

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | Fall 2010

Inside
On the upbeat
Rocket man
Here comes the Net Generation

Legends of
The Hall



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OOU

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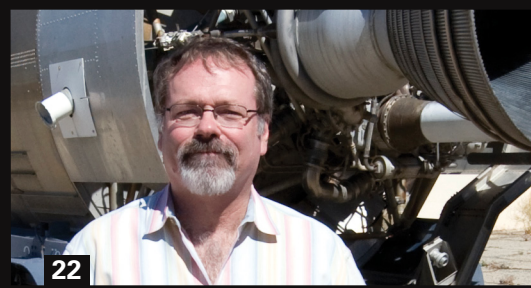
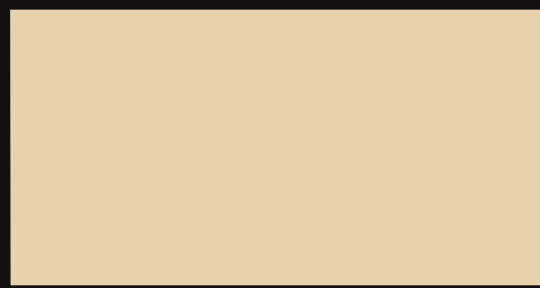
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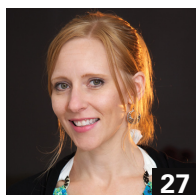
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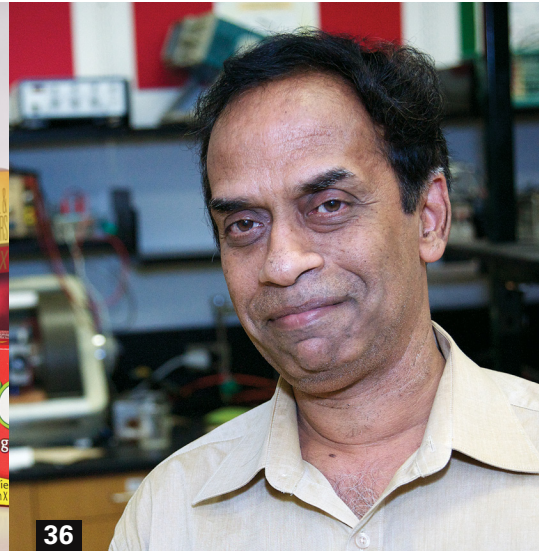
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Behind the stories



There are many beautiful college campuses in this country, but how many of them can boast of having a castle? Probably not many, I'd guess, but Oakland University can. The Meadow Brook Hall is 88,000 square feet of Tudor-inspired beauty and the former home of OU's founder, Matilda Dodge Wilson, who regarded the 110-room mansion as a testament to an important family and as a grand piece of architecture.

Today, Meadow Brook Hall remains a place of timeless splendor ... and also mystery. Much as its sumptuous setting has inspired its many guests and visiting celebrities over the years, The Hall has also fed into the public imagination and provided fodder for ghost stories and myths. Our cover story peers beyond the elegant façade to explore some of the legends surrounding the stately Hall.

Our readers may also find sources of inspiration in the stories featured in this issue. Alumnus Douglas Talley, for example, is working to develop rocket propulsion systems that may be used in this nation's space program. Suzanne Clarridge, meanwhile, is focused on more terrestrial matters, smartly matching customers with hard-to-find products via the Internet.

Here on campus, Distinguished Professor Gopalan Srinivasan is researching how to create new composite materials for various uses. We also examine some defining traits of the new generation of incoming students, poised to place their own stamp on history.

Matilda, an ardent historic preservationist, once said, "Knowledge of the past helps people face the challenges of the future." As OU moves forward into this new decade, we're confident she would be pleased with the university's reverence for its past — as embodied in its immaculately preserved treasure, The Hall — and its focus on preparing students to meet the challenges of a new era. In that spirit, we offer a salute to the students, alumni and faculty who help maintain the luster of OU and are busy creating its legacy for future generations.

Kevin Knapp

Kevin Knapp
Editor

Welcome to *OU Magazine's* Letters section. If you've read us in the past, you know we like to hear from our readers. Sometimes they comment on stories, sometimes they just drop us a line to share experiences they've had at OU. In this issue, we're happy to share some fond memories of OU and some comments about last issue. Drop us a note. We'd like to hear from you, too. oumag@oakland.edu

– LL



More MTD!

As a graduate of OU I really enjoy reading the *OU Magazine*. It is interesting to see what fellow-alumni have accomplished over the years. I was curious, however, as to why the MTD department gets no coverage at all? There is a rich and lively arts community over in Varner Hall, and I think a lot of alumni, staff and friends know nothing about it. The students are immensely talented, the professors and teaching staff are incredibly dedicated and I think it is time that this university starts to acknowledge this in all of its publications. I hope to see some great stories about the MTD department in the very near future. (p.s. I am an alumni AND a proud MTD parent.)

Elizabeth Becker, CAS '86
Auburn Hills, Mich. ●

Editor's Note: We agree! MTD is truly a rich and exceptional program, however, space is always limited in the magazine for coverage of the many wonderful programs and offerings at OU. For all those MTD fans — check out Ari Hajek's story in this issue. – LL

inseparable throughout the school year, and Oakland University felt like a home we shared together. Naturally we created memories and developed sentimental feelings towards many places on the beautiful OU campus, and these feelings are still strong to this day.

So when planning our wedding day, we both agreed on what a wonderful idea it would be to go back to where it all started, four years earlier. On October 17, we got married. Afterwards, we made a much-anticipated stop at Oakland University in front of Kresge Library. We treasure these photos so much and wanted to share them with OU.

Thank you so much to Oakland University, not only for the great education both my husband and I received, but for the feeling of community and belonging while living both on and off campus. (My mother-in-law's caption for the photos: "Get more than a great education at OU.")

Joe, SECS '08, and
Sarah, SEHS '09, Zick
Auburn Hills, Mich. ●

recognized family system therapy approach to effective family counseling. Kudos also to OU super volunteers/ community supporters like Patricia Hartmann from Birmingham, who helped in many ways to improve/enhance the OU campus.

Richard Thibodeau
Waterford, Mich. ●

He likes us!
Kevin,

Nicely done! What a pleasant surprise to see such an imaginative layout on only two pages. I have already received two calls from some local alums. Thanks again.

Colin Campbell, CAS '00
San Francisco, Calif. ●

Editor's Note: This came in an e-mail to our Editor, Kevin Knapp, and we thought it worth sharing here. Campbell was featured in a story by Alice Rhein in the last issue of OU Magazine for his photographs of the Berlin Wall coming down in 1989. – LL

Fond memories of OU

I received the Oakland University Spring/ Summer 2010 magazine a couple weeks ago, and I wanted to share a few photos and commentary. My husband and I met in a class we

had together in South Foundation Hall in September 2005. We both lived on campus, he in the student apartments and I in Hamlin Hall. We were pretty

Family ties

As an Oakland County resident with lots of ties to OU (wife and daughter graduated from OU, sister attended OU, two kids still enrolled and taught a course at OU), I have lots of super memories on campus and respect for what OU has contributed to our community.

Kudos to the late OU Professor of Economics and Management Robbin Hough, who pioneered lots of firsts in contributing to community improvement. He brought onto the OU campus outstanding national educators like Dr. James Alexander (University of Utah), who demonstrated his nationally





New Clinical Nurse Leader Program

To help prepare nurses to serve as innovative leaders in a variety of health systems, OU's Board of Trustees has approved a new program, Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) in the Master of Science in Nursing degree track.

The program will train students to evaluate patient outcomes, assess risk and change care when necessary. It will also strive to improve the health of diverse populations by monitoring patient safety, providing care coordination, and determining and supervising care for patients with the latest innovations in care delivery. The aim of the program is to equip CNLs with the problem-solving skills that will help them in leadership roles across a range of health-care settings.

"We project the need for nursing leaders will grow in the coming years, due to the nation's aging population and increasing demand for high-quality care and safety measures," explains Diane Norris, Ph.D., R.N., associate dean and assistant professor of Nursing. "This new course will help to bridge the potential gap."

She says the program's official start date has yet to be determined, though it could launch as early as winter semester of 2011. ●

Partners in perfect harmony

This fall, students of all ages who are interested in classical music and jazz will be able to participate in music classes through OU's Preparatory Division and the Pincus Music Education Center that adjoins Detroit's Orchestra Hall. Participants also can receive private lessons from highly accomplished musicians affiliated with the DSO and OU, as well as participate in music

ensembles organized by the DSO's Civic Youth Ensembles program.

While OU's music programs and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra have long maintained a strong affiliation, the new partnership coordinates various aspects of music education more seamlessly than ever before.

In creating this new music educational opportunity, organizers have emphasized the role peer-supported learning, discipline and dedication to achieving one's goals play in enhancing musical knowledge and skills.

"The DSO is one of the world's finest orchestras. That they have chosen to affiliate with us brings both honor and prestige, and means a great deal to our faculty and students," says Jackie Wiggins, chair of OU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. ●

Gallien joins SEHS as new dean

OU's School of Education and Human Services (SEHS) welcomed a new dean this past summer. Louis Bertrand Gallien Jr., Ed.D., a Detroit native, returns to Michigan from the Regent University Graduate School of Education in Virginia Beach, Va., where he served as Distinguished Professor of Education and program chair for the Department of Higher Education Leadership.



Louis Bertrand Gallien Jr.

At OU, Dr. Gallien says his goals include seeing the university expand its prominence beyond the state lines.

"There is such a broad vision for this university as a whole," he explains. "Oakland is primed to draw new students and recognition from the national arena. I'm very excited about OU's future."

Throughout his career, Dr. Gallien has been awarded numerous grants to research higher education on the global level. He has earned several awards for his teaching, research, and service, and has been recognized for his commitment to fostering diversity in all levels of education.

Dr. Gallien's primary research focus has been on multiculturalism and pluralism with special reference to African American pedagogy, culture and history. As a scholar, he has published and presented his findings extensively, and has authored three books and more than 40 reviews in print. He was also named the Chancellor's Faculty Member of the Year in 2006. ●

Meadow Brook Hall is 2010 Best Outdoor Venue

Recognized for years as a unique location for weddings, corporate events and more, Meadow Brook Hall has been awarded the Best Outdoor Venue by *Michigan Meetings and Events* magazine in their 2010 Annual "Best of" Industry Awards.

The Hall has been the runner up for the award in past years, but has never claimed the honor until this year. As the fourth largest historic house museum in the country, The Hall boasts extensive grounds and 14 different gardens. Throughout the year, Meadow Brook Hall holds several large-scale events and is host to a growing number of weddings, meetings, corporate events and golf outings.



The award's recognition was particularly prestigious, as The Hall beat out other popular Metro Detroit locations, such as the Detroit Zoo and Greenfield Village. It was also recognized as the runner up for the Best Meeting and Event Space within metro Detroit. ●

Henry Baskin named new board chairman

The OU Board of Trustees has elected Henry Baskin to a two-year term as the board's chairman.

Baskin, founder and principal of The Baskin Law Firm, P.C., of Birmingham, Mich., has served on the OU board since 1996, when he was appointed by then-Gov.



Henry Baskin

John Engler. He was re-appointed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm in 2004. Baskin previously served as chairman from 2002 to 2004.

"This is a pivotal time for higher education in the State of Michigan, as well as Oakland University itself," Baskin says. "Over the next two years, our board will be faced with continuing challenges, such as tuition, budget and funding and the polarizing effect of 'for-profit' institutions."

He says the board intends to meet such challenges and help promote the university's growth by increasing qualitative core programs and through the recent addition of the medical school and the new multimillion-dollar Health Sciences facility.

"We will also seek to collaborate with other state universities to meet the challenge of diminishing future aid," he adds. ●

Totally tubular

A barren plain with an array of snorkel-like tubes jutting ominously from the ground. A scene from a sci-fi flick? No, it's the cutting-edge geothermal heating and cooling system that will lie beneath the parking lot of the new Human Health Building under construction on the northwest corner of campus.

A grid of 256 wells was laid out at the site of the \$65-million complex, which is scheduled for completion in 2012. The plastic tubes form a system of 15 circuits that will operate on a pump that heats and cools the new building.

A geothermal system works by tapping into the heat retained naturally within the earth's upper crust. Even in cold weather, the ground 10 feet below the surface maintains a constant temperature of about 55 degrees. Modern heat pumps allow this heat and energy to be transferred to a liquid contained in the plastic tubing, which is converted for use in heating/cooling systems. The system is both highly efficient and energy-smart.

Jim Leidel, OU's energy manager, says the project is OU's first "green" building as a new-construction project, which will also include a roof-mounted, solar thermal hot-water cluster to provide dehumidification of ventilation air in the summer.

OU was awarded a \$2.7-million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to install the geothermal system with the aim of reducing energy-related carbon emissions and energy costs. The funds are part of the federal stimulus package. ●

Art Gallery celebrates 10 years

The OU Art Gallery in Wilson Hall recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary with a survey of works by many of the artists who have been featured over the past decade.

The show, *Ten Years of Contemporary Art at the Oakland University Art Gallery*, also marked the 10-year anniversary of the leadership of Dick Goody, who has organized more than 60 curatorial projects and more than 30 contemporary art exhibits, including the editing and/or writing of accompanying catalogs.

"Dick Goody has been directing the OUAG during the time that we brought studio art back into the curriculum," says Ron Sudol, dean of the CAS. "Today, it is a premier space for viewing and talking about contemporary art."

He notes that many of the artists who have exhibited at OUAG have gone on to participate in world-renowned invitational art events, such as the Whitney and Venice Biennials. The OUAG (formerly the Meadow Brook Art Gallery) joined the Department of Art and Art History in September 2000.

The gallery is open every day except Mondays, from noon to 5 p.m. It also is open evenings during Meadow Brook Theatre performances. All exhibitions are free of charge. ●





OU wheels out improved Bike Share program

The bikes are back. OU's Bike Share program, introduced as a pilot program last year, has been re-launched with an upgraded bicycle fleet. Sixty new aluminum-framed sidewalk cruiser-style bicycles have been purchased for use by students, staff and faculty to cover distances on and off campus deemed too far to walk.

They offer a free, eco-friendly and convenient mode of transportation that reduces on-campus vehicle traffic, decreases parking demand and reduces fuel emissions, all while promoting physical fitness and a sense of community.

The lightweight, unisex-designed bikes feature a single-speed and coaster brakes, which will help contribute to lower maintenance, a key goal of the program, according to Greg Jordan, director of Campus Recreation.

"The bikes we used in last year's pilot program were donated or simply reclaimed from abandonment at the dorms," he says. "Reliability, however, was poor, as we frequently had to maintain them, so their efficiency was an issue."

Jordan says he and members of Student Congress collaborated on selecting a fleet of new bicycles that would better serve OU students.

"We looked for user-friendly, durable bikes that would survive the outside elements in Michigan," explains OU Services Director Brett Mclsaac. "We also wanted a bike that had a distinct look and color which everyone will recognize as an OU Bike Share bike."

Bike Share is based on successful programs at other colleges and universities and works on the honor

system. Users are charged with helping to keep the equipment in good working order and available to others. The bikes are to be used only on campus and will be stored during the winter months. Additional bike racks will be located around campus and more may be added, as needed, says Jordan.

Candice Yono, OU student and supervisor for Sustaining Our Planet Earth (SOPE), notes OU's Bike Share program helps promote both health and the environment by encouraging students to ride bikes from building to building, as opposed to driving from class to class. "It also allows you to avoid the hassle and madness that can sometimes be found in the parking lots," she adds. ●

Photo by Jerry Zolynsky



Walking there? Take the Bear!

A new, free shuttle service has begun at Oakland University to provide safe, reliable transportation around campus and to the surrounding community, including nearby retail and entertainment venues. The Bear Bus program is available to all students, faculty and staff with valid OU IDs.

“As OU grows, parking continues to be at a premium,” explains David Tindall, assistant director of Residence Life. “The Bear Bus is designed to move students efficiently and safely around the campus and to shopping areas close by. It’s also an economical and ‘green’ approach to campus transportation.” He notes that the program is in its pilot phase this year.

Two shuttle vans provide a continuous loop around campus every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and on Thursdays from 9 am to 1 pm. Bus stops are located conveniently across campus (for a map, visit oakland.edu/ousc/bearbusroute).

A weekend shuttle service to stores and restaurants along the Walton Blvd. shopping corridor departs from Hamlin Circle every 30 minutes, on Fridays from 6 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2:30 a.m., and on Sundays from 9 am to midnight.

For more information on the Bear Bus, contact University Housing at (248) 370-3570. ●

Green and clean

Clean energy and sustainability are hot topics around the world — and OU’s School of Business Administration is no exception. SBA courses are helping prepare students to be a part of the drive toward a clean-energy economy, an initiative that is generating well-paying

jobs nationally. Between 1998 and 2007, jobs in the clean-energy economy grew at a national rate of 9.1 percent, while traditional jobs grew by only 3.7 percent.

SBA students are now being trained to be business and energy management authorities so they can take on the role of energy efficiency or greenhouse gas mitigation strategists. The goal is to help firms along the “energy journey” toward a cleaner environment, says Ravi Parameswaran, professor of Marketing, noting that Michigan — and Oakland County in particular — is poised to be an important part of this goal.

“Broadly speaking, where we have our best bets are in the transferring of automobile-related competitive advantages that can seamlessly be applied to new emerging industries, our vast reservoir of engineering and technology related expertise, and our superiority in designing complex mechanisms,” he explains.

Parameswaran says he believes OU is the perfect place to dive into the energy arena. “Given our location and human resources, OU has the potential to be a great source of skilled technical, entrepreneurial and managerial professionals.” ●

Cub College debuts

A new program designed to help middle and high school students in the metropolitan Detroit area prepare for higher education is under way at OU.

Cub College was created by the Department of Pre-College Programs as a way of helping younger students get ready for the ACT exam and acquire the skills for a successful college career. Launched last February, the program offers classes on the OU campus on Saturdays in core academic

areas, including study skills, literacy development and math skills.

“The Cub College is an idea we have been exploring for a couple of years,” says Reginald McCloud, director of Pre-College Programs. “The program is designed to serve the entire Metro Detroit community, including the children of OU employees and alumni.”

Classes in test-taking and study skills teach middle and high school students how to reduce stress and build confidence through proper planning and studying for exams. Literacy development courses for seventh- and eighth-grade students aim to improve reading skills and help them better comprehend, analyze and communicate ideas.

Cub College students can also enroll in math classes designed to help them develop problem-solving, critical-thinking and computational skills. Classes for middle school students focus on general math skills, while classes for high school students are devoted to beginning and advanced algebra.

Students can register for courses by visiting oakland.edu/precollge and clicking on the “Cub College” link. ●

Compiled by Kevin Knapp



OU receives Macomb building as gift from prominent developers

(Above) OU President Gary D. Russi and Sue Goepf, vice president for University Relations, present Gabe and Pat Anton and Stuart and Maxine Frankel with an OU pin and necklace with sapphires in recognition of their membership in the Golden Oaks Society.

Oakland University will expand its reach in Macomb County, Mich., when it opens faculty offices and classrooms in a two-story building in downtown Mt. Clemens. Prominent Macomb County investors and developers Gebran (Gabe) S. Anton and his Towne Square Associates partner, Stuart Frankel, donated the building, which is valued at approximately \$2 million.

The Towne Square Building, located at 20 South Main Street, will help Oakland University advance its commitment to bringing exceptional academic opportunities to the people of Macomb County.

“This donation is our gift to future generations of Oakland University students, administration and faculty who will enjoy all that our city has to offer and who will contribute to its growth,” says Anton, speaking on behalf of himself and Frankel.

Built in 1984 by Towne Square Associates, the brick and glass facility will offer OU 25,422 square feet of additional space.

Mary Otto, vice president for Outreach, says this will be used primarily to expand the number of classes and programs the university offers its students in Macomb County, but also will include office space for faculty and advisers who travel to Mt. Clemens to teach and meet with students.

“This wonderful gift couldn’t have come at a better time, given the tremendous growth we’ve seen in people looking to take advantage of the programs we now offer in Macomb,” says Otto. “OU has received nearly \$1.6 million in federal grant support from the Department

of Housing and Urban Development to renovate the building’s interior to provide classroom space, meeting rooms, faculty offices, study lounges and community outreach programs.”

In addition to Macomb2Oakland — a partnership between OU and Macomb Community College that produced the state’s first concurrent enrollment program — OU maintains a presence in the county with the Macomb University Center and through a partnership with the Macomb Intermediate School District that offers graduate, postgraduate, certificate and endorsement programs to teachers, administrators, counselors and others.

University officials anticipate that the donation will advance efforts to meet the educational needs of traditional and returning college students in the region.

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

On September 22, Anton and Frankel presented the keys to university officials at a ceremonial event in the new building attended by Macomb County community members, OU alumni, administrators and faculty.

“We are reinventing Mt. Clemens. Already we have the art and entertainment pieces of the city in place; now, with OU, we have the educational piece. The combination of these three things makes Mt. Clemens a dynamite downtown,” says Anton. ●



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



Former dean brings Kresge Library café closer to reality

Hunkered down for an extended session of studying in the Kresge Library, the last thing any OU student wants to do is leave the building to get a cup of coffee. To eliminate those kinds of disruptions, library staff would like to add a full-service, on-site café. A recent generous gift from retired Dean of Kresge Library Suzanne Frankie has helped bring that goal a lot closer to fruition.

"The No. 1 most requested service asked for by students is a café," says Julie Voelck, Kresge Library dean. "Many other universities have them on site at their libraries. It's a matter of ease and accessibility for our students, so that they can enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and a sandwich, and return to their research and study, all without having to pack up and leave the building. Suzanne Frankie's gift is an enormous boost in helping us make this happen."

Located in what is currently a student lounge just off the library's main entrance, the café will be an inviting place for students to gather, relax and recharge their intellectual batteries. It will offer a full-service coffee counter with espresso, latte and a variety of teas, as well as a refrigerated section stocked with sandwiches, fruit, cold beverages and other snacks.

"Time is so precious for everyone these days," says Frankie, "and a warm and inviting environment — with some comfort food thrown in — in the midst of the stress of studying and juggling busy lives is so important. I think the idea of an attractive, convenient café in the library is a brilliant idea."

Raising funds for the \$160,000 café has been a group effort. The library itself, through careful cultivation and management of funds, set aside \$70,000 for the project, and — in a strong show of student support — the OU Student Congress donated \$10,000.

According to the current OU Student Congress President Brandon Gustafson, the addition of the café will keep more students on campus and contribute to the community of OU.

"The Student Congress felt that this project was very valuable in the growth of campus life at OU, and it will make the library a more attractive place for students to study and get together with friends," says Gustafson.

Frankie's decision to contribute to the venture was sealed when she learned about the funding from the Student Congress. "The significant support that Oakland students have shown with their financial contribution — that more than anything indicates to me how much this is needed."

Although the contributions have been building, there is more to be raised. With a projected completion date of mid-fall semester, Voelck says she is requesting others to consider offering their support, hoping to receive all gifts toward the café by the end of the semester.

The café will exist as a partnership between Kresge Library and Chartwells, OU's on-campus food provider. In acknowledgment of OU's ongoing efforts to become even more ecologically responsible, the coffee will be supplied by a firm with a strong focus on sustainability, offering fair-trade and organic options, and a LEED Gold-certified roasting facility.

With the help of supporters like Frankie, students will soon have a welcome retreat inside the library, a place to regroup and refresh before diving into the books and online resources once more.

If you would like to learn more about the Kresge Library café and how you can help, please contact Dean Julie Voelck at (248) 370-2486 or jvoelck@oakland.edu.



Macomb-OU INC and network partners to grow with \$3M grant

The Macomb-OU INCubator is among the four partner businesses of the Business Accelerator Network for Southeast Michigan to benefit from a recent \$3 million grant awarded by the New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan. The funding will support the network over three years and its regionwide collaborative effort of attracting and retaining business.

The New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan (NEI) is an innovative philanthropic group effort dedicated to accelerating the transition of metro Detroit to an innovation-based economy. Along with Ann Arbor SPARK, Automation Alley and TechTown, the Macomb-OU INCubator will work collaboratively to share best practices, host events focused on addressing issues and goals that impact southeast Michigan, support business plan development and leverage funding to grow business in the region.

“Currently, we are in the learning phase of the collaboration where we discover and find out about the potential and opportunity that each incubator or accelerator brings to the initiative. We look forward to offering our expertise in defense and homeland security, advanced

manufacturing and alternative energy as our contribution to the initiative,” says David Spencer, Ph.D., executive director of Macomb-OU INCubator. “Additionally, we are pleased that Macomb-OU INCubator’s association as an alliance partner will put it in a better position to attract and serve even more defense sector start-up and growth stage companies. We also hope to further leverage state and federal funding to help bring business development and capital investment resources to the region.”

Collectively, the accelerator network has invested in 339 start-up companies, invested more than \$18 million, created more than 1,000 jobs and secured more than \$101.2 million in additional capital for the companies.

“This award supports NEI’s focus on building strong networks that support the development of a more diverse, knowledge-driven economy,” says David Egner, executive director of the New Economy Initiative. “An intensified level of collaboration among these outstanding business organizations will create a multiplier effect, reenergizing their existing initiatives and bringing about new and unparalleled cooperative

ventures. It sends a powerful message to business leaders across the nation that southeast Michigan is working in a smart, integrated fashion to grow its business community.”

The Business Accelerator Network for Southeast Michigan will support business development in the area through a variety of innovative projects and programs, which will be announced over the coming months. The alliance also will be responsible for identifying opportunities to create new and innovative programs and services for important regional entrepreneurship initiatives.

“Oakland University, is proud to be a partner in the Macomb-OU INCubator with the city of Sterling Heights and Macomb County, and we are very excited to now join with the New Economy Initiative, the Kauffman Foundation, Automation Alley, Ann Arbor SPARK and Tech Town in this alliance program to benefit entrepreneurs and investors in southeast Michigan,” says OU President Gary Russi. “Through this cohesive effort, we hope to further support and improve new business innovation and job growth for the entire southeast Michigan region.” ●

Compiled by Michele Jasukaitus



There's always something to do in Downtown Rochester!

**TRICK-OR-TREAT
AT THE FARMERS' MARKET**
Saturday, October 30

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, November 20

LAGNIAPPE
Monday, November 29

THE BIG, BRIGHT LIGHT SHOW
Monday, November 29, 2010-
January 2, 2011

KRIS KRINGLE MARKET
Friday-Sunday, December 3-5

CHRISTMAS PARADE
Sunday, December 5

ROCHESTER FIRE & ICE FEST
Friday-Saturday, January 28
and 29, 2011

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The Gold Standard

Barry S. Winkler, Ph.D., professor of Biomedical Sciences and longtime member of OU's Eye Research Institute, received the prestigious Distinguished Service Award from the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) at its May meeting. Since joining ARVO in 1972, Dr. Winkler has served in numerous leadership positions, including vice president in 2009. ARVO is the largest vision research society in the world, boasting 12,000 members.

Elizabeth Kraemer and **Shawn Lombardo**, associate professors of Kresge Library, along with **Frank Lepkowski**, associate dean of Kresge Library, garnered national attention as finalists for the second annual Scholarly Work on Teaching and Learning Award at the 2010 Teaching Professor Conference this past May. The three co-authored "The Librarian, the Machine, or a Little of Both: A Comparative Study of Three Information Literacy Pedagogies at Oakland University." One winner and two finalists were chosen from more than 100 submissions.

James T. Hansen, Ph.D., professor of Counseling, has published more than 35 refereed articles in leading journals and was recently noted as the third highest contributing author (over a 10-year period) to the *Journal of Counseling & Development*, a highly competitive national flagship journal for counseling professionals. During Dr. Hansen's recent sabbatical, he completed two manuscripts that were accepted for national publication.

Rajeev Singhal, Ph.D., assistant professor of Finance, and assistant professors of Accounting **Joe Callaghan**, Ph.D., and **Mohinder Parkash**, Ph.D., recently published one of the main articles in *Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory*. The publication is one of the top 10 accounting journals worldwide, and the article was entitled "Going-Concern Audit Opinions and the Provision of Nonaudit Services: Implications for Auditor Independence of Bankrupt Firms."

Peter Trumbore, Ph.D., associate professor of Political Science, recently served as president and president-elect of the prestigious ISA Midwest, which is the regional unit of the International Studies Association. The association is the primary professional organization for those studying international relations. Heading up the leadership team, Dr. Trumbore was responsible for overseeing and organizing the regional meeting and representing the region on the ISA's national governing council.

Cheryl Riley-Doucet, Ph.D., assistant professor of Nursing, is offering an innovative new technique to senior-level students. Doucet is teaching Motivational Interviewing (MI), an approach used by nurses and other health care professionals to help patients identify and

change unhealthy behaviors that may lead to chronic illness. Dr. Riley-Doucet, with the assistance of clinical nurse instructors, uses lectures and follow-up workshops to teach the four basic principles of MI: resist the righting reflex (avoid lecturing or admonishing); understand your patient's motivations; listen to your patient; empower and encourage.

Xiangqun Zeng, Ph.D., associate professor of Chemistry, has received three grants totaling close to \$2 million for her research on chemical and biosensors for mine safety monitoring, clinical diagnostics, and detection of explosive compounds. Dr. Zeng has built and maintains a fully funded, internationally recognized research laboratory that focuses on development of innovative chemical and biosensors. She has authored more than 42 peer-reviewed articles in prestigious publications, has two issued patents and three patent applications over the past 12 years.

Melodie Kondratek, associate professor of Physical Therapy, is researching outcomes of Percutaneous Myofascial Lengthenings (PERCS), a minimally invasive surgical procedure. Study participants have cerebral palsy and experience shortened muscles as a result. PERCS selectively releases the myofascia to decrease muscle tone and/or lengthen shortened muscles. The potential advantages include less post-operative pain, smaller incisions, outpatient vs. inpatient surgery, and immediate ambulation. Preliminary results include improved muscle flexibility, mobility, and gross motor skill performance. Co-investigators are: Ira Zaltz, M.D., (Beaumont Hospitals) and Susan Youngs, M.D., (Oakwood Hospital).

Barbara Mabee, Ph.D., professor of German, is currently co-authoring the eighth edition of *Kaleidoskop*, the most widely used intermediate college textbook for German in North America with Distinguished OU Professor Emeritus Jack Moeller. This past year, she served as president of the Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) and presided over their 41st annual convention at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. It was the largest convention in the history of NeMLA. She also served as interim director of The Honors College in 2009-10.

Krzysztof Kobus, Ph.D., associate professor of Engineering, was instrumental in creating OU's Clean Energy Research Center (CERC), a \$500,000 Department of Energy-sponsored program in alternative energy education. The center is directed by Dr. Kobus and focuses on researching combined heat and power, biomass energy and energy efficient systems. This fall, the CERC will install a biomass boiler on campus to research the most effective ways to densify renewable sources such as wood chips, switch grass, corn and other agricultural waste. ●



Kelsey Krych



Michael Coriasso



Liz Ecker

Softball team builds toward 2011

The young Golden Grizzly softball team posted a 17-37 record under interim head coach Jane Zimmerman, sophomore outfielder **Kelsey Krych** earned All-Summit League second team honors and set an OU single-season record with 34 stolen bases. Sophomore catcher **Leah DiCristofaro** led the Grizzlies with a .308 batting average, while sophomore first baseman **Kylie Schalz** knocked in a team-high 24 runs. ●

Men's golf finishes on high note

The OU men's golf team rallied in the final round of the 2010 season to salvage its first top-five finish in four seasons in The Summit League Championship. Coach Brian Costello's Golden Grizzlies posted the second lowest final round with a team score of 294. Sophomore **Michael Coriasso** led the Grizzlies in 2010 with a 74.8 scoring average and three top-10 finishes en route to earning All-Summit League second team honors. The Grizzlies' best team performance of the year came last fall at the F&M APSU Intercollegiate tournament in Kentucky, shooting even-par 864 to finish in third place. **Jakob Ziegler**, a 6-foot-6 freshman from Germany, was medalist for the tourney with an 8-under-par 208. ●

Injuries mar women's golf season

The OU women's golf team couldn't seem to catch any breaks in 2010 — that is, unless you count broken bones. Senior **Austin McDermid** (elbow) and freshmen **Alanna Gerber** (foot) and **Mara Kovac** (finger) all suffered fractures that hampered coach Brian Costello's Golden Grizzlies throughout the season. Prior to her elbow injury, McDermid shot five rounds of 75 or lower, had two top-10 finishes in tournaments, and was named to the All-Summit League first team. The

Grizzlies finished seventh out of 10 teams at The Summit League Championship on the strength of sophomore **Liz Ecker's** third-place finish with an overall score of 232 (77-78-77). She was named to the all-tournament team and All-Summit League second team. ●

Track and Field continues to grow

The Oakland University men's and women's track and field programs continue to grow and improve at a rapid rate since their 2006 debut as intercollegiate varsity sports. OU's men's team finished fifth at the 2010 league indoor meet, and its women's team placed fifth at the conference outdoor championship. Senior **Jason Bigelow** won the 1,500-meter run at The Summit League outdoor championship and went on to finish 23rd at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships. He also was a member of the league indoor meet champion men's distance medley relay team, along with seniors **Kevin Luce** and **Michael Flemming** and junior **David Magnotte**. OU senior **Zack Jones** won the 5,000-meter run at the league indoor meet. Sophomores **Breanna Peabody** and **Micah Jones** both had a pair of top-three finishes for the OU women's teams. Peabody was third in the 60-meter high hurdles at the indoor championships and in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles at the outdoor meet, while Jones took second in the high jump and third in the long jump, both at the league outdoor championships. ●

Strong finish for Grizzly baseball

The OU baseball team's mid-season turnaround featured an eight-game winning streak as the Golden Grizzlies won 17 of their final 27 games and qualified for the conference tournament

for the first time since 2006. Third-year head coach John Musachio's club finished with a 23-34 overall record and in fourth place in The Summit League. Junior second baseman **Tommy Jablonski**, who led the Grizzlies with a .364 batting average, and sophomore right-handed pitcher **Matt LaMothe** both were named to the All-Summit League second team. Pitchers **Kyle Teague** and **Connor Mielock** and outfielder **Tim Ryan** — all sophomores — were chosen to the league's all-tournament team. Junior **Aaron Wick** pitched a no-hitter against Southern Utah, only the fifth no-hitter in school history. ●

Women's tennis team struggles

The OU women's tennis team struggled through a 1-17 season, the highlight coming with a 6-1 win over Summit League foe Centenary in a match up that featured five singles wins, including four 6-0, 6-0 individual shutout victories. Sophomore **Caitlin Young** was the top winner for coach Heather Redshaw's Golden Grizzlies, winning five matches at No. 2 singles and finishing the season with four victories in her final seven decisions. ●





Jason Bigelow 2010 SUMMIT LEAGUE



Tommy Jablonski



Caitlin Young

Join the Varsity "O"

Oakland University's athletic tradition dates back nearly a half century, during which thousands of student-athletes have competed for the university.



To celebrate and recognize this rich legacy, all former intercollegiate varsity athletes are invited to join the newly created Varsity O association and gather for the first-ever Athletics reunion during Homecoming Weekend January 28-29, 2011. Student-athletes from all eras will be welcomed back in conjunction with the new Varsity O initiative to reconnect with alumni who have helped build Oakland's storied athletic programs.

"We have received a tremendous response to the Varsity O program from our alumni," says Tracy Huth, director of Athletics. "We want to reach out to our alumni-athletes and embrace our heritage. The upcoming reunion is an important step in recognizing everyone who has represented Oakland while wearing the Black and Gold and reconnecting with them in a meaningful way."

Former student-athletes can visit the Varsity O website to sign up, check out all-time rosters, read newsletters, update their information, and network with fellow alumni-athletes. This year's Homecoming Weekend will also include the Hollie L. Lepley Athletic Hall of Honor ceremony, which recognizes student-athletes and teams who were paramount to Oakland's success. For more information on Varsity O, call the Department of Athletics at (248) 370-4034 or visit ougizzlies.com/ot/varsity-o.

Grizzlies host holiday tournament

For the first time since the Athletics Center O'Rena opened in 1998, Oakland University will host a basketball tournament — the Lou Henson Award Tournament — when Rochester College, Eastern Michigan and Valparaiso visit OU on Dec. 20-21. For more information about tickets and starting times for the Lou Henson Award tournament games, call (248) 370-4000 or visit ougizzlies.com/tickets/oakl-tickets.html.

NCAA Academic Progress Report

The OU women's golf team scored a perfect 1000 for the second straight year to again earn the NCAA Public Recognition Award for academic success. In all, seven of the Golden Grizzlies' 18 intercollegiate sports teams rank higher than the national average institution. In addition to women's golf, they are baseball, men's and women's basketball, softball, women's cross country and men's swimming and diving.

OU third in Commissioner's Cup

Oakland finished in third place out of the 10 teams in The Summit League's Commissioner's Cup standings for 2009-10, behind nine-time champion Oral Roberts University and runner-up South Dakota State University. The third-place finish is the highest for the Golden Grizzlies since joining the league in 1999. The Grizzlies won league titles in men's soccer, men's basketball and both men's and women's swimming and diving. The OU women's basketball team tied for second place, while men's cross country finished third in the league standings.

All-Academic honorees

Oakland placed 140 student-athletes on the Academic All-Summit League teams for the 2009-10 winter and spring

seasons, the second most of any team in the conference for those terms. Oakland led the league for the fifth straight year with 202 honorees over the course of the entire academic calendar. Golden Grizzlies recognized on a national level include:

- Senior **Zack Jones**, named to the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District First Team for men's track and field and cross country for the second consecutive year.
- Sophomore **Lia Jones**, chosen to the U.S Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Women's All-Academic team.
- Freshman **Alanna Gerber** and senior **Laura Kwiatkowski**, named to the 2010 National Golf Coaches Association Women's All-American Scholar Team.

Success on tour

Brian Stuard, SBA '05, was one of 18 first-year players on the 2010 PGA Tour. He finished the season ranked 147th in tour earnings — eighth among rookies — with \$444,075 in prize money. The 28-year-old Jackson, Mich., native tied for second place at the 2010 Mayakaba Golf Classic at Riviera Maya-Cancun in February, shooting a 13-under par 271, two strokes back of the winning score.

Adrian Kowal joins staff

Former Eastern Michigan University compliance coordinator **Adrian Kowal** has joined the Golden Grizzlies' athletic staff in the same position. He will oversee compliance issues for Oakland's 18 intercollegiate sports.

Compiled by Fritz Reznor

Photos by Jose Juarez



Competitive edge attracts high-flying exec to OU

Already a high-level executive with more than 20 years experience in information technology, **Abdallah F. Shanti, SECS '93**, had enrolled at Oakland University to take a few graduate courses.

"It was purely out of interest," says Shanti, who, at the time, was vice president of global information technology at LucasVarity, PLC. "What I'd learned 10 years earlier about the field was almost obsolete. Being a corporate officer is challenging, so I wanted to get an extra edge."

A few refresher courses turned into a renewed passion for structured learning, labs and even homework. Shanti earned a second master's in computer science and engineering while he and his wife, Christina, who was a surgical resident at the time, raised two children — a son, now a sophomore at Western Michigan University, and a daughter, a high school senior.

"My wife is the brains in the family," he says. "When she was in residency, she worked so hard. That was a big driver for me to take classes."

Shanti, a native of Israel who earned his bachelor's and master's in information technology from Illinois State University, began his career with GM/Electronic Data Systems Corporation and later worked at American Axle & Manufacturing and Dana Holding Corporation.

Earlier this year, the 50-year-old Bloomfield Hills resident became the chief technology officer of Southfield-based ANXeBusiness, which focuses on providing network and information security solutions. ANX was recently named a "HOT Company" for 2009 by *Network Products Guide*.

In his current role, Shanti ensures that companies maintain operational integrity.

"When car companies communicate with suppliers, we are the infrastructure that connects those companies together," he says, adding that ANX also manages networks for health care, government and financial companies.

Shanti, an avid golfer and pilot who's been known to fly a Cirrus SR22 to meetings, says he has always gravitated towards larger companies, but finds it rewarding to be with ANX, where he can use his knowledge to further accelerate revenue and growth.

"In the last few years, we've learned a new reality," says Shanti. "No matter how big a company you are, you can still crash and burn." ■

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



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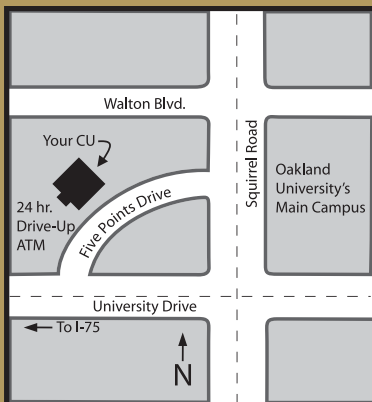
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Nursing's No.1 cheerleader By Michele Jasukaitus

Andrea Bittinger, MSN '96, BSN '89, calls Oakland University home for many reasons. She lived for three years on campus while pursuing her bachelor's degree in nursing; she was a member of the OU cheerleading squad; she met her future husband, Scott, while cheering him on as one of Oakland's leading basketball stars; and currently she is linked to OU in her position as the admissions coordinator of the Oakland University-Beaumont Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia.

"It's full circle now," says Bittinger. "I come to OU for meetings with the very professors that I learned from and admired. I am proud that they look to me to contribute and share information. I hope they feel the same way about me."

Her medical surgical nurse instructor, Frances Jackson, Ph.D., is an example of someone she enjoys working with. "She taught me, and now together we're giving back to nursing," adds Bittinger. "I enjoy impacting the future of nursing."



Bittinger believes that being a nurse is a calling. Her fondness for the profession developed when she was a kindergartner as a result of frequent visits to the doctor for tonsillitis but also from watching her favorite 1970s TV show, *Emergency*.

As coordinator of the OU-Beaumont Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia, she interviews potential students, looking for those who are academically promising and well rounded. To meet her criteria, they need to be motivated and focused professionals with two or three years of ICU experience and an undergraduate GPA of 3.6 or higher.

She also explains that they will be expected to dedicate 80-100 hours per week — every week — to the program for 28 months.

In addition to overseeing the program, Bittinger teaches the nurse anesthetist course one day a week where she emphasizes to students that they have to possess passion and compassion for the job.

Loving the job

In 1996, Bittinger earned her master's in nurse anesthesia as a student of the fourth graduating class of the OU-Beaumont Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia. Today, the Oakland University-Beaumont Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia is ranked 11th out of 109 programs in the nation.

"I cannot imagine doing anything else but this," says Bittinger, who spends one day a week working on the anesthesiology team in the operating room. "There is nothing better than reassuring nervous patients that they will be fine. And the very best part of my job is returning them from the operating room safely back to their families."

Bittinger's pride in nursing motivates her to generate awareness of the occupation by presenting at metro Detroit high school career fairs. On OU's campus, she reaches students in her role as an alumni admissions ambassador.

"I guess it's the cheerleader still inside of me that likes encouraging people to do their best," says Bittinger. "My students say I have a calming aura. I always want to be approachable and I also try to let people know where I came from."

Bittinger and her husband, who celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in July, have already started to encourage their three children to attend OU. They want them to experience the rewards that only OU can deliver ... and continue the Bittinger family tradition. ■



Andrea cheers for the 1984-85 OU basketball team.

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- Tailgating
- Casino Night
- 5K Fun Run and Walk
- Friday Night Life Comedy Show
- Hall of Honor Reception and Dinner

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Rochester Hills Mayor

Karen Newman, CAS '82
the "Voice of the Red Wings"

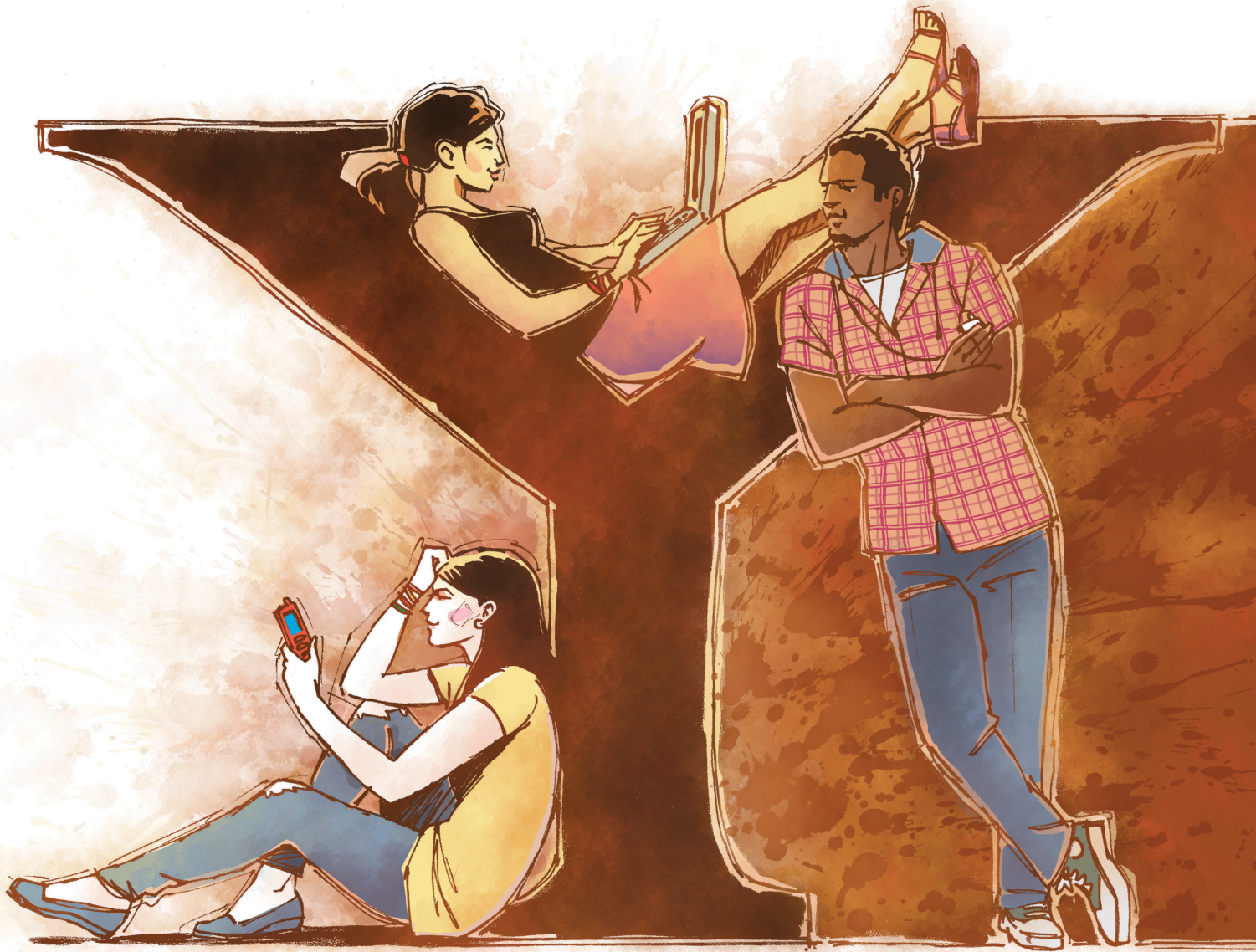
Leo Bowman, CAS '76
chief judge of Oakland
County's 50th District Court



Look for more details at oakland.edu/comehome.

Here comes the Net Generation

Today's students are diverse, connected and achievement driven *By Kevin Knapp*



The fall term of this new decade at Oakland University is ushering in a new generation of students — one markedly different from previous generations of students.

Most of those incoming freshmen are part of the Millennials, also called Generation Y, Echo Boomers, Nexters or the Net Generation, born between the years 1982 and 2002. Many of them are the children of Baby Boomers who, like their parents, view themselves as change-makers. Yet, most tend to identify with their parents' values and consider themselves achievement oriented.

One thing that separates them, however, is technology — lots of it. This is a generation that has grown up on a daily diet of high-speed Internet access, countless cable TV channels and high-tech cell phones. If they want information, they simply “Google it” and get answers in seconds. Need something done? Just download the app. As a result, it's a group that, on the whole, is thirsty for knowledge — but remarkably thin on patience and short on attention span.

OU student Courtney Rix, an orientation assistant with Orientation and New Student Programs, says her Millennial-era peers see themselves as a breed apart.

“We are definitely go-getters, and we’re much more tech savvy than our parents,” she says. “Overall, we’re also very confident, almost to the point of cockiness. Our generation has grown up with the expectation that we will automatically win and we’ll always be rewarded in the workplace. We are used to fairness and equality above all, so there is never a loser. We are also much more open to other religions, cultures, and sexual orientation, and we are very family- and community-oriented.”

Statistics show this is the most diverse generation in U.S. history: 34 percent are non-white or Latino. Their numbers are vast, comprising about 30 percent of the U.S. population today. And, without a doubt, it’s also the most connected generation, in constant social touch with friends via email, cell phones, instant messaging, and online video games. Finally, it’s a demographic that is contributing greatly to OU’s burgeoning enrollment, which currently is at a historical high.

So, with the start of a new school year, we extend a warm welcome to the new generation of OU students: diverse, connected, empowered — and ready to make a difference in the world. Just say Y!



E-learners

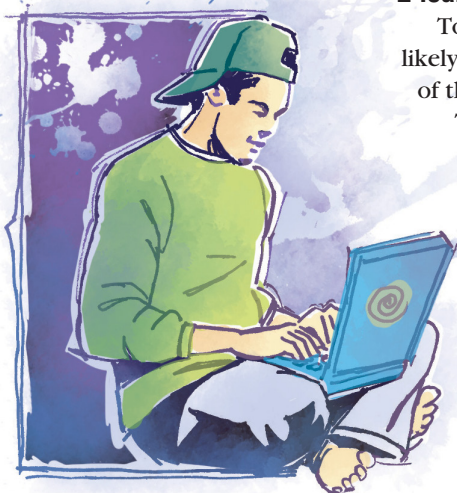
Today’s incoming students likely will receive at least some of their OU education online.

The Web-based delivery of academic courses at OU is a reality, thanks in part to the e-Learning and Instructional Support (e-LIS) unit, which was founded in 2004.

“Today’s students are very technologically oriented,” says Catheryn Cheal, Ph.D., assistant vice president of e-LIS.

“They feel just as connected to the university

through the Web as in a classroom and are more likely to participate actively and help to provide course content.” She notes the increased availability of online learning as one of the key drivers of OU’s growth — which has continued even in a down economy — by opening doors to students who cannot afford the time away from work or family to be physically in a classroom environment. “We’re making it more convenient for students to get the education they need to compete in a tough marketplace.” For fall term 2010, OU offers 177 individual online courses and 17 fully or partially online academic programs.



The pulse of the Millennials

For the traditional publishing industry, Gen Y is good. For the recording industry, not so much.

An informal, completely non-scientific survey at OU of Millennial-era students found that 98 percent still prefer hardback or physical books for pleasure reading over digital formats that are now available. However, less than half of the group had any desire to own a hard copy (compact disc, tape or vinyl) of their favorite recorded music, with most of it available as a download to their iPods or MP3 players.

On a daily basis, involvement in social media — Facebook, Twitter, blogs, etc. — is considered important or somewhat important to 91 percent of students.

When it comes to status symbols, about 44 percent said that wearing trendy or fashionable clothing was most important to their self-image, while 22 percent said that having the latest electronic devices (laptops, cell phones, etc.) was their priority. In stark contrast to their parents’ generation, only 9 percent of Millennials felt that having a cool car, truck or motorcycle was the key to elevating their status among peers.



Cafeteria confidential

Twenty years ago, hungry OU students might have expressed a hankering for chicken nuggets, turkey tetrazzini or maybe a trip to the taco bar. Today's students, however, are demonstrating healthier eating habits, according to John Miller, executive chef with Chartwells, which services the OU campus. He says the current top five most-requested food or beverage preferences are:

1. Ethnic foods
2. Healthy and light foods
3. Organically produced foods
4. Energy drinks
5. Coffee (in all its variations)

Major deal

The top 10 college majors in the U.S.A. today are:

1. Business administration and management
2. Psychology
3. Nursing
4. Biology
5. Education
6. English
7. Economics
8. Communications
9. Political Science
10. Computer and Information Science

(Source: Princeton Review)



Campus spirit

The OU Bookstore sales leader in campus spirit wear continues to be the “hoodie,” or hooded sweatshirt, according to Debra Ogg, store manager. For freshmen, it’s all about the trendy color (and yes, for girls, “pink still rules”) and less about the OU logo design. “That’s not as important to incoming students,” she says. “The logo becomes more important after you’ve been here a while, probably because you begin to feel more school pride or feel more invested in OU.” Alums, she says, still prefer crew-neck sweatshirts or zip-up styles with clean, traditional graphics.

Game theory

Electronic or video games loom large on the radar screen of today’s kids. In our informal poll, here’s how competing gaming systems rank with OU students:

- Xbox 360 — 43.5%
- Wii — 34.8%
- PlayStation 3 — 8.7% ■



Rocket man

Top scientist takes propulsion systems research to new heights *By Mary Gunderson-Switzer*



Douglas Talley, Ph.D., is an expert in liquid rocket propulsion, making him one of the few individuals around who can say, "Yes, I am a rocket scientist."

Most people experience some highs and lows in their careers. To Douglas G. Talley, Ph.D., that's entirely the point.

The OU alumnus has plunged into the ocean's depths in a nuclear submarine and now helps to probe the heavens as a top rocket scientist at a world-renowned research laboratory.

As a senior research physical scientist with the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory at Edwards Air Force Base in California, Dr. Talley is an expert in liquid rocket propulsion. It's as serious as business gets, but underneath it all, Dr. Talley is still the same fun-loving person who once climbed the walls at his Rochester campus dormitory.

"The walls in Hill House's hallways were really close together," reminisces Dr. Talley, "so sometimes we walked on them along the ceiling like crabs."

More than just the site of hallway hijinks, however, OU provided Dr. Talley with a solid foundation for a career that's taken off like... well, a rocket.

"It wasn't until my senior year that I decided on engineering as my field," says the multifaceted Dr. Talley, SECS '76, who says he struggled initially with finding a direction. "I also wanted to be a musician or a philosopher."

But hearing an OU engineering professor's words of wisdom struck a chord within him and helped set him on the path toward his life's work. "Professor Gilbert Wedekind would talk about breaking complex problems into small parts," Dr. Talley says. "That studied approach appealed to me and, really, that's what my later jobs have all been about."

Sub culture

With the right philosophy in mind and a diploma in hand, the new OU grad's adventure was about to begin — just below the surface.

Dr. Talley attended the U.S. Navy's nuclear power training and submarine school, then reported for duty in Hawaii, climbing aboard a fast-attack nuclear submarine to begin his four-year stint as an engineering officer.

"Being a Navy officer is a lot like managing 100 marbles on a table in high seas," Dr. Talley reflects.

The work was serious and it was in close quarters, but Dr. Talley didn't find it stifling. Instead, Dr. Talley's naval service gave him a breadth of experience, and diving beneath the seas beckoned him to pursue deeper levels of understanding.

Returning to school to complete a master's and doctoral degree in mechanical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, he went on to teach engineering for several years at the University of Michigan.

Then he looked up for his next challenge.

The sky's the limit

"We're a little like 'Rockets-R-Us,'" Dr. Talley says about the Aerophysics Branch of the Air Force Research Laboratory, where he's worked since 1991.

The Edwards facility, which sprawls across 65 square miles and is located in the Mojave Desert, has provided technology for nearly every rocket propulsion system that's been used in the past 50 years. Dr. Talley's area of expertise is combustion and heat transfer, and he's engaged in the research and exploratory development of liquid rocket propulsion.



“It’s interesting work because we’re dealing with the harshest environment in which to solve some very tough problems,” Dr. Talley says. “Typical measurement techniques and modeling approaches often don’t work.”

His challenge is to design innovative, effective design tools for liquid rocket engines through computer modeling and experiments in order to predict what will happen when there’s a change in various components in the combustion process.

“Many design problems aren’t discovered until the testing phase,” Dr. Talley explains, “then, if there’s a problem, things melt. Our job is to catch design problems early on, which saves time and money.”

Dr. Talley’s most recent project involves rocket combustion instability. As with the space shuttle, noise inside rocket engines can become so loud that the sound waves caused by the pressure of combustion can destroy an engine in seconds, he says. Dr. Talley is also interested in combustion instability in other engine types, such as turbines.

Dr. Talley frequently collaborates with other Air Force and Department of Defense organizations, with NASA and other government agencies, and with colleagues in various countries, industry, and academia. As editor-in-chief of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics *Journal of Propulsion and Power*, Dr. Talley is actively involved in keeping his colleagues up-to-date on the latest technology and research efforts. He recently was named a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

“I work with the greatest minds in the world — truly brilliant people — and I learn so much from them,” Dr. Talley says.

After 19 years in the world of rocket science, Dr. Talley remains fired up about his work.

“I’ve got the greatest job in the world,” he admits.

He even has the “*As a matter of fact, I am a rocket scientist*” t-shirt to prove it. ■

Mary Gunderson-Switzer is a freelance writer from Warner Robins, G.A.

On the upbeat

Young percussionist aims to make a big bang in the symphonic world *By Cara Catallo*



His mind was made up. Nine-year-old Ari Rosenberg Hajek did *not* want to be a musician.

Even though his parents encouraged him to take up an instrument — his mother is a professional musician and instructor — Hajek resisted. “Reading pitches and things like that just freaked me out,” remembers Hajek, now 20. “I was more interested in video games.”

One day, his parents offered him a gold-plated piccolo snare drum, and threw in a computer game to sweeten the deal. The bribe worked. “Finally, I said yes,” says Hajek, who begrudgingly started music lessons. “I liked it, but it still wasn’t that important to me.”

Disinterested or not, one thing was clear: “It always came easy to me,” admits Hajek, who last year graduated in Instrumental Performance magna cum laude, with departmental honors, from Oakland University.

By middle school, a full drum set and other percussion instruments had joined the lonely snare. Soon the broad-ranging resonance of the timpani caught Hajek’s ear, and he began performing with community and youth orchestras, including the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, where he took part in “side-by-side day” with Brian Jones, the principal timpanist of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

“Up until that point, music was always a secondary thing for me. I was leaning toward being a plastic surgeon or a dermatologist,” Hajek recalls. “But when I saw Brian play, my world exploded. He looked so cool!”

After that, Hajek became more committed to music, he says, and studied with OU percussion instructor Dan Maslanka. In high school, he realized he wanted to take it a step further.

Booming interest

“I was joking with my mom, saying ‘I wish I could just go to college. I wish I could just go to Oakland,’” recounts Hajek.

As it turned out, the idea wasn’t so far-fetched. The 16-year-old percussionist left the Roeper School in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., to study full time at OU, receiving Talented Scholar and music scholarships to do so. Michigan State University also courted the young musician, but OU remained the school where the Rochester native wanted to study.

“It was so great to be at Oakland, working with people on a higher level,” recalls Hajek, who says he appreciated and benefitted from the personalized instruction and small class sizes. He credits instructor Maslanka — “one of the



best drum set artists in Michigan” — for teaching him how to survive as a musician, stressing performance diversity to be comfortable in various venues.

“I try to have my students be aware of playing as much as they can in as many situations as they can,” Maslanka explains. “Ari took that to heart. He has very high goals and aspirations, and I don’t doubt that he will reach them because he’s got the whole package, in terms of talent and intelligence and social skills. He’d be successful in any field he’d have chosen, but he was driven by his love of music.”

The beat goes on

Hajek finished OU after only three-and-a-half years and received three MaTilDa awards: the 2009 Outstanding Student in Jazz, for playing drum set in the jazz band; the 2010 Outstanding Students in Chamber Music, with the Percussion Pops group; and the 2010 Distinguished Musicianship award.

“Evidently, it was unanimous, so I was quite honored,” says Hajek, of the distinguished musicianship award, the highest honor an OU music student can receive.

Another honor for Hajek was to play with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

“The conductor said, ‘Hey Ari, you want to play with the DSO?’” recounts Hajek, who was, at the time, only a student musician with the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra. “So I played with them — and the sheer sound alone was exhilarating — not to mention the overwhelming musicality of the group. Everyone in the ensemble played on such a high level, almost nonchalantly. To me, it was very reaffirming: ‘OK, I’d like to do this.’”

While Hajek decides his next step — he aims to become principal timpanist of a major U.S. orchestra or enter graduate studies — he auditions and performs whenever he can, including playing with the Detroit-based Frank Zappa tribute band, Just Another Band From Detroit.

“It’s humbling to look over almost 40 charts, and say ‘wow, I can really play all of this.’ What’s even more gratifying is to realize how much of it I sight-read, and didn’t need to practice. Especially for me — someone who was once too scared to read pitches,” says Hajek. “I feel like I’ve taken back that part of my life, and extinguished that early insecurity.” ■

Cara Catalo is a freelance writer from Clarkston, Mich.

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First-time novelist pens a prizewinner

She was just 13 when her father died of cancer. The impact of this sudden loss on **Amy (Ballou) Ackley, SEHS '96**, was devastating.

Now, Ackley has turned her personal tragedy into a public triumph, winning an international fiction-writing contest that draws on her experiences in life and in Oakland University classrooms.

Ackley's young adult novel, *Sign Language*, the story of a teenage girl dealing with her father's cancer diagnosis and death, took the grand prize for the 2010 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Awards this past June.

Ackley's winning story — one of about 10,000 entries in what's been called "an American Idol for writers" — earned her a contract with Penguin Publishing, a \$15,000 advance, and the coveted right to call herself a published author.

"I never even dreamed I would get to be a finalist, let alone the winner," says Ackley. The married mother of two daughters, ages 11 and 8, and a 16-year-old stepdaughter, Ackley began

her novel years ago, writing at night or jotting down notes in the car when her girls fell asleep in the backseat.

Not bad for someone who isn't a writer by trade. Following her father's death, Ackley supported herself by working as a clerk at the Oakland County Sheriff's Department and Oakland County's 51st District Court in Waterford. Determined to get a degree in a field she felt would make her financially secure, she took night classes at OU.

"OU was great," she says. "I was able to work full-time and go to a good school at night, and I'm thankful for that."

Her degree in human resource development with a concentration in labor relations studies led to labor relations positions at GM and Chrysler. Now, as a writer, her OU experience also helps inform her characters. "A lot of classes I took during my studies dealt with psychology and interpersonal communication," she says, "and that carries into my writing."

Sign Language will be published in August 2011. ■

By Tammy Stables Battaglia, a freelance writer from Orion Township, Mich.

Legends of The Hall ...

By Lillian Lorenzi

Is Meadow Brook Hall haunted?

Did Frank Sinatra really perform here?

Are Dodge family members buried on the grounds?





Since the first students stepped onto campus in 1959, Meadow Brook Hall has been a source of fascination and curiosity. Many of our early alumni remember formal balls and other gatherings at the magnificent home with OU's founder, Matilda Dodge Wilson. Those who came later may have toured the home or attended events here or just heard about the legends and lore of Meadow Brook Hall. Let's see how much you know...



There is a family cemetery on the grounds.

Not exactly. Dolly Roan, Minnietta Hyland, Nora Belle, Martha Maria as well as Num-Num, Bambino and Tiger Rag were all buried on the farm. These are not family members, rather the prized pets and animals that lived on the Meadow Brook estate. In all, 120 animals including Belgian horses, hackney ponies, dogs, cats, cows and even a zebra are buried on a plot of land located on the old Dodge golf course, which is now occupied by OU's Katke-Cousins course. Matilda made sure each animal had a proper burial, insisting they were buried in caskets (wooden boxes) and a few even had headstones.

Meadow Brook Hall is haunted.

Maybe ... Some people have experienced "friendly encounters" of the ghostly kind over the years. Beatrice Whitaker, head maid at The Hall from 1929 to the 1950s tells this story: "One morning after Mr. and Mrs. Wilson had dressed and departed, I was arranging some books near Mrs. Wilson's bedroom. Out of the complete stillness of the house, I heard someone whistling, yet there was no one about! I looked all over, but found no one at the house."

Whitaker shared the incident with Mary (another staff person who had worked for Matilda for many years), who asked, "What did they whistle?" Whitaker didn't know the tune but after Mary's urging whistled it. Mary knew it instantly. "It was Mr. Dodge," she said. "Everything is alright."

John Dodge was Matilda's first husband. He died of influenza in New York City in 1920. On the morning in question, Frances (Matilda and John's daughter) and her mother had gone to court to finalize Frances' divorce. Mary felt the whistle was a sign from Frances' father. She explained that while living at the Dodge home on Boston Boulevard in Detroit, Mich., John Dodge, upon entering the home, would whistle and Frances would go running to him.

More recent encounters include: thumping heard in the attic ceiling; laughing heard in the fountain room; the piano playing in the living room.



There are hidden passageways inside The Hall.

Yes, there are several. The Hall has a secret staircase, hidden closets and a hidden room with a basketball hoop. Although not a full court, the large room is located on the entertainment level under the sun porch and can only be accessed through a narrow passage (the whereabouts are still

a secret!). Matilda's sons, Richard Wilson and Danny Dodge, often brought friends to the room to play. Richard loved taking his friends to the lower level, turning off the lights and seeing if they could find their way back to the first floor.





Albino deer roam the estate.

Not true. Animals of all types once roamed the grounds at Meadow Brook Farms. The Dodge and Wilson families had quite a collection from the domestic to the exotic. According to dated photos in The Hall’s archives, John Dodge had established a deer park on the property around 1913. The fenced-in park existed until the 1970s and was located near a small lake on the Dodge Golf Course (now part of the Katke-Cousins course). The photo shows a farmhand feeding a white deer, not an albino deer as legend has it. Each brown deer has a recessive white gene, and inbreeding among the fenced-in deer brought out the white gene. White deer are so rare that Native Americans called them “ghosts,” believing that they had magical powers.

The Hall is also known as the Dodge Mansion because John Dodge called it home.

Not true. Meadow Brook Farms was John Dodge’s second home. He never lived at The Hall, which wasn’t built until long after his death. Wanting a place in the country where he could retreat from the pressures of the manufacturing world, John came across a farm known as Avon Stock Farm in the rolling hills of Rochester in 1908. He told the owner, James Higgins, that he would like to buy it. Since he wasn’t really looking to sell, Higgins said he wouldn’t take less than \$50,000. John took out his checkbook and wrote a check for the full amount, buying the entire farm (including 320 acres, farm stock and furnishings) lock, stock and barrel. John and Matilda later changed the name to Meadow Brook Farms because of the small brook that ran through it. Matilda built Meadow Brook Hall (1926-1929) with her second husband, Alfred Wilson.



Clark Gable visited Meadow Brook Hall.

Not Gable, but Frank was here. In the early years, Joe Louis bought Meadow Brook Farms produce; Henry Ford attended Frances’ 1938 wedding; and Frank Sinatra and the Tommy Dorsey band performed for Frances’ 25th birthday party in 1939. However, Clark Gable never visited The Hall. One of Frances’ prized Pekinese dogs was named Clark Gable and was sold to Andy of the comedic duo Amos and Andy.

An interesting aside: John and his brother Horace often discussed private business matters on weekend retreats to the country estate. In fact, they designed the first Dodge automobile at the farm in 1913-14.

Celebrity Fact: Eminem, Shane Battier, Drew Stanton and Glenda Lewis were all married at The Hall.

Matilda died on a horse-buying excursion.

True. Matilda Dodge Wilson died of a heart attack in 1967 while on a trip to Belgium to buy new horses. Her Belgian horses were her pride and joy. The Belgian horse barn and several other significant structures from the original farm still exist on OU’s more than 1,400-acre campus. (A new film, *Forgotten Harvest: The History of Meadow Brook Farms*, is available in the museum shop.)





There is a miniature house on the grounds.

Sort of. Knole Cottage is the charming six-room, Tudor-style playhouse built for Frances' 12th birthday. The cottage was intended to instruct Frances in the art of homemaking: Every feature — from the bathtub to the gas stove — is fully functional. The playhouse includes a living room, dining room, bedroom, playroom, bathroom and kitchen, all with child-sized furnishings and appliances. Frances loved to entertain there and often served homemade biscuits and jam on her Limoges miniature tea set. ■



The Hall, Matilda and her family

Matilda Dodge Wilson

Dates: October 19, 1883 – September 19, 1967

Marriages: John Dodge, December 10, 1907. John died of influenza in 1920.

Alfred G. Wilson, June 29, 1925. They were married until Alfred's death in 1962.

Children: Matilda and John had three children: Frances (1914-1971), Danny (1917-1938) and Anna Margaret (1919-1924). Matilda and Alfred adopted two children in 1930, Richard (1929-) and Barbara (1930-).

The Hall

Groundbreaking: October, 19, 1926 (Matilda's 43rd birthday) Dedication event for Detroit society was on November 19, 1929, three weeks after the great stock market crash.

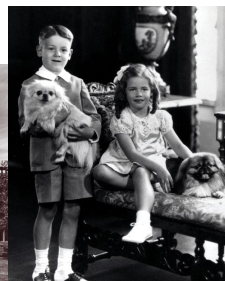
Size: 110 rooms, 88,000 square feet, making it the fourth largest historic house museum in the U.S. (larger than the White House)

Cost: \$4 million

Donated: In 1957, the Wilsons donated their residence, its collections, the estate's 1,500 acres and \$2 million to found what would become Oakland University.

Opened to the public: 1971

Website: oakland.edu/mbh ▲





"With these interns, many of whom we've hired, I fully appreciate the quality of students that graduate from Oakland." - Sue Kluge

Counting on success By Rene Wisely

Intensive financial planning and ensuring financial integrity is no small feat in any corporate setting, but it's a particularly tall order when you're doing it for the largest health maintenance organization in Michigan. For Sue Kluge, however, promoting quality in health care while maintaining a healthy balance sheet at Blue Care Network is her passion.

Kluge, SBA '79, is senior vice president and chief financial officer at Blue Care Network's Southfield, Mich., headquarters. She oversees all financial operations, including financial reporting and budgeting, asset management, financial modeling, insurance regulation and preparation of tax returns. It's a post she's held for 12 years.

"Being a CFO was a wonderful dream, and it came true," explains Kluge. "When you talk about achieving your dream job, a lot of it has to do with leveraging your strengths, having fun with what you do and being passionate about contributing and having an influence."

Before joining Blue Care Network, Kluge spent 13 years at health insurer SelectCare, Inc., in Troy, Mich. She began as a senior financial analyst and eventually became vice president of finance. Before that, she worked at Henry Ford Hospital for five years as an accountant and cost reimbursement analyst, while earning her MBA at the University of Detroit.

It's OU, however, that Kluge credits with helping her get to the top of her field. "Oakland gave me an excellent foundation for dealing with what I encounter every single day," she says.

Early lessons

One of her instructors, the late Paul Lorenz, a former executive vice president of Ford Motor Co. and benefactor of OU, gave her a taste of the corporate world when he assigned her to her first group case studies. "That's where I really learned how to work as a team member," she says. "In the corporate world, you have to interact with different departments and individuals who have varying talents, all for a common mission."

You also need confidence, drilled lecturer Marilyn Cooper, who taught accounting in the evening. "She was

an inspiration to me at a time when accounting was a male-dominated field," Kluge explains. "She helped me to build confidence and obtain a good foundation in accounting. We had a lot of discussions before and after class, and she became my role model."

Cooper, a retired vice president at Chrysler Financial Corp., recalls Kluge fondly. "She was exceptional. There were a few people who really take off and stand out," she says. "Sue was one of them because she really took to accounting and at the time, I believe she had another major."

Kluge, who grew up in northwest Detroit, had been studying to be a high school Spanish teacher but caught the accounting and finance bug while a sophomore at OU. She helped her church start a day care/nursery school. She handled the accounting and waded through the red tape to obtain nonprofit status. "I found I had an aptitude for numbers," she explains.

Now she shares that aptitude with her six grandchildren, ages 3 to 7 years old. "We play a lot of counting games," she says.

Several organizations benefit from her knowledge as well. Kluge is treasurer of Tomorrow's Child/Michigan SIDS, a non-profit organization that focuses on sudden infant death syndrome prevention and support. She also volunteers with America's Health Insurance Plans, the National Management Association and more.

"I'm not surprised that Sue's enjoyed such phenomenal success," explains Cooper. "She was highly motivated."

OU receives a significant chunk of her time as well. Kluge is a member of SBA's Accounting and Finance Advisory Board and the OU Alumni Association. Several times, Kluge has presented to the accounting and finance student associations, and she's helped students obtain internships at Blue Care Network, some of which have led to full-time positions.

"With these interns, many of whom we've hired, I fully appreciate the quality of students that graduate from Oakland," she says. "OU is a wonderful place without a doubt." ■

Rene Wisely is a freelance writer from West Bloomfield, Mich.



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Erika Hoffman-Dilloway has made six trips Nepal for what has become a life's passion — researching sign language.

In Nepal, breaking through the silence

A three-word course title she spotted during her freshmen year at Oakland University opened up the world for **Erika Hoffmann-Dilloway, CAS '00**. "Introduction to India" sounded collegiate, she says, so she enrolled — and that moment established the foundation for her life's work.

Hoffmann-Dilloway is a linguistic anthropologist and assistant professor of anthropology at Oberlin College in Ohio. Her research on sign language with the deaf population in Nepal has drawn notice across the field of anthropology.

That research has taken her to Nepal six times, where she's explored the relationship between the formal and ideological aspects of sign language standardization, the impact on a deaf person who was not exposed to language until after adolescence, and the groundbreaking process of using the Sutton SignWriting method to document a language that's often considered unrecordable.

"People always ask if I have a deaf uncle or have family in India, but it was nothing like that," she explains. "It's all serendipity, and it started with that first class. I have my dream job now, and I would not be in this position without the experiences I had at OU."

Hoffmann-Dilloway credits anthropology professor Peter Bertocci as being the catalyst behind her career. "I remember coming back from one of my early trips to Nepal and talking about it with him, and he pointed out that this is something I could do with my life."

Bertocci recalls her excitement and her drive. "She was very self-directed, dedicated and in the top 10 of all the students I've taught over the years as one of the brightest," he recalls.

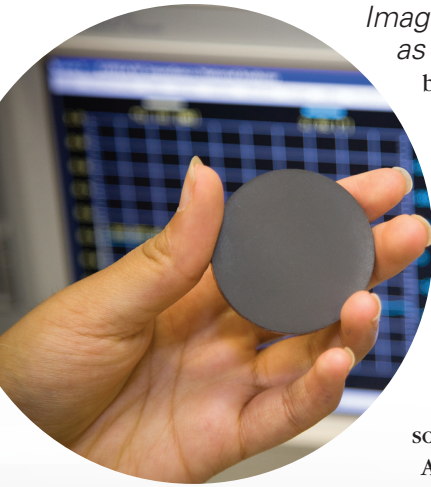
Hoffmann-Dilloway says Bertocci prepared her well for her master's and doctorate classes at the University of Michigan, as well. While working on the degrees, he also encouraged her to be a lecturer in international studies at OU.

"The class was the same one that caught my eye when I enrolled: 'Introduction to India.' See what I mean about serendipity?" she asks. ■

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

Mind meld

Distinguished professor sees a world of possibilities in innovative composites *By Amy Lynn Smith*



Imagine if there were no such thing as paste. Then one day you got the brilliant idea to combine two existing materials, flour and water, to create something entirely new. And then there was paste.

In simple terms, that's essentially what Gopalan Srinivasan, Ph.D., does in his research and development of what's known as "smart composite" materials. Except his work results in solutions far more sophisticated than paste.

A Distinguished Professor at Oakland University who joined the Department of Physics in 1988, Dr. Srinivasan's primary area of research is composites, which he refers to as "materials by design." He engineers materials with specific properties to address specific needs, by combining two existing materials to create a third, entirely new material that can accomplish a particular task.

For example, two of Dr. Srinivasan's four U.S. patents are in the area of magnetoelectric multilayer composites for field conversion. Because there is no single material that can convert a magnetic field into an electric field, Dr. Srinivasan united two materials that could get the job done.

High-powered combinations

"We take one material that responds to a magnetic field, and then take another material that responds to an electric field," he explains. "When you put those two together, it can convert the electric field to a magnetic field

or a magnetic field to an electric field."

This technology has many applications, involving devices operating from very low to very high frequencies. What they all have in common is that they have unique properties that can be used for signal processing. For example, the technology can be used to make sensors to scan for roadside bombs in war-plagued regions. A sensor could be placed on a truck to scan the magnetic signatures of objects along the road to identify objects that don't naturally belong there.

Other applications include monitoring traffic on the high seas and detecting metal and magnetic materials using airport scanners. In other words, national defense and homeland security. Still other applications include consumer electronics, such as cell phones and automobile radars.

The components created from Dr. Srinivasan's smart composite materials are lightweight and very sensitive, can process signals rapidly and are inexpensive to produce — as little as pennies per sensor. "This is what's needed in the next generation of radar," he explains.

Given some of the ways in which Dr. Srinivasan's work is applied, it's not surprising that he's received numerous grants from entities such as the Office of Naval Research, the Army Research Office, the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency, and the National Science Foundation.

Encouraging future scientists

This research is conducted in a lab in the Science and Engineering Building at OU, with the assistance of collaborators including high school interns, undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, visiting professors and theorists.

“I’m an experimentalist, but I need the help of the theorists, so they’re usually the ones who come here and do all the modeling work for me,” Dr. Srinivasan explains. “And at the college level, students who want to be scientists or engineers should go down to the lab and do something creative.”

He estimates that he’s supported 40 OU undergraduates so far, including Chris DeVreugd, who received his bachelor of science degree in physics from OU in 2004 and is now a Ph.D. student at Virginia Tech, studying material science. DeVreugd worked with Dr. Srinivasan for the majority of his time at Oakland.

“He singlehandedly shaped where my career is right now, by giving me opportunities to research and really discover what I want to do,” says DeVreugd, who plans to become a professor himself. “He was very encouraging, extremely intelligent and really wants to help people get into research.”

For Dr. Srinivasan, the next phase in this pursuit is a plan to collaborate with faculty in Biological Sciences and with the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. His goal is to expand his work to applications in medicine.

Dr. Srinivasan’s idea is this: Tiny particles of the materials he works with could be injected into a tumor, where they would respond to radiofrequency or microwave signals turned on from the outside to heat those tumor cells and destroy them.

“There’s a long way to go to make this a reality, but whenever somebody gets into a new field they get unique ideas,” Dr. Srinivasan says. “By bringing together people from biology, medicine, physics and engineering, we create collaborative research: the meeting of the minds that can result in something dramatically new.” ■

Amy Lynn Smith is a freelance writer from Birmingham, Mich.

This story is the 10th in the *OU Magazine* series on Distinguished Professors. Past stories highlighted Shelton Appleton, Michael Chopp, Ron Cramer, Jane Eberwein, Robert Eberwein, Mike Sevilla, Paul Tombouljian, Ronald Finucane and Judith K. Brown. For links to their stories, visit *OU Magazine* online at oakland.edu/oumag.

Tell us about a professor who inspired you. Write to us at Oakland University, Anibal House, 2200 North Squirrel Road, Rochester, MI 48309-4401. Or e-mail your thoughts to OUMag@oakland.edu. Please include your full name, city of residence and phone number.



Gopalan Srinivasan, Ph.D., is breaking new ground with the possibilities of complex composites, an area of research he defines as “materials by design.”



From Navy SEAL to neurosurgeon

It's hard to imagine being more driven than OU alum **Bill Underwood, M.D.** After spending eight years crisscrossing the globe as a U.S. Navy SEAL in the 1980s, Dr. Underwood returned to university studies, completed his undergraduate requirements, finished medical school and became a neurosurgeon with a thriving private practice.

This overachiever's interest in medicine was sparked after he was injured while serving in the Navy. It was during his time recuperating in the hospital that he decided to become a doctor. With an undergraduate degree in geological oceanography already under his belt, Dr. Underwood came to Oakland to gain research experience and complete the necessary prerequisite courses to go on to medical school.

From 1991 to 1993, Dr. Underwood worked as an assistant in the research lab of Oakland's current provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs, Virinder Moudgil, Ph.D. Studying steroid hormone receptors, he became enamored with research — an interest that has stayed with him throughout his career.

Dr. Underwood recalls it took some time to earn a coveted place as a research assistant. "Dr. Moudgil saw a lot of students try and give up, but I kept coming back. I had to convince him that I was serious, and I could see him testing me every day."

Dr. Underwood obviously passed muster.

"Bill was highly disciplined, intrinsically intelligent, meticulously organized, humble, and a perfect gentleman," recalls Dr. Moudgil. "He needed minimum instructions for laboratory work, and topped in the lecture classes. He played a key leadership role in the organization and success of the 1992 International Meadow Brook Conference on Steroid Receptors in Health and Disease."

Dr. Underwood participated in a number of Dr. Moudgil's research projects, made presentations at scientific meetings and assisted with lab studies that earned several grants. As an assistant, he quickly learned to appreciate the research processes and the work ethic found in the lab, an experience he would recommend to any student searching for a true research experience.

"Dr. Moudgil is not only highly intelligent, but is also a very good man with high morals and an unwavering sense of integrity. I always felt that he legitimately cared about my education and my future. To this day, I can call him up and ask his advice," adds Dr. Underwood.

Discovery in the lab came after some pretty profound experiences as a Navy SEAL. The training was challenging, and he was pushed to his physical and mental limits.

"SEAL training taught me that I can do the work of 10 men. As a surgeon, I'm often called into an emergency operation, followed by another and so on. I will be up for 60 hours straight sometimes," he says. "My Navy SEAL training prepared me for that kind of rigor and gave me an extra advantage."

That advantage came into play early on, as Dr. Underwood pursued a simultaneous medical degree and Ph.D. in the mid '90s. "Having a challenge is what drives me. I need a new challenge every day, and the life of a surgeon offers that. I don't rest on the past. Instead I ask myself, 'what have I done today?'"

Judging by his track record of accomplishments, the answer is probably "quite a bit." ■

By Katherine Land

2010-11 Season

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Michael Anderson, *Avis Imports*, 2004, 50 x 26 inches, collage. Courtesy of Claire Oliver Gallery.

Oakland University Biennial Faculty Exhibition October 22 – November 21, 2010

Opening reception: Friday, October 22, 5-7 p.m.

*Kyohei Abe • Meredith Adamisin • Claude Baillargeon • Corrie Baldauf
John Corbin • Andrea Eis • Susan Evans • Amy Feigley • Grace Frost
Lynn Galbreath • Dick Goody • Richard Haley • David Lambert • Chris Lee
Chris McCauley • Rachel Reynolds • Sally Schluter Tardella • Andrew Thompson
Cody VanderKaay • Vagner Whitehead • Shuishan Yu*

Senior Thesis in Studio Art Exhibition I December 3 – 19, 2010

Opening reception: Friday, December 3, 5-7 p.m.

Cynthia Greig: Subverting the (Un)conventional January 7 – February 20, 2011

Opening reception, Friday, January 7, 5-8 p.m.

Cynthia Greig is a Michigan-based conceptual artist who uses photography to subvert assumptions about authority, gender and identity while examining the illusory nature of the medium and its unique role in negotiating what we believe to be real or true. She has shown her work nationally and internationally. This is her first retrospective exhibition.

Borders and Frontiers: Globalization, Temporality & Appropriation in the Contemporary Image

March 5 – April 10, 2011

Opening reception, Saturday, March 5, 5-8 p.m.

*Jonathan Allen • Michael Anderson • Matthew Cusick • Chambliss Giobbi
David LaChapelle • George Rahme • Holli Schorno • Maritta Tapanainen
Mark Wagner*

Using the notion of borders and frontiers as a metaphor for both globalization and cut-and-pasted reconfigured pictorial forms, this exhibition explores the cultural significance of the commodified mass-produced, repurposed image as appropriated by artists in the digital age.

Senior Thesis in Studio Art Exhibition II April 15 – May 15, 2011

Opening reception: Friday, April 15, 5-7 p.m.

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Lean learning By Sandra Beckwith

It's a front page headline that won't go away: "State budget cuts force school districts to slash spending."

With the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, D.C., reporting that 30 states and the District of Columbia cut funding to K-12 schools since 2008, schools nationwide are struggling to do more with less.

One promising OU initiative is poised to help them succeed at that. The OU Pawley Lean Institute's groundbreaking Lean for Schools Program is bringing "lean thinking" to school districts through a variety of services and materials that include seminars, a professional certificate program, assessment tools, and resources on the lean philosophy.

Lean thinking, a practice more common in manufacturing than in schools, involves providing services as efficiently as possible. "Lean" organizations follow specific steps to improve processes and eliminate waste. Toyota introduced the approach to manufacturing during the 1950s. Since then, it has been institutionalized by manufacturers and service providers of all sizes across the globe. When applied to schools, lean thinking involves looking for new ways to deliver the best education possible to students.

Shannon Flumerfelt, the Institute's director of lean thinking for schools, says districts have no choice but to look for alternative approaches like the one offered by OU. "Our school systems are in trouble," says Flumerfelt, a former public school administrator and teacher. "They



Shannon Flumerfelt, director of lean thinking for schools at the OU Pawley Lean Institute, helps districts do more with less.

know they can't get better by depending on more funding. The only way to improve is by figuring out a way to do it with current human and social capital."

A new lesson plan

Flumerfelt is helping schools see how lean thinking can make a difference. The Institute's Lean Thinking for Schools™ seminars and professional program train educators on the lean philosophy and how to implement it. In addition to providing an overview of lean principles





and how they apply to education, the training teaches administrators and educators specific methods that will help them innovate, streamline processes and eliminate waste. After working with the professional certificate program locally, the Institute is marketing the program to a national education audience. They are also considering offering the program online.

The Temple Independent School District in Temple, Texas, recently worked with OU to train about 30 members of the curriculum instruction team in lean thinking. “Our goal was to improve how we solved problems,” says JJ Villarreal, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, “and within two days, our teams had multiple improvement projects established and ready to go with timelines.”

Nearly 500 school district staffers in several states have been involved in some aspect of the training provided by the Pawley Lean Institute. In addition, 23 have completed the workshops and online learning activities to receive a Lean Professional Certificate of Completion through the Lean Thinking for Schools™ program. Closer to home, the training is popular on the OU campus, as well, with the Institute staff providing training for employees in several departments.

“Lean thinking helps educators find areas where they can recover costs and save money, putting those savings back into areas that need it,” says Julianne Leigh, director of the Institute.

To make it easier for schools to identify areas where they can make improvements, Flumerfelt has developed the “CX Tool,” a unique lean assessment resource. It allows school administrators and others to evaluate their processes for strengths and weaknesses.

Knowing what works

The CX Tool helps identify the connections between thinking (“organizational intelligence”) and doing (“performance management”). It is a highly structured grid that incorporates the “plan-do-check-adjust” process used in lean thinking. When the grid is filled in, it provides a clear visual of the current state of a system or process. The visual helps users identify areas that need improvement — or those that are working well.

Schools implementing Flumerfelt’s tool as part of their lean indoctrination are seeing firsthand how it helps them uncover process gaps or waste in their systems. One district applied it to a reading program that the team knew could be improved. In just 10 minutes with the CX Tool, they identified the problem that had eluded them before.

“It popped right out at them,” says Flumerfelt.

One obstacle to the initiative’s success is the education community’s lack of awareness of lean.

“We want them to understand that this approach works well in schools,” Flumerfelt says. “Lean can give them a proven system, with tools, to make necessary changes. Our goal is to help schools benefit from what other organizations have already discovered about lean thinking.”

It seems to be working.

“It gives you hope,” adds Villarreal. “It helps you clear away the clouds and get to the root cause of problems. When you use lean methods to eliminate those problems, you have hope that you can have a positive impact on the situation.” ■

Sandra Beckwith is a freelance writer from Fairport, N.Y.

The Internet shopkeeper

Entrepreneur provides customers with an endless grocery shelf online *By Sandra Beckwith*



Looking for the chocolate-flavored Malt-O-Meal cereal you enjoyed as a child or the must-have-again Trappey's Hot Cocktail Okra you raved about at a friend's house but can't find at your local grocer?

You're in luck. Those items — and about 11,000 other products — can be found now at My Brands, an online store founded by Suzanne Clarridge, CAS '79. The Rochester, N.Y.-based business provides a singular service to companies, giving their brand-loyal consumers a place to buy their favorite products.

Through the company's Web site (www.MyBrands.com), manufacturers of nearly 500 brands have extended

their reach in markets where some of their products aren't available in stores. Some of the items carried by My Brands are hard to find, and consumers often are willing to do almost anything to acquire beloved products they can't purchase locally.

"Sometimes it's expensive, but if you really miss it, you'll pay for it," Clarridge says. She cites the example of a consumer in Australia who was desperate for a case of B&M Original Baked Beans — and needed it in two days. "The beans cost \$27, and the shipping was \$156," she notes. Two months later, she says, the customer repeated the order.

Direct appeal

Like many entrepreneurs, Clarridge started the company after identifying a problem that begged for a solution.

While working as a marketer for Mobil Chemical, she discovered that consumers who were passionate about a product — in this case, the original Hefty twist-tie plastic Baggies — didn't mind paying a premium if it meant they could still get it. She decided to bring Baggies and other products to consumers directly and created My Brands in 2000.

The following year, she was joined by two other women to help ramp up her enterprise.

Having the help of those business associates was particularly important to the company's early success, she says. Eight months after the company began operations, Clarridge was diagnosed



with breast cancer. Forced to revise her hands-on management style — she had no choice while enduring rounds of chemotherapy — Clarridge kept a cot in her office on which to take rests.

“Going to the office was the distraction I needed,” says the company’s president and CEO, who has fully recovered. “My approach won’t work for everybody, but it was less stressful for me to be on site than at home.”

The cancer experience brought with it an important management lesson for this entrepreneur: trust your managers. “I travel 30 to 50 percent of the time now,” she says. “I can do that because, in terms of day-to-day operations, this place doesn’t need me.”

Online destination

Clarridge earned an MBA from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) and then taught college for a few years. She’s on the marketing committee for RIT’s business school, contributes to the University of Rochester - Simon School of Business women entrepreneurs’ blog, and regularly presents on the topic of entrepreneurship to business classes at several area universities. She says she remains connected to the educational community as much as her schedule allows and also speaks regularly at industry events.

Meanwhile, enough companies make their products available through the My Brands Web site that it has become known among shoppers as an online grocery destination.

Though this recognition wasn’t the company’s goal, Clarridge says My Brands is leveraging the serendipitous positive exposure in consumer media outlets that include *Every Day with Rachael Ray* magazine and CNET.com to boost its visibility with consumers.

Manufacturers are taking note; many of the brands partnering with the company now use the online retail site to minimize problems caused by limited availability during new product launches.

Ducks in a row

To help prevent customer frustration before products achieve widespread distribution, some send Clarridge the first case of product so that shoppers can find it online when it’s not in stores. Duck brand duct tape took that even further. When the company introduced its digital camouflage tape on Duck’s Facebook fan page, the purchase link went to the My Brands site.



Suzanne Clarridge’s entrepreneurial bright idea started with Hefty twist-tie Baggies.

“Within hours we had thousands of people coming to our site and sold hundreds of rolls of tape,” says Clarridge.

Running a consumer products business with nearly 20 employees isn’t what Clarridge had in mind when she started at Oakland as a music voice major, or when she graduated with a degree in political science. But entrepreneurship was apparently in her genes — Clarridge’s father was an entrepreneur, as are both of her siblings — so it seems inevitable that she would start a business.

Thanks to her initiative and a bright idea, we can now buy Hazelnut Biscotti Coffee-Mate creamer any time we crave it. *Mmmmm.* ■

Sandra Beckwith is a freelance writer from Fairport, N.Y.



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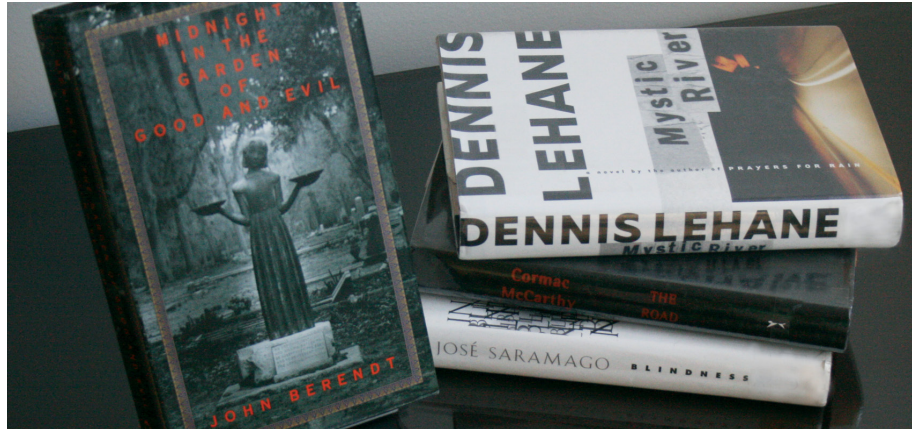
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We would like to extend our appreciation to our Board members for their hard work, dedication and generous giving of their time and talent to our Alumni programs.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Lit to Film Book Club 2010-11 season lineup

Join the Oakland University Alumni Association and Kresge Library for a stimulating and unique approach to the classic book club, as the Lit to Film Book Club explores the transition and interpretation of literature on the silver screen. The Lit to Film Book Club is open to any member of the Oakland University Alumni Association. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month beginning at 6 p.m. in Kresge Library, room 225B.

2010-11 meeting dates are:

- Sept. 7 — *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane
- Oct. 5 — *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt
- Nov. 2 — *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean; film titled: *Adaptation*
- Dec. 7 — *Blindness* by José Saramago
- Jan. 4 — *Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- Feb. 1 — *L.A. Confidential* by James Ellroy
- March 1 — *The Virgin Suicides* by Jeffrey Eugenides
- April 5 — *An Education* by Lynn Barber
- May 3 — *The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane* by Laird Koenig
- June 7 — *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy

For more information, or to register for the club, please contact Anne Switzer, assistant professor, Information Services and Outreach, Kresge Library at (248) 370-2475 or switzer2@oakland.edu or Gail Meyers, OUAA membership coordinator, at (248) 364-6132 or meyers@oakland.edu.

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This current issue, along with past issues, can be found at oakland.edu/oumag



Get away with the Grizzlies

Looking for great places to go on your next vacation? OUAA members and their travel companions can take advantage of terrific packages and prices through the OUAA Grizzly Getaway travel program.

Historic Reflections — Oceania Cruises Barcelona to Athens

April 2 – 13, 2011

From \$3,499 per person double
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comfort and luxuries of fine
cuisine, upscale amenities,
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some of Europe's most enthralling ports
in France, Monaco, Italy, Greece and
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Jewels of the Mediterranean & Greek Isles — Oceania Cruises Rome to Athens

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**Special offer: Two-for-one cruise
fares with free airfare if booked by
January 4, 2011!**

From \$3,499 per
person double
occupancy
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This alluring voyage presents a magical
blend of ancient Mediterranean ports
and celebrated destinations as you
cruise on the elegant 684-passenger
Oceania Cruises' *Nautica*. Experience
deluxe amenities, a country-club
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attentive staff while enjoying the
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and remnants of ancient empires are
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of Monaco, Italy, Greece and Turkey.
Journey across sparkling blue seas,
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For more information on these and other
available trips, visit [ouaalumni.com/
travel](http://ouaalumni.com/travel). ●

* All prices subject to change



We want to hear from you, *Alumni!*

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

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Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) offers OU graduates many benefits — on campus and off. Campus benefits include opportunities for service and leadership, privileges at Kresge Library, access to the state-of-the art OU Recreation Center and invitations to special alumni events. As an OU graduate, you qualify for reduced rates with Liberty Mutual Group Savings Plan and GradMed short-term health insurance.

Get involved with the OUAA and:

Share your OU Pride. A stronger alumni. A greater university. As an OU alumnus, your involvement and engagement with the university contributes to the visibility and value of an OU degree.

Stay connected. Get the latest news on fellow alumni and share your news and updates. Join the OU online community, Grizzlink, or other OU exclusive social networking sites to stay connected and expand your network both personally and professionally.

Volunteer. Share your pride, time and talent with the university and the alumni association by volunteering. Become an Alumni Admissions Ambassador and encourage academically talented students to attend OU, become a student mentor or help to guide the direction of the alumni office through leadership opportunities.

Give to OU:

I/We would like to contribute \$ _____ to the Oakland University Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment Fund. (67688/DM047)

Enclosed is a check payable to Oakland University.

Please charge my VISA or MasterCard

Amount \$ _____

Print name as it appears on card _____

Expiration Date _____

Card Number _____

Signature (required) _____

I am interested in volunteer opportunities, please add me to your list.

Please send me information on how to include OU in my estate plan.

I am interested in other giving opportunities at OU.



See what we've been up to

OU Day at the Zoo

There were some Grizzlies at the Detroit Zoo, but they weren't part of the animal exhibits. A group of OUAA alumni and friends gathered on June 12 for a gorgeous day at the zoo. They visited the animals and enjoyed a classic American picnic lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, garden burgers and other delicious favorites.



OU goes to Washington

More than 80 Oakland University officials, staff, students and alumni attended congressional meetings in Washington, D.C., from June 14 to 16 to become more informed about activities regarding education funding at the federal level. These sessions were followed by meetings with members of the Michigan Congressional delegation, agency representatives, staff from Gov. Jennifer Granholm's Washington, D.C., office and others. ●



OUAA Golf Challenge — another successful round

More than 70 alumni and friends from around the United States joined the OU Alumni Association on July 19 for the annual OUAA Golf Challenge. Golfers had a wonderful experience playing on OU's R&S Sharp Golf Course, and a few almost made a hole in one! Thanks to the support of more than 20 companies that sponsored the outing either as a Par Shooter or Caddie sponsor, the OUAA raised more than \$30,000 in sponsorship funds.



Gifts received through sponsorships and registration fees contribute to funding scholarships each academic year. Last year, the scholarship applicant pool increased by 30 percent for a total of nearly 300 applications. The OUAA was able to award more than \$85,000 to 39 students.



The OUAA extends a huge thank-you to Tom Mittelbrun, CAS '88, who has served as chair of the event for the past six years and has attracted many new and returning sponsors to support the OUAA. This year's Par Shooter sponsors included: BNY Mellon; Brandywine Global Investment Management; Columbia Management; Goldman Sachs Asset Management; HAP; Irvin Automotive Products; John Hancock Life Brokerage; Lyster Watson & Company; Mesirow Financial/Ullico Inc.; Morgan Stanley Smith Barney; IBEW Local #58/National Electrical Contractors Association of Southeastern Michigan; NorthPointe Capital, LLC; PNC Bank; Reinhart Partners, Inc.; Seizert Capital Partners, LLC; and Wells Fargo Institutional Retirement and Trust.

Caddy sponsors included: Baird & Company; Edgewood Management; Entrust Capital; McClain, Smith & Wenz, P.C.; Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd; The Timberland Group; and Tradewinds Global Investors. ●

Baseball, hotdogs and the OUAA

The roar of the crowd included plenty of Grizzlies as the Detroit Tigers played the Chicago White Sox on Aug. 4, when more than 200 alumni and friends attended OU Night at Comerica Park. Although the Tigers lost with a final score of 4-1, the attendees had plenty of fun enjoying a delicious ballpark buffet that featured hot dogs, hamburgers and many other summertime favorites. Plus, OU alumna Karen Newman sang the national anthem. Attendees received a "Grizzly Power" foam claw to wear and wave during the game, and many found them handy to use as a fan to keep cool in the 90-degree heat. ●

ALUMNI ADMISSIONS AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

SHOW YOUR PRIDE

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

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Join an admissions adviser at a local college fair
- Welcome receptions for admitted students
- Go for the Gold campus visit day
- Housing move-in day
- School of Engineering and Computer Science day
- Read "Hello, Grizz!" children's book to local elementary school students
- Conference speaker
- Represent OU at an out-of-state college fair

"It felt good to connect with my community and this renewed my passion for Oakland. It was great to feel the excitement tonight that so many in the Romeo community have toward OU."

Chris Lackowski, SEHS '98
Romeo, Michigan



"The program is awesome! Keep up the publicity to out-of-state students."

Nancy Davis
SEHS '91
Dayton, Ohio



"The first college fair I attended was great! The AAAP coordinator has been very supportive."

Ed Johnson
CAS '69
Eugene, Oregon



LEARN MORE
(248) 370-GRIZ
aaap@oakland.edu
oakland.edu/aaap



Grizzlies in the Sunshine State!

Plan to attend OU's first Winter College

Oakland University will host a "Winter College" weekend Feb. 25-27, 2011 at a destination hotel in Florida. Bring your spouse or friend to attend a weekend of stimulating classes on a variety of topics taught by OU faculty. Take part in a welcome reception with OU faculty, OU President Gary Russi and fellow alumni. Enjoy classes on current topics by faculty researchers, as well as a round of golf or relaxing by the pool. Depart Sunday after a mid-day brunch with "graduation" ceremonies. Watch your mailbox later this fall for details to come about this exciting weekend getaway! For more information, contact Susan Scrafano, University Relations special events director, at (248) 364-6109. ●



Calling all athletes

A first-ever reunion for OU varsity athletes will be held during Homecoming Weekend January 28-29, 2011. Student athletes from all eras will be welcomed back in conjunction with the new "Varsity O" initiative to reconnect alumni who have helped create OU's proud history of athletic programs. For more information, visit the "Varsity O" website (see related story, page 13) at ougrizzlies.com/ot/varsity-o.html or call (248) 370-4034. ●

Student Alumni Association update

The Student Alumni Association (SAA) is off to a great start! Launched in the winter 2010 semester with just a few members, the SAA is now 350 members strong and growing. This rapid expansion is thanks in large part to the recruitment efforts of the SAA e-board members during the parent orientation sessions hosted by the Orientation and New Student Programs Department. Having surpassed the original goal of gaining 300 members for the 2010-11 academic year, the SAA now hopes to increase membership to at least 400 by the end of the year.



Sponsored by the Oakland University Alumni Association, the SAA looks to bring students together to promote OU pride, tradition and spirit. As a member of the SAA, each student has the full support and resources of the Office of Alumni Relations and the thousands of members of the OUAA so they don't have to wait until after graduation to get connected.

The SAA helps students establish valuable alumni connections that enhance their professional network long after graduation, and provides opportunities that strengthen lifelong loyalty to OU. For more information, visit oualumni.com/saa or call (248) 364-6136. ●



Grizz on board!

Show off your alma mater and help future students get an education with an OU signature license plate sporting the Golden Grizzly. The cost of an OU license plate is \$35, with \$25 of that going to support student scholarships.

It's easy. Just log on to http://www.michigan.gov/documents/orderform_ou_16223_7.pdf or visit your nearest Secretary of State. ●

Career/Accomplishments

1960s

Cynthia Attwood, SBA '69, was appointed by President Obama to serve as commissioner on the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, a quasi-judicial agency that adjudicates OSHA cases.

1970s

Charles W. Handlon, CAS '75, was named the 2010 Medtronic High School Science Teacher of the Year by the Minnesota Science Teachers Association. Handlon has taught for 35 years and currently teaches Advanced Placement Chemistry at Century High School in Rochester, Minn.

James A. Miller, SEHS '78, retired in 2007 after nearly 30 years as a first grade teacher in the Detroit Public Schools. He missed teaching, so now substitute teaches in the Hamtramck Public School system.

1980s

Robert Cherry, SBA '84, is vice president of support services at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School and the official hospital of the Boston Red Sox.

John Cowan, CAS '82, was the winner of the 2009 Illinois Science Fiction in Chicago (ISFiC) Writer's Contest, for the short story "Oracle."

Frank Khoshnoud, SECS '86, was appointed senior vice president and head of Manufacturing, Retail and Distribution (MRD) Industry Vertical at Patni Computer Systems, Ltd. He is an industry veteran with 25 years of experience in the technology and consulting industry and joins Patni from Satyam, where he served as senior vice president and head of Global Automotive Business Group. During his career, Khoshnoud has held leadership positions across global conglomerates such as Ernst & Young Consulting and Digital Equipment Corporation. He has also been a trusted adviser to senior executives of leading Fortune 100 companies. Khoshnoud holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Sussex University, England, and a master's degree in computer and information sciences from OU.

Marcia Scavarda, BGS '84, was hired for the newly created position of director of marketing and development at Grosse Pointe Theatre. Scavarda is responsible for marketing and enhancing the group's brand, as well as increasing revenue-building opportunities and establishing an endowment fund. She was director of the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation.

Pauline (Bonnici) Walker, CAS '80, was recently named Troy Teacher of the Year. Walker, an Advanced Placement English teacher, has taught at Athens High School for more than 36 years. Her career spans decades of experience and the ability to adapt to the changing world of education.

1990s

Amy (Ballou) Ackley, SEHS '96, has won the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award in Young Adult Fiction for *Sign Language*. Early in 2010 Ackley submitted a young adult novel she'd written to the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award contest sponsored by Amazon.com, Penguin Publishing, and CreateSpace. Ten thousand entries were accepted for the international contest, and only six have survived through four rounds of cuts to become finalists. Three of these finalists have entries in the young adult fiction category, and three have entries in the general (adult) fiction category. Ackley's novel, *Sign Language*, was one of the three young adult fiction entries to make it to the finals. (See story on page 27.)

Gretchen Bates, CAS '92, is founder of Jamie's Smiles, a fund created through the nonprofit Shelby Community Foundation (SCF) in memory of her son Jameson. Jamie was born with Down syndrome and passed away from a rare seizure disorder in 2006. Gretchen and Mark Bates created the Jamie's Smiles memorial and endowment funds to help other children with special needs like their son and to raise awareness about the value of "special kids" in our community. More information can be found at www.JamiesSmiles.org.

Robert H. Chalker, SBA '94, has been named executive director at NACE International, the Corrosion Society. Prior to being named managing director at ASQ Global in 2009, Chalker served as director of Global Development and Strategic Planning at SAE International for five years, where he was responsible for the Society's \$57 million in revenues

and setting the sales and marketing direction for the global, 115,000-member organization. Additionally, he led the organization's customer service team, membership and section activities, pre-professional educational initiatives and the SAE Foundation. From 1981-2003, Chalker worked for Delphi Corporation, where his most recent assignment was sales director and global customer manager. During his 22-year career with Delphi, he held positions in sales, engineering and manufacturing. The combination of his ASQ Global, SAE International and Delphi experience has allowed Bob to develop a unique, in-depth understanding of the diverse and complex customer requirements within the global marketplace. Chalker earned his MBA at OU and completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Cincinnati, where he received a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering. He and his wife Kim will be relocating to Houston, Texas. They have two grown children.

Jeffrey Gerhard, SBA '97, CAS '93, has been certified by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners as a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE). He is also a CPA licensed in the states of Michigan and Florida.

Cynthia (Stolman) Kozak, LPC, CH, MA '97, BGS '92, recently completed training as a Level II Reiki Practitioner and will be volunteering at Henry Ford Hospital in Clinton Township. Kozak is an adjunct counselor at Oakland Community College and teaches Personal Assertiveness and Career Planning classes. She is also registered with the Michigan Counseling Association as a supervisor for LLCs.

Laura Lee, CAS '91, recently released her latest book, *The Elvis Impersonation Kit*. She interviewed Elvis tribute artists and other experts to get the insider's view of how to be an Elvis impersonator. The guide comes packaged with a CD, sideburns, sunglasses and a ring.

Carol Mullaney, SBA '91, has been employed as a controller at Havenwyck Hospital in Auburn Hills, Mich., for more than five years. She is married and has a 16-year-old son who is planning to attend OU in the fall of 2011. Mullaney is currently attending OU as a post-baccalaureate student, with a few classes to complete before applying to the Master of Accounting program. Mullaney's goal is to complete her master's and attain CPA certification.

Joseph Sabatini, SBA '99, has been promoted to director of operations at Interactive Financial Corporation, a nationwide financial services firm. Sabatini first joined IFC as the corporate controller and board treasurer in early 2009. He is a results-oriented professional with strong experience in all aspects of accounting and financial management. Prior to joining IFC, Sabatini served for more than 10 years in the real estate industry.

2000s

Peter D. Coyl, CAS '06, recently completed his Master of Science in library and information science from Drexel University and is now the librarian at the Hsinchu International School in Hsinchu, Taiwan.

Jack Evans, BGS '07, earned a Master of Science in Business Administration (MSBA) in leadership studies from Madonna University. He is currently employed at Wayne State University.

Kenneth Janczarek, SEHS '08, has been appointed as the new principal at Schickler Elementary School in the Lapeer Community Schools district. Janczarek comes to Schickler after teaching fourth grade for the last seven years at Waterford Village Elementary in the Waterford School District. During his tenure in Waterford he was a lead teacher and worked with other teachers to create reading programs for at-risk readers and to realign the district's science curriculum. He also served on several teams that focused on curriculum, staff development and scheduling. He earned his bachelor's degree in language arts from Siena Heights University and a master's degree in educational leadership from OU.

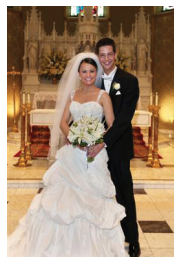
Shayla Matlock, CAS '05, is a cast member of *Dreams*, a play written and directed by Brian Lawrence and recently performed at the Actor's Workshop. The play was so well-received that Lawrence's Royal Oak-based Planet Four Films decided to use the final three performances of *Dreams* to shoot an 80-minute motion picture, complete with behind-the-scenes footage, insightful interviews and audience reaction.

Robert Wooley, CAS '01, currently serves as the National Hockey League's manager of cause marketing and youth development. He is responsible for the administration of league-wide grassroots

programming strategically focused to foster youth development and increase participation in hockey, including marketing platforms across league and member clubs to grow fan interest. Wooley works directly with local nonprofit organizations, community centers and local governments to help implement youth programming, including strategic fan development platforms to reduce childhood obesity and improve academic achievement.

Engagements & Weddings

Judy Walter Filip, CAS '69, married Alexander Filip in 2008. She recently became training division chief in the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization at the U.S. Department of State. Alex is deputy director for information and public affairs at the Consumer Product Safety Commission.



Katharine Harenski, SEHS '04, married Joshua Dziurlikowski of Bloomfield Hills, on April 24, 2010, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Farms, followed by a reception at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

Katharine works as a human resources generalist and Joshua is an assistant controller. They reside in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Births & Adoptions

Tim Miller, CAS '94, is a supervisor in the service center at Zingerman's Mail Order. Miller has been with Zingerman's for almost six years. Last summer, Miller and his wife became certified foster parents for their two young nephews and niece and earlier this year they adopted them.

Get the Update.

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Deaths

Deborah (Schultz) Baldwin, CAS '92, died June 24, 2010.

Joseph C. Blechinger, CAS '82, died May 2, 2010.

Shirley P. Cooper, CAS '80, died December 19, 2009.

Raymond G. Courech, SECS '79, died April 15, 2010.

Judith Desenberg, SEHS '80, died July 1, 2010.

Henry D. Fortuna, SBA '75, died May 6, 2010.

Mary (Eyman) Foust, CAS '82, died June 4, 2010.

Josephine M. Gulu, SEHS '82, died July 13, 2010.

Kathleen M. Leaf, SEHS '74, died November 21, 2009.

Marc A. Maddrie, CAS '98, died February 19, 2010.

Penny M. Przywara, CAS '86, died June 30, 2010.

Millicent L. Temple, SEHS '76, died June 18, 2010.

Doris Travis, last of the Ziegfeld Girls, honorary doctorate '04, died May 11, 2010.

Stephanie A. Yaroch, SBA '99, died May 31, 2010.



OU Moment

Time at the potter's wheel is something Natalie Villalba has been enjoying since age 6. Villalba, who has a master's degree in fine art and is currently pursuing a degree in education at OU, demonstrated wheel throwing at the September Arts and Apples Festival in downtown Rochester, Mich. The demonstration was arranged through the OU National Arts Educators Association. Arts and Apples is Michigan's second largest juried fine art festival. ●





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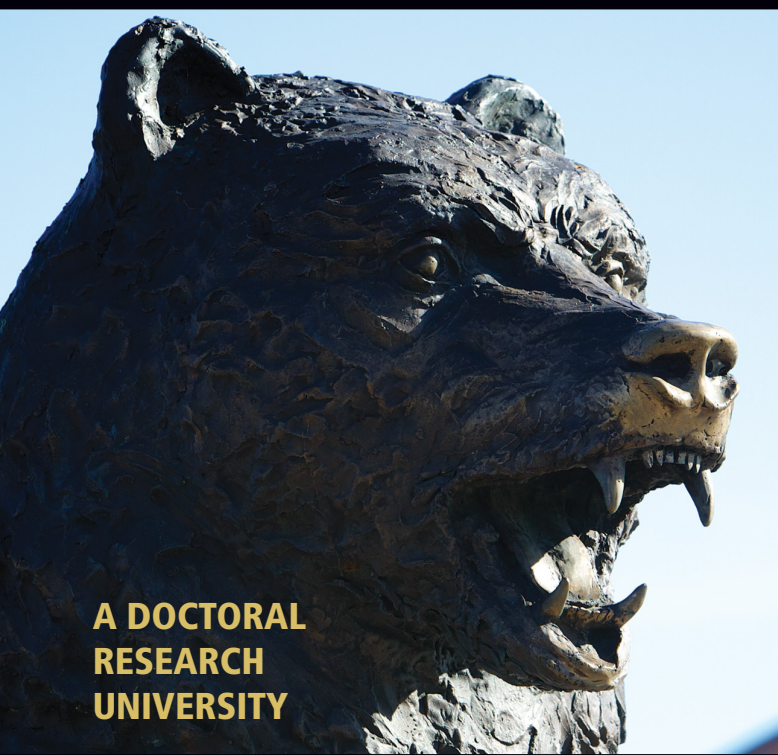
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