

Oakland University

Fall 1999

MAGAZINE



Oakland University Charter Class - 1963

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Oakland University

Fall 1999 MAGAZINE

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Oakland University is an equal opportunity
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class composite and class ring.



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New state budget nets OU students a tuition break

Oakland students will see a significant cut in planned tuition and fee increases. The good news came June 30, when Governor John Engler signed the bill giving Oakland an 8.6 percent increase in state funding for the 1999-2000 school year. By comparison, the average increase for Michigan's 15 public universities was 5.4 percent. Because of the increase, Oakland's Board of Trustees approved a 1 percent cut in the planned 3.9 percent tuition and fee increase for 1999-2000. The increase means \$3.7 million more for OU than the \$47.2 million appropriated in the 1998-1999 fiscal year. The state's fiscal year 2000 higher education budget marks the beginning of a revolutionary change in the way Michigan supports its higher education system, says Governor Engler.

New funding tiers, with their minimum appropriation per student:

Michigan State University, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and Wayne State University	\$9,000
Michigan Technological University and Western Michigan University	\$5,700
Oakland University and the University of Michigan at Dearborn	\$4,700
Central Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University and Ferris State University	\$4,600
Grand Valley State University, Lake Superior State University, Northern Michigan University, Saginaw Valley State University and the University of Michigan at Flint	\$4,500

It acknowledges the existence of historical funding inequities among the 15 state universities and begins to address disparities with five tiers that group institutions with similar missions and programs. This budget narrows inequities by



MGT 681 students in Heidelberg, Germany. Faculty member Frank Cardimen is in the second row at the far right.

establishing minimum per-student funding for each tier: For Oakland, the minimum funding goal is \$4,700 per student.

"Oakland University is pleased with the support from the governor and legislature in recent years," says OU President Gary D. Russi. "I especially want to thank the administration and members of the legislature for recognizing the type of university Oakland is."

A new roving classroom lends MBA students global insight

As a professional who develops computer systems for engineering at DaimlerChrysler Corporation, MBA student Dennis Audet knows about the globalization of the economy. Because his employer is partially based in Germany, he's realized that it's important to learn how different cultures do business. That's why he took the School of Business Administration's new MBA elective course, in which students learn strategic planning concepts and the

culture of doing business in other nations. Management 681, International Business Strategies, features a heck of a field trip: two weeks visiting England, France and Germany.

Audet says the course made him think about cultural differences between the United States and Europe from a business standpoint. Seeing Europe's mass transit and high-density villages, for example, made him understand why there's a lower demand for cars in Europe.

Frank Cardimen, SBA adjunct professor and president, Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County, developed the course.

Management 681 has particular relevance in Detroit, where 40 to 60 mostly German companies are to move in the next several years, says SBA Dean John Gardner. He says this fact is obviously going to have an impact on the way Americans live, for whom they work, how they do business and the business issues they have to handle.

Understanding business

and people issues is critical. "It's simply true that different cultures do things differently," Gardner says.

In Europe, the class discussed strategic issues with business and political leaders, academicians, U.S. embassy personnel, and experts on the "Euro," the European Union's new monetary unit. Stops included the London School of Economics for a lecture; a tour of a Valeo Electronics plant and Cargill Foods in Orleans, France; and tours of auto-related plants in Germany. Students presented research papers after the trip.

Plans call for the next Management 681 trips to include Eastern Europe and the Far East. The course is offered each spring. For more information, call (248) 370-3287 or Cardimen at (248) 334-4971.

Campus buzzes with sounds of construction

Besides the din from construction of the Business and Instructional Technology building, plenty of other digging, planting, painting



Construction of the new Business and Instructional Technology building will be complete by fall 2000.

and sprucing up will mark the 1999-2000 year throughout campus. It's all in keeping with constant campus improvements of the last several years. This fall

a new softball field will await Oakland's new women's softball team and a new competition-quality soccer field will feature berms to create informal stadium seating.

Some classrooms in Dodge Hall will receive new audiovisual systems. Other audiovisual equipment will be upgraded in O'Dowd Hall classrooms and in one South Foundation Hall classroom. Varner Recital Hall got new seating upholstery last summer. The black-and-white Belgian Barn behind the Police and Support Services Building will be repainted in muted tones, probably beige. Upgraded furniture, lighting and painting is set for Anibal House and Fitzgerald House residence halls. And some campus roads were repaired in July and August.

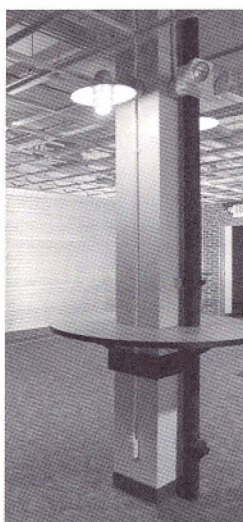
Parking lot 1 in front of North Foundation Hall is being redesigned. Pending funding approval, the lot will be resurfaced and the road will be relocated to the west side of the lot near Squirrel Road to make passage easier and safer for drivers and pedestrians. Pardon our dust.

Oakland Center renovation debuts

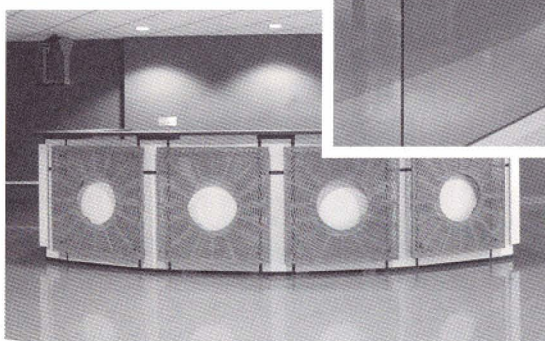
Remember when you wished you had the comforts of home at school? Now Oakland students have it even better. This fall they can enjoy the new improved lower level of the Oakland Center. A \$2.2-million renovation features centralized student organization spaces, a games room, TV lounge, four meeting spaces, a 32-seat study lounge with laptop computer hookups, the new snack shop Pretzel Logic, and a renovated bookstore. In the Student Organization Center,

work stations are dedicated for the most active student organizations; each cube includes a telephone and computer. Student Congress, the Student Program Board, *The Oakland Post* and WXOU also have dedicated space in the lower level. A championship table tennis table, four TVs, five tournament style pool tables and video games await in the games room.

The bookcenter, now run by Wallace's Bookstores, gleams from a \$500,000 makeover: new ceiling,



A pre-opening look at the newly renovated lower level of the Oakland Center.



lighting, flooring, display racks and entryways; more checkout lines for faster service; a reading area; Spirit Shop for OU clothing and souvenirs; and an on-line kiosk area to browse the store's catalog.

Almost better than home, sweet home.

OU researcher develops strikes against stroke

Strokes have the worst impact on society of any disease in America: Most of the 730,000 Americans who suffer strokes each year are incapacitated at a cost of more than \$30 billion annually.

Michael Chopp, professor, Department of Physics, College of Arts and Sciences, brings hope to the situation. He is developing treatments that reduce brain damage and could lead to regeneration of brain tissue.

Chopp, who is also vice chair, Department of Neurology, Henry Ford Health Sciences Center, is one of the world's leading stroke researchers. He is the principal investigator for the Center for Stroke Research at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, one of the few such stroke research centers in the nation.

In the most common type of stroke, a blood clot blocks a blood vessel in the brain. The person can lose movement, vision or speech.

Chopp's research team was the first to understand and publish in the early 1990s that after stroke, white blood cells enter the brain and bind to blood vessels, enlarging the damaged tissue. They



Michael Chopp

discovered that the protein found in the hookworm dog parasite can be used to interfere with molecular signals to reduce the compromised area of the brain. The protein will be used in clinical trials soon.

Chopp is also working on improving blood clot-dissolving TPA therapy by combining it with an anti-inflammatory agent. Now, if a patient comes in within three hours after the stroke, doctors can use TPA to restore circulation. Chopp's combination therapy extends the treatment window to five hours instead of three.

There is also hope for a treatment to benefit patients long after stroke. Chopp is working on transplanting into the brain bone marrow cells that transform into brain cells. This research may lead to the ability to reconstitute and restructure brain tissue that will compensate for damaged areas. His group was the first to develop methods to cause these cells to connect with those in other tissue.

Chopp's work potentially can also be used to treat other devastating brain injuries such as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's diseases.

Biomedical research at OU is bigger and better

Sometimes processed cheese looks more like grout than a beneficial food. But it could turn out that your Cheez Whiz is a really a powerful cancer prevention agent — it and many other foods contain conjugated linoleic acid, CLA, a normal dietary constituent that inhibits tumor growth.

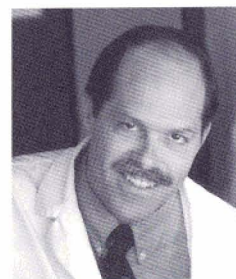
Oakland University researchers are studying CLA with a three-year grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The grant, one of three recent NIH awards funding studies at Oakland's Center for Biomedical Research, is an example of the university's growing contributions to the understanding and prevention of disease.

In the CLA study, Arthur Bull, associate professor,

Department of Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences, will investigate the mechanism by which CLA inhibits breast cancer development. His research may lead to a preventive method for those whose family history puts them at high risk for cancer.

In another study, Yang Xia, assistant professor, Physics, CAS, is using his five-year NIH grant to support microscopy studies of cartilage. The research is a step toward developing a cure for osteoarthritis. Xia's study is a breakthrough because it uses microscopic magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), which affords drastically increased resolution. The method will help in studying changes in the molecular



Arthur Bull



Yang Xia

composition and environment of cartilage, which could help researchers monitor progress of the disease and the effect of medication.

Michael Sevilla, professor and chair, Chemistry, received a five-year NIH grant to continue his studies on radiation damage to DNA. He hopes his research will provide useful information for cancer treatment.



Michael Sevilla



Denis Callewaert

"Few are aware of Oakland University's growing international reputation in biomedical research despite the absence of a medical school," says Denis Callewaert, professor and director, Center for Biomedical Research (CBR). Established in 1997, the CBR unites more than 36 biomedical scientists from Oakland, Henry Ford Hospital and William Beaumont Hospital. OU celebrated its success in biomedical research with presentations on cardiovascular diseases, cancer and vision in an August program on campus.

OUF welcomes 3 directors, ex officio

Three directors joined Oakland University Foundation (OUF) in June: Margaret A. Allesee, Frederic Gonzalez and Dennis Pawley. Molly Beresford also joined the OUF as an ex officio member.

Allesee serves on the School of Nursing (SON) Board of Visitors and the boards of Meadow Brook Theatre and the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance

in the College of Arts and Sciences. Allesee also recently donated \$1 million to the SON to support geriatric nursing and rehabilitation.

Gonzalez is CEO and chair of Gonzalez Design Engineering. He is a former trustee of Michigan Technological University. Gonzalez Design Engineering designs manufacturing equipment for the major automakers, provides drafting and design support for TACOM, and has contract and graphic arts services.

Pawley SEHS '82, the recently retired Executive Vice President of Manufacturing at DaimlerChrysler Corporation, is now president and CEO of Performance Learning based in Las Vegas, Nevada. He received OU's Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award in 1995. Pawley served on the OUF from 1993 to 1996, then resigned when Governor John Engler appointed him to the university's board of trustees. He served as a trustee from 1996 to 1998.

Molly Beresford, a bookkeeper for the family business, W.T. Beresford Company, Southfield, holds a BS in Education from the University of Vermont. Her community activities include serving on the boards of the Birmingham Junior League and the Village Club of Bloomfield Hills. She and Bill, her husband, are lifetime OU President's Club Members and President's Club Ambassadors. Molly Beresford is the incoming chair of the President's Club.

"We're honored to have people of this caliber involved with the university. We will benefit immeasurably from their leadership and abiding care to advance the university," says David Disend, OUF executive director.



Margaret A. Allesee



Dennis Pawley



Molly Beresford



Frederic Gonzalez

OU ranks in top tier of Midwest universities

U.S. News & World Report ranks Oakland University in the top tier of the Best Regional Schools in the year 2000 edition of its guide, *America's Best Colleges*. The guide also ranks OU among the 10 best public universities in the region. Oakland climbed from its 1999 second-tier ranking to the top tier in the 2000 issue. The university is also one of only two Michigan universities to rank in the top tier of regional schools.

U.S. News ranks OU 31st among 133 of the Midwest's regional universities. *U.S. News* bases its regional university rankings on academic reputation, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

"We're very pleased that *U.S. News* is recognizing Oakland University for the dramatic transformation we have made over the past few years, says OU President Gary D. Russi. "Oakland continues to add faculty and expand facilities, classrooms, academic degree programs, internships, co-ops and research opportunities with corporate partners."

In recent years, enrollment soared to an OU record high of 14,379; and the university launched more than \$100 million in construction projects, including the \$43-million Science and Engineering Building, dedicated in April 1997; the \$37-million Recreation and Athletics Center, which opened in September 1998; and the \$17.5-million Business and Instructional Technology building, to open in fall 2000.

The years 1997 and 1998 were also important for OU athletics teams, as they left NCAA Division II for Division I, joining the Mid-Continent Conference, and introduced a new athletics mascot and nickname, the Golden Grizzlies.



Excited and nervous, Beverly Donato SEHS '63 wore a new dress, wanting to look her best for her first day of college.

But the weather didn't cooperate. It was a bit muggy, she recalls, and she knew she would have what today is called "a bad hair day."

She was among 570 students who crowded into the unfinished student center cafeteria for the opening convocation of Michigan State University Oakland September 17, 1959. With no air conditioning and tapping hammers in the background, the students listened to Dean of Faculty Robert Hoopes. Those students, taking a chance on a newly minted university, couldn't guess what would await them. Some had billed MSUO as "The Harvard of the Midwest" with high standards and a classical liberal arts curriculum. Expectations were high for the students and the faculty who would prepare them for the world.

Faculty members were unique. Their average age was 33, notes a charter class yearbook, the youngest of any college in America. And of the 25 professors, 23 had earned doctoral degrees. "Our mission is to create well-rounded men," said Hoopes, using the then-common term for people of both genders, "but men with sharp, abrasive edges; rebels with clear minds and uncowed consciences capable of being critics of society, not adjusters to it."

'Serious college'

But there was more. "One of the professors said, 'I want each of you students to look to the left and look to the right,'" recalls Tom Werth CAS '63, "'because one of you won't be here next year.' I thought to myself, 'we're talking about some serious college here.'"

It was. By 1963, only 125 students would receive their diplomas. "We should

really be called survivors," says Beverly Donato Miller, who later married Ronald Miller SEHS '63.

Oakland University was founded in 1957, when Alfred and Matilda Wilson donated \$2 million and their 1,500-acre estate to Michigan State University to start a new college in Oakland County. Then called Michigan State University Oakland, it first opened its doors to

"Alfred and Matilda Wilson sent the students engraved invitations to tea" soon after MSUO opened, recalls Edward Gehres CAS '66. Gehres started classes in 1959 but took time off to work. "Matilda led the procession back to Meadow Brook Hall in her pink and gray '55 Dodge."

"We would see Matilda driving around campus," says Ronald Miller. "She always



North and South Foundation Halls and the "OC."

students in 1959. Today, more than 54,000 students have graduated from the university, which changed its name to Oakland University in 1963, the year of the first graduating class.

'We were her children'

The original campus consisted of three buildings: North Foundation Hall, South Foundation Hall and a small part of what is now Oakland Center. However, the charter class campus included an unofficial fourth site: Meadow Brook Hall. The Wilsons did more for the students than donate land and money.

drove and Mr. Wilson sat in the back of the car."

"Diane Lee was a student from Alaska who had no place to stay because the women's residence hall was not complete," Beverly Donato Miller recalls, "so the Wilsons let her stay with them at Meadow Brook. We were her children in a way."

More reasons to stay

Although they enjoyed their cordial relationship with the Wilsons, the charter class chose to attend MSUO for other reasons. For some, it was affordable. They

could live at home and save the cost of room and board at another university. Others were excited about attending a new university and helping to shape it while it also shaped them. But one of the prime reasons was its focus on a classical liberal arts curriculum. The focus was so intense, in fact, that the charter class voted at that time not to have social fraternities or sororities, or competitive

high that the university made a new policy. If you took a class over, the first grade was wiped out."

It's all Russian to me

Werth chose to study Russian. He didn't want to lag behind other students who might already have taken French in high school. "I gambled, thinking we'd all be going into Russian class totally stupid. I

dozen phrases," Werth says. "A couple years ago, I was at the Russian Embassy and said a few words. The people there were surprised and happy." And at a dinner last spring, he talked to the Russian ambassador who sat at his table.

Chinese would later be added to the choice of foreign languages, Evelyn Adams Gehres recalls. She found her course in non-Western studies useful years after she graduated. "I was a delegate to a world women's conference in China," she says. "When I traveled there, none of the environment or culture surprised me because I had studied it."

DNA, art and music

Beverly Donato Miller had no plans to become a microbiologist, but she was fascinated by a science course taught by the National Science Foundation's Herman Lewis, a world authority on DNA. "He was at the forefront of DNA research," she says. "We had lectures on how DNA worked, although at that time it was totally unknown to the public."

Art and music are now a vital part of life for Evelyn Adams Gehres. "I never would have taken the music and art classes that I took without that requirement," she

says. She thanks her art history professor, John Galloway, for nurturing her love of the arts.

The social studies requirement changed Werth's life. He entered college planning to study business administration, but found it didn't fit his personality. After taking courses in psychology and sociology, he changed his

sports teams.

Every student, regardless of major, had to take classes in art, music, philosophy, non-Western civilization, English, social studies, science, math and a foreign language (French or Russian). Ronald Miller remembers reading three or four books a week. "Two-thirds of the class failed economics," recalls Beverly Donato Miller. "I was just grateful to get through the class."

Evelyn Adams Gehres SEHS '63 says: "The first year, the failure rate was so

didn't realize then that the Russian alphabet is totally different from ours. It has 32 letters, and the letters that look like ours aren't pronounced like ours. I think those were probably the worst two years of my life."

But his knowledge proved useful later while attending political functions in Washington, D.C. "I still remember half a



The city of Rochester welcomes MSUO with a picnic.

major. He used his knowledge of psychology and sociology for 31 years working as a juvenile court probation officer and referee. It was also useful during Werth's 12 years as mayor of Rochester, a city he continues to serve as a council member.

Wanted: Renaissance men and women

Edward Gehres remembers: "At the opening convocation, D.B. "Woody" Varner said that to make the distinction between MSUO and many other colleges, it might be necessary to make the distinction between education and training." His wife agrees: "That was the attitude. That's how they approached us as students."

Edward Gehres says most of the faculty took seriously their mission to create students who were "capable of being critics." He remembers when George Matthews, professor of Western civilization, slammed his book shut in the middle of a lecture. "What's wrong with you people?" Matthews asked his class. "Nobody's asking questions. I could tell you the sky is green and the grass is blue and you'd write it down in your notebooks and memorize it." Matthews admonished the students for five minutes, Edward Gehres says. "Don't take everything as truth. Think about it; challenge it; ask questions." Those words, he says, have helped him through life, especially while pursuing an advanced degree in theology.

"What I learned was the importance of

knowing a variety of things in the world," Ronald Miller says, "of not being so specialized that people in different fields can't talk to each other. We were after a liberal arts degree, a degree that helped you become a full Renaissance person. You never finish learning. We found you really don't learn it all in four years and apply it forever. It just doesn't work that way."

Campus life

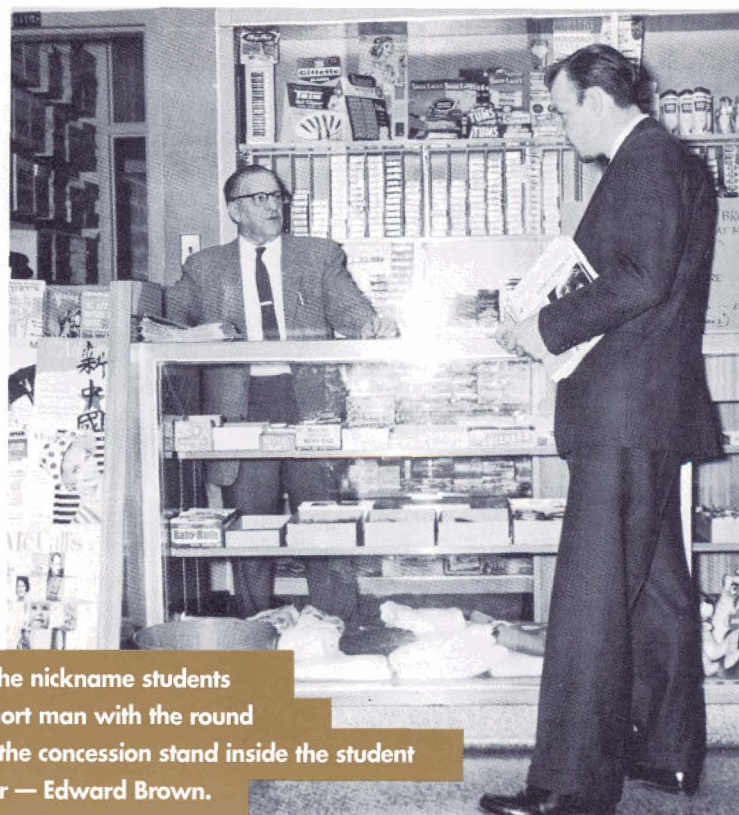
Forty years ago, there was no dress code, but students came to school dressed more conservatively than students today. It was like today's "business casual" attire, says Ronald Miller. Men would wear dress slacks and collared shirts or suitcoats. The women wore dresses or skirts. Beverly Donato Miller

"Charlie Brown" was the nickname students gave to the short man with the round face who ran the concession stand inside the student center — Edward Brown.

remembers feeling a bit daring when she'd sometimes wear slacks at night to study in the library.

Beverly Donato Miller and Evelyn Adams Gehres say they were treated as equals among the male students, in class and student government. Both

participated in the campus association of women students, and Beverly Donato Miller says it was "a strong group" with many female students who were "determined that they'd have their own lives and their own careers." But Evelyn Adams Gehres, who lived on campus, said there were different rules at the



men's and women's residence halls. "We had the standard curfew," she says, "but the guys didn't. There was no equality there."

Ronald Miller learned to play pinochle at MSUO and "had a blast" living for one term in a residence hall with 30 other



Matthews made a lasting contribution George Matthews, a charter faculty member and former interim president of Oakland University, died last June at age 82. "Dr. Matthews made a lasting contribution to Oakland University by helping to shape the educational mission of OU in its early years as a respected teacher, scholar and administrator," said OU President Gary D. Russi at the time of Matthews' death. Matthews chaired the history department, and served as associate dean for the humanities during the early 1960s. In the mid-1960s and early 1970s, he was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and later provost. As provost, he created several health science programs and presided over the initiation of the Bachelor of General Studies degree program. Matthews served as interim president of Oakland from 1979 to 1981.

men. "I had to try it for one term, but it drove me nuts," Edward Gehres sang in an octet called the Oaken Buckets. He would also make clandestine missions to East Lansing. "For special occasions, we'd go to Michigan State and steal the bell they'd ring for touchdowns. It was not an easy thing to do because they'd guard it."

There were no campus traditions

"We created the traditions," Edward Gehres says. "While we were there, we had the Chancellor's Ball that became Matilda Wilson's 80th birthday party, which was a surprise to her. "We chose the seal and the name of the university." But Evelyn Adams Gehres didn't like the seal, which shows a square Greek sail billowing in the wind. "We called it 'The Flying Diaper,'" she says. Ronald Miller remembers other traditions. One he especially enjoyed was convincing the professors to give a "Last Lecture," a pretend final address of their lives. "Some of the lectures were profound," he says, "and some were funny."

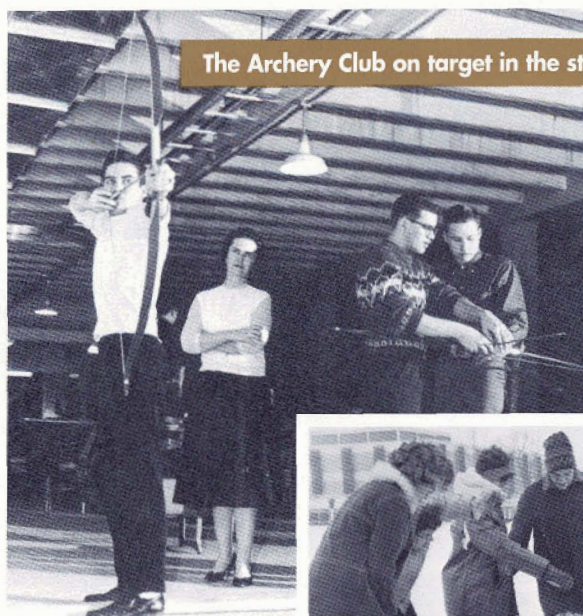
Hello, Charlie Brown

Students knew everyone on campus by name, from the candy vendor to the chancellor.

"Charlie Brown" was the nickname students gave to the short man with the round face who ran the concession stand inside the student center. He sold candy, gum, cigarettes, magazines and newspapers, and signed yearbooks as "Charlie." His stand would often be the rendezvous point for students, says Evelyn Adams Gehres, with students telling each other: "I'll meet you for lunch at Charlie Brown's."

"Edward Brown was a personality," says Beverly Donato Miller, "and really friendly. He knew who you were and he would always say 'hi.'"

"There was a sense of camaraderie and



The Archery Club on target in the student center.



Students complete their entry for the snow statue contest.

A snapshot of 1959

It was the year that Hawaii joined the Union as America's 50th state. But in 1959, the warm breezes of those tropical islands competed with the winds of the Cold War for coverage in the news. Caused by a clash between two different political and economic climates, the Cold War was the motive for United States President Dwight Eisenhower to hold summit talks with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev at Camp David. The spread of Communism to China, and the resulting presence of the Red Chinese Army in the tiny mountain country of Tibet, spurred the Dalai Lama to leave his land and seek refuge in India.

But there were lighter moments as well. Americans watched Rock Hudson and Doris Day on the silver screen in the new movie *Pillow Talk*. Susan Hayward and David Niven took home Oscars as Best Actress and Best Actor during the Academy Awards. The toniest women sported hip ruffles on their bathing suits. Car headrests were hailed as a major automotive innovation. In Michigan, G. Mennen ("Soapy") Williams was serving his eleventh year as governor, and the National Basketball Association played its annual all-star game in Detroit. Meanwhile, some 30 miles north, a new four-year college – Michigan State University Oakland – was preparing to open its doors for the first time to a class of some 570 students.



Senior dinner guests were served a midnight breakfast.



intimacy you didn't find at a major state university because the community was so small," says Edward Gehres. "You knew the faculty even if you didn't go to their classes. You knew the students whether you were in class with them or not." Students often interacted with the professors socially, says Evelyn Adams Gehres. "Woody Varner knew us by name," Edward Gehres recalls. "He greatly influenced me. He influenced all our lives. He was such a role model. He was outgoing and friendly to the students. Even though he was chancellor of the

university he was not always in his office hiding out. He was always encouraging and supportive and challenging."

Unwanted press

The charter class did experience campus controversies before their graduation.

"One of the things that hit the papers was the 'Bible as Literature' class that we took as part of our studies in Western civilization," Ronald Miller says. "Some of the students were upset that we were studying the Bible as a piece of literature instead of as a philosophy. They thought

we were dismembering the Bible."

The university received more unwanted press over a controversial history professor—Samuel Shapiro. "The university attracted free thinkers, people who were at the forefront of their areas," Miller says. "Shapiro was an adviser to President Kennedy on Latin America. He was a brilliant man and the finest teacher I ever had."

Evelyn Adams Gehres also named Shapiro as one of her most influential professors. "He was an incredible history teacher," she says. "He was making trips to Cuba and the State Department was after him." Ronald Miller recalls: "Shapiro said some things about Oakland County and about Castro and Cuba. He was taking the view that maybe Castro wasn't so wrong. He was fired



**Charter class seniors
dance the night away
in the ballroom of
Meadow Brook Hall.**

from Oakland because of his views. We had a big protest. We were marching for freedom of expression. The FBI came out to take our pictures. I was scared to death. Later, when I was invited to the White House to accept the National Exemplary Schools Award as principal of Berkshire Middle School (Birmingham, Michigan), I thought they'd find out the FBI had a dossier on me."

The prom and the ring

In April 1963, the night before graduation, Mrs. Wilson gave the charter class a prom. "We had dinner and a society orchestra in the ballroom at Meadow Brook Hall," says Beverly Donato Miller. "It was a fairy tale. We danced until 3 a.m."

But the students have more than just a

Stories behind the "survivors"



Edward Gehres CAS '66 and Evelyn Adams Gehres SEHS '63 (above)

Ronald Miller and Beverly Donato Miller SEHS '63 (left)

Beverly Donato Miller SEHS '63 met her future husband in high school, but didn't start dating him until they went to Michigan State University Oakland. She earned her bachelor's degree in secondary education, and majored in French and social studies. Donato Miller later returned to Oakland University to earn certification as a legal assistant. She works today for the Oakland County Circuit Court. She attended OU on a full scholarship and "wanted to give something back" by contributing financially to the university through membership in The President's Club.

Ronald Miller SEHS '63 is married to Beverly Donato Miller, and they have two children who also graduated from OU: Robert SECS '79 and Katherine MAT '70. Miller describes his undergraduate majors as elementary education and pinochle. He lived on campus for one term with 30 other men in "Dorm Type Pad Number One," an old three-story caretaker's house on the Wilson Estate. "I had a blast, but I couldn't get any studying done," he admits. He is now deputy superintendent of the Birmingham Schools. He helped found the Alumni Council and served as the group's second president. He received OU's Alumni Award of Appreciation in 1992.

Edward Gehres CAS '66 met his future wife at a party given by OU Business Professor Robert Simon. The mellow-voiced Gehres sang in the university men's octet, called The Oaken Buckets. Gehres recalls: "For special occasions, we would go to Michigan State and steal the bell that they'd ring for touchdowns." They also appropriated the bell to help celebrate OU co-founder Matilda Wilson's 80th birthday. Gehres started classes in 1959 but took time off to work. Today he is executive presbyter of the Presbytery of Detroit.

Evelyn Adams Gehres SEHS '63 met Edward Gehres after transferring from Wayne State University to OU in 1961. She earned her bachelor's degree in secondary education, majoring in history and English. They married in 1964 and have one son. Adams Gehres is now development officer of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation. She feels a special connection to Matilda Wilson not only through OU, but because Wilson served as the foundation's first female trustee.

A Charter Course

Quick facts about Oakland University's first class:

- Of the 570 students enrolled, 493 were full time.
- 84 percent of the students were in the top half of their high school graduating classes and 55 percent were in the top quarter.
- So many students flunked the first semester that MSUO enacted a policy to allow students to erase grades following repeat classes.
- According to the national pattern of the time, 60 percent or 342 members of the 570 were expected to don a cap and gown in four years. By 1963, only 125 students received their diplomas.
- The most popular major was teacher education. Next in order were liberal arts, engineering science and business administration.
- The first issue of *The Oakland Observer*, the campus newspaper, reported: "The knoll just behind North and South Foundation Hall and the student center and to the left of the grazing sheep will be the site of the next university building: the library."
- MSU President John Hannah reminded students during the inaugural September convocation, "You will set standards, establish precedents, originate traditions — in short, help to set the tone of MSUO."
- Chancellor D.B. "Woody" Varner cautioned parents during a September convocation that a "work and school program was not feasible at MSUO. The student should be at school from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., five days a week."

memory of that night. "We weren't able to order our class rings until almost January of our senior year because of the university name change," recalls Werth. "We were expecting to get our class rings on the day of graduation because of the short delivery time. While we were all downstairs dancing in the ballroom, Mrs. Wilson said she wanted all of us to come up to her study. 'I have something for you,' she said. In the study she had all the little gift boxes with a card with our names in front of them. Inside the cards were the deposits that we had paid on our rings and inside the boxes were our gold rings for graduation. They're the only OU rings that have a diamond in them."

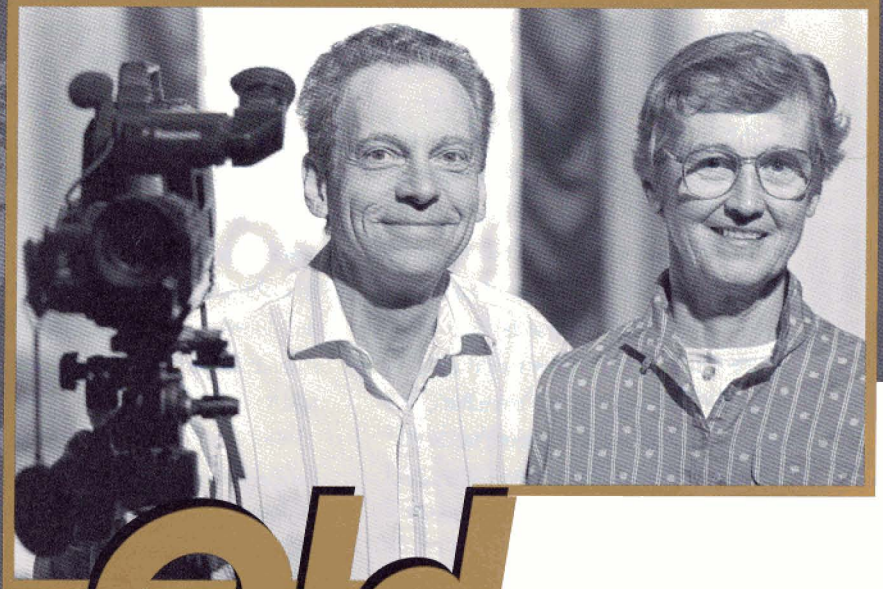
The party didn't end until the next day, Ronald Miller says, after the students ate breakfast under a tent in the Meadow Brook rose garden.

A top-rated school

Since 1963 the university has undergone many changes, but some things remain. Marc Wasser CAS '99, a biology student, transferred from a larger university to OU in his sophomore year. "The classes there were bigger than I wanted and teaching assistants often taught them," he says. "At OU, the professors teach the classes and the class size is smaller. You can get to know the professors better."

"We took a chance on Oakland University," Werth says. "We didn't know what value a diploma from a brand new university would hold in the future. The academics were strenuous, and it was designed to be that way. I think it's because of that reputation that a diploma from Oakland University quickly became recognized as a diploma from a top-rated school."

— Cindy Hampel is a freelance writer from Royal Oak, Michigan.



Old OAKS Remember

**Former members of the Oakland community spin
their unique tales on the university's history for the
camera — and for posterity**

By Gary Graff

Seated in an office in the Science and Engineering Building on the southwest side of the Oakland University campus, Alice and Paul Tomboulion explain the couple's goal for their research project, the *Oakland University Chronicles*.

"There's never been a history written of Oakland University," Alice says. "And we're not writing it," injects Paul, a chemistry professor and an OU charter faculty member. "But," adds Alice, a freelance consultant, "we are providing materials that could be useful right away for short-term projects or articles, or for a more expansive historical research project about the university."

Consider the *Oakland University Chronicles*, which is about to enter its third and final year; a labor of love for the Tomboulions. It is a trip down memory lane with an eye toward capturing undocumented details of a story that is unique and important in higher education. It is about the couple and their colleagues; it is also about an experiment in higher education that has survived and thrived and grown into something greater than its founders imagined.

"There aren't very many of these successes — start-up universities from the '60s that worked and are still around," says Paul. As a native of upstate New York, he remembers watching Eisenhower College near Seneca Falls begin amidst great excitement from the populace and the educational community. "We all thought, 'Wow, what's this going to be?'" he says. "Then it died. You can't just do that, throw open the doors to undergraduates and expect a success."

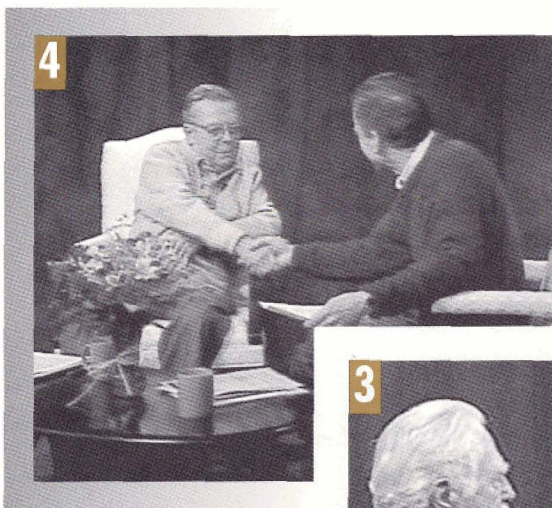
That OU is still around is what makes the video project such a fascinating and essential story to tell, the Tomboulions explain. And their research shows the university's continued success is because of vision and preparation. This was evident to the cadre of local planners who felt there was a niche for another university (even amidst such well-established institutions as the University of Michigan and Michigan State University). This was also evident to an inspiring and

politically astute first chancellor; to a devoted and energetic staff and faculty that enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to mold their own institution, and to a student body willing to take a chance on a new school.

That is why, the couple says, the *OU Chronicles* is not the history of OU but rather an oral history told by the people who were the pioneers of the institution, originally named Michigan State University Oakland or MSUO.

"Our goal," explains Alice, "is to record the perspectives and personalities of those pioneering individuals who built the foundations of the institution — including students who experienced the early times at Oakland. Our hope is to provide insight into those times and the character of people who

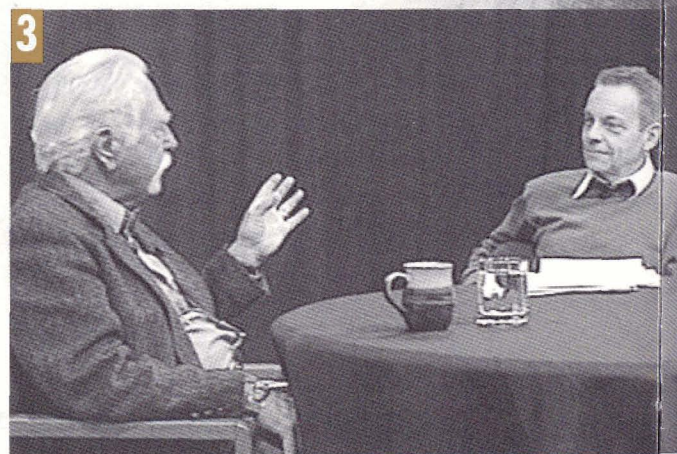
the past two years, the Tomboulions have conducted interviews with 25 former faculty members, staff, administrators and students. Four of the 21 interviews were with two people at a time. Thirteen of the interviews were conducted on campus and eight required traveling out of town, including trips



were significant in the early days of the university." Adds Paul, "We just wanted to show the formative period. There are great people who have contributed to the university since that time, but it was after that formative period."

Have camera, will travel

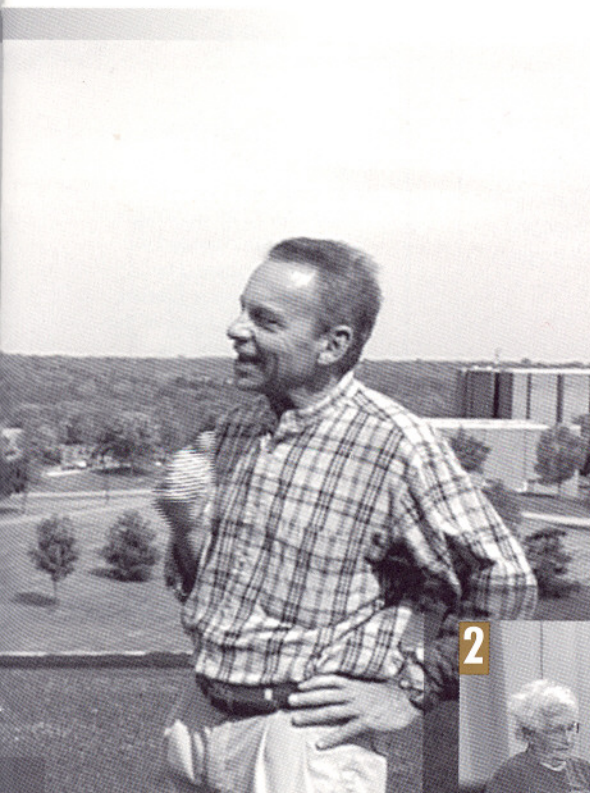
The *Chronicles* series uses oral history narratives to trace OU's history from its chartering as a sister institution to Michigan State University during the late 1950s through 1963, the year the first class graduated. During



to Nebraska to speak with D.B. "Woody" Varner, OU's first chancellor, and to Springfield, Massachusetts, Tampa, Santa Fe and Washington, D.C.

All of the interviews were videotaped, and all have been transcribed and published in

hardback volumes. Copies of the transcript volumes are available at the circulation desk of the Kresge Library, while the videotapes may be borrowed from the Instructional Technology Center on campus. Contact the library at (248) 370-4425 and ITC at (248) 370-2463 for more details.



During the third and final year of their project, the Tomboulia's hope to interview additional sources, particularly some of those at Michigan State who were involved in planning the new university.

But what they are trying hard to avoid is replicating information that is already accessible. Their goal is to make the beginnings available for somebody doing serious work.

The idea for the *Chronicles* project was around as long as a decade ago, when retired History Professor George Matthews, MSUO's first dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

and interim president, hoped to work on a history of the school. That never progressed, but by the mid-1990s the Tomboulia's felt the idea should not be allowed to die. They picked up the ball.

"Paul and I, being a charter couple, have that peculiar loyalty you have from starting something new," says Alice, who has served OU at times as a part-time instructor teaching trigonometry and English composition.

Adds Paul, "Part of what you get with age is a realization that nothing is forever. Some of the key players aren't around anymore; many have moved, and some have died. There was a feeling that it was either now or ... I won't say never, but

***OU Chronicles* interviewees with Paul Tomboulia:**

1. George Karas
2. Gertrude White
3. Thomas Fitzsimmons
4. Robert Hoopes



there was only a limited window of time we could do this oral history project before you couldn't do it anymore."

Encouraged by friends and colleagues, the Tomboulia's began mapping out a plan of attack for assembling the video during 1995. Then they approached current OU President Gary D. Russi during a holiday party at his home. Russi was intrigued by their proposal and set up a January 1996 appointment at his

office to discuss the matter.

"Since I have been at OU, I have been troubled that we have no comprehensive OU history," says Russi, who helped line up funding for the project. "I commend the *OU Chronicles* team for its fine work in a format which can easily be built upon and will serve the university for many years to come."

After securing Russi's support and a grant from the OU Foundation, the Tomboulia's assembled an advisory group that included Matthews, History Professor Jack Barnard, Psychology Professors Harvey Burdick and David Lowy, Philosophy Professor Richard Burke, Vice Provost William Connellan, Associate Library Professor Robert Gaylor, Instructional Technology Center Manager George Preisinger, and Carol deSmet, an OU student who is also the project assistant.

The advisory group helped the Tomboulia's focus the scope of the *Chronicles* as well as decide who should be interviewed and what kind of questions should be asked. Burdick and Lowy, as well as Paul Tomboulia, conducted the interviews, which became carefully staged but unrehearsed affairs starting with pre-interviews a couple of days before the actual session. This gave the subject a chance to tweak his or her memories and the *Chronicles* staff an opportunity to customize the interview questions to glean the most material from the particular subjects.

Among the things that set these interview results apart from similar projects is that the Tomboulia's have limited the cutting and polishing. "We've exercised great restraint in changing anything," Paul says. "I saw the transcript as the record. If you're watching the tape and reading along, you don't want them to be too different. These are much more realistic than you would get in a typical TV session that's edited and smoothened."

"Besides," he adds, "the interviewees are people who are comfortable expressing themselves in public. Most of them are

Who was it named for?

Many of Oakland University's classroom buildings, residence halls and laboratory facilities are named after significant people or groups.

Here's a sampling:



HANNAH HALL OF SCIENCE
John Hannah, president, Michigan State University, helped to establish MSUO.



DODGE HALL OF ENGINEERING

John F. Dodge was Matilda Dodge Wilson's first husband. The engineering building was named to honor him and brother Horace E. Dodge for their contributions to automotive engineering.



VANDENBERG HALL

Arthur Vandenberg was a United States senator from Michigan.



FOUNDATION HALL

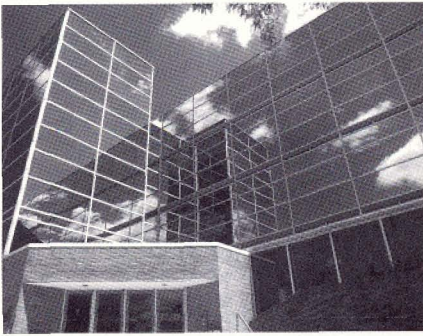
Dedicated October 1, 1959, it was the first building on the MSUO campus. It recognized the work of the MSUO Foundation, a group of 50 community leaders whose work was partly responsible for the university's focus on the liberal arts.



FITZGERALD HOUSE

Harold A. Fitzgerald was publisher of *The Pontiac Press* and served as the first head of the Michigan State University Oakland Foundation. His gift of \$45,000 furnished Fitzgerald and Anibal Houses.





JAN AND DONALD O'DOWD HALL

Donald O'Dowd taught psychology at MSUO and was appointed dean of the university in July 1961. He served as provost and from 1970-79 as president. Jan is his wife.



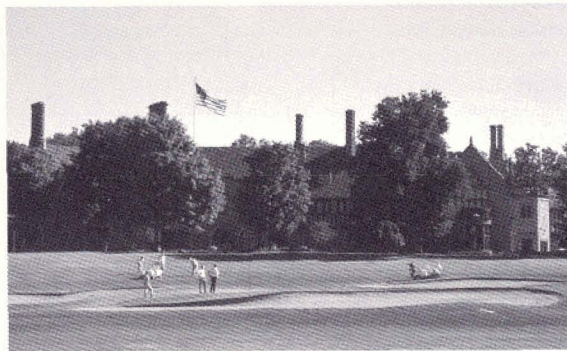
LEPLEY SPORTS CENTER

Hollie L. Lepley guided the first recreation program at MSUO. He served at OU from 1959-79. The Lepley Sports Center is now part of the OU Recreation and Athletics Center.



VARNER HALL

D.B. "Woody" Varner had served as vice president, Michigan State University, and was OU's first chancellor. Paula is his wife.



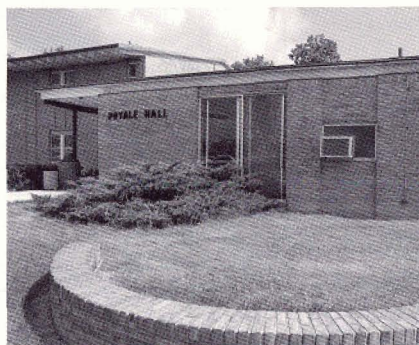
KATKE-COUSINS GOLF COURSE

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Katke and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cousins, friends and neighbors, contributed \$500,000 to develop the golf course. Marvin Katke was chair of the OU Board of Trustees from 1970-72 and served as president of the OU Foundation. Harold Cousins served as OUF vice president.



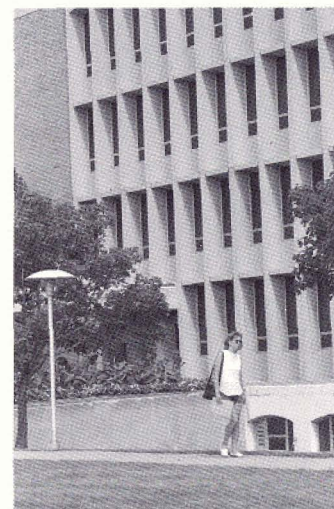
HAMLIN HALL

Delos Hamlin was chair of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors and served on the MSUOF board.



PRYALE HALL

Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Pryale of Bloomfield Hills made this building possible through a gift from their Pryale Foundation.



WILSON HALL

Matilda Dodge Wilson co-founded MSUO with a gift of \$2 million and her 1,500-acre estate.

1956

Ask and ye shall receive.

MSU President John Hannah asks Matilda and Alfred Wilson for \$2 million to start OU. "She responds casually, 'I think we can do that.' I almost fell out of my chair," Woody Varner says.

Boundaries? Bah!

Matilda Wilson demands that MSUO's address match Meadow Brook Hall's Rochester address, even though the main campus lies in Pontiac Township (now Auburn Hills). She prevails by reminding U.S. Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield that she had been a generous contributor to his Republican administration.



MSUO matriculates its first class of 570 students, dedicates North and South Foundation Halls and completes Oakland Center.

Splash splash bash.

100 students at a time sneak into the unfinished Intramural Sports and Recreation Building for nighttime swims. A "Night Diver" climbs down conduits to the boiler room, then opens the doors for the rest of the party.

MSUO dedicates Anibal and Fitzgerald houses and Kresge Library.

1956

1958

1959

1962

1957

Michigan State University Oakland

begins to take shape with the Wilson's gift of \$2 million and 1,500 acres of land.

"Brainy Flops" reads a headline in *The Detroit News* because so many students flunk Oakland's first semester. Oakland's first professors from prestigious institutions are too tough on students because they feel pressured to live up to OU's public relations label as "Harvard of the Midwest." Dean Robert Hoopes says every student will have a chance to wipe out every failing grade for the first quarter.

1961

The pay is in the plants. Woody Varner visits the home of French Professor Norman Susskind in the university subdivision, attempting to offset meager pay raises. He invites Uni, Susskind's wife, to dig up plants from his (Varner's) garden. "I got a double French lilac bush and five spireas that still thrive today," Uni said in 1997.

MSUO completes Hannah Hall of Science.



Making waves. During the poolside dedication of the new intramural building, students Tom Kurz and Mike Tenor toss business-suited Hollie Lepley, director, Physical Education and Recreation, into the pool.

Oakland University

Behind-the-scenes tales and



MSUO renames itself Oakland University and completes Pryale House.

1963



Ringin' in Matilda's birthday. OU students outprank U-Mers by swiping the MSU victory bell for Matilda Wilson's 81st birthday party. MSU President John Hannah and OU Chancellor Woody Varner strike a deal to let OU hold it through the party, but return it in time for an MSU game.

1964

Party down in the library. Kresge Library is the site of a party for 2,000 revelers to thank students for their \$100,000 gift of The Wilson Reference Collection. The bash includes "hard acid rock" on the third floor, jazz on the second and Baroque on the first.

OU dedicates Graham Health Center and Hamlin Hall. Dodge Hall of Engineering is completed.

Varner Hall is completed.

Lots of thinkin' 'bout Lincoln. OU acquires 6,000 Abraham Lincoln artifacts from donor William Springer, who collected the items over 42 years. The collection in Kresge Library makes Oakland owner of the nation's seventh largest collection of Lincoln artifacts, including medallions, photos, busts and books.

1970

OU dedicates Baldwin Memorial Pavilion and Hill House.



Beer Lake chronicles

1965

Student throws a beer can into a then-swamp on campus, naming it Beer Lake. The name has stuck.

1966

OU stocks Beer Lake with bluegills and bass.

1968

The Oakland County Health Department deems Beer Lake unsanitary and unsuitable as a public bathing beach because the water is stagnant.

OU completes Vandenberg Hall and Wilson Hall.

1969



Keep Woody! Hundreds of students demonstrate at Wilson Hall to keep Woody Varner at Oakland. He is being pressured to assume the presidency at MSU. Varner resigns in 1970 to take a job as chancellor of the University of Nebraska system.

1971



Young and restless.

17-year-old David Hasselhoff auditions successfully for Oakland's Academy of Dramatic Art. Six months later, he heads back home to Chicago because "everything was so overwhelming." Hasselhoff later stars in TV shows *The Young and the Restless*, *Knight Rider* and *Bay Watch*. As a singer, he becomes very big in Germany.

facts from the past 40 years

25

1972

'Super-whammo bubblebath'. A flood on the first three floors of Vandenberg Hall East sends 4 inches of water toward a box of detergent at 2 a.m.

1977

Thirty-three students enter the new Honors College.

The name shall remain. OU's Tautological Society survey, which produced 1,004 responses from students, faculty and staff, shows that most don't want OU's name to change. Many cite the cost.

1980

OU wins first swimming national championship; nine more will follow in men's and women's swimming before OU's move to Division I in 1997.

1984

OU celebrates its 25th anniversary.

1986

Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute opens.

1974

Weather's a wet blanket. Rain and cold dampen the turnout for OU's 15th birthday celebration. University officials expect 20,000 guests for the open house. About 8,000 attend.

Oh deer. OU President Don O'Dowd orders the fence cut that encloses a 100-acre area west of Adams Road for 13 deer. The herd is allowed access to the whole campus because it had eaten all forage in its enclosure.

1978



Burro B-ball. Three hundred spectators watch donkey-riding staff and students play basketball.

Escape from the zoo. First-year students are no longer segregated in Hamlin Hall, "The Zoo," as they had been since 1972 "to shelter them from the influence of certain upperclassmen."

1981

OU completes construction on the George T. Matthews Married Student Housing project and dedicates Jan and Don O'Dowd Hall.

1983

The year of the sleep-in. More than a dozen students spend the night sleeping in a Wilson Hall hallway to be the first to sign up for interviews with General Motors, Michigan Bell and Volkswagen. A month later, 100 students sleep outside the provost's office in O'Dowd Hall to protest the relocation of psychology labs and their test animals into the residence halls.

1987



Lost landmark. The Barn Theatre burns down after surviving decades of near shutdown. The barn had housed the Student Enterprise Theatre. It was also used as a meeting place and venue for other performances.

974

Three bombings shut campus for a day. The first bomb explodes on the fourth floor of Kresge Library, ruining about 40 volumes. The others damage cars in parking lots — four minutes later south of the library and 90 minutes later near South Foundation Hall. A student is suspected of creating diversions for a planned robbery of the cashier's office.

1990

1995
2005

Unprecedented growth and change.

Today, Oakland is at the midpoint of its 10-year strategic plan, having completed more than 2,000 strategic initiatives to further excellence in teaching, learning, research and service.

The Board of Trustees appoints Interim President Gary Russi as OU's fifth president. Over the next few years, OU dedicates many laboratories including the EDS Software Verification and Testing Lab, the General Dynamics Land Systems Virtual Vehicle System Simulation Lab, the Applied Technology in Business Lab, and the Product Development and Manufacturing Center.

Chowtime! Oakland Center's contemporary franchise food area, Pioneer Court, opens to the delight of Burger King, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut lovers.

1996

1997

Movin' on up. OU athletics teams join the Division I Mid-Continent Conference.

OU dedicates the Honors College's new home, a 1,100 square-foot glass hall, which symbolizes the college's independent role.

OU dedicates the \$43-million cutting-edge Science and Engineering Building.

SEPTEMBER
1997

Enrollment reaches a record 14,379.



Ga-ga for Grizzlies.

OU introduces a new athletics nickname and mascot, the Golden Grizzlies.

1998

Creating the Future.

Nearly 300 corporate and civic leaders and faculty, staff and students offer more than 500 recommendations to enhance every aspect of Oakland's academic and administrative programs.

JUNE
1998

SEPTEMBER
1998



Let's get physical.

The \$37-million Recreation and Athletics Center opens. It now draws nearly 5,000 participants a week for recreation and record crowds at basketball games.



In the bigtime.

The men's basketball team plays MSU in its first Division I home game before a sellout crowd of 3,405 in the new arena and a regional television audience.

Coming to the fore.

Ground is broken on the R & S Sharf Golf Course, OU's second 18-hole championship golf course, scheduled to open in Fall 2000.

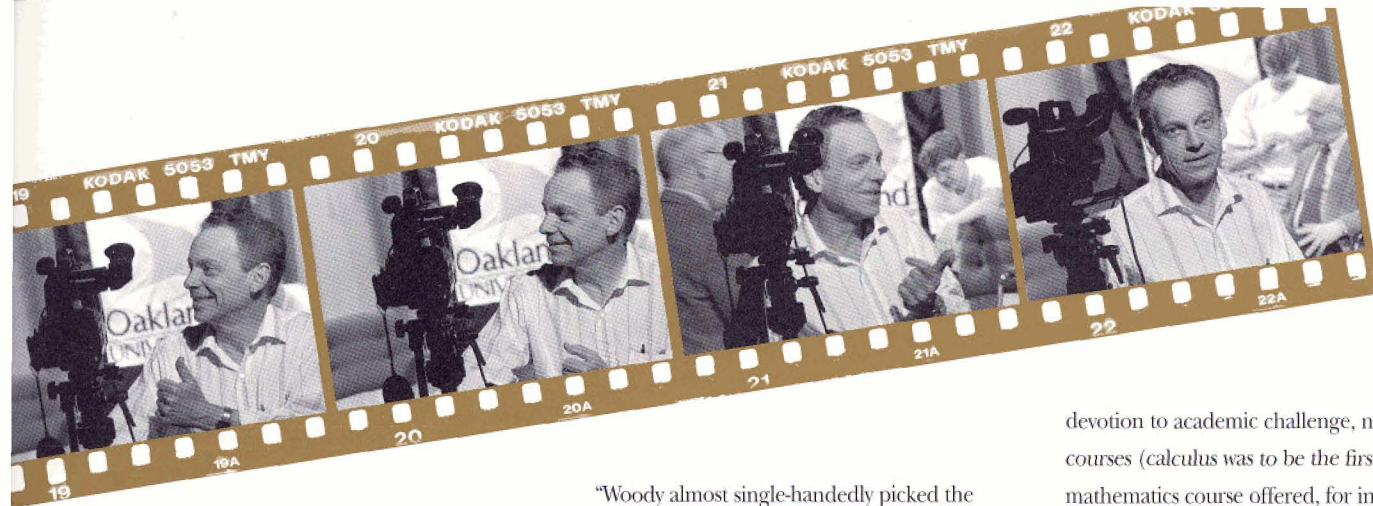
NOVEMBER
1998

APRIL
1999



The university breaks ground

for the four-story, 60,000-square-foot Business and Instructional Technology building. The \$17.5-million complex will feature SBA classrooms and offices, high-tech teaching spaces, computer training labs, video conferencing areas, interactive media viewing rooms and a video production facility. It will open in fall 2000.



professors, educators, administrators, people who are used to speaking to other people. They're all performers of a kind."

'Don't embarrass us'

The Tomboulions, of course, witnessed OU's origin firsthand. New York state natives, both of their fathers were professors at Cornell University. They graduated from Cornell, and both did graduate work at the University of Illinois. Paul moved on to the University of Minnesota for post-graduate work. The couple was married in 1957 — six months after Michigan State University had decided to take a land gift from Alfred G. and Matilda Dodge Wilson and build a sister institution on the 1,500-acre property that also held the famed Meadow Brook Hall.

But even with their extensive knowledge and personal experiences, the *Chronicles* project has given the Tomboulions greater insight into the story they were part of — particularly about the period before they arrived in Michigan, when then-MSU president John Hannah oversaw the beginnings of the fledgling college.

"The attitude he had about the campus is something we absorbed," says Paul. "Hannah viewed the campus as a resource — not only a place where you have students, but a place where you do things. He somehow sent vibes to Woody to do the right thing at the right moment. It was kind of like 'Woody, don't bother us. Just don't embarrass us.'"

Varner recruited young, forward-thinking faculty members, many of whom were taking their first full-time professorial appointments.

"Woody almost single-handedly picked the original 25-person faculty," remembers Alice.

"His strategy was to call the deans at outstanding universities around the country and say 'I'd like to talk to one of your very best people with a Ph.D. — not your top person, because you'll want to keep them, but your number two or number three person.'"

Signing on to a new, as-yet-unopened university had its risks, of course, but Alice says that was balanced by "the exciting prospect for someone to come to a place that was going to be their own creation, getting away from things that irked us about a big campus. And that it was associated with Michigan State gave us a sense it was going to work."

There were conflicts of visions, of course. The Meadow Brook Seminars — a sounding board of renowned educators convened by Varner during 1958-59 at Meadow Brook Hall — had reaffirmed the MSUO guidelines proposed by planners at MSU in 1957-58. These included a focus on liberal arts, a

devotion to academic challenge, no remedial courses (calculus was to be the first mathematics course offered, for instance), and no distracting frills such as intercollegiate athletics, fraternities, sororities or ROTC. At the same time, it was also intended to fit MSU's mission of providing higher education for the masses.

Amidst a barrage of publicity for the school, *The New York Times* began championing it. It was tagged "the Harvard of the Midwest" — a phrase nobody has owned up to coining, which helped to attract excellent faculty, but which also generated confusion during the school's early days.

"For example," says Paul, who was chair of the chemistry department until 1997, "the faculty had something special in mind for this institution, but the students had something different in mind." Indeed, MSUO was viewed locally as an alternative opportunity for students in the area who either couldn't get into U of M or MSU or who couldn't afford to go to those schools. Early on, the school had to add introductory and sometimes remedial



Paul and Alice Tomboulion interviewing Professor Harvey Burdick

courses to its curriculum when it was clear the student body required them.

Also, Paul notes, "There were some interesting, strong contradictions among the early faculty." Some were attached to the notion of having a small liberal arts college in the Midwest, while others saw the potential for the school to expand in both size and academic offerings. "Many of us recognized fairly early this was going to grow," he says, pulling out a 1963 master site plan that reveals expanding ambitions for the campus.

Hey, look at us now

During the early 1960s, it was certainly hard for those at MSUO to imagine what their young school would become — now an independent institution with more than 14,300 students, a faculty of 372, staff of 1,625, and participation in Division I intercollegiate athletics, one of the extracurricular activities that was originally eschewed.

The Tomboulions — who keep their *Chronicles* project headquartered at their home in Oakland Township — hope to spend the third year of the project investigating that original vision that was set forth in East Lansing and at the Meadow Brook Seminars. They also plan to tape a "map talk" with original campus engineer George Karas, and will finally submit to being interviewed themselves.

Before finishing, they'd like to compile a master reference volume to assist those who will use the *Chronicles*. They'd also like to hold a "wrap-up party" once their work is done. They say there's no question that there will be an end to their work on the *Chronicles*.

"We wanted to be sure we were not going to get into a continuing project," Paul says. "I don't accept the idea that this is 'the history.' These are just parts of the story. We're trying to make sure that there's enough oral history documentation of this early phase of the Oakland University drama so that others can document the later parts, if they wish."

— Gary Graff is a writer for *The Oakland Press*

What did they say?

Here are some insightful comments selected from the interviews completed so far for the *Oakland University Chronicles*.

"None of the courses were set up at all. The initial faculty were told to develop courses and to do what we thought ought to be done in our courses. I appreciated so much the chance to be in on the big decisions that were being made from the beginning, instead of just other people making them who were above me on the totem pole."

— Richard Burke, charter professor, Philosophy

"Student recruiting was an interesting exercise. There was a lot of interest but also some misgivings. They weren't quite sure that it would fly. They could see it and they could feel it, they could hear us talk about it. But whether the motor would crank up and get airborne was something else."

— D.B. "Woody" Varner, first chancellor

"There was considerable talk about the institution being the Harvard of the Midwest, and I mentioned that to a good friend of mine. He said, 'Bill, remember, this may be a new institution, it may be an institution with a superb faculty, but the students are going to be Michigan students. They are not going to be students who would normally go to the University of Michigan or Michigan State, or even to any of the regional colleges.'"

— William H. Schwab, charter professor, Linguistics and English

"It was really a very earnest environment. I can remember having classes, but it wasn't a '10 to 11' class — if you went a little longer, you went a little longer. I can remember once I must have had a lunch appointment or a committee or something like that, and I had an 11 to 12 class, or whatever it was, and they were in a hot argument. I said, 'Stay here, if you wish, I'm going to lunch.' After lunch, I passed the room and the guys were still going at it. But now, if that happened, you'd have a heart attack, wouldn't you?"

— Sheldon Appleton, professor, Political Science

"I decided I'd like to work with some very bright high school students to let them know something about Oakland. I went in and talked to Woody one day, and I said, 'I want to bring in two bright high school students from each of the good high schools around the area. But I know that we shouldn't have to ask them to pay tuition for this, and so I need somebody to pay for the tuition.' And so Woody says, 'Just a minute.' He dials the phone and talks to this person on the other end, and all that person said was, 'Where do I send the check?'"

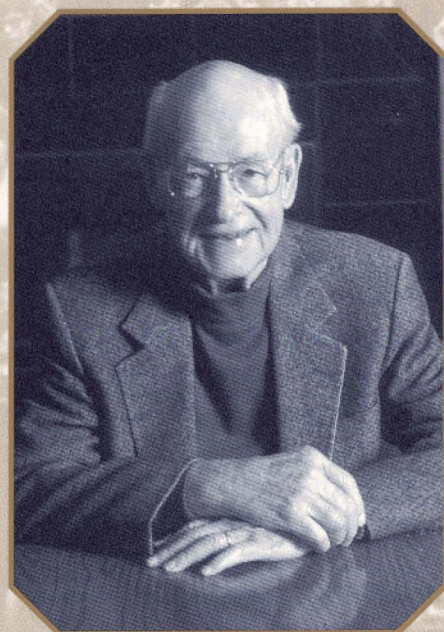
— James McKay, charter professor, Mathematics

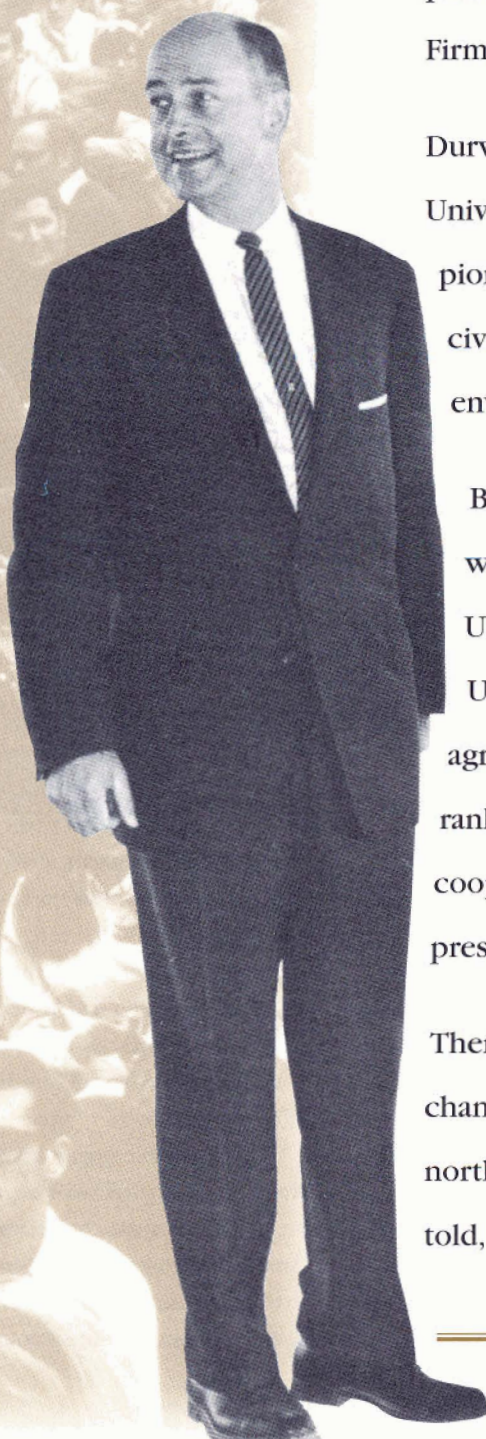
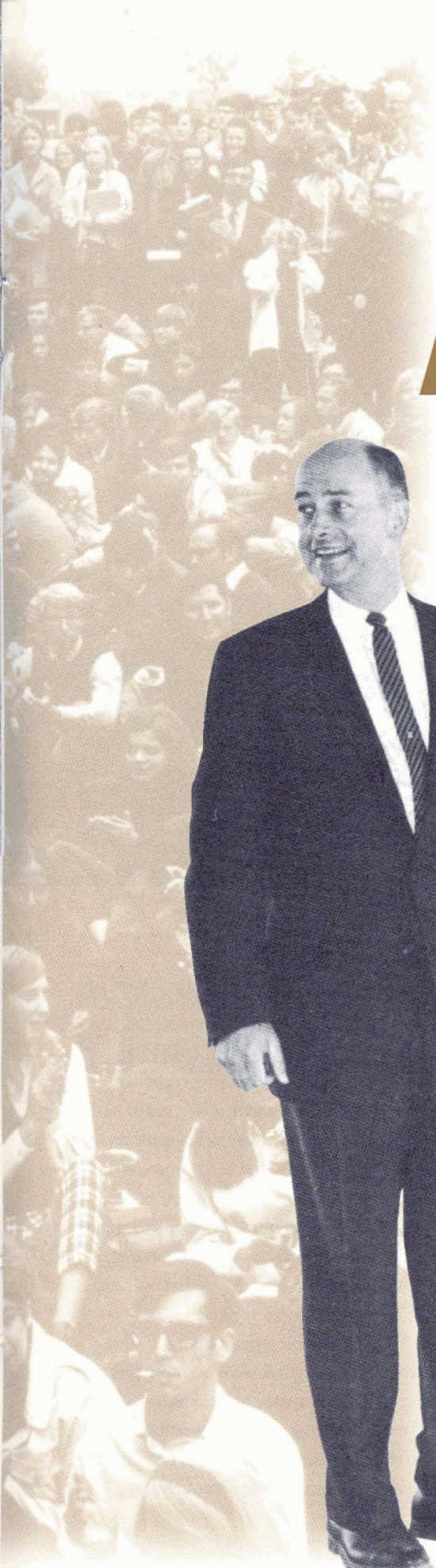
**The man
CALLED**

Woody

A celebration of Oakland
University's first chancellor

by Todd Haight and Jim TerMarsch





Ask any five people who knew him and they'll probably all describe him differently. Courteous. Firm. Charismatic. Disarmingly humorous. Charming.

Durward B. "Woody" Varner was Oakland University's remarkable first chancellor and *de facto* pioneer. Taking one giant plot of land just north of civilization, he helped create an educational environment few could have imagined.

Born in Texas in 1917, Woody — a nickname he was given while a student at Texas A&M University — made his way to Michigan State University in 1949 as an assistant professor of agricultural economics. As he rose through the ranks at MSU, he found himself as director of cooperative extensions before being named vice president of the university.

Then, in 1959, Woody was asked to become chancellor of a new extension being developed in northern Oakland County — MSU Oakland. He was told, simply, to dig in.

Literally starting from the ground up, Woody was part of the original groundbreaking ceremony with OU founder Matilda Dodge Wilson, to which he remarks, "She had the bigger shovel."

But through his next 10 years as chancellor, it would be Woody who did much of the work, while never taking the credit. Beginning from that momentous point, he was entrusted to create a unique institution that would be known as Oakland University.

"We saw in Oakland an opportunity to develop something with our own fingerprints on it. This was an ideal arrangement to put in place from scratch," says Woody, now 82.

"It was fun and especially gratifying as we started to see it unfold, with 570 students in the first class, who were all first-year students. They were the real pioneers," he says with his classic but genuine air of humility.

To those around him, Woody became the preeminent symbol of the fledgling university — an accomplishment that today remains his legacy.

Says George Karas, OU's former physical plant engineer and first employee, "He was honest, firm ... modest, very considerate and kind.

"Woody demonstrated the right mix of listening and delegating, and that's why he was so successful and so well-liked. He would not ask anyone to do something he wouldn't do. That's the mark of a true leader."

His "honest and firm" persona became evident when Karas and Woody were working together on construction of one of the early buildings on campus. An



Paula and Woody Varner at home in Lincoln, Nebraska.

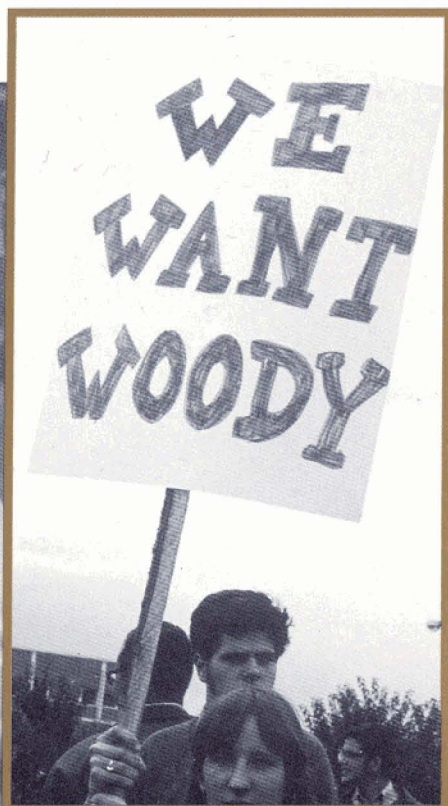
architect on the project asked to meet about his fee.

"Woody called me in," Karas recalls. "The architect started to cite reasons why his fee should be raised. Woody said, 'I'm sorry, there's nothing I can do. It's been established by the MSU board.' When the architect continued to argue, Woody turned to me and said, 'George, would you please have him submit his bill of services so we can make sure he is paid?' And with that, Woody said goodbye and left to take care of other business. The architect turned to me and asked, 'What did he mean by that?' I told him, 'I think you were just fired.'"

No compromise, to be sure, but it would be difficult to find anyone who

would describe Woody as unfair. In fact, the kindness he exhibited throughout his tenure became his endearing mark. Like the countless Christmases when he and Paula, his wife, personally delivered a half-bushel of pecans to every employee at the university. Or the early morning trip to the hospital to visit one of his staff's children who had just been in an accident. The birthdays he remembered — not just those of staff but their spouses, too.

"When we were opening Meadow Brook Music Festival we were up quite late, setting up spotlights," Karas says. "Around 11:30, we heard this voice saying, 'That is magnificent. That is beautiful.' It was Woody, of course. He



favorite tale — that has continued with every OU president since.

During his tenure at Oakland, Woody saw the completion of more than half the buildings that stand on campus. He also helped create Meadow Brook Music Festival and pushed the expansion of M-59, stimulating growth not only of Oakland University but also northern and western Oakland County.

He was also a man with many friends, which proved to be one of his biggest assets. When Woody needed money to launch a program or begin a construction project, he always knew where he could get it.



As OU chancellor, Varner asked to be called “Woody, just Woody,” by faculty and students alike.

had come out to work with us, to be with us and show he was interested in our work.

“The next day was my wife’s birthday and during the dedication, he gave my wife a bouquet of flowers and said, I’ve kept George so busy, he’s forgotten an occasion. I’m sure he never will again, but this is from George and I.”

Classic Woody Varner.

Then there was his demand that he not be called Mr. Varner. “Woody, just Woody,” he would say, to students and faculty. It’s an Oakland tradition — and a

In 1966, he organized a group of these friends into the Chancellor’s Club (now The President’s Club), helping the university accrue thousands in yearly donations. Yet he knew for the university to be truly successful in this area, he needed to get support from the auto industry.

“I remember a time when we were trying to build a dorm,” Woody recalls. “We invited this retired executive vice president at GM to come out and have lunch. As we crossed from North Foundation Hall to the student union,

OU was my baby **In the words of the Varners ...**

“What motivated me? I guess the goal of developing the university. I like to complete a job that’s been assigned to me. I think I’ve always been the kind of person who follows through and gets it done. Oakland University was my baby. That was my life for 10 years.

“My wife Paula realized that long hours were part of the job. She never complained. She was very committed, an ideal wife. You couldn’t find

a better person to be your wife. We’ve had a great partnership.

“The Wilsons were wonderful. They gave generously to the university. They really had an attitude of commitment. They felt they turned their baby over to a group of relative strangers, but they soon felt a part of the undertaking. I felt a sense of responsibility to them and in turn, they were proud of the growth and development.”

Paula Varner adds: “(OU Founder) Mrs. Wilson was a special person.

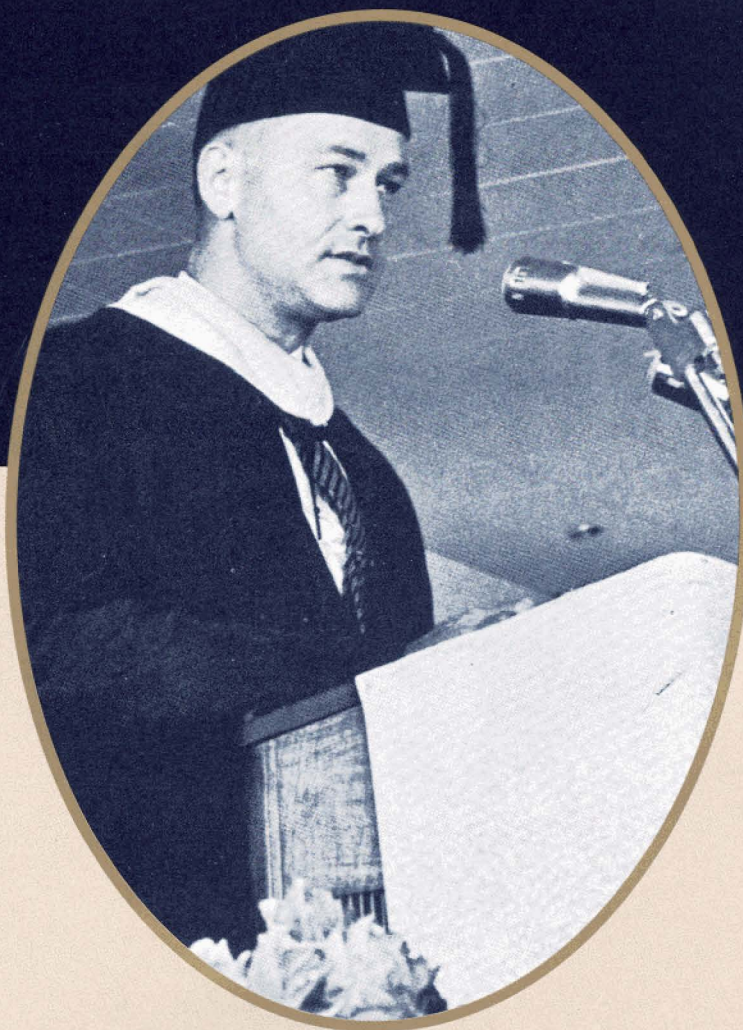
She got more pleasure out of OU than anything else she’d ever done. Students included her in their activities and invited her to parties. When Meadow Brook Festival started, she really enjoyed that. As we sat on the hill, she would say (of her husband), ‘Alfred would have loved this.’”

“The faculty and staff were wonderful, but I may be biased about that,” Woody says.

“We had a sense of teamwork, working together toward the same goal. The group that came on in the first five years felt a real sense of ownership.

“I think all of us are proud of the school. There can never be another one like it.”

On September 17, 1959, Chancellor D.B. "Woody" Varner presided as Michigan State University Oakland was officially dedicated in a grand ceremony. Varner's vision and his enthusiasm were never so apparent as in his convocation address. Following are selected portions:



"Ladies and gentlemen of the charter class, members of the faculty, members of the Board of Trustees and distinguished guests. Today, with this convocation, we are writing both the closing words of Chapter I and the beginning words of Chapter II in what promises to be one of the nation's most exciting educational adventures.

"As you must know, this university had its origin in one of the most courageous acts with which I have had any familiarity in my lifetime. It is not easy to give away one's life's accumulation, yet here we have

witnessed a deed of generosity not often exceeded in America's educational record.

"This has been the story of wealth accumulated in the traditional American framework of competitive free enterprise, and the story of the return of a large share of this wealth to serve the community from which it came. For those who cry out for the preservation of our American ideals, I submit this decision of the Wilsons as a kind of positive action designed to achieve just that. I should like to introduce those responsible for the founding of this institution, Mr. and

Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson.

"Also with us today is a real pioneer of this community and this county and a person equally dedicated — both in personal contribution and philosophy — to the establishment of this new university. Some five years ago, Miss Sarah Van Hoosen Jones, after serving for 12 years on the governing board of Michigan State University, gave to the university her beautiful 365-acre farm. It, too, was a courageous act since it represented the yielding of a homestead which had been in the Van Hoosen family for more than 100 years."

Woody Varner is, he is not boastful. His humility and kindness take center stage as he quickly points out the friends who helped him make Oakland what it is today.

"We had superb cooperation from the faculty and staff. John Hannah (MSU president) was a tremendous support. Don O'Dowd (provost and later Oakland's second president) was a very bright guy. Honestly, I couldn't ask for a better associate.

"Fifteen thousand students would have seemed like an incredible number in 1960. I knew the population base was there; the interest and potential was there. I knew if we could mobilize the county behind us, we could make it that large. And we got great support from the first day."

And the man whose opinion mattered most for so many years at OU offers his thoughts on the university as it enters the new millennium.

"I've been impressed with the orderliness and the progress of the university. The development of the building program on campus has stayed in tune with the academic foundation. The emergence of Oakland University in the past six to eight years has been remarkable.

"Gary Russi has a personal style of leadership that's very productive. And he's done some hard thinking. The university is in great shape and moving in the right direction. I'm pleased with what Oakland University has become."

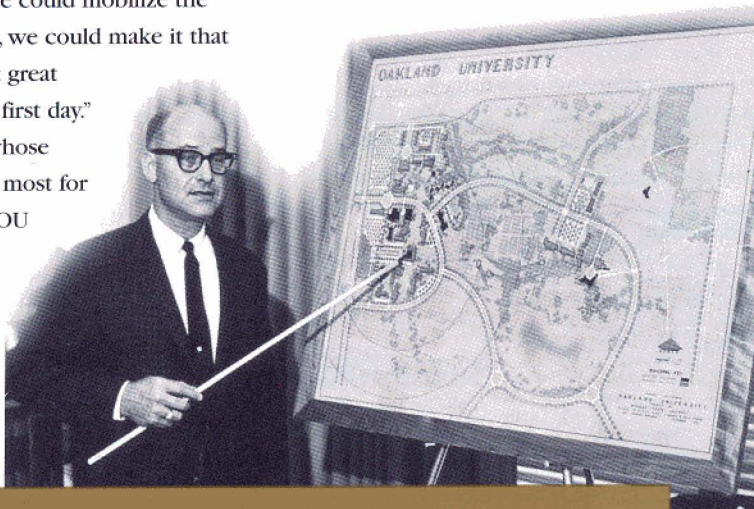
Russi, today's president, credits the

foresight and wisdom of Woody, a man he first met years ago at the University of Nebraska, when they were colleagues.

"He kept telling me to look at Oakland University, and look where I ended up," Russi smiles. "He was a mentor and role model for me.

"Woody is a powerful guy. At Oakland, he was able to work with incoming faculty and staff to create a vision of a liberal education that stands even today. He moves people. Not everyone can do that; great leaders can."

And Woody's advice for Oakland University today? "They've done so well, I'd be inclined to say, 'Give 'em hell.' I



Varner is impressed with the OU of 1999. He literally designed Oakland in the 1960s.

think they've done a super job."

Never doubting, always supportive. Classic Woody Varner.

To those who know him, he is a pioneer, a superb salesman and a friend. To those who don't, they need only look at his grand vision called Oakland University — a reality that truly mirrors the man.

Todd Haight CAS '87, principal of Todd Haight Communications, is a frequent contributor to Oakland University publications. He and Jim TerMarsch CAS '96, of Chesterfield Township, are new admirers of Woody Varner.

A sign of the times: Varner encouraged Oakland students not to work

Early on at Oakland, D.B.

"Woody" Varner encouraged students to keep studying rather than working.

An article in the October 23, 1959 edition of the student newspaper quoted Varner as discouraging students from taking off-campus jobs.

"We believe it is vitally important that the students stay on the campus eight hours a day," he said.

Varner urged students needing a job to consider a student loan so that they could devote themselves to "the most important job the young person shall ever undertake. The task at hand is crucial."

Varner also told parents that the task of the university was one of education, "not as a mechanistic, automated function, but the highly responsible, sober, thoroughly personal business of working with and developing the minds of your sons and daughters as individuals."

Oakland University Alumni Calendar

Volunteers are needed for all of the events with an asterisk (*) and for the colleges' and schools' alumni affiliate boards. For more information, please call Alumni Relations, (248) 370-2158, or send an e-mail message to OUA@oakland.edu

OCTOBER

2

Metro Detroit Heart Walk*
on OU's campus. The nation's largest American Heart Association walk moves to our campus.

8

Annual Alumni Awards Banquet*
An elegant evening at Meadow Brook Hall. Celebrate service!

23

Make a Difference Day*
The university community — students, alumni, faculty and staff — joins in service to the larger community. Pick one of several projects and make your own difference.

NOVEMBER

19

Golden Grizzlies Men's Basketball Team vs. University of Michigan in Ann Arbor

25-28

Hawaii Pacific Basketball Tournament
The Golden Grizzlies and seven other Division I universities go at it in Honolulu.

DECEMBER

18

Rematch with Michigan State in East Lansing
Last season's men's basketball game with MSU opened OU's new Athletics Center with a roar that rocked the floor.

JANUARY

12

Paula Blanchard in Macomb Town Hall Lecture-Luncheon Series for OU scholarships.

27

Indianapolis Alumni Reception with basketball games at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis.

29

Northeastern Ohio Alumni Reception with basketball games at Youngstown State.

APRIL

12

Dr. Elliot Engel in Macomb Town Hall Lecture-Luncheon Series for OU scholarships.

VOLUNTEER! Meet great people, have great fun, and make a real difference.

Internet Access Privilege to End

As of June 30, 2000, Oakland must end the Internet access privilege available to Alumni Association members. Members who use the benefit will want to identify and secure their own Internet Service Provider (ISP) before that time. All alumni Internet accounts will close on June 30, 2000.

The benefit was originally made available when the university and the Alumni Association were much smaller. Current students, faculty and staff need primary access to information technology. As the numbers of students, faculty, staff and alumni have grown, and the numbers of distance learning and off-campus instructional sites have expanded, resources have been stretched to the limit. Students and faculty dialing in from their homes or workplaces to do research or access on-line materials need priority. At the same time, the university's ISP has changed its billing structures, making the alumni benefit financially impossible.

Membership in the Alumni Association is gained by a \$30 tax-deductible contribution to OU. Any privileges we provide must take into account IRS regulations.

ISP services are readily available commercially and have recently been made available via cable as well as telephone lines. They range in cost, but \$15 per month is a common charge.

We are giving as much notice as possible to ensure a smooth and thoughtful transition. Please contact Alumni Relations at (248) 370-2158 if you have questions or need additional information.

Alum? Alumnus? Alumna? Alumnae? Alumni?

- **Alumnus** — singular male (John is an alumnus of the university.)
- **Alumna** — singular female (Matilda is an alumna of the university.)
- **Alumnus/a** — inclusive singular (If you are an alumnus/a of the university, you may)
- **Alumni** — plural male (John and Harold are alumni of the university.) *Note: No such thing as an alumni. Generally used to refer to the alumni and alumnae of a coeducational university.*
- **Alumnae** — plural female (Matilda and Frances are alumnae of the university.)
- **Alumnae/i** — inclusive plural (The alumnae/i will meet at the gatehouse.)
- **An** alumnus or alumna
- **The** alumnae or alumni
- **Alum, alums** — informal usage, better employed in speaking than in writing

Alumnus and actor Steve Blackwood to emcee banquet

An early fall evening, Friday, October 8. Trees just beginning to turn. Laughter, music and refreshments on the terrace of Meadow Brook Hall. All this is great, but what makes the annual Alumni Awards Banquet so much fun are the members of the OU community attending: alumni, faculty and staff. Our master of ceremonies is OU alumnus and Hollywood actor and singer, Steve Blackwood. Following dinner, Steve and the Larry Nozero Orchestra will entertain and provide music for dancing. This special night recognizes alumni who have given exceptional service to the university, the community and their professions. Find out who this year's recipients are by attending the banquet. For more information, contact Linda Oliver, Alumni Relations, (248) 370-2158.

OU takes spirit on the road

Oakland University's Alumni Relations, Admissions and Athletics are hosting a series of get-togethers at Division I men's basketball "away" games to promote networking, student recruitment and Division I awareness. Come out to meet old friends and make new ones. To get involved, contact Adrienne Bass at bass@oakland.edu or call 1-877-445-ALUM.

Receptions are planned for these "away" games:

- University of Michigan, November 19, 1999
- Michigan State University, December 18, 1999
- Indiana University- Purdue University at Indianapolis, January 27, 2000
- Youngstown State University, January 29, 2000



OU community members enjoy mingling at the annual Alumni Awards Banquet.

Check out Grizzlies Web site

For the lowdown on the Golden Grizzlies, go to the snazzy OU athletics Web site. And don't miss the fans' scrapbook. See if you can find your face in the crowd. <http://www.oakland.edu/ouathletics/>



PHONE (OR E-MAIL) HOME

We suggest that you clip this list of contact numbers for OU Alumni Relations and put it wherever you keep such information. We are here to help you. Let us know if you have a question or a concern. If we don't have the answer, we will connect you with the person who does or do some research for you. It is essential that you let us know when you move or change jobs. We also want to hear any personal or professional news that you would like included in Class Notes.

Mail:
Alumni Relations
Oakland University
John Dodge House
Rochester, MI 48309-4497

Fax: (248) 370-4206
E-mail: ouaa@oakland.edu
Local phone: (248) 370-2158
Toll-free phone: (877) 445-ALUM (2586)

ALUMNI FEEDBACK FORM

Let us hear from you. Mail or fax the answers to these questions or send us an e-mail message. See the information above on how to contact us.

LASTING IMPRESSION

Is there a faculty or a staff member who made a lasting impression on you during your Oakland years? Is there someone to whom you would like to say thank you? Or someone with whom you want to share special news? Alumni Relations will deliver your message and thank that faculty or staff member on your behalf.

Please tell _____
Name of Faculty or Staff Member

Message _____

QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Your name _____ Class year _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

CAREER/ ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1960s

Thomas Chester Jr. CAS '63 retired from General Motors in 1992 and from the Marine Reserves. He has three sons: Timothy, Thomas and Daniel. He owns a consulting firm, Teaching Solutions, in Waterford, and is a faculty member at Baker College and Oakland Community College. He holds a 1996 master's degree from Central Michigan University.

1970s

Annette Aluzzo-Kingsbury CAS '72 is a writer for *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Annette is married to Dennis Kingsbury SECS '72, an applications engineer with Kronos in Novi.



One night, a young man going through OU's student orientation came to the curb outside Vandenberg Hall where student orientation leaders and the late Marilyn Broderick MA '82, director, Office of New Student Programs, were chatting after a long workday. It was about midnight,

and the student was confused about which classes he should register for in the morning. Broderick ran to get all of her advising materials, laid them on the driveway and talked to the student for about an hour, until she answered all his questions. This was a typical response for Broderick, recalls Matt Tapson SBA '99, a former student orientation leader who knew Broderick for four years.

Broderick, 47, died July 5, 1999 of an aneurysm. During her 19 years at Oakland, she interacted with and served tens of thousands of students in a variety of roles, including academic adviser and orientation director, says Mary Beth Snyder, vice president, Student Affairs. Broderick's funeral drew about 100 past and present student orientation leaders she had trained. "That speaks volumes about what kind of teacher she was," Snyder says. "She had such a positive impact on so many young people's lives here at Oakland University."

As her husband, Tim Broderick BA '82 put it at her funeral, the orientation leaders are her legacy.

Colleagues and students described her as committed, energetic, bright, funny and liked by all. They want to honor her with a bench outside North Foundation Hall where Broderick used to speak with students.

"We want to have a memorial bench where people can reflect and maybe tell stories about Marilyn," says David Ollie, office manager, Office of New Student Programs.

Donations made payable to Oakland University can be sent to Pam Acheson, John Dodge House, Oakland University, Rochester, MI 48309-4401, with "Broderick Bench" written in the check's memo line.

Gail Brennan SON '78 had a special tribute to her cat Sissy included in the book *The Cats of our Lives* by Franklin Dohanyos CAS '91. The book includes memorable stories about people and their favorite felines.

Geraldine Cotter CAS '70 was named director of career development at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Geraldine has been president of the College Placement Association of Nebraska and served on the Liberal Arts Subcommittee of the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Kathy A. Gaddy CAS '77 is a classroom paraeducator at Waterford Village elementary school in Waterford.

James O. Harris CAS '72 informed us that his daughter Abigail is working toward a master's degree in

cellular biology at OU and his son Tim has transferred to Oakland's computer engineering program.

Pat M. Lehman CAS '75 has been named first executive director, Sterling Heights Community Betterment Foundation, Sterling Heights. Pat has a master's degree in personnel management from Central Michigan University and has taught business management at Macomb and Oakland Community Colleges. She is the former president of the Michigan Municipal League Communicators and was named "Administrator of the Year" in 1995 by the city of Sterling Heights.

Dr. Michael N. Musci Jr. CAS '78 Dr. Musci was recently appointed the Senior Medical Director, Eastern Region for Paidos Health Management Services. Paidos is the nation's only disease management company dedicated solely to case management of infants in Neonatal Intensive Care Units on behalf of health plans.

Robert Scherer SBA '72 was promoted to vice president, appraisal group for Colliers International, a full-service commercial real estate firm in Bingham Farms. He has been a state-certified real estate appraiser in Michigan since 1991.

Cynthia L. Thomas CAS '79 was named to Romac International's President's Club. She is a senior account manager in the Tampa office and was honored for her performance in the company's healthcare division. Only 20 of Romac's more than 7,000 consultants achieve President's Club status each year.

Timothy Wiedman SBA '76 of Hampton, Virginia is an associate professor of business and head of the Management and Marketing Department at Thomas Nelson Community College in Hampton.

1980s

Ann Blatte CAS '80 has been named the executive director for the Rochester-Paint Creek Center for the Arts, the nonprofit community organization dedicated to promoting visual art and artistic excellence. Ann served as the Director of Development and Marketing for the last two-and-a-half years. She was a former news anchor and has an extensive television and radio news background.

Dan R. Broner CAS '85 is Director of Music Ministries for Northbrook Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills, Michigan.

Michael Carbone CAS '86 is a senior human resource manager with Nextel Communications in Southfield.

John Godwin SBA '80 was promoted to senior vice president, investment brokerage group for Colliers International, a full-service commercial real estate firm in Bingham Farms. John has been an active commercial real estate broker since July 1989 and has received numerous recognitions and awards for production and sales volume.

Catherine E. Hallett CAS '82 has been promoted to vice president of information services at Wacoal America, headquartered in Lyndhurst, New Jersey. Wacoal is a premier manufacturer and distributor of ladies intimate apparel.

Kenneth Jones CAS '86 is a staff writer with *Playbill On-Line*, a theatre news service in New York City. He is a former theatre critic for *The Detroit News*.

Julianne Kautz SBA '88 was recently promoted to the accounting department with the Michigan Institute of Urology. Julianne has been working at the institute since September 1995.

Catherine Mila SHS '87 served as a physical therapist in the U.S. Air Force and now works for Providence Hospital in Novi, at an outpatient physical therapy clinic. She also provides home care. Catherine is currently working on a Master's of Health Science in Physical Therapy at the University of Indianapolis Krannert School of Physical Therapy. She has been married for 10 years and has two children.

Winning the triple crown



Tammie Dutton SON '93 pulled off a rare triple crown at the 50th National Appaloosa Horse Show in Oklahoma City on Independence Day 1997.

She swept the three pageant divisions, winning Miss Horsemanship, Miss Appearance and Personality and Miss Appaloosa Knowledge.

She was also named Miss Appaloosa America.

During the next year, Dutton reigned as the official ambassador of the Appaloosa Horse Club. She attended local, regional and national shows, expos, parades, rodeos and community functions all over America.

"The experience was excellent," says Dutton, a public health nurse, Oakland County Health Department. "I had the unique opportunity to ride in the Rose Bowl parade and travel."

Dutton says her crowning year did include an important message.

"My goal was to educate the public about this outstanding breed, and instill valuable knowledge for the Appaloosa enthusiasts of tomorrow," she says.

Dutton, who lives in Orion, Michigan, began her horse showing career at age nine. "My first horse was from Virginia and it was wild so I had to tame it by myself. It was very difficult, but I learned to develop trust and discipline."

Dutton is currently pursuing a graduate degree at OU as a nurse practitioner. "My education is important to me so I may be taking a year off from showing," she says. "But I'll be back."

Jeff Oxford SECS '81 has been promoted to the position of Managing Director at Keane at the West Michigan office of the company's Information Services Division.

Brenda Shannon Yee CAS '88 has had her first children's picture book published. *Sandcastle* was published in May 1999 by Greenwillow Books (William Morrow & Company).

Kenneth Zatkoff CAS '80 has become a shareholder in the law firm of Dean & Fulkerson in Troy. He concentrates his practice in labor and employment law and litigation.

1990s

Edward M. Bolt SBA '98 has begun training with Prudential Preferred

Financial Services and has passed the Series 7 securities examination.

Susan Bowyer, Ph.D., CAS '98 is an assistant staff investigator at Henry Ford Hospital.

Frank Cosenza CAS '91 is a real estate consultant with Max Brook Realtors, in the Rochester office. Frank serves the Rochester area and Oakland and Macomb counties.

Laura Duncan CAS '90 was recently promoted to director, Production Services at the Eidos Group in Farmington Hills.

Dale Essenmacher SBA '91 started an investment advisory firm in June 1999. Previously he worked as a district manager and assistant

vice president for The Olde Discount Company for seven years.

Christina Fuoco CAS '90 is the pop music writer for the *Observer & Eccentric newspapers*. She recently won first place for Best Young People's Coverage in the 1998 Suburban newspapers of America Editorial Contest, and first place for Best Enterprise story in the 1998 Michigan Press Association awards.



A worldly rear admiral

This year J.D. "Dan" McCarthy and his fellow classmates of 1969 will mark the 30th anniversary of their graduation from Oakland.

McCarthy's three decades have been distinguished by round-the-world trips and a stellar career in the U.S. Navy, in which he is a rear admiral. His recent promotion makes him the first Oakland alumnus to achieve the two-star military rank.

After earning a BS in engineering at OU, McCarthy joined the Navy to apply his education and experience in management; he had worked his way through Oakland as an assistant manager for the SS Kresge Corporation. After attending Officer Candidate School and the Navy Supply Corps School, he served in nine shore locations and on five ships: two tank landing ships, a fleet ballistic missile submarine tender, helicopter carrier and the USS Missouri, the battleship on which the Japanese surrendered to end World War II.

On the Missouri, McCarthy cruised around the world to commemorate the voyage of Teddy Roosevelt's Great White Fleet of 1908-1909.

"During the voyage, we were the centerpiece for the 75th anniversary of the Royal Australian Navy celebration in Sydney Harbor, entertaining heads of state and other dignitaries in six countries," he says.

McCarthy, originally from Auburn Hills, has also visited Egypt, Denmark, Belgium, Poland, Germany, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Canada, France and Thailand. Now he serves as deputy chief of staff for Logistics, Fleet Supply and Ordnance, on the staff of the Commander in Chief of the United States Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. His awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Award, the highest award the United States bestows to a military member in peacetime.

Although he worked full time during his OU career, he managed to find spare time on campus.

"Oakland in those days had a much smaller student body; the engineering students always remained close-knit. Pinochle games at lunch and periodic car rallies are my fondest memories," he says.

After Oakland, McCarthy also earned an MS in management as a distinguished graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School, and he attended the Naval War College and the University of Michigan Executive Education Program.

McCarthy married Carol A. Lorenzen of Ashland, Oregon. They have three sons: Chris, a junior at Purdue University studying computer science; Matt, a high school freshman; and David, a sixth-grader.

David Gnatek SECS '92 is president and owner of Softquest Technologies, a computer consulting firm specializing in database design and development and Year 2000 preparation. David started the company in 1997.

Joanne C. Gerstner CAS '93 has joined *The Detroit News* as a sportswriter. She previously worked for *USA Today*, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, *Lansing State Journal*, *The Flint Journal* and *PGA Magazine*. Joanne earned a master's degree from Northwestern in 1995.

Mark Goodenow Jr. SBA '98 was one of 11 students from Michigan honored with the 1999 award for academic excellence. The award was given by the Detroit chapter of the Financial Executives Institute at their dinner meeting, which was held on March 23, 1999.

Brian Gregory CAS '90 has been named the new assistant coach of the Michigan State men's basketball team. He finished his OU career as the all-time leader in assists with 906. Brian is familiar with Michigan State, having served as a graduate assistant for the Spartans from 1990-1992 and as an assistant coach from 1992-1996. He was an assistant at Toledo for the 1996-1997 season and for the past two years has been an assistant at Northwestern.

Bjorn Hansen SEHS '98 recently graduated from the Marine Corps Basic Combat Engineer course at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Suzanne Haxer SEHS '97 is a Peace Corps member and will serve as a teacher trainer volunteer in Belize.

James Hiller CAS '98 is attending law school at DePaul University, Chicago.

Brian W. Hinton CAS '92 is employed in the Legal Affairs division of Electronic Data Systems. He conducts

investigations into allegations of harassment, discrimination and other violations and counsels managers on all aspects of employment law.

Catherine Hodgson SBA '96 is a clinical application analyst in the Information Services Department of McLaren Health Care Corporation.

Anna-Lisa Kleckner SON '98 is a registered nurse in the orthopedic neurology unit of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac.

Nickole Kuzdak CAS '97 has been appointed sales associate with GKN Sinter Metals, Auburn Hills. Nickole previously worked for ITT Industries as a sales analyst and QS-9000 auditor.

Jason Long CAS '96 graduated summa cum laude from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. He will begin a judicial clerkship for the Honorable Michael Cavanagh, Michigan Supreme Court Justice in September 1999.

Kristen S. Montgomery SON '94 is a doctoral candidate in Nursing at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Her dissertation research will focus on adolescent pregnancy.

L. Christie Montgomery SBA '91 was recently appointed the coordinator of the College of Business graduate program at Eastern Michigan University.

Rita Mercier SEHS '92 is an investment representative with Edward Jones Investments. She is married and lives in Bristol, Virginia.

Roger Murphy SBA '92 is working with Pulte Home Corporation in Royal Oak.

Rev. Dr. Netter Mitchell SEHS '90 received a doctorate in Ministry from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, 1998. Mitchell is a pastor at

the First United Methodist Church in Hayward, California.

Candace Pavliscak SBA '92 has been appointed assistant vice president and control officer at Crestmark Bank of Troy. Candi had been a legal assistant at the law firm of Stroebel & Borda.

Diana Pletz CAS '98 is a public relations coordinator with the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency.

Nathan Sanders CAS '98, of Rochester Hills, is working as a freelance writer.

Andrew Schreck CAS '98 has joined Eisbrenner Public Relations in Troy as an account coordinator. Eisbrenner Public Relations is an independent public relations firm founded in 1985.

Sue Slayton SEHS '95 has been a counselor at Riverside Academy for five years. Sue is married and has a two-year-old.

Marilyn White SEHS '98 is an adjunct professor of education at Marygrove College, Detroit, in the Griots program. This program fosters positive change in the community by preparing competent and committed teachers to work in every segment of the city. Marilyn has been nominated for the 1999 Disney's American Teacher Awards, which were created to give extraordinary teachers the recognition they deserve.

WEDDINGS/ENGAGEMENTS/ BIRTHS

Tom Bacarella SBA '95 of Phoenix, Arizona, married Pam Strickland in Phoenix.

Lori Blakely CAS '94 announced her engagement to **Dennis Ryba CAS '95**. The wedding was in July. Lori is a science teacher at Lake Orion High School and Dennis is an orthotist/prosthetist at Advanced Orthopedic Labs.

Carolyn Brooks CAS '87 announced the birth of Andrew Evan, born March 2, 1999.

Bridget Green CAS '98 and **David Lingholm CAS '98**, of Wixom, were married on September 25, 1999.

Karrie Hodge SBA '96 announced her engagement to Jerome Jager of Armada. He is a graduate of Walsh College. A June wedding was planned.

David Kolasinski CAS '94 and **Melissa Kolasinski CAS '95** proudly announce the birth of their daughter Sophie Mae, born on March 2, 1999.

Michelle Long CAS '98 married Charles Stief on April 24, 1999. Charles is an alumnus of Albion College.

Sherry Lee Schlaufman SBA '97 announced her engagement to Chadd Michael Yagiela. An October wedding is planned.

Heidi Wendel SEHS '94 announced her engagement to Gregory Liedtke. An August wedding was planned.

DEATHS

Darcy Jo Burleson SEHS '96 died of complications from Hodgkin's disease on March 30, 1999. Darcy was a kindergarten teacher for Clarkston schools. She had been a teacher for seven years. She began her career as a substitute teacher, and then taught at Bailey Lake Elementary School before transferring to Springfield Plains Elementary School. She was a member of the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority.

Katie Francken SEHS '71 died on July 1, 1999 at the age of 79.

Jean E. Guillman SEHS '77, daughter of Jules and the late Ruth Guillman, died in April 1999.

John Ingrao SEHS '82, husband of Diane and father of Alicen and Gregory, died on July 15, 1998. He had been employed as an agent recruiter for Consolidated Financial Corporation. He was a trustee for the City of Sterling Heights Police and Fire Pension Board. John met Diane, his wife, at Oakland University and married in 1982 at St. John Fisher Chapel.

Naomi Linden Kline SEHS '75, wife of Bernard Kline, died suddenly in Israel in April 1999.

Susan Lindberg SEHS '78, wife of Peter Lindberg, died in April 1999.

Ronda Foster Lucarelli CAS '89 died on April 26, 1999. Ronda owned and operated Orion Rental & Retail with her husband and was an assistant manager at the Bay Pointe Country Club.

Pamela Perfili SBA '76 died from lung cancer on June 23, 1999. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in business

management from Oakland University. Pamela taught at Macomb Community College and owned a modeling company, the Pamela Perfili Agency, in Farmington Hills. In addition, she co-founded with her mother Emilio's Restaurant in Roseville.

Sam C. Wiscombe CAS '76 died on April 10, 1999 with complications from a lung transplant. Wiscombe was a teacher at Pontiac Catholic High School and Lake Orion High School, teaching history and social studies. He was also a wrestling and golf coach for many years.

Gayle Zulauf (Bailey) CAS '78 died suddenly on March 11, 1999. Zulauf, of Royal Oak, taught at Van Zile elementary school in Detroit. She received a master's degree from Oakland University and a doctorate from the University of Michigan.



Mentor for African-American youths

Aaron Alston SBA '90 stays busy as an entrepreneur and community booster.

Two years ago, he started Trellis Inc., an integrated marketing firm in Troy.

The company integrates technology with existing marketing concepts for clients including DaimlerChrysler Corporation, Bozell Worldwide Inc., Cadre Systems, Bach Technologies and Don Coleman Advertising. Trellis also provides program project management, e-commerce consulting, data warehousing and data mining services.

Last summer, Alston helped plan a national convention in Detroit for 100 Black Men of America, a nonprofit organization of African-American professional men who mentor youth. He also serves on the board of the organization's Detroit chapter.

He brought his mentoring interests to OU, also. In a project he designed for DaimlerChrysler, the Build Your Dream Vehicle Program pitted inner-city high school students against each other in a competition to build their dream vehicles.

"I enjoyed my Oakland experience all around," says Alston, of Farmington Hills. He reflected on OU efforts in recent years: "I think Oakland University has worked diligently toward arriving at the right mix for diversity."

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- *run for office*
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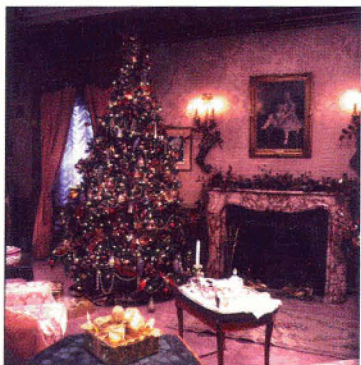
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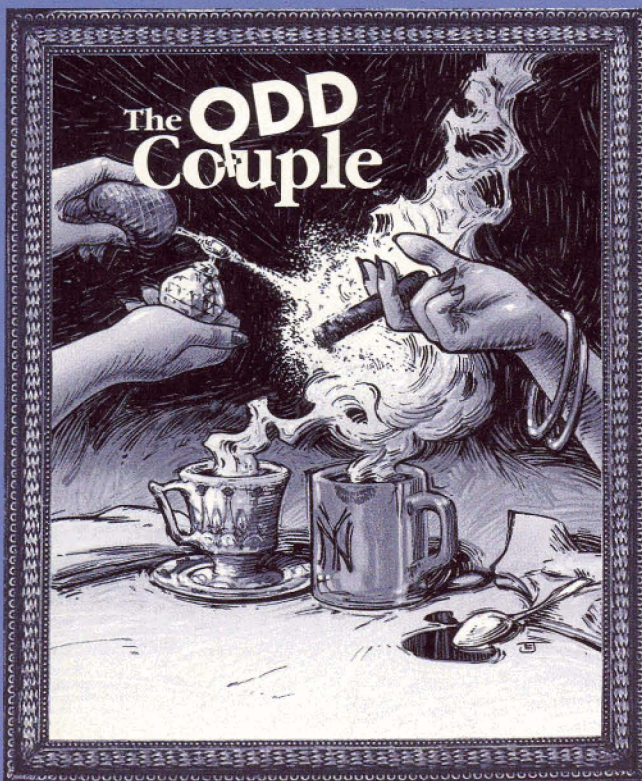
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