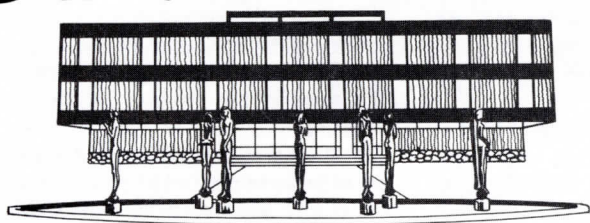


# OAKLAND UNIVERSITY NEWS



A publication for faculty, staff and friends

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## Lindemann Research Aids Study of Fertility, Contraception

Calcium levels can make a sperm cell assume the curved "fish hook" shape which may be necessary for fertilization, biologist Charles Lindemann has learned.

The researcher has also learned that nickel or copper ions can block that change. The findings, along with his previous discoveries, "can have profound long-term implications in fertility or contraception," Lindemann says.

Lindemann has studied sperm cell activity with continuing support from the National Science Foundation. He has just received a second year payment of \$45,115 on his most recent NSF award of \$145,341.

The researcher was the first to demonstrate that a cellular protein and another cell compound, cyclic adenosine monophosphate, are keys to the control of sperm activity. Actively swimming sperm are essential to fertility and his finding what controls that activity was first announced in 1983 in the journal *Cell Motility*.

Lindemann's current research sheds more light on the mystery of sperm cell activity. He has found use of common Novocaine will block calcium from the cell and with the aid of cyclic AMP will cause the sperm to swim faster and in a curving fashion; but a low amount of calcium in the cell will make it assume a swimming curve opposite to the one in the above experiments, Lindemann says. He has been stripping the membrane from the cells to study the mechanism of sperm cell action. Lindemann has been working with rat sperm because the motility mechanisms are similar to humans.

A key and unexpected finding in the research was the fact that a sperm shape change is triggered separately from the swimming action. He has just reported this finding for the first time at the UCLA symposium on cell motility held at Lake Tahoe in

February.

Raising the calcium level in the cell will cause it to assume the "fish hook" shape, Lindemann has learned, and the change will occur even if the cell itself has been poisoned and is unable to swim. Thus far, his experiments have shown that nickel or copper will block the sperm cell from forming this necessary "fish hook" shape.

Learning how to control the swimming activity of the sperm cell and induce or block its shape change will have implications for animal breeders, childless couples, or for birth control which are obvious, Lindemann says.

A basic researcher, he does not work on human subjects but uncovers the mechanisms of how and why cells behave as they do. Other scientists may then make applications of the findings. Lindemann has been assisted in his OU research by Jason Goltz, an OU undergraduate who was instrumental in the discovery of the calcium control of sperm shape. Both researchers are currently preparing their findings for publication.

## Chapman-Moore Receives Annual AP Award

Elaine Chapman-Moore, director of the Office of Academic Services and General Studies, has received the annual Outstanding Administrative-Professional Award for 1987.

In making the award, the AP Assembly cited her ability to take on challenging assignments and handle them well, her substantial contributions to the university advising process, her leadership of the successful orientation program, and her encouragement and assistance to faculty advisers and students.

Her nominations read in part, "Not only does Ms. Chapman-Moore handle assigned tasks effectively, she also carries them off with a graceful quality that makes them look easy and makes everyone involved look good. I view her work as central to the university's mission."

Also nominated were Roxanne Allen, Jean Colburn, Patricia Coleman, Gerald Compton, Gerard Joswiak, William Marshall, R. Dan McDonald, Jean Ann Miller, Nancy Schmitz and Jack Wilson.

Selection committee members were, Carol Lamb, Richard Moore, Cassandra Phillips, Laura Schartman, David Vartanian and Geoff Upward, representing AP members; Janet Krompart, faculty; Margie McCartney, clerical-technical; and Frank Szuba, student.

## Survey Results in Next Issue

Results of this year's *Oakland University News* readership survey will be published in the April 24 issue.

We are still compiling statistics from the 218 questionnaires that were returned. Let's see, 218 surveys multiplied by four pages, times 12 questions with multiple answers...

Did we say April 24?



Mary Ellen Shindel, costume shop supervisor in the Center for the Arts, makes some final alterations on a dress. This particular dress was worn by the character Ismene in the recent production of 'Antigone.'

## AP Development Funds Await Applicants

Administrative-Professional employees interested in attending a nonjob-related seminar or conference may do so with the assistance of the university.

The budget for the AP Professional Development Fund is allocated by President Joseph E. Champagne and managed by a subcommittee of the AP Assembly. The intent is to broaden employees' skills and knowledge about subjects that are not directly related to their work.

Despite a \$10,000 annual budget, the number of applications has not been overwhelming. In fact, Lauri Strong, chairperson of the fund committee, is spreading the word to encourage APs to apply. This fiscal year, seven of the nine persons who have applied have been approved. They will attend conferences with a diverse range of subjects.

Strong says the fund covers tuition and fees, travel, lodging, meals and other costs

directly associated with approved activities. Usually the charges run from \$400 to \$900, she says, but any reasonable expense is considered. The amount of time from application to approval or disapproval averages 10 days to two weeks.

"If a seminar is sponsored by a reputable association, is substantial in content and the amount can be supported, the cost would be one of the last considerations for the committee," Strong says.

Criteria considered by the committee include personal benefit to the applicant, the benefit to the university either directly or indirectly, the quality of the conference, the cost-benefit return, and the quality of the request and its thoroughness.

Generally, about 20 APs could receive full or partial funding each year. Applicants are eligible for funds once during a calendar year. While away from work, the employee is

expected to use regular vacation or personal leave time. The program should not be confused with the Career Development Fund distributed through the Employee Relations Department.

Employees have received professional development funding this fiscal year for such things as a sports medicine seminar in Las Vegas; an International Reading Association Conference in Anaheim, Calif.; a personnel-related conference in Ann Arbor and Raleigh, N.C.; and a seminar concerning financial management for women in higher education held in Orlando, Fla.

Patrick Nicosia and Pat Coleman are two APs who received funding and speak highly of the program. Nicosia, budget director, attended a fraternity law conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is adviser to Theta Chi Fraternity, the only student organization with its own off-campus house.

Nicosia said the conference enabled him to learn more about liability, safety and financial issues. "I think it is a good benefit for an employee. This conference had nothing to do with my job as budget director but everything to do with the university," he said.

Coleman is a research and grants assistant in the Office of Research and Academic Development. She will attend the American Association for Counseling and Development conference. Coleman has a master's degree in counseling and said she likes to stay current about developments in the field.

Attending the conference, she said, will "enhance my professional development and give me an opportunity to participate in leadership workshops."

Coleman added, "I think the fund is a wonderful opportunity. It surprises me that people don't take advantage of it."

## Four Cited as Outstanding

Two students and two faculty members will be honored April 8 by the Michigan Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities.

The students are Colleen Ochoa and Steven Lundy. Chosen as distinguished faculty members were Randal Hansen, psychology, and Richard Stamps, sociology and anthropology.

The awardees will receive a certificate and be recognized with a special resolution from the Michigan Legislature. The MAGB annually cites outstanding students and teachers who are nominated by their respective institutions.

Ochoa is a senior communications major with a B average. Lundy is a senior bio-

chemistry major who will graduate *cum laude*.

Hansen received the 1986 OU Research Excellence Award. He has more than two dozen publications to his credit, and he has served as consultant to a number of journals in the field of social psychology. He has been recognized by the National Science Foundation to study cognitive patterns of self-awareness and will study this summer at the University of Iowa.

Stamps is coordinator of East Asian Studies and has conducted several study tours of China. He has been active in development of the university's cross-cultural training programs for business executives dealing with China or Japan, and in excavating Thomas Edison's boyhood home in Port Huron.



Chapman-Moore



# Gifts Help Establish Library Acquisitions Fund

Science journals, books and references are a basic and costly requirement for a first-rate academic library.

Meeting that goal at Kresge Library will be substantially advanced, thanks to the generosity of Jan and Ron Bennett who have contributed \$75,000 to create an endowment fund for that purpose. Their gift was made through the Campaign for Oakland University.

In addition, \$80,000 in undesignated funds raised by the Alumni Association has been dedicated for library acquisitions by Presi-

dent Joseph E. Champagne. Dean Suzanne Frankie says half the funds will be used this fiscal year and the remainder in 1987-88.

The funds will be used to renew subscriptions to journals and the like. The dean comments, "The alumni for years have been wonderful supporters of the library. Helping in this emergency is especially gratifying to all of us."

As for the Bennetts' gift, the funds were contributed up front so that they could be invested and draw interest for the university. The goal is to spend proceeds on new materials while leaving the principal intact.

Jan Bennett says, "Basically what we had intended was to put the money into a fund which in five years would become \$100,000. The university could then use this as a basic fund to draw on for acquisitions in science — and when we mean science, we are talking about chemistry, physics and biology. We are talking about monographs, journals and books on a continuing basis, not just a lump sum purchase."

The Bennetts say they will also work as volunteers to see if chemistry graduates and faculty members would be interested in making contributions to the fund as well.

Jan Bennett explains that "Ron and I have a lot of faith in this university, and the library is really the core of the university itself. If the library is good, then other things usually follow, so that is basically why we have done this."

"This is a wonderful contribution," says Frankie. The dean points out that science materials, particularly the journals, are expensive. "A chemistry journal can cost \$435, and the sciences are heavily dependent on such journals because of the need to

keep up on new developments. An endowment will enable us to subscribe to new materials and assures us of continued funding to keep those materials current."

While the Bennetts hold undergraduate degrees from Albion College where they first met in an art class, they declare growing ties to OU.

Jan received her master's degree from the university, majoring in organic chemistry, and has praise for her adviser, Geoff Brieger. She is equally enthusiastic about Tad Malinski, who is guiding her through her doctoral studies where her interests have shifted to electro-chemistry. She is the first candidate in the doctoral program in health and environ-

mental chemistry. Jan wants to complete her degree in about a year and hopes a teaching or research position at OU might be a possibility after graduation.

A library endowment fund is the latest evidence of the Bennetts' interest in OU and in higher education. Earlier endowment funds support two student scholarships in chemistry.

Jan Bennett says that when she and Ron were approached about a contribution to the campaign, it was not a difficult decision. "We are interested in the university and ready and willing to support it. I really look at Oakland as unique."

## Fitness Symposium Set for Institute

Fitness professionals will tone up their techniques in an April 26 symposium sponsored by the Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute.

The session will feature special guest Covert Bailey, author of *Fit or Fat* and *The Fit or Fat Target Diet*. The sessions will be from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. in the institute.

Other guests include Charly Heavenrich of WXYZ-TV's *No Nonsense Exercise* and developer of the Body Business Workshop Series; Fred W. Stransky, director of health enhancement programs at OU; and Rick DeLorme, assistant director of the institute.

Program topics will include teaching style, exercise physiology, fallacies of exercise, exercising safely: screening for those at risk, and lifestyle factors that promote good health.

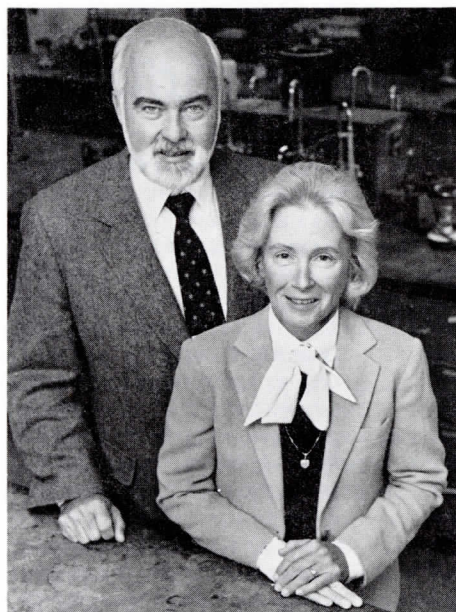
The sessions are designed for dance exercise instructors, fitness professionals in

wellness centers, fitness clubs and community programs, and for individuals interested in safe, effective fitness programs.

Lectures, exercise and dance sessions and a panel discussion will be featured. The \$65 fee (\$75 after April 20) includes buffet lunch and refreshments throughout the day. For additional information, call 370-3198.

## Lockers Available at Kresge Library

Eighteen lockers have been installed in the lower level of Kresge Library for the use of students. Though the lockers were purchased for the use of handicapped students, all OU students may have access to them, if they are available. Students should visit or call CIPO, 370-2020, for further details.



Ron and Jan Bennett have assisted the library through the Campaign for Oakland University.

## Our People

Anyone may submit items for this column to the News Service, 109 NFH. Publication is on a space-available basis.

- Maura Caruth Selahowski, CIPO, coordinated the conference newsletter at the ACPA/NASPA conference in Chicago. Nancy Schmitz, also in CIPO, assisted Selahowski. The conference had 5,400 people registered.

- Four members of the Department of Rhetoric, Communications and Journalism participated in the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Atlanta. Wallis Andersen presented *Using the Computer Invention Programs ORGANIZE and SEEN in First-Year Writing Classes*; Van Hillard presented *'No Cool Facts': Education by Writing and the Dialectic of Change*; Alice Horning presented *Teaching Writing as a Second Language*; and Ronald Sudol served on a panel on *Computers and Literacy: Methods and Empowerment* and chaired the meeting of the Committee on Textbooks in Composition.

- Norman Kloosterman, nursing, addressed the National Cardiovascular Nursing Conference in Baltimore on *Ethics and Critical Care*. He presented *Endocrine Disorders Seen in Critical Care* to the Southeast Michigan Critical Care Association.

- Mary Mittelstaedt, nursing, presented *Working with Pregnant Teens* at the *Issues in Perinatal Nursing* program sponsored by South Macomb Hospital and St. John Hospital.

- Robert J. Goldstein, political science, has been selected in a nationwide competition to participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar for college teachers. The selection includes a \$3,500 stipend. Goldstein

will attend a seminar on *Historical Sociology of American and European Labor* to be conducted by Professor William Sewell of the University of Michigan. Goldstein's article, *Political Censorship of the Theatre in Nineteenth Century Europe*, has been accepted for publication in the British journal, *Theatre Research International*. His article, *Political Censorship of the Opera in Europe, 1815-1914*, has been accepted for publication in *The Opera Journal*. Goldstein's book review of Ellen Schrecker's *No Ivory Tower: McCarthyism and the Universities*, appeared in the January issue of *The Progressive*. He presented a paper on *Political Censorship of Cinema in Pre-World War I Europe* at the annual convention of the Michigan Academy of Arts and Letters in Ann Arbor.

- Flavio Varani, music, was heard on public radio with the Lafayette String Quartet, the quartet in residence, on March 19. The broadcast on WUOM, WVGR and WFUM included the Dvorak Quintet for Piano and Strings. The quartet also played works of Haydn and Shostakovich.

- At the conference on College Composition and Communication held in Atlanta, faculty members presented papers on a panel entitled *Pre-Writing CAI: Programs, Practice, and Composition Theory*. Helen J. Schwartz, English, spoke on *Pre-Writing CAI and Composition Theory*. She also led segments of a preconvention workshop, *Using Computers in the University or College Writing Center*, and served as respondent on the panel, *The Politics of Computers and Composition*. Wallis Andersen, rhetoric, communications and journalism, spoke on *CAI Programs in the First-Year Writing Classroom*. OU graduate Kris D'Arcy, now a doctoral student at the University of Michigan, reported on research in her master's essay, *How Students Use ORGANIZE, a Pre-Writing Program*. Robert L. Donald, English, chaired the session.

- Helen Schwartz, English, wrote *Planning and Running a Computer Lab for Writing: A Survival Manual* for the *Bulletin* of the Association of the Departments of English. Additional recent publications included her article, *Myths About Software in Collegiate Microcomputer*. Her reviews of the journals, *Research-Word Processing Newsletter* and *English Microlab Registry* in the *Journal of Computer-based Instruction*. Schwartz has been chosen as a visiting scholar at the National Center for Research to Improve Postsecondary Teaching and Learning at the University of Michigan.

- Robert Fink, psychology clinic, discussed gifted adolescents on the WDRT-FM program, *City Talk*. He also spoke on the family relationships of gifted children at a meeting sponsored by the Steppingstone School for the Potentially Gifted in Plymouth. Fink, in collaboration with clinic staff members Roxanne Allen and Amiah Barak, recently had an article, *Teaching and Supervising Career Assessment Interns*, published in the *Michigan Journal of Counseling and Development*.

- Joan Rosen, English, conducted a workshop, *Children and Imaginative Writing*, for the West Bloomfield Communication/Governance/Council's fourth annual Equity in Education conference.

- Augustin Fosu, economics, wrote *Explaining Post-1964 Earnings Gains by Black Women: Race or Sex?* for the winter issue of *Review of Black Political Economy*. The article resulted from his 1984 School of Business Administration spring/summer research fellowship. He presented *Occupational Mobility of Black Females in the United States, 1958-1981* at the Allied Social Science Association's meetings (National Economic Association section) in New Orleans. He presented *Nonwage Benefits as a Limited-Dependent Variable: Implications for the Impact of Unionism* at the annual meeting of the Eastern Economic Association in Washington, D.C., in March. His paper, *An Agency-Theory Based Decision Model for Pension Accounting*, written with Alan Reinstein and G. Lander, has been selected as the best theoretical paper submitted for the Northeast Decision Sciences Institute meeting. The three coauthors will share the Robert W. Pearson Award and plaque.

- Alan Reinstein, accounting, presented *Audit Committees: Is the Public Sector Using Them Effectively?* before the second annual Touche-Ross Conference on Emergency Issues in Auditing. The paper presentation was at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, Calif. Copresenter was D. Gahart of Wayne State University.

- Kiichi Usui, art gallery, has been appointed to the artist selection jury for the competition conducted by the Commission on Art in Public Places, a division of the Michigan Department of Management and Budget. A six-member jury composed of representatives of the national art community will make the initial selection of art works for the Industrial and Technology Building at Central Michigan University. Two art works will be selected for the project with a maximum budget of \$100,000.

## Jobs

Information about job postings is available from the Employee Relations Department, 140 NFH, or by calling 370-3480.

- Secretary I, C-4, Katke-Cousins Golf Course.
- Clerk I, C-3, Accounting Office.
- Clerk II, C-4, Oakland Center.
- Clerk I, AFSCME, University Services.
- Experimental machinist, C-10, Department of Chemistry.

## In the News

Appearances by faculty and staff members in the media in recent weeks have included the following.

- Robert Fink, psychology clinic, was quoted in two articles on two-income families in *Oakland Business Monthly*.
- The *Detroit Free Press* interviewed Frank Cardimen, Center for Economic Development and Corporate Services, about the Oakland Technology Park.
- Information about nutrition classes offered at the Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute was carried in the *Free Press* and *USA Today*.

## New Faces

Additions to the university staff, announced by the Employee Relations Department, include the following.

- Jennipher Grudzien of Rochester, a laboratory research technician II in the Department of Biological Sciences.
- Otis Lee of Detroit, supervisor of building maintenance, in campus cleaning.
- James Lynn of Pontiac, a Food Service apprentice.
- Ruel Ramos of Pontiac, a Food service apprentice.
- Sheryl L. Schultz of Oak Park, a Food Service apprentice.
- Craig Shelton of Dearborn Heights, a Department of Public Safety officer.
- Timothy Stokes of Lansing, assistant to the director of Upward Bound.
- Christine Tyler of Pontiac, a Food Service apprentice.

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- James Llewellyn, senior editor and news director.

- Jay Jackson, staff writer.

- Rick Smith, photographer.



# The Sport of Finesse

## Forget Errol Flynn, This Fencing is for Real

Fencing. The word conjures images of swashbucklers and the sharp sound of blade against blade.

Although there is some razzle-dazzle inherent in the sport, participants know that displaying athletic skill and mental toughness are just as thrilling.

At OU, the Fencing Club competes regularly under the eye of Coach Paul Franklin, coordinator of campus programs for CIPO. A fencer himself and coach since 1983, Franklin and assistant Tom Decker oversee a club of 25.

The OU club includes fencers of various skills as classified by the United State Fencing Association. The Michigan Division of the USFA has both teams and clubs at colleges and universities. The OU club will compete in the Michigan Division championships April 11-12. (Club status means there is no financial support from the Department of Athletics, but some funding is given by the Student Activities Board.)

"This has been a real productive year for the club. Individuals have won more trophies this year than we ever have in the past. There was a period of five or six competitions that we won a first place in every competition. We have won first place in men's foil, women's foil, men's epee and men's sabre. Some time during the year we have won a competition in each of those weapons," Franklin says.

In Europe, where fencing is to athletics what cleanliness is to godliness here, children are sent to special schools to learn the proper use of the foil, epee and sabre. Eye and hand coordination is important, but nimble footwork is also critical.

Just as golf has clubs for special situations,

so does fencing have its particular weapons. The foil is the lightest weapon with a flat blade, and the epee and sabre have triangular blades. Scoring depends on where the blade touches the opponent; certain areas of the body are valid targets with each weapon used.

At the college level in the United States, most fencers are beginners, although some universities recruit fencers from Europe. The latter was the case with Franklin, too, who picked up his fencing skills in 1973 while working at Utica College of Syracuse University. He also competed while in graduate school at the University of Maine. In 1984, he was a scorekeeper and official at the Olympics.

"I think one thing students get out of it is physically learning how to control the muscles in their body," Franklin says, "to do things that it doesn't normally do. To be able to do that requires a certain amount of discipline."

The fact that fencing is unique — you rarely see it on the playgrounds, depending on your neighborhood — is an attraction for students.

"Fencers share a common bond with each other. It's another slice of identity within the university. I think they also have a sense of accomplishment, learning how to do something and then doing it well. It's competitive, but it's not threatening."

Franklin notes that fencing has its roots in times when men dueling as a matter of honor for the woman they loved. Fencing today does not require such an earnest cause, however, and perhaps just as well. By the time the combatants put on their heavy,



Fencers using sabres practice as Coach Paul Franklin watches.

white protective clothing and masks, and attached the electronic scoring device to their weapon, an even-tempered bystander might walk away with the object of affection.

In a competition, judges and participants have a coolness about them, which is all part of the mystique. For those using electronic scoring equipment, the difference is one of accuracy, not intensity.

"Points are scored when the button on the end of the weapon is depressed on the metallic jacket, for example, and grounded. Then the colored light on the scoring machine lights up." If the weapon strikes an off-target arm, as in foil, a white light comes on to indicate a miss. Bouts last six fencing minutes. "Usually it's over within two fencing minutes, and the first to five touches wins," Franklin adds.

The coach points out that in days before microchips, weapons were dipped in red chalk to help judges see where the tips struck the white-clad opponents.

Franklin hopes to see the club gain team status. A disadvantage of being a club is lack of respect from varsity teams. If OU were to shut out national powerhouse Wayne State University, which has a varsity team, WSU could consider it a scrimmage and forget it. "We would try to get it on the front page of the *Free Press*," Franklin counters.

Fencing has survived the centuries, and probably will be around a few hundred more. "I think people are really in love with the romance of fencing," Franklin says. "Douglas Fairbanks and Errol Flynn have a lot to do with it."

*Touche.*

## Professor Wrestles with the Mathematical Abstract

In Britain, there was a society for pure mathematics whose emblem proclaimed, in essence, "let us hope that whatever we do here will never find any application in the real world."

That narrow view of the discipline might suit some scientists, but not Eli Maor, associate professor of mathematics and author of the newly published book, *To Infinity and Beyond: A Cultural History of the Infinite*. The book is now available in area stores.

Maor says the book was the result of more than five years of research and writing. He received support during that time from university research funds and from a grant from Brian Copenhaver, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Maor says the work is intended for the informed layperson who would have an interest in the topic but not necessarily the depth of knowledge to understand a heavy emphasis on mathematics. His aim was to produce a work that would satisfy the layperson as well as the mathematician, Maor says, and so the formulas are separated from the general text.

If there was a single goal to the book, it was to show that "mathematics, the most extreme of the abstract professions, has humanistic aspects, and that it has applications and connections to many subjects, including music and art," Maor says.

The writer says his work has been well received in early readings since its publication by Birkhauser, a firm with offices in this country and in Europe. The book is being considered for translation into Japanese and publication in that country, Maor has learned.

The author says he has always been interested in the relations between mathematics and the arts. That relationship has fascinated some mathematicians as far back as Pythagoras in 6th century B.C.

For example, there are only 17 ways to take a design and repeat it infinitely. "Choose whatever pattern you like, but the ways in which you can repeat it are limited," Maor says, "whether that design be on wall paper in your home or on the exotic carpets in a Moslem shrine."

In fact, Islam excels in abstract geometric art, Maor says. "At a Moslem shrine, you would normally find huge carpets on the floor with a basic design which repeats itself in all directions." It is symbolic, Maor says, "Since the basic doctrine of Islam is that there is one infinite ruler of the universe, we are all subject to His will, and that man can see only a finite portion of the supposedly infinite design." Islam prohibits the use of human figures and the employment of abstract designs has been highly developed.

Maor also traces the influence of math on

the work of Dutch artist Maurits C. Escher (1898-1972). Escher was a master at depicting infinity, and his works were discovered and acclaimed more by mathematicians and physicists than by artists. Escher himself said he felt a closer kinship to scientists than to fellow artists, and yet he had no mathematical training beyond high school.

In his highly illustrated book, Maor traces the treatment of infinity throughout the ages by mathematicians, artists and philosophers. Included is an anecdote about Winston Churchill and his comments about infinity. "I don't think he liked mathematics very much," Maor says.

While the popular concept of infinity might be that of something that stretches out beyond the horizon and never ends, there are different definitions of infinity in mathematics. For example, if you divide one by a smaller and smaller number, the outcome becomes larger and larger. In fact, you can make it larger than any assigned quantity. That is one of the aspects of infinity — it is something you can approach but never reach.

Maor explains that "one also encounters in mathematics different classes of infinity, in which one class may actually be greater than another." Typical of the concept is a description of a telescope the author once purchased. It stated that the range of the instrument was from 15 feet to infinity and

beyond. It fascinated him enough to form the title for his book.

Maor is a graduate of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. He has published extensively in American, British and Israeli periodicals. His article, *What is There so Mathematical about Music?* was selected by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics as the first winner in a national contest for the best article on teaching and the applications of mathematics.

## Program in Running for National Award

The successful *Meet Me in the OC* event offered for students is one of seven national finalists as the best residence halls program in January. Both on-campus and commuter students participated in the program, which included a variety of dinner choices and entertainment.

The National Association of College and University Residence Halls is reviewing the program. Sponsors were Food Service, Residence Halls Programming, Area Hall Council and resident assistant staff.

The program has also earned recognition from the Great Lakes Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls and the Michigan Residence Halls Association.



# Commission Report Helps Plan University's Direction

In the coming year, we will take a look at the recommendations of the Commission on University Excellence. In this installment, Associate Professor J. Curtis Chipman, who chaired the commission, explains the workings of the group and how its work was carried out.

Reports have a tendency to find their way to the back of the file drawer — sometimes with a deliberate push — never to be seen again. They gather dust and before long, it's safe for the recipient to pitch them out.

After three years, however, the final report of the Commission on University Excellence is alive and well. It is a document still being used by administrators, deans and faculty members to plan the future of OU.

J. Curtis Chipman, mathematics, and Keith R. Kleckner, senior vice president for university affairs and provost, agree the commission's report is still referred to in planning sessions. Kleckner is emphatic in assuring that the report has not been forgotten, nor will it be.

The 16-member commission, as charged by President Joseph E. Champagne, was asked to conduct a "thoughtful and deliberate audit of how well we are doing what we say we are doing." The work began in October 1983 and the final report was submitted May 1, 1984.

Chipman points out the 89-page report was never intended to be the definitive statement about OU programs, nor did the commission expect recommendations to be adopted without further review.

Areas critiqued by the commission were admissions standards, competency and proficiency standards, academic program review mechanisms, academic support systems, faculty development and some related concerns, such as budgetary and planning processes.

Chipman was appointed commission chairperson, in part, because of his role as chairperson of the Academic Policy and Planning Committee. Thinking back to what it was like to hear of the task before him in 1983, Chipman recalls the task seemed "overwhelming."

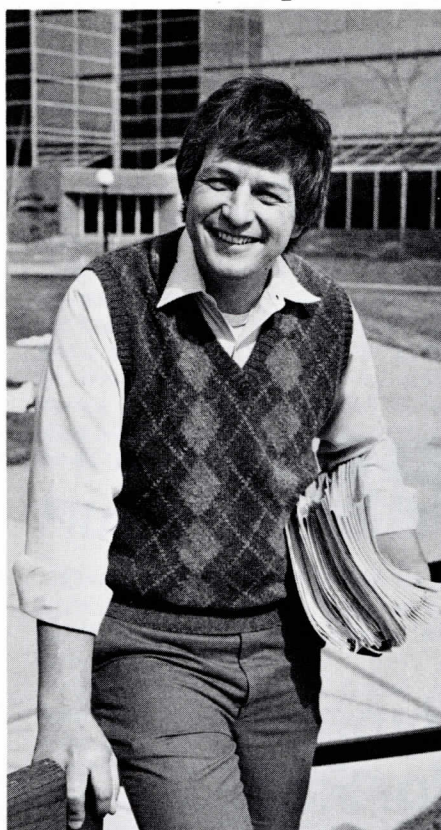
"It was much too complicated for us to do by ourselves," Chipman says. "None of it would have been done if the total university community hadn't supported it." That cooperation came from everyone involved, from faculty members who had to gather data to clerical staff members who typed and retyped reports.

Commission subcommittees carried out the individual tasks. In March 1984 the full commission began meeting to pull all aspects of the project together.

A misconception was that a goal of the commission was not to say "how excellent Program X is," Chipman says. Also, he says, objectivity might be questioned if that were attempted. "If the way we had interpreted our job was just to confirm or deny Oakland University's quality, then the whole thing would have been a farce. I think it would have been a waste of time."

The commission did not make value judgments about programs, Chipman says. "We directed most of these things along the line of whether we were doing what we claimed to be doing."

The commission resembled a consumer reporter who checks the claims being made against what is actually delivered. "We didn't try to do anything more ambitious than see if Oakland told the truth about its academic programs. We weren't trying to check out anything about how viable we were in the public service area or the scholarship and research areas. It was a very limited scope. We took the attitude, 'We say we do this, do we really do it?' It's important that it be



J. Curtis Chipman

recognized that it was all limited to academic areas."

Recommendations are being actively considered by such bodies as the University Senate. "In the first year after the report came out, the Senate acted on a new admissions policy. In the following year, a recommendation relevant to the remedial credit was handled by the Senate. This year another major recommendation dealing with review of academic programs at the under-

graduate level (was acted on)."

Most recently, Kleckner has acted on a reading and writing recommendation by appointing a study committee.

The report's effectiveness should not be judged solely by counting how many recommendations have been approved, Chipman cautions. "In the sense that if the only thing we got out of the report was perhaps three major pieces of Senate legislation out of 50 recommendations, then looking back at it in 20 years, it might be asked why normal procedure could not have produced that. You would wonder if it were worth everyone's time to do it."

A better approach, he says, is to note the caliber of those that have been approved. "Some were more important than others. I certainly, in terms of the order of the actions taken, would agree that things were done in the order that we most needed to do them, but none of those recommendations were trivially made."

Not that Chipman is anxious to do the same thing again soon, he says it is a worthwhile experience for the university to engage in self-study. He suggests these special commissions be reserved for large-scale, intensive review. On-going internal mechanisms should be used to evaluate effectiveness of regular programs.

"We made the claim that in a sense, the normal university governance processes, committee structures and offices would be able to keep track of the way things were going and then take self-corrective actions as they went along," Chipman says.

It is through such cooperative efforts as the Commission on University Excellence that faculty and administration share a common ground.



Helen Waterford and Alfons Heck related their experiences in Nazi Germany to several hundred students in the Oakland Center on April 1. She is an Auschwitz death camp survivor and he is a former Nazi youth leader. They told of the horrors of the Nazi campaign against Jews. In a separate program, historian Raul Hilberg urged students to remember the Nazi genocide as a means of never allowing it to occur again.

## Marva Collins to Speak at OU

Celebrated Chicago educator Marva Collins will deliver a free public lecture at 4 p.m. April 13 in the Oakland Center Crockery.

The address on *Educating for Better Cities* has been rescheduled from 2 p.m. to enable area educators and members of the public to hear the award-winning Chicago school principal.

Collins appears as part of the university's Martin Luther King, Jr./Rosa Parks Program. Funding was provided by the Michi-

gan Legislature.

Collins became a national celebrity soon after founding her Westside Preparatory School in Chicago in 1975. She is known for her ability to transform disadvantaged inner-city children into readers who quote Shakespeare and Socrates.

Her work has won recognition from the National Education Association, the American Academy of Achievement and the National Urban League.

## Payroll Offers Direct Deposits

Employees who receive a monthly paycheck may have it deposited directly into their checking or savings account through an electronic transfer of funds.

All area banks, the OU Branch of the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union and Merrill Lynch participate in the program. The program eliminates the need to pick up a paycheck and then make a trip to a financial institution with the deposit. It also eliminates the possibility of the check being lost or stolen.

Enrollment forms are available at the Payroll Office, 114 NFH. The deadline for enrollment or making changes is the 15th of each month, except for November and December when special dates are announced.

Anyone with questions about the program may call 370-3472 or 370-3473.

## NASA Finalist Speaking to Group

Sharon Newman, a teacher-in-space finalist for the NASA shuttle program, will speak at the April 15 Women of Oakland University annual meeting. It will be from noon-1 p.m. in 128-130 Oakland Center.

The program will be preceded by a business meeting from 11:40 a.m.-noon. For details about Newman's program, call June Wedekind at 375-0218.

## Events

### CULTURAL

Until April 19 — *Play it Again, Sam* at Meadow Brook Theatre. Call 370-3300.

April 10 — OU Concert Band, 8 p.m., Varner Recital Hall. Free. Call 370-3013.

April 10-12 — One-Act Festival at the Center for the Arts. Students will direct and star in one-act plays. Various times, 133 Varner Hall. Free. Call 370-3013.

April 12 — Oakland Chorale and the New American Chamber Orchestra present Mozart's *Requiem*, (Beyer edition) at 3 p.m. in Varner Recital Hall. Call 370-3013.

April 14 — University Drive/Vocal Jazz II, 8 p.m., Varner Recital Hall. Admission. Call 370-3013.

April 25 — The Distinguished Faculty Recital Series concert has been canceled due to an illness of the guest artist. Call 370-3013 for details.

Every Tuesday — Arts-at-Noon recitals in Varner Recital Hall. Free. Call 370-3013.

### COURSES

The Division of Continuing Education has brochures available listing spring and summer classes. Call 370-3120.

The Continuum Center offers workshops and seminars. Call 370-3033 for brochures.

### ETCETERA

April 11 — Film festival, *Women, Work and Relationships: The Dream and the Reality*, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in 156 NFH. Admission. Sponsored by the Women's Studies Concentration, the North Oakland/OU Chapter of NOW and the Union Minorities/Women Leadership Training Project of the Ken Morris Labor Studies Center. Call 370-3136 or 375-9595.

April 13 — Marva Collins, principal of Westside Preparatory School in Chicago, will speak on *Educating for Better Cities* at 4 p.m. in the Oakland Center Crockery. Free.

April 15 — Oakland Center open house, 8-10 a.m. Continental breakfast near Sweet Sensations. Come say farewell to departing students.

April 15 — Women of Oakland University, annual meeting and election of officers, noon-1 p.m., Oakland Center Gold Rooms. Guest speaker will be Sharon Newman, a finalist in the Michigan Teacher in Space program.

April 20-25 — National Secretary's Week.

April 26 — Symposium for Fitness Professionals, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute. Fee. Call 370-3198.

April 28 — Arleen LaBella will present a workshop, *Superwoman II — Finding Your Balance Between Power, Responsibility and Caring*, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in Varner Hall. Admission. Call 370-3120.

May 5-6 — *Telephone Skills: Courtesy on the Line* for all staff members, noon-1 p.m. Oakland Center Gold Room C (May 5) or noon-1 p.m. 126-127 OC (May 6). For details, call 370-3480.

### ATHLETICS

April 12, 15 and 25 — Baseball doubleheaders, 1 p.m., Lepley Sports Center.

### TOURS

Sundays — Meadow Brook Hall is open for tours. Admission. Call 370-3140.

### SPB FILMS

April 10-11 — *Aliens*, 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Saturday in 201 Dodge Hall. Admission.

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