

# Oakland University

Inside

Talent pool | Wired words | Shaken to the core

**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | Spring / Summer 2011**

## Respecting ragtime



Donor Honor Roll

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## DONOR HONOR ROLL

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## ON THE COVER

As both teacher and musician, **Taslimah Bey, MA '08**, has been helping to raise the profile of America's ragtime music and its unduly ignored composers.



## OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | Spring / Summer 2011



## FEATURES

### 14 Talent pool

*OU takes a lead in producing swimming coaches.*

### 16 Shaken to the core

*"Growth through suffering" under study.*

### 18 Safety first

*Better driving through technology.*

### 20 Wired words

*Language in flux; gadgets gone wild?*

### COVER STORY

### 22 Respecting ragtime

*An abiding passion for the musical past.*

### 24 College connections

*More options for earning an OU degree.*

### 26 Myth buster

*Bridging the great art vs. science divide.*

### 28 Nursing's next level

*Evolving practitioner role is patients' gain.*





18



20



26



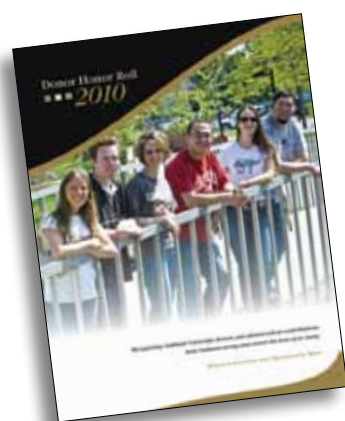
28

## DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Behind the stories
- 3 Letters
- 4 News
- 9 Sports
- 12 Giving
- 13 The Gold Standard
- 80 OU Moment

## ALUMNI

- 30 Alumni News
- 36 Class Notes



## 2010 DONOR HONOR ROLL

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



## ALUMNI PROFILES

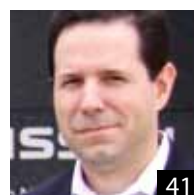
- 37 **Cynthia Attwood, CAS '69**, earns a presidential appointment.
- 38 **Ruth Johnson, SEHS '77**, aims to innovate as Michigan's Secretary of State.
- 41 **David Reuter, CAS '93**, succeeds in the corporate public relations field.



37



38



41

## Behind the stories



The German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel once said, “Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without passion.” Though he made this observation about 200 years ago, it surely rings true today.

We see evidence of that creative passion — what some might call “fire in the belly” — in the endeavors and pursuits of many of the OU alums, students and faculty we have featured in this issue.

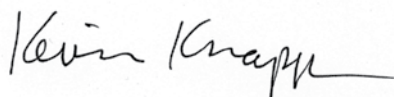
For alumna Taslimah Bey, a casual interest in the syncopated sounds of ragtime music fired her imagination and has become something greater. Today, she not only plays the music but is attempting to raise public consciousness about the history and significance of this truly original and indigenous American music.

OU Assistant Professor Kanako Taku, meanwhile, found her calling amidst the most unlikely and severe of circumstances. As a survivor of a devastating 1995 earthquake in her native Japan, she became passionate about understanding why survivors of similar tragedies often experience psychological growth as a result. Her research at OU, aided by many of her students, is currently exploring this uncharted territory.

Alum Robert Fisher, a professional in the field of automotive safety equipment and an avid OU booster, gets his spark from the knowledge that the new technologies he promotes can help save hundreds of lives and reduce traffic accidents.

For OU Associate Professor Alberto Rojo, his twin — and seemingly divergent — passions of physics and the folk music of Argentina have driven him to embrace dual careers as educator and globe-trotting performer.

Finally, our Donor Honor Roll is a veritable “Who’s Who” of those who are passionate about OU. We’re grateful to all who have the fire in their bellies for supporting this university and are helping to create greater opportunities for future students. To those devoted to making a difference — at OU and beyond — we thank you.



Kevin Knapp, Editor





Welcome to OU Magazine's Letters section. If you've read us in the past, you know we like to hear from our readers. Sometimes they comment on stories, sometimes they just drop us a line to share experiences they've had at OU. In this issue, we're happy to share comments from an alum on events at OU. Drop us a note. We'd like to hear from you, too. [oumag@oakland.edu](mailto:oumag@oakland.edu)

– LL

## Mark your calendar

As an OU graduate I enjoy reading the OU Magazine. The articles are interesting and informative of events that have already taken place. What I would really like to see is an advance notice or calendar of events that will be happening on campus. I have attended many MTD performances and have enjoyed them immensely. The shows staged at the Studio Theatre are of incredibly high quality. I think that with more notice many more of us alumni could attend these events and continue to support the learning experiences at our alma mater and celebrate its growth!

Steve Talan '80, Ferndale, Mich. ●

Editor's Note: Thanks so much for your comments. We don't typically run a calendar of events in the magazine as it only comes out twice a year. However, you can find MTD events at [oakland.edu/mtd](http://oakland.edu/mtd) and other university events at our events calendar site, [oakland.edu/calendar](http://oakland.edu/calendar). – LL

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## Dr. Srinivasan honored

Gopalan Srinivasan, Ph.D., physics professor, has been named as a recipient of the President's Council of the State Universities of Michigan (PCSUM) Fifth Annual Distinguished Professor of the Year Award.



*Gopalan Srinivasan*

This prestigious award, established to recognize outstanding faculty contributions to undergraduate instruction, is sponsored by the chief academic officers of the 15 public institutions in Michigan. The award is intended for faculty members at the rank of

full professor who demonstrate a strong and clear commitment to undergraduate students.

Dr. Srinivasan, who was featured in the fall 2010 issue of OU Magazine, was recognized for his engagement of students in his projects, "teaching physics through research." During the past 20 years, a total of 38 physics, chemistry and mechanical and electrical engineering students have participated in investigations under the creative supervision of Dr. Srinivasan. ●

## Name change on campus

What's in a name? For a recently rededicated student housing center on OU's campus, it's the exceptional service and many contributions of former Board member and longtime university benefactress Ann V. Nicholson.

OU's Board of Trustees endorsed a recommendation from President Gary Russi, Ph.D., to name the University Student Apartments in her honor.

Nicholson served on the Board of Trustees for 16 years, starting in September 1994. During her tenure, she acted as vice chair and chair of the Finance and Personnel Advisory Committee, as well as the Investment Advisory Committee. She also served on the University Affairs Advisory Committee and the Finance, Audit and Investment Committee.

Nicholson and her husband, James, are members of the Meadow Brook Society, which recognizes university donors who have contributed between \$500,000 and \$1 million. The pair has supported OU through generous gifts to many university departments and units.

Nicholson helped with the development of the University Student Apartment Project, serving as a board liaison and collaborating with the University Committee to design the apartments to best meet the needs of campus residents.

Completed in 2002, the apartments stand as the university's model for student living and currently house more than 450 campus residents. ●

## New stem cell institute

There's great hope in the medical research community that stem cell research may one day yield major breakthroughs in the prevention and treatment of diseases and cancers.

Now, Oakland University and Beaumont Hospitals are expanding their medical education and research partnership with the launch of the Oakland University William Beaumont Institute for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine (ISCRM).

The institute's partners aim to make it a world leader in basic and translational stem cell research. With a multi-

disciplinary approach, the ISCRM will generate new knowledge and insight of stem cell science and train future health care leaders and innovators to maximize the benefits of stem cell medicine.

Oakland University and Beaumont leaders expect the ISCRM to be an important focus of research for the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, which welcomes its inaugural class in fall 2011. ●

## Cyber security lab opens

With the increasing sophistication of cyber attacks, computer/network security will be among the fastest-growing occupations in the country in coming years, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, thanks to the increasing sophistication of cyber attacks.

To answer the need for training, the School of Business Administration recently opened a new laboratory that offers hands-on, experiential learning by experimenting online with network configurations, firewalls and computer malware.

The Security Network Instructional Lab, housed in Elliott Hall enhances an already strong program in Management Information Systems that prepares students for careers in the digital security field.

In addition to teaching in this highly advanced facility, SBA faculty members will conduct research and explore issues relating to desktop virtualization, surveillance and information systems security.

For more information about the Security Network Instructional Lab, visit [oakland.edu/sbasecuritylab](http://oakland.edu/sbasecuritylab). ●





### County recognizes leaders

Praising Oakland University's leadership as "visionary," Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson recognized President Gary Russi, Ph.D., as part of the 18th Annual Quality People, Quality County Awards Breakfast last fall.

Dr. Russi and Ken Matzick, the recently retired CEO of Beaumont Hospitals, both received accolades for bringing plans for the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine to fruition.

Dr. Russi also received a Quality People, Quality County award in 2008. ●

### High-end microscope

The eyes have it. Thanks to a \$107,845 grant from the National Institutes of Health, researchers at OU's renowned Eye Research Institute now have access to a high-end microscope that is opening whole new realms of investigative possibilities.

The ERI recently acquired a Zeiss Axio Imager 2 fluorescence microscope, which is capable of magnifying cell and tissue samples up to 1,000 times with remarkable clarity and detail.



Shraavan Chintala, Ph.D., an ERI investigator who is exploring the causes of glaucoma and who will oversee use and care of the instrument, said its magnification capability is just one of many benefits.

The microscope also can isolate the colors of up to 10 different fluorescent dyes at a time, allowing researchers to focus on multiple biological components of a given cell or tissue sample. Additionally,



the microscope can make detailed scans of samples one microscopic layer at a time, and then compress the images of each layer into a single, composite image.

Dr. Chintala says the advanced microscope allows investigators who use it to examine the results of their experimentation in ways that simply were not possible before. For example, samples can now be studied using three-dimensional and time-lapse imaging.

In addition to ERI investigators, the microscope is being made available to OU researchers who can benefit from its advanced capabilities. ●

### Student newspaper in national spotlight

Oakland University's independent student newspaper, The Oakland Post, collected a pair of prestigious awards at a recent national college media convention.

The Post's website (oaklandpostonline.com) won top honors for Publication Website — Large School, and the Post's print edition placed ninth in the Four-year Weekly Tabloid category in the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) Best of Show awards.

ACP also announced that The Post had earned a 2010 Pacemaker award finalist plaque, placing it among the top 22 non-daily student newspapers in the U.S. and Canada.

"We got really great positive feedback, and it reaffirmed that all the work we do each week is worth it," said Kay Nguyen, editor-in-chief of The Post.

Earlier this year, The Post won 11 awards in the Michigan Press Association's 2010 College Contest, including first place in General Excellence — Division 2. ●



### New building taking shape

The steady progress on the construction of the new Human Health Building is visible at the corner of Squirrel Road and Walton Boulevard on the OU campus.

At press time, a majority of the steel framework has been put in place. John Harmala, senior project manager, OU Capital Planning and Design, says the project is both on schedule and on budget. He says students will notice a big difference in the construction when they return in the fall.

"Right now, it looks like a skeleton," he says, "but in the fall, the exterior will have been clad in terra cotta. It's going to have a substantial presence."

The \$65-million HHB is scheduled to open in 2012. The building features a number of eco-smart systems and will be heated geo-thermally to reduce energy costs.

The environmentally conscious approach of the project also extends to the proposed rehabilitation of the wetlands that had existed at the building site. Harmala says the marshy patch had been overrun by phragmites, an invasive species of reed that is swiftly overcrowding native plants in Michigan. He notes that the top layer of soil at the site was skimmed off and placed in a temporary landfill on the upper campus.

"Since the seeds of phragmites lay in the soil, you have to remove it entirely to prevent them from returning," explains Harmala. "Now we'll be able to propagate native plants without unwanted competition from the invasive species."

In addition, the area outside the HHB will be landscaped and sculpted into a student-friendly "green zone" that will allow them to enjoy a respite from classes in natural surroundings. ●



## Third annual 'Come Home to OU' is a resounding success

The buzz is growing. Now in its third year, "Come Home to OU" — Oakland University's annual homecoming celebration — has expanded steadily, both in attendance and the scope of activities. The event was held Jan. 28–Jan. 30, 2011.

"This year, we welcomed record crowds, with events attracting the largest weekend turnout in the event's young history," says Glenn McIntosh, assistant vice president of Student Affairs and homecoming committee co-chair. "The men's and women's basketball games sold out at 3,100 in attendance, with standing-room-only tickets."

New to the event this year were honorary homecoming chairs. Three OU alums served as 2011 honorary homecoming chairpersons: Leo Bowman, CAS '76, Oakland County Circuit Court judge;

Karen Newman, CAS '82, the dynamic singer who is known as the "Voice of the Detroit Red Wings"; and Bryan Barnett, SBA '98, Rochester Hills, Mich., mayor.

Also new this year, OU hosted a special welcome reception to give alumni an opportunity to reconnect with friends and acquaintances before beginning a weekend of fun activities, exciting basketball and new memories.

The OU Hall of Honor ceremony also took place on Friday when the Department of Athletics presented the George Wibby and the Dr. Gary Russi awards, as well as inducting the Hollie L. Lepley Hall of Honor recipients during this event.

On Saturday, students enjoyed the first-ever student tailgate party prior to the basketball games, with 300 OU students

participating. Other Saturday events included the OUAA Family Festival, the men's and women's basketball games against Centenary College, and the men's and women's swimming and diving competition versus Michigan State University.

An All-Sport Reunion and individual departmental open houses offered attendees another opportunity to reunite with former teammates, instructors and classmates. Sunday rounded out the weekend with the Golden Grizzlies Homecoming 5K Run/Walk.

"We're pleased at how well everything turned out," says McIntosh. "It was really a special time to share with alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students, and I think we'll continue to see it grow as an important part of OU life." ●

By Susan Thwing





## 19th annual KOD awards

For the 19th year, Oakland University celebrated diversity, culture and community with its annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration. The KOD Award, which honors the legacy of the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., recognizes and rewards OU students who exemplify Dr. King's vision by working to break down cultural stereotypes and promote interracial understanding.

This year's awards recipients were Rodrina Moore, business major; Aianna Scott, psychology major; Se Min "Gerald" Sun, biology major; and Emily Tissot, dual Spanish and anthropology major. All four students have demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities through their involvement both on campus and in the community.

Since its inception in 1993, more than 50 students from a wide variety of academic majors have been awarded scholarships of up to \$5,000 for their efforts in promoting interracial acceptance and understanding. ●

## Our four-legged friends

Therapy can take many forms — even four-legged. That's why OU's School of Nursing is offering an innovative program to teach health care workers, teachers, counselors, social workers and other professionals how to incorporate animal assisted therapy (AAT) into their work.

Oakland's AAT Certificate program, which centers on the therapeutic value of synergies between humans and animals, is in its third year at OU and recently was extended as a new course in the Honors College.

While some might consider it a "fringe" form of therapy, Amy Johnson, administrative project coordinator, says the AAT program is heavily focused on research and practical results. "We know this type of therapy works," she says. "We can see it."

Forms of AAT have been used for hundreds of years — many 18th-century reformers noted that children could learn to control bad behaviors from the act of caring for an animal.

Nowadays, AAT is used to provide therapeutic benefits for at-risk children and adolescents, the elderly, the critically ill and other special-needs groups. The benefits also extend to those who provide AAT services, giving them another way to help others.

Oakland's AAT Certificate program is offered online, although meetings with local experts and visits to animal sanctuaries, shelters or farms are also required. ●

## Anton/Frankel center opens

The Anton/Frankel Center (AFC), located at 20 South Main Street in Mount Clemens, Mich., opens in fall 2011 with more than 40 OU courses ranging from psychology and dance to political science and math. The AFC expands OU's course offerings for Macomb County residents, joining the Macomb University Center and Macomb Intermediate School District locations.

To learn more about the AFC, visit [oakland.edu/afc](http://oakland.edu/afc). Current students may register for courses offered at the AFC at [sail.oakland.edu](http://sail.oakland.edu). ●

## Student radio station big

WXOU-FM, Oakland University's campus radio station, picked up a number of awards recently in the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Foundation's (MABF) High School and College Broadcast Awards for 2011.

OU swept the radio sports play-by-play category. Matt Pocket earned first place (his fourth first- or second-place win in four years), Kyle Bauer was awarded second place and the team of Pocket, Camron Smith and Ryan Carroll won honorable mention. All are in OU's Communication program.

Journalism student and WXOU station manager Andrew Grieve also won an honorable mention in the radio station activities report category.

And, in a first for Oakland, Cinema Studies major Phil Berard was awarded the 2011 MAB Foundation scholarship and Communication major Savana Ciavatta won the 2011 MAB/WXYZ-TV Broadcasting scholarship. Both are \$1,000 awards to assist students who are actively pursuing a career in a broadcast-related field at a Michigan college or university.

Faculty adviser Christine Stover said OU's growing presence in the MABF awards — Oakland has won awards in each of the past five years — is the result of both talent and effort. "It really takes a tremendous amount of work, and we're very proud of what we do here," she says. ●



Compiled by Kevin Knapp



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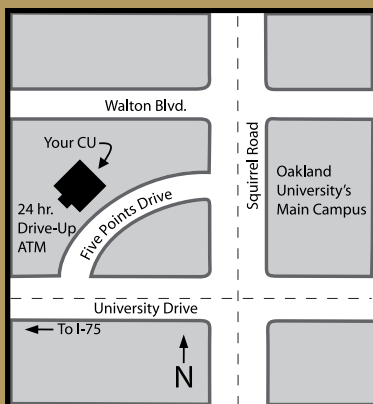
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Bethany Watterworth



Photo by Dick Carlson/Inertia

## Women's basketball

Coach Beckie Francis' team posted a 20-12 season mark, including a win over Big Ten foe Illinois at the O'rena in December, and a 12-6 record in Summit League play. Seeded fourth in The Summit League Tournament, the Golden Grizzlies won their first two games over Southern Utah and top-seeded Oral Roberts to reach the championship game for the seventh time in 12 seasons. OU is 19-9 all-time in Summit League Tournament games. Sophomore forward Bethany Watterworth led Oakland in scoring with 17.8 points per game and earned First Team All-Summit League honors. Junior guard Sharise Calhoun, who led OU with 58 steals and averaged 12.8 points per game, was honorable mention all-league, while freshman Zakiya Minifee, the team's rebounding leader, was named to The Summit League All-Newcomer team. Watterworth and Calhoun both were named to The Summit League All-Tournament Team. Junior Brittany Carnago, the 12th leading shot blocker in NCAA I for the year, was named to the Division-I AAA Athletic Director's Association (ADA) Scholar Athlete Team and was chosen to receive the inaugural I-AAA ADA Postgraduate Scholarship, a \$5,000 grant for postgraduate studies. Carnago earned her bachelor's degree in December and is currently pursuing her master's degree at OU. ●

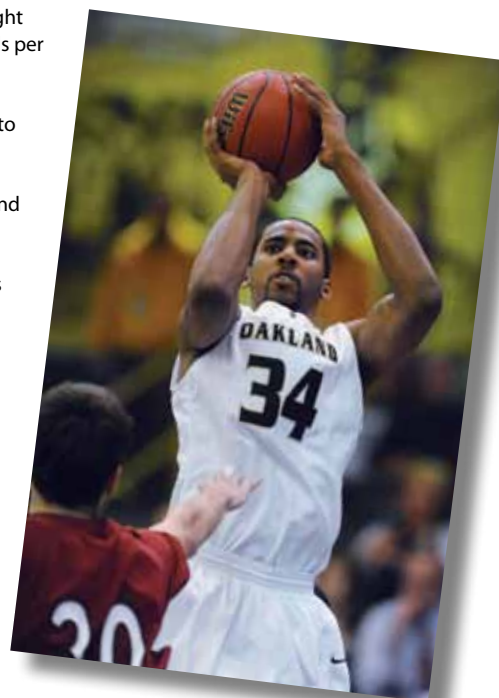
## March MADNEZZ

at OAKLAND UNIVERSITY



## Men's basketball

The Golden Grizzlies enjoyed one of the most spectacular seasons in school history, winning back-to-back Summit League regular season and tournament championships and earning their second straight NCAA tournament berth, losing a hard-fought 85-81 decision to fourth-seeded Texas in the second round of the West Region in Tulsa, Okla. It was the third time in the last seven years that Oakland qualified for the NCAA I tourney. OU was 25-10 on the season, including an 89-82 win over then seventh-ranked Tennessee in Knoxville, and matched its league record mark of 17-1. Senior center Keith Benson capped an outstanding career by earning both honorable mention Associated Press All-America and Summit League Player-of-the-Year for the second straight season. Benson averaged 17.1 points and 10.1 rebounds per game and posted a school-record 127 blocked shots, earning Summit League Defensive Player of the Year honors and becoming the first player in league history to earn both player and defensive player of the year accolades in the same season. Junior guard Reggie Hamilton averaged 17.6 points and tallied 187 assists and was named to The All-Summit League first team, while senior forward Will Hudson was named all-league second team. Senior Larry Wright won the conference's Sixth Man of the Year award, and redshirt freshman Travis Bader was voted to the All-Newcomer Team. Head coach Greg Kampe, who ranks 25th among all NCAA I coaches in career wins with 470, was named Summit League Coach of the Year for the second straight year and for the fifth time overall. He was also a finalist for the Jim Phelan National Coach of the Year and the Hugh Durham Mid-Major Coach of the Year awards. ●



Keith Benson





*Brittany Dunn*



*Vuk Popovic*



*Dani Haelewyn*



*Sara Lieblein*

## Volleyball

Coach Rob Beam's volleyball team set a school record for Summit League wins with a 12-6 conference record and tied the school mark for most wins in a season since moving to NCAA I in 1998. The Golden Grizzlies finished 17-13 overall and in a three-way tie for third place in the league standings. Senior libero Brittany Dunn was named The Summit League Defensive Player-of-the-Year and was selected to the all-league first team. Dunn is the first Golden Grizzly to earn a conference player-of-the-year award since OU joined the league in 1999. She finished her career with a school-record 407 sets played and ranks second all-time with 94 service aces and 1,451 career digs. Sophomore outside hitter Meghan Bray set the OU single-season record for kills with 360, while first-year outside hitter Audrey Wilson was named to The Summit League's all-freshman team. ●

## Men's soccer

The Golden Grizzlies peaked at the perfect time, winning The Summit League Tournament championship with a pair of shutout wins on the OU Soccer Field. Seeded third entering the league tournament, second-year coach Eric Pogue's team first defeated IUPUI 3-0, then Oral Roberts 2-0 in the title game to earn a berth in the NCAA I Tournament (a 2-0 first-round loss to Michigan State). Junior goalkeeper Mitch Hildebrandt, who posted nine shutouts, was named both first team All-Summit League and to the league's All-Tournament team. Junior defenders Vuk Popovic and Winston Henderson also earned first team all-conference honors, while freshmen Miche'le Lipari and Andrew Barrett both were selected to the league's All-Newcomer team. Junior defender Jon Evans was named MVP of the league tournament and joined

Hildebrandt, sophomore Johnny Dreshaj and freshman defender Lucas Diener on the all-tournament team. ●

## Women's soccer

Oakland dominated The Summit League regular season with a record of 8-0-1 in conference matches, setting a new league record with 25 points and equaling the league mark for most wins en route to an overall season record of 12-5-3. OU head coach Nick O'Shea was named The Summit League Coach of the Year for the third time in his career. Senior midfielder Dani Haelewyn and junior midfielder Sarah Lynch were both named first team All-Summit League and to the league's all-tournament team. Sophomore midfielder Nicole DeLuca and sophomore defender Kara Weber also were first team All-Summit League, while freshman forward Serena San Cartier was second team all league. San Cartier, goalkeeper Payj O'Shea and defender Jordan Penz all were chosen to the league's All-Freshman team. ●

## Cross country

Coach Paul Rice's Golden Grizzlies teams shined in 2010, with the women's team winning its first ever Summit League Championship, and the men's team finishing second in its league meet. In addition, both teams won their respective meet titles at the Michigan Intercollegiate. The OU women's team placed 14th at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional Championship — its best ever finish at the regional meet — while the men's team took 16th place in its regional. Senior Sara Lieblein and juniors Lia Jones and Brittni Hutton all were first team All-Summit League for the OU women's team by finishing among the top six runners at the league championship meet, while senior Kelsey Carmean finished eighth to garner

second team all-conference recognition. Senior Zack Jones led the men's team at The Summit League Championships with a second-place finish, earning all-league for the fourth time. Senior Brandon Griffin finished fifth and was also first team all-league, while junior Pat Cassidy earned second team honors. ●

## Swimming and diving

Oakland University continued its tradition of dominance in the sport as both the men's and women's teams won their 12th consecutive Summit League championships. The women's title was their 17th straight overall conference championship and 20th in the last 21 years, dating back to its NCAA II GLIAC days. Both teams boasted 15 All-Summit League performers — those who finished among the top three in their respective events — at the 2010 league championships. Senior Marcin Unold was named the men's Swimmer of the Championships for the second time in his career. He won both the 100- and 200-meter backstroke events and was a member of five winning relay teams. Freshman Jordan Zendejas won the 1- and 3-meter springboard events and was named the men's Diver of the Championships, while sophomore Nick Evans won the men's Newcomer of the Championships award. Sophomore Sandra Czerka won three women's individual events and swam on four winning relay teams to earn the women's Swimmer of the Championships. Senior Chelsea Oates was named the women's Diver of the Championships for the third time, winning both the 1- and 3-meter springboard events. Freshman Vanessa Balogh was the league's women's Newcomer of the Championships. OU's Pete Hovland was named The Summit League men's Coach of the Championships for the sixth time in his career. ●





*Zack Jones*



*Marcin Unold*



*Sandra Czerka*

### OU all-academic selections

Sixty-three Oakland University fall sport student-athletes were named to The Summit League all-academic teams, the most of any university in the league. Student-athletes must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average (GPA) during their season of competition and have used a semester of eligibility in order to be selected to the All-Academic team in their respective sports.

OU's women's soccer team had 16 Academic All-League selections. Both the volleyball and men's soccer teams had 14, followed by the men's cross country team with 10 and the women's cross country team with nine. ●

### Inaugural All-Sport Reunion

Oakland University held its first ever All-Sport Reunion during Homecoming Weekend, with more than 150 former student-athletes returning for a January reception. The group was honored at halftime of the OU men's basketball game with alums from the early days of OU athletics recognized during the ceremony. They were: Ray Barcalow, men's swimming and diving (1964-68); Amy Butler, women's swimming and diving (1973-77); Marc Dutton, cross country (1967-70); John Eley, men's basketball (1968-72); Barbara Randle Hoelzle, women's basketball (1972-76); Anne Rowland, tennis (1983-84); and Dr. Kenneth Whiteside, soccer (1973-77).

"We just want to thank all of our alumni student-athletes for attending the Homecoming festivities," says Tracy Huth, director of athletics. "I hope they realize they are welcome to campus anytime. In a sense, this is their home."

The Varsity O membership now exceeds 500. Former student-athletes can visit the Varsity O website to sign up or update

their current profiles, read newsletters, check out all-time rosters, and network with fellow alumni athletes. For more information on Varsity O, call the Department of Athletics at (248) 370-4034 or visit [ougrizzlies.ot/varsity-o](http://ougrizzlies.ot/varsity-o). ●

### Hughes named softball coach

LaDonia Hughes, an assistant coach at Summit League rival Western Illinois University the past four seasons, is the new head coach of the Golden Grizzlies softball program. Hughes earned her bachelor's degree in general studies from LSU. She is in the process of completing her master's degree in liberal arts and sciences at Western Illinois. ●

### Hollie L. Lepley Hall of Honor

Five former Oakland University student-athletes and a national championship team comprised the 2011 class inducted into the Hollie L. Lepley Hall of Honor January 28 as a part of OU's Homecoming weekend festivities. The new Hall of Honor members are:

Ken Ehlen (men's swimming, 1993-97)

Debbie Nickels Jewell (women's swimming, 1992-94, '95-96)

Ann Serra Lowney (women's basketball, 1987-90)

Paul Snape (men's soccer, 1996, '98-2000)

Jessica Mrozek Wissner (women's soccer, 1994-97)

1990-91 women's swimming and diving team

In addition, former Oakland employee Sylvia Rowe was honored posthumously as the George Wibby Award recipient, and former OU student-athletes Skip Townsend (men's basketball) and his wife, Dr. Nicole Leigh (women's basketball), received the Dr. Gary Russi Community Service Award.

Go to [ougrizzlies.com](http://ougrizzlies.com) for more information on the 2011 Hollie L. Lepley Hall of Honor inductees. ●

### Endowed scholarship recipients

Seven Golden Grizzly student-athletes received endowed scholarships for the 2010-11 school year based on their athletic and academic accomplishments. They are:

Nancy & Hugh Elliott Endowed Scholarship

Recipient: Allison Bell, volleyball.

Addison Brink Jr. Endowed Scholarship, Recipient: Vuk Popovic, men's soccer.

Department of Athletics Endowed Scholarship

Recipient: Katie Dreyer, softball.

Lori A. Macauley Endowed Scholarship Recipient: Will Hudson, men's basketball.

Daniel R. Weinerth Endowed Scholarship Recipient: Miche'le Lipari, men's soccer.

R. Michael O'Brien Endowed Scholarship Recipient: Alli Kirk, volleyball.

Jim Causley Family Foundation Scholarship.

Recipient: Chelsea Oates, women's swimming and diving. ●

### Gregory to coach at Georgia Tech

Former Oakland University basketball standout and 1997 Hollie L. Lepley Hall of Honor inductee Brian Gregory, CAS '90, was named head men's basketball coach at Georgia Tech in March. Gregory had been head coach at the University of Dayton from 2003 – 2011, posting a 172-94 record with five 20-win seasons in eight years. ●

Compiled by Fritz Reznor

Photos by Jose Juarez



## Alum supports summer research

Oakland University alumnus Michael Kenny, CAS '78, wants his alma mater to continue attracting the best and brightest science students. To help ensure that, he has made a generous gift to the Undergraduate Research in Science Fund, which provides stipends for students conducting summer research projects.

Kenny's goal is to give OU students the opportunity to engage in important research while promoting OU's progress in scientific investigation.

"Students who demand the most from themselves, who seek out the challenging courses and the demanding professors, and who accept constructive criticism as motivation for deeper understanding and better performance ... will stand the best chance of success in their chosen profession," says Kenny, who triple majored in philosophy, history and political science.

A prominent trial attorney, Kenny credits his OU education with teaching him to live an enriched life filled with intellectual pursuits. In turn, he wants his gift to encourage students to continue challenging scientific questions and tackling their research with enthusiasm and dedication.

According to Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Ron Sudol, students gain valuable experience during summer research, working extended hours with faculty mentors, discovering important breakthroughs in chemistry and biological science. He says well-designed research creates intellectual excitement and encourages students to use critical thinking skills. "Summer research opportunities are particularly significant, as students can spend more hours working closely with faculty mentors gaining valuable hands-on experience." ●

## Trustee's scholarship invests in School of Medicine

Oakland University Board of Trustees member Michael Kramer and his wife, Zina, hope that their namesake scholarship not only benefits the student who receives it but ultimately the state of Michigan. The Michael and Zina Kramer Scholarship is a \$50,000 gift to one student who will be entering the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine in fall 2011.

"We want the student to find the experience with Oakland and Beaumont Hospitals so rewarding that he or she will remain in Michigan to practice medicine," say Michael and Zina Kramer. "We were enticed to create the scholarship because these two outstanding institutions — OU and Beaumont — were teaming up to deliver this educational opportunity."

The Kramers hope their actions play a role in retaining talent in Michigan. Both of them grew up in Michigan and believe in supporting the state's economic growth. For School of Medicine Founding Dean Robert Folberg, M.D., the scholarship has already made a difference as it gives him a competitive edge in recruiting the school's inaugural class.

"When a trustee like Michael Kramer establishes this kind of scholarship, he is showing the community that OU leadership has confidence in and is investing in the School of Medicine," says Dr. Folberg. "Having trustee Kramer step up with this type of scholarship is an extraordinary gesture. We are very grateful to him and his wife."



*Zina and Michael Kramer*

The Kramers want the scholarship to even the playing field, creating opportunities for a student who has the competence and qualifications to pursue medical school but whose only barrier is financial. Their charitable work with various charter school systems in metro Detroit revealed some valuable lessons about the importance of an education, and in part, laid the groundwork for this scholarship.

"I have seen how an education changes a life forever," says Michael. "If our \$50,000 helps ease the financial burden of medical school for one student, then that's the impact we're going for." ●

By Michele Jasukaitis



# The Gold Standard

David Doane, Ph.D., professor of quantitative methods, Decision and Information Sciences, is one of 50 individuals selected as the first accredited professional statisticians by the American Statistical Association (ASA), a national organization he has been a member of for 30 years. Dr. Doane's credentials underwent a rigorous review process by national ASA-approved committees. The certification allows him to use the acronym PStat® after his signature and recognizes Dr. Doane's standing in his profession. Also, The Journal of Statistical Education will publish Doane's most recent research paper, "Measuring Skewness: A Forgotten Statistic?"

Barb Penprase, Ph.D., RN, associate professor of nursing, marked her first year as executive director, Oakland School of Nursing Riverview Institute in Detroit, where she implements the accelerated second degree (ASD) nursing program and instruction for other high-demand health care careers. Dr. Penprase developed the ASD program at the institute and is currently developing a surgical technician program and a dialysis technician program. She also is working with the Detroit school system to educate its high school seniors about the institute so they can consider pursuing advanced degrees in health care.

Dana Driscoll, Ph.D., assistant professor of writing and rhetoric, serves as web editor for Connected Community for the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), the national/global organization for professionals in the field of writing and rhetoric. Dr. Driscoll transformed the group's existing site to a web 2.0 site to encourage discussion and networking among the CCCC's 5,000 members. She is currently piloting ways to bring the CCCC academic conference to members who can't attend, and through technology, determining how conference attendees can continue discussions beyond the annual conference.

Aaron Bird, Ph.D., assistant professor of occupational safety and health, is currently researching training and educational content specific to the tools that are used by health, safety, medical and fire protection professionals. Dr. Bird is studying the effectiveness of three types of delivery mechanisms that correspond to the tools. The mechanisms include software, three-dimensional headsets and mathematical concepts. Dr. Bird has been conducting his research at manufacturing, health care and mining facilities in southeast Michigan.

Edward Haworth Hoepfner, Ph.D., professor of English, was announced the winner of the 2010 Ohio State University Press/The Journal Award in Poetry. Each year, The Journal, the literary magazine of The Ohio State University, selects one full-length manuscript for publication by The Ohio State University Press. In addition to publication, the winning author also receives

the Charles B. Wheeler Prize of \$3,000. Dr. Hoepfner's manuscript, Blood Prism, was chosen from nearly 700 submissions. It will be his third collection of poetry, joining Rain through High Windows and Ancestral Radio, and a critical study, Echoes and Moving Fields: Structure and Subjectivity in the Poetry of W.S. Merwin and John Ashbery.

Howard S. Schwartz, Ph.D., professor of organizational behavior, published a new book titled Society Against Itself: Political Correctness and Organizational Self-Destruction. Dr. Schwartz's desire to explore the destructive potential of the psychology that underlies political correctness prompted him to write the book, which took seven years. In his book, he shows how political correctness is directed against the psychological configuration of civilization and leads to organizational failure. Dr. Schwartz uses, among other things, reporter Jayson Blair's plagiarized stories in the New York Times and the loss of employee morale at Ford Motor Company to illustrate his point.

Ka C Cheok, Ph.D., professor of engineering, and Osamah Rawashdeh, Ph.D., assistant professor of engineering, both of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, have been collaborating with business sectors and government agencies in the areas of robotics and mechatronics. Together, with four other colleagues, they will establish an extension of the School of Engineering and Computer Science called the Center for Robotics and Unmanned Intelligent Systems (CRUIS). Here, faculty members and students will test robotics for military and homeland security, and the automotive and robotics industries. Dr. Cheok will instruct ultra wideband RF precisions tracking, intelligent path and motion planning for omni-directional vehicles, and collision warning and avoidance systems. Dr. Rawashdeh's work will involve the OU quad rotor project, the fish-eye vision for UAVs and wing-embedded smart antenna arrays.

Mary Lose, Ed.D., associate professor of reading and language arts and director of Reading Recovery® Center of Michigan at OU, along with Robert Schwartz, Ph.D., professor of education and interim chair of the Department of Reading and Language Arts, secured a \$4 million grant for the Reading Recovery® Center of Michigan at OU. Over the course of five years, the money will provide full-time academic preparation for one new Reading Recovery® teacher leader and 250 Reading Recovery® teachers. Dr. Lose spent several years positioning OU so that it would be eligible for this grant. Reading Recovery® is an early literacy intervention program for first-grade children who have extreme difficulty learning to read and write. ●

By Michele Jasukaitis



# Talent pool

Former OU swimmers enjoy successful careers in coaching By Fritz Reznor



"It is a tremendous feeling to see these former student-athletes choose to make this sport and coaching a major focus of their life-long path."

– Tracy Huth, CAS '85,  
Oakland University Director of Athletics

"Cradle of Coaches" is a nickname given to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, for producing legendary football leaders such as Paul Brown, Woody Hayes, Bo Schembechler, Ara Parseghian, and many others.

In the sport of swimming and diving, Oakland University — with no fewer than 11 alumni from its outstanding program currently pursuing coaching careers in the sport (see sidebar) — could claim the same moniker.

"It is a tremendous feeling to see these former student-athletes choose to make this sport and coaching a major focus of their life-long path," says Oakland University Director of Athletics Tracy Huth, CAS '85, who coached at OU after an All-American swimming career here. "Believe me, they would have been successful in just about any other career choice."

Two other members of this select "club" are Arthur Albiero, CAS '96, and Colleen Murphy, CAS '97.

Albiero was a two-time individual national champion swimmer and helped Oakland to three consecutive NCAA II national team championships. He has been the head swimming coach at the University of Louisville for the past seven years and led the Cardinals to the 2011 BIG EAST titles in both men's and women's swimming. He was named the 2011 BIG EAST Coach of the Year in both sports, the third consecutive year he has won the honor in men's swimming.

Murphy was a five-time All-American and a three-time Academic All-American at Oakland, graduating cum laude with a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in exercise science. She was an assistant at several NCAA I universities before taking the head coaching job at Truman State (Mo.) in 2002, where she led the Bulldogs' women's team to three consecutive NCAA III national championships.

*Above: Arthur Albiero, CAS '96 (left), and Colleen Murphy, CAS '97 (right).*



Now a counselor and head swimming coach at Xavier College Preparatory, an all-girls high school in Phoenix, Ariz., Murphy has led Xavier Prep to the Arizona Division I state swimming championship each of the six years she has been there.

#### From classrooms to coaching

Albiero and Murphy both say that lessons learned in the OU classrooms have impacted their careers as coaches.

"I ended up majoring in psychology," Albiero recalls, "because I had a great professor, Dr. Robert Stewart. Even though a sports psychology degree was not offered, Dr. Stewart went out of his way to create opportunities for me to pursue the connection between the subjects I enjoyed. The independent study he guided me on was definitely a catalyst in my development as a coach."

Murphy, a history major at OU, credits her instructors with her professional development, as well. "The class that impacted me most," Murphy recollects, "was (former OU associate professor) Kevin Early's sociology class. He had a keen awareness of the differences in the makeup of our fellow students, and he encouraged each of us to challenge our own preconceived notions of society. I believe his class has really helped me to work with different personalities in the team setting. I look back on what I learned from him and use it every day when dealing with team dynamics."

#### Impact of scholarships

As coaches, Murphy and Albiero understand the importance of scholarship aid in recruiting student-athletes and acknowledge that without the assistance of academic and athletic financial aid, they may never have enrolled at Oakland and likely would not be doing what they are today.

"I was fortunate enough to qualify for the Tuition Differential Scholarship, which is based on academics," Albiero says, "and combined with a partial athletic scholarship, I had a package that covered my tuition. Having the financial support was definitely a significant factor in my decision to attend Oakland. When it comes to athletic recruiting, to compete at the highest level, scholarships are just a normal part of the discussion. That is the norm for any major athletic program independent of the sport."

Murphy refers to herself as "an Oakland University and a swimming success story," a non-scholarship student-athlete who wanted to be a competitive swimmer at the collegiate level.

"Tracy Huth took a chance on me out of high school," she says. "I was a recruited walk-on; I had a sizable academic scholarship, but did not receive any athletic aid. But after qualifying for NCAA's (national meet standards)

my freshman year, Tracy awarded me with a swimming scholarship based on my performance.

"I was always very grateful to OU for both my academic and athletic scholarship money," she adds. "It made my college affordable and I was able to graduate debt-free. Today, the rising cost of education combined with our current economy makes it essential that we are awarding students for their academic and athletic achievement. In order to be competitive in the swimming world, we need to continue to support our swimmers in any way we can."

For information on how to help support Oakland University athletics through scholarship assistance, go to [oakland.edu/scholarships](http://oakland.edu/scholarships). ■

## Coaches roster

Nearly a dozen Oakland University swimming and diving alumni have gone on to pursue coaching careers. They include:

Darin Abbasse, CAS '86 — Head coach, girls' swimming, Lake Orion High School in Lake Orion, Mich.

Arthur Albiero, CAS '96 — Head coach, men's and women's swimming, University of Louisville in Louisville, Ky.

Jeff Cooper, CAS '90 — Head coach, Oakland Live Y'ers, national-level Under-18 youth swim program based in Rochester Hills, Mich.

Mark Gole, CAS '99 — Head coach, men's and women's swimming, William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo.

Nikki (Kelsey) Huffman, BGS '92 — Head diving coach, Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Tracy Huth, CAS '85 — Director of athletics and former head women's swimming coach, Oakland University in Rochester, Mich.

Mike Kolebar, SBA '87 — Owner and head coach of Nitro Swimming in Cedar Park, Texas.

Eric McIlquham, CAS '92 — Head coach, men's and women's swimming, University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Colleen Murphy, CAS '97 — Head swim coach, Xavier College Prep in Phoenix, Ariz. Former head swimming coach, Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo.

Sue Novitsky, CAS '91 — Head swimming coach, University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, Ill.

Sean Peters, CAS '96 — Head swimming and diving coach, Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich. ●

# Shaken to the core

From Japan to the U.S., professor delves into potential positives resulting from trauma By Mary Gunderson-Switzer



The 1995 Great Hanshin earthquake in Kobe, Japan, brought heartbreaking loss. At a magnitude of 6.8, it took only 20 seconds to claim the lives of more than 6,000, injure 25,000 and displace another 300,000.

Kanako Taku, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology, was a junior at Kobe University when the earthquake struck. Unharmed, she volunteered following the tragedy. The emotional suffering she saw impacted her so much that she changed her major to psychology.

"I saw people trying to cope with the disaster, but I was focusing on how we could alleviate stress symptoms and help people decrease their sadness or anger," Dr. Taku points out.

Later, as a clinical psychologist working with survivors, it opened her eyes: survivors wanted to do more than just cope — they wanted to rise above it. "Even though people could not completely get over their negative feelings [from the trauma] or wholly recover from the stress symptoms,

they still experienced growth," she says. "I was moved at the potential greatness of human beings ... Survivors shared how they had grown psychologically as a result of what happened."

What *was* this remarkable phenomenon? It was Posttraumatic Growth (PTG), and it became a passion for Dr. Taku.

## Growing experience

"Growth through suffering" has been around for thousands of years, showing up in the earliest writings of Hebrews, Greeks and Christians. But PTG (positive changes after struggling with intense trauma) has only been studied since 1990.

Engaged in PTG research for 11 years, Dr. Taku's first five years of study were in Japan. Her doctoral dissertation formed the basis for a book recently published in Japan: *Research on Posttraumatic Growth: Psychological*





*Psychology students working with Assistant Professor of Psychology Kanako Taku, Ph.D., are (left to right): Brenton Yanos; Jessica Nagorka; Lauren Rogers; Valarie Pierson; Sean Callan; and Thomas Butler. Dr. Taku is standing behind Pierson.*

### *Changes as a Result of the Stressful Experiences among Japanese Adolescents.*

Bringing her considerable experience to OU, Dr. Taku offers students a one-of-a-kind opportunity. She invites psychology majors to work alongside her on groundbreaking PTG research. Six students team up with her in the lab: Thomas Butler, Sean Callan, Jessica Nagorka, Valarie Pierson, Lauren Rogers and Brenton Yanos.

“Being involved in research takes the mystery away,” says Butler. “You learn how to reason things out at a higher level ... how to better analyze other research. It’s a fantastic experience.”

The team focuses on identifying both the predictors and cross-cultural differences that influence PTG and has already accomplished a “first” in PTG research — a study on the influence of social support and encouragement.

#### Taking inventory

Researchers look at several variables as predictors of PTG including gender, age, personality, cultural background, religious beliefs, social support and the type and number of traumatic events.

The team conducted its study using OU students. Participants completed a questionnaire addressing demographics and types of traumatic events. Participants also completed the Posttraumatic Growth Inventory (PTGI), the most frequently used scale measuring PTG. Growth is measured across five sub-scales: appreciation of life; new possibilities; relating to others; personal strength; and spiritual change. The more positive changes reported within each category, the higher the PTGI score.

The team honed in on a sub-sample of students who indicated their most traumatic event as the death of someone they knew. Participants scored themselves on how much they’ve grown from their event and rated to what degree their close social network (family and friends) supported their positive changes.

The results? The bereaved group scored significantly higher than the non-bereaved group. Other demographics did not explain the results. To exclude the possibility of students feeling pressure to express PTG, the team analyzed a sub-set of questions comparing bereaved vs. non-bereaved. The conclusion is clear: the PTGI total score correlates with social support and encouragement.

“Now we need to replicate these results [with more studies] and conduct more complex analyses,” explains Rogers.

Thanks to an OU research grant, they’re now engaged in a study on culture.

#### Cultural divide

“Americans consistently report a higher level of PTG than the Japanese,” Dr. Taku says. “I wanted to know why, which is my focus.”

Posttraumatic Growth is a positive phenomenon, and positive psychology is popular in America. “If a culture exerts pressure to express positives — to look on the bright side — a gap could exist between actual and illusionary growth,” Dr. Taku reflects.

The Japanese, on the other hand, don’t feel pressure to relate positives; for them, there’s no shame in experiencing the expected downs of life. These differences pose a challenge. Are Japanese PTGI scores lower due to culture-specific factors?

There may be one simple universal truth, as reflected in the Japanese proverb “adversity makes a jewel” and its American counterpart “the hardest steel is forged under the hottest fire.”

It appears that it’s human nature to yearn for something good to come from suffering. ■

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

# Safety first

Alum leads automotive company's efforts to reduce traffic deaths By Sandra Beckwith

Another day, another chance to make a difference. It's a frosty winter morning in Michigan, but Robert Fisher, MBA '92, is quickly warming up to his subject. The Takata executive is slated to be a guest on several Detroit radio programs, where he will speak about his company's ambitious goal: to reduce the number of fatalities resulting from traffic accidents to zero.

Fisher is in the spotlight, as he often is, as spokesman for the global manufacturer of automotive safety systems, which is breaking important ground in the safety industry. With a partner company, the Japanese firm is developing a non-invasive alcohol detection product for the automotive companies.

It's a step that Fisher views as crucial in eliminating alcohol-related crashes in the United States, which are estimated to claim one life every 45 minutes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"There are still questions about the marketability of this technology — do consumers want it? Will the auto manufacturers buy it? — but it's the right thing to do," says Fisher, Takata's executive vice president of engineering, purchasing and program management.

## Finding his footing

In his 29 years in the industry, Fisher has been an advocate for elevating auto safety to the next level. Starting out as Takata's first co-op student in 1982, he is now one of the Tokyo-based company's senior U.S. managers.

His company's focus on reducing the number of traffic fatalities through technology, legislation and education has kept Fisher challenged, engaged and interested since he accepted an engineering position upon graduating from the General Motors Institute.

Fisher says that when he moved into sales and began looking at materials from a cost — rather than functional — standpoint, he turned to Oakland University's MBA program for the necessary academic footing.

"OU had the flexibility I needed," he says. "As it turns out, it was the best choice for me for a number of other reasons, as well."

In addition to the advantage of applying his classroom lessons immediately to his job, Fisher also gained ready access to the critical thinking and problem-solving skills of his classmates — all working professionals — and instructors.

"I would bring something that I was struggling with at work into the classroom, and we'd end up with a

30-minute discussion that was valuable to all of us," he explains.

Fisher's experience with that program contributed greatly to Takata's current symbiotic relationship with the university. Takata's chief information officer, Ryan Spencer, currently serves on the Executive MBA Advisory Board. The company's executive vice president, Timothy Healy, is a special advisor on the Board of Visitors for the School of Business Administration (SBA) and a generous donor (Healy Café, which recently opened in Elliott Hall, was made possible through a gift to the SBA from Healy and his wife, Marsha).

In addition, the manufacturer employs many OU students in its co-op program at its regional headquarters in Auburn Hills, Mich.

"The student diversity at OU is incredible," Fisher says. "They've got engineering, business, and medicine covered. And we use all of those resources when investigating accident injuries."

## The right match

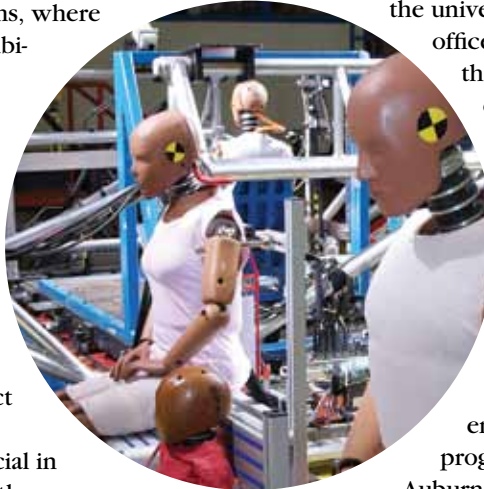
An optimistic leader by nature, Fisher notes that the company's biggest ongoing challenge — industry competition — brings with it opportunity. Constant market pressure to reduce costs plus ongoing size and weight changes in cars force the company to continually look for ways to make its products smaller or more quickly, or for less money.

A self-described "relationship kind of guy," Fisher focuses on knowing what his customers and suppliers need while he makes certain that employees are in the right positions to deliver that.

"I can sense when good people are in the wrong position," he explains. "And, like the orchestra leader who doesn't know how to play all the instruments but can help create beautiful music, I might not know how to do their jobs, but I know when things aren't right and how to move someone into a better spot."

Meanwhile, as an avid OU supporter, he says he's already nudging his teenage son and daughter to consider attending his alma mater.

"We've walked around campus and gone to basketball games — I've even bought them sweatshirts," he says. "I would be thrilled if they both picked OU. It gave me the educational background that's allowed me to accomplish what I have." ■



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







# Wired words

New media transform the way we communicate By Susan Thwing

Since the first words were spoken, our language has been in constant flux. Today, with the increasingly widespread use of new methods of communication — blogging, text messaging, social media, e-mail — that change is accelerating. To keep up with this evolution, Oakland University professors are incorporating the new media into their curriculums and broadening students' academic experience in a number of ways.

Marshall Kitchens, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, is leading the charge to revise the department's curriculum to incorporate the Internet, multimedia applications, and video and audio technology into the coursework. The curriculum changes are for first-year introductory writing courses.



*Marshall Kitchens*

"I envision pushing the application of written text beyond the 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper," he says. "Digital technology is how people are communicating today. Even academic journals are going online. Students need to learn to use them effectively."

Dr. Kitchens also hopes to expand the use of applications such as Moodle and ePortfolio. Moodle is a free Web application that educators use to create effective online learning sites. ePortfolio is a platform with which students create and customize portfolios as well as share their work, goals and achievements with advisers, career counselors and employers.

"These programs are excellent for extending the reach of the classroom," Dr. Kitchens explains. The programs support workshops, online discussions and archives of previous projects, courses and forums.



*Kasia Kietlinska*

## Twitter talk

Kasia Kietlinska, special instructor of writing and rhetoric, says access to new media is a mixed blessing. "It has a wonderful impact because students have never written as much or as often. However, it has added informality to

writing. Students need to become much more aware of their audience. You cannot write a scholarly paper and use the same casual writing as on Facebook."

Kietlinska adds that the abbreviated nature of some forms of new media writing has affected students' ability to create complex, well thought-out discourse. "I think classes should be designed so that students develop the ability to transition from the condensed text message to a well-researched, notated, complex piece: where the tone and structure is not the same as writing to a friend. It's very important to maintain the academic rigor."

Dr. Kitchens says that, contrary to the popular notion that digital technology is eroding young people's ability to communicate well, a study recently conducted by the National Literacy Trust concluded that students "who blog, text or use networking websites are more confident about their writing skills."

However, the methods of writing the traditional research paper are evolving. "Before, when students wrote a paper, they would go to the library for research and repeat the information they found. Today they must gather information, analyze its accuracy and develop their own solutions. And they must determine the appropriate communication medium to use: papers, video, PowerPoint. They're not just sitting at a typewriter anymore."

Dr. Kitchens says the new aspects of the curriculum also will bridge the gap between writing and non-writing courses.

"We want to connect their writing across the disciplines, so they know what written resources look like in nursing, engineering, business," he says. "And, just as important, in the context of these new mediums, they need to know what format best applies to their audience. We want to help the students get the most out of the

incredible technology now available to them."



*Holly Gilbert*

## Vast new world

Journalism courses have been highly impacted as well. Holly Gilbert, adjunct instructor of journalism, and Anne Becker, special instructor of communications and journalism, say students need to immerse themselves in this new technology in order to

connect with journalists and public relations professionals in their fields. They are also using the media to market their abilities in internship and job searches.





Anne Becker

“It’s a whole new world,” says Gilbert. “Journalism used to be static. You wrote your story, and it stayed in the print version. Now, on the Internet, readers are expecting constant updates. News needs to be fresh and fluid — students are learning how to adapt to this.”

Becker, who teaches Introduction to Public Relations, says new technology, such as electronic media resource lists, helps students research their intended audience much more effectively.

“There are resources for narrowing down the specific reporter to contact for a story pitch with information about what they write, how to contact them, etc.,” she says. “And reporters used to hate e-mail — now it’s the main way to communicate.”

Gilbert says these media open a world of information to journalism students researching stories. “They can go on Facebook or Twitter and request a source about a particular topic. The Web is a vast network of information.”

Thomas Lauer, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Decision and Information Sciences, incorporates the Internet and new media into the privacy classes he teaches. He also is a founding member of SurPriSe (*surveillance, privacy and security*), a faculty group that meets to foster an interdisciplinary approach to the study and teaching of these three important issues.

Dr. Lauer says the boom of Internet usage for communication makes it essential to incorporate privacy

into the curriculum and ask tough questions about what privacy now means. He notes that new privacy laws and privacy programs implemented by Google, Facebook and Twitter are important class topics.

For all to see

“Technology is changing so quickly there is always something new to consider,” he says. “Students need to look at privacy in a new way. For example, when you tell someone something verbally, you don’t expect the information to travel around the world. However, if you publish something on Facebook or Twitter for that same person to read, it’s completely different — it’s way beyond two degrees of separation. It’s out there for anyone to access.”

And while all of the professors agree that having an Internet presence is essential for success — whether it’s a student self-marketing as a budding writer/reporter or a company providing consumer information to grow their business — the use of this tool has its challenges.

“Reputations are much more easily spoiled, whether you are a writer or a corporation,” says Becker. “If a reporter is doing a story on a business, they’ll go directly to the company’s website. Our public relations students learn how important a solid presence is to a business. In the same way, if a writer posts an inaccurate story, or makes a mistake, it will become much more broadly known than if they worked solely in the print medium.”

Dr. Kitchens says the key to success is helping students filter through the expansive amount of information and methods of communication now available to them.

“We have access to so much unchecked information today. Students need the skills to analytically filter what is accurate, and what is appropriate,” Dr. Kitchens explains. “The challenge is self-filtering. The positive is it opens up the world to us — across cultures and geography — with immediate access.” ■

# Respecting ragtime

By Amy Lynn Smith

"A sheet of paper can't give you the feel of the music. That has to be handed down, like it was in my family." – Taslimah Bey





There is delicious irony in the fact that a former teacher's callous, offhand remark helped shape the direction of Taslimah Bey's career as an educator.

Indeed, without that incident, Bey might never have chosen the path she did — and what a loss that would have been to the world of music and the students she inspires today.

Bey, MA '08, also known by her given name, Patricia A. Hall, is a musician, musicologist and teacher whose passion — some might say cause — is the syncopated, piano-based music known as ragtime, which was popular in the United States during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

She was raised in the Detroit area in a house filled with music, where her grandmother, mother and aunts sang all the time, and where her brother played the piano.

Bey was inspired to take up the instrument at age 7, when her brother taught her a four-bar blues tune. She began studying piano in earnest when she was 16. After learning to play Scott Joplin's ragtime standard, "The Entertainer," Bey says that she fell in love with the musical form.

But, much like the greats of ragtime's heyday, it may have been adversity that motivated Bey the most.

#### Deep in her heart

Studying music history as an undergraduate in Detroit, she asked her professor why 20th-century African-American composers weren't part of the curriculum. His dismissive response was that black people couldn't read or write in the early part of the 20th century, let alone read music. The remark stung and troubled her.

"As a young person, that hurt me so much," Bey remembers. "I thought about my aunt, who earned a college music degree in 1923, and my grandmother, who was incredibly intelligent. And I knew what the teacher had told me was untrue."

Then she thought about the other students — and the generations of students after that — who might simply accept this "wisdom" as fact. "What if they heard that and didn't have the upbringing I had?" she says. "I was determined to prove people like my teacher wrong."

Bey spent the next year hunkered down at the Detroit Public Library, reviewing the music and archives in the E. Azalia Hackley Collection of Negro Music, Dance and Drama. The knowledge she acquired strengthened her respect both for the composers and their compositions. Yet, from the outset, Bey felt the ragtime music deep in her heart.

"To me, it's like coming home," she explains. "It reminds me of being at my grandmother's house and her frying corn and cooking biscuits."



Bey says she was also drawn in by the complexity of ragtime, which is rooted in a march-like structure but also demonstrates the emotional depth of the composers, whose lives were typically plagued by hardship.

"Think about the 'Maple Leaf Rag,' which people all over the world recognize," she says. "It starts up-tempo but then goes into a melancholy section, which almost every ragtime piece has, and then ends with a feeling of triumph. I was amazed that all those feelings could be put into one piece of music."

#### Distinctly American

Urged on by fellow musicians, Bey visited New Orleans — one of the cities credited with originating ragtime — to play with the locals. "Not only did I hear New Orleans music, I got to experience it firsthand," she explains. "A sheet of paper can't give you the feel of the music. That has to be handed down, like it was in my family."

Through that oral — and aural — tradition, these New Orleans musicians served as teachers, complementing the college studies to which Bey, by then, had returned.

She earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Wayne State University in 1995 and began teaching music. Bey went on to earn a master's degree from Oakland University. "Everything I learned at Oakland applied to what I was doing in the classroom and helped me become a better teacher," she says.

Today, Bey teaches middle school music at Law Academy, a K-8 school in Detroit. She is currently working on her doctoral dissertation at OU. During the summer, she tours with her own ragtime band, the Taslimah Bey Quartet, and sometimes gives lectures on ragtime music. In all these ways, she's teaching people about what she considers American classical music.

"Ragtime is distinctly American — and not just African-American, because white classical musicians in New Orleans would play with the black musicians after hours," says Bey. "So it's distinctly American because it shows what we can do when we all work together."

And, just like the early ragtime composers who persevered despite adversity, Bey turned her bad classroom experience into a triumph. "I thought, 'When I become a teacher I'm not going to give my students limits,'" says Bey. "Without limits, anything is possible." ■

The Taslimah Bey Quartet will perform at Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Mich., this summer. For more information, visit [www.taslimahbey.com](http://www.taslimahbey.com).

Amy Lynn Smith is a Birmingham, Mich.-based freelance writer and lifelong music lover. She's grateful to Bey for teaching her to appreciate ragtime in an entirely new way.

# College connections

Partnership programs offer greater flexibility to students By Kevin Knapp



# MOTT20



## GO CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS

College classes, work demands, social and family obligations — students face a tough balancing act when it comes to their many life responsibilities.

Thanks to innovative programs launched at Oakland University, a growing number of college students in southeastern Michigan can take advantage of a new, more flexible option as they work toward a four-year degree.

Known as M2O (Macomb Community College), O2O (Oakland Community College), SC2O (St. Clair County Community College) and Mott2O (Mott Community College), these expanding partnerships between OU and several community colleges allow students to be enrolled at two institutions at the same time, providing students with the best of OU and the community college — convenience, flexibility and affordability.

### Uniquely flexible

Mary Otto, OU vice president of outreach, says that students must meet Oakland University admissions requirements to participate in the program. They are then able to enroll in classes at OU's main campus in Rochester, any OU-Macomb location in Clinton Township or Mt. Clemens, any of the partner community college locations or online classes at either institution. This gives students maximum flexibility in building a course schedule that works with their busy lives.

"Because academic records are shared, credits are automatically applied to transcripts at both institutions at

the end of each semester," she says. "OU academic advisers work very closely with students to make sure they have what they need for their ultimate degree. Additionally, through a process we call reverse transfer, students may transfer OU credits back to the community college to fulfill associate degree requirements. This means students have the option to complete an associate degree while working toward an OU bachelor's degree."

Krista VanSteenkiste, a sophomore from Washington Township, Mich., is enrolled both at OU and Macomb Community College. She says the M2O program has been a big help in advancing her toward earning a degree in elementary education.

"As a working student, it's been tremendous," she says. "I'm able to fit the courses into my work schedule better, and I'm able to take community college courses closer to home and save money. At the same time, I can still enjoy the complete 'university experience' at OU and participate in the campus organizations and events at both schools, which is important to me."

### Cost savings

The ability to combine credits from both schools — and therefore maximize financial aid eligibility — sets OU's community college partnerships apart from all previous agreements in Michigan. Students can qualify as full-time enrolled by combining transferable community college credits with Oakland University credits.





"In this era of economic uncertainty, families not only demand quality education, they are actively pursuing the best way to maximize their investment," explains Otto. "The cost savings feature of OU's community college partnerships allows families to do just that. In addition to financial aid opportunities and overall tuition savings, students can take advantage of OU academic merit scholarships, provided they meet award and renewal criteria."

#### Growing partnership

While the concept isn't new — OU and Macomb Community College launched Michigan's first joint admission and concurrent enrollment program with M2O in 2006 — it's an approach that is gaining traction in a state hard hit by the economic downturn. Since the launch of M2O, community college partnership enrollment has grown by 1,550% to approximately 600 students, says OU Registrar Steve Shablin.

In total, with the addition of the St. Clair County Community College (SC2O) program in 2010, Oakland Community College (O2O) program in 2011 and Mott Community College (Mott2O) program this spring, OU's community college partnerships reach a wide area of southeastern Michigan, providing easier access to higher education for a greater number of its residents.

For more information on community college partnerships, visit [oakland.edu/cc2o](http://oakland.edu/cc2o). ■

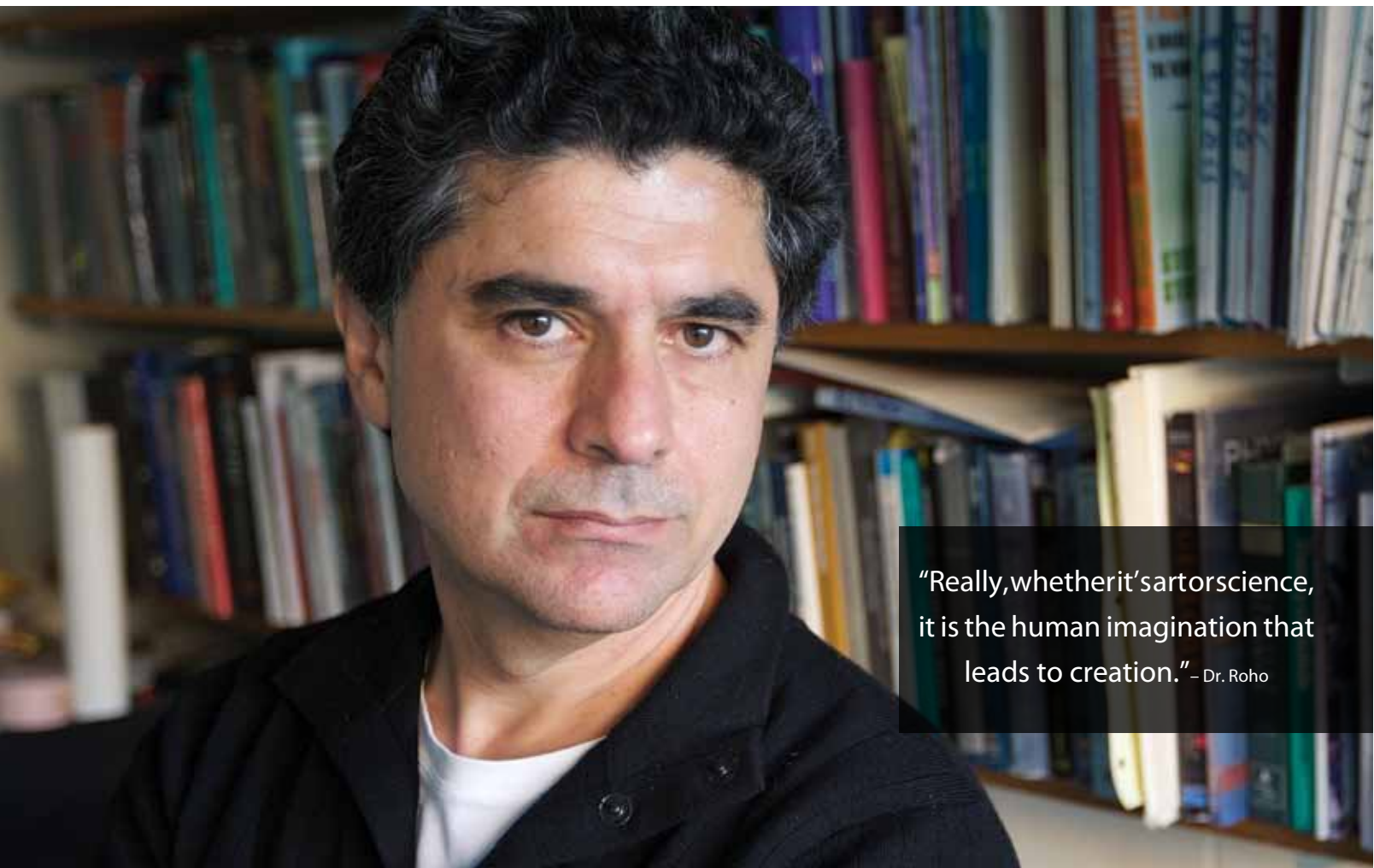
#### Benefits of community college partnerships

- Admission to both institutions through one free online application
- Coordinated advising — OU and the community college partner work together to keep students on track to reach their educational goals
- The flexibility to take courses at one or both institutions at the same time
- Access to student activities and resources on both campuses, including OU housing
- The ability to combine credits from both institutions to maximize financial aid eligibility
- Reverse transfer — students may transfer OU credits back to the community college to fulfill associate degree requirements. This means students have the option to complete an associate degree while working toward an OU bachelor's degree ■



# Myth buster

Professor finds the 'sweet spot' at the confluence of art and science By Kevin Knapp



"Really, whether it's art or science, it is the human imagination that leads to creation." – Dr. Rojo

No one can blame the students in Alberto Rojo's physics classes for not immediately recognizing their professor as an accomplished musician of international stature.

After all, it does seem like quite a stretch that a professor who lectures to them about the quantum mechanical properties of matter might also be a renowned classical guitarist, singer and composer whose credits include a performance on a Grammy award-winning album.

Unlikely, perhaps, but true.

Indeed, Dr. Rojo is a versatile man who has become adept at balancing what he calls his "parallel careers" as a physicist and musician. An associate physics professor at OU since 2003, he sees no disparity in straddling those seemingly opposite worlds with complete ease. He says he's happy to help deflate what he dismisses as the "myth of the right brain-versus-left brain conflict" between arts and sciences.

"I'm doing my best to help dispel a popular misconception," Dr. Rojo says with a smile. "Really, whether it's art or science, it is the human imagination that leads to creation."

He is, in fact, doing a pretty good job at myth busting. One might even consider this affable Argentinean as something of a Renaissance man, given the broad scope of his endeavors.







*The Ann Arbor-based Alberto Rojo Trio — consisting of Rojo on guitar and vocals, Michael Gould on percussion, and Andrew Kratzat on bass — focuses on both traditional Argentinean folk songs and styles and new compositions and arrangements.*

As a physics theorist, Dr. Rojo is an explorer of condensed matter and the properties of strongly correlated electron systems. His work in the area of pattern formation was featured in a *New York Times* article, and he has published in collaboration with Anthony Leggett, winner of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Physics.

As an educator, he seeks to expand the reach of science. He developed the “Physics of Everyday Life” class at OU, which employs real-world examples and hands-on experiments to bring theories alive to general education students. In his native Argentina, he published *Everyday Physics*, a textbook aimed at stimulating interest in science. Currently he is working on a four-part television series about art and science for an Argentine education station.

As a guitarist and singer, he performs his music in the U.S., Canada, Europe and South America. He’s released two albums of his own, another with his Ann Arbor-based group, the Alberto Rojo Trio, and played on the Latin Grammy-winning 2007 album, *Corazón Libre*, and the platinum-selling *Cantora 2*, both by the late singer, Mercedes Sosa.

It’s a strong — if unorthodox — resume for an academic. Yet Dr. Rojo believes there is no magic in his

ability to maintain two strong interests that many would view as polar opposites.

### Worlds in collision?

“The arts and sciences are not such different worlds,” he says. “People like to talk about passion and imagination when they talk about art, but there is passion and imagination in science, too. In fact, it’s almost a requirement, because finding the answers sometimes takes a long time and has many obstacles.”

Perhaps, he suggests, it’s just plain stubbornness that keeps him operating in a dual mode.

“Many people are skilled in other things besides their main occupation. Maybe the unusual thing about me is that I do it as a second career, not a hobby. That takes time and discipline, as well as the desire and passion, to pursue both.”

Dr. Rojo is no dilettante when it comes to his musical pursuits. The son of a philosophy professor, he began playing piano at age 6. As a teenager, he developed an interest in guitar and studied at a conservatory near his home in Tucumán, Argentina. His skill later won him a scholarship to a music academy.

While classical music was his forte — Dr. Rojo played in a school band that performed Medieval and Renaissance music — he also developed a passion for the folk music of his homeland, the tango and the chacarera.

In his parallel world of science, he earned a Ph.D. in physics from the Instituto Balseiro in Argentina, and, in 1990, began working as a researcher, first at the University of Chicago and then at the University of Michigan.

### The creative impulse

Along the line, Dr. Rojo began to compose his own songs. When he landed in Ann Arbor, he took private composition lessons and was encouraged to share his work with other musicians. After two of his songs were recorded by a fellow Argentinean guitarist, Dr. Rojo took the plunge to record his first album, the instrumental *De Visita*, in 1999.

Dr. Rojo’s 2003 follow-up album, *Para mi sombra* (For My Shadow), included his vocals and attracted attention from the Argentine edition of *Rolling Stone* magazine, which deemed it “one of the five best folkloric albums of the year.”


Today, Dr. Rojo continues to dig deeply into what he calls “the place where art and science meet.” He has been approached by a Michigan public television station to produce a sister version of the show he’s doing in Argentina, which explores the points where those worlds collide — with inspiring results.

If it comes to fruition, it will give Dr. Rojo another stage on which to debunk the left-against-right-brain argument.

“It’s really not so mysterious,” he adds. “The creative impulse is the same.” ■

# Nursing's next level

School aims to sharpen skills of future health care professionals By Susan Thwing

A young woman with long dark hair, wearing a light blue nursing uniform, is smiling at the camera. She is sitting at a desk in a classroom or lecture hall. Other students in similar uniforms are visible in the background, some looking at their laptops.

Florence Nightingale would be proud. Today's nurses have evolved into skilled professionals who diagnose, treat and develop care plans. Oakland University's School of Nursing (SON) is staying ahead of the game by fortifying tomorrow's nurses with the knowledge and hands-on experience they will need in the future.

"We're seeing an evolution in the role of the nurse at so many levels," says Darlene Schott-Baer, interim dean of the SON. "Nurses have always been the eyes and ears of the physician; an alert nurse can be the first on the scene to recognize the needs a patient has. With advanced training, they can use their independent judgment and treat the patient efficiently and effectively."

The SON itself has evolved to provide a state-of-the-art education at the bachelor, second degree, master and doctoral levels, and has added several new degree and certificate programs in recent years. Certificate programs, such as the Post Baccalaureate Nurse Educator certificate, enable OU students to expand their academic and career opportunities as never before, Schott-Baer says.





*OU offers nursing students a state-of-the-art education at the bachelor, second degree, master and doctoral levels, and has added several new programs in recent years.*

“We provide ongoing professional development through online programming, in addition to utilizing state-of-the-art simulation,” she says. “Many of our online programs are available to out-of-state students at in-state tuition rates.”

The school has also added a number of graduate-level programs. It currently offers a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree and six Master of Science in Nursing degree programs, each with a post-master’s certificate option. Enrollment in these programs continues to grow, with the SON seeing an overall 18 percent increase in enrollment over the past five years.

#### New opportunities

“Enrollment has exploded,” Schott-Baer explains. “Nurses see the writing on the wall and know it’s a time of great opportunity for those with advanced training.”

She also observes that many of the SON programs help health care providers fill a niche in community-based areas.

“Nurse practitioners can provide extensive community-based care. They can see the whole spectrum of a patient’s life, and treat illnesses and recommend wellness programs,” Schott-Baer says.

She adds that the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) program trains nurses to provide anesthesia to patients undergoing surgery.

“In a smaller or rural hospital, this is an essential position because they can provide immediate care that is just as safe as if it were administered by a physician.”

To create more learning opportunities for aspiring health care professionals, the school also has partnered with St. John Health Systems and the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan to open the Riverview

Institute of Oakland University. The Institute offers new career opportunities to those struggling amid the state’s sluggish economy.

It is also a resource for individuals looking to join the health care industry. Training at the Riverview Institute includes the Accelerated Second Degree, Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and Patient Care Technician (PCT) certifications.

Barbara Penprase, executive director, Riverview Institute, says the school’s marketing approach has evolved to include this new demographic.

“With a large number of students wanting to go into nursing, our school — and that of most other schools of nursing — is at capacity for the next few years,” she says. “We have altered our marketing to include pre-nursing certificates, such as the Riverview programs (patient care technician and certified nursing assistant) and graduate level nurses. We are targeting current nurses who want to either obtain BSN completion, MSN as nurse practitioners, nurse educators, clinical nurse leaders, and the DNP,” Penprase explains.

Riverview can be a great first step for individuals looking to join this in-demand career field, Penprase adds.

“Through the Riverview connection, Oakland can help fill the current gap in the health care field for nursing assistants,” she says. “Once certified students are in the field, they can move seamlessly to achieve higher academic success. And for those who already are working as nurses, a master’s degree allows them to move from the bedside on to educator positions.”

Unlike the days of Florence Nightingale, the possibilities for SON students are endless. ■

## OUAA Board of Directors

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



# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



## OUAA announces a change in structure

Dear OU Alumni,

As you may have seen in the news recently, exciting things are happening at Oakland University. From the Golden Grizzlies' recent NCAA bid to the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine opening this fall, OU is entering a new chapter on the national stage. And we want all of our alumni to be a part of it.

That's why I'd like to share with you a development that will enhance the value of your OU degree and strengthen our network of more than 85,000 alumni worldwide.

Beginning July 1, 2011, the Oakland University Alumni Association will recognize every OU graduate as a member and eliminate all dues. This conversion will allow us to focus on providing more meaningful engagement opportunities for alumni to connect with the university and fellow alums. This includes career services support, alumni networking, and activities to enhance OU's reputation across the country.

Your continued support and commitment to the OUAA is essential to this transition. Without your past involvement, Oakland University would not be where it is today.

Here are five ways that you can continue to make a difference:

**Impact a student's experience** — contribute to an OUAA scholarship, make a gift, support the OU Fund

**Advocate for OU** — join the Grassroots Grizzlies Advocacy Network, share your OU experience and pride, contribute to the visibility of an OU degree

**Mentor a student** — offer career support, participate in panel presentations, attend networking programs

**Open the door for others** — become an Admissions Ambassador, refer a student, continue the OU tradition

**Update your record** — share your news and stories, connect with fellow alumni

The purpose and function of the Alumni Association will remain the same. Member benefits and services will continue to be available. Future communications will detail opportunities for alumni to expand their reach and benefit from an increasingly visible community.

If you have questions about your membership or making a gift, please visit our website at [oualumni.com](http://oualumni.com), or contact Karen Coronado at (248) 364-6128.

Thank you for being such a valuable member of our alumni community. We appreciate your support and look forward to staying connected as the Alumni Association and Oakland University continue to grow and thrive.

Sincerely,

Starr Cornell, Director of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving





## Get away with the Grizzlies

Mediterranean jewels:  
Oceania Cruises  
Rome (Civitavecchia) to  
Athens (Piraeus)

October 24 – November 4, 2011

From \$3,499 per person double occupancy (including airfare)\*

This alluring voyage presents a magical blend of ancient Mediterranean ports and celebrated destinations as you cruise on the elegant 684-passenger Oceania Cruises' Nautica. Glimpses into ancient empires are revealed as you explore the shores of Monaco, Italy, Greece and Turkey. Every moment of this adventure — with stops in some of the world's most fascinating ports of call, including Monte Carlo, Florence, Sardinia and Athens — reveals the jewels of the Mediterranean.

For more information about this and other Grizzly Getaway travel opportunities, visit [oalumni.com/travel](http://oalumni.com/travel). ●

\* All prices subject to change.



## Save the dates

### 7th annual OU Night at Comerica Park

Join your fellow alumni and friends for the 7th annual OU Night at Comerica Park on August 17. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with an all-you-can-eat buffet on Party Deck 1 inside the park. Then cheer on the Detroit Tigers as they face the Minnesota Twins at 7:05 p.m.

Seats for this year's event have been upgraded! The OU group is now sitting in the lower bowl, along the first base line. Tickets are \$30 per person, which includes the buffet dinner.

This year, transportation to and from the game will be offered from the OU campus via charter bus. Seating is limited and is available for \$10 per person (in addition to your ticket). Registration deadline is July 15, 2011. Be one of the first 200 to register and receive a complimentary OUAA T-shirt. Visit [grizzlink.oalumni.com/tigers2011](http://grizzlink.oalumni.com/tigers2011) to register. ●

### Los Angeles gathering on June 16

Join the OUAA in the Greater Los Angeles area on Thursday evening, June 16. Come hear stories from current students, engage with university leadership, and connect with OU alumni living in the Southern California area.

The gathering will be held on the rooftop of the Shangri-La Hotel, overlooking the Santa Monica Pier. For more information, contact Luke Fleer, associate director of Alumni Engagement Outreach, at (248) 364-6142 or [fleer@oakland.edu](mailto:fleer@oakland.edu). ●

### July golf outing to aid OU scholarship program

Mark your calendar for Monday, July 18, 2011, and join us for a fantastic day of golf at the beautiful R&S Sharf Golf Course on the OU campus. Proceeds from the day will help provide scholarships for deserving OU students through the OUAA Scholarship Program. Join other companies and individuals as we play team format (best of four individual scores). Golf Digest ranked the R&S Golf Course 12th among Michigan's 852 courses. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Please contact Christina Simon, program and event specialist, at (248) 364-6134 with any questions. ●

### Online or print? You decide.

If you would rather read OU Magazine online and not receive a printed copy in your mailbox, just let us know. Go to [oakland.edu/oumag/unsubscribe](http://oakland.edu/oumag/unsubscribe) and fill out the online form. We'll remove your name from our printed mailing list and send an e-mail notification to the e-mail address you provide each time we release a new edition of the magazine.

This current issue, along with past issues, can be found at [oakland.edu/oumag](http://oakland.edu/oumag)

## We want to hear from you, *Alumni!*

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

My News

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## What we've been up to

### Two new awards introduced at 2010 Alumni Awards banquet

Nearly 200 alumni and friends attended the annual Alumni Awards Banquet on Nov. 6, 2010, where 10 outstanding individuals were honored for their personal and professional achievements.

#### Two first-time honors:

- Outstanding Young Alumni Award — Rochester Hills Mayor Bryan Barnett, SBA '98
- Alumni Community Service Award — Tom Schramski, SECS '78, a product development resident engineer for Ford Motor Company

#### Additional awardees were:

- Distinguished Alumni Service Award — Craig Stinson, SBA '84, chairman of NORMA Group GmbH
- Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award — Robert Gebbie, CAS '76, partner, COO & CFO, Natural Bridge Solutions
- Odyssey Award — Bethany Broadwell, CAS '97, writer and web designer (awarded posthumously), and Dr. Steven Gaynor, MAT '78, retired superintendent, Bloomfield Hills Schools
- Spirit Award — Matthew Karrandja, CAS '97, account manager, Trialon Corporation, and Thomas Schaeffler, SBA '85, Executive VP & COO, Credit Union One
- Honorary Alumni Award — John and Marie Pino, owners, Pino Insurance Agency

Mark your calendars for the 2011 Alumni Awards Banquet on Nov. 5, 2011 in the Oakland Center. Nominations accepted through June 10. Visit [oalumni.com/OUAAwards](http://oalumni.com/OUAAwards). ●





## Winter College in Florida begins new OU tradition

Oakland University hosted its first-ever Winter College in Naples, Fla., in February. Alumni and friends attended a weekend of thought-provoking classes, stimulating discussion, relaxing amenities and warm weather.

Winter College participants were welcomed by President Gary Russi, Ph.D., Virinder Moudgil, Ph.D., senior vice president for Academic Affairs and provost, and Susan Davies, vice president for University Relations. Guests dined at the Naples Grand Beach Resort and spent the evening reminiscing about college, reconnecting with OU, and listening to Dr. Russi discuss Oakland's growth, expansion and inspiring vision for the future.

Participants attended lectures given by several OU faculty members. Those interested in arts and culture took a field trip to the Naples Museum of Art for a viewing of the Robert Rauschenberg exhibition, while others enjoyed walks on the beach, the resort spa and pool.

Gail Ellenbaum, CAS '69, attended the weekend with her husband, Chuck, who is not an alumnus. She emphasized that alums can bring a friend or spouse even if they are not an alum.

"You don't have to be an alum to enjoy the weekend," she said. "We really enjoyed the mix of classes, the camaraderie, and the opportunity to resume our class discussions with faculty and to ask follow up questions."

Winter College students found the experience to be a wonderful life-long learning opportunity, says Susan Davies, vice president for University Relations.

"With the right lesson plan in place to create a new Oakland University tradition, we have begun preparations for next year's return to Naples, and look forward to expanding our reach to more alumni and friends next year," she adds. ●

## First Young Alumni Night

Nearly 50 young alumni gathered on Feb. 17 at Red Ox in Auburn Hills, Mich., for the first Young Alumni Night, hosted by Stefen J. Welch, CAS '05. The event gave young alumni the opportunity to network, socialize and offer input on how they would like to remain engaged with their alma mater. The OUAA provided the appetizers, and a raffle was held for two courtside floor seats, which were won by John Stoll, CAS '00. The attendees then headed to the O'rena, where they cheered on the Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team to victory against North Dakota State University. ●



## Oakland/Macomb job fair

More than 1,500 job seekers visited the Oakland Center for the Oakland/Macomb Job Hub, held during Oakland University's winter break. Focused on job opportunities in information technology, health care, engineering and business, the event attracted more than 75 area companies looking to fill open positions.

The brainchild of a regional planning group that included economic developers and administrators from many Metro Detroit cities, the collaborative effort was intended for one purpose: jobs for Michigan citizens. ●



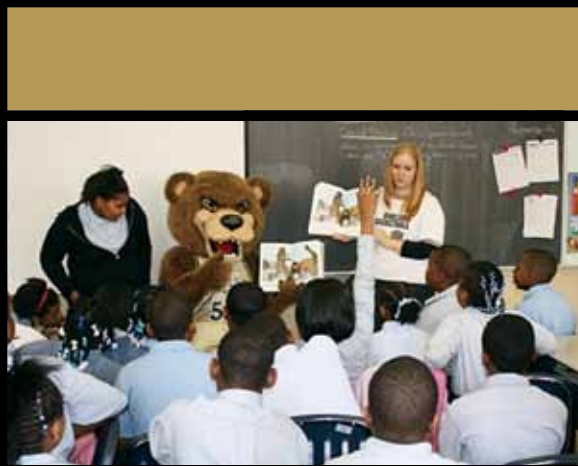
## OUAA celebrates family legacies

For many students, attending OU is a family tradition. To celebrate these students and alumni, the Oakland University Alumni Association hosted the 2nd annual Legacy Night at the O'rena on Jan. 6.

This free event allowed nearly 100 current students and their families the opportunity to watch the Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team defeat Summit League rival Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis. The OUAA presented a pre-game reception for attendees in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms that included an Italian buffet. ●



# ALUMNI ADMISSIONS AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



With help from the Grizz himself, AAAP volunteers read the "Hello, Grizz!" children's book to local elementary school students.



## SHOW YOUR SPIRIT

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

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Join an admissions adviser at a local college fair
- Welcome receptions for admitted students
- Go for the Gold campus visit day
- Housing move-in day
- School of Engineering and Computer Science day
- Conference speaker
- Represent OU at an out-of-state college fair

### LEARN MORE

(248) 370-GRIZ  
[aaap@oakland.edu](mailto:aaap@oakland.edu)  
[oakland.edu/aaap](http://oakland.edu/aaap)





## How scholarships make a difference

Claire Steensma had the experience of a lifetime, thanks to the OUAA Study Abroad Scholarship. A student in OU's biology program, Steensma has always dreamed of the chance to study in another country.

After being awarded the 2010 scholarship, she spent six weeks in Spain and lived in a dorm with students from all over the world. Steensma, who already was studying Spanish at OU, earned six credits for her experience in Spain — enough to be minoring in Spanish as she works toward graduation in May 2012.

"This experience helped me in so many ways," Steensma says. "It helped me get a better world view and see how important it is to know a second language, which many Americans don't."

She also believes the experience will help with her career aspiration, which is to be an optometrist and work with people who can't afford eye care.

"There are people in other countries who can't see well enough to do even manual labor, but there are organizations I'd like to work with that donate eyeglasses to people who can't afford them," Steensma says. "Learning Spanish can help me with that, and I want to thank everyone who helped make my dream of studying abroad come true." ●

## 2010-11 OUAA scholarship recipients honored

The OU Alumni Association recognized 26 scholarship recipients at the Celebrating Scholarship Breakfast on October 16, 2010. The special occasion provided an opportunity to bring together supporters of the Alumni Scholarship Fund to meet the alumni and students whose lives have been so greatly impacted by their generosity.

The following student scholarship recipients were honored at the event:

- Oleksandra Perepelytsya, Frances C. Amos School of Business Administration Alumni Scholarship
- Jake Wendt, School of Engineering and Computer Science Thomas A. Yatooma Alumni Memorial Scholarship
- Chelsea Grimmer, OUAA Keeper of the Dream Scholarship and College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Scholarship
- Shana Frontiera and Eric Hill, Legacy Scholarship
- Lindsay Harrington and Lori Marsh, Returning Alumni Scholarship
- Zaid Chabaan, Lynsey Crain, Jacqueline Manning, Sam Milana and Katelyn Stanis, Working Student Alumni Scholarship
- Paola Yumpo-Cardenas, College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Scholarship
- Christopher Powers, School of Engineering and Computer Science Alumni Scholarship
- Kristine Hilton, School of Nursing Alumni Scholarship
- Lindsey Keough, School of Education and Human Services Alumni Scholarship
- Luiza Iervolino, School of Health Sciences Alumni Scholarship
- Joseph Conigliaro, School of Business Administration Alumni Scholarship
- Jamie Sessoms, Black Alumni Scholarship
- Michelle Lopez-Arciniega, Honors College Alumni Scholarship
- Ashley Farmer, OUAA Honors College Scholar
- Claire Steensma, OUAA Study Abroad Scholarship
- Katherine Barton, Valerie DiDio and James Wagner, OUAA Distinguished Scholar

For more information about OUAA scholarships, visit [oualumni.com/ouaascholarships](http://oualumni.com/ouaascholarships). ●

## Career/Accomplishments



*Douglas and Jill Bastian*

### 1970s

Douglas R. Bastian, MAT '70, SEHS '68, and Jill D. Bastian, CAS '68. Doug has been retired from teaching elementary school in Pontiac since 1999 and Jill since November of 2008 from her township clerk position of 12 years in Orion Township. She still doesn't feel "retired" because the last year and a half has been spent going through treatment and recovery from a second bout of breast cancer (different from the first bout in 2003 — the more aggressive "triple-negative" variety). Doug continues to rebuild his HO model railroad lay-out featuring the Michigan/Ontario area, which has been in process since 1979. Jill enjoys knitting for charity and has been providing knitting classes at the local library, at no charge, for those who want to try something new in these stressful economic times. A scarf pattern created for daughter Heather entitled "Pink Diamonds" was published in the Knitting Pattern-A-Day Calendar for 2011 as the October Bonus Pattern. We would love to hear from any of our acquaintances at OU from the '60s. Because of our recent health challenges, we are so glad that we went on our three-and-a-half week excursion from Edinburgh to Nice in 2005, visiting friends from previous trips along the way. Better health to all for 2011!

Charlie Burton, CAS '74, retired from the Tulsa County Sheriff office in August 2010. Burton states that without the education he received at OU, this achievement would never have happened, and at the age of 68, he has never stopped learning.

Joaquin Hernandez, MA '76 and '73, has retired from the Pontiac School District and is now living in Costa Rica working for Amazon services. Hernandez states that he misses OU and all his friends.

Susan B. Katz, CAS '76, shares news of her first novel, *Tyler's Hill*, being published by Strategic Book Publishing of New York. A reading and book signing event was hosted by the Oak Park Library in October 2010.

Janice K. Means, PE, LEED<sup>AP</sup>, CAS '79, SECS '78, received tenure and was promoted to associate professor at Lawrence Technological University in January 2010. Means was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Detroit Chapter of ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) in April 2010 and the Chapter Distinguished Award at ASHRAE regional level in August 2010. Means was the ASHRAE Detroit Chapter President in 2007-08 and the 2010-11 Chair for the Engineering Society of Detroit's Affiliate Council.

Gregory Miles, CAS '74 and Delores Thomas Miles, CAS '77, along with family members, recently restored their deceased grandparents' 100-year-old Dutch colonial farmhouse in Wales Township, Mich. Delores retired from teaching in 2010, and Gregory retired from working at Faygo Beverages Inc., in Detroit, Mich.



Randall Miller, MD, CAS '71, is nearing retirement following 30 years as a family physician. Miller is living in Alaska, enjoying this great land. Miller still has a couple of good friends from OU who also live in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Aremetta Rodgers, MAT '76, has been a volunteer instructor in the Mercy Education Project (MEP) women's program for four years. A retired Detroit Public Schools special education teacher, Rodgers works with the adult basic education students with lower level skills. Rodgers dreamed of becoming a teacher. She maintained her determination even when she struggled in her college classes. Rodgers states, "I tell the women

to keep on doing it until you get it right." Rodgers says her best moments at MEP are when "the light bulb goes on; when they suddenly get it." MEP recognizes the importance of those moments, and the value of volunteers like Rodgers who make them happen, because when the light bulb goes on, the student realizes she is bright.

David Shedlarz, SBA '70, was appointed to The Hershey Company's board of directors. Shedlarz served as a member of Pfizer's executive leadership team and had responsibility for its business development and licensing, information technology, business innovation, global manufacturing and animal health sectors before his retirement last year.

### 1980s

Jill Bevins, SEHS '89, has been working in the Powell Township School district in Michigan's Upper Peninsula for over 20 years. Bevins obtained her master's degree in learning disabilities in 1995 and her education specialist in administration in 2006.

Pat Botkin, SBA '84, was the Grand Marshal of the 59th annual Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade December 5, 2010.

Laura A. Brodeur-McGeorge, SBA '84, a partner at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP (Honigman), has been appointed as a member of the State Bar of Michigan's Client Protection Fund Committee from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2013. The committee reimburses clients who have been victimized by lawyers who violate the profession's ethical standards and misappropriate funds entrusted to them. Brodeur-McGeorge focuses her practice on counseling clients on employment matters, employee health and safety issues, contract disputes, trade secrets and restrictive covenants. She also litigates employment matters in federal and state courts and before various administrative agencies and arbitration tribunals. In addition to her position on the State Bar of Michigan Client Protection Fund Committee, Brodeur-McGeorge is a Fellow of the Oakland County Bar Foundation and is a member of the American Bar Association, Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association and the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan. Brodeur-McGeorge earned a J.D., cum laude, from Wayne State University Law School.





### The Commissioner's tale

With an abiding love of literature that she cultivated during her undergraduate years at Oakland University, Cynthia Attwood, CAS '69, still can recite the General Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales* in Middle English.

These days, however, the Oak Park, Ill., native spends far more time reading lengthy court transcripts than Chaucer.

Last year, Attwood was appointed by President Barack Obama to be Commissioner of the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OHSRC). She was confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate.

"Of my 30-plus years in federal government, I find this position to be the most rewarding," says Attwood, who received her law degree from the University of Minnesota and began her career as a civil rights litigator at the Department of Justice.

Previously, she served as an administrative appeals judge on the Department of Labor's Administrative Review Board. Before that, Attwood was head of the Mine Safety and Health legal program and held a similar position as the leader of the Occupational Safety and Health legal program.

In her new job, Attwood reviews cases challenging citations that have been issued to employers for workplace safety violations. After an initial hearing is held before an administrative law judge, the party that does not prevail in the case may petition the three-member commission on which Attwood serves.

"If we decide to review the case, the commissioners act as administrative appellate judges," says Attwood. "We review the record and the arguments filed by the parties and issue a decision." Those decisions can be appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, she adds.

Though the hum of political life in Washington, D.C., seems far removed from the quiet study of English lit back in Rochester, Mich., Attwood still credits her OU education with helping to open her mind and expand her horizons.

"Having that liberal arts background has helped me to be a better lawyer and a better citizen," she explains. ■

*By Alice Rhein, a freelance writer from Huntington Woods, Mich.*



## New secretary of state is driven to excel

In her 22 years of involvement in Michigan politics, Ruth Johnson, SEHS '77, has been successful by daring to innovate and improve. Those traits were evident even when the new Michigan secretary of state was studying education at OU.

A case in point: when needing a physical education credit toward her degree, Johnson sought to make it a meaningful endeavor. She collaborated with then-OU Athletic Director Hollie Lepley to create her own concentration in table tennis. Johnson's skill in the sport improved to the point where she became competitive on a national level.

"I had a chance to meet a lot of people by competing, including a Chinese gal that whipped me good," Johnson laughs. "But it gave me great opportunities to learn."

So, too, did living on campus at Pryale House (currently home to the Department of Psychology), where the diversity of residents taught her about getting along with people from different walks of life.

After graduating, Johnson became a student teacher in Clarkston, Mich. However, when "pink slips" started going out due to budget cuts, she switched gears and bought a struggling Speedy Printing franchise in town. The experience as a small business owner, she says, had a profound impact on her.

"I quickly had to learn how to balance a budget and do more with less," she says. "Those were important lessons that I've continued to draw from throughout my political career."

Johnson was driven to continue her education, however, and earned a master's degree in clinical social work at Wayne State University, while directly applying her knowledge by working at Oakland County's Children's Village for juvenile offenders.

Looking to make a social impact on a broader scale, Johnson entered politics as an Oakland County commissioner in 1989. Ten years later, she became a state representative, and then served as Oakland County Clerk for six years — the first woman elected to that position.

In 2006, Johnson ran for lieutenant governor in Dick DeVos' unsuccessful bid to become Michigan's governor. This year, she became secretary of state, where she hopes to institute greater efficiencies and cost savings to that office.

Ping-Pong, however, may have to wait.

"I got a brand new table tennis set four years ago," Johnson admits. "It's still wrapped in paper and stored away, and it might be there for a while." ■

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



Barry Childress, Sr., BGS '84, is a retired City of Detroit firefighter. He is a published author of three children's books: *Blue Moon Cheese* (2008), *The Old Codger* (2009), and *Momma, What's Love?* (2010).

Marianne Fey (Miller), CAS '80, was selected by *Automotive News* as one of the 100 leading women in the North American automotive industry. The list recognizes women who are leaders in the automotive field, and have major decision making power and significant influence at their companies. Fey is executive vice president, managing director of McCann Midwest and is a member of its executive board, which is responsible for growth strategy as well as leading senior client relationships. This is the second time Fey has received the prestigious award, having been named one of the 100 leading women in the North American automotive industry by *Automotive News* in 2005.

Anita Gibbs, CAS '84, received her MBA in e-Business in 2006 from the University of Phoenix. Gibbs is an adjunct faculty instructor at ITT Technical Institute, a published author of *Superdaddies: The Series*, presents: *Daddy, I Broke My Snowball!* and *Daddy, I Can Read It for You*, and CEO and author at Eye On e-Business, LLC.

Beth S. Gotthelf, CAS '80, is one of 20 outstanding attorneys named to the 2010 Michigan Women in the Law by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*. Gotthelf is an attorney and shareholder at Butzel Long's Bloomfield Hills office and heads up the environmental, energy and land use practice. Gotthelf is president of the Great Lakes Guardian for water protection, general counsel to the Michigan Association of Metal Finishers, Chair of the Birmingham Brownfield Authority, and former general counsel to the Wayne County Brownfield Authority. Gotthelf is a graduate of the University of Detroit, J.D., 1985.

LuAnne Holder, MA '89, recently received her Ph.D. in instructional design for online learning from Capella University. She has begun a new position as director of online educational services with Notre Dame College in Cleveland, Ohio.

Eric Lilley, SECS '82, reached the "25" milestone — number of years that he has lived in the Seattle area, number of years he has worked at Boeing in various airplane fleet support roles, and number of years married.

Robert E. Michael, SECS '83, retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves as a colonel effective December 1, 2010, after over 26 years of active and reserve duty. His last assignment was with Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, as the senior individual mobilization augmentee to the director of contracting. During his military career he was deployed in support of wartime contingency operations to Al Kharj, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during Operation Desert Storm from September 1992 through March 1993, and more recently to Erbil, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom from March through June 2004. He is currently a procurement analyst on the contracting division staff, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va. Robert and his wife, Sue, live in Yorktown, Va.

Dennis Pawley, SEHS '82, was inducted to the 2010 Industry Week Manufacturing Hall of Fame. Pawley is co-founder of the Lean Learning Center in Novi, Mich., and established the Pawley Lean Learning Institute at Oakland University.

Robert Plescow, CAS '85, recently joined Caterpillar and is designing the paint department for their new factory in Winston-Salem, N.C. Plescow is collaborating on the design and installation of new facilities in the United States, Europe, South America, and Southeast Asia. He recently left B.E. Aerospace in Tuscon, Ariz., where he managed the coatings division in the aerospace group.

Julia Plevnia, CAS '89, has served in the U.S. Army for ten years in the Dental Corps. She is now a Board Certified Oral Maxillofacial Surgeon. Her surgical training was completed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Plevnia's Doctorate of Dental Surgery was completed at the University of Michigan.

John E. Rhadigan, CAS '83, has been named the new television play-by-play announcer for the 2010 American League Champions Texas Rangers Baseball organization. Rhadigan began his broadcast career at WOUX radio and did his first play-by-play work for the OU basketball team on WPON. He was



mentored by OU special instructor Joe Spencer (former ABC local reporter and eventual ABC national correspondent). Rhadigan has been married to OU alum Kathryn (Kent), CAS '83, for 27 years and they have two children, McKenna and Kal. Rhadigan was a 1983 Wilson Award recipient.

Chris Walter, SECS '83, worked for Lockheed Martin for 18 years and then took a two-year sabbatical to travel and move back to Arizona. Walter is now working for General Dynamics on soldier communication systems.

Kathleen Walton-Allen, CAS '82, has been named Chief Referee at the 3rd Judicial Circuit Court — Juvenile Division.

## 1990s

Jaison Busby, SBA '99, was nominated for the Chrysler Group LLC 2010 Black Engineer of the Year (BEYA) — Modern Day Technology Leaders Award. This national awards program is hosted by Career Communications Group and celebrates the superior achievements of up-and-coming leaders in the field of science, technology and engineering. Busby was selected to receive this award and joined many other award winners in February 2011 during the award ceremony and conference events held in Washington, D.C.

Ryan Carron-Smith, BGS '98, was named manager of recruitment for Guardian Angel Health Care, a multi-state company specializing in providing short- and long-term personal health care solutions, occupational/physical therapy, medical equipment and transportation services. The company was established in 1994 and is headquartered in Rochester Hills, Mich.

John E. Farland (Jef), MPA '94, recently received his Doctorate in Education (EdD) from the University of Northern Iowa, on December 18, 2010. Farland received a BS from Michigan State University in Park and Recreation Resources in 1974, an MA from Central Michigan University in Park and Recreation Administration in 1976, and an MPA from OU in Public Administration in 1994. Jef retired from the parks and recreation profession after over 30 years of progressive employment in January 2005. Prior to retirement he was the director of leisure facilities and services for Davenport, Iowa for eight years, where he administered a

continued

comprehensive park, recreation and leisure program. In 2001, Jef received the Richard B. Slattery Professional Award for exemplary service to the park and recreation profession, the State of Iowa's highest award for a park and recreation professional. Prior to coming to Davenport, he was the director of parks and recreation in Southfield, Mich., a Gold Medal Parks and Recreation Department. In 2005, after retirement and too young to "officially" retire, Jef immediately enrolled in the doctoral program at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), focusing on leisure, youth and human services. Prior to working on his doctorate at UNI, he was a member of the adjunct faculty at Western Illinois University from 2002 to 2010. Jef is currently a full-time lecturing professor at the University of Iowa in the Health and Human Physiology Department, focusing in leisure studies.

Christina Fuoco-Karasinski, CAS '90, is working as a freelance reporter for Arizona Sports and Lifestyle Magazine and Greater Phoenix Attorney at Law Magazine. Fuoco-Karasinski covers music for SoundSpike.com as well as The Flint Journal/Saginaw News/Bay City Times. She lives in Arizona with her husband and their cats.

Brian Gabler, CAS '97, is a full-time instructor in the department of management, facilitating undergraduate and graduate level management and marketing courses for Walsh College. Prior to joining Walsh College, he held lead management and research positions with OnStar (General Motors), R\*Works (The Interpublic Group of Companies), Wayne State University, Oakland University, and New Passages Behavioral Healthcare and Rehabilitation Services. While employed by General Motors, he served as the North American research lead for OnStar concerning its joint venture expansion efforts in China, providing consumer insights related to the attitudes, preferences, and opinions of in-vehicle telematics (the integration of wireless communications, vehicle monitoring systems and location devices) among Chinese new vehicle owners and new vehicle intenders. Gabler also helped develop and sustain an online proprietary panel of OnStar subscribers. The online panel was used to guide and inform management decisions in an expedient and cost-effective fashion. As research supervisor with R\*Works, he developed structural equation models to help predict the

greatest return-on-investment among hundreds of sponsorship, event, and promotional opportunities for Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC, Hummer, Pontiac and Saturn. Gabler managed a large-scale aggregated database of event metrics and respondent-level data. While employed by Wayne State University, he managed an evaluation of early intervention service providers for the Michigan Department of Education.

Judy (Wiegand) Hegelund, SBA '95, was promoted to director at Deloitte. She is the national controller for Deloitte's AERS practice. She is also a member of OU's Accounting and Finance Advisory Board. Judy and her husband, Bryan Hegelund, SBA '97, live in Rochester Hills.



Craig Korpela, MA '90, received his Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration, December 2006, from Western Michigan University and is an assistant professor of history at Olivet College.

Kathryn Lauer-Hoover, CAS '97, has been chosen as one of two Michigan women to join the national project to advance women's leadership at the conference, Vision 2020: An American Conversation about Women and Leadership.™ The national search for delegates focused on finding women who have demonstrated a commitment to helping women and girls. These delegates are willing to mobilize resources to bring about positive change and implement elements of the decade-long Vision 2020 agenda, signing on for a minimum three-year term following the conference. The conference took place October 21-22, 2010, at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pa. Lauer-Hoover works as a licensed school counselor with K-8 students at Richfield Public School Academy in Flint, Mich. Lauer-Hoover is an award-winning speaker and was just elected as the president of the AAUW (formerly American Association of University Women) Flint, Michigan Branch.

Jason C. Long, CAS '96, published the chapter "Real and Personal Property Tax" in the Institute for Continuing Legal Education's book Real Property Taxes in Michigan.

Tim Melton, CAS '95, current Michigan State Representative, made Crain's Detroit Business "40 Under 40" list.

Nanette Porterfield, CAS '96, has started her own publishing company, Cashmere Cupcake Publishing, L.L.C., and has a blog [bakingcashmerecupcakes.blogspot.com](http://bakingcashmerecupcakes.blogspot.com). Porterfield offers 2011 calendars and is currently working on a cookbook and children's book.

David P. Reuter, CAS '93, was recently named vice president, corporate communications at Nissan Americas. Most recently Reuter was senior director, Nissan Americas, where he was responsible for ensuring alignment across the corporate, product and internal communications functions throughout the Americas. Reuter joined Nissan in May 2010 as director, corporate communications from Bentley Motors, Inc., where he was head of public relations and communications for the premium British brand's largest market worldwide. Reuter brings an international portfolio of communications skills to his new assignment which includes expatriate assignments in Tokyo, Japan, and Cologne, Germany. Reuter resides in Brentwood, Tenn., with his wife and four children. (see profile on page 41.)

Melissa A. Winter, CAS '95, recently started a position as the assistant director of operations at the Education City Student Center Campus with the Qatar Foundation in Doha, Qatar. The EC Campus is composed of six well regarded U.S. universities and represents several undergraduate and graduate program areas as well as several other nonprofit institutions. She is excited to have her career take her to a place where she had recently developed an academic interest and hopes to pursue studies in the Arabic language as well as some additional coursework focused on the region.

## 2000s

Lisa Brown, MA '08, landed a fantastic counseling job at Schoolcraft College and has launched her own career counseling business.

Carrie Burdzinski, MS '07, is founder and owner of Aurum Naturals, a company specializing in organic bath/body care and hand-poured beeswax candles.

Garry Gilbert, MA '02, CAS '95, was recently named director and adjunct professor of journalism at Oakland University.





## Corporate communicator finds cross-over success

As vice president of corporate communications for Nissan Americas, David Reuter, CAS '93, enjoys enviable success and a high profile in the public relations field. Yet, it was a sudden left-turn in college that led him to his career as a professional communicator.

"I actually started out majoring in mechanical engineering," he says. That match, however, failed to click, so he transferred into education before entering the journalism program at OU during his junior year. "I knew journalism was the perfect fit as soon as I started taking the courses," he recalls. "Writing comes easily to me, and I enjoy it."

Brief as it was, Reuter's engineering background helped contribute to his success in the automotive industry. He leveraged it as an undergrad after an OU journalism lecturer, Anita Lienert, introduced him to a Detroit-area automotive writer who then hired him as an intern. That experience helped Reuter land a position with an industry-related public relations firm soon after graduation.

Before long, Reuter's solid writing and interpersonal communication skills led to a position on the client side, first with Ford Motor Company, then with Bentley Motors, Inc., and now with Nissan.

As the lead corporate communicator for Nissan in North, South and Central America, Reuter says his challenge is to build an international team of professional communicators to support the company's growth in countries such as Brazil and Argentina.

"I'm responsible for looking at Nissan in the Americas holistically now," he says. "My challenge is to standardize our communications and help the team think strategically, but to implement regionally."

Now based in Franklin, Tenn., Reuter says his global professional and personal experiences working for Ford in Europe and Asia helped shape his leadership in the Americas for Nissan. Reuter stresses the positive impact of his tenure overseas on his career path, and recommends it to those who aspire to ascend the corporate ranks.

"Business is global now," he explains. "Any international experience you can get is only going to help you, since it's a skill set that stays with you throughout your career." ■

*By Sandra Beckwith, a freelance writer from Fairport, N.Y.*

Matthew Loew, SECS '00, has joined the part-time teaching faculty at Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE). He teaches two sections of modeling and numerical methods and advises the Formula Hybrid team. Loew continues to work for Infotech Enterprises as a consultant leading projects for clients in mining equipment and defense sectors. He lives with his family in Oconomowoc, Wis.

Amanda Miela, CAS '07, participated in an internship in New York City conserving the statues of Central Park. She will be graduating with her Master of Science in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University in 2011.



Joseph Opron III, CAS '06, was appointed to the position of counsel for the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA), the organization of state and provincial securities regulators. Opron is currently an LLM candidate for the Master of Laws in Securities and Financial Regulation program at Georgetown University Law Center.

Aaron Sabbota, CAS '03, worked with Dr. Doug Wendell while attending OU. Sabbota graduated with his Ph.D. in Cancer Biology from Wayne State University (WSU) in May 2009. Sabbota enrolled in the MD program at the WSU Medical School in August 2009. This year his research was published in the journal Cancer Research, titled "Shedding of RANKL by Tumor-Associated MT1-MMP Activates Src-Dependent Prostate Cancer Cell Migration." Sabbota is pursuing a career in orthopaedic oncology.

Melissa Scott, MA '10, CAS '07, is teaching at Mott Community College in Flint, Mich., and at Baker College of Port Huron, Mich. She teaches English/Composition at both schools.

David Sokol, MBA '00, is partner and director of employee benefits at Strategic Employee Benefit Services of Michigan in Troy, Mich., from market practice leader at Humana of Michigan in Troy, Mich.

Patience Wright, MED '03, SEHS '00, is the owner of The Purple Bear, a children's lifestyle boutique in Birmingham, Mich. The boutique has

been in Birmingham for eight years, under Wright's ownership for six years, and recently underwent a renovation. Wright states that they have decided to invest in Birmingham and reinvent their store. The boutique has a new inside and outside, and Wright has a renewed love for what she does which is "small things big." Wright's focus until she had children was teaching, and she was able to parlay her knowledge of little ones into a business that is growing, not going.

Nancy J. Yucha, CAS '03, has joined Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman as an associate attorney in its Troy, Mich., office. Yucha focuses her practice on business transactions and services, corporate counsel services, and real estate and construction. She is a member of the Real Property Law Section of the Michigan Bar, Oakland County Bar Association, the American Health Lawyers Association, and the American Bar Association. Yucha received her paralegal certification in 2002 and her bachelor's degree in 2003, graduating cum laude from OU. Yucha attended Thomas M. Cooley Law School and received her Juris Doctor and graduated with distinction in 2007. In May 2008, she was admitted to the Bar in the State of Michigan. Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman is a national health law firm with offices in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Wisconsin. More than 140 attorneys represent hospitals and health systems, physician practices, governmental agencies and nonprofits in the highly regulated health care industry. From the time William S. Hall founded the firm in 1967, Hall Render has focused its practice in health law and is now recognized as one of the nation's preeminent health law firms.



## Engagements & Weddings

Clifton Ellis, SECS '04, and Lydia Rayess, SBA '06, were married on November 5, 2010. The Eastern Catholic ceremony

included a Marine and took place at St. George Catholic Church in Michigan. Ellis received his Master in Engineering Management from the University of Michigan. They reside in Shelby Township with their dog, Saito Ellis.

Christina George, SEHS '98, married Michael Sullivan of Waterford, Mich., and graduate of Waterford Kettering High School, on October 21, 2006, at White Lake Presbyterian Church in Highland, Mich. George works as an accounts payable clerk in Novi, and Michael is a self-employed contractor. They live in Clarkston, Mich.

Michael Lerchenfeldt, SEHS '08, married Sarah Gadoua on August 7, 2010. Lerchenfeldt is a teacher at Chippewa Valley Schools and the bride is a pharmacist at Karmanos Cancer Institute.

## Births & Adoptions

Patrick Clore, MS '00, SECS '97, and Mary (Crova) Clore, SECS '97, welcomed their second child, Garrett David Clore, on March 12, 2010. He joins his big sister Ella. Both are excited to be future Grizzlies.

Michelle Reid, SBA '98, and her husband, Michael, welcomed their fourth child, Brady James, on September 21, 2010. Brady joins older sisters McKenley (2), Kendall (14) and Kyley (15).





## Deaths

James M. Breen, CAS '82,  
died December 30, 2010.

Sandra I. Brush, CAS '83,  
died August 18, 2010.

MaryAnn Carr, CAS '04,  
died October 19, 2010.

Wayne D. Cheyne, SEHS '76,  
died August 1, 2010.

Joan E. Connelly, SEHS '83,  
died October 3, 2010.

George R. Demasellis, CAS '80,  
died August 17, 2010.

Diane (Pullar) Douglass, MA '76,  
SEHS '76, died January 14, 2011.

William H. Dulaney, MA '76, SEHS '76,  
died December 2, 2010.

Gregory H. Dunbar, CAS '91,  
died August 7, 2010.

Mary J. Durak, SEHS '83,  
died September 6, 2010.

Kathleen M. Ebli, SBA '85,  
died January 2, 2011.

Gertrude E. Fallon, MAT '75, CAS '70,  
died November 4, 2010.

Richard M. Fenster, MS '05,  
died December 5, 2010.

Carol E. Gardner, SEHS '85,  
died December 24, 2010.

Bette J. Hartmann, MAT '73, SEHS '73,  
died August 10, 2010.

Phyllis J. Hecht, SEHS '65,  
died August 21, 2010.

Nancy (Jachim) Johnson, MA '99,  
died January 2, 2011.

Janice Elaine Keck, CAS '68,  
died February 20, 2011.

Freda E. Kelley-Bertocci, CAS '80,  
died December 4, 2010.

Thomas A. Kern, MA '75,  
died December 27, 2010.

Helen Koc, MA '77,  
died November 10, 2010.

Bette M. McCurdy, MA '84, CAS '76,  
died November 28, 2010.

Betty L. Nelson, SEHS '82,  
died September 15, 2010.

Edna S. Newnan, CAS '67,  
died January 7, 2011.

Thomas A. Parkinson, CAS '69,  
died February 18, 2011.

Cheryl B. Pesek, SEHS '90,  
died September 8, 2010.

William S. Peters, CAS '79,  
died August 28, 2010.

Mariefrances Philp, MAT '78,  
died December 19, 2010.

Mary Catherine Piazza, CAS '99,  
died August 3, 2010.

Shelley M. Pittman, CAS '94,  
died December 19, 2010.

Edward C. Poznanski, MBA '91, CAS '86,  
died October 5, 2010.

Kathleen M. Praet, SON '88,  
died August 2, 2010.

Michael V. Pullis, CAS '07,  
died January 1, 2011.

Patricia L. Sarver, MAT '74,  
died November 20, 2010.

Alicia A. (Rosen) Schwartz, MAT '86,  
died October 11, 2010.

Roger W. Smiley, BGS '06,  
died July 20, 2010.

Deborah Stern, MA '78,  
died September 14, 2010.

Marion L. Strable, SON '94,  
died August 16, 2010.

Warren Keith Wright, CAS '76,  
died October 13, 2010.

Yukihiro Yoshida, SBA '08,  
died January 11, 2011.

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**TRICK-OR-TREAT  
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# OU Moment

A Night at the Symphony, held this past March, marked the final performance of the Oakland Symphony Orchestra's (OSO) inaugural season. Oakland University offers this new orchestra-in-residence to serve our academic mission and the community at large. With its unique structure, the OSO enables OU students, faculty and alumni the opportunity to perform the finest orchestral works in one of the region's highly regarded professional ensembles. For more information and tickets, visit the website at [oakland.edu/mtd](http://oakland.edu/mtd). ●





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*Oakland Center*



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*Recognizing Oakland University donors and alumni whose contributions  
keep Oakland strong and enrich the lives of so many.*

Where Innovation and Opportunity Meet





Dear Friends,

Thank you for your thoughtful and generous support of Oakland University. We have increased enrollment, expanded scholarship support, enhanced our academic programs, and are only months away from opening the doors of the new Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine to its inaugural class.

We are excited about our growth, and proud that Oakland's alumni and friends join with us in providing a unique and rewarding experience for our students. The gifts we have received in the past year are a true testament to your trust and belief in OU and your appreciation of the value of higher education.

There is no substitute for our community of alumni and friends. No great university sustains excellence without it. I would like to thank each of you who have supported our mission, given generously, and helped us to provide an outstanding academic experience for our students. I invite you to continue with us on our journey as we seek to realize our mission and vision.

Sincerely,

Gary D. Russi  
President

## Lifetime Gift Societies

### Matilda Wilson Founders Society

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

Anonymous  
Matilda R. Wilson Fund  
Siemens PLM Software

### Varner Society

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

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Mr. and Mrs. Dennis K. Pawley  
Stephan and Rita\* Sharf

### Golden Oaks Society

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

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

## Meadow Brook Society

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

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### Developers donate Macomb building

Prominent Michigan investors and developers Gabe S. Anton and his Towne Square Associates partner, Stuart Frankel, donated a building valued at approximately \$2 million to Oakland University. As a result, the two-story building at 20 South Main Street in downtown Mt. Clemens, Mich., was renamed the Oakland University Anton/Frankel Center.

The developers' gift allows OU to expand its presence in Macomb County with an additional 25,422 square feet of space for faculty offices and classrooms. University officials anticipate that the donation will advance efforts to meet the educational needs of traditional and returning college students in the region. Additionally, the move solidifies the university's commitment to bringing exceptional academic opportunities to the people of Macomb County.

"The economic struggles the state has experienced in recent years have created a double-edged sword when it comes to our efforts to expand the academic programs Michigan needs to fully transition to a knowledge-based, 21st century economy," says OU President Gary Russi.

For Anton, the partnership with OU enriches the community that he and his family have helped shape since his father opened a shoe repair business in Mt. Clemens in 1949. "We want to strengthen the city and reinvent it. We couldn't think of any better partner than OU to help us achieve this effort," says Anton. "Having OU here will be tremendous for the city."

## Pioneer Society

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

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(Pictured left to right) Donors Stuart Frankel and Gabe Anton with Mary Otto, Ph.D., vice president for Outreach; OU President Gary Russi, Ph.D.; and Al Lorenzo, OU-Macomb executive-in-residence. Dr. Otto displays an OU plaque with the symbolic key to the OU Anton/Frankel Center, located in downtown Mt. Clemens, Mich.

The Oakland University Anton/Frankel Center also will house community and education outreach programs to facilitate the university's partnership with public schools and the community. The center, which will have the capacity for 1,500 OU students, will open in time for the fall 2011 semester. For more information, click on [oakland.edu/afc](http://oakland.edu/afc). ■



# President's Council Society

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

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

## Endowed scholarship helps advance medical careers



*Longtime OU supporters  
Ann and Jim Nicholson.*

As the baby boom bulge of the U.S. population reaches retirement age, the demand for medical care is increasing. The supply of medical practitioners, however, isn't keeping pace.

One long-time Oakland University benefactor aims to help change that. Former OU trustee Ann Nicholson has made a \$500,000 commitment to establish an endowed scholarship for future Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine students.

The Ann V. Nicholson Scholarship will help ease the financial burden that many medical students face after graduation. The gift goes hand in hand with her desire to increase the number of physicians in the region.

"The United States needs to be training new physicians now to meet the medical needs of our aging population and to oversee the increasingly sophisticated treatments for many health conditions," Nicholson says. "A substantial portion of our physicians now come from abroad, but I don't think this situation is, or ought to be, sustainable over the long run."

Nicholson, an enthusiastic supporter of Oakland University, its programs and its initiatives for more than 16 years, says she chose to support scholarships because of the high cost of medical education.

"Students who wish to become general practice doctors to help others are forced to choose higher paying specialties in order to pay the debts from their

# Matilda R. Wilson Society

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

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education. I hope my scholarship will reach those students."

The scholarship is specifically directed. It will provide student support based on capstone projects. All School of Medicine students must complete a capstone project as part of the overall curriculum. Through capstone and service learning projects, School of Medicine students will be engaged in the community and will have opportunities across a broad spectrum including learning best practices to improve public health, experiences with diverse cultures and the role of the physician in community settings. The Ann V. Nicholson Scholarship will support a student who demonstrates a strong commitment to serving the community.

Nicholson hopes these experiences will translate into better training for students and better care for patients.

"Medical students are smart, trained to think scientifically and to notice things," she says. "Their skills as critical thinkers, not just doctors, are needed in the greater community." ■



# Alfred G. Wilson Society

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



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Dr. Betty J. Youngblood

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The President's Club Society recognizes individuals who have made cumulative cash gifts of \$10,000 or a planned gift of \$20,000.

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Thomas H. and Polly Page  
Atkinson  
Bernard J. and Barbara Aude  
James M. and Doris G. August  
Paul N. Averill\*  
James R. and Farrel Avery  
Susan M. and Jon Awbrey  
Stanley A. Babiuk  
Kyoungsoo and Duksoon Bae  
Robert J. Bagley

Duke K. and Young S. Bahn  
Michael M. and Mary Bahn  
Angelo L. Baiardi\*  
Chris A. and Cindy Baiardi  
John J. and Janet Lee Bailey  
Thomas T. and Judy K. Bailey  
Glenn H. and Judith Baird  
Stan W. Baker\*  
Thomas H. and Nancy Baker  
Donald and Denise Baldwin  
John David and Patricia A. Ball  
Joyce M. and David G. Banchiu  
Katherine and John Banicki  
Thomas E. and Barbara J. Barbieri  
Alexander P. and Louise Bardy  
John H. and Doris Barey  
Jon E. Barfield and Vivian  
Carpenter  
Howard B. Barker\*  
Christine and Randy L. Barnett  
Guy D. and Mary Barnicoat  
Dan S. Barrett  
Robert A. and Anna-Rita E. Barron  
Larry J. and Beverly J. Barton  
Eric Bell and Liscia Bass

### Fund memorializes founding associate dean of School of Medicine

Whenever students from the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine receive help from the Dr. Michele D. Raible Fund for Medical Students, they'll learn about the legacy of a woman who helped shape their education.



*William Miles, M.D., and Michele D. Raible, M.D.*

William Miles, M.D., created the fund in memory of his wife, Michele D. Raible, M.D., PharmD., who died while being treated for leukemia in June 2010, only 18 months after becoming a founding associate dean for the School of Medicine.

Dr. Raible was recruited for the job by Robert Folberg, M.D., founding dean of the School of Medicine. Dr. Folberg was the head of pathology at University of

Illinois at Chicago, where Dr. Raible was deputy head for pathology education and director for the university's pathology residency training program.

"This was Michele's dream job," says Dr. Miles, assistant professor of psychiatry at the School of Medicine and a staff psychiatrist at Beaumont Hospitals. "I was thrilled for her and she was thrilled, too."

During her illness, Raible confided to her husband what frightened her most about the possibility of dying. "One of her biggest fears was that she'd be forgotten; that in 10, 20,

30 years, no one would know who Michele Raible was and how passionate she was about medical education," Dr. Miles said. "I promised her I would not let that happen."

The Dr. Michele D. Raible Fund for Medical Students is his way of keeping that vow. He established the fund with a \$25,000 donation, and since then, others have donated \$11,000 in Dr. Raible's memory.

More recently, Dr. Miles made a \$100,000 planned gift to the School of Medicine for the fund, using inheritance money Raible received from her mother and passed on to him after her death.

"She wanted that money to go to something that mattered to her," Dr. Miles said.

Awards from the fund will support student programming, external speakers, awards, participation in scientific meetings, and other special projects. Every time the fund is used, Dr. Raible will be recognized.

"We wouldn't want it any other way," Dr. Folberg says. "We will never forget Michele. This will let all of the students know the key role she had in helping to found the School of Medicine." ■





## President's Club Society *continues*

David E. Bassett and Elyse Sutherland  
 Douglas and Jill Bastian  
 Andrew D. and Karen Baszczuk  
 Joan R. Batcha  
 Steven and Colleen Batdorff  
 Douglas A. and Deean M. Bauer  
 Daniel P. Baumhardt  
 Leonard and Sharon Bayer  
 Betsy Eileen Bayha and David J. Guzman  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lance M. Baylis  
 Dr. Larry J. and Mrs. Liza Lynn Baylis  
 Maria J. Baylis  
 Lyle W. and Julie Beadle  
 David C.\* and Betty J.\* Beardslee  
 Sidney H. and Barbara Beauchamp  
 Theodore R. and Florence M. Beck  
 Otto K. and Diane Becker  
 Patricia A. and Drew Becker  
 Rudolf B. and Carolyn Becker  
 Tom and Nancy Beckman  
 Robert and Susan M. Bellas  
 David J. Benedict and Laura Balseira-Benedict  
 Christopher A. Beresford and Erin McBrien  
 Leo J. and Kathleen Berger  
 Jeffrey D. and Stephanie W. Bergeron  
 Warren and Sharon Bergman  
 Ata\* and Margaret A.\* Berker  
 James D. and Amy Mae Berner  
 Eugene L. Besh  
 Paul F. and Kelly Bialk  
 Roger A. and Jennifer Bick  
 Thomas R. and Gayle F. Bieglecki  
 Charles and Virginia M. Biegun  
 Daniel M. and Carolyn Bielak  
 Richard E.\* and Valdi M. Bjork Art\* and Betty Blair  
 William\* and Wilma Ray Bledsoe  
 William R. and Irene M. Bleisch  
 Raymond E. and Betty Bloker  
 George E.\* and Mary Bloom  
 Gregg Richard Bloomfield  
 Suzanne Blum and Robert J.W. Arnold  
 M. Merrick and Elizabeth Anne Blumenthal  
 Michael Boback  
 Marsha Boettger  
 William J. Bogdziewicz, Jr.  
 Eugene E. and Carol Boivin  
 Kenneth R. and Janet E. Boland  
 Mary E. Boll  
 Clinton H. and Leslie M. Bond

John D. and Julie Bonema  
 Jane W. and Donald Booth  
 Michael J. and Karen A. Booth  
 Warren S. Booth\*  
 Bruce A. and Sharon Bordine  
 Mr.\* and Mrs. Don R. Borgeson  
 William and Donna Borglin  
 Pasquale and Elvira Borraccio  
 Spero and Kimberly Ann Boutsikaris  
 John M. (Jack) Bowen  
 William L. Bowers  
 Mark W. and Denise L. Bowman  
 Russell C. and Joan Bowman  
 Virgil E. and Berniece Boyd  
 Leon Orin Braisted  
 Pamela S. Brandt  
 Francis J.\* and Doris Brannigan  
 Mark F. Brannigan  
 David D. and Ann Bratton  
 David C. and JoAnn Bray  
 William D. and Barbara Brazier  
 Paul and Roberta Bresette  
 Marvin\* and Marion Breskin  
 David C. and Carol O. Bricker  
 Gottfried and Inge Brieger  
 Gregory and Patricia Bright  
 Addison J.\* and Barbara L. Brink  
 Diane and William H. Broadus  
 David J. and Georganna Brocco  
 Richard G. and Marge Brooks  
 Arnold L. Brown  
 David H. Brown  
 Donald F. and Catherine R. Brown  
 Judith K. Brown  
 Lyra Greiser Brown  
 > **Paul A. Brown**  
 Terrence D. and Josephine Brown  
 Trevor J. and Isobel Brown  
 Kenneth and Susan C. Bruchanski  
 George A. Brundrett\*  
 Bruce W. and Pamela Budde  
 Paula and Steve Buffa  
 Joan Bugas  
 Arthur W. Bull  
 Rockwood W.\* and Maryetta\* Bullard  
 Harold L. and Kathy Bunge  
 William H.\* and Louise\* Burgum  
 Joel A. and Pamela Burkland  
 Michael E. and Evelyn D. Burns  
 Dexter Manley and Kay Bussey  
 Thomas and Jeanne Butler  
 Rosalie K. Butzel\*  
 > **Michael S. Bylen**  
 Roger C. and Mary Jo Byrd  
 David E. and Elizabeth Calder

## Alumnus' gift makes study in Israel possible



*Bernie and Nina Kent lend vital support to Judaic studies program.*

Bernie and Nina Kent knew when they established the Bernard and Nina Kent Judaic Studies Endowed Israel Travel Fund in 2008 that they would want to increase the fund for future students.

They took that step late last year by contributing an additional \$25,000 to the fund, bringing

it to \$50,000. Their support makes it possible for more students in Oakland University's Judaic studies program to experience Israeli culture, history and politics first hand. "When people travel to Israel, it's a very eye-opening experience," says Bernie Kent, SBA '71.

The Judaic studies minor, part of the religious studies program, is designed to help foster understanding, tolerance and a broader knowledge base of the world. The Kents have hosted post-trip get-togethers for program participants who've joined archeological digs through the travel fund.

"Many of them felt it was a life-changing experience, very transformative," Kent says.

For a number of students, high costs would make studying abroad impossible without the Kents' fund, says Ronald Sudol, College of Arts and Sciences dean. "The generous endowment from Bernie and Nina Kent provides an exceptional opportunity for future generations of Oakland University students to travel to and study in Israel," Sudol says. "Such opportunities are among the most potent elements of a liberal arts education."

In addition to supporting the university financially, Kent regularly donates his time to OU. He chairs the university's Judaic Studies Community Committee and is involved in fundraising for the Judaic studies program. "It's an opportunity to contribute back to Oakland University, where I am an alumnus, and to work with outstanding individuals within the university," he says.

Last fall, Kent was honored at the Association of Fundraising Professionals' annual Philanthropy Day dinner as a Distinguished Volunteer of the College of Arts and Sciences. "I have attended those dinners with past honorees," he says. "I felt honored to be one of them."

Looking forward, Kent says he intends to continue supporting the university. "I plan on making a bequest that will triple the size of the endowment."

That support will be important, in light of inflation, to keep the fund operational for future generations, he says. ■

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

David R. and Fredrika Dodge Caldwell	Linda E. and Sam Caruso	Chang Soo and Eunsook Choi	Patrick J. and Ruth M. Coletta
John R.* and Julia Caldwell	Neil W. Casaceli	Wook-Chin and Chongsook Chong	Stephen R. and Betsy R. Coletta
Richard A. and Anne Calice	Cheryl D. Case and Thomas Walters	Gerald A. and Eileen Christensen	Don U. and Mary Collier
> Steven B. and Katherine A. Calkin	Martin J.* and Josephine Caserio	Julius and Minna Christensen	James E. and Eileen R. Collins
Denis M. and Karen M. Callewaert	Lee A. Casey	Tai and Jung Hwa Chung	John C. and Tobin Collins
Matthew J. and Sharon Campbell	Richard J. Casinelli	William J. and Jane Chung	Kelly M. and Ann Marie Collins
Phillip K. and Barbara Campbell	Thomas A. and Janet M. Cattel	James H.* and Betty Lou Church	Robert T. and Martha F. Collins
Ray C. and Carolyn S. Campbell	Armando R. and Kathleen Cavazos	Michael W. and Julie T. Cianciolo	Ted Joseph Collins
James B. and Susan C. Canner	Gregory T. and Dawn M. Cesul	Richard J. and Denise M. Cianek	Frances Colombo*
William R. and Suzanne Cantwell	Sean D. Chamberlain	Salvatore M. and Kathleen Ciaramitaro	Harold and Joy Coltman
Lawrence Paul Canyock	C. Edward and Eleanor B. Chambliss	William G. and Mary K. Cichowski	John F. and Dianna Confer
Michael C. and Sandra Capazzi	George Chamchikian	Ronald J. and Carol A. Ciesielski	Michael and Donna Conlon
Joseph and Mary Caponigro	Joseph E. and Emilie Champagne	Philip M. and Julie A. Cini	Nicholas T. and Julie Connolly
Ralph A. and Barbara J. Caponigro	Robert W. and Sharon E. Champion	> Bernard J. and Jill Cipa	William and Irene Connors
Louis and Antonette Capper	Jung-Hoon and Myung Ok Chang	Thomas Clair and Joan Bernadette Stinson-Clair	Basil and Mary Considine
Aleck Capsalis	Carroll B. and Mary Chapman	Thomas H. and Ruth Clapp	Telmer L. and Carmen Constan
Fred L. and Rebecca Carbonero	Melvin and Celess Chapman	Vincent L. and Linda J. Clark	Robert A. and Mary Alice Cook
Anthony and Jane Cardellio	Robert Chapman and Gail M. White	F. James and Juliana S. Clatworthy	Thomas A. and Patricia A. Cook
Walter F. Carey*	Edward W. and Karen Chase	Larry W. Clyma and April Wuest	Ronald H. Cooley
James and Cynthia Carmody	L. Paul and Patricia M. Chastney	Donna L. Coallier	Frank E. and Mary Ellen Cooney
Gregory A. and Jayne Carnago	Robert and Patricia Ann Check	Donald H. and Helga Coates	Edward M. and Michele Coosaia
Dale F. Carney	Ronald P. and Pamela S. Cheli	Eric Coffman and Dana Baskin Coffman	John and Janine Corbets
David H. and Margery Carney	Ka and Bee K. Cheok	Lawrence S. and Shirley Cohen	William H. Corrigan
Paul Carollo	Edward Cherney	Edward N. Cole*	Robert R. and Mary Pence Cosner
Stephen M. and Patricia Carollo	Patricia Cherney	Louis H. Cole*	Richard P. and Victoria Costantini
George P. Caronis	Renauld K. and Anna M. Cherven	Stephen M. Cole	Ellen and William Couch
Peter M. and Deborah Carozza	Adam D. and Suzanne Guise Cheslin	Michael V. and Linda Faye Coletta	Warren J. Coville
C. Robert and Frances Carson			Joseph P. and Florentina Cracchiolo
Annette and John* Carter			Garry E. and Pat L. Craig
Stuart and Elizabeth Carter			Timothy and Karen Crowthorn
John S. and Claudette Carterson			Andrew G.* and Laura* Creamer

## Parents make loving tribute in alumna's honor with endowed scholarship

To honor the memory of their daughter and Oakland University alumna, the parents of Lauren K. Roche, CAS '10, (posthumous), established an endowed scholarship in her name to benefit a student enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences' social work program.

One student will be selected annually by a committee of faculty members to receive a scholarship from the Lauren Kathryn Roche Endowment for Scholarships in Social Work. This student will possess the dedication and passion for social work with the same commitment to public service and helping others that Lauren so graciously exhibited.

"Lauren was always willing to help others by giving her time, support and encouragement," says Dan Roche, Lauren's father.

Lauren was a member of both the Phi Alpha Honor Society and the Oakland University Social Work Club, and was a recent intern with the 52nd, 3rd Division District Court



*Lauren K. Roche, CAS '10, is remembered by her parents with an endowed scholarship.*

Probation Department. Her parents want the endowed scholarship to continue Lauren's legacy by supporting students with similar ideals to follow in her footsteps.

"We hope that students who receive this scholarship strive to be true to themselves as they follow their call to public service, while integrating the vast knowledge and experience of their professors and field supervisors," say Dan and his wife, Amy, SEHS '05.

The OU social work program requires intense classroom study, as well as field education. Those graduating from OU with a bachelor's degree in social work enter their professional lives as counselors, case managers and advocates

who work with children, families, the elderly, the mentally ill and the disabled.

The Roche endowed scholarship will help the most dedicated students focus fully on their education and future professions. ■





## Van Lennep gift launches Meadow Brook publishing

John F. Van Lennep, the grandson of John and Matilda Dodge, has advanced the mission of Meadow Brook Hall with a generous gift supporting the development of Meadow Brook Press.

The new publishing operation will produce books about the Dodge Motor Car Company, Meadow Brook Farms and Meadow Brook Hall.

"Creating and sharing new publications with friends of Meadow Brook and the general public will go a long way toward fulfilling my grandmother's educational vision for her legacy — bringing to life stories of the farms and gardens, the family, the house and her vast collections," says Van Lennep.

Soon, three titles will be published: an illustrated coffee table book on Meadow Brook Hall and Gardens, an illustrated history of Meadow Brook Farms, and a children's coloring book with images of the Dodge Stables. Additional books will feature the Hall's architecture, construction, landscape and collections as well as the operational and social history of the Dodge and Wilson families during the 1920s through the 1960s.

Future works will include print, video and electronic media, which will be available through the Meadow Brook Hall Museum Shop, online retailers, libraries and bookstores.

Meadow Brook Hall stands today as one of the country's most impressive estate homes. It was Matilda's home with her second husband, Richard Wilson, and was donated along with their 1,200-acre estate to establish Oakland University. ■

## President's Club Society *continues*

James J. and Marilyn Crighton	Richard H. and Georgina Derington
L. Keith and Mary Crissman	Ernest E. and Ruth Dern
L. Michael and Kathy Critch	William J. and Mary DeRosa
David J. and Carolyn Crook	Frank Nelson and Carol Derr
Milo J. Cross*	Smita P. Desai
Edward W. and Suzanne C. Crowder	Peggy Desalle*
John S. and Elizabeth J. Crowder	Philip J. Devendorf
Craig D. and Leslie Crowe	Chris Devilling
James H. and Carole Crum	Robert E. Dewar*
Mr. and Mrs. Peter G. Cucinella	John and Gayle E. D'Haenens
Paul C. and Mary Katherine Cueny	Joseph M. and Nadine K. Di Iorio
Phillip and Bernice Culmone	Ronald J. and Nancy Dichtel
Joseph F. Culp and Cathy Carter-Culp	Naomi and Lawrence H. Dickelmann
Mr. and Mrs. Theodor R. Cunningham	Jeffrey C. and Maureen A. Dickinson
John Curtin and Penny Franz	Steven L. and Susan DiClemente
Anne M. Cushing	Robert S. and Sheila M. Diedrich
Mark F. and Mary Cykowski	John A. Diefenbach
Dennis A. and Susan K. Dahlstedt	Jim and Patti Dietz
Donald and Katherine Dahlstrom	Richard W. and Penelope Dilloway
David Daiek	Douglas J. and Dora Dingwall
John R. and Cindy Daiek	Joseph and Patricia DiPasquale
Roberta J. Dailey	Richard G.* and Belinda Dirksen
David W. and Jennifer M. Dale	David S. Disend
Richard R. and Lisa C. Danforth	Al W. Dittrich
Cecil D. and Therese Daniels	Patricia L. and Kim C. Dobson
Glenna M. Daniels	R. T. and Susan P. Dobson
Jimmie Sue and David W. Daniels	Thomas J. and Margaret A. Doherty
John and Margaret* Dankovich	Steve and Dorothea Dolen
John and Joan C. Darish	Mark and Paula Doman
Fred and Janet Darter	J. Bennett and Tauna Donaldson
Michael T. and Marilyn C. Davidson	James D. and Eleanor Donaldson
Stuart and Joan Davidson	Michael and Michelle Donoughe
John R. Davis*	Joseph Kyle and Wendy Dorton
Norman C. and Terry Davis	William J. and Patricia A. Drerup
Ronald and Dyanne Davis	Bradley P. and Connie Driscoll
Walter E. Davison*	John L. and Darlene Drudi
Donald and Patricia* Dawson	J. H. DuBois
Steven W. and Kathleen Dawson	Peter A. and Lois Duhamel
Joseph C. and Diana Gornick Day	Timothy M. Duperron and Linda M. Miller
David R. and Judy de Steiger	Joseph M. and Linda B. Dupree
Peter J. and Christine de Steiger	Robert M. and Barbara Durling
Michael and Jane Dean	F. Charles and Dorothy C. Duryea
Gerald and Rennlyn DeClaire	Robert J. and C. Angela Dutkiewicz
Greg and Pam Deel	Louis and Gail Dvorkin
Jay and Debra Deemer	Charles C. Dybvig*
Paul M. and Kathleen S. DeGriek	Michael Thomas Dyki
Larry DeGroat	Timothy P. and Colleen E. Dykstra
Patrick M. and Constance Deighan	Robert J. and Diane Dzenko
Stephen DeLong	Gregory and Suzanne Dziegielewski
George and Janice Demski	Donald K. and Marjorie Easley
Ron Denham	

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

Thomas N. and Shirley Easterday	Terry J. and Kay A. Farlow	Harold A.* and Betty Fitzgerald	Harold E. Fox*
Jay and Linda Eastman	Virginia and John C.* Farris	James B. Fitzpatrick	Frank H. and Colleen D.* Foxlee
Robert J. and Cornelia Eaton	Donn A. and Marianne Fasbender	> Dr. Catherine T. Flaga and	David Michael and Kelly Jean
Charles S. and Linda Eberly	Clayton R. and Laura J. Faw	Michael P. Flaga	Fracassa
William L. and Diane Ebinger	Donna K. Fegley	John F. and Judith G. Flick	Anthony M.* and Melissa Franco
> Brian Scott and Julie Edgar	Christopher and Kathleen Fejes	Joan J. Flis	George Francoeur
A. Chris and Libby Edwards	George J. Fekaris	Kevin K. and Charisse L. Florek	Ronald D. and Rebecca Frankland
Katharine W. Ekelund*	Michael J. and Susan M. Feldman	James T. and Sharon M. Flower	Larry J. and Joyce Franklin
Frank E. and Jean Eland	Miriam Feldman	Francis M. and Lisa Fodale	John T.* and Marie Franks
Gerald Lee and Jeanette Elson	John S. and Denise L. Felice	Donald L. and Donna L.* Foehr	John Franzke*
Patrick A. and Paula Elwell	Teri L. Fenner	Thomas F. Foell and Marianne	William J. and Donnarae
Monica E. Emerson	Richard L. and Margaret	Hayes	Freyermuth
George Endicott*	Fenstermacher	Basil G.* and Dorothy H.* Foisy	Gerald M. and Victoria L. Frick
Alice Ingram*	Mr. W. Grant Fenwick	Richard E. and Patricia Forbush	John T. and Lori Fricke
H. B. and Colleen Ernst	Seymour S. and Diana Feuer	Benson Ford*	Erica and Robert W. Frickel
Anthony R. and Cindy S. Esposito	Donald J. and Carol Ray Fichter	John B. Ford	Jeffrey H. and Mary Friestedt
Hilda R. Ettenheimer*	Dean S. and Suzanne Fields	Harold and Elena Foreman	Robert and Barbara J. Frisch
Donald* and Margaret T. Eustice	George L. and Romana Figacz	Alan M. Forrester and Chris Lewis	Walter H. and Kimberly Frisch
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Evanch	Leon Fill	Wilma Ilene Forry	Daniel S. and Linda Fritsch
Arthur D. and Ladonna Even	Robert S. and Eileen Fink	David H. Forst	G. Patrick and Patricia Fritsch
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Everett	Ronald and Linda Fink	Mary E. Fortier	Dennis Fritz
Herbert E. and Edite V. Evers	Terry A. and Linda M. Fiscus	Craig R. and Beth Foster	Wallace B. Frost*
Henry T. Ewald	Max M.* and Marjorie Fisher	Larry J. and Patricia A. Foster	J. Bruce and Diane Fulgenzi
Thomas and Cynthia Fabbri	Myron E. and Rebecca L. Fisher	Margaret and Jack* Foster	Daniel J. and Janet M. Furwa
John E. and Carol P. Falk	Philip M.* and Audrey Fisher	Robert J. and Betty Foster	Michael J. and Jeanne C. Gable



### Library café receives warm welcome from students

A \$20,000 gift from former Dean of the Kresge Library Suzanne Frankie makes coming to the Kresge Library a fortifying experience for students in more ways than one. Frankie's donation directly impacted the development of the café, where students get an energy boost with affordably priced coffee, sandwiches, fruit smoothies and other snacks.

The Suzanne O. Frankie Café opened on October 18, 2010, near Kresge Library's main entrance. On a daily basis, it serves 300 students and library visitors and seats 25 comfortably. Fresh-roasted coffee provided by Peet's Coffee & Tea, a high-quality brand, is the primary business for the café, where a caramel latte is the most popular item.

According to interim Dean of Kresge Library Frank Lepkowski, the café enhances the library experience for

commuter students especially as they do not have to leave the building to get food.

"The café is colossally popular," says Lepkowski, who regularly drops in for a latte with an extra shot of espresso. "I see students take advantage of the full range of menu items as they socialize or simply take a respite from their studies."

In addition to Frankie's donation, the library itself, through careful cultivation and management of funds, contributed \$70,000 to the project, and — in a strong show of student support — OU Student Congress donated \$10,000. ■



## President's Club Society *continues*

Harold S. Gaines*	Edwin O. George
Stephen P. Gale	Josephine George
Thomas C. and Charlene B. Gale	George R. and Many Gerber
West H. Gallogly	Eric E. and Rebecca Gersonde
David L. Gamble	Richard C. Gerstenberg*
Dwight W. and Helen Gammons	Pierre F. and Natalie Giammanco
Brent J. and Linda M. Garback	Michael B. and Sharon Giannotta
Barbara Gardels	Dennis L. Gibson
Gayle Glenn and Marlene D. Gardner	Walter Thomas and Kelly Gieselman
John C. Gardner	Keith E. and Eileen L. Gifford
Walter J. Gardner*	Anne S. Gilmore
Stephen R. and Dawn M. Garrity	Marianna and Harry Gilmore
Steve Garrity	Melvin E. and Jennifer Gilroy
William E. and Rene Garrity	Jack Ginsburg
Gerald E. Gaul	Thomas J. and Anne M. Giroux
David P. and Linda A. Gaus	Bonnie Giuliani
Ljupce and Ljubica Gavrilovski	John B. and Cathi Glancy
Melvin J. and Patsy Ellen Gay	Michael* and Shirley Glass
Josephine Gehringer	James A. and Ann Glime
Marc G. and Phyllis Gemellaro	William M. Goba and Mary K. Raphael
Christopher J. Genung	

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

Gary L. and Jennifer E. Goedtel	John N. and Anne Grissim
Darryl T. and Marilyn Goldberg	Nancy and James J. Grosfeld
Randal E. Golden	Stephen M. and Maureen Gross
Edward A. and Nancy K. Golick	Ernest L. Grove
H. Harris* and Sylvia B. Goodman	Gus and Lucille Grozdon
Richard and Michelle Gordon	Richard D. and Linda L. Gruss
Robert H. Gorlin	David M. and Teri Guetschow
R. Raymond and Catherine Gorshe	Donna R. and Joseph Gula
James R. and Martha C. Grady	Robert Scott* and Christine Elizabeth Gullion
Ronald F. and Marilyn B. Graham	Robert J. and Mary Gustafson
Gwen L. Gramer	Leonard A. and Harriet Gutman
Lee and Joan Grant	Robert E. and Christine E. Hagedorn
Bruce P. and Rosemary Graves	Edward E. and Sylvia Hagenlocker
Patrick and Nancy Graw	Harry T.* and Linda H.* Hahn
Kenneth A. and Ann Greenawald	John R. Hahn and Berna Baykara-Hahn
Gerald and Glenda Greenwald	Paul and Diane M. Haig
Patricia and Richard Greenwald	Douglas J.* and Carole Hall
Helen P. Greig	J. Gary and Beverly Hamilton
Gerald J. Grekowicz and Mary K. Clor	Keith and Jerilyn Hammer
Glenn H. Griffin*	Helen C. Han
Leonard R. and Sharry Griffin	Thomas R. Hankins
Walter M. Griffin and Lisa L. Jacobs	Dale F. and Nancy Hanson
Frank E. and Mary Lorene Griffo	Ronald E. and Lori A. Harbour

## Scholarship helps returning students get off to good start

Once life has taken someone off the academic path, it can be difficult to get back on track. Sometimes years can pass before a person can re-enroll in college and begin to earn their degree.

Barbara and Allen Gough are hoping to minimize the stresses of college re-entry with a scholarship created specifically for students who have had an interruption in studies. The funding provides assistance for tuition, books and other expenses for those students who have at least a two-year gap in their educational path and are enrolled in the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS) human resource development (HRD) program.

"Our goal is just to help others," Barbara said. "There isn't a better gift than giving someone the tools they need to make their life better."

After raising two children and serving as a community volunteer for many years, Barbara became a student herself when she enrolled in the human resource development program, earning her bachelor's degree in 1992. After adding a master's degree from Wayne State University, she soon was working for some of Metro Detroit's leading firms, including Chrysler, General Motors and Comcast.

Still, she found time to teach part-time as an instructor at OU. She saw other students who had returned to school and watched as many of them struggled to juggle life's responsibilities with studying and tests. With a nudge from her husband, Barbara established the scholarship fund, which is now in its fourth year.



(from left to right) Allen Gough and Barbara Gough (first and fourth from left) provided support to create scholarships for students who have had an interruption in their studies. Students Denise Fournier and Jane Owen will benefit from those scholarships. William Keane, Ed.D., (right) retired from his post as interim dean of the School of Education and Human Resources last summer.

For Barbara and Allen, creating that scholarship has been a deeply fulfilling experience. "With a scholarship, you can see the results of your giving," Allen said. "It's very rewarding." ■



*Michael Trese, M.D., will direct the new laboratory.*

## OU launches first laboratory devoted to pediatric retinal research



Oakland University's Eye Research Institute (ERI) is now operating what is believed to be the only laboratory in the country devoted solely to pediatric retinal research. The Virginia and Clarence Clohset Pediatric Retinal Research Laboratory (PERRL) is housed

in a renovated 800-square-foot site in Dodge Hall of Engineering. Michael Trese, M.D., of Beaumont Hospitals and clinical professor of biomedical sciences at the ERI, will direct the laboratory's research.

Approximately \$480,000 in funding for the laboratory has been donated by the Association for Retinopathy of Prematurity and Retinal Diseases (ROPARD), which is striving to eliminate blindness and low vision in children as a result of premature births and retinal disease.

"We're going to be searching for new treatments for pediatric eye disease," said Frank Giblin, Ph.D., institute director. "There's not much in the way of treatment now."

ROPARD made its contribution through support from two donor families, the Clohset and the Bergquist families, along with a number of individual donors.

The laboratory will feature state-of-the-art equipment, including a sophisticated retinal imaging and electroretinography system. "The laboratory is following a nice tradition from 42 years ago," Dr. Giblin says. The institute's co-founder and first director, V. Everett Kinsey, Ph.D., received the Albert Lasker Award for his studies on retinopathy of prematurity. ■

- Barry R. and Evelyn Harper  
Bruce C. and Mary Christine Harris  
Malcolm A. Harris\*  
Morton E. and Brigitte P. Harris  
Robert A. and Mary Ellen Harrison  
Mary Ann and Lyle A.\* Hartrick  
John F. Harvey  
William and Susan M. Harvey  
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## Grizzly Gala launches with fundraiser for scholarships

Alumni and friends of Oakland University turned out this past spring to show their support for student scholarships by attending the first Grizzly Gala, chaired by OU alumna Lynn Gross, SBA '87.

Held at the Royal Park Hotel in downtown Rochester, Mich., attendees enjoyed a live auction that included tickets to the Ellen DeGeneres Show, a getaway to the Rocky Mountains, an upper level suite at The Palace of Auburn Hills to see a Detroit Pistons game, and a diamond necklace courtesy of Lucido Fine Jewelry.

Proceeds from the event raised \$23,000 for the Oakland University Alumni Association scholarship fund, which will allow students to achieve their dream of pursuing an OU degree.

"Our scholarship endowment fund totals more than \$1.2 million, allowing us to provide nearly 40 scholarships each year to high-achieving students who deserve an Oakland education," Gross says.

Susan Davies, vice president for University Relations and executive director of the OU Foundation, explains that scholarships give students the advantage of time and energy to focus on their studies, to get involved, and to take part in research, athletics and other activities.

"Scholarships allow our students to experience college without financial worry, and that can be an important factor in their academic success," she says. ■





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## Handleman family continues father's legacy



*Longtime supporter  
David Handleman*

Following in the philanthropic tradition of their father, longtime OU supporter David Handleman, Alan Handleman and Judy Handleman Murphy have donated more than 60 works of contemporary art to campus.

Some of the pieces are included in the university art collection, while others are displayed throughout campus. The largest display can be found in the College of Arts and

Sciences dean's suite.

"I'm delighted we have the collection, particularly the works by Gordon Newton, which add to the pieces we already have," says Dick Goody, director, Oakland University Art Gallery.

The pieces belonged to David Handleman, and he left them to his children. David Handleman reached out to the university in a number of ways during his life. The David and Marion Handleman Scholarship has helped dozens of students attend The Honors College and programs in the College of Arts and Sciences.

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

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David Handleman served on the university's Board of Trustees from 1979 through 1996. He also supported "Innovation and Opportunity — The Campaign for Oakland University," the Marion and David Handleman Endowment Fund for the Performing Arts in Kresge Library, Meadow Brook Art Gallery and Meadow Brook Music Festival, the Handleman Cultural Endowment Fund, the Council for the Preservation of Meadow Brook Hall, and the Keeper of the Dream Scholarship awards.

"Education plays such an important role in your life," he told students during a 2007 luncheon in his honor. "I want

you to grow up to be successful. I'm privileged to do my share, and I hope you'll make the same contribution when you get into the world."

Handleman Murphy says she thought of both of her parents when she donated her share of the collection. Her mother, Marion, played a role in establishing the university's art gallery. "They both believed in supporting education and the arts, and donated their time, energy and money to those endeavors the entire time I knew them," she says. "They would be happy that this art is being enjoyed by the university." ■



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## Alumnus adds to endowed scholarship fund

Longtime Oakland University volunteer John Ganfield, SBA '81, recently shared his plans to make a gift to the university via his estate. His plans will significantly increase the Carl and Elsie Ganfield Scholarship Endowment.

Ganfield established the fund in 2005 in memory of his parents. The fund helps working, full-time commuter students offset the cost of tuition and books. By endowing the fund, Ganfield has ensured it will be available to benefit students in perpetuity. Like many donors, he decided to support the fund not only during his lifetime, but also to pledge a gift through his estate.

Ganfield was a working student when he earned his economics degree at Oakland. He says he hopes the scholarship fund will help others in similar situations. "I don't want people to feel forced to work," Ganfield says. "I want them to enjoy their time at Oakland University."

Ganfield has served on the Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) board for 14 years and is a past president. In recognition of his exemplary volunteer service to the university, he received the OUAA Spirit Award in 2005. ■





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## Gifts help transform Elliott Hall into student-centered community

Creating a student-centered environment is an elemental part of how OU's School of Business Administration (SBA) is educating and preparing students for success in life. It's a philosophy supported by recent gifts from SBA alumni and friends committed to helping the SBA transform Elliott Hall into a distinctive community where students, faculty and others can meet, learn and socialize.

Tim and Marsha Healy provided the necessary funding toward the creation of the Healy Café in Elliott Hall's Stinson Student Advancement Center. The newly opened café delivers valuable support to students rushing from work to class, says Tim, who recently retired from an executive role at Takata Corporation and serves as a special advisor on the SBA Board of Visitors.

"We felt feeding the body as well as the mind was worthwhile," he says.

"The café definitely meets a need," says Bridney Perry,

marketing senior and vice president of OU's American Marketing Association chapter. Her class and activity schedule allows little room for meals. The café gives her an alternative to vending machines.

"On behalf of the student body in the School of Business Administration, allow me to express my gratitude to our donors for this new student center and café," she adds.

Fostering community among the SBA's Executive MBA (EMBA) students recently received key support from alumni. With their gifts supporting the renovation of the Professional and Executive Education room in the Stinson Center,



M. Haitham Al-Midani

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Drs. M. Haitham Al-Midani, SBA '02, and Bassam Nasr, SBA '07, make a strong statement about the program's value and reputation.

Thanks to their gifts, the growing EMBA program now has a dedicated space for class sessions, professional speakers, networking events, meetings and other educational activities. Plans for the new room include adding state-of-the-art teleconferencing technology to further integrate local and global educational opportunities.

Al-Midani, a member of the SBA's first EMBA cohort, pledged \$20,000 because "I felt I benefited quite a bit from it. It changed my thinking and the way I approach my private practice. And the relationship did not stop there." Al-Midani has been a strong supporter and ambassador for OU's EMBA program.

"For this program to continue to be a leading program in health care and IT, the alumni have to step up and give," says Nasr, who pledged \$25,000. "There's no question (the EMBA program) added a lot to how I approach business problems and how I map solutions." ■





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## Alum's bequest creates engineering scholarship

A gift of more than \$55,000 from alumna Judith Tinor, CAS '88, has been used to create the Judith Tinor Scholarship in Engineering. The gift came to the university a year ago March upon Tinor's death.

Tinor, who majored in general studies, served as a human resources administrator for EDS.

"Surprise gifts are wonderful," says Angie Schmucker, the university's director of planned giving. "We would have loved to thank Ms. Tinor in person for her thoughtful remembrance of the university."

"Donors benefit by sharing their philanthropic estate plans in advance, not only because we can share our gratefulness, but also to ensure that their gift can be designed as they desire," Schmucker adds. "In this case, we would have liked to talk through the criteria for student selection as well as discussed the opportunity to make this scholarship a permanent endowment."

To share your intentions to make a gift to the university through your estate, contact the Office of Planned Giving at (248) 364-6129. ■





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## Gift means new video board for diving program

Oakland University's new four-color video board for the swimming and diving program is now in use. The board made its debut last November when the university hosted the Michigan High School Athletic Association's state championship for girls swimming and diving.

The Oakland Live Y'ers Swim Team (OLY Swimming), which is based in Rochester, Mich., and trains at OU, was the lead contributor for the board with a \$30,000 donation. "The gift they provided has had a profound impact on the program," OU Director of Athletics Terry Huth says.

The swimming and diving program's previous board, more than 10 years old, had been on its last leg, Huth adds. The new board has full graphics and video capabilities, including the ability to accommodate live streaming. It features timing and scoring displays as well and has dual capabilities that allow it to show swimming and diving results simultaneously.

OU and OLY Swimming have had a positive rapport since the team's early days, when it was under the leadership of then Oakland University Athletic Director Corey Van Fleet. "We are very fortunate to have a strong relationship with OLY," Huth says. "We thank them for their continued support of the Athletics Department and the swimming programs." ■



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## New twist on annual campaign increases donations

The 2010 All-University Fund Drive (AUFDD) rolled out an eco-friendly campaign with a personal approach and resulted in donations that surpassed its goal. Almost 600 members of the OU community contributed \$256,635, exceeding the goal of \$226,000. OU President Gary Russi, Ph.D., matched the amount, which brought the overall campaign total to \$368,025.

"Many individuals made their contribution online, and considering the increase in participation, we're pleased with the results," says Starr Cornell, director of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving.

By utilizing the online option, paper, postage and printing costs were reduced. The other new twist on the campaign encouraged faculty, staff and retirees to make their contributions in honor of colleagues who either made a difference or currently motivate them during their time at work.

"It is gratifying to know that your professionalism and work is appreciated, and doubly gratifying to know that you've inspired a donation in support of our students," says Robby Stewart, Ph.D., shared AUFDD chairperson.

Funds collected from the AUFDD campaign support OU, the United Way of Southeastern Michigan and the Black United Fund of Michigan. ■

# AUFDD

## All-University Fund Drive

*Changing Lives, Preparing Leaders*

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## Students make unique connection with alumni during fund drive

Student employees raised more than \$100,000 in alumni donations last fall during Oakland University's most recent Telefund Drive.

About 25 callers gathered in the basement of the Kresge Library during the campaign to seek alumni support. Donations to the OU Fund support current university priorities, ranging from student scholarships to technological upgrades for classrooms to research funding.

Student callers increase the integrity of the calling campaign, says Starr Cornell, director of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving. Alumni have the opportunity to talk to those who benefit from their support, and many enjoy chatting with the students about OU and professors they remember.

The experience also benefits the students. "The student employees received valuable on-the-job training, as well as skills they can list on future resumes," Cornell says.

OU alumni and friends had another opportunity to support the university during the OU Spring Telefund last spring. For more information about student participation opportunities, visit [oakland.edu/callers](http://oakland.edu/callers). ■



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By connecting SBA students to the world around them through travel and technology, the many international learning experiences the SBA offers prepares students for an increasingly global business world and ever-evolving economy.

Last year, 11 undergraduate global scholars traveled to Shanghai and Beijing for three weeks to work alongside Chinese counterparts on projects studying car dealerships. On a separate trip, SBA graduate students met with business leaders in China and Taiwan to learn about political, social, historical and economic conditions, giving them a better understanding of the ways that American businesses can collaborate and expand overseas.

The SBA also links students to international business and culture through its a global interaction room, which encourages virtual collaborations. Here, SBA students work on projects with their peers across continents and time zones, thanks to video conferencing and other resources that combine a mix of audio, video and presentation technologies.

With supporters like Stinson and Healy working to build global learning opportunities, the world has become one large classroom for SBA students, providing essential experiences that give graduates a real competitive edge in the job market. ■



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A photograph of the Oakland University campus. In the foreground, a large circular stone plaza features the university's logo, which consists of a stylized 'O' with a tree inside, surrounded by the words 'OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'. Several students are walking across the plaza. In the background, a modern building with a large glass facade and a curved roof is visible. The sky is blue with some clouds.

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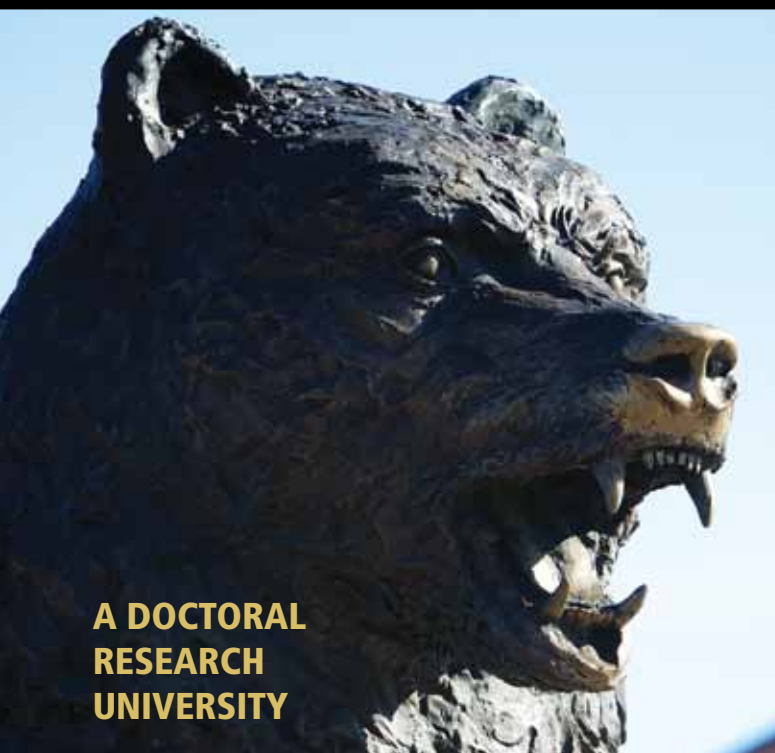
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