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Oakland University
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From the Dean

New Newsletter Format

Welcome to the College of Arts and Sciences first online newsletter. Previously, all alumni of the college received our printed newsletter through the mail, but we elected to go solely electronic for a variety of reasons: timeliness, ease of delivery and cost considerations. We hope you enjoy this edition and that you will **provide feedback** (<mailto:cas@oakland.edu>) on the newsletter format and content. We look forward to bringing you, our alumni and friends, all of the exciting news from the college and its 15 departments that span the arts, humanities and sciences.



A Plan for the College

This fall I begin my first year as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences after serving as acting dean for 28 months. This also is my 30th year at Oakland University, so personal knowledge of 60 percent of the history of the university guides my thinking about planning the future of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

[Full Story...](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4337) (http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4337)

CAS News

Ronald Sudol appointed new dean of CAS

Making connections is what it's all about for Ron Sudol who was appointed dean of the College of Arts and Sciences by OU's Board of Trustees in August. [Full Story...](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4342) (http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4342)

OU, Beaumont announce medical school: CAS ready to support its success

When officials from Oakland University and Beaumont Hospitals announced in April that they entered into a partnership to create a new, private funded medical school on Oakland's campus, Kathleen Moore, CAS associate dean, knew the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) was already positioned to take a leadership role. [Full Story...](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4357) (http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4357)

CAS in the midst of 'Revolution'

Aristotle said the mother of revolution and crime is poverty. Thomas Jefferson said every generation needs a new revolution. In *Revolution 1*, the Beatles say we all want to change the world. Revolution, that versatile noun, can apply to politics, people, planets and periods of history. It is precisely because the word crosses so many boundaries that CAS chose "Revolution" as its Celebrating Liberal Arts 2007-08 theme. [Full Story...](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4345) (http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4345)

CAS expands undergraduate degree options

When the College of Arts and Sciences began 42 years ago, students could choose from 29 majors. Today, with the recent addition of three new degree programs, CAS is now home to 15 departments and nearly 100 majors. [Full Story...](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4335) (http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4335)

Distinguished Lecture in the Humanities Speaker Bob Woodward

Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist and *Washington Post* managing editor Bob Woodward delivered the Distinguished Lecture in the Humanities to a sold-out audience on campus this fall. Woodward spoke about the role journalism plays in history. He explained history is a draft that is constantly getting revised, with journalism as history's first rough draft. An example of this, he said, was his immediate assumption when he heard that President Gerald Ford had pardoned Richard Nixon. Woodward, and many others, thought there was something shady about the pardon. [Full Story...](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4346) (http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4346)



Breaking Traditions: Jazz violinist named CAS artist-in-residence

Traditions serve an important role. Sometimes, though, a fresh look at tradition offers the opportunity to follow a creative path, opening the door to new opportunities. A native Detroit, 1985 OU alum and an internationally acclaimed jazz violinist well known as an innovative musician, Regina Carter studied at the (then) Center for Creative Studies and the New England Conservatory of Music before transferring to OU because she wanted to play jazz on the violin, traditionally a classical instrument. [Full Story...](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4341) (http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4341)



The Power of Giving: Donations directly impact learning opportunities for students

What do director Spike Lee, an intern on the set of television's *Law & Order*, and an alumnus with a formidable Chinese textile collection have in common? [Full Story...](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4336) (http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4336)

CAS Alumni - Fully Equipped

Alumnus forges successful career as educator and researcher

Mark Dershwitz, M.D., Ph.D. (CAS '74), credits his Oakland University undergraduate research for laying the foundation of his current career as an educator and researcher. After graduating from OU, he earned a Ph.D. in pharmacology and an M.D. from Northwestern University. Dr. Dershwitz is currently the academic vice chair and professor of anesthesiology, biochemistry and molecular pharmacology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. [Full Story...](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4343) (http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4343)



Alumna succeeds with "can-do" attitude

Dr. Lisa Flynn (CAS '89), a leading vascular surgeon with St. John Hospital and Medical Center in Detroit and Beaumont Grosse Pointe, is a "can-do" kind of person. While an undergraduate at Oakland University, she conducted research with Kathleen Moore, CAS associate dean and chemistry professor, as well as at the Eye Research Institute. "OU was fabulous," she said. "I had very good research opportunities." As a biochemistry major, she was interested in medical school, even though she wasn't enrolled in the pre-med program. [Full Story...](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4355) (http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4355)



Spotlight on Students

Talented OU studio art students get a big break

While getting a big break in the art world is elusive for most, two Oakland University studio art students already have an opportunity to showcase their work in a public venue. With their work on display in Lansing, OU seniors Chris Ams and Nicole Vinegar plan to pursue their passion for art after graduation.

[Full Story...](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4353) (http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4353)



Student aspires to work for Native American rights

Jason Graves, a Political Science major with a minor in Criminal Justice, and member of the Honors College, believes Native Americans need a champion – someone in the spotlight who is an advocate for their rights. As the president of the Native American Student Association, Graves may be that person someday. On target to complete his undergraduate degree in 2008 – in three years instead of the typical four – he’s headed to law school next year with plans to concentrate in indigenous or advocacy law. As a lawyer, he hopes to work with the tribes to help make a difference. [Full Story...](#)
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