba.

UPCOMING TRIPS

- **Machu Picchu:** March 14 – 19, 2016
- **Paris, City of Lights:** March 16 – 22, 2016
- **Palms in Paradise:** April 24 – May 10, 2016
- **Portraits of the Past: Rome to Barcelona:** May 9 – 20, 2016
- **The Danube River Cruise:** May 25 – June 3, 2016
- **Ireland:** May 29 – June 8, 2016
- **Discover Southeast Alaska:** July 22 – 29, 2016
- **Pacific Northwest & California:** August 2016
- **Spotlight on London:** September 8 – 14, 2016
- **Oktoberfest: Vienna & Bavaria:** September 9 – 18, 2016
- **Flavors of Northern Italy:** September 17 – 25, 2016
- **Spain: Barcelona & San Sebastian:** October 20 – 29, 2016
- **Tropical Costa Rica:** November 5, 2016
- **Tanzania Safari:** March 9 – 19, 2017

For more information about upcoming trips, please contact Amanda Fylan, assistant director for Alumni Relations, at (248) 364-6128 or fylan@oakland.edu. 



Catherine M. DeLanoy

1970s

Catherine M. (Proctor) DeLanoy, CAS '75, has 24 published choral octavos, including the bestseller *Shalom Chaverim*,

and two resource books, *Warming Up with Rounds* and *8 Steps to Harmonization*. Before retiring in 2012, DeLanoy taught general music and directed four choirs at Westmont Junior High School, in Westmont, Illinois. Her choirs consistently earned top scores and honors throughout the state. DeLanoy sings professionally as a member and soloist with the critically acclaimed Chicago Choral Artists and can be heard on many of their concert CDs. Whenever possible, she works as an instructor, conductor, clinician and adjudicator.



Joseph A. Gardella Jr., CAS '77, received his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh and completed postdoctoral research in physical chemistry at the University of Utah. He subsequently joined the faculty at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he is a distinguished professor and the John and Frances Larkin Professor of Chemistry. He also directs the Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Partnership. In August 2014, Dr. Gardella received the J. Calvin Giddings Education Award from the American Chemical Society's Division of Analytical Chemistry.

William J. Riley, CAS '73, teaches criminal behavior profiling at customer sites that include Oakland County Emergency Management, the Community House, and the City of Birmingham, Michigan. He wrote *Predators 101*, the text used during these classes that was released this spring as a revision to 2014's *Crime Score*. Riley also wrote *DD-832 Vietnam* and *Tin Can Navy in Vietnam*, released in July for the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Gary L. Villereal, Ph.D., CAS '77, '75, an associate professor in the Western Kentucky University department of social work, retired on June 30.



Kristin Meehof and James Windell

James O. Windell, CAS '72, is the author of *A Widow's Guide to Healing*, published on November 3, 2015. The book is endorsed by Dr. Deepak Chopra, Maria Shriver and others of note.

1980s

Melinda Conway Callahan, CAS '85, was appointed chief development officer of Focus: HOPE, a nationally

recognized civil and human rights organization in Detroit founded in 1968 after the Detroit riots. Callahan is responsible for increasing philanthropic giving, managing talent and providing strategic assistance to maintain Focus: HOPE's financial stability. She will also oversee communications, government affairs and public policy for the organization. Callahan is a former adjunct faculty member at Wayne State University. She is a graduate of



Melinda Conway Callahan

Leadership Oakland, Leadership Detroit and Inforum's Executive Leadership program. Callahan sits on numerous national, state and local boards, and she is active in many community and professional organizations.



Beth Gotthelf

Beth Gotthelf, CAS '80, attorney, shareholder and director of innovation and external relations with Butzel Long, co-chaired the Gleaners Women's Power Breakfast in April

at Gleaners' headquarters in Detroit. Gotthelf chairs Butzel's aerospace and defense industry team and co-chairs the energy and sustainability practice team. She is an executive-in-residence with the Macomb-OU INCubator, serves on the board of directors of the Better Business Bureau and is vice president of the executive council of the Michigan Israel Business Bridge. Gotthelf chairs the City of Birmingham Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

Gary H. Graca, J.D., SBA '84, '81, joined the commercial finance and real estate groups of Snell & Wilmer in Denver, Colorado. Graca focuses his practice in commercial finance, corporate and securities. Prior to joining Snell & Wilmer, Graca concentrated his law practice in corporate transactions, real estate, finance and labor relations. He has been practicing for over two decades and has served as general counsel and has also been a corporate executive in private industry. He earned his *juris doctor* from Wayne State University.



Tom Mittelbrun

Tom Mittelbrun, SBA '88, was appointed executive vice president of the National Electrical Contractors Association Southeastern Michigan Chapter. He has been benefits

director of the Electrical Workers Joint Board of Trustees since 1999. The trustees oversee benefits management for the signatory electrical contractors represented by the association and the

members, retirees and families of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 58 and Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder recently appointed Mittelbrun to the Certificate of Need Commission for the State of Michigan. The 11-member commission regulates and balances cost, quality and access to Michigan's health care system.

Johnna Struck, SBA '85, is owner and president of Changing Places Moving. Since Struck took over running the small Waterford, Michigan moving company that she started with her ex-husband, it has grown from three trucks and fewer than 10 employees to nine trucks and 35 employees, including two women. In addition, Struck works with Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit charity, leading other women in efforts to build homes for women.

1990s

Edward P. Church, SBA '96, was promoted to vice president and treasurer of International Automotive Components (IAC). Church oversees and manages IAC's global liquidity and banking relationships and reports to Chief Financial Officer, Dennis Richardville.

David K. Flowers, SEHS '97, is pastor of Wildwind Community Church, which he founded in 2002 in Flint Township, Michigan. Flowers is a licensed professional counselor and runs a small private counseling practice. He is also an adjunct instructor and program supervisor in Spring Arbor University's master of arts in counseling program. He and his wife, **Christy (Weidman) Flowers, SEHS '08**, are high school sweethearts and have been married since 1988. They have three daughters, born in 1993, 1995 and 1996.



Joseph D. Jones

Joseph D. Jones, CAS '94, is the president/CEO of the Grand Rapids Urban League. He leads the development and implementation of an agenda that promotes

economic empowerment as a means of elevating the standard of living in the underserved urban communities of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Previously, Jones served as president/CEO of E.E. Milestone & Associates, Inc. His professional experience includes over 10 years of service in Detroit in the nonprofit sector. Jones was recently named Father of the Year in West Michigan by the American Diabetes Association of Greater Michigan. Jones and his wife, Jessie, are the parents of four children and grandparents of three grandsons.



Christopher W. Rumbold, CAS '97, attorney and mediator, opened the Law Office of Christopher W. Rumbold, where he focuses on traditional and same-sex marital and family law. Before opening his own firm, Rumbold was a partner at Gladstone & Weissman, P.A., a senior associate at Heller & Chames, P.A., and an assistant public defender in Palm Beach, Florida. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2002. Rumbold is also a frequent author and lecturer.

Sharon Valenti, SON '97, '93, has pursued a nursing career for more than 25 years, and she is now transitioning into her second career as a writer. Valenti's novel, *Deliver Us from Honor*, published through Koehler Publishing, Inc., was released in September.



2000s

Mary Ellen Bertling-Safford, SEHS '00, '95, has a full-time practice in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as an owner at Claystone Clinical Associates and is



Mary Ellen Bertling-Safford

a recognized expert in the field of EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) therapy. She is an active member of the EMDR International Association and the EMDR Institute, having been credentialed as a Certified EMDR Therapist and Approved EMDR Consultant. She has played a significant role in promoting EMDR therapy in West Michigan and recently started the West Michigan EMDR Study Group.

Oneil Franso, SEHS '08, joined Impact Management Services, a Southfield, Michigan-based staff management solutions provider. Franso is the director of human resources and has been in charge of hiring recruiters and sales professionals for the company's expanding metro Detroit and Chicago teams. Prior to joining Impact, Franso served as director of human resources at Common Ground.

Curtis A. Glatter, CAS '00, released a new CD, *Detroit 2020*, on Bandcamp.com with his band, Found Object Orchestra Internationale. Glatter was recently admitted to Eastern Michigan University as a graduate student in the TESOL program. He performed in October with the Night Fire Dance Ensemble at the Yellow Barn in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Michael J. Lerchenfeldt, SEHS '08, presented at the Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning Conference in Detroit. He represented Oakland University as a Teacher Leader in the Technology Summit at Stanford University. Lerchenfeldt was also selected for the 2015-16 Michigan Educator Voice Fellowship.

Elaine Leven, CAS '09, SBA '04, was hired as city manager of Marine City, Michigan. She had been planning and zoning coordinator for Oakland Township for 10 years and administrative assistant for Peter Basso Associates for five years.

PLAN YOUR NEXT EVENT AT *The Oakland Center*

If you're looking for the perfect location for your next business party, corporate conference, wedding reception, holiday party or any special event, look no further than Oakland University's Oakland Center.

The Oakland Center boasts 18 different meeting rooms of various sizes, including banquet rooms and the cozy Fireside Lounge. We offer a total of 7,000 square feet of flexible meeting space and can accommodate groups as large as 600 or as small as 16. Full catering is available on-site for your convenience.

For more information, call us at (248) 370-3245 or visit our website at oakland.edu/oc.



2010s

Aaron W. Burns, MBA '11, BIS '09, an Honors College graduate, was a producer of the independent film *Beyond the Mask*. This Christian-based action movie is a Revolutionary War-era story filmed entirely in Michigan. It had a budget of \$4 million, half in cash, half in donations and gifts, and a production involving 400 volunteers. It was released in more than 100 theaters nationwide in June, with a planned fall arrival on video on demand.

Jennifer Gebbie, SEHS '11, became the director of the Center for Advanced Studies and the Arts (CASA), a seven-school consortium high school program where high school students from Berkley, Clawson, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Lamphere, Madison Heights and Oak Park, Michigan, districts attend classes in the afternoon. Previously, Gebbie was curriculum coordinator for Birmingham (Michigan) Schools, where she created district initiatives related to social studies and the arts, created and delivered professional development and partnered with organizations such as the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Mike Gluhanich, SBA '10, joined Huron Consulting Group's Business Advisory practice as a director. He assists clients with operational improvement, interim management, restructuring and turnaround and transaction advisory. Gluhanich has more than 15 years of operations and general management experience driving performance improvement and value creation in manufacturing, inventory and supply chain management, engineering and product development, logistics and safety and environmental compliance. His areas of focus include lean implementation, operational analytics, mergers and acquisitions, new product launches and plant start-ups, wind-downs and consolidations.

Mike Hill, SEHS '12, CAS '08, joined the Student Life Division human resources department as talent manager. He sets division strategy for acquiring, developing and retaining talent, all through a lens of diversity and inclusion. Hill also implements process improvements for diversity hiring and the company's performance appraisal system.



Charlie Lapastora, CAS '14, was involved with multiple organizations and jobs while on campus. He got a job on a farm right after school, as he had always enjoyed trying new things. In the midst of the farming job, he was applying to news stations and got the call to be interviewed for a reporter position at WPBN out of Traverse City. He started his job as bureau reporter/multimedia journalist just over a year ago and is grateful to be in this position.

Tameka McDaniel, SON '09, is continuing her education to receive a doctor of nursing practice degree from Chamberlain College of Nursing.

Elizabeth Pionk, D.O., CAS '10, received the Family Medicine Resident of the Year award from the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians. The award is given to a resident who exhibits exemplary patient care, demonstrates leadership among colleagues and commitment to the community at-large, contributes to scholarly activity and shows dedication to the specialty of family medicine through involvement in the academy and service to his or her residency and other family medicine organizations. Dr. Pionk received her Doctor in Osteopathic Medicine from Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine at the University of Pikeville. She completed her first year of residency at McLaren Bay Region in Bay City.

WEDDINGS

Bret Ceriotti, SEHS '07, and Breanne (Fiebelkorn) Ceriotti, SEHS '07, were married on May 15, 2015.



Jacob DeSano, SEHS '13, and Christie Firestine, CAS '12, met at Oakland University, where Jacob played on the D1 Ice Hockey team. Christie went to one of his games at the Onyx Ice Arena, and the rest is history. They dated for five years, and both graduated from Oakland University. They were married on September 19, 2015.

Alumni,
we want
to hear
from you!

Send us the latest information about you and your accomplishments for future publication in **Class Notes**. You may also include a photo, either print or high resolution (300 dpi) digital file.

To submit new information, go to oualumni.com and click on "Update Your Record."

You can also mail your update to: Oakland University Alumni Engagement, John Dodge House, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester, MI 48309-4497. 🐿



Jocelyn (Baldwin) Levin, CAS '04, and Bradley Levin, SECS '05, '03, were married on January 25, 2015, in White Lake, Michigan. Jocelyn and Brad met at OU in the Golden Key International Honor Society in 2002. Jocelyn served as co-president, and Bradley held numerous positions on the executive board. Jocelyn works as a youth services librarian at the Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham, and Bradley is a quality assurance manager in Troy. They reside in West Bloomfield.

Andrea (Sossi) Miller, SEHS '08, '04, married Ryan Miller on May 3, 2015, at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Canton, Michigan. The couple lives in south Florida.

BIRTHS

Matthew T. Monette, CAS '11, and Amanda M. (Hukkala) Monette, SECS '12, announce with love the birth of their son, Greyson Matthew Monette, on July 4, 2015, at 2:50 p.m., 9 lbs. 13 oz. and 22.25 inches.

James Shaw, CAS '00, and Aida Shaw announce the birth of their son, Dean Allan Shaw, on April 29.



Get connected with OUAA social media

Be social and stay in the loop. Keep in touch with fellow classmates and your alma mater through these online social networks:

LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

- Matilda Mondays
- Transformation Tuesdays: See how campus has changed.
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- Throwback Thursdays: Stroll down memory lane.
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- Share career tips and explore employment options.
- Discover inside connections and past and present colleagues.
- Connect with Oakland alumni, faculty, staff and students.

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- Find the latest campus news.
- Stay connected with upcoming events.

Visit oualumni.com/social to find OUAA and OU on social media. ➤

DEATHS

1960s

Nicholas Bodoïn, CAS '69, on June 30, 2015

Carmen Freeman, CAS '69, on August 6, 2014

1970s

Anthony J. Altermatt, BS and MS SECS '79, on April 16, 2015

Marjorie J. Baker, SON '77, on June 28, 2014

Barbara Benson, SEHS '76, '72, on June 4, 2015

Emily S. Bowen, SEHS '77, on November 16, 2014

Larry Cheek, SBA '72, on June 12, 2015

Edward R. Dragan, CAS '70, on May 12, 2015

Marlin L. Hendricks, CAS '73, on February 13, 2015

Wanda R. (Gland) Hodge, CAS '75, on April 3, 2015

Oscar Jaramillo, SBA '76, on June 9, 2015

John Joannides, SEHS '75, on May 16, 2015

Larry Kanarek, SBA '77, on July 1, 2015

Lawrence Kimbrough, SBA '73, on February 6, 2015

Philomena A. (Rossi) Mahoney, SEHS '73, on August 1, 2015

Anna-Lisa Nyquist, SEHS '78, on July 18, 2015

Geraldine (Wolfe) Pridmore, SEHS '74, on June 28, 2014

Richard Reppenhagen, SEHS '77, on June 5, 2015

Muriel E. Smith, CAS '71, on March 22, 2015

Carole A. Trombly, CAS '76, on May 4, 2015

1980s

Robert L. Becker, SBA '80, on July 27, 2014

Norman L. Beerbohm, CAS '81, on May 16, 2015

Eileen Binder, CAS '89, on May 21, 2015

Fred E. Bowen, SEHS '80, on February 24, 2015



DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER

A PERFECT MIX OF HISTORIC AND HIP.

HOLIDAY 2015–WINTER 2016 EVENT SCHEDULE



DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER FESTIVAL OF TREES

Saturday, November 21, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Sunday, November 22, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Rochester Community House

A holiday spectacular, featuring trees, wreaths, stockings, tablescapes, centerpieces and more!

LAGNIAPPE

Monday, November 23, 6–9 p.m.

The official kickoff to the holiday season, including horse-drawn carriage rides, plus Santa and his real reindeer.

THE BIG, BRIGHT LIGHT SHOW

Monday, November 23 through Sunday, January 3, 2016

Nightly, 5 p.m. – Midnight

A Downtown Rochester tradition, featuring over one million points of dazzling light!

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Saturday, November 28

Enjoy complimentary carriage rides from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at E. Fourth and Main. Shop small. Shop downtown Rochester!

KRIS KRINGLE MARKET

Friday, December 4, 4–10 p.m.; Saturday, December 5, Noon–10 p.m.

An open-air market, featuring handcrafted gifts, fresh greens and specialty foods.

ROCHESTER REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHRISTMAS PARADE

Sunday, December 6, 2 p.m.

Michigan's largest Christmas parade.

DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER AND OAKLAND COUNTY 2016 FIRE & ICE FESTIVAL

Friday, January 22, 6–9 p.m.; Saturday, January 23, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.;

Sunday, January 24, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Winter events, ice sculptures, carriage rides, ice skating and even fireworks!



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UCM-12/08/10.15

Nancy J. (Greiner) Cressman, BGS '80, on August 12, 2015

Suzanne L. Davidson, SEHS '89, on October 5, 2014

Ronald E. McDonough, SEHS '82, on January 8, 2015

Dorothy J. Modzinski, SBA '80, on July 15, 2015

Carl H. Morabito, CAS '83, on April 14, 2015

Linda D. Reizen, SEHS '88, on January 15, 2015

Margaret T. Smith, CAS '80, on March 13, 2015

Darlene D. Stecco, CAS '83, on November 19, 2014

Robert E. Whitton, SHS '81, on July 11, 2015

1990s

Nicholas G. Cutean II, CAS '98, on August 3, 2015

Daniel G. Fryer, SBA '10, SEHS '99, on June 11, 2015

Patrick T. Mahoney, CAS '93, on April 6, 2015

Pamela (Keith) Millsap, SON '97, on June 12, 2015

Linda M. Wilson, SEHS '90, on May 26, 2015

Mary Frances (Hague) Zeppelin, SEHS '93, on June 16, 2015

2000s

Gordon H. Buchanan, CAS '09, on March 15, 2015

Lisa J. Burgess, CAS '04, on February 25, 2015

Zbigniew R. Fracz, SECS '04, on June 30, 2015

Tricia McDonald, CAS '06, on April 8, 2015

Karen S. Milton, SEHS Ph.D. '06, E.D.s. '99, MA '76, on November 16, 2014

Cheryl L. (Freyboth) Reynolds, SEHS '05, '01, on June 15, 2015

Mary Sevakis, CAS '04, on May 31, 2015

2010s

Rebecca L. (Costigan) Serota, CAS '14, on July 12, 2015

Gary F. Zack, CAS '10, on April 22, 2015

FACULTY AND STAFF OBITUARIES

James Dow, Ph.D., professor of Anthropology in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, on July 13, 2015. Professor Dow joined the Oakland University faculty in 1970 and served in the department until his retirement in 2006.

Dennis A. Yezbick, on September 18, 2015, at age 62. He joined Oakland University in 2014 and served as a clerical-technical in the Oakland Center until his passing.



Photos by Vision Photography

Love Track

Joel, CAS '01, and Kara Sellentine, CAS '05, are runners: he the “speed demon” and she the distance runner. Both were members of the OU cross country team, although not at the same time. Their paths crossed in 2012 when a mutual friend introduced them, Kara said. “The program has been a big part of our lives; it is the reason we know each other.”

When Joel proposed to Kara, the couple knew immediately that they wanted to incorporate the track into their wedding in some way. The Sellentines opted to visit the Upper Fields in full wedding attire on their wedding day, July 31, 2015. “I would have hopped the fence if I had to!” Kara said.

Men’s and Women’s Cross Country/Track Coach Paul Rice and Athletic Alumni Coordinator Scott Collins were gracious enough to let them in and were excited to be a part of this unique event. “It felt normal there in my bridal dress, except I wish I had on different shoes,” Kara said. Instead of wedding favors, the Sellentines made a donation to the Track and Field program to show their gratitude and appreciation.

“Even our children, 12 and 13, wear all my old OU gear,” Kara said. “I hope we ingrain it into them to go to OU!” 🏃

Your gift *matters* to Jacqueline.



Name: Jacqueline Yee **Year:** Senior **Hometown:** Rochester Hills, Michigan
Major: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Minor in Business

Career plans?

Following my undergraduate studies, I plan to attend law school. I hope to become a practicing lawyer and work on political campaigns.

What do you love most about your major?

The Political Science Department at OU is outstanding. Every faculty member goes above and beyond to ensure each student succeeds. Due to the assistance of the department, I had the opportunity to present my research at numerous political science conferences, as well as intern in a congressional office in Washington, D.C.

How have donors impacted your education and/or experience at OU?

The OU Huntington Ford Scholarship, established by Patrick and Christie Scoggin, has had a tremendous impact on my education. They truly care about my academic success and want me to have the best college experience. I am so grateful for their continued support and cannot thank them enough for all that they do for Oakland University, the Greater Rochester community, and me, an OU Huntington Ford Scholar for the last four years.

Make a gift that matters today and in the future.

Reserve your free informational booklet about gift planning or learn more about specific giving options by calling (248) 370-4504 or emailing giving@oakland.edu.

To learn more about Jacqueline and other students like her, visit isupportOU.com/yourgiftmatters.

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Grizzlink at grizzlink.oualumni.com.**

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Viewers contributed reflections, experiences and interpretations at "Stimulus. Response. Affect." at the OU Art Gallery. Here, a visitor's movement activates a small library of videos that are shuffled and re-edited, altering and recomposing the imagery in Aaron M. Higgins' interactive *Karmic_Lapse* (2014).

Next at OU Art Gallery: Carlos Rolón, whose works represent social and cultural identity and what he describes as "the dichotomy of being Puerto Rican and living in Chicago." (*The New York Times*), **January 16, 6 to 8 p.m., through April 3, 2016. ouartgallery.org**