

Thursday, August 20, 2015

## President Hynd recaps 'freshman year'

As Oakland's former Student Congress President Annie Meinberg so wonderfully phrased it, my "freshman year" with OU has been one of the most memorable experiences of my life.

This first year was highlighted by the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine accreditation, their highly successful Match Day and graduation of the charter class.

It was an honor to participate in the May 15 ceremony where 47 graduates – who achieved residency placement at locations of their choice – were hooded by Founding Dean Robert Folberg and their faculty mentors. We are grateful to the physicians in this charter class for their thoughtful input into the OUWB School of Medicine curriculum and facilities design. We encourage them to share their medical school experiences out in the world and come back to share their stories with us.



*As he reflects on his first year at Oakland University and looks forward to the 2015-2016 academic year, President George Hynd addresses incoming freshmen during their orientation.*

This year, I was also humbled and proud to be formally inaugurated as OU's sixth president. I am grateful for such a warm, enthusiastic welcome. From our Board of Trustees to local leaders to fellow academics and Gov. Rick Snyder, the list of those who shared their good wishes motivates me to work with the Oakland community in the interest of enhancing the lives of the individuals we serve.

As I enter my "sophomore" year at OU, I am committed to enhancing Oakland's status as a first-choice destination for college-bound high school graduates in the metropolitan area we serve. My focus will be on making our presence widely known and respected as a metropolitan university with a global perspective. This means we will continue to serve as a resource for neighboring communities by participating in initiatives that foster the development, exchange and application of knowledge and talent.

A perfect illustration of OU as a metropolitan university is our partnership with the Oakland County Health Division on behalf of the Healthy Pontiac, We Can! (HPWC) coalition. OU Assistant Professor of Health Sciences Jennifer Lucarelli, Ph.D., chairs the coalition.

In 2014, the coalition received a substantial funding increase with a three-year, \$1.95-million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Dr. Lucarelli is principal investigator for the grant, which she says is intended to reduce chronic disease and mortality rates by adding more produce markets, bringing in the Gleaners Fresh Food Share program, expanding the Healthy Bites program to cafeterias and storefronts, creating a non-motorized master plan for the city and increasing the amount of physical activity during the day in Pontiac Schools.

◁ Extending Oakland's beneficial impact globally includes preparing our students to live and work in a global economy through study abroad. To

### **MEDIA:**

**WWJ Interview**  
**WJR Interview**

The Oakland Post (first week of Sept.)

### **TWITTER CHAT:**

On Thursday, Aug. 27 from 11 a.m. - noon, President Hynd will be taking over the [@oaklandu](#) Twitter account to talk about the upcoming academic year. During the one-hour chat, he'll be answering

that end, one of my goals for the University is to substantially increase our students' access to study abroad scholarships. Longtime Oakland friend Patti Finnegan Sharf, who travelled much of the world with her late husband and OU friend Steve Sharf, responded and committed \$550,000 toward scholarships for study abroad programs.

questions about new and ongoing initiatives. What do you want to **#AskHynd?**

Closer to home, I have an invitation for our faculty, staff, friends and especially for our alumni. Of more than 100,000 of you, 70 percent choose to stay here in Michigan and contribute to the economic health of our state. This fall, I invite you to come home to OU Sept. 18-20 to celebrate nearly 60 years of Pioneer and Golden Grizzly spirit.

The **2015 Homecoming & Reunion Weekend** is a chance to reconnect with your classmates, professors and friends with food, music and activities at the Elliott Tower, a Milestone Reunion Brunch, a dance at sunset, and so much more.

I'll be there, "wearing the bear." Will you?

Sharing the Golden Grizzly spirit,

George W. Hynd  
President