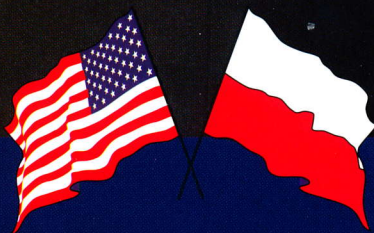


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Oakland University

MAGAZINE

Fall 2002



President Bush
Visits OU

Also in this issue:

- New PhD in Physical Therapy
- MBT/Shaw International Residency
- Lowry Early Childhood program

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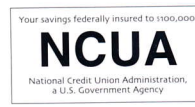
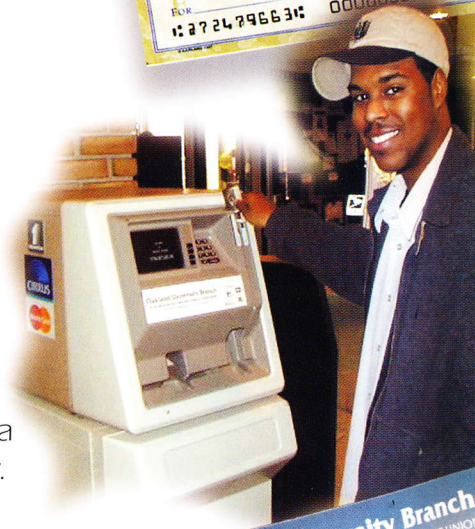


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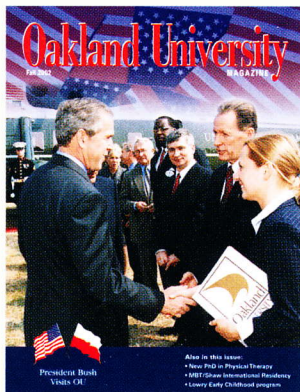
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Oakland University is an equal opportunity
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On the cover:

OU President Gary Russi and OU
alumna **Ania Matuszewska**
CAS '02 welcome President
George W. Bush to campus on
July 18.



White House photo by Eric Draper

Oakland University

Fall 2002

MAGAZINE

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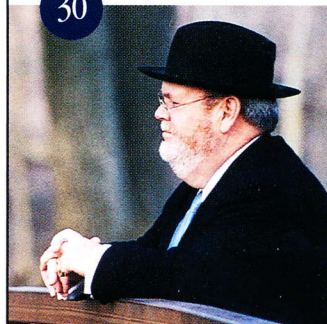
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Psychology department receives an anonymous gift

Undergraduate psychology students will receive support for their research projects as the result of a \$45,000 gift. The donor, an alumnus of the Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences, who wishes to remain anonymous, made the gift to advance undergraduate student involvement in research and to encourage other alumni to contribute to the endowment.

The Department of Psychology provides numerous research opportunities to undergraduates, who have a high participation rate in the annual "Meeting of the Minds" (MOM) conference showcasing undergraduate research. MOM is co-sponsored by OU, the University of Michigan - Dearborn and the University of Michigan - Flint. ●



Flavio Varani



Jane M. Bingham (left) with friend Grayce M. Scholt

Children's Literature Collection established in KL

Jane M. Bingham, professor emerita, Reading and Language Arts, School of Education and Human Services, donated nearly 8,000 books to Oakland University's Kresge Library in March, establishing the Jane M. Bingham Historical Children's Literature Collection. Housed on the first floor of Kresge Library in the northeast wing, the collection represents a wide range of genres and formats, and includes supporting reference books, journals and ephemera. Valued in excess of \$100,000, it is considered

a rich academic and research resource.

Bingham dedicated the collection to "all those who work with children — classroom teachers, school administrators, university professors, child advocates of all sorts, parents and grandparents, who accord children's literature the respect and appreciation it deserves." ●



Varner Recital Hall to undergo improvements

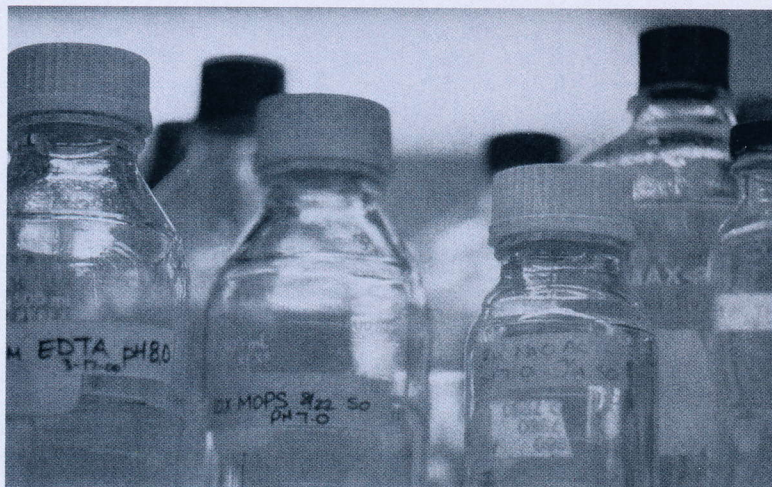
Oakland University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance (MTD), College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), recently received three generous gifts that will improve facilities in the Varner Recital Hall.

A grant of \$75,000 from the Matilda R. Wilson Fund will be used to renovate the lighting and acoustical systems.

An additional \$70,000 was generously given by an anonymous donor to purchase a new concert-level Steinway grand piano for the hall.

Additionally, \$10,000 in support has been earmarked for the restoration of the existing concert piano, which will then be used by advanced piano students. Flavio Varani, professor of music, MTD, held two fund-raising concerts that generated \$6,000 for this endeavor. And CAS Dean David Downing allocated an additional \$4,000 from the college's Distinguished Programs Fund.

In addition to the \$75,000 grant to MTD, the Wilson Fund recently gave \$25,000 to Meadow Brook Theatre to support direct operating costs, including its outreach and education programs, and main stage productions. ●



Student Research Scholar Awards introduced

Oakland University has created a new award to advance and acknowledge undergraduate research on campus. In the 2001-2002 academic year, 18 undergraduates received University Student Research Scholar Awards. The recipients were: Nibedita Bandyopadhyay, Timothy Burggeman, Megan Callewaert, Allen Comfort, Pulak Ghosh, Charles Gross, Adnan Hussain, Yelena Isayenko, Nick Jacobson, Ashley McGhee, Jonathan Muenk, Meredith Nusbaum, Louis Rawlins, Matt Rizzo, Michael Sauer, Julia Schroeder, Tara Terry and Jamie Tegal.

Scholars receive \$1,000 awards to support their work on research projects, which are endorsed and supervised by faculty mentors. They must work on their projects for a least one semester and submit a final research report within one year. Scholars also may apply for an additional \$500 in travel support to present their research results at professional conferences. ●

Gifts help preserve Meadow Brook Hall

Two generous contributions totaling \$50,000 were made recently in support of the preservation of Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall.

Margaret and Gary Valade contributed \$25,000, as did Thomas Sidlik and Rebecca Boylan, to assist with the interior restoration and renovation projects in the historic house-museum. The 110-room mansion was built by OU founders Alfred and Matilda Wilson in 1929 at a cost of \$4 million. ●



Founders' Day 2002

Oakland University marked Founders' Day 2002 with a number of campus events showcasing the university's ongoing growth and commitment to the arts.

The day began with the dedication of the Varner Memorial Garden, located just outside the main entrance to Varner Hall, home to the College of Arts and Sciences, where a new sculpture by Ann Arbor artist Sharon Que will be installed.

Following the dedication, Oakland launched the Varner Seminar Series on University Vitality, which included a panel discussion on "The Creative Process and the Arts" and the presentation of the first Varner Arts Award to Neeme Jarvi, music director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.



Also dedicated was the new Graduate Admissions Office in North Foundation Hall, where graduate students are able to experience one-stop service for admissions and financial matters.

The day ended with a groundbreaking for the first parking structure to be built at OU in response to enrollment growth, which is expected to top 16,000 in Fall 2002. ●

Founders' Day Varner Garden groundbreaking ceremony. Left to Right: President Gary Russi, Beth and Tom Varner and their son, Ben, former OU Trustee Lou Grech-Cumbo and CAS Dean David Downing.

Excellence Award winner named Honors College director

In just a few short months, Jude Nixon won a 2002 Oakland University Teaching Excellence Award and was named the new director of OU's Honors College. He had been an associate professor in the Department of English in the College of Arts and Sciences, teaching courses in Victorian Literature — his specialty. Nixon earned a PhD in English from Temple University in 1986. His appointment signals a new era in the Honors College, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in October. ●



Jude Nixon



Angela Jones

OU graduate named poetry champion

Angela Jones CAS '02 was named the State Champion in Poetry Interpretation at the 2002 Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League (MISL) State Championship Tournament. Jones also was named Top Novice in the category.

Jones' win helped propel the OU forensics team to the MISL Director's Quality Award, conferred annually on the team earning the highest average of points per entry.

Performing slam poetry, a relatively new genre originating in Chicago in the late 1980s, Jones was among the first to introduce the style to the MISL competition.

The OU forensics team is coached by Oakland alumna Lisa Campbell CAS '84, a part-time lecturer in the Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism. ●

Theatre Performance student earns acting honors

In January, OU senior Jessica Elwart of the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance (MTD), was one of 16 finalists in the region III competition of the annual American College Theatre Festival in Evansville, Ind.

Before advancing to the finals, Elwart qualified as one of 40 semifinalists out of a field of 350 nominees. Her performance as Fraulien Schneider in the MTD production of "Cabaret" last season earned her the nomination.

Elwart also has made contributions throughout her undergraduate career as a scene painter, stage manager and lighting designer. She has been the recipient of MTD department awards and two MaTilDa Awards for service and for her theatre successes. The MaTilDa Awards, named for OU founder Matilda Wilson, are given annually to honor the contributions of students and community members to the arts at OU. ●



Jessica Elwart

Jacquelyn Wagner



MTD student wins vocal competition

Jacquelyn Wagner, an OU vocal performance student in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance (MTD), College of Arts and Sciences, won the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's Mozart Vocal Competition in November 2001.

Wagner, a resident of Bloomfield Hills, was one of 19 vocalists from Michigan and Ohio to compete in the symphony's highly competitive vocal competition.

"Wagner's soprano voice is beautiful and pure and projects natural musicianship, which is so essential when singing Mozart," says Maestro Arie Lipsky, who judged the competition. "She was the unanimous choice of the panel."

Wagner is the recipient of MTD and Meadow Brook Music Festival scholarships. She earned the Most Outstanding High School Vocalist in the State of Michigan award while attending Southfield Christian High School in 1999. ●

OU Alumnae, staff, named "Most Influential Women"

Several Oakland University alumnae and staff were named to the 2002 Most Influential Women list compiled by *Crain's Detroit Business*.

Gail Duncan SEHS '79, president of Jerome-Duncan Ford in Sterling Heights, Mich., was named in the service/retail division. Last year, Jerome-Duncan Ford posted \$339 million in sales, making it one of the largest woman-owned businesses in the Detroit metropolitan area.

Pamela Berklich SEHS '82, area manager for Manpower, Inc., also made the list. Berklich leads one of Manpower's largest operations, with more than \$90 million in annual revenue.

Susan M. Cischke SECS '76 was named in the automotive category. Cischke is vice president, environmental and safety engineering, for Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Mich. She is credited with resolving the Firestone safety investigation and launching a nationwide child-safety program, among many achievements.

Lynne Schaefer, vice president for finance and administration at OU, was among the most influential in education. Schaefer oversees the university's \$120-million budget, more than \$100 million in construction, and was credited with the

development of a long-term campus master plan.

Tommi White CAS '71, chief operating officer of Compuware Corp., was named in the technology category. She is profiled on page 27.

Lynne (Halpin) Ellyn BGS '79, senior vice president and CIO for DTE Energy, Detroit, also was named in the technology category. Ellyn is responsible for 850 employees and a \$146-million budget supporting DTE's computer and operating systems. ●

Ford Cup benefits women's athletics

The eighth annual Oakland University Ford Cup raised \$15,000 in June to help support women's athletics and the more than 130 student-athletes participating in them.

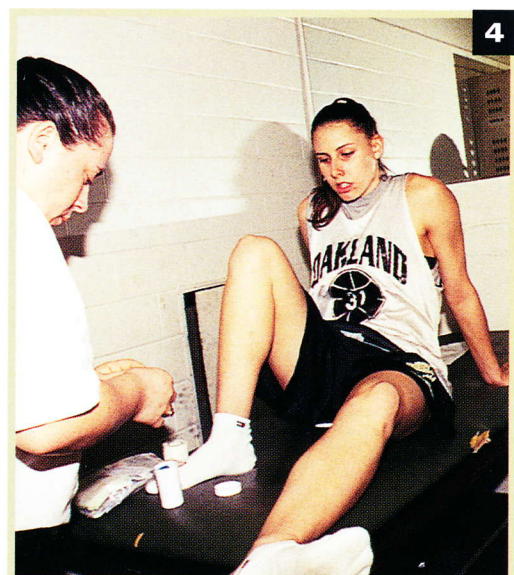
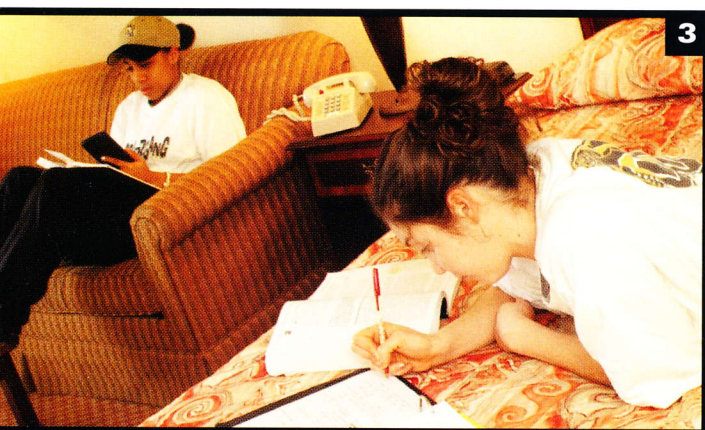
Held on Oakland's Katke-Cousins and R&S Sharf golf courses, the event was sponsored by the 31 Metro Detroit Ford Dealers, Pepsi and the Office of the President. All proceeds will benefit women's athletics and help to underwrite scholarships, mentoring and advising programs, life-skills programs, equipment purchases, and travel and recruiting expenses.

Susan M. Cischke SECS '76, vice president for environmental and safety engineering at Ford Motor Company, was the honorary chairperson.

To help support women's athletics, call (248) 370-3117 or visit www.ougrizzlies.com on the Web. ●

Championship women's soccer team.





Invited to the DANCE



6

The women's basketball team made it to the NCAA Division I tournament for the first time by winning the Mid-Con championship tournament on March 5. The Grizzlies drew top-seeded Vanderbilt in the first round of the "Big Dance," losing 63 to 38 after an exciting 11 days of buildup.

1) Going to "The Dance." The Grizzlies celebrate the 52-40 Mid-Con win over Valpo that sent them to the NCAA tournament. **2) Nashville.** The city offered a little bit of country to OU fans. **3) Did you say homework?** Junior guard Romica Clint and sophomore forward Connie Longer hit the books in Nashville. **4) Locker room prep.** Graduate Assistant Sarah Esper tapes sophomore guard Jasmine MacAlpine, minutes before the tip-off. **5) Ready to rumble.** Pre-game warm-ups over, the guards are ready for their biggest challenge. **6) A lot of hustle.** Led by senior Sarah Judd and junior Katie Wolfe (pictured), the Grizzlies battled hard all year against top-rated teams. **7) And a lot of heart.** Coach Beckie Francis used a never-say-die attitude to bring out the best in her talented team. **8) The air up there.** OU's Sarah Judd at 5'11" gave Vandy's 6-6 All-America center Chantelle Anderson a battle, blocking her twice. **9) A win for OU.** Losing by the smallest margin of the tournament's four #16 seeds, OU players and coaches let the media know that they believed they could win, but were gracious in defeat. **10) Her job almost done.** Floor leader Sarah Judd brought her team to the heights and now only had to get them home after the loss. **11) Homeward bound.** For freshman Ashley Holenka, there are more seasons ahead, and a little time and rest will recharge the batteries.



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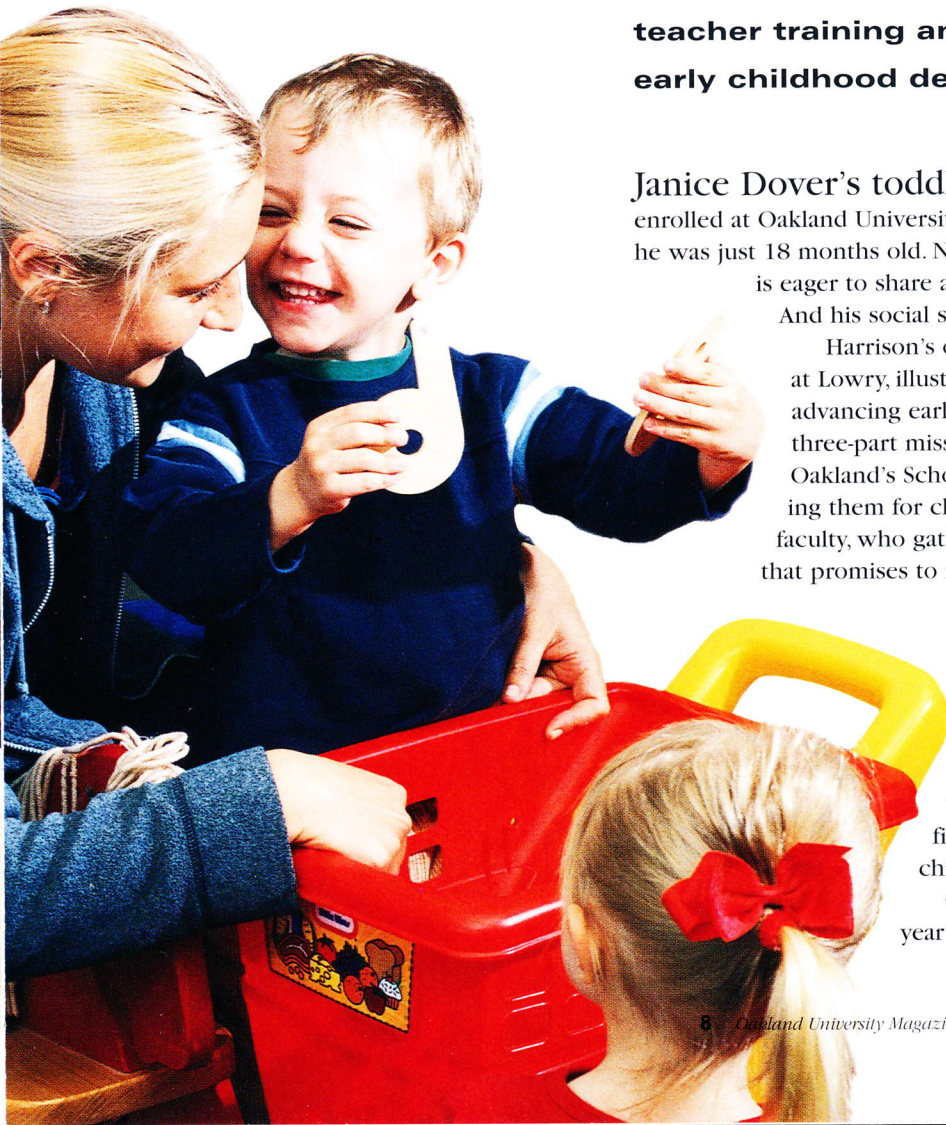
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For more photos and information, go to <http://www3.oakland.edu/oakland/finalfour/> on the Web. ●



By Leaps

The Lowry Center, Oakland University's unique teacher training and research resource, advances early childhood development. By Yvonne C. Claes



Janice Dover's toddler son, Harrison, pictured left, has been enrolled at Oakland University's Lowry Center for Early Childhood Education since he was just 18 months old. Now three years old, Harrison plays well with children, is eager to share and takes direction from adults with ease, Dover says. And his social skills have progressed by leaps and bounds.

Harrison's outstanding development, typical of children enrolled at Lowry, illustrates the success the center has had over the years in advancing early childhood development — a key component of its three-part mission. Lowry also serves student-teachers enrolled in Oakland's School of Education and Human Services (SEHS), preparing them for classroom careers. And it facilitates the research of faculty, who gather valuable data through observation — research that promises to make an impact in the field.

The building blocks

Lowry has been serving the educational and social needs of young children for more than two decades. And its roots go back even farther, to 1969, when Ron Cramer, now a distinguished professor in the Department of Reading and Language Arts, SEHS, first developed a proposal for a federally funded early childhood project at OU.

Oakland was one of 10 universities to receive multi-year funding (four years) and after a one-year planning phase



and Bounds

Photo by Agapé Images, Inc.

began to offer the program — a full-year master's program that combined academics and practical experience. Students completed 36 hours of class-work and a project in early childhood education with a practical application at OU or in the surrounding community.

One of the first 15 students to enroll was Matthew R. Lowry. Lowry envisioned as his project an early childhood center — in particular, a center targeting toddler care — on Oakland's campus. He and some of his fellow students approached the director of an existing day care center on campus, operated for faculty and staff in what had been a Meadow Brook Theatre facility and former Meadow Brook Farm Chicken Coop #1.

Lowry and his team soon got permission to start a pilot program for toddler care in the back of the facility. They designed observation environments for OU students preparing for a career in early childhood education

and child-friendly surroundings for preschoolers that promoted the development of their motor and social skills. Lowry even helped hand-build the center's furniture.

Toward the end of the grant program, Lowry and his fiancée, Becky Reed, who was also a student team member, were hit by a drunk driver after attending an event at the Meadow Brook Music Festival. Lowry died as a result of his injuries. Although she sustained serious leg injuries, Reed survived. In memory of Lowry, the child care center was renamed the Lowry Center for Early Childhood Education.

Over its 30-year history, the philosophy at Lowry has remained constant: serving children and their distinctive educational and social needs while also fostering strong community ties. The center's official mission statement also includes providing teacher training via "an excellent field experience for Oakland University students."

"We are a lab school, so research is definitely an important component at Lowry," explains Carol Swift, associate professor and chair, Department of Human Development and Child Studies, SEHS. "But providing an educational setting for children and a learning environment for students are also integral components. You can't really say one part is more important than another."

Home improvement

In August, Lowry took a leap of its own — into a sparkling, new home. Now housed in the state-of-the-art Education and Human Services Building on Pioneer Drive, the center has grown in size and capability.

Lowry's new quarters include six classrooms covering more than 5,000 square feet and can accommodate up to 138 children. This is a major improvement over the center's former facility, which was aging and smaller. In addition, the building is centrally located



Enviro-Explorer's Summer Camp

on campus, with Kresge Library, Varner Hall, the Science and Engineering Building and the Recreation and Athletics Center within easy walking distance.

Cutting-edge classrooms, labs and equipment in the new building significantly enhance teacher training, early childhood education and research.

"The new facility has ceiling microphones and mounted video cameras to capture the children in more naturalistic interaction for research purposes," Swift says, noting the cameras are remote controlled to lessen their intrusiveness on the children's daily routines.

Observations by outside individuals and groups, as well as university classes, are encouraged, says Program Director Chris Boisvert Ashley.

"We've had some dance classes come in to observe, to watch how children naturally move. We've also had groups of education and reading department students."

Ambika Bhargava, assistant professor, Human Development and Child Studies, is the principal investigator on a current research project. Bhargava, and four Lowry preschool teachers are studying children's demonstrated understanding of math concepts while they play with concrete materials. The study also

looks at how toddlers transfer that understanding to an abstract medium.

"My role has been to conduct workshops with the teachers on the development of math concepts in young children as well as in creating gender equitable classrooms, particularly as it pertains to math and technology," Bhargava says.

The project is funded by the SEHS Research Committee and the OU Research Committee. Research results were presented in March at the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Hands-on teacher training

Every Lowry classroom has two head teachers. Currently, they include a mix of Oakland and Wayne State University graduate students at the master's level and one OU doctoral student.

Ashley Brooks, a senior elementary education major employed at Lowry for more than a year, works 20 hours a week as a teacher's

assistant with the toddler program. She says the experience she has gained will serve her well on graduation — professionally and personally.

"I help plan lessons and run activities for the children, which are things I'll do when I have my own classroom," the Rochester resident explains. "I've gotten to work with children one-on-one, and more importantly, in large groups. It has made me more comfortable and confident."

Brooks is among approximately 20 elementary education students working and learning at Lowry.

"We do so much more than just interact with children, although that's important," she says. "We help them identify their letters and numbers, and read and write their names. I love working with the children, parents and staff here."

An integral part of OU

When Lowry moved into its new home, it began to report — for the first time — to the SEHS

Department of Human Development and Child Studies.



"This gives us more opportunity to interact with Lowry staff," explains Swift, who chairs the department. "Until August 2000, Lowry operated out of the dean's office. We had contact, but we didn't have as close a relationship as we do now."

Ashley echoes Swift's sentiments.

"Lowry acted more independently from the university even though it was part of the university community," she says. "Now, it is an integral part."

Lowry is not a day care center or Head Start program, both Ashley and Swift stress.

"The children who come here are from the families of university staff, Oakland students, and the surrounding community," Ashley notes. "Lowry services families who want to enrich the early education of children."

Children at the center have daily opportunities for large and small group interaction, as well as self-directed and outdoor experiences. Activities are focused on language and literacy, mathematics, science, art, music, movement and dramatic play. Computer technology, outdoor hiking and exploration, and special visits and presentations often round out daily activities.

Curriculum areas emphasize language, social relations, classification, numbers, space and time, to name a few.

Parents are required to have their children at Lowry, which is open year-round, for at least two sessions a week. Sessions run three hours each, on nonconsecutive days, Ashley explains. Programs are planned around developmental areas appropriate to a child's age.

The toddler program is for children ages 18 months to three years and emphasizes language experiences and social interactions.

The preschool program focuses children ages three and four on literacy, movement, music, math, science and social relations.

The pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs are for children who are either four or five, respectively, by Dec. 1. These programs provide a bridge of continuity between preschool and elementary school, fostering varying emerging skills, including reading.

A summer camp experience also is available. Children in the Enviro-

Lowry Center for Early Childhood Education

Half-day morning or afternoon sessions, Monday through Friday

Full-day options also available

Morning sessions: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Afternoon sessions: 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Additional hours are available before and after full- and half-day sessions.

Explorer's Summer Camp explore the areas of science, math and technology. The day camp also provides arts and crafts, music, outdoor play and nature walks.

Although Brooks' career plans include teaching in the public schools, recent OU graduate Margaret Mudge, 26, hopes to stay at Lowry for the foreseeable future. Mudge is a head teacher in one of two Lowry preschools. The Oxford resident, who holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education with early childhood endorsements, earned her master's degree in early childhood education in summer 2002. Her duties include planning curriculum, assessing children's progress, writing lesson plans and compiling a weekly parent newsletter.

"My experiences here have given me a good perspective on children," says Mudge. "We have excellent parent support. I'm very happy here, so I plan to stay."

Helping staff develop professionally goes hand in hand with helping children blossom developmentally.

Dover, whose son attends half-day sessions three days a week, says Lowry has helped Harrison to build the social skills he will need when he eventually attends elementary school. And he is already learning his colors and numbers, which will give him a leg up academically.

But the social skills Harrison is acquiring are key to his development, says Dover, whose husband is an OU employee.

"He is an only child, so it's important that he have an opportunity to



Head Teacher Margaret Mudge with preschoolers

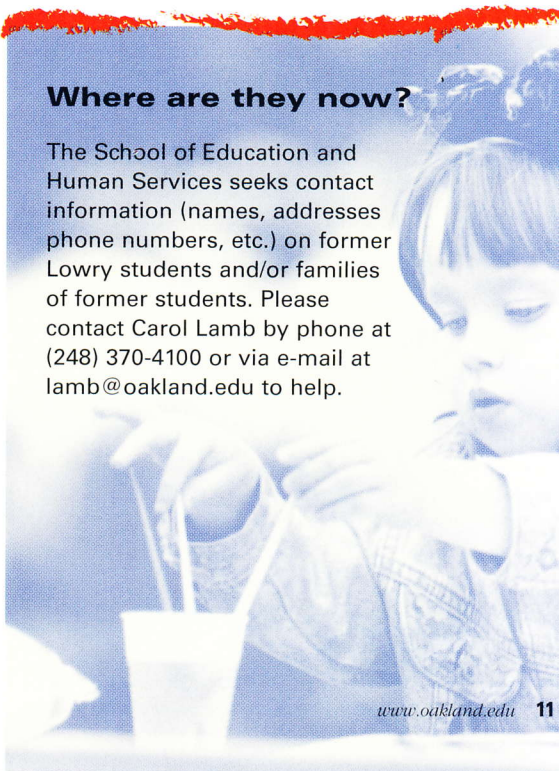
interact with other children," she says. "I plan to keep him there for a couple more years."

For more information about Lowry, contact the center at (248) 370-4100 or www2.oakland.edu/sehs/lowry on the Web. ■

Yvonne C. Claes is a free-lance writer residing in Eastpointe, Mich.

Where are they now?

The School of Education and Human Services seeks contact information (names, addresses, phone numbers, etc.) on former Lowry students and/or families of former students. Please contact Carol Lamb by phone at (248) 370-4100 or via e-mail at lamb@oakland.edu to help.





A Tale of Two Companies

Meadow Brook Theatre and Canada's Shaw Festival launch international residency. By Sharon Gittleman

A company of renowned Canadian actors performing a classic Irish play on a distinctly American stage — that in sum is the Shaw Festival International Residency at Oakland University's Meadow Brook Theatre (MBT). The four-week residency — from Jan. 8 to Feb. 2, 2003 — will bring George Bernard Shaw's "Candida" to the MBT stage and join two respected companies and two countries in a unique collaboration.

Members of the Shaw Festival company will participate in a number of lectures and classroom activities targeted to theatre students, says Gregg Bloomfield, managing director, MBT. They also will participate in panel discussions open to the community and talk-back sessions following performances of "Candida." At these sessions, company members will answer theatregoers' questions and respond to their comments, sharing their knowledge and experience.

Although the international residency is the first collaboration of its kind for Meadow Brook Theatre — recognized as an anchor arts organization by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs — it continues a long tradition of community outreach.

Each year, MBT hosts 18,000 elementary, middle and high school students at productions selected with them in mind. It also takes theatre into the community through programs such as Theatre in the Mind, a lecture series presented in collaboration with the Rochester Library with topics that illuminate the major ideas and themes of the season's plays. The Shaw residency also promises to build diplomacy.

Pictured above (left to right):

Mike Shara as Eugene Marchbanks and Bernard Behrens as Mr. Burgess in "Candida." Photo by Andrée Lanthier

Kelli Fox as Candida Morell and Blair Williams as The Reverend James Mavor Morell. Photo by David Cooper

Debra Wicks, artistic director, welcomes the Shaw Festival to the stage of Oakland University's Meadow Brook Theatre.



"The international residency by the Shaw Festival at Meadow Brook Theatre will foster understanding and further cement the bonds between our two nations, our two peoples and our performing arts communities," said John D. Tennant, consul general of Canada, when the residency was announced.

Founded in 1972 in Ontario, Canada, the Shaw Festival is one of the largest, English-speaking repertory companies in the world and the only one specializing in plays written by George Bernard Shaw and his contemporaries — playwrights active between 1850 and 1950.

"There are only two full-time acting festivals in the world — Stratford and Shaw — says Jackie Maxwell, artistic director designate for the Shaw, "and they are both in Canada. They have

quite a following in Detroit, and that's a big reason why we wanted to come to Meadow Brook Theatre."

Maxwell was born in Ireland and says she has a great appreciation for the work of her countryman.

"[Shaw] had great wit," Maxwell says. "What makes his plays interesting and fun is that he takes normal situations and twists them. ... 'Candida' is really a play of sexual politics. It's a thought-provoking comedy. It was written in 1895 and for its time was quite outrageous."

"Shaw saw the rise of the middle class in England and commented on the change of the class structure," says Bloomfield. "In our day and age, we're still struggling with those issues. What does it mean to have more leisure time and affluence, and how does it change

the way we relate to each other?"

"['Candida'] works because the primary story is the relationship between three people. Who holds power, the young man, the aging man or the woman?" says Debra Wicks, artistic director, MBT. "I enjoy Shaw, because of the complexity of his language. He's a marvelous storyteller."

Like Maxwell, Wicks is the first woman to become artistic director of her company. But she has led MBT for the last three years in an interim capacity, implementing interesting and meaningful advances. The international residency, she says, is just the start. ■

Sharon Gittleman is a free-lance writer residing in Oak Park, Mich.

In honor of Shaw

The Honors College (HC) at OU will provide an academic thrust to the MBT/Shaw Festival International Residency. Planned activities include:

- An introduction through discussion of Shaw's work before the opening of "Candida"
- Screenings of film adaptations of Shaw works, such as "Pygmalion"
- Post-performance conversations on Shaw and Victorian England, featuring Victorianists Jude Nixon, HC director, Natalie Cole, associate professor of English, and Brian Murphy, associate director, HC

The Department of English will add further perspective to the residency with a staged reading of "GBS vs. GKC," which recreates the ongoing debates between Shaw and G.K. Chesterton. This new play by Jean Morpurgo traces the remarkable friendship between two literary giants who disagreed on almost everything.

A complete list of activities, dates and times can be found on the MBT Web site, www.mbttheatre.com.

Stethoscopes and BALANCE SHEETS



Daniel Braunstein, professor, SBA

**SBA graduates first class of Executive
MBAs in Health Care Management.**

By Lori Eaton

At one o'clock on a cold, rainy Friday in December

2001, students began to gather in room 234 of Elliott Hall. One or two wore

Photo by Agapé Images, Inc.



Conrad Mallett at Harper Hospital, Detroit Medical Center

hospital scrubs but most were dressed in casual business attire that did not give their professions away. Food was laid out on a table in the back of the class: wrap sandwiches and chips, soda pop and bottled water. This was not a scene being repeated in any other classroom in Elliott Hall where backpacks and T-shirts replaced briefcases and button-down shirts. As lunch ended the 15 who had assembled claimed their seats, the instructor appeared and class began. The topic: Legal and Ethical

Issues in Health Care.

The case could be made that this was a class for law students specializing in health care or perhaps an elective for medical students, but both assumptions would be wrong. This was, in fact, a more unique group of students with two shared characteristics. They were experienced health care professionals and they had the desire to add business and resource management to their already considerable talents. They would become the first graduating class of Oakland University's Executive MBA in Health Care Management (EMBA-HCM) offered through the School of Business Administration (SBA).

One of a handful of like-minded programs in the country, the EMBA-HCM is unique in Michigan, not only in the curriculum it offers, but also in the caliber of its enrolled participants. One notable example, Conrad Mallett Jr., former chief legal officer and senior vice president of the Detroit Medical Center (DMC), earned his degree in April.

A self-proclaimed academic at heart, Mallett was relatively new to the health care industry when he signed on at the DMC. He enrolled in the program to further his understanding of the complexities inherent in the field and says

he took something away from his classes routinely.

"Every other Monday, there was some new contribution I could make toward making the DMC a better place," he says.

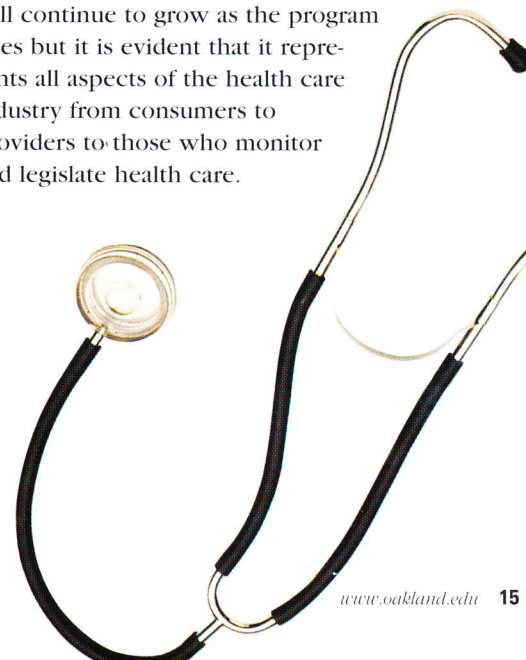
Case in point: Mallett took what he'd learned in a health care finance class about valuing stocks and applied it to the DMC stock portfolio. The process of examining each portfolio at a particular institution with an eye to the value of the entire collection proved so successful that the practice was extended to sister organizations.

The former state supreme court chief justice recently became president and chief executive officer of the LaVan Hawkins Food Group, a Pizza Hut franchisee.

Sandra Housch, a program participant and manager of outpatient rehabilitation services at an area hospital, also put her new knowledge to work.

"Based on what I've learned, I am revising two of our major processes to improve staff efficiency and meet revenue targets," Housch says.

The EMBA-HCM program attracts not only outstanding participants but also adjunct professors and guest lecturers of the highest caliber. Among the health care heavyweights who have addressed the group are James Haveman, director of the Michigan Department of Community Health; Roman Kulich, president and CEO of SelectCare (now owned by Health Alliance Plan); and Bruce Bradley, director of Managed Care Plans for General Motors Health Care Initiative. This list will continue to grow as the program does but it is evident that it represents all aspects of the health care industry from consumers to providers to those who monitor and legislate health care.



Mike Wooley, president of Brighton Hospital, is a member of the EMBA-HCM advisory board and in fall 2000 served as an adjunct instructor. His class, "Health Care of the Future — Transforming Health Care and Leadership," was a distillation of the philosophy of the EMBA-HCM program as a whole.

"I wanted to be the facilitator for bringing [health care] leaders into the classroom," says Wooley, "and foster interaction and discussion between presenter and participants."

As an instructor, Wooley had a specific set of goals he wanted to achieve. As an advisory board member, his hopes for the program stem from a desire to see greater physician involvement and leadership in health care.

"This program is not policy driven," says Wooley, "it follows a more practical academic track and tries to prepare its participants for the reality of what they will face in the health care of the future."

It was concern over the future of health care and the way it is managed on a national level that first peaked the interest of SBA Dean John C. Gardner while he was associate dean of the School of Management at Binghamton University in New York. It wasn't until after he came to Oakland that he was

able to build on that interest.

Gardner noted that several members of the SBA faculty had published or completed research on various topics pertaining to the health care industry. Sherman Folland and Miron Stano, both professors of economics, had their textbook, "The Economics of Health and Health Care," published. It is now in its third edition. Mark Isken, professor of management information systems, held operations analysis positions with William Beaumont Hospital and Henry Ford Health System. Ronald M. Horwitz, professor of finance (retired) and a recognized expert on Michigan Blue Cross reimbursement, served on the board of Providence Hospital. Sandra Pelfrey, professor of accounting, served as the controller of a large urban hospital located in the Midwest and had research published in *Healthcare Financial Management* and the *Journal of Nursing Administration*.

The confluence of a faculty with expertise in health care issues coupled with a health care community the size and breadth of that found in southeast Michigan offered a wellspring of knowledge, which Gardner could tap into in the creation of the EMBA-HCM program. In 1996, Gardner gathered a team of advisers consisting of physicians, hospital administrators, health care executives and professors, and together they began to distill a course of study.

"We wanted to offer a program that was unique to the region," says Gardner, "one that would cover emerging issues in health care."

In January 1999, Gardner asked Daniel Braunstein, then an SBA professor of management and psychology, to step in and serve as the program's director. Braunstein's task was to develop a curriculum and pair professors and practitioners into teams that would collaborate on the design and execution of a particular course. Over the next year and a half, the curriculum began to emerge, the mechanics of the programs were ironed out and active recruiting for program candidates began.

Admission requirements were, and continue to be, stringent. A potential candidate must not only have an advanced degree or a combination of a bachelor's degree and a solid score on

the Graduate Management Admissions Test, but also a minimum of five years experience in health care or a related field. In addition, the applicant must secure an endorsement from their current employer to attend alternate weekend classes on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings."

In September 2000, the first class of the EMBA-HCM program assembled in Elliott Hall. The group, called a cohort because of the way it moves as a unit through both required and elective classes, consisted of 15 participants. Eleven were physicians and one-third were women.

Over the next two years they followed a rigorous curriculum, which included 39 credit hours covering topics such as operations management, legal and ethical issues, financial accounting, marketing, information systems and human resources management. In each of these courses, the health care industry was the filter through which all disciplines were examined. Case studies were drawn from actual health care experiences and institutions.

To meet these ambitious objectives within the allotted 21-month time frame, classes met on Friday afternoons and all day on Saturdays for 10 weekends in the fall and winter semesters, and again for three weekends during the spring semesters.

"The every other weekend schedule as well as the prearranged registration [was] very convenient for working professionals," says Housch.

To cement the cohort into a cohesive unit and encourage a casual atmosphere, participants were asked to come early on Fridays to take advantage of the complimentary lunch. They were offered beverages during breaks, and breakfast and lunch on Saturdays.

Although the classroom atmosphere was casual, the exchange of ideas was rapid and highly relevant.

"We use the term 'participants' rather than students for a good reason," says Braunstein. "These people play an active roll in the classroom, raising



*Right and opposite page:
EMBA-HCM classes
in Elliott Hall*



issues based on personal experience or on relevant incidents that may have happened in their hospital or practice earlier in the week."

In December 2001, Braunstein and Gardner received confirmation that the EMBA-HCM was already meeting a definite need in the local health care community. Dr. Peter Coogan, director of Medical Education at Henry Ford Health System, put his seal of approval on the program by awarding continuing education credits to physicians who participate.

"We consider this to be a vote of confidence in the quality and application of our program for physician executives," says Braunstein.

On April 8, 2002, the first graduating class of the EMBA-HCM program received their degrees, in the wake of recent reports that the nation's health care spending is on the rise. A Department of Health and Human Services study reported that Medicare spending in hospitals has increased at

the same time that consumers have begun to show resistance to the limited choices managed care offers. Armed with new knowledge in the arenas of management and cost controls, the executive physicians and administrators of Oakland's EMBA-HCM program will be well equipped to become leaders in the campaign to improve the quality and affordability of health care in southeast Michigan.

For Braunstein, the success of the program caps a 31-year career at Oakland. One of the founding fathers

of the SBA, Braunstein came to OU in 1971 and is credited with revamping the school's curriculum with a focus on organizational behavior and management. He retired in May.

Health care professionals interested in the EMBA-HCM program should call (248) 370-2241 or send an e-mail to embahcm@oakland.edu. ■

Lori Eaton is a free-lance writer residing in Birmingham, Mich.



Gaining from Giving

Scholarships support academic achievement.
By Vivian DeGain

Donor-supported scholarships at Oakland University help to bring gifted students to OU, support undergraduate academic endeavors and encourage excellence in the classroom and beyond. This year's Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards — the highest honors bestowed by the university — went to scholarship recipients.



Adam Kochenderfer

Measuring the worth of education

When **Adam Kochenderfer CAS '02**, was a political science and English major at OU, he focused on pre-law, made the Dean's List every semester and graduated with a 3.94 grade-point average. The Alfred G. Wilson Award winner honed top leadership skills as the student liaison to the OU Board of Trustees in his senior year and as president of University Student Congress in his junior year. In all, he served in 15 campus leadership roles during his undergraduate years. His accomplishments culminated in a scholarship offer from Notre Dame Law School and an offer of admission to the law school at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he is now studying.

Scholarships powered Kochenderfer's academic career. He earned what he calls "a full ride" at OU, including the 2001 OUAA scholarship, the 2000 Golden Key National Honor Society scholarship, two Commuter Involvement Awards in 2000 and 1999, and the Talented Scholar Award, a 96-credit scholarship in 1998.

"Oakland University provided me with academic challenges and development, the mentorship of college vice presidents and the opportunity to be on the board with the president," Kochenderfer says. "OU also gave me the financial reality to [earn my degree and] open doors to some prestigious law schools that otherwise would have been closed."

Kochenderfer says he is "most gratified" by two of many accomplishments.

First, he led the successful initiative to increase student activities fees and better fund student life programs. Second, Kochenderfer spearheaded a new OU course evaluation program. An excellent tool for students, it is available online at www.oakland.edu.ousc.

As a resident assistant, Lani Morgan (right) helped students resolve problems and get involved in campus life.



"It is my firm belief that the worth of education is measured by the extent we share it with others," Kochenderfer says. "A student must not only take up studies inside the classroom, but also learn to interact and contribute to the community outside."

Active, dynamic and socially aware

Lani Morgan CAS '02, a Stockbridge, Ga., native, followed her mother's footsteps to Oakland University. But unlike her mother, a commuter student, Morgan resided on campus and enjoyed a rich student life, filled with opportunities for leadership, performing arts and interpersonal growth.

"Growing up in Stockbridge, most of the high school graduates attended the community college in my neighborhood," Morgan says. "I wanted to come to Oakland University and reach for a comprehensive, diverse, four-year degree in the place my mom often recalls."

"But I overheard my mom quietly telling someone that we just couldn't afford out-of-state tuition. Then, we started getting letters from OU urging us to investigate scholarships and not give up. Gloria Sosa [director, Office of Equity] invited me to tour campus with my dad. We talked with the admissions office and they were very encouraging."

Morgan applied for and received the Top Scholars Award, Trustee Academic Success Scholarship, Student Life Scholarship, and the Tuition Differential Scholarship — all four-year awards. She also received some one-year awards, including the Marshall P. Atkinson Endowed Memorial

Scholarship, the Hildem Scholarship for Communications and the Wal-mart Scholarship. Four years later, she would be an Honors College and CAS alumna with a degree in communications and a 3.67 GPA.

Barry S. Winkler, professor of biomedical sciences, Eye Research Institute, nominated Morgan for the

Matilda R. Wilson award, noting, "Ms. Morgan is one of our best students. She is an active, dynamic, socially aware woman of utmost integrity and high intensity." ■

Vivian DeGain is a free-lance writer residing in Rochester Hills, Mich.

Scholarships fuel student success

Each year, dozens of students can tie their academic success and degree completion to scholarships established for their educational expenses — scholarships funded by generous donors.

Donors contribute to the Oakland University Alumni Association scholarship and many others to establish gifts in memory or in honor of loved family members.

"Alumni feel strongly about the education they received from Oakland University, so much so that many go out of their way to help other students have the same opportunities they did," says Susan Davies Goepp, vice president of University Relations. "Through contributions to the scholarship fund, these alumni provide vital support to students who may otherwise not be able to receive a quality education. Thanks to numerous contributions to Oakland's alumni association, between eight and 12 students receive scholarships each year."

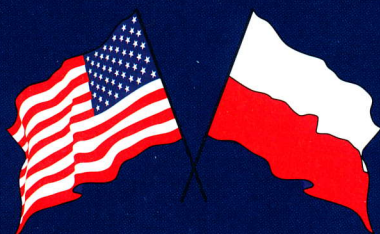
"In addition, the university has special friends who support scholarships," says Julie Vulaj, director of Annual Giving. "These friends have a close relationship to OU through their fondness for Meadow Brook Theatre, Music Festival and Hall, or their interest in promoting a particular academic subject."

"Organizations also offer scholarships. The American Association of University Women - Farmington Branch, The Auburn Hills Optimist Club and soon The Auburn Hills Rotary all have goals to assist students in receiving the distinctive and visionary undergraduate education that Oakland University provides."

To learn more about scholarships, students should contact the Financial Aid office at (248) 370-2550 or visit Oakland's Web site at www3.oakland.edu/oakland/financialaid/scholarships.asp. To find out more about giving to OU's scholarship funds, contact Annual Giving at (248) 370-3700 or visit the OU Web site at www3.oakland.edu/oakland/fundraising/.



Oakland



OU hosts two leaders of the free world.

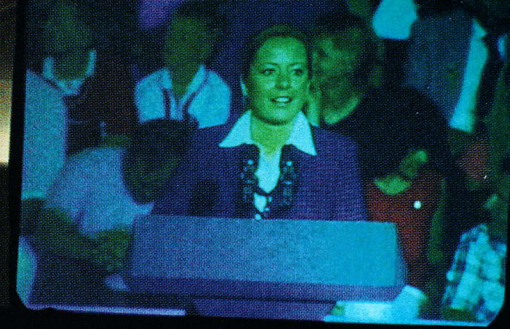
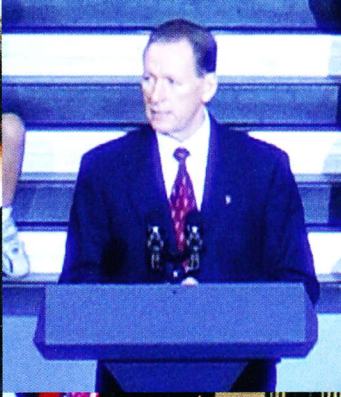
Oakland University welcomed U.S. President George W. Bush and Aleksander Kwasniewski, president of Poland, to campus July 18, 2002, where they addressed a cheering crowd of more than 4,000 citizens in the Athletics Center O'Rena.

The official state visit to Michigan, made at the suggestion of the Polish American Cultural Center in Troy, was a first for Oakland.

"We are truly honored to welcome the president of the United States and the president of Poland," said OU President Gary D. Russi. "This is truly a historical event for OU. It is the first time a sitting president from any country has visited Oakland in an official capacity."

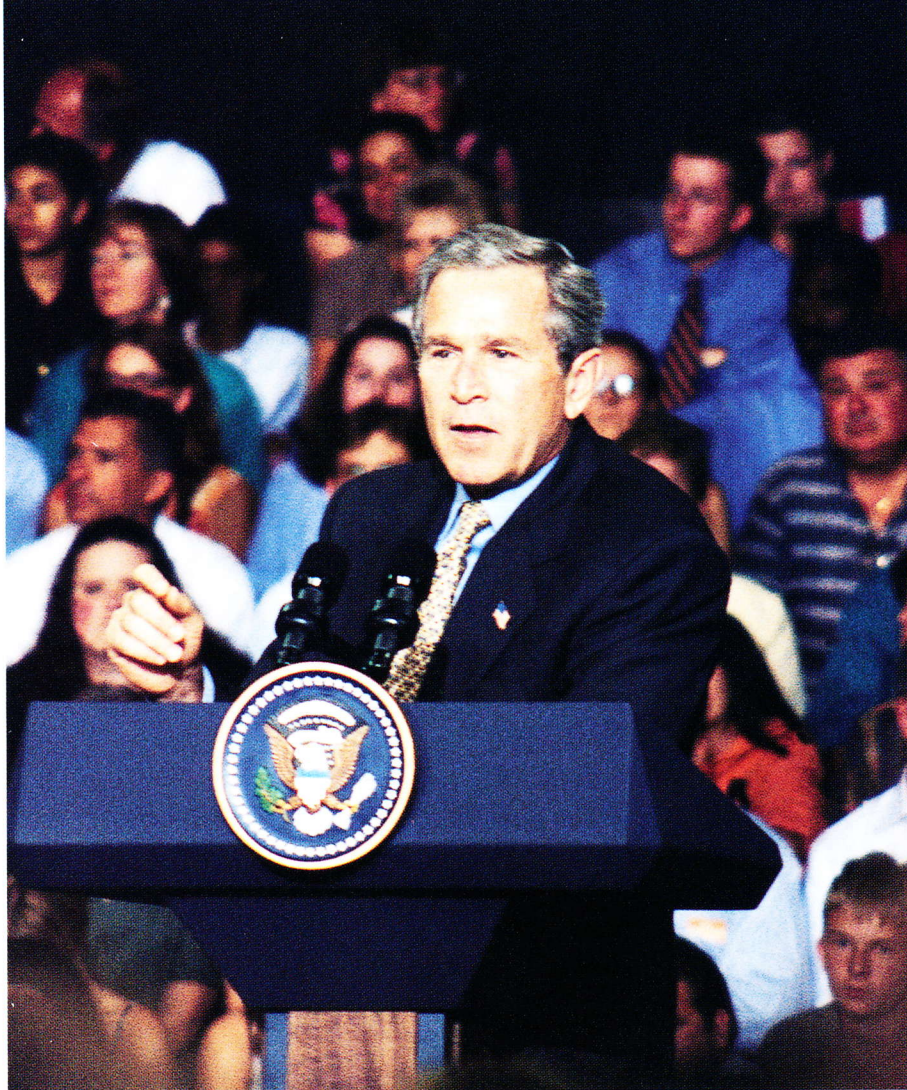
"Each year OU welcomes hundreds of students from throughout the world to study. ... We're excited that students from other countries seek out OU."

Bush thanked Kwasniewski for Poland's support of the "War Against Terrorism" while Kwasniewski lauded Bush for his international leadership following "the shock of 9-11."



l Anthem





Headlines in print...

The state visit made national headlines in such prestigious publications as *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, the *Washington Times*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the *Detroit Free Press* and *The Detroit News*, among others.

The story also ran in newspapers all over the world including France, Great Britain, China and Poland.



Agapé Images, Inc.

"Grateful for the support...of Poland"▲

Passionate about the eradication of global terrorism, President George W. Bush delivered these inspired remarks:

"In this age, in this era, America needs allies who understand the world is dangerous. ... When America was attacked, NATO and Poland, led by this man [Kwasniewski] said, 'an attack on one of us is an attack on all of us. ... Mr. President, the people of America are deeply grateful for the support of the people of Poland. ... If somebody attacks our freedom, we'll stand tough and strong. ... We're going to get 'em on the run and keep 'em on the run until we bring them to justice. ... This is the moment that will test the soul, the conscience, of the American people. And we will meet the test. ... We will not permit the future to [be destroyed] by fear and chaos. ... We will defeat global terrorism."

...And on the air

The state visit carried OU's name all over the airwaves, reported on such networks as:

CNN, FOX News Live, Bloomberg News, CNBC, MSNBC Live, and National Public Radio.





"Let us be together in thought and deed" ▼

A student at an American university 26 years ago, President of Poland Aleksander Kwasniewski returned to the United States — where one-sixth of the population claims Polish heritage — to demonstrate his support:

"Largely thanks to [President Bush], the world has recovered from the shock of 9-11. ... Friendship, partnership and military alliances unite the United States and Poland. ... Let us be together in thought and deed."



◀ Ania's story

Ania Matuszewska CAS '02, graduated from OU with a bachelor's degree in journalism, with a PR/Marketing minor. Matuszewska, an international student at Oakland from Poland, was selected by the White House to officially greet the presidents and to address the audience on behalf of students and alumni.

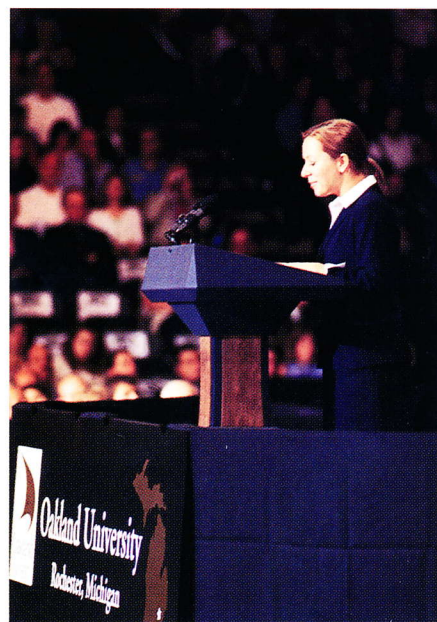
"Looking back at my education at Oakland University, I see that it provided me with everything I needed to become a successful person," Matuszewska told the crowd.

"I had great professors who challenged me, became my mentors, and who gave me the tools that I am using in my professional life. ... But my education also occurred outside the classroom... During my senior year, I interned at the Communications and Marketing Department, where I received hands-on experience that also prepared me for today's competitive job market.

"In fact, it has prepared me so well, that now I have a position in public relations at Volkswagen of America.

"With my education and experience, I feel confident I could work anywhere in the world.

"In my life, I experienced the best of two worlds... my great home country of Poland, my new country, the United States... and Oakland University where they have come together." ■



PT student Christina Colombe assists patient Arthur Bemben of Clinton Township, at Wright and Filippis, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Healthcare Equipment in Rochester.

MOVING AHEAD WITH

OU offers doctoral programs in physical therapy.

By Vivian DeGain



Photos by Agapé Images, Inc.

Janet Wiechec Seidell SHS '95 has seen a few miracles in her years in the field. Seidell works as a Physical Therapist (PT) supervisor at William Beaumont Hospital-Troy, and as a guest lecturer at Oakland University where she shares her experiences with PT students in the School of Health Sciences (SHS). Inspirational stories, she says, reinforce the commitment SHS students make when they decide to pursue clinical practice. And they help PT patients achieve little miracles every day.

"Sometimes we need that light at the end of the tunnel," Seidell says. "We need to know that yes, there is a great challenge ahead, but attitude is everything. With the right motivation, preparation and work, we usually beat all our expectations," she says.

Seidell recalls a former patient, a woman in her early 60s who had suffered a disabling stroke.

"She came to me as an outpatient, after hospitalization and rehabilitation, and she was functioning at a very low level. She had difficulty with speech, was slurring, and had total nonfunction of her arm and leg on one side of her body," Seidell says.

While the odds were against the patient's goals of resuming her life on the road and travelling cross-country in a mobile camper with her retired spouse, she had three terrific assets: a very supportive husband willing to work with her; a combination of medical insurance benefits that provided her a full five-and-a-half months of physical, occupational and speech therapy; and a PT who "worked with her day in and day out."

"I worked with her to master a task, and once the task got easier, challenged her with the next," Seidell explains. "I would always expect more than [what I thought] she could do, and she would always beat my expectations."

The patient progressed from the basics — from learning how to get out of bed and into a wheelchair, to slowly standing up again. And then, in baby steps, she



Patient Larry Archey gets assistance from student Megan Land at Wright and Filippis.

learned to walk, first with the help of a walker, then with a large-based cane and finally with a small cane.

"Over time, she went from walking three to five feet, to 10, 50 and 100 feet. We went from walking in her room, to the hallway inside the hospital, to the carpeted lobby around other patients, to the stairwell. We went from walking inside to the outside, from the smooth carpeting to the uneven terrain, and practiced walking on the grass and the parking lot."

Seidell says a final lesson occurred at the patient's home in her camper trailer.

"We learned how to get around in that tight little space inside, and how to get up and down the trailer steps," she says.

Today, the woman is travelling again and walking in her beloved garden," Seidell says. "She can't work in her garden as she once did, but she is enjoying many of the things that are important to her. She calls me all the time to tell me how she is doing."

Meeting the need

Like the medical and nursing professions, the field of physical therapy is growing to meet greater demands. The number of people in the aging baby-boomer population who need such services is growing. And new professional standards are being set by the organizations that accredit universities and the degree programs they offer. These trends toward increased professionalism led to a brand new Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree program in the School of Health Sciences. SHS also offers the DScPT for students who already hold a master's degree. The new degree programs were offered fall semester 2002 for the first time.

The new DPT program has three goals: to provide an educational program that prepares students for a professional career in physical therapy; to provide opportunities for the advancement of knowledge in physical therapy through research; and to provide service to the public, through continuing education and expertise.

SHS Dean Ron Olson says the new degree will meet newly established

allowing for accurate, rapid diagnosis and the development of better treatment plans. It also will give DPT candidates more academic enrichment," Olson says.

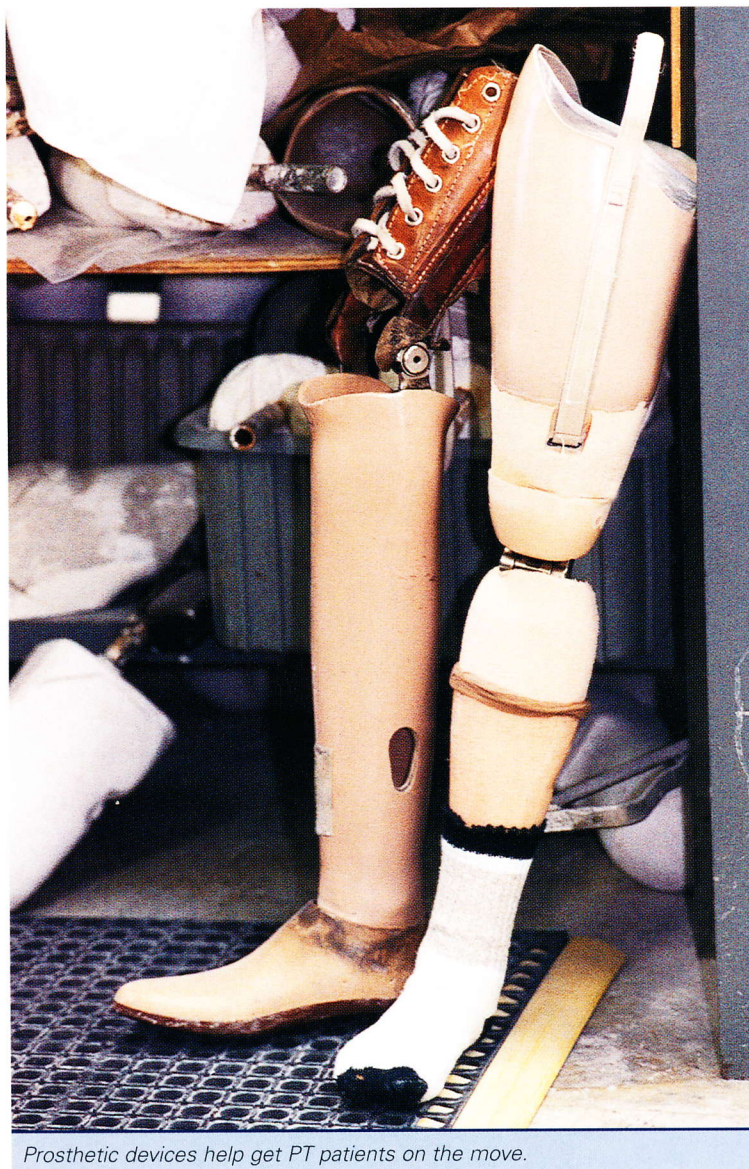
In earning the DPT, the physical therapist will gain a broader range of clinical skills and practice. Patients then will enjoy a more streamlined course of therapy. Currently in Michigan, PTs can evaluate patients without physician referral, but need a

prescription to treat them. A bill currently making its way through the Michigan Legislature would allow PTs to evaluate and treat patients without physician referral, if passed. DPT and DScPT graduates will be well equipped to do so, in Michigan and in the 35 other states that allow patients direct access to PTs.

The big change for students, Olson says, is that now, candidates must first earn a BS, typically a four-year degree. Then they pursue the DPT, which adds another three years, requiring seven years in all. Before, students may have completed six years in programs altogether just to earn the master's degree.

But, Olson says, professional change and challenge are not strangers to PT students. Health Sciences students already have higher educational and degree expectations, and know

how to manage them successfully. Typically, academic requirements to earn a bachelor of science degree are 140 credit hours — which exceed the typical bachelor of arts degree requirements for 120 credit hours. The new DPT will require 210 credit hours, while the former terminal degree, a master's in Physical Therapy required 187 hours.



Prosthetic devices help get PT patients on the move.

guidelines by the American Physical Therapy Association and the Council for the Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education, calling for physical therapists to be educated at the doctoral level.

"The DPT will allow physical therapists to be better diagnosticians,

"Our students are very goal oriented. They come to health sciences with a specific profession in mind, and a determination to complete the course and work in the field. They want to excel and they work to excel. Our students want the DPT because they see it as the top goal, the brass ring of the profession," Olson says.

Beth Marcoux, director of the OU Physical Therapy program, says the new DPT is a better way of acknowledging the extra work that students have already been doing.

"This change will more accurately reflect the accomplishments of the students, similar to other clinical designations, such as the PharmD or doctor of pharmacy," Marcoux says.

These changes are not yet mandated by the accreditation agencies, but "strongly suggested," and Marcoux says the strength will be "in that the DPT requires students to have earned a BS. They will come into the terminal program with a better background in basic sciences."

She, like Olson, is very confident about the students and the program.

"We have a 97-percent passing ratio for the national physical therapy (licensing) exam, the required test before a PT is allowed to practice in the field. And most PT's want additional education in specialized areas of their fields. They go on, for instance, to earn a Certificate in Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy, or a Graduate Certificate in Pediatric Rehabilitation."

To learn the necessary skills of physical therapy, "evaluation, prevention and treatment of movement disorders," students must gain specific knowledge of basic and applied medical sciences, including biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, anatomy, physiology, kinesiology and pathology. Students also learn behavioral sciences to provide them with basic knowledge and understanding to develop interpersonal relationships with patients, families and other health professionals.

"The doctoral program will provide a more complete and comprehensive education, and give students more time in the classroom and in the field," says OU instructor Kristine Thompson, PhD, PT. "It also will provide more time to

do academic work as well as work in the clinical setting."

"Now, students will complete academic work for one and a half semesters and go to the clinic for four weeks. Then, they will complete another semester of academic work and go to the clinic for eight weeks. Then, following another year of academics, they will go to the clinic for four months," Thompson says. She teaches courses in the clinical setting, such as "Patient Management" where students learn to teach recovering patients how to use a walker and crutches, and "Professional Issues" where students learn effective communication, professional behaviors and self-assessment skills.

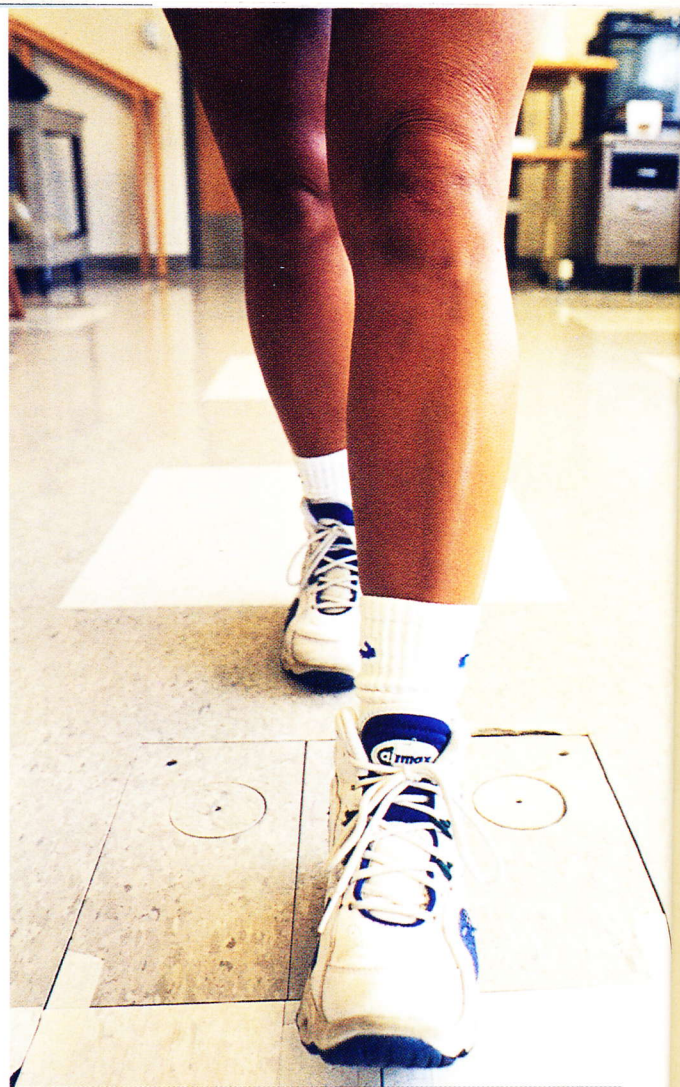
Jill Wolf SHS '02

is enrolled in the new DPT program. She applied via early decision, a process she completed last fall while also taking classes toward a bachelor of science degree in general studies with a focus on exercise science.

"I'm really glad I was able to do the early admissions process — and I am very honored to have been accepted," says Wolf. "I always knew I wanted to work in a health care area and work with people," she says.

But it was through her field experience as a volunteer with disabled children, at a camp for children with Muscular Dystrophy and at the Glen Peters school, that she decided on a career as a physical therapist.

"This is a wonderful opportunity, to earn a doctoral degree and to have direct access to work with patients. This program will allow me to become even more knowledgeable in the field — and Oakland teachers are great.



When subjects walk, jump or run on the force plate in the physical therapy lab, data is fed into computers, allowing students to conduct innovative studies.

They are excellent."

Only six DPT programs are accredited in Michigan: Oakland University, University of Michigan Flint, Wayne State University, Grand Valley State, Central Michigan University and Andrews University.

For more information about the PT programs, call the School of Health Sciences at (248) 370-4041 or visit the Web site at **www.oakland.edu/SHS/PT**. ■

Vivian DeGain is a free-lance writer residing in Rochester Hills, Mich.

"Not bad for a girl"

Alumna uses psychology degree to succeed.

By Sharon Gittleman

When she was growing up in her family's modest bungalow on the east side of Detroit, **Tommi White CAS '71** never dreamed she'd be managing the day-to-day operations of a company with facilities in 47 countries. But last year, White was named chief operating officer of Compuware, a Michigan-based software corporation that reported revenues of over \$2 billion in 2001 — quite an accomplishment for the first female member of her family to graduate from college.

One of the first people she called with the news was her father.

"He said, 'not bad for a girl,'" White recalls, laughing. "He always told me you can do whatever you want — nothing should stand in your way. If you want a part-time job and the one available is pumping gas and girls don't pump gas, then you just go up there and put your hair under a hat if you want to be able to do that," says White.

White jokes that "in the technology profession, the line for the ladies room is always very short at conventions," but she never let the scarcity of women deter her. Instead, she focused her efforts on getting the job done. This approach served her well when she interviewed for a job as a project manager at Truck Stops of America.

"I will never forget it," White says. "It was 110 degrees. They took me to a truck stop for lunch. A 6-foot Yankee blonde in a peach suit tends to stand out in a truck stop in Nashville, Tennessee," she explains.

The interview followed back at the office.

"The president asked me did I mind eating at a truck stop. I said, 'no, I've never eaten in a truck stop, but it was really good.' He said, 'okay you're hired.' I told my husband I thought it was because I said they had great food. Later on, I asked the CEO [about it]. He

said, 'We're in the truck stop business. We had to know you could go to the truck stop and not come home in tears.'"

A psychology major at Oakland, White says the education she received helped her career.

"Leadership is all about moving people in the direction you want them to go because they want to go there. It's all about behavior — why people do things and what motivates them," she says. "When I went to Oakland, my professors talked a lot about behavior," she says, "what makes people tick and why they do what they do. That's really valuable information. As I go through my week, I can tell you I use that all the time."

White sits on the advisory board of Oakland's School of Business Administration (SBA), helping professors design a curriculum students can put to good use in the corporate world.

"We talk about what my expectations would be of a student who had a master's degree in information science," she says. "Getting feedback for the curriculum from people in the business environment creates students who have a better understanding of what they are going to be faced with when they come in contact with the real world."

White says she wanted to give back to the people who helped give her her start.

"I also became involved in Mohan Tanniru's program, Applied Technology in Business (ATiB)," she says.

Tanniru, an SBA professor, heads up ATiB, a minor of the school, which combines a rigorous business education with hands-on training in the use of information technology to resolve the real-world business problems of its corporate sponsors.

"Compuware has some graduates

Photo by Agapé Images, Inc.



Tommi White

of that program working here," White says. "I think this is a great program. Corporations actually get something back for their investment and the students, more importantly, get exposure to what working on a real-life project would be. Many of the students also put themselves up for internships with the corporations."

What advice does White offer them?

"Look at every opportunity. Sometimes they're not obvious and sometimes they're the opportunities that other people don't take," she says. "Being successful has a lot to do with finding out what you're really good at and finding a place to do it. When you can find a person willing to pay you to do something you really like to do, that's my recipe for success."

Before arriving at Compuware, White was executive vice president, chief administration and technology officer at Kelly Services in Troy. In March 2002, she was named one of the "Most Influential Women" in metro Detroit by *Crain's Detroit Business*. ■

Sharon Gittleman is a free-lance writer residing in Oak Park, Mich.

The Glorious, '30s Glamorous

MBH treasures and tales paint a vivid picture of an American era.

By Sharon Gittleman



Great Hall, Meadow Brook Hall

In 1934, Alfred and Matilda Wilson, accompanied by daughter, Frances Dodge, took a six-month trip to Egypt, India, Spain and South Africa by ocean liner. Souvenirs from their glorious voyage will be among select Dodge and Wilson family treasures on display during the 2002 Meadow Brook Hall Holiday Walk, which will celebrate "The Glorious, Glamorous '30s."

The 1930s was an era of contradictions. While the depression was raging, new technologies created small pockets of vast wealth. Like today's dot-com billionaires, the leaders of that era's burgeoning auto industry used their technical genius and spirit of innovation to transform the world.

American culture also experienced revolutionary change. Movie stars like Greta Garbo made "glamour" a household word. Music exploded with the new energy and rhythms of swing stars like Benny Goodman. And thanks to authors like Raymond Chandler, the Golden Age of Mystery Writers burst on the scene.

Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall hopes to capture the essence of that thrilling era in "The Glorious, Glamorous '30s."

"Meadow Brook Hall is a truly wonderful and unique representation of a time and a place," says Sally Victor, interim director. "Modern American culture was born in the '20s and '30s. The Holiday Walk is an exciting way to experience it."

Special exhibits reflecting the life of the Dodge and Wilson families, former residents of the Tudor-revival mansion, will be featured.

"We're going to have fashion and costume displays," says Victor, "including the gold lamé dress Frances Dodge wore to her debutante ball in 1933. It was designed by Henri Bendel."

Traditional holiday decorations also will be on display. In each of the 20 rooms highlighted for the Holiday Walk, a uniquely decorated Christmas tree will be featured. Children can try their hand at making ornaments and gingerbread houses

while their parents enjoy special Holiday High Teas. Swing dancing demonstrations will take place in the ballroom where a young Frank Sinatra sang with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra on Frances Dodge's 25th birthday.



What it was like to be wealthy

Auto pioneer John Dodge and his bride Matilda purchased 320 acres of farmland between Rochester and Pontiac in 1908 — the future site of Meadow Brook Hall. The estate was simply their place in the country until Matilda remarried. She and her new husband, lumber broker Alfred G. Wilson, built Meadow Brook Hall beginning in 1926. The \$4-million project was completed in 1929, when the Wilsons moved in with Matilda's two children, Frances and Daniel.

"They had a huge housewarming party in November 1929," says Victor, "just one month after the stock market crash. There were about 800 guests. They did close Meadow Brook Hall during the depression for a few years, partly for appearances and partly for financial reasons. Maintaining a home of this size was difficult. Meadow Brook Hall has more than 80,000 square feet and 110 rooms."

The Wilsons adopted two children, Richard and Barbara, in the early '30s. Holiday Walk visitors will have the chance to glimpse what it was like for them, their parents and siblings to live in the mansion and enjoy extraordinary

wealth during that time.

"The Wilsons had a staff of 25," says Victor, "including chauffeurs, butlers, maids and florists. Danny and Frances had their own rooms and guest rooms for their friends. They each also had a playroom and their own playhouse on the grounds."

An educational and cultural resource

During the '30s, Matilda's daily life was absorbed by her family, running her home and business enterprises, politics and representing dozens of charitable causes.

Travel was another passion. Souvenirs from the Wilsons' 1934 voyage included fine and decorative art, breeding horses and furniture inlaid with ivory.

While the Holiday Walk is primarily an educational program, it also raises funds for the maintenance of Meadow Brook Hall. Last year's event brought in net proceeds of \$120,000.

"Special programs like the Holiday Walk give the community an opportunity to learn more about the architecture, collections and history of Meadow Brook Hall as well as Michigan, U.S. and world history," Victor says.

Guided tours begin at 10 a.m. each day for visitors with reservations. Others can visit the Holiday Walk from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Wednesdays through

Mondays between Nov. 29 and Dec. 22. The last guest will be admitted one hour before closing time.

Tickets are \$12.50 for adults and \$6 for children age 12 and under. For more information, call (248) 370-3140 or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org on the Web. ■

Sharon Gittleman is a free-lance writer residing in Oak Park, Mich.



Frances Dodge
Max Habrecht, c. 1933



The Quiet Little Truth of the Matter

OU honorary degree recipient Thomas Lynch — a noted poet, essayist and undertaker — discusses the truth about life and death. By Brian Connery

He may have seemed an unlikely presence at the December 2001 commencement of the College of Arts and Sciences. There, before the assembled graduates, commencing new lives as alumni, sat Thomas Lynch, 53, director of Lynch & Sons, a Milford, Mich., funeral home. Along with the many bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, Oakland University was awarding an honorary doctor of humanities degree to the most famous undertaker in the world.

Between his time as a potential degree candidate at Oakland in the late 1960s and his formal return in a new millennium, Lynch had run a successful business and raised a family. He had also written and published three volumes of poetry and two collections of essays, including, "The Undertaking: Life Studies from the

Pictured above: Thomas Lynch receives honorary degree from CAS Dean David Downing (right) and Virinder Moudgil, interim vice president for academic affairs and provost.

Dismal Trade,” which won the American Book Award in 1997.

While the family business — and the influence of his father — account handily for Lynch’s primary livelihood, he credits his mother and her early religious training with attuning his ear to poetry: “Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God’s love commits me here,” he recites.

“My first attraction was acoustic,” he says. “I knew sounds had great magic.”

Readers immediately sense his attention to the rhythms of English in his verse or in his prose. They hear it in his descriptions of his own thoughts and sensations, and in his paraphrases of other voices: his fellow Rotarians at the coffee shop on Main or Sister Jean Thérèse explaining the facts of life to a 12-year-old Catholic schoolboy.

Lynch credits an Oakland University professor with stirring his love for language and suggesting to him the possibility of being a writer.

“The first poet I met was Michael Heffernan. It was late in the ’60s, and it had always seemed to me that poets were dead, or wearing trendy footwear and more hair than I was ever going to have. To meet a man with a sport coat and a mortgage and a Buick and a day job teaching Melville and Thoreau to the likes of me — to meet an ordinary man who wrote extraordinary poems — well, it changed my life and is changing it still,” Lynch says.

He wrote and published two poems in the university literary magazine. Then in December 1969, Lynch left Oakland, liberated by a high draft lottery number.

“I was playing Hearts in the student union when they drew the numbers. Mine turned out to be 254. It was widely figured they’d never draft past number 150. I had a future. I wanted to be a poet. I had discovered Yeats. I wanted to be Simon and Garfunkel. I could play the guitar. I considered teaching, briefly. I thought getting my license as a funeral director would be no bad thing, in case I didn’t get a record contract or a Pulitzer.”

Lynch spent time with relatives in West Clare, Ireland. He then returned to Milford, married, completed his

degree, had children, and worked the family trade. He didn’t write another poem until the first months of 1980, when the death of a childhood friend from a brain tumor, and his experience as her mortician, stirred in him the words of “A Death.” On advice from Heffernan, he sent the poem to *Poetry* magazine where it was published. A flurry of verse followed. The best was gathered in a volume titled, after his daughter, “Skating with Heather Grace.” It was published by Knopf in 1987.

Lynch’s editor at Knopf, Gordon Lish, suggested he write a piece in prose describing his day job. The opportunity coincided with promptings

from his father.

“When I first wrote and published poems, my father asked me when I’d write a book about funerals. I said I thought I had already. ‘You know what I mean,’ he said.”

Lynch’s essay was published in Lish’s journal, *The Quarterly*, and then reprinted in *The London Review of Books* and *Harper’s*. The editor of the *Review* asked for more, and Lynch obliged. Soon requests were coming from all over, and Lynch had accumulated the essays for “The Undertaking.”

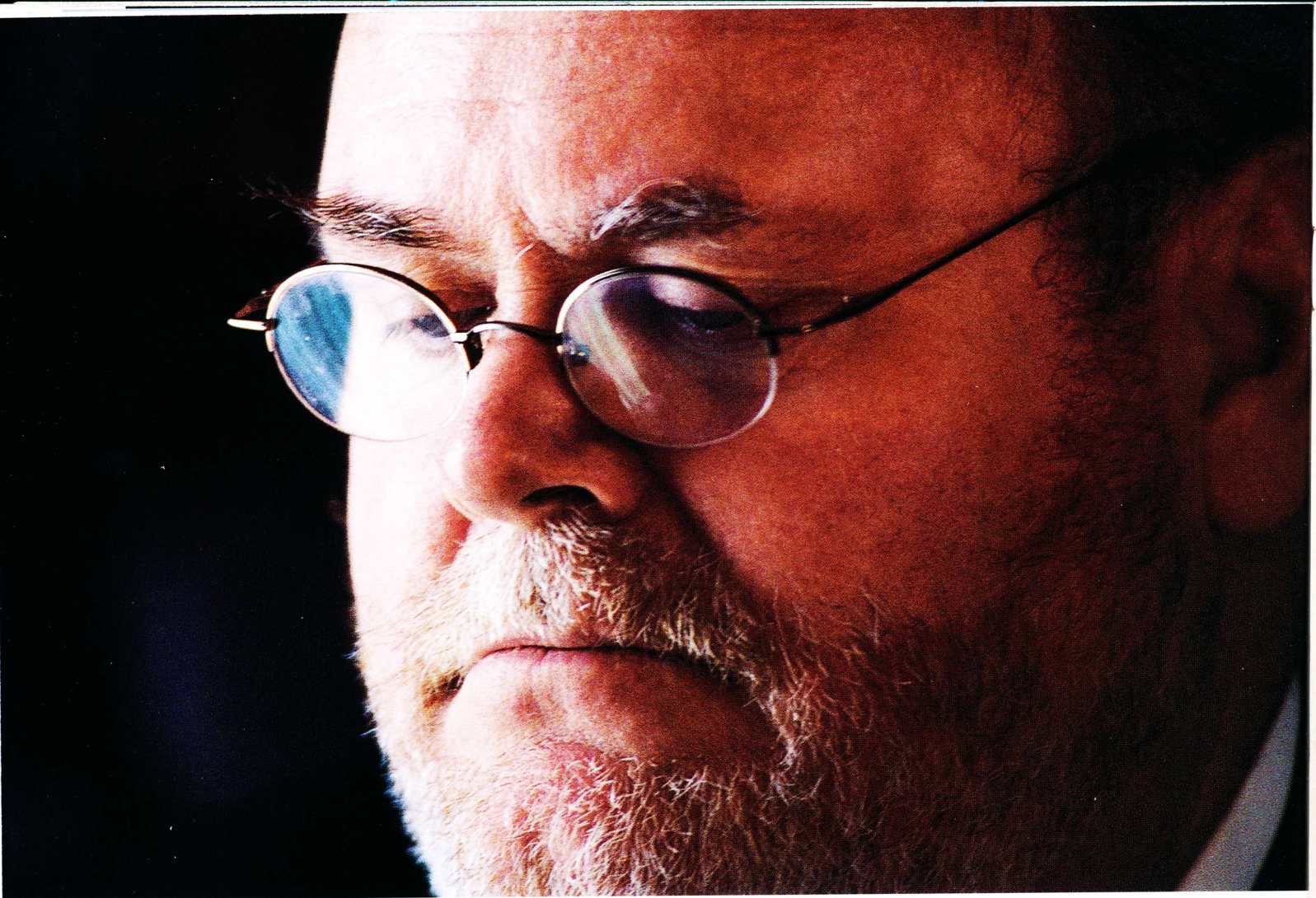
In it, he renders the lives and deaths of the people of Milford with directness, compassion and honesty.



Thomas Lynch Photo by Agapé Images, Inc.

“The Undertaking” — an excerpt

“Last Monday Milo Hornsby died. Mrs. Hornsby called at 2 A.M. to say that Milo had expired and would I take care of it, as if his condition were like any other that could be renewed or somehow improved upon. At 2 A.M., yanked from my REM sleep, I am thinking, put a quarter into Milo and call me in the morning. But Milo is dead. In a moment, in a twinkling, Milo has slipped irretrievably out of our reach, beyond Mrs. Hornsby and the children, beyond the women at the Laundromat he owned, beyond his comrades at the Legion Hall, the Grand Master of the Masonic Lodge, his pastor at First Baptist, beyond the mailman, zoning board, town council, and Chamber of Commerce; beyond us all, and any treachery or any kindness we had in mind for him. Milo is dead.”



Thomas Lynch Photo by Agapé Images, Inc.

Humor also pervades his work. Lynch writes of his daily routine: "There is nothing like the sight of a dead human body to assist the living in separating the good days from the bad ones. It is there, in the parlors of the funeral home that the darkness often gives way to light. A fellow citizen outstretched in his casket, surrounded by floral tributes, waiting for the homage and obsequies, speaks to me in the silent code of the dead: 'So, you think you're having a bad day?'"

His essays range from elegiac renderings of his family and neighbors to portraits of eccentrics, like his hypochondriac poet-friend Matthew Sweeney, to accounts of the suffering of alcoholics, the end of marriage, his son's passion for fishing, and the multiple magics of love.

In many ways, his work as a funeral director serves his work as a writer. Lynch is quick to see the similarities.

"Whenever funeral directors get together they talk about the fact that no one likes funerals," he says. "Whenever poets get together they talk about the fact that no one likes poetry."

He says his writing makes him a better funeral director.

"I do think funerals are an effort to say something, to articulate in symbols and ceremonies things that are difficult to put into words. And I think poetry is an effort to do the same thing. I see them as the same enterprises — an effort to say things in the simplest way. So much of my job as a funeral director has to do with finding the proper language in difficult events in a family's history. The better I do the language, the better funeral director I am."

There's no doubt that the oddity of his dual vocation has marketability. In addition to his poetry readings and book tours, Lynch is regularly asked to write pieces for publications like *The*

New York Times on matters such as national grieving, euthanasia, and the funeral industry. And he is, naturally, heavily in demand as a speaker at conventions of funeral directors.

"I'm the undertaker/writer. An undertaker/anything is like a wrestler becoming governor or a dancing bear. They make for good copy."

Lynch's work is full to bursting with what he calls the "quiet little truth of the matter," that death is ordinary, life extraordinary. A good writer and a good undertaker, Thomas Lynch, Class of 2001, knows what people need to hear. ■

Brian Connery is chair of the Department of English at Oakland University.



Adrienne Bass (left), Jamie Simek

A new face and a new role

Jamie Simek was named assistant director of alumni relations in January. She comes to Oakland from Purdue University where she earned a master's degree in higher education and worked for two years as assistant director of alumni clubs and young alumni.

Simek's OU responsibilities include overseeing programs and events such as the golf outing and the awards banquet. She also plans to introduce a Young Alumni Club.

"With her experience and enthusiasm, we will certainly enjoy increased membership and a delightful number of new events," says Adrienne Bass, director of alumni relations.

Bass was named director of alumni relations last November after serving as acting director since April 2000. She will now manage the department developing new programs and opportunities for alumni, as well as work closely with the alumni association board of directors. ●

Save the date!

Nov. 3, 2002 — Attorneys' Night Out at Meadow Brook Theatre

The OUAA invites alumni attorneys and their guests to attend the 6:30 p.m. performance of Agatha Christie's "Witness for the Prosecution" and a special on-stage reception immediately following. Order tickets by Oct. 19. To receive special rates and reserve your place on stage for \$20 per person, call (248) 370-3700.

Nov. 12 — "FAB" Tuesdays ("Faculty-Alumni Breakfast")

"FAB" Tuesdays welcome alumni back to campus for breakfast, kinship and a series of provocative discussions featuring outstanding faculty guest speakers. "FAB" Tuesdays premiered Sept. 10 with Sara Chapman, assistant professor of history, and her presentation, "Furs, Fortunes and Frontiers: the French Origins of Detroit, 1701-1715." Upcoming Tuesdays include: Nov. 12, with Richard Stamps, associate professor of anthropology; Feb. 11, 2003, with Bill Rogers, managing director, OU Golf Courses, and president of the Michigan PGA. Faculty members interested in speaking for the breakfast series or other events should contact Jamie Simek at (248) 370-3700 ext. 1113 or via e-mail at ruark@oakland.edu.

Dec. 7, 8 and 9 — Windy City Weekend

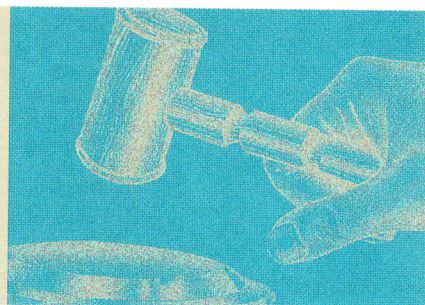
OUAA members, with families and guests, will travel to Chicago via Amtrack for a December shopping tour and stay at the Hilton Garden Inn on the waterfront. Seating is limited. Each alumnus/alumna may bring up to three guests. For more information, call Alumni Relations at (248) 370-3700.

Dec. 12 — "A Christmas Carol"

The OUAA will host young alumni for a holiday event featuring special seating at the Meadow Brook Theatre performance of "A Christmas Carol" at 8 p.m. A reception will be held at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge of the Oakland Center. For more information, call Jamie Simek at (248) 370-3700 ext. 1113.

Dec. 14 — Alumni Holiday Walk and Dessert Reception

Join OUAA members and guests for an insider's view of the 2002 Meadow Brook Hall Holiday Walk — "The Glorious, Glamorous '30s" — at a special discounted price of \$8 per person with OUAA membership card. Alumni may bring up to five guests and take the one-hour tour, available from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. For information, call (248) 370-3700.



FAB
TUESDAYS



Dennis Robertson as Scrooge for the Meadow Brook Theatre production of "A Christmas Carol."

Photo by Rick Smith



Scholarships awarded

The Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) scholarship program awarded nearly \$40,000 in scholarships to outstanding OU students in April. The program provides one-year, \$2000-scholarship awards to juniors and seniors, and offers the OUAA Memorial Scholarship to an outstanding incoming freshman. The memorial scholarship is a four-year award of \$4000 per year given to one promising student. Scholarships are funded entirely through the generous donations of OUAA members and supplemented by alumni association events and programs.

The following OUAA scholarships were awarded: School of Business Alumni Affiliate Scholarship to Tonia Babi; the School of Nursing Alumni Affiliate Scholarship to Jeri Raab; the School of Health Sciences Alumni Affiliate Scholarship to Jeffrey Dehn; the School of Education and Human Services Alumni Affiliate Scholarship to Bozena Lin Johnson; the Honors College Alumni Affiliate Scholarship to Bryan Austin; the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Affiliate Scholarship to Dennis O'Connor; the Black Alumni Affiliate Scholarship to Shelby Jones; the

School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) Affiliate Scholarship to Dennis Werner II; the SECS Thomas A. Yatooma Memorial Alumni Scholarships to Gakushi Fukuda, Dani Nadra and Paul Halicki; the Frances C. Amos School of Business Administration Alumni Scholarships to Emily Fulton, Rami Hasani, Sarah Phillips; and the OUAA Memorial Scholarship to Alicia Sossi.

For information about 2003 scholarships and how to apply for one, please call Carol Carpenter, Alumni Relations, (248) 370-3700 ext. 1390. ●

Danube

Prague



OUAA hosts Danube River cruise

The Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) invites alumni, their families and friends to sail the Danube River and visit Vienna, Prague and Budapest on a Global Holidays Inc. tour, April 27 - May 6, 2003.

Majestic Vienna, Austria, offers the artifacts of ancient cultures within the Old City and Imperial Palace and a modern metropolis of coffee houses and art centers. Prague, Czech Republic, is a 1000-year-old city built on seven hills with stunningly painted and preserved buildings in Baroque, Gothic and Art Nouveau styles. Budapest, Hungary, the "Paris of Eastern Europe," has two halves. Cobbled streets, forts and palaces grace the medieval "Buda" side, while the

bustling cosmopolitan "Pest" rises on the other.

The tour includes airfare, cruise ship reservations, a multilingual guide/travel director, 16 meals and sightseeing in Linz, Prague, Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest. The price is tentatively set at \$2,349, based on double occupancy. For more information and reservations, contact Global Holidays Inc. by phone at (952) 918-8950 or (800) 842-9023, or visit www.globalholidaysinc.com on the Web. You must be an Oakland University Alumni Association or Friends of the Alumni Association member to participate. ●



Mini reunion in Alaska

Donald O'Dowd, honorary OU alumnus and president emeritus of Oakland University, is organizing an alumni chapter in Alaska. Last May, O'Dowd, a former president of the University of Alaska, traveled to Fairbanks with his wife, Jan, an honorary OU alumna. The O'Dowds visited **Cory Borgeson CAS '78** and his wife, **Diane (Glowinski) Borgeson SBA '78**, who organized a mini reunion of OU alumni and friends in their home. Pictured are (from left, back row): Lisa Lehman (attended from 1970-1972); Jan O'Dowd; Don O'Dowd; **Susan Sugai CAS '70**; Deborah Brownlow; Cory Borgeson; and Diane Borgeson.

Sugai earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry at OU and a PhD from the University of Alaska, Anchorage, in 1985. She is interim director of the Alaska Sea Grant College Program and a research scientist in the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences within the Institute of Marine Science at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Cory Borgeson earned his bachelor's degree in psychology at OU and a JD from Drake University School of Law in 1981. He is an adjunct assistant professor of business administration at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and chair of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Tanana Valley, Alaska. Diane Borgeson earned her OU degree in management. ●

Recent alumni connect to OU

The OUAA is kicking off a new program targeting recent OU graduates from the last 10 years who are under the age of 35. These events will allow young alumni to feel more connected to the academic community. All young alumni in the Greater Detroit area can stay more connected to OU and establish new friendships with other young alumni through the OU Young Alumni Program.

The demands of postgraduate life for many recent graduates include careers, marriages and growing responsibilities, says Adrienne Bass, director of Alumni Relations. "This new organization for young alumni will enable them to remain close to their alma mater and to each other."

The OUAA has planned a series of events to help this select group maintain their connectivity. The kick-off was held at the Meadow Brook Music Festival in July with a dinner package and concert featuring Jewell. Future events include a trip to a comedy club and a weekend at a dude ranch.

For more information about the OU Young Alumni Program, contact Jamie Simek at (248) 370-3700 ext. 1113 or at ruark@oakland.edu. For more information about becoming an OU alumni association member, visit the Alumni Web site at www.oualumni.com. ●



Support Oakland with a gift to the 2002 Annual Fund

September kicks off the new fund-raising season at Oakland University. Support from alumni and friends is crucial to ensuring that the university is able to maintain the highest quality education, offer inspiring cultural programs and provide enriching student activities.

This fall alumni will receive a brochure that answers questions about giving, such as tax advantages of year-end giving and increasing the impact of donations through corporate matching. The brochure also gives real-life examples of how gifts have helped OU students reach their goals of graduating and professors advance their research, scholarship and teaching programs.

As a follow up, a representative from Oakland will contact you in October. We want to tell you about the great things happening on campus. This call also gives you an opportunity to ask questions about creative gift-giving ideas.

We hope you will consider giving generously to OU this year. Every donation, whether large or small, makes a difference in the lives of our students and programs. Thank you for your support. ●

2002 Alumni Awards

The Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) presented the 2002 Oakland University Alumni Awards in September to the following:

Distinguished Alumni Service Award

Recognizing outstanding alumni leadership and service to OU

David J. Doyle CAS '80

Vice President, Marketing Resource Group

As chair of the Oakland University Board of Trustees from 1998 to 2000, David Doyle's leadership resulted in major capital improvements, including the R. Hugh and Nancy Elliott Hall of Business and Information Technology and the new Education and Human Services Building, which opened in the fall.

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

Recognizing outstanding professional achievement or contributions to the university

Susan M. Quattrociocchi CAS '72
Director of the Northeast Tech Prep Consortium, Seattle, Wash.

Susan Quattrociocchi earned her undergraduate degree in sociology, magna cum laude. She was then awarded a fellowship to the Rackham School of Graduate Studies at the University of Michigan, where she went on to complete a doctoral degree in adult education and community development. Quattrociocchi excelled in her field, ultimately rising to the position of director of Northeast Tech Prep, a consortium of community colleges and secondary schools. She also created Call to Parents, an outreach program, empowering parents to help their children prepare for and complete postsecondary education.

The Odyssey Award

Recognizing alumni who seek to exemplify OU's motto "to seek courage and knowledge"

Heidi Van Arnem BGS '89
(Awarded posthumously)

CEO and Founder of "iCan!," Heidi Van Arnem passed away in 2001, leaving a legacy that has been nationally recognized. Following graduation, Van Arnem established Travel Headquarters, an agency specializing in solving the travel needs of wheelchair users, the Heidi Van Arnem Foundation, which raises funds for spinal cord research, and, in 1998, iCan.com, a highly acclaimed Web site for the disabled community. Van Arnem's odyssey began at age 16 when a gunshot rendered her a quadriplegic.

The Spirit Award

Recognizing exemplary volunteer service to Oakland University

Mike C. Palazzola SBA '78
Partner, Derderian, Kann, Seyfurth, & Salucci, PC

Mike Palazzola has been a member of the OU Accounting and Finance Advisory Board since its inception in 1992. He has chaired the board for the last two years, co-chaired the Accounting and Finance reunion committee and served as an alumni ambassador for two years. In addition, Palazzola has participated in the OU Mentoring Program, volunteered for the fund-raising phone-athon and for several years hosted a CPA Small Firm Tour Day at his firm. His support of OU has been described as "relentless."

The Honorary Alumnus Award

Recognizing non-OU alumni who have given outstanding service to the university

Richard B. Stamps

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Richard Stamps' 30-year career at Oakland University is distinguished by his inspirational teaching, student mentorship, participation and leadership in interdisciplinary and international initiatives, community outreach and scholarly activity. His work with the Ambassador Leonard Woodcock Legacy, 20 years as director of Oakland's China Study Tour, and his receipt of an OU Teaching Excellence Award, are just a few activities that exemplify the depth of his service.

George Wibby

(Awarded posthumously)

George Wibby passed away in December 2001 at age 90. A former employee of the American Red Cross, Wibby had retired after a career spanning 47 years. He was a past president of the Michigan Swimming Officials Society and the Michigan AAU. At Oakland, Wibby was a steadfast supporter of OU athletics, as a fan, contributor, fund raiser, instructor and coach. He established the Jewel Wibby Scholarship Fund in memory of his wife, served as an official for OU swimming and diving since the program's inception as a varsity sport in the 1960s and served as the OU golf coach for six years.

The OUAA would like to thank committee members Susan Evans, Garry Gilbert, Julie Granthen, Barry Klein, Al Mann, and Michelle Walk for their time and consideration in selecting these winners.

1960s

Dorothy Bodoïn CAS '64, MA '72 recently retired after teaching English for 32 years at Madison High School in Madison Heights. She published her first book, "Darkness at Foxglove Corners," in October 2001.

Patti Koenig CAS '63 is a school social worker at Western International High School in Detroit. Upon her retirement in June 2002, Koenig plans to move to El Salvador where she was a Peace Corps volunteer from 1969-72.

Michael Newlight CAS '69 is currently a vice president with Morgan Stanley in Bellingham, Wash. He also established the Greenlight Studio where he recently co-wrote and produced "TESLA!," a touring one-man show based on the life of Nikola Tesla.

1970s

Mary Baumgartner CAS '74 has been named manager of the Metropolitan Detroit Regional office of the American Lung Association of Michigan.

Rosaline Boone SEHS '75, MAT '92 was featured in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" 2000 issue. She was selected by a student of merit as a teacher who "made a difference" in the life of that student and is therefore acknowledged for excellence as a distinguished educator.

Cynthia I. Brody CAS '78 joined Comerica Incorporated as a vice president in the Corporate Legal Department. She recently celebrated her 20th Law School Reunion at Northwestern and joined the Northwestern Alumni Association Board as the Law School representative. She continues to serve OU as the chair of the Alumni Advisory Board of the Department of Political Science.

Leonard Elder SBA '72 has been named vice president of investments at the West Bloomfield branch of Robert W. Baird & Co.

Alexis L. Iveson CAS '75 is a second grade teacher at Bailey Lake Elementary School in Clarkston, Mich.

Gregory Miles CAS '74 was recently elected to an Oakland County Democratic Party vice chairman post. Greg and his wife, Lois, reside in Southfield with their son, Greg Jr.

Zim (Kim) Olson SECS '79 is researching the possible roles of "Logic Clocks" in complex systems such as physical, molecular, biological, organizational and informational systems, and their subsystem development.

Ann Ratterree SEHS '73 completed her master's degree in preschool/parent education at Wayne State University in 1998. She has been employed as a toddler lead teacher at the Oakland University Lowry Center for Early Childhood Education since 1999.

Kenneth Seibel SBA '79 is an employee of the U.S. Army civilian workforce at the Tank Automotive Command in Warren, Mich., where he helps prepare the plans to support our country's weapons systems.

Marlene (Gardiner) Stark MA '79 is studying at the Edgar Cayce Foundation in Virginia and writing a book about new perspectives on early civilizations.

Karen E. (Schneider) Thompson CAS '72 recently relocated to Presque Isle where she is the director of the Habitat for Humanity affiliate. She also is an assistant at Trinity Episcopal Church in Alpena.

Mark F. Vondrak CAS '76 is employed with Michigan Opera Theatre.

1980s

Colleen S. Daley SEHS '82, MA '91 recently opened a consulting business with fellow Oakland University graduate, **Marion D. (Brady) Turowski SEHS '87, MA '91**.

Joyce Jensen MAT '86 is a professor in computer information systems instruction at Oakland Community College.

Miriam H. Marton BGS '81 resides in Ann Arbor and has joined the Detroit-based law firm Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, where she practices in the bankruptcy department. She received her master's degree from the University of Michigan in 1986 and graduated summa cum laude from the Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University.

Julia Plevnia-Butkiewicz CAS '89 graduated from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry on May 12, 2001. She will be attending an Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency program through the United States Army at Walter Reed Army Hospital and Fort Meade in Washington, D.C., where she was recently promoted to captain. She has received the Delta Sigma Delta Award of Excellence in Dentistry, the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology Award, the Russel W. Bunting Award in Periodontics and the Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship Award.

Margaret (Donahue Bliesath) Risser MAT '86 is a literacy coach for Waterford Schools.

James Romzek SBA '81 was recently appointed leader of the corporate and real estate group at Howard & Howard Attorneys P.C., a Bloomfield Hills, Mich., law firm.

Martin Rosol BGS '89 earned a master of science degree from Rensselaer at Hartford in September 2001.

1980s *Continued*

Kevin P. Smith CAS '83 was recently promoted to senior partner, director of portfolio planning at J. Walter Thompson Advertising in Detroit. He travels around the globe on assorted assignments for Ford Motor Company. Smith and his wife, **Theresa Delpup-Smith SON '84**, reside in Troy with their two children, Emily (9) and Spencer (6).

Herbert A. Williams SBA '85, MBA '91 is a program manager for GMAC E-commerce Financial Tools.

1990s

Danelle M. Aboud CAS '99 has joined Hermanoff & Associates, a public relations firm in Farmington Hills, as an account executive. Prior to this, Aboud worked as an assignment editor at WKBD-TV.

Elizabeth A. Bard SEHS '99 is currently teaching first grade in the Detroit Public School system.

Christy (Hicks) Bowman CAS '97 is employed as a youth development agent with Michigan State University Extension in Oakland County. In 1999, she received the Common Ground Award from President Bill Clinton and Coretta Scott King in a White House ceremony. In 2001, she served as a videographer for a research team in the South African nation of Malawi that explored the impact of the slave trade.

Ren J. Carlton SBA '97 teaches accounting classes at Baker College and volunteers on the MACPA's Ethics Task Force. He also is developing his business, Dynamic Accounting Services, PC.

Marilyn Cibor MA '97 is teaching at Oakland University in the Upward Bound Program, Reading/Writing for Life.

Christian W. Fabian SECS '90 was promoted to partner in the Chicago law firm of Gardner, Carton

& Douglas. He practices in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, and corporate and securities law.

Daniel Gallina CAS '97 graduated cum laude from Wayne State University Law School in May 2001 and passed the bar exam in November 2001.

Matthew P. Karrandja CAS '97 is a technical recruiting specialist for ASG Renaissance.

Pete Loria SBA '93 is vice president of sales for Hometown in Livonia, Mich. He and his wife, **Lori (Pascaretti) CAS '92**, have three children.

Lisa (Marcantonio) Milligan SEHS '91 recently moved back to Michigan from Houston, Texas, and is working for the University of Michigan as an instructional designer.

Kelly A. Morgan SEHS '97 completed her MSA degree from Central Michigan University in December 2000 and is employed as a senior human resources representative.

Rebecca (Riddle) Pariseau MSN '95 is working as a perinatal clinical nurse specialist at St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland hospital in Pontiac where she has been involved in the development and implementation of obstetric care management tools and clinical pathways. She was instrumental in securing a grant for the start of a teen pregnancy program in conjunction with Healthy

Start that has served more than 100 teens since it's implementation one year ago.

Charles A. Peck MA '90 is currently the quality assurance manager for semiconductor manufacturer Infineon Technologies in Richmond, Va. He recently spearheaded a successful QS-9000 certification and leads statistical process control activities.

Mark A. Provo CAS '91 received the honor of Nationwide Commercial Council for outstanding sales and service achievement where he is employed. He and his wife, Tara, have two daughters, Kayla and Jessica.

Jill S. (Johnson) Putnam CAS '92 is currently working in the field of marketing in the automotive industry.

Susan A. (Reynolds) Robinson CAS '91 obtained her master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan and is a mental health therapist for Macomb County.

Frauke Salewski SBA '96 moved back to Germany to pursue a career in sales in the IT industry. She is recently engaged and planning a 2002 wedding.

Amanda J. Smith CAS '97 received her law degree in June of 2000 and is currently a lawyer working for the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas.

You can help make the Class Notes section of *Oakland University Magazine* more fun and complete by sending a recent photo of yourself (color or black and white print or negative) with your Class Notes submission. If you have a digital image with a resolution of at least 300 dpi at 100 percent of usage, please feel free to e-mail your image to cmcarpen@oakland.edu with your name, school or college attended (e.g., SBA, CAS, SEHS, etc.), and your date of graduation.

Helena D. Sutter SEHS '99 is currently teaching second grade in the Centerline Public School system.

Alan Terlep CAS '94 is enrolled in a History of Christianity doctoral program at the University of Chicago Divinity School. He taught his first college course in 2002 at the Catholic Theological Union Summer Institute in Chicago.

Timothy Veitengruber CAS '96 is a senior project manager with the Energy/High Technology/Telecommunications Strategic Business Unit of Market Strategies, Inc., in Livonia, Mich.

Michael J. Vogel CAS '93 was recently promoted to vice president of D'Arcy Advertising and works on the General Motors Cadillac brand.

Cynthia Williams CAS '99 has been promoted to account executive at Bianchi Public Relations, Inc. in Troy.

Kathy (Facione) Yakubison SEHS '98 was promoted to senior instructional system designer working in distance learning at Raytheon Professional Services.

Ellen R. Zehnder CAS '93 is currently earning her master's degree in Civil War studies.

2000s

Kristen Anderson MA '00 is working in a public school where she is in charge of the career center and career counseling.

Curtis A. Glatter CAS '00 has relocated to San Diego where he is employed at Hostelling International, a nonprofit organization, and is a critic for the San Diego New Music Newsletter. He is currently a member of the Center for the Promotion of Contemporary Composers, Percussive Art Society and the San Diego New Music Society. He also worked on a commission for the Camarada Ensemble which premiered in April 2002 and

will be performing music for a silent film called "Vampyr."

Angela S. Griffin SBA '00 was promoted to programmer for the UAW-DaimlerChrysler National Training Center.

Julie (Rogers) Hall SEHS '01 is working with the United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

Amanda Mercer SEHS '01 is an employment specialist at Project Transition in Detroit where she facilitates two employment-based classes to prepare individuals for the job market.

Engagements/Weddings

Raymond Dalton MA '74 married Cheryl Benes on October 20, 2001, at St. Matthias the Apostle Catholic Church in St. Louis, Mo.

Elizabeth (Bowser) Francis SEHS '99 married Christopher Francis on October 13, 2001. She is employed with Lake Orion Community Schools as a Title 1 teacher for first-graders.

Robert S. Flanagan CAS '97 married **Jenelyn Gifford SEHS '99** in July 2001.

Daniel Gallina CAS '97 married Karen Bratke in May 2000.

Margaret (Donahue Bliesath) Risser MAT '86 married Richard Risser on October 7, 2000.

Robert R. Snell CAS '96 married **Sally J. Tato CAS '96** on July 21, 2001. They reside in Northville, Mich. The Snells met while working on the *Oakland Post* at Oakland University. Sally is a reporter at the *Detroit Free Press* and Robert is a reporter at the *Lansing State Journal*.

Mark C. Thurber CAS '89 married Carol Lynn Platell on April 28, 2001. Mark is the vice president of research at ND Industries in Troy.

Births

Laura L. (Croff) Duncan CAS '90 announces the birth of her son, Noah, born in January 2001. He joins his brother, Terrance.

Lisa A. (Dudaryk) Jensen CAS '88 and her husband, Mark, announce the birth of their first child, Nathaniel Allen, born Dec. 28, 2000.

Lisa (Bielenda) Luzynski MS '97 and **Gerald Luzynski SECS '95** announce the birth of their daughter, Lauren Nicole on, Nov. 8, 2001.

Lesley N. (Toto) McCowey CAS '93, MA '95 and her husband, Gordon, announce the birth of their daughter, Gina Rose, born Jan. 17, 2001. Lesley works as a training and development coordinator at Raytheon Professional Services in Troy.

Jeffrey Zielinski SECS '92 and his wife, Kristin, announce the birth of their son, Noah Michael, on Nov. 8, 2001.

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