

Honored professor | Campus update | Teachable moments

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | Summer 2014

*Welcome,  
President  
Hynd*



# OU

Southeast Michigan's Oakland University is a nationally recognized Carnegie Doctoral Research University where more than 20,000 students are enrolled in 260 programs leading toward degrees at the baccalaureate, master and doctoral levels. The University is home to professional Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Engineering and Computer Sciences, Education and Human Services, Business Administration, Health Sciences, and the College of Arts and Sciences. Nearly 100,000 individuals worldwide are proud alumni of Oakland University.

## MAGAZINE STAFF

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Executive Editor | **Donna Mirabito**

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Photographers | **Rick Smith, Jason Willis, CAS '12**

Production Coordinator | **Bonnie Frizzell**

Proofreaders | **Laurie DiMauro, Pat Geyer**

Class Notes Coordinator | **Shanna Dawson**

Staff Writers | **Eric Reikowski, CAS '07,**

**Fritz Reznor, Kelli M. Titus, CAS '13**

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**Editorial Offices** Anibal House, Oakland University, 2200 North Squirrel Road, Rochester, MI 48309-4401  
Phone (248) 370-3184 | Fax (248) 370-3182

**Letters to the Editor** should be mailed to our editorial offices or emailed to [OUMag@oakland.edu](mailto:OUMag@oakland.edu). Include your name, address and a phone number or email address. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

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## ON THE COVER

*George W. Hynd, Ed.D., greets the media on July 9 after the Board of Trustees appointed him OU's sixth president. "I am ready to launch the ship," he said. Dr. Hynd had been provost and executive vice president of academic affairs for the College of Charleston (S.C.).*



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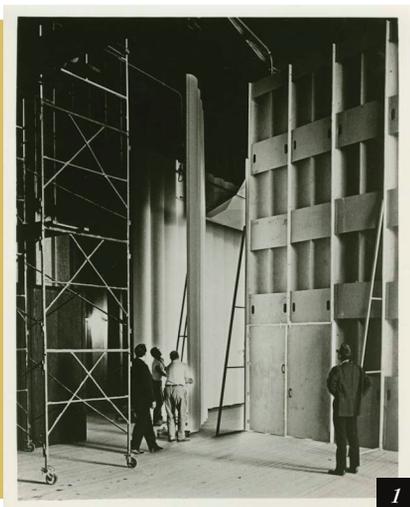


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## Transformative times at OU

By Betty J. Youngblood, Ph.D., CAS '65, interim president

It's hard to believe it was 50 years ago this summer that the Detroit Symphony Orchestra opened the Meadow Brook Music Festival on the campus of Oakland University.

Beginning in 1964 and for the next three seasons, Meadow Brook was the exclusive summer residence for the DSO. In 1968, the Festival's schedule was broadened to include ballet performances. In the early 1970s, rock and pop concerts were added to the summer lineup.

Over the years, the Meadow Brook Music Festival has undergone many improvements to its existing buildings and stage. Today, contemporary and rock concerts, nationally known comedians and family events are hallmarks of the Festival's unique ambiance for all generations.

Of course, the Festival is but one of the treasures we are proud to call our own at OU. And it's certainly not the only aspect of campus that has undergone major transformation.

If you have not visited OU recently, you might be pleasantly surprised at all the changes underway. As an *OU Magazine* reader, you already know that we've been constructing a new engineering building, new campus housing, an outdoor athletic and recreation complex, and a much-needed student parking structure.

I'm happy to report that the new signature structure at OU, the Elliott Carillon Tower, now stands as a commanding presence on campus, with its titanium cap and 49 bronze bells already in place.

These projects are set for a fall launch. It will be an exciting time to be on campus so it gives me great pleasure to personally invite you back to your alma mater for our inaugural Fall Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, Sept. 19-21.

An array of activities awaits you, including tours of the new campus buildings, visits to historic Meadow Brook Hall, the 20th Annual Alumni Awards Banquet, the Class of 1964 50th Reunion, opportunities to watch OU's club football and men's soccer teams in action, and the chance to join in the fun at the OU Alumni Association family festival. It's bound to be a memorable time. For more information, visit [oakland.edu/homecoming](http://oakland.edu/homecoming).

Whether you're a Pioneer or a Grizzly, I do hope you'll take this opportunity to return to campus and see the many reasons to be a proud alumnus or alumna of OU. ●

*Photo 1: July 1, 1964. Festival manager James Hicks (far right) and architect-acoustician Christopher Jaffe (near scaffolding) observe as technicians maneuver a segment of the Lula C. Wilson Memorial Concert Shell into place.*

*Photo 2: Festival pavilion view.*

*Photo 3: Meadow Brook Festival signage, August 1964.*

*Photo 4: Chancellor Woody Varner greets DSO Music Director Sixten Ebbling at Detroit Metropolitan Airport on his arrival from Sweden. The DSO performed 12 concerts the first season.*

*Photo 5: DSO opening night: July 23, 1964, attended by 5,000 concertgoers who heard Wagner's "Die Meistersinger Overture;" Brahms' "Double Concerto in A minor" performed by Gordon Staples, violin, and Italo Babini, violoncello; and Sibelius' "Symphony No. 2."*

Photos provided by OAKLAND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ARCHIVES



## Wiggins wins inaugural award

Jackie Wiggins, Ed.D., professor of music education and chair of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance is the inaugural winner of the University's Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award.

With a career in music education practice and research spanning more than 40 years, Dr. Wiggins has dedicated her career to helping college students succeed. She has taught graduate courses during her time at OU and has grown the master's program into one of the nation's most successful music education programs.

Graduate students submitted nominations and faculty and administrative representatives selected Dr. Wiggins for the award, which she received at the 2014 Founders' Day faculty recognition luncheon.

"This award is very meaningful and humbling to me, as it is the students who nominate and make the case," Dr. Wiggins says. "Supporting students as they learn is one of the most rewarding processes I experience in life. I am grateful for the opportunity." ●

## Robotics team takes top honors

The Oakland Robotics Association won the Grand Award for Overall Performance at the 22nd annual Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition. For the first time in the competition's history, the Lescoe Trophy was claimed by the previous year's winner. The OU robotics team, made up of 23 members ranging from freshmen to doctoral

students and their robot "Mantis," also won the first place award for the Main Autonomous Navigation Challenge.

In addition to Oakland's team, 31 other highly-skilled robotics teams from around the globe competed for top honors. ●

## Gordon named police chief

Mark Gordon was selected as the Oakland University Police Department's Chief of Police in April. He succeeds Samuel Lucido, who retired after 11 years with the OUPD.



Mark Gordon

Chief Gordon has served the OU community for 26 years. He played a central role in coordinating security for two campus visits by President George W. Bush, and visits by Mexican President Vicente Fox and presidential nominee Sen. John McCain. ●

## Accounting department receives cash award

Accounting faculty members from the business school's Department of Accounting and Finance are taking a deep dive into big data with the support of a \$10,000 PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) INquires award.

The award is intended to fund opportunities for students to learn more about data creation, sharing, analytics, mining, reporting and storage within and across organizations.

The department plans to use the award money to help create and configure an IT environment, as well as to train faculty members in specific software packages and their related databases. That knowledge will aid the department in developing or updating course materials for students.

This is the second PwC INquires award the accounting and finance department has received since PwC initiated the program in 2007 to support curriculum development, diversity initiatives and applied research. ●

## Konya is new athletic director

Jeffrey F. Konya has been selected as OU's new director of athletics. Konya replaces Robby Stewart, who had been serving as interim director of athletics since February 1. Former Athletic Director Tracy Huth left the position at that time to move to California, although he continued to serve in a part-time advisory role through June 30, 2014.

Konya previously was the director of the California State University Bakersfield (CSUB) athletics department, where he had worked since 2010. At CSUB, he oversaw the operations of an 18-sport NCAA Division I athletics department with an estimated \$11 million annual budget, more than 60 coaches and staff and approximately 350 student-athletes. In 2012, CSUB athletics fundraising ranked first nationally when compared to similar public I-AAA institutions. Konya is also a member of the NCAA men's soccer selection committee. ●



welcome

## Dr. George Hynd: OU's new president

*"I am very excited and committed to making sure that OU's story is told in all spheres of influence. I want to make sure our faculty members have the resources to be successful and involve students in their scholarship."*

July 9, 2014

Dear alumni and friends of Oakland University,

I am pleased to share with you that the Board of Trustees has appointed George W. Hynd, Ed.D., as the sixth permanent president in the University's history.

Dr. Hynd formerly served as provost and executive vice president of Academic Affairs for the College of Charleston (South Carolina). He was selected based on the outstanding credentials and experience he has garnered as a college provost, dean and professor.

At the College of Charleston, Dr. Hynd was responsible for all undergraduate and graduate programs and successfully managed an academic affairs budget of nearly \$90 million. He created new undergraduate and graduate degree programs in African American Studies, exercise science, archeology and public administration and finance, as well as a degree completion program aimed at adult learners. In addition, he led an initiative to expand summer school online and distance education offerings and recruitment efforts to first-generation and underrepresented students.

Before his work at the College of Charleston, Dr. Hynd held positions as senior vice provost for education and innovation and dean and director of the Mary Lou Fulton Institute and Graduate School of Education at Arizona State University. He was responsible for facilitating innovation and collaboration in educational programs across the university's four campuses, and his accomplishments include creating an external funding office infrastructure to increase grant activity, facilitating faculty integration between the Institute and Graduate School of Education and fostering various program-related development initiatives.

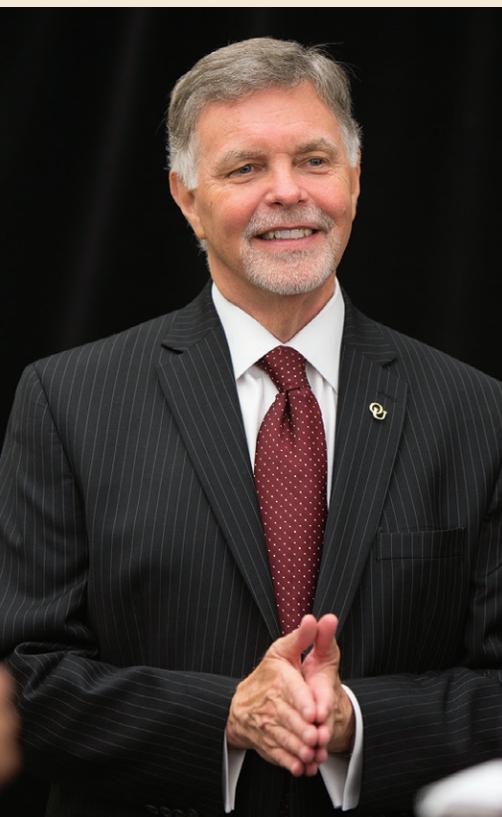
Dr. Hynd's 40-year career in academia includes a number of other leadership roles at nationally recognized institutions, including Purdue University, the University of Georgia, the Medical College of Georgia and Northern Arizona University. Early in his career, he was a school psychologist in the Department of Education for the Territorial Government of Guam and worked as an elementary school teacher in Los Angeles.

With a background in clinical child neuropsychology, Dr. Hynd has authored, co-authored and edited 11 books, authored 57 book chapters and published 153 refereed journal articles, most of which focus on theoretical and clinical issues in the field of clinical child neuropsychology.

Dr. Hynd earned a Doctor of Education degree in psychology from the University of Northern Colorado; a Master of Education in educational administration and supervision from the University of Guam; and Master and Bachelor of Arts degrees in psychology from Pepperdine University. He is married to Alison Hynd, Ph.D., a child neuropsychologist who has worked with autistic and language-delayed preschool children.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Hynd to the OU community.

Michael R. Kramer  
Chair, Board of Trustees, Oakland University



## 2013 Donor Honor Roll

Oakland University recognizes and thanks the generous and loyal individuals whose 2013 donations have built and sustained programs, enriched minds and realized the dream of education for so many.

Thank you!

For the list of donors who supported Oakland University during 2013, visit [oakland.edu/giving](http://oakland.edu/giving).

## Alumnus' endowment to fund progressive tech research *By Rachel Montgomery*

Inspired by his experiences in graduate school, Mark C. Bowers has designed an endowment to help fund what he calls "technically aggressive" research of students who are in the School of Engineering and Computer Sciences (SECS).

Bowers, SECS '75, '69, says he started the fund in remembrance of the needs of grad students at OU. In his own graduate research, he became aware of the scarcity of adequate funding for student projects. Often there was not enough to go around.

"I remember how much of a struggle it took to get anything done," he says. "Research projects can fail or succeed, and the dividing line sometimes can be altered by focusing on the real problems instead of fighting the lack of material support."

Bowers likens the situation to a Star Trek episode in which the character Mr. Spock had to repair his "tricorder," a futuristic device that could record and analyze data. Spock referred to the anachronistic hand tools he had to use to repair his highly sophisticated device as "stone knives and bearskins."

The fund, therefore, was christened The M.C. Bowers Stone Knives and Bearskins Endowment. Bowers says he decided to create a legacy by using his Individual Retirement Account (IRA) in planning a

gift that will reduce taxes on his heirs and will not infringe on his retirement needs.

Bowers says one reason he chose to attend OU was that "the level of technology and education there is still more sophisticated than what I see being implemented in much of industry."

Louay M. Chamra, Ph.D., professor and dean of the SECS, expressed his deep appreciation for Bowers' gift, noting that many of the resources the school now has were made possible by alumni contributions.

"As a University, we strive to give our students all of the resources necessary to be successful," he says. "Mark remembers being a graduate student and today helps fill an area of need for future graduate students. On behalf of the students who will benefit from his gift, we're very grateful to Mark."

Those who receive the endowment must be enrolled as graduate students and have a full-time faculty member willing to endorse or mentor the project. Selections will be based on academic strengths and the quality, significance and potential impact of the proposed projects.

For more information on creating a planned gift, contact the Office of Planned Giving at (248) 364-6100 or visit [oakland.edu/giftplanning](http://oakland.edu/giftplanning). ●



Mark C. Bowers

*Rachel Montgomery is a freelance writer from Farmington Hills, Mich. She is a graduate of the 2014 OU Master of Arts in English program.*



Judith and Lloyd Ganton



*"If I was going to school, I was going to give it 100 percent, so I got involved in everything I could ... But I think having designed the school pin is especially meaningful to me because it's still being used today."*

– Judith Ganton

## The Giving Garden: SON alumna sponsors a special place for students

By Rene Wisely

Since the School of Nursing (SON) first opened its doors at Oakland University, Judith (Colson) Ganton, SON '78, has been deeply involved. She was among its first graduating classes and today, she continues to play a part in every SON graduation.

Ganton is chief operating officer of Lloyd Ganton Retirement Centers, which was founded by her husband in Spring Arbor, Mich. A proud SON alumna, she designed the nursing pin that each student receives at their pinning ceremony.

She also founded the SON's first yearbook and was a charter member of both the Student Nursing Association and the nursing honor society, the precursor to Sigma Theta Tau.

That's a tall order for anyone, but Ganton, who was 31 when she began taking OU classes, was also a wife, a mother of two (with a third on the way), a church volunteer, room mom and Brownie troop leader.

"If I was going to school, I was going to give it 100 percent, so I got involved in everything I could," Ganton says. "But I think having designed the school pin is especially meaningful to me because it's still being used today."

Ganton, with her husband, Lloyd, has added one more dimension to her SON connection. The duo has made a significant donation that provides them the naming rights to a garden, which is located outside the west end of the Human

Health Building. The Judith Colson Ganton Healing Garden is intended to serve as a welcome respite to the busy nursing student.

"I used to go to the bridge near the dorms and sit by the water to study," she recalls. "This garden will give students a place to relax, get some fresh air, shut down, meditate and get it all back together to go back to work.

"After all, nursing school is hard," she says.

The Gantons also hope to hand-pick some of the plants to complete the garden, along with a sculpture to add interest.

The garden has already become a magnet for students and nature's surprises, says Colette O'Connor, director of development for the SON.

"Last spring there was a mother duck with a nest of eggs that we all enjoyed watching every day from the windows above," O'Connor says. "One day, we arrived to a nest of empty shells. It's nature at its best!"

Ganton says she and her husband are eager to see the finished project.

"Having this garden at OU is going to be very, very special to me because I feel my OU education helped me grow as a person," she says. "It changed my life." ●



Dean Hightower and his wife, Diane

## The Hightower Bridge: A special memorial, a symbol of hope

By Jennifer Heil Bonacorsi, CAS '94

As OU's state-of-the-art Human Health Building (HHB) took shape, so did an idea for a symbolic, inspired gift.

Kenneth Hightower, Ph.D., dean of the School of Health Sciences, along with his family, made a generous donation to name the Benjamin K. Hightower Bridge to Better Health. The bridge, which spans the pond outside the HHB, honors the memory of the Hightowers' son, who lost his life in a car accident in 1988.

"I saw the artist's rendering for the building and that's when my wheels started turning," remembers Dean Hightower. "There was meaning in this naming opportunity. The bridge brings people from point A to point B, but it also symbolizes bringing people together, and bringing a community together. During that tragic time, a lot of people were brought together."

In addition to its presence as a beautiful memorial, the bridge serves as a symbol for reaching dreams — those of OU students and the people they are learning to help. "It's a celebration of life," Hightower explains. "And it relates to our students and the countless lives they will impact as health care professionals."

The Benjamin K. Hightower Bridge to Better Health is the most recent addition to the long list of contributions Dean Hightower has made to OU since he joined the Eye Research institute in 1974. Each initiative has carried the theme of making meaningful connections.

A previous donation helped start the "Bridge the Gap" stroke rehabilitation program. This pro bono initiative, now run by Susan Saliga, Ph.D., brings together physical therapy doctoral students and local stroke survivors, helping to "bridge the gap" between much-needed therapy and what insurance will pay for.

"It's a unique program. It's a great example of how a gift to the school can help get something started," Dr. Hightower says.

Another connection that Dean Hightower has championed is the link between health care treatment and disease prevention.

He started the Prevention Research Center as a virtual space, and it is now physically housed in the HHB.

"To become a member of the center, faculty members need to do collaborative research, and also make sure there is a community tie," emphasizes Dean Hightower. "All of these efforts help to not only celebrate life, but provide a better quality of life." ●

Jennifer Heil Bonacorsi, CAS '94, is a freelance writer from Lake Orion, Mich.

## Tech company partners with OU clean energy project

By Kevin Knapp

Located in a quiet corner of the OU INC business incubator on the OU campus, the Clean Energy Research Center (CERC) is gaining a reputation for groundbreaking research in the field of clean and renewable energy.

OU's director of Clean Energy Systems, James Leidel, is at the forefront of advancing combined heat and power (CHP) systems, a technology which aims to use natural gas and solar energy sources to produce low-carbon — or "clean" electricity — while capturing and recycling the waste heat, to warm and even air condition buildings.

Now, thanks to a developing relationship between CERC and the Wintek Electro Optics Corporation, an Ann Arbor, Mich. based company that produces optical coatings and video displays, that research is moving to another level.

A \$60,000 gift from Wintek will support laboratory enhancements in the Energy System Application and Integration Lab (ESAIL), [oakland.edu/ESAIL](http://oakland.edu/ESAIL), where research into thermally activated heating and cooling for buildings

## Foundation supports performing arts, faculty achievement By Kevin Knapp



Randy Judd

Ask Randy Judd why he's such a strong and longtime supporter of the arts and humanities at OU and his answer comes quickly.

"It's about providing an opportunity for expression, which is what the humanities are supposed to be about," he says.

Judd, CAS '72, fondly recalls his own days as an OU undergrad, when he and others formed a circle of people who performed at the old Barn Theatre on the campus, where Judd acted in performances of *Indians*, *Jimmy Shine*, and *Hatful of Rain*. He remembers it as an active time for those involved in the arts.

"OU originally was a humanities college," he says. "I started out as an English major and soon found myself meeting up with others at the Barn

Theatre. It became kind of a crucible of sorts, and that got many of us going in theater."

The Barn Theatre, which sadly burned down in 1987, was an early OU institution that Judd says helped launch careers for a number of students who'd moved on to find success in writing, theater and television.

Judd was able to parlay his passion for the performing arts into tangible support for a cause he believes in. He became active in the Lyon Foundation, a benevolent organization which had been founded in 1951 by his grandfather, George Albert Lyon Sr., an inventor and industrialist in the automotive industry.

In 1995, Judd created the Judd Family Endowed Fund with a \$50,000 gift. Its purpose is to provide an annual achievement award to a faculty member in the English department and support a University-sponsored project or program enhancing the arts and humanities.

Thanks to consistent annual contributions from Randy Judd and the Lyon Foundation, the endowed fund has now grown to more than \$200,000.

Each year, about \$9,000 is distributed from the fund to support humanities programs at OU. Over the past two years, for example, the fund has supported internationally renowned early music singer Joel Frederiksen, MM '90, harpist Naoko Yoshino, steel pan artist Liam Teague, *Ngoma: Music and Dance of Uganda*, and *Police Deaf Near Far*, a theater production that received acclaim for addressing communication issues between the hearing and deaf communities.

A selection committee — including Judd, Karen Sheridan of the Theatre department; S. Lily Mendoza, Ph.D., from the Communication and Journalism department; and Mel Gilroy, now retired from the OU Police Department — determines the recipients of the endowment each year.

"It's a collaborative effort, but it's always about supporting the performing arts for the benefit of the community," Judd says. ●

will take place. As part of this initiative, Leidel and student interns will be studying new ways to develop clean energy applications for residential and commercial buildings.

Leidel explains that Wintek's component of the new project is aimed at improving existing solar-thermal vacuum tube collectors that use Wintek's patented optical coating technology. It also seeks to integrate a photovoltaic function into the solar-thermal tube.

"We're trying to create the technology, but also make it economically viable," he says.

According to Wintek's David Stevenson, vice president and director of research and development, "the concept of what we're doing is not new, but the packaging of this device that combines both thermal and electrical power certainly is. By putting the two innovations together in a single package, we have something novel to bring to the market."

Wintek's association with CERC began in 2012. Calling the joint study project "a true collaborative effort," Leidel says that Wintek's involvement is threefold. The company's monetary gift will allow the lab to purchase necessary equipment. Second, it is involved in prototyping the hardware in the ESAIL. Third, it is working closely with CERC to optimize the packaging

of the device for eventual production and entry into the marketplace.

In addition, OU INC will help with the business support necessary to launch the enterprise when it is ready to be marketed. Amy Butler, director of OU INC, says the growth of companies often correlates with the ability of the company to continue to innovate.

"The Wintek partnership is a great example of how the OU INC assists companies in evaluating and testing those next-generation technologies while assisting in other business services," she says. "Aligning the resources of the University with business needs is a strong economic driver for the region."

Visit [oakland.edu/CERC](http://oakland.edu/CERC) for more on OU's Clean Energy Research Center. For more about OU INC, visit [oakland.edu/ouinc](http://oakland.edu/ouinc). ●



James Leidel



Tricia Grant



Amr el Sayed



Travis Bader



Bethany Watterworth



Serena San Cartier Chris Scott

## Winter/spring wrap-ups

### Swimming and diving

The Golden Grizzlies won swimming and diving titles in both men's and women's competitions in their inaugural year in the Horizon League. The men's team extended its streak to 36 consecutive conference championships by winning the 2014 title with 844 points. OU's women's team won its 20th straight conference title, edging runner-up Milwaukee 764 to 730. Junior **Tricia Grant** won both the 1- and 3-meter diving events and was named the 2014 Horizon League Diver of the Championship Meet. She went on to compete at the NCAA Championships, finishing 25th in the 3-meter event and 31st in the 1-meter. Grant is the first Horizon League women's diver and the first from OU in the Division I era to compete at the NCAA Championships. Sophomore **Karin Tomeckova** won both the 100 and 200 backstroke events. OU's Pete Hovland was named Horizon League Women's Swimming Coach of the Year, while Larry Albright was voted the conference's Women's Diving Coach of the Year. Sophomore **Jorden Merrilees** won individual titles and set new Horizon League records in the men's 500 freestyle, 200 backstroke and 400 intermediate, and was a member of both the winning 400 and 800 freestyle relays. Senior **Amr el Sayed** won both the men's 1000 and 1650 freestyle and also was on the 400 and 800 freestyle relay teams. Senior **Grant Harding** won the 100 backstroke and freshman **Tuomas Kiviluomas** the 200 individual medley, and both were members to two OU winning relay teams. Kiviluomas was named Horizon League Freshman of the Year. ●

### Men's basketball

The Golden Grizzlies were 7-9 in their first season in the Horizon League, finishing in a tie for fifth place. They hosted a first-round Horizon League tournament game at the O'rena, winning a thrilling 96-92 overtime contest against Youngstown State, before losing to Wright State in a quarterfinal game. Senior guard **Travis Bader** brought national attention to the 2013-14 team, breaking the NCAA I career record for 3-point field goals and finishing his career with 504. Bader led the Golden Grizzlies with 20.6 points per game, and was second in NCAA I in both free-throw percentage (.943) and 3-point field goals made (147). Bader also competed in the Quicken Loans 3-point Championship during the NCAA Final Four weekend, finishing runner-up in the nationally televised competition. Senior guard **Duke Mondy** averaged 11.7 points per game on the season, finished second in NCAA I with 90 steals and was voted to the Horizon League All-Defensive Team. Junior **Corey Petros** posted a 13.3 scoring average and led OU with 8.2 rebounds per game and with a .576 field goal percentage. Rookie point guard **Kahlil Felder** was Horizon League Freshman of the Year. He averaged 9.5 points per game, and his 212 assists were the most of any freshman in the country. ●

### Women's basketball

First-year head coach Jeff Tungate's Golden Grizzlies averaged 70.4 points per game, the most by OU in six years, and finished 8-8 in the Horizon League. Senior forward **Bethany Watterworth**, who missed the previous season with a back injury, returned for her fifth year and led Oakland in scoring with 14.5 points per game. Watterworth was named to the All-Horizon League Second

Team and finished her outstanding career as the sixth leading scorer in OU history with 1,908 career points. Senior transfer center **Kim Bee** averaged 10.8 points per game and led the Golden Grizzlies with 7.8 rebounds per game and a league-leading 58 blocked shots. She was named to the Horizon League All-Defensive Team. Sophomore point guard **Elena Popkey** averaged 13.6 points per game and led the team with 122 assists. Senior guard **Victoria Lipscomb** had a team-high 54 steals and added 118 assists. She ranks seventh in career assists at Oakland with 363. Sophomore **Olivia Nash** averaged 11.2 points and 7.1 rebounds per game and led the team with 54 3-point field goals. For the third straight season and the seventh time in the program's history, the Golden Grizzlies received the NCAA Public Recognition Award for posting an Academic Progress Report (APR) that ranked among the top 10 percent of all NCAA I women's basketball teams. ●

### Track and field

Men's and women's track and field teams enjoyed success in their inaugural Horizon League year. The men's team finished third at the conference indoor championship meet, while OU's women's team placed second at the Horizon League Outdoor Championships. Senior hurdler **Serena San Cartier** became OU's first-ever female event champion at a league championship meet when she won the 60-meter hurdles at the conference indoor meet. She went on to win the 100-meter hurdles at the Horizon League Outdoor Championships and set a new OU record in the 100-meter hurdles in the preliminary round of the Louisville Twilight Classic, but fell short of qualifying for the NCAA Championships. Sophomore **Chris Scott** was a two-time



*Evan Bowser*



*Kassandra Komma*



*Elizabeth Guy*



*Erika Polidori*



*Robby Enslen*

league champion in the men's 800-meter run, winning the event at both the indoor and outdoor Horizon League Championships. Sprinter **Nicholas Girodat** won the 60-meter dash at the men's indoor meet and was named the Horizon League Freshman Track Athlete of the Championship. Sophomore **Jeff Arirguzo** won the men's 200-meter dash at the Horizon League Indoor Championship, and freshman **Bryce Strode** was the men's champion in the mile run. Finishing runner-up in their respective Horizon League Championship events were sophomore **Karli Keur** in the women's 800-meter run at the indoor meet, freshman **Andrew Bowman** in the men's 3,000-meter run at the indoor championship, and sophomore **Meghan Daly** in the javelin at the women's outdoor meet. ●

### Men's golf

Sophomore **Evan Bowser** became the first men's golfer in OU history to earn all-conference honors in both of his first two seasons. He was voted to the 2014 All-Horizon League team by the league coaches, then went on to capture a spot on the all-tournament team at the Horizon League Championship by finishing in fourth place. Senior **Mark Foster** averaged 76.52 shots per round and tied for ninth place at the NYX Hoosier Invitational, while junior **Alex Turner** averaged 77.90 per round and had a ninth place finish at the Cleveland State Invitational. The Golden Grizzlies placed seventh in team scoring at the Horizon League Championship. ●

### Women's golf

The Golden Grizzlies finished runner-up in their first-ever Horizon League Championship, seven shots behind league champion University of Detroit Mercy. Senior **Donna Fiscelli** and

freshman **Danielle Crilley** had their best tournaments of the season, both tying for fourth place and earning spots on the Horizon League All-Tournament team. Senior **Kassandra Komma** was OU's top golfer during the season and was voted to the All-Horizon League team. She led Oakland with a 78.35 scoring average and had three top-10 finishes. ●

### Women's tennis

Playing its sophomores in every match in 2014, the Golden Grizzlies finished 6-14 overall and 2-6 in Horizon League matches. Both conference wins were lopsided 6-1 victories over Valparaiso and Green Bay. **Juliana Guevara** and **Elizabeth Guy** posted 10-10 singles records, and Guevara and **Karine Celis** were 5-3 in Horizon League singles matches. The No. 2 doubles team of Guy and **Tamara Blum** finished 5-3 in conference matches. ●

### Softball

Senior catcher **Erika Polidori** capped her outstanding OU career by earning First Team All-Horizon League honors, leading the conference with 12 doubles and 15 stolen bases. She batted .333 on the year and led the Golden Grizzlies with five home runs, 27 runs scored and 22 runs batted in. First-year pitcher **Kaley Waalkes** was named to the Horizon League All-Freshman Team, posting an 8-5 win-loss record with a 3.22 earned run average. Junior second baseman **Jackie Kisman** led the Golden Grizzlies in batting with a .345 average, while sophomore pitcher **Erin Kownacki** tossed three shutouts and struck out 103 batters on the year. She finished fourth in the Horizon League with a 2.36 ERA in conference games. Oakland finished the year 16-23 overall and in seventh place in the Horizon League with a 5-9 conference mark. ●

### Baseball

Junior outfielder **Robby Enslen** had a breakout season and was voted First Team All-Horizon League. He led the Golden Grizzlies with a .378 batting average, 68 hits, 12 doubles, 35 runs and 38 runs batted in. Sophomore shortstop **Mike Brosseau** also was elected to the all-league first team, batting .321 on the year with 26 runs scored and 27 runs driven in. Senior pitcher **Tim Koons** was 3-2 with a 3.86 ERA and 71 strikeouts in 70 innings pitched to garner Second Team All-Horizon League honors, while first baseman **Zach Sterry** was named to the All-Freshman Team. He batted .279 with three home runs, scored 20 runs and drove in 18. John Musachio, in his seventh season as head coach of the Golden Grizzlies, became the winningest coach in OU baseball history with 136 career wins as Oakland finished 12-33 overall and 7-17 in conference play. ●

### Grizzly tracks

**Travis Bader** was the recipient of the Coleman Award, given to the Horizon League's top male senior student-athlete. Bader posted a 3.47 GPA in his pursuit of his master's degree in communications. OU soccer player **Miche'le Lipari** is the men's recipient of the inaugural Horizon League Post-Graduate Scholarship Award \$10,000. Majoring in health sciences/pre-professional and pre-pharmacy, Lipari holds a 3.77 grade point average. Margaret Saurin was named the women's head soccer coach at OU. She was a member of the Irish National Soccer Team for eight years. ●

*Compiled by Fritz Reznor*

Photos courtesy of OU Athletics Communications

## Accelerated nursing degree comes to OU Macomb center



Oakland University's Accelerated Second Degree (ASD) in Nursing program is now available to students at OU's Macomb County location. OU's Anton/Frankel Center in Mount Clemens, Mich., is offering this 12-month, full-time accelerated program designed for students who already hold bachelor's degrees in non-nursing majors.

The ASD plan of study builds upon coursework in the humanities and the social, biological and natural sciences with education in the theory and practice of nursing, ultimately leading to a Bachelor of Nursing (BSN) degree.

The launch of the program in Macomb County is a big "plus" to students living nearby. Currently, more than a third of OU students reside in that county.

One student benefitting from the new ASD Nursing offering is Paul Boone, who began the program in January and will complete it at the Anton/Frankel Center this December. Like many students today, Boone, 27, is balancing more than

just school in his busy life. He currently works at Medstar Ambulance in Mount Clemens as a contingent paramedic and alternate supervisor.

"The program moving to Macomb County cuts my morning commute greatly," Boone says. "My wife and I are expecting our first daughter soon, so being closer to home lets me spend more time with my family."

Boone, who has a bachelor's degree in biology from OU, says the ASD program is the perfect option to pursue his second degree and begin his career. He says he hopes to work in a hospital emergency room or Intensive Care Unit.

"The accelerated track was a significant factor in my choosing Oakland University," Boone explains. "I did not want to go through a traditional nursing program. I prefer fast-moving programs where expectations are high and little time is wasted. This allows me to begin my career sooner."

According to Gary Moore, Ph.D., RN, the interim dean of the School of Nursing, the addition of the program in Macomb County comes at a crucial time. Jobs in the nursing and health care industries are estimated to expand by 19 percent over the next 10 years — well above average job growth, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Having the Macomb County location allows more students to participate in the nursing program," Dr. Moore says. He adds that students will continue to practice technical skills in simulation labs on OU's Rochester campus.

To learn more about the ASD program or other programs offered in Macomb County, visit [oakland.edu/macomb](http://oakland.edu/macomb). ●

*By Rachel Zynel*

## New concentration in energy management



*Dr. Chris Kobus*

The Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering is introducing a new master's degree concentration to enable engineers to optimize energy distribution systems, better manage environmental resources and help their employers or clients significantly reduce energy costs.

The Energy Management concentration within the Master's of Engineering Management (MEM) program offers students

the chance to experience hands-on application of their acquired knowledge in a rapidly growing field.

Christopher Kobus, Ph.D., associate professor of mechanical engineering and director of engineering and energy education

at the OU INC Clean Energy Research Center (CERC), said a primary challenge that modern civilization faces is sustaining the quality of life that mankind has come to expect.

"We need to innovate solutions to problems and challenges," he explains. "Energy management is about conserving as much as we can while still moving forward as a civilization."

Students in the energy management concentration will enroll in 10 courses divided into four key content areas, with the final three areas providing enough flexibility to allow a student to tailor their studies to career goals. The three energy management courses will be offered executive-style over a two-month period in May through June of each year.

"With this executive-style offering, students can go through 12 credits within two months and be prepared for energy challenges," Dr. Kobus adds. ●

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# Saluting a storied past

Meadow Brook Hall marks the centennial of the Dodge brothers' lasting automotive achievement. *By Cara Catallo*

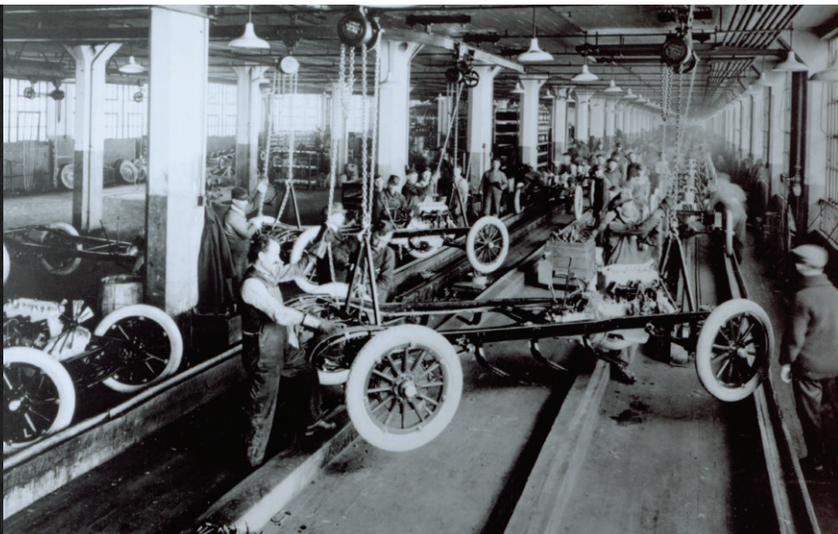


Matilda Rausch, 1904



John Dodge

Horace Dodge



*Long before master craftsmen ever laid the stone foundation for the stately Tudor Revival manor called Meadow Brook Hall, a remarkable moment of history had already taken place on the grounds of what is now Oakland University.*

Years before the site became known as Meadow Brook Hall — or, later on, as OU — the 320-acre parcel was simply Meadow Brook Farms. The rolling rural hills became the setting for an American-as-apple-pie success story that involved two hardworking industrialists, their dogged persistence and the founding of an automotive brand that continues to thrive.

While the generosity of Matilda Dodge Wilson is accurately cited as the source in creating what today is Oakland University, the chronicle of the Dodge brothers and their pioneering work at Meadow Brook Farms is unknown by many.

Happily, that is about to change. A celebration held in June in honor of the 100th anniversary of the production of the first Dodge brothers Co. model was only the first step in illuminating an obscure but important chapter of American automobile history.

The event simultaneously marked the opening of a new exhibit on the Dodges and the groundbreaking of a new Dodge brothers museum to be created on the Meadow Brook Hall grounds.

“The story of Meadow Brook Hall and Oakland University started with the Dodge brothers,” explains Geoff Upward, executive director of Meadow Brook Hall. He says that people often wonder where the “Dodge” angle fits into the story of the Wilson family and their magnificent



home. “We intend to tell that part of story,” he adds.

## Rural retreat

Brothers John and Horace Dodge began making their mark in 1902, when the Olds Motor Vehicle Co. commissioned the Dodges' Detroit-based machine shop to build 3,000 transmissions for the fledgling auto company. A year later, the almost inseparable brothers turned down a repeat order from Olds, opting instead to manufacture engines, transmissions and steering gears for rival Henry Ford.

Around that time, stenographer Matilda Rausch became John Dodge's secretary. A widower with three children, John married Matilda in 1907. The following year, the pair of Boston Boulevard Detroiters visited the rolling hills of Rochester in search of a family retreat. Once they laid eyes on a working farm called Meadow Brook, their search was over.

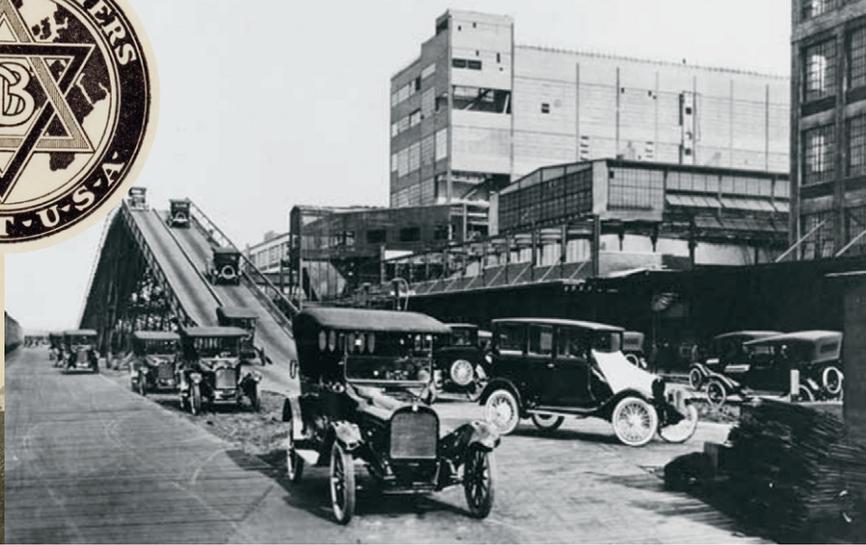
“That's how our roots started, in 1908,” says Kim Zelinski, director of museum operations and advancement, adding that even on the property John Dodge was a hands-on worker, planting 700 fruit trees.

The Dodges often traveled to Meadow Brook to relax in its late-19th century farmhouse, known today as the John Dodge House. Over time, they doubled its size and built root cellars, a greenhouse, a nearby 9-hole golf course, a clubhouse, various barns and nearby tenant houses.

A tireless worker, John brought his work with him to the farm. It was there that he and Horace mapped out the initial designs for a motor car that would bear their name. In 1913, they notified Ford they were ending their arrangement as a supplier and retooled their Hamtramck,



Through October, the family garage at Meadow Brook Hall will house the new Dodge Brothers exhibit. An expanded exhibit will reopen with the new museum space, likely in 2015. For more information, visit [meadowbrook.org](http://meadowbrook.org).



Mich., factory for auto production. The following year, the first Dodge Brothers Co. vehicle hit the road.

“That first Dodge automobile was designed on the Meadow Brook property,” says Zelinski. “But the brothers were more than designers. They were machinists. They were guys who knew the business from a whole different perspective, and they probably were more successful because of that. To go from small town boys, tinkering in their machine shop to the second-largest motor car company speaks to who they were and their abilities.”

### Making a mansion

Early in 1920, while in New York for an auto show, both Horace and John Dodge fell ill. John died shortly thereafter, never making it home. By the end of the year, his brother was also dead.

Five years later, the brothers’ widows sold the auto brand to investment bankers for \$146 million. Matilda then married lumber broker Alfred Wilson, and the pair abandoned plans to complete an unfinished Grosse Pointe mansion that John and Matilda had started years back, opting to raise the Dodge children on the Meadow Brook property.

In 1926, William Kapp of the Detroit architectural firm Smith, Hinchman and Grylls designed the magnificent 110-room Meadow Brook Hall. The mansion was completed three years later.

In 1957, the Wilsons donated the then-1,500-acre property, including Meadow Brook Hall and its contents, plus other buildings and \$2 million to establish a Michigan State University branch campus. It was Matilda Dodge Wilson’s ultimate act of philanthropy and preservation. MSU-Oakland, as it was called, became Oakland University in 1963.

### Preserving the past

In the view of Meadow Brook Hall’s Geoff Upward, the Dodge Brothers Museum is a continuation of those preservation-minded efforts. To tell the Dodge chapter of the Meadow Brook story, Upward and others considered using the Hall’s garages — the private family garage or the larger 8-bay visitors’ garage — but decided to repurpose the farm’s sheep barn instead.

Upward successfully lobbied to have the barn — one of the few remaining farm buildings commissioned by the Wilsons — moved near Meadow Brook Hall from its original location, where new dormitories are now under construction.

“The fact that it’s set away from the Wilson buildings makes sense, too,” explains Upward, noting that John Dodge never set foot in the national historic landmark, built nine years after his death.

A private donation and a grant from the National Park Service’s Motor Cities National Heritage Area will support the initial design and infrastructure work to convert the 2,160-square-foot space, which will display several cars alongside Dodge brothers artifacts, including items from the national Dodge Brothers Club. Pending a lending agreement with the club, the new museum could become the world’s largest repository for Dodge brothers memorabilia.

“It’s 2014, 100 years later, so we think it’s a great opportunity to acknowledge the lasting legacy of the Dodge brothers,” Zelinski says. “Both Meadow Brook Hall and Oakland University are products of the wealth and success achieved by John and Horace, so we want to tell the world their story.” ■

*Cara Catallo is a freelance writer from Clarkston, Mich.*

# Teachable moments

Partnership with local school district pioneers advances in teacher training. *By Kevin Knapp*



*Marcia Hudson, SEHS '88, sees the OU-Avondale partnership exploring bigger ideas in effective teaching methods.*

*Sometimes when Marcia Hudson looks at the well-worn school primer she displays as a keepsake in her Avondale School District office, she thinks about how the times have changed since her grandmother used that very book to teach elementary school.*

Back in her day, the Three Rs — reading, writing and arithmetic — constituted the parameters of public education. Teachers simply followed the book and students presumably absorbed the lessons. There's no question, says Hudson, a third-generation educator, her grandmother would be astonished at how the boundaries of public education have expanded.

"It's a vastly different world now," says Hudson. "The basics my grandmother taught are still important today but, as educators, we also have to realize that we are preparing kids for a future we don't have any comprehension of. We have to be visionaries, in our own way."

That's no empty claim.

Last October, Hudson, SEHS '88, the district's teacher leader, joined fellow educators, administrators and OU School of Education and Human Services (SEHS) faculty members in a quest to re-imagine elementary education by focusing on the whole child.

The Avondale district's Auburn Elementary School was chosen to become a pioneering laboratory school. Officially known as the Avondale/Oakland University Partnership School, it is also a lab for teachers and teachers-to-be: a place to discover and use best practices for student learning, student-teacher education, and teacher-to-teacher learning.

OU professors routinely conduct their classes in instruction methodology to SEHS juniors and seniors at the Auburn lab school and also at the district's Graham Elementary School. Ultimately, the plan is to expand the effort district-wide. OU students can immediately apply their newly acquired knowledge in real-world classroom settings under the supervision of practicing teachers and OU faculty members.

Trevor Cichowicz, an elementary education major from Troy, Mich., will begin his stint as a student teacher this fall, but he's already been in front of a classroom at Auburn Elementary.

"I think students can only learn so much from reading textbooks, attending classroom lessons, and writing papers," he says. "What the partnership does is provide me with a first-hand opportunity to work with real students in a real classroom setting. It's like what medical students do, learning from hands-on experiences with patients in hospitals."

## Wrap-around services

A more groundbreaking concept has been the introduction of ancillary or "wrap-around" services by the OU community, which aims to provide holistic support to Auburn students. For example, the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine promotes physical fitness and nutrition through its "Docs and Jocks" project.

The counseling department has made its counselors-in-training available to assist Auburn families. The departments of Music, Theatre & Dance, Modern Languages and Literatures, Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice have also become involved in supporting the well being of those elementary students and families.

"Whether it's a collaborative project with SEHS, the medical school, College of Arts and Sciences, or student organizations like the Student Michigan Education Association, the partnership community has found numerous ways to share learning resources and engage with one another in authentic, meaningful ways," says Hudson.

Robert Maxfield, Ed.D., the interim dean of SEHS, says the partnership represents a new, honest, and open phase of what universities and schools can do together.

"Some might say, 'this concept is nothing new.' True, John Dewey established a lab school at the University of Chicago in the 1890s and so did some other universities, but they were all run top-down by the academies, which would typically march into the schools and tell teachers how they should teach. We consider what we're doing a research partnership in which we're truly equal partners. It's a different approach that we think will yield different results."



*Fourth-grade teacher Sarah Bruha, SEHS '13, helps her student Phillip Hong complete a project at Auburn Elementary School.*

## Giant step

The partnership concept is already drawing positive attention at the regional and state levels. Some see it as a giant step toward the future of education and a model for teacher training.

Deeming the project “revolutionary,” State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan, attending the school opening celebration ceremony last fall, said, “This is what all teachers need to prepare for their careers. This partnership can and will be the model for the future of schools.”

That view is one shared by Sarah Bruha, SEHS '13, a fourth-grade teacher at Auburn Elementary and a recent OU graduate. Bruha says she believes the approach will give fellow SEHS grads an advantage over others in their career searches.

“I certainly think OU education grads will have superior competitive skills because they’ve already been in the real teaching environment while still in college,” she says. “It makes a big difference if you’ve already been in the trenches. I can truly say that my OU experience has really embedded itself in my career.”

## Future tense

Dean Maxfield says the future of OU’s teacher development doesn’t stop with Avondale schools. The lab concept at Auburn Elementary has become a platform for producing a network of school partnerships. The University, he says, is partnering with neighboring school districts, beginning with Pontiac. SEHS faculty and students will use what they have learned in developing the Avondale-Oakland partnership to work with Pontiac students and staff.

Can the Avondale/OU partnership’s successful formula be duplicated? Avondale’s Hudson thinks so — provided there are ample amounts of determination and trust.

“We all have the same Big Idea, which is to have the best for our students. That’s the business we’re all in, so we’re unified in what our vision for students should be,” she says. “Ultimately, what do today’s learners need, and how do we feed into the practice and the profession of teaching? That’s what it’s all about.” ■

*Kelli M. Titus contributed to this story.*

# Distinguished professor

Award-winning business professor inspires students with his love for learning. *By Rene Wisely*



*Dr. Mark Simon*

*It won't appear in any of his course descriptions, but enthusiasm seems to be a prerequisite for the business classes taught by Mark Simon, Ph.D. Or maybe it's just a byproduct of his engaging teaching style.*

Whatever the case, Dr. Simon, a professor of management in the School of Business Administration, has earned a reputation on the OU campus as both a motivator and critical thinker.

For his part, Dr. Simon, an expert on entrepreneurship, observes that it's his students who inspire him to work harder, longer and with the genuine enthusiasm for which he's known.

"I find that watching them all at work is inspiring and it energizes me," Dr. Simon says. "Hopefully, I'm a catalyst to help them reach their goals, but all the credit goes to them."

Even so, it's not just students who recognize the passion and commitment he has for teaching. Dr. Simon has also attracted the attention of the Presidents Council of the State Universities of Michigan. The council — comprising the chief academic officers at 15 public universities across Michigan — recently named him as one of three educators in Michigan to be honored with a 2014 Distinguished Professor of the Year Award.

In selecting Dr. Simon for the prestigious award, the Presidents Council recognized his “thoughtful course designs, which he monitors closely to gauge student learning and success,” as well as his gift for “fostering undergraduate research and scholarship, experiential learning, social responsibility, and entrepreneurship on local, national, and international levels.”

## Real examples

Dr. Simon says he teaches his students to apply management tools and theories which are aimed at increasing a company’s performance. As the author of *The Balanced Entrepreneur: Finding and Perfecting Ideas to Generate Financing, Freedom, Fun and Fortune*, he often sprinkles his lectures with real-world examples.

Priding himself on “thinking out of the box,” Dr. Simon also insists that his students determine what they hope to achieve before starting a business, a project or a task.

Dr. Simon has founded a variety of companies, including Wilderness Bound, a nature-focused travel venture; Andean Designs, a gift and decorative accessories import company with his brother and another partner; and The Balanced Entrepreneur, which provides educational services to entrepreneurs — a business he continues to operate.

“I’ve kept that business because it helps me be a better teacher,” explains Dr. Simon. “It keeps my knowledge and the examples I use in the classroom both current and practical.”

More recently, he helped a team of OU students create Café de Kuna (CafédeKuna.org), a coffee business based in rural Panama. Dr. Simon accompanied 16 students in OU’s Global Business Brigades chapter last August to help the village pave a way out of poverty by establishing a sustainable coffee business.

That trip was followed by a special strategic management class and a 30-day “crowd funding” campaign to raise more than \$30,000 for Café de Kuna, an initiative Dr. Simon confesses was one of the more exciting projects in his adventure-rich life.

## Driving force

Kelly Torpey, SBA ’14, one of the founding members of Café de Kuna, says that Dr. Simon was a guiding light and a driving force in getting the project off the ground.

“Dr. Simon has been with the team since the beginning: mentoring, teaching and empowering us to achieve more than we ever thought was possible,” she says. “His passion for teaching truly shows in every project he is involved with.”

Co-founder Catherine Pesta, SBA ’14, concurs, adding that working with Dr. Simon “was a highlight of my academic career” at OU.



*Dr. Simon strives to be a catalyst in helping business students succeed in their careers.*

“He cares about his students in a way that extends beyond the classroom,” she says. “He believes in his students, empowers them and encourages experiential learning. He’s truly special.”

Café de Kuna is but one of many collaborative projects that Dr. Simon has championed to give students a 21st century global business experience. He also brought together students from OU and India for a project that won a \$30,000 grant from the state.

## Prize surprise

While teaching awards are nothing new for Dr. Simon — he’s won the Paul Lorenz Award for Teaching Excellence and also a teaching award sponsored by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the world’s largest foundation devoted to entrepreneurship — he admits the Distinguished Professor of the Year Award is something special.

“It was a big surprise,” he says. “I found out by email that I had won it, so it was pretty dramatic.”

The honor also came with his own reserved parking space on OU’s campus, which he promptly donated to his students’ crowd funding campaign so the team could use it as a door prize to raise additional funds.

“I felt I had to give something back because these students gave me an incredible experience,” Dr. Simon explains. “I wanted to show my faith in them.” ■

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



# Campus update



*Interior and exterior views of the Engineering Center.*

*Grand opening Friday, Sept. 12.  
Open house from 12:30 to 2 p.m.*

Alumni, students and friends of OU returning to campus for the inaugural Fall Homecoming & Reunion Weekend on Sept. 19 -20, 2014, will be greeted by the sight of many improvements. At press time, all construction projects are proceeding on schedule and on budget and will be ready to serve the campus community during the upcoming fall semester. These projects include:

- The 127,000-square-foot Engineering Center, which is nearly complete. It will provide students with the very latest in instruction and support technology.
- A new student housing complex, known as Oak View Hall, is adding a much-needed resource to the University landscape. The facility, visible from Walton Boulevard and located across from Vandenberg Hall, will not only become the new home of OU's Honors College, but also provide more than 500 new beds for residential students.
- A new parking structure, which is located south of the Engineering Center and Elliott Hall. It will offer more than 1,200 parking spots, which will go a long way toward easing parking and traffic on campus.
- A 151-foot Elliott Carillon Tower, which is now the distinguishing feature of the campus skyline. Beginning this fall, its 49 bells — cast and tuned at a foundry in the Netherlands — will be chiming regularly across campus.
- An Upper Fields enhancement project, which will provide the campus community with a new track, athletic fields, tennis courts and more. All foundational work has been completed.

Alumni who are returning to campus for the homecoming celebration will have the opportunity to tour the new structures at their alma mater. ■

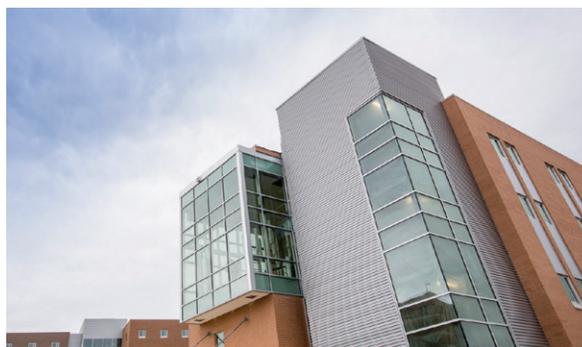
*Elliott Carillon Tower  
Dedication and Reception  
Friday, Sept. 19, at 4 p.m.  
Meet at the base of the tower.*



*Elliott Carillon Tower, framed by Oakland Center and South Foundation Hall.*



*The new Oak View Hall  
and Honors College.*



*Grand Opening  
Saturday, Sept. 20, at 11 a.m.  
Ceremony in front of main entrance.  
Reception and tour following.*



From left: Jean Ann Miller, Amy Ring, Rylin Ploe, Dawn Aubry Slowik.

## Homecoming VIP event is set as OU celebrates its student leaders

Former student leaders — those who have played integral roles in shaping Oakland University into the top-notch institution it is today — are being invited to return to the campus spotlight for a special VIP Reunion Party. As one of the components to the inaugural Fall Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, OU will celebrate 57 years of exemplary student leadership.

“We’re inviting OU’s many former student leaders to come back to OU and reconnect with their alma mater, celebrate their accomplishments, and meet current student leaders who are following in their giant footsteps,” says Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities and Leadership Development. “It’s very important people attending a very important party.”

Those being invited include resident assistants, hall directors, Nightwatch, and Residence Halls Council/Association from University housing, as well as involved leaders from Student Congress, Student Program Board, Student Activities Funding Board, Student Video Productions, *The Oakland Post*, WXOU, club sports and others.

Miller says that leaders representing all years are being invited to the gathering. Current student leaders will serve as hosts, and returning alumni will be able

to tour the ever-evolving campus, including the new buildings scheduled to open this fall.

To Amy Ring, CAS ’11, who served as student body vice president, resident assistant and orientation group leader, one of the best things about being a student leader was making an impact on campus.

“It gives you a sense of belonging,” she explains. In fact, Ring did come back to OU in 2014, to take a job as a residence director of University student apartments. She says she has attended all OU homecoming events since graduation.

“Even if you’ve graduated only a couple of years ago, the University changes so quickly that it’s nice to see how the campus has grown,” she says.

Dawn Aubry Slowik’s involvement with OU stretches far and wide, including leadership roles in orientation, admissions, student congress and University housing. Slowik, MA ’95, CAS ’92, won the Human Relations Award in 1993 and now works as an associate director of Undergraduate Admissions, where her deep knowledge of OU helps new students.

“This is my alma mater and I love being a part of shaping the future of the

institution that helped to shape mine,” Slowik says.

Current student leader Rylin Ploe has spent four years working toward her communication degree while devoting time as an orientation group leader, legislator on Student Congress and the Student Program Board (SPB) annual events director and associate chair. She currently holds the position of SPB chair and is a direct liaison to University administration and other direct-funded student organizations.

“I became a student leader because I wanted to contribute to other students’ Oakland experiences,” Ploe says. “I had a great first year of college by getting involved and I want to help other students have that opportunity.”

Ploe says the VIP Reunion Party will not only be a chance to meet former student leaders but also gain from their knowledge. “I think this event is going to help shed light on ways we can continue to grow our organizations,” she says.

The VIP Reunion Party will be held on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014, from 7-10 p.m. in the Oakland Center. This event is free to all former OU student leaders. For registration or more information, contact Jean Ann Miller at [jam@oakland.edu](mailto:jam@oakland.edu). ●

By Kelli M. Titus

To help attract talented students to Oakland University, a growing corps of volunteers is involved in the Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program (AAP). More than 350 alumni who reside in more than 20 different states are volunteer members. Below, we hear from two alumni who are helping to spread the good word about OU.



**Dave Rapson, SHS '86**, attended OU from 1981 through 1986 while pursuing his degree in physical therapy. He lived in Anibal House and held several jobs while living on campus. Today, he lives in Traverse City, Mich., where he owns and operates Northwoods Physical Therapy. He has been an OU ambassador for four years.

### Favorite part of being an ambassador

Being an ambassador gives me the chance to stay connected to OU. I've met a range of alumni from those who have graduated in the 1960s to recent grads. I'm proud to bring the OU message to northern Michigan cities like Cadillac, Petoskey and Traverse City when I represent OU at high school college fairs.

### How the AAP benefits OU

There's value in alumni speaking about their experiences because a great many people in Northern Michigan don't know much about Oakland. I enjoy speaking about campus life from my perspective and emphasize the community of north Oakland County. I am fond of and grateful for my experiences at OU, so being an ambassador is my way of giving back to support OU's mission. ●

**Nancy Davis, SEHS '91**, grew up in Howell, Mich., and lived in Hamlin and Vandenberg halls on OU's campus while pursuing her degree in human resources/training and development. Today, she is a human capital manager with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in Columbus, Ohio. She has been an OU Ambassador for about four years.



### Favorite part of being an ambassador

I'm an HR manager in my "day job" and I find that helping people navigate their careers is very rewarding. Being an OU Ambassador brings that same sense of reward by helping high school students get started on their career path, too. Plus, this helps me stay connected to OU.

### Memorable AAP moment

I was hosting a college fair with a member of the OUAA staff. She was travelling back home that night and told me earlier in the day she had a hunch her boyfriend was up to something. When she came home, he was waiting to propose to her. She emailed me the next day to share the good news and they were married a year later. I hadn't known her before our college fair that day and now we have a shared story beyond just our OU connection. ●

For information on joining the AAP, go to [oakland.edu/aap](http://oakland.edu/aap) or contact Anthony Gallina at [gallina@oakland.edu](mailto:gallina@oakland.edu) or 370-GRIZZ.



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If you're looking for the perfect location for your next business party, corporate conference, wedding reception, holiday party or any special event, look no further than Oakland University's Oakland Center.

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For more information, call us at (248) 370-3245 or visit our website at [oakland.edu/oc](http://oakland.edu/oc).





*Stacie Behler will receive the OUAA Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award in September. She was nominated for the award by Sheldon Appleton, retired distinguished professor of political science and a mentor to Behler.*

## Determination, hard work lead to executive position for CAS grad

With a resume dominated by high-level volunteer leadership positions that include a recent gubernatorial appointment as chair of the Michigan Municipal Services Authority's executive committee and board, one might think that **Stacie (Seitz) Behler, CAS '92**, is the product of a privileged background.

Appearances can be deceiving, however. For Behler, success came about the old-fashioned way: the result of hard work.

As an undergrad, she worked full time while attending evening and weekend classes at OU while living with her parents in Sterling Heights, Mich. Though the demands on her time were great, the experience helped develop the "hustle" and the drive that have served her throughout her career, she says.

"OU provided me with the perfect environment that challenged, engaged, and entertained me," Behler says. "I don't know if I would have gotten into the same law school if I hadn't had those experiences with other nontraditional students I met in my night school courses."

Behler got her B.A. in political science and went on to earn a law degree at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. She worked in a law firm in Grand Rapids for seven years before joining Meijer, Inc., a Midwest supermarket chain, as senior legal counsel in 2001. There, she quickly accepted new challenges that eventually led to her current position as group vice president, public affairs and communications. She is also executive director of the Meijer Foundation.

She says her work with the foundation is particularly rewarding.

"There's no better job than this — providing funds or support to nonprofits that are really making a difference in the community," Behler says. "Who gets to do this at the scale that I can?"

She also enjoys spearheading the chain's policy initiatives. One recent legislative victory — the elimination of item pricing on supermarket items in the state of Michigan — was the result of decades of work and collaboration among regional retailers.

"We worked together to educate the governor, the attorney general, and the legislators about why the law was antiquated and costing consumers money," she says.

An extremely active volunteer who serves on a number of nonprofit and leadership boards and recently finished a two-year term as United Way board chair, Behler wishes she had "five or six more hours a day" to work with nonprofit organizations.

"I understand what moves the needle for nonprofits and wish I had more time for that," she says.

Don't be surprised if she finds it. ■

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

## OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

Alumni Association

### OUAA Board Members

Board Chair Anthony Thornton, CAS '76

- Bryan Barnett, SBA '98
- Beth Benson, SBA '81
- Andrea Bittinger, SON '96 and '89
- Gary Brancalone, SBA '82
- Lisa Flynn, M.D., CAS '89
- Joseph Gardella Jr., Ph.D., CAS '77
- Michael Gingell, SBA '93
- Julie Granthen, SBA '87, CAS '81
- John Hruska Jr., SBA '89, BGS '86
- Adam Kochenderfer, CAS '02
- Brigette Officer-Hill, CAS '87
- Jonathan Parks, CAS '10 and '05
- Teresa Stayer, SHS '84
- Douglas Templeton, Ph.D., SECS '86, '79, '76
- Brenda Van Tull, SBA '85
- Charlie Wollborg, CAS '95

OUAA Board Student Representatives

- Bria Ellis
- Raphael Price, SEHS '13

### Stay connected to the OUAA.

Visit [oualumni.com](http://oualumni.com) to find OUAA on social media. ●



Alumni, we want to hear from you! Send us the latest information about you and your accomplishments for future publication in Class Notes.

You may also include a photo, either a print or high resolution (300 dpi) digital file.

To submit new information, go to [oualumni.com](http://oualumni.com) and click on "Update Your Record."

You can also mail your update to: Oakland University Alumni Engagement, John Dodge House, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester, MI 48309-4497.

Class Notes are printed on a space-available basis.

## OUAA selects first-ever Legacy Scholars

The Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) recently selected nine incoming freshmen to represent the inaugural class of Legacy Scholars. In addition to academic merit, eligibility for the Legacy Award is based on Legacy status (that is, a recipient must be the child, grandchild, sibling, niece or nephew of an OU alum). Each award recipient will receive a \$12,000 scholarship toward the cost of attendance at OU. Congratulations to the following Legacy Scholars and their Legacy relatives:

- **Alexis Berry**, Flint, Mich. She is the daughter of Steven Berry Jr., SECS '89.
- **Elisabeth Bulliner**, Goodrich, Mich. She is the daughter of Thomas Bulliner, SECS '86.
- **Hunter Dombrowski**, Milford, Mich. He is the son of Susan Pousho Dombrowski, SECS '93.
- **Nicholas Gardner**, Orion Twp., Mich. He is the son of James Gardner, SBA '99.
- **Brooke Heisler**, Madison Heights, Mich. She is the daughter of Kimberly Heisler, SEHS '05.
- **Shelby Herrmann**, Sterling Heights, Mich. She is the daughter of Thomas Herrmann, SECS '95.
- **Vanessa Rodriguez**, Rochester Hills, Mich. She is the sister of Ana Rodriguez, CAS '13.
- **Cheyenne Schmidt**, Charlotte, Mich. She is the daughter of Anna Taiariol Schmidt, SEHS '87.
- **Olivia Snyder**, Livonia, Mich. She is the niece of Sharon Kattuah-Bargy, CAS '98.



Alexis Berry



Steven Berry



Susan and Hunter Dombrowski



James and Nicholas Gardner



Cheyenne Schmidt

In addition, the OUAA congratulates the following Legacy Transfer Award recipients, each of whom will receive a \$6,000 scholarship:

- **Megan Jones**, of Mount Clemens, Mich. She is the sister of Lauren Jones, CAS '12.
- **Jacqueline Klein**, of Troy, Mich. She is the niece of Cheryl Daugherty, SON '79.
- **Schyler Mondragon**, of Oakland Township, Mich. She is the daughter of Renan Ferrera-Mondragon, CAS '10.
- **Katie Weatherly**, of St. Clair, Mich. She is the daughter of Lori Weatherly, SEHS '88, SEHS '83.
- **Nicole Weber**, of Rochester Hills, Mich. She is the daughter of Rebecca Weber, SBA '96.

For more information about the Legacy Scholarship Program, please visit [oualumni.com/OUAAscholarships](http://oualumni.com/OUAAscholarships). ●

## 2014 Alumni Award recipients will be honored at banquet Sept. 19

Each fall, the OUAAs bring together hundreds of OU graduates to honor special achievements in business, community service, volunteerism and more. This year, the 20th Annual Alumni Awards Banquet will take place during the inaugural Fall Homecoming & Reunion Weekend on Friday, Sept. 19, 2014, and will recognize the following outstanding alumni and friends:

### Distinguished Alumni Service Award

**Lynn Gross, SBA '87**

Vice President and Senior Estate Officer,  
JP Morgan

The Distinguished Alumni Service Award is Oakland University's highest alumni honor. It recognizes peerless volunteer leadership in service to OU or its alumni association.

### Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

**Stacie Behler, CAS '92**

Group Vice President, Public Affairs and Communications, Meijer, Inc.

The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award recognizes outstanding professional achievement or contribution to the community.

### Odyssey Award

**Tobi Voigt, CAS '04 and '98**

Chief Curatorial Office, Detroit Historical Society

The Odyssey Award honors alumni whose lives exemplify Oakland University's motto to "seek virtue and knowledge."

### Spirit Award

**Barbara Gough, SEHS '92, and Allen Gough**

Owner/Consultant, Enterprise Management Consulting

The Spirit Award recognizes exemplary volunteer service to the University.

### Outstanding Young Alumni Award

**Michael Medvinsky, CAS '05**

Teacher, Bloomfield Hills (Mich.) Schools

The Outstanding Young Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated the worth of their education through their post-college achievements and, generally, have graduated within the last 10 years.

### Alumni Community Service Award

**Jennifer Valoppi, CAS '79**

Founder and President, Women of Tomorrow

The Alumni Community Service Award recognizes distinctive service of a humanitarian nature or citizenship through community, public or OU service activities.

### Honorary Alumni Award

**Kenneth R. Hightower, Ph.D.**

Dean, School of Health Sciences

**William M. Rogers**

Director, Golf & Learning Center

The Honorary Alumni Award is given to individuals who have not graduated from OU, but who have given outstanding service to the University.

### Pioneer Award

**MSU-O Honors College Group**

The Pioneer Award recognizes this group of individuals who, as students in MSU's Honors College in the late 1950s, were part of the committee that created the first curriculum at OU, then known as MSU-Oakland.

For more information on the Alumni Awards Banquet, please visit [oualumni.com/OUAAwards](http://oualumni.com/OUAAwards). ●

## Grizzly Getaways:

### OU faculty expert leads March 12-24 South Africa trip

Pack your suitcase and your love for learning when you travel with Oakland University Grizzly Getaway Alumni Travel. Join faculty host and lecturer Mark Stone, associate professor for International Studies and Music, Theatre and Dance, for a journey to spectacular South Africa, March 12-24, 2015.

Professor Stone will share his knowledge and research of African music, culture, language and history while discovering Johannesburg, Soweto, Kruger National Park, Knysna, Stellenbosch, Cape Town, and a safari game drive. A pre-departure lecture will explore the complex history of South Africa and the many cultures that shape the nation. Trip lectures will include *The Birth of the Rainbow Nation* and *The Music of South Africa: Voice of the People*.

Experience South Africa with an Oakland University expert. Space is limited. For more information or to make a reservation, visit [oualumni.com/travel](http://oualumni.com/travel) or contact Amanda Fylan, assistant director of alumni and community engagement, at (248) 364-6128. ●

### 2015 travel schedule:

Mediterranean Artistic Discoveries | Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park  
Galapagos Islands | South Pacific | Discover Southeast Alaska | The Rhine  
Yangtze River and China | Treasures of Northern Italy  
Holiday Markets (Paris and the Moselle Valley) ●



Mark Stone

## Career/Accomplishments



### 1960s

**Mary P. (Puzerski) Sloan, SEHS '63**, has returned from a trip to Ethiopia and Uganda with her husband, Jeff Lichty. Sloan and Lichty were a part of a National Immunization Day to try to head off the spread of polio in the Horn of Africa. Sloan and Lichty are members of the Clarkston (Mich.) Rotary Club, where the main focus is on keeping its promise to the children of the world to eliminate polio.

### 1970s

**Stuart J. Alderman, CAS '79**, received the Michigan Recreation and Park Association's highest honor, the Fellowship Award, at its annual conference. The award is presented to a member who consistently demonstrates significant investment, support and guidance to fellow professionals. Honorees exemplify the highest level of professionalism in all aspects of their profession, in their organizations and within the membership. Alderman has been an MRPA member for more than 20 years.



Stuart J. Alderman

**Roxanna M. (Cole) Corum, CAS '72**, retired as director of personnel for the City of Pontiac, Mich., in 2001. Corum is now an independent beauty consultant with Mary Kay Cosmetics, in between having fun with her three grandchildren: Brianna, Madison and Landon.

**Gregory T. Farnum, CAS '73 and '78**, has released two books in the last year: *The Celestial Railroad*, an experimental narrative, and *The Pizza Diaries*, a memoir. Farnum also has a new collection of poetry, *Helping Hands of the Locust People*, and will have it published

by Pedestrian Press in Oakland, Calif., this winter.

**Christine C. (Lind) Hage, SEHS '70**, was elected as president of United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. United for Libraries is a national network of enthusiastic library supporters who believe in the importance of libraries as the social and intellectual centers of communities and campuses.

**Paul G. Neeson, SBA '72**, lives in semi-retirement in Dumbarton, Scotland, but still serves as non-executive chairman of three companies. Neeson is a former OU soccer player and still plays the sport twice a week.

**Tim M. Olson, SECS '79**, recently traveled to Baltimore, Md., with his wife, Ruth, for the January 2014 Joint Math Meeting. This was Olson's fourth exhibit at the annual JMM, the largest annual math conference in the world. About 7,000 mathematicians and math students attended. Olson spoke to approximately 1,500 mathematicians individually at his Zim Math exhibit booth.

**George M. Quesnelle, CAS and SEHS '78**, was named recipient of the Ivan D. Combe Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual whose actions have created a positive impact on the consumer health care industry. Quesnelle was formerly the president of Consumer Healthcare at GSK. Since retiring from GSK, he has served as an industry consultant through Pinney Associates.

**Denise B. (Bortolani) Rabidoux, SON '77**, won the Corporate Achievement in Health Care Award while working as the president and CEO of Evangelical Homes of Michigan. Rabidoux, the first woman and non-minister to lead Evangelical Homes, guided the service organization's transition from a traditional nursing home with 660 beds to a provider of various services, especially home health care, to more than 3,200 people. Rabidoux also launched two subsidiaries, Life Choices and Life Choice Solutions.

### 1980s

**Lawrence L. Allen, SBA '85**, is a global business professional, leadership advisor and author, and a 20-year veteran of growing branded consumer product businesses in the Asia Pacific region for companies including Nestle and Hershey.

Allen also published *Chocolate Fortunes: The Battle for the Hearts, Minds and Wallets of China's Consumers*, a China business book that chronicles the quarter-century battle between the world's chocolate companies. He recently published *Tree of Liberty*, a sweeping epic that takes readers on a journey around the world.

**Lisa L. (Olsen) Campbell, CAS '84**, is the new coach of the Oakland University Ethics Bowl team. Campbell is also a freelance writer of training and marketing programs, primarily for the automotive industry. Campbell has taught communication courses at OU since 1997 and is also the former director of forensics for the University.

**Sandra L. Chapp, BGS '84**, is the consulting attorney for Chapp Law Firm in Canton, Mich. She is married to Ronald Chapp, who is retired from the U.S. Department of Defense. The Chapps have two children, Jeffrey and Veronica. **Jeffrey Chapp, SECS '94**, is married to alumna **Katherine Chapp, SEHS '00**, and Veronica, who also attended OU, is a professional choreographer for stage and television.



Lonnel Coats

**Lonnel Coats, CAS '86**, retired from the Woodcliff Lake Pharmaceutical Eisai Company. He joined the company as a sales representative in 1996 and rose to become Eisai's president and chief operating officer in 2005 and CEO in 2010.

Coats also worked in sales for Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc. and PepsiCo. after graduating from OU.



Mary Bruce

### 1990s

**Mary D. (Polk) Bruce, CAS '92**, earned her doctorate in political science from Wayne State University. She has a master's degree in public administration from OU. In 2003, Bruce joined the Wayne State University

faculty and the Governors State University faculty in 2004. She also worked as a legislative analyst for former

*continued on p. 29*



## Engineering grad becomes a driving force in the auto industry

One could say that **Bruce Hettle, SECS '85**, got into the auto industry purely by osmosis — and perhaps he did.

“Growing up in southeastern Michigan, I was surrounded by it, not so much in my family, but just by being in the area and absorbing it all,” Hettle says. “You couldn’t help but embrace the car culture that is the Motor City.”

Embrace it he did, and now it has embraced him.

Ford Motor Co. recently named Hettle as vice president of its North America Manufacturing unit. He is responsible for 30 plants, representing the automaker’s largest global manufacturing footprint. He also oversees Ford’s product expansion in North America and the company’s conversion to global platforms.

Hettle is quick to credit his Oakland University education with helping him rise to Ford’s executive ranks. He earned his BS in mechanical engineering at OU in 1985 and joined Ford a year later, spending his entire career with the Dearborn, Mich.-based company. Hettle says he chose OU because of its reputation, its flexibility and its proximity to his home.

“I wanted to work in the auto realm while going to school, and OU made that possible,” he says. He worked in various job

shops, designing with computer-aided design (CAD), a skill he picked up at Troy (Mich.) Athens High School.

His favorite OU class — physics — and his most difficult class — calculus — continue to serve him daily in his profession.

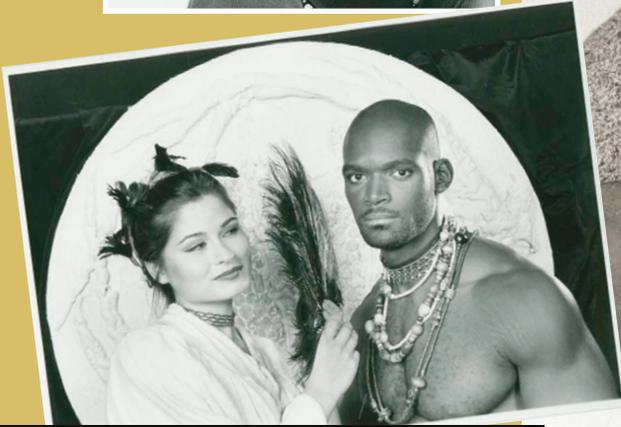
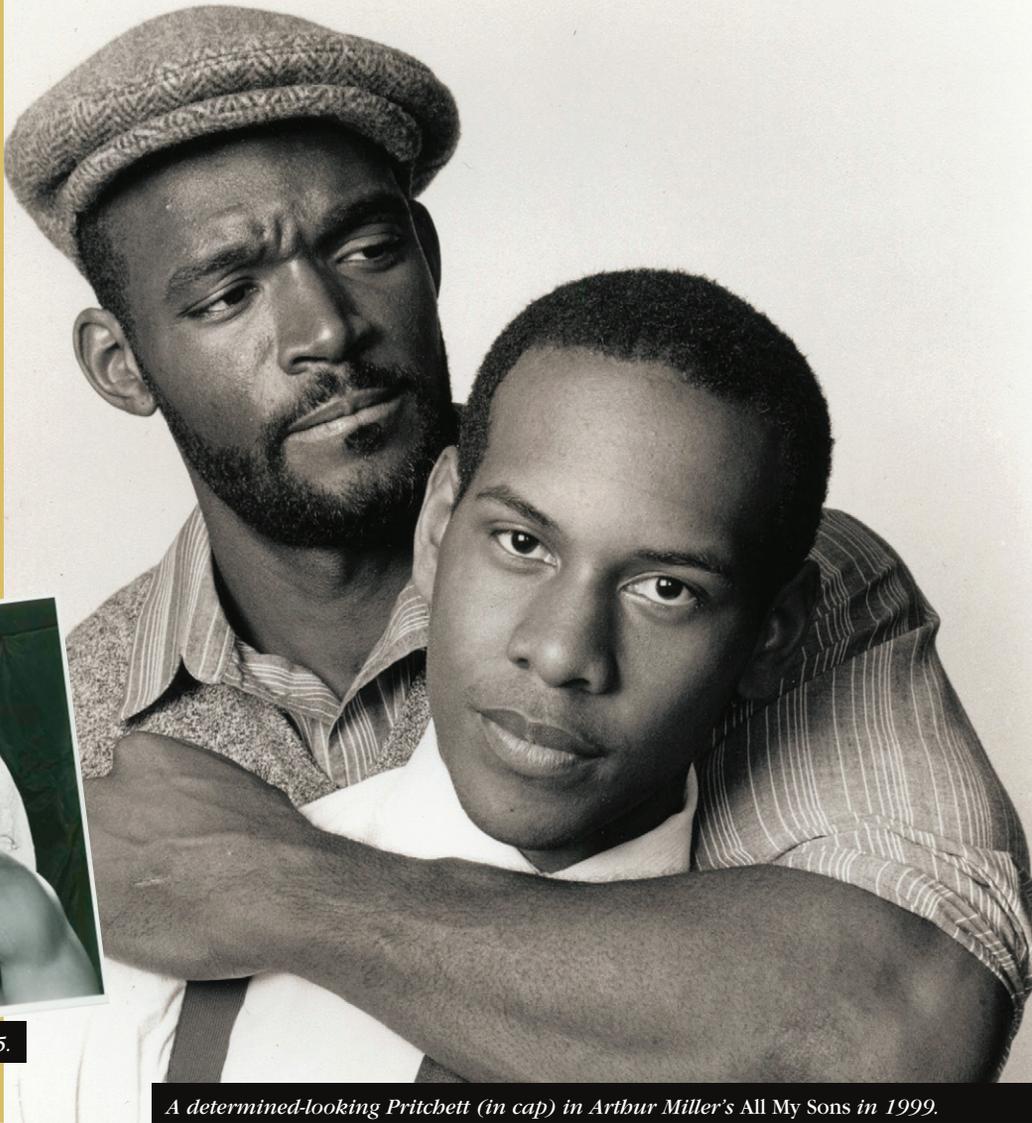
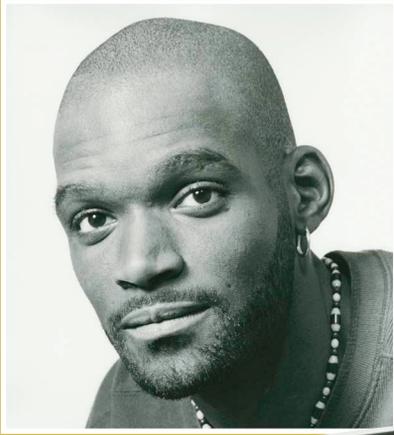
“Physics I enjoyed the most because I learned how things in the world would react,” he says. That causal relationship emerges frequently in the engineering world, he notes, so it has taught him forward-thinking skills. Calculus admittedly gave Hettle some headaches. However, he says it taught him the importance of being disciplined, determined and focused.

“Those are skills you need in today’s workforce.”

Recalling his time in OU’s engineering curriculum, Hettle credits the department’s emphasis on creating work teams.

“They had this whole team approach that involved collaborating with others to get school projects done,” he says. “It was a taste of the real world, which I really found useful in my career.” ■

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



Esau Pritchett in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* in 1995.

A determined-looking Pritchett (in cap) in Arthur Miller's *All My Sons* in 1999.

## Acting veteran and MTD grad enjoys success in stages

These days, **Esau Pritchett, CAS '99**, is keeping a busy schedule — which is a good thing. Since earning his B.A. in performing arts, the OU alumnus has made a name for himself on screen and stage, most recently appearing as Mark Antony in a production of *Julius Caesar* at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater in Florida.

His experience with Shakespearean theater dates back to his days at OU, where he first discovered a passion for acting. The Saginaw, Mich., native was cast in several campus productions, including Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and *Othello*, for which he was named one of only two national winners of the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship. He says his experience at OU helped him prepare for success.

"My time at OU was spent learning from incredible professors whose knowledge of the theater arts was outpaced only by their passion," he says. "I can honestly say that the training I received at OU was not outclassed by any institution in the country."

After graduating from OU, Pritchett moved to New York and has since carved out a steady career that has spanned more than a decade. His film and television credits include long-

running shows such as *Law & Order* and *One Life to Live*, and he continues to gain stature in the theater world.

Earlier this year, Pritchett was hailed in a *New York Times* theater review for his work in a production of August Wilson's *Fences* at the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, New Jersey. He played the role of Troy Maxson, delivering what the *Times* called "a potent and fearsome portrayal."

For his many accomplishments, Pritchett was honored with the 2014 MaTiDa Award for Alumni Achievement in Theatre. His mentors at OU say the award is well-deserved.

"The moment I met Esau, he struck me as a young man of charm and dignity beyond his years," said Michael Gillespie, Ph.D., professor emeritus and former head of OU's theatre program. "With his imposing stature and resonant bass, he commanded the stage here and continues to do so as a professional actor. He represents his alma mater with pride and distinction."

With his career clearly on the upswing, Pritchett's schedule looks to remain busy for some time to come. ■

By Eric Reikowski

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Michigan governor James Blanchard and as a research data specialist for the Michigan Department of Labor. Bruce is also an international scholar, having served as a visiting professor in Uganda.



Kelly Kuc

**Kelly M. (Sisson) Kuc, SBA '97**, was hired by Farbman Group/NAI Farbman as senior controller. Kuc will oversee property management, corporate and construction accounting. Kuc is responsible for the

company's financial statements, general ledger maintenance, cost accounting, payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, budgeting, tax compliance and various special analyses.

**Michelle Franzen Martin, CAS '99**,

was named director of marketing and communications for University Liggett School. She joins Liggett from Wayne State University, where she spent 10 years as the editor and senior



Michelle Franzen Martin

communications officer for alumni relations. Martin previously held positions at Campbell-Ewald Advertising and Franco Public Group. Martin also earned a master's degree in English from Oakland University and a bachelor's degree in journalism from Wayne State University. Martin now lives in Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich., with her husband, Kevin, and two sons.

**Jenefer (Stickrad) Miller, CAS '97**, has obtained her master's degree in elementary education and has worked in public education for more than 10 years. Miller manages her own production company, Jmill Productions, and is also a professional tap dancer who has performed locally and nationally. She returns to Detroit every year to teach at the Motor City Tap Festival and perform at the faculty concert at Orchestra Hall.

**Brad E. Tolley, SBA '99**, has been named vice president of strategy and market development at Shiloh Industries, Inc., a supplier of lightweighting, noise and vibration solutions. Tolley will be leading Shiloh's business strategy as the company pursues growth in new markets.

**Stephen R. Vance, SECS '95**, recently had his book, *Quality Code: Software Testing Principles, Practices, and Patterns*, published by Addison-Wesley Professional. Vance is a self-employed lean/agile software development coach in the Boston, Mass., area and speaks at conferences internationally. Vance's wife of six years, Jenny, runs a successful pet care business in the greater Boston area.



Stephen R. Vance

### 2000s

**Jennifer D. Buchanan, SBA '04**, has found great satisfaction building a rewarding career in finance and technology consulting. Buchanan currently resides in Florida with her three children and husband, **Patrick Van Gilder, CAS '07**.

**Christopher R. Condie, CAS '06**, was elected to the Lehi, Utah, city council. Prior to that, Condie had been appointed by the city's mayor to serve on the city planning commission.



Christopher R. Condie

**Christina M. (Melaragni) Del Pizzo, SEHS '05**, was named as one of the 2014 Oakland County Executive's Elite 40 Under 40. She is a second grade teacher at Detroit Country Day School. In 2012, Del Pizzo received the Lloyd Reuss Award for Teaching Excellence from the Society of Automotive Engineers International, for helping to develop her students' understanding of and experiences with math and science. In 2012, Del Pizzo was recognized as being one of the Top 5 Teachers in Metro Detroit by *Metro Parent Magazine* and, in 2013, her second grade class was recognized by Donald Trump and David Trott for their Character in Leadership writing at the Oakland County GOP Lincoln Dinner.



Christina M. Del Pizzo

**Annice M. Dieters-Williams, CAS '09**, has been accepted into the 2014 class of the Michigan Excellence in Public Service Series (MEPSS). Created in 2007, the (MEPSS) has had four graduating classes. Graduates from the series have gone on to be elected at the local and state levels, become legislative chiefs of staff and serve as appointees on boards at the state level.

**Lisa L. Howard, CAS '00**, has started her own business as a freelance editor and culinarian after working for several years as a German translator at a major automotive firm. When she isn't developing recipes or writing cookbooks, she's teaching cooking classes and giving health/culinary talks. Her first cookbook, *Healthier Gluten-Free*, will be published in the summer of 2014. She also serves as co-chair of the Writers, Editors & Publishers section of the International Association of Culinary Professionals.



Lisa L. Howard



Phillip A. Jankowski

**Phillip A. Jankowski, SEHS '08**, was the 2013 High School Principal of the Year in the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals. He is the principal of Armada High School in rural Armada, Mich., where he has served for the past six years. Jankowski holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State University, an Education Specialist Degree from Oakland University, and is currently completing his Doctorate in Education Leadership, also at Oakland University.

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*Bryan K. Kieler*

**Bryan K. Kieler, CAS '02** and **SBA '07**, was named one of the 2014 Oakland County Executive's Elite 40 Under 40. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in business administration, specializing in innovation and strategy. He hopes to combine his education with his work

as a community developer to help in building sustainable communities from within. As the portfolio manager of the Community Development Lending group at Huntington Bank, Kieler hopes to play a part in rebuilding the Midwest region of the U.S.

**Adam L. Kochenderfer, CAS '02**, was named as one of the 2014 Oakland County Executive's Elite 40 Under 40. As an attorney at Wolfson Bolton PLLC in Troy, Mich., Kochenderfer recently recovered over \$2.5 million for victims of a local Ponzi scheme and spearheaded the litigation to recover funds for the victims. He has been selected as one of "Michigan's Rising Stars" by Super Lawyers Magazine



*Adam L. Kochenderfer*

for four consecutive years and was a guest attorney for the "Business Reality Network" radio program. He also formed the Kochenderfer Endowed Scholarship Fund at OU, which awards a scholarship each year to a student majoring in political science, public administration or international relations. He served as a councilman for the Rochester Hills (Mich.) City Council from 2011-2013 and is a member of the Oakland University Alumni Association board of directors.



*Michael J. Lerchenfeldt*

**Michael J. Lerchenfeldt, SEHS '08**, presented at the Shaking Up Learning Conference sponsored by Rochester (Mich.) Community Schools and Chippewa Valley Schools. Lerchenfeldt was recognized for his dedication to student success through a 2013-14 classroom mini-grant awarded from the Chippewa Valley Education Foundation.

**Jennifer R. (Sousa) Llewellyn, SEHS '00**, was named as one of the 2014 Oakland County (Mich.) Executive's Elite 40 Under 40. She is director of Oakland County Michigan Works! Troy, and has been



*Jennifer R. Llewellyn*

committed to the county's workforce development for more than 15 years. She is responsible for oversight of the multi-million dollar, 25 staff-member agency that helps 38,000 visitors and assists over 700 businesses each year. Llewellyn's commitment to her community goes beyond workforce development, as she is very involved in her children's school, Higgins Elementary, and as a member of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Parent Advisory Board and a Science Olympiad coach.

**Kari L. Melkonian, CAS '03**, was admitted to the Southfield, Mich.-based Collins Einhorn Farrell law firm and will practice her defense of general liability claims before the U.S. Supreme Court.



*Kari L. Melkonian*

**Suzanne Povinelli, SON '00**, was named Michigan Diabetic Educator of the Year in 2013 by the Michigan Organization of Diabetic Educators. Povinelli's primary goal is to improve the health of the surrounding communities by focusing on lifestyle modification, diabetes, nutrition, exercise and obesity. Povinelli teaches at libraries, churches, senior centers, health expos and screenings, and also works with the uninsured at the St. Vincent DePaul Clinic and targets the underserved to identify those who are at most risk for pre-diabetes and diabetes. In addition, she works with parenting groups to target and prevent childhood obesity.

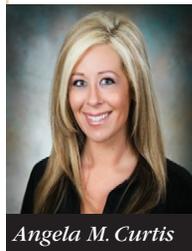
**Aaron L. Sabbota, CAS '03**, earned an M.D. from Wayne State University School of Medicine, and started a general surgery residency at the University of Rochester-Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y., in June 2013. Sabbota also earned a Ph.D. in cancer biology from Wayne State University in 2009.

**Steven D. Townsend, CAS '05**, currently holds the position of



*Steven D. Townsend*

postdoctoral researcher at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. Starting this fall, Townsend will accept a tenure track position as an assistant professor of chemistry at Vanderbilt University.



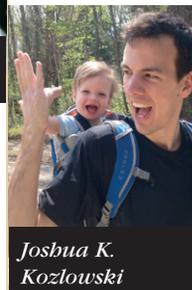
*Angela M. Curtis*

## 2010s

**Angela M. (Schommer) Curtis, CAS '13**, accepted a position at Citizens Community Federal Bank, where she heads the mortgage department for the Metro Detroit area.

After 15 years in the mortgage industry, Curtis's degree from OU has provided her the opportunity to advance in her professional career.

**Kentaro Fujino, SECS '10**, returned to Japan after 10 years of living in Michigan. Fujino currently works at the corporate strategy office of Nidec Corporation, located in Kyoto, Japan.



*Joshua K. Kozlowski*

**Joshua K. Kozlowski, CAS '11**, was named as one of the 2014 Oakland County Executive's Elite 40 Under 40. Prior to becoming an English teacher at International Technology Academy in Pontiac, Mich., he was youth coordinator

for the Rochester Auburn Hills Community Coalition, where he focused on student-led, community-focused drug prevention. He also helps shape students outside of the classroom through his affiliation with Kensington Community Church, which encourages student involvement with cross-country mission trips and mentoring opportunities.

**Molly E. Rowland, CAS '10**, is a high school German teacher in Charlotte, N.C.

**Kari L. Woloszyk, SHS '12**, graduated from the University of Michigan's School of Public Health in 2013 with a master of public health degree in health behavior and health education. She is currently employed at Food Gatherers in Ann Arbor, coordinating over 150 non-profit partner agencies in Washtenaw County. She started the Healthy School Pantry Project and School Produce Box Distribution at low-income schools in Washtenaw County. They provide

children and their families with fresh and local produce, which empowers families to cook and eat healthier through nutrition education and culinary classes.

### Engagements/Weddings



**Joseph Raymond Current, SON '12**, and Stephanie Ann Zimmie were married in Las Vegas, Nev. The bride is an art/physical education teacher with the WAY Academy in Detroit, and the groom currently works as a registered nurse for the DMC at Sinai-Grace Hospital. The groom was a member of Student Veterans of OU, The Honors College, Student Nurse Association of OU, School of Nursing Dean's Circle and Theta Chi fraternity at OU.



**Carlena (Janiak) DeNike, SBA '09** and Tim DeNike were married on May 3, 2013, at the English Inn in Eaton Rapids, Mich.

### Births/Adoptions

**Leigh (Settlemoir) Dzwik, SEHS '98**, welcomed baby Samantha on Feb. 24, 2014, to her family: Steven, Leigh and big sister Kathryn.



*Mackenzie Fielder*

**Benjamin L. Fielder, CAS '09**, and his wife welcomed their first child, Mackenzie Fielder, to their family on Feb. 27, 2014.

### Deaths

#### 1960s

**Betty (Smith) Mazurek, SEHS '68**, on Nov. 5, 2013

#### 1970s

**Marion E. Anderson, SEHS '79**, on Jan. 31, 2014

**Sandra M. (Drosz) Anderson, SEHS '79**, on Dec. 21, 2013

**Maryann Christian, SEHS '76**, on Nov. 6, 2013

**Lorrey J. (Cochran) Michela, CAS '77**, on Jan. 11, 2014

**Helen H. Overhardt, SBA '77**, on Jan. 31, 2014

**Michael T. Samulski, CAS '74**, on Jan. 27, 2014

**Phyllis E. Thomas, SEHS '71**, on Jan. 24, 2014

#### 1980s

**Grace A. Chamberlain, SECS '87**, on Jan. 24, 2014

**Joann D. Crenshaw, SEHS '83**, on Jan. 29, 2014

**Kim L. (Petras) Grass, SEHS '88**, on Feb. 4, 2014

**Joyce L. Hengesbach, BGS '88**, on Feb. 9, 2014

**James M. Judge, Jr., CAS '89**, on Jan. 16, 2014

**George J. MacDonald, SBA '85**, on Nov. 10, 2013

**Gary H. Parker, CAS '82**, on Jan. 6, 2014

**Margaret R. Prizer, SEHS '83**, on Feb. 9, 2014

**Carol A. Urben-Kasper, SON '83**, on Jan. 10, 2014

**Olga L. Walden, SECS '80**, on Dec. 11, 2013

**Susan M. (Riley) Welics, SEHS '88**, on Dec. 11, 2013

**Gloria M. Westrick, SEHS '85**, on Jan. 1, 2014

**Adam H. Zynarski, SECS '87**, on Jan. 27, 2014

#### 1990s

**Mark A. Lane, SEHS '95**, on Jan. 16, 2014

**Patricia J. Soto, SEHS '91**, on Jan. 8, 2014

#### 2010s

**Michael A. Proszkow, SECS '11**, on Mar. 14, 2014

#### Faculty/Staff Deaths

**Lettie Alston, Ph.D.**, on Mar. 31, 2014. Dr. Alston joined the Oakland University faculty in 1991 as associate professor of music in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance.

**Douglas Godwin**, on May 2, 2014. Sergeant Godwin was appointed to the Oakland University Police Department in 1974 and retired in 2011 after 37 years of service.

**Naim Sahyoun**, on Mar. 2, 2014. Sahyoun joined the staff of Oakland University in 2001 and served in Kresge Library as a library technician until his passing.

Anne Dieters-Williams, a research analyst at OU, is a three-time alumna with a bachelor's degree in public relations ('83), a Master of Public Administration ('09), and a post-master's certificate in local government management. Her license plate even matches her job title — OU RESRCH. Not only does Anne call OU home in many respects, so does most of her family. Her husband, Joseph, a program manager at Ford, also has his Master of Public Administration from OU. Two of their daughters are also alumni; Amy Dieters (CAS '10 and '12) and Sarah Dieters (SEHS '13). Her youngest daughter, Molly Dieters, attended OU before joining the Navy and will complete her degree after her enlistment, and her son, Sam Williams, will be attending OU in 2015. ●





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