

Oakland University

Spring/Summer 2000

MAGAZINE



Drawn to Storytelling

Hollywood alumnus scraps conventional wisdom for the artful life

Cultivating Young Scientists

Students in biology program grow with hands-on work

Corps Curriculum

Alumna in Peace Corps inspires Belizean teachers

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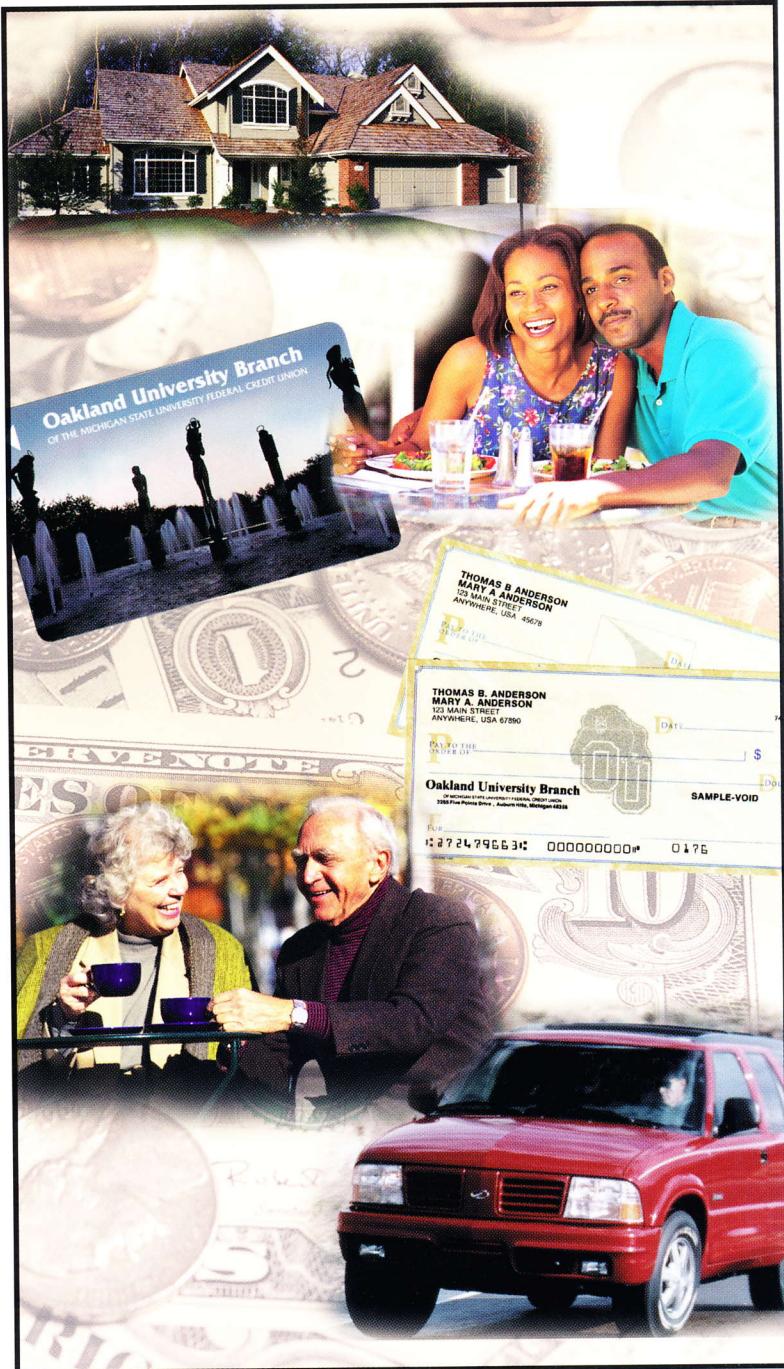
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Vice President for University Relations and
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On the cover: Film reality meets artistic fantasy in *Psychobirds!*, an original REELART painting by Mike Vosburg, CAS '70.

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Features

7 Drawn to Storytelling

OU alumnus, director, writer and artist scraps conventional wisdom for the artful life

10 Cultivating Young Scientists

In OU's Howard Hughes Fellowship Program in Biological Communication, top researchers foster undergraduates' growth through hands-on opportunities

13 Corps Curriculum

OU alumna inspires Belizean teachers and children with modern schooling methods

16 Giving Teachers the Write Stuff

Oakland professor's latest book shows educators how to develop children's learning and writing skills

18 Olympian Tasks

OU students shoulder classes, work and training in bid for skating fame

Departments

2 News and Notes

Woody Varner dies at 82; health institute director hosts radio show; SBA starts MBA at Macomb; OU plans new education building

5 OU Sports

We are the champions! 5 teams claim first Division I titles

20 Partners in Success

Barneses boost art collection; Robert Cooper CAS '73 keynotes *Keeper of the Dream* Banquet; new sculpture complements Honors College

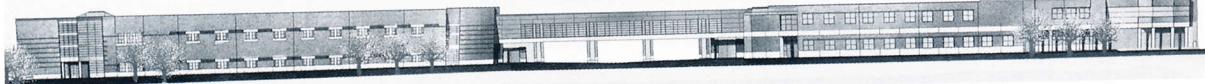
23 Alumni News

Get set for Grizzlies basketball; New program links alumni, students

24 Class Notes

Alumni profiles of Lisa Feldman CAS '96 and Leonard Gallagher CAS '86





The new \$13-million facility at Macomb Community College University Center will house Oakland engineering and computer science degree programs.

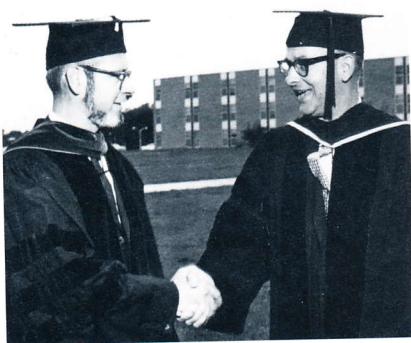
SECS partners with Macomb Community College

Beginning fall 2000, Oakland's School of Engineering and Computer Science will offer classes at the Macomb Community College University Center (MUC) in Clinton Township. During the next three years, OU will phase in its engineering and computer science degree programs so students can obtain an OU degree while attending classes at the MUC. This will be especially convenient for students who live or work in Macomb County. Bachelor degree programs in computer science, computer engineering, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering will be offered in a new \$13-million facility. For information on the programs, call SECS Advising at (248) 370-2201.

Varner's influence endures

The wisdom and foresight of D.B. "Woody" Varner, Oakland's remarkable first chancellor, will be ever present at OU, says OU President Gary D. Russi. Varner, 82, died on October 30 of

Parkinson's disease in Lincoln, Nebraska. To those around him, the charismatic Varner became the preeminent symbol of then MSU-Oakland. He



Former OU philosophy professor James Haden, left, and Woody Varner.

Correction: A caption for the Barn Theatre ran with the wrong photo in the fall 1999 issue of *Oakland University Magazine*. The building in the photo is the old workhorse barn.

built OU from the ground up, overseeing the completion of more than half of the buildings on campus. Varner Hall is named after him. Varner also helped create Meadow Brook Music Festival and many academic programs. Varner is survived by Paula, his wife; daughters Judy Varner and Susan Wilkins; son, Tom; and five grandchildren. OU honored Varner with a tribute on April 20.

SBA starts MBA at Macomb

The School of Business Administration now offers an MBA program and a program to earn a Personal Financial Planning Certificate during weekends at the Macomb Community College University Center. The Oakland University MBA program is accredited by the International Association for Management Education; the Personal Financial Planning Certificate is CFP Board certified. For more information on the weekend MBA program, contact the Office of Graduate Business Programs at

(248) 370-3287 or e-mail gbp@oakland.edu. For more information on the Certificate in Personal Financial Planning, call (248) 370-3128, e-mail sba-ce@oakland.edu or visit the SBA site at <http://www.sba.oakland.edu/mba/weekend/index.htm>.

New center's staff teaches English

International students at OU, faculty and staff and Oakland County residents who want to learn more about the English language and American culture are benefiting from a new center at the university. The College of Arts and Sciences' Department of Linguistics dedicated the Center for American English last November. It offers courses and workshops in English for business and professional applications, credit courses for students, and non-credit courses. For information on schedules and fees, please contact Kathy Malin or the Linguistics Department at (248) 370-2175.

Health Institute director hosts radio show

If you're confused by all the hype about the best way to stay healthy, a new show on Detroit's WJR 760 AM radio can help. Fred Stransky, director of OU's Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute,



Fred Stransky hosts *The Secrets to Good Health* on WJR.

hosts *The Secrets to Good Health*, a weekly series of live shows. The show gives listeners the latest information about improving health and well-being. Stransky responds to phone calls on the air, Sundays, 10-11 p.m. The toll-free number is (800) 859-OWJR.



The new *Oakland Journal*

Oakland Journal debuts

Editors recently introduced to the OU campus a new publication featuring articles, reviews and literary productions by members of the Oakland University community, including alumni. The mission of the *Oakland Journal* is to provide intellectually stimulating reading and to help build community spirit, says editor Geoff Brieger, professor, Department of Chemistry, CAS. Brian Murphy, Honors College director, and Sherman Folland, associate professor, Economics, CAS, are associate editors. The journal is published twice a year, in spring and summer. Check out the journal at <http://www.sba.oakland.edu/>

oaklandjournal/.

Contact Brieger at (248) 370-2325 gbrieger@oakland.edu for further information.

OU achieves record-breaking enrollment

Fall 1999 enrollment is 14,726, Oakland's highest headcount ever. The total is up 2.6 percent; undergraduate enrollment increased 4.6 percent. First-year student enrollment is up 19 percent over fall 1998 and the number of new transfer students climbed 5 percent. Winter 2000 enrollment climbed to a record-high 13,837, 1.5 percent higher compared to winter 1999; undergraduate enrollment increased 3 percent.

OU plans new education building

Oakland is proceeding with plans to construct a \$31.5-million building for its School of Education and Human Services with funds from the capital outlay budget recently approved by the Michigan Legislature and governor.

Early projections, which could change, call for the building to be occupied in 2003.

"The legislature and the governor developed a system for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 to fund building projects for state universities and colleges," says Rochelle Black, director, OU's Office of Government Relations. "We appreciate their commitment to providing the funds necessary for us to accommodate our growth and to support our School of Education and Human Services with this new building."

Emrich serves as interim SON dean

Kathleen Emrich started serving as interim dean of the School of Nursing on January 1, 2000. She had been an assistant professor in the SON since August 1998. Emrich earned an Ed.D. from the University of Michigan in 1991 and served as associate vice president and chief operating officer for Henry Ford Kingswood Hospital. She replaces Justine Speer, who retired on December 31, 1999, after five years as dean.



Kathleen Emrich

The 2000 OU Update: 'The future could not be brighter'

OU's future looks as full of growth as its recent past. In his annual Oakland University Update January 13, President Gary Russ presented the university's efforts toward achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan, highlighting the successes of 1995-1999. Since 1995, Oakland has introduced more than 25 academic degree programs and specializations and added 39 full-time faculty to OU classrooms, Russ says. The entering grade-point average and average ACT scores for first-year students rose slightly over the past five years during a period of 11-percent growth in enrollment. The president also mentioned Oakland has kept pace with its record-setting

enrollment growth by investing in capital improvements — new buildings, laboratories, common areas and office space — to meet the needs of its growing population and programs.

Russi talked about many likely projects, including these:

- Expansion of Honors College programs, including a residence hall
- Initiation of a study of ways to change and improve the General Education curriculum and incorporate ongoing assessments
- Construction of a hotel and conference center, on-campus apartments and a living and administrative center for international students
- Development of more internships in Oakland

County to capitalize more effectively on its resources

- Expansion of technology-related courses
- Incorporation of a redesigned Master of Business Administration program and the establishment of business administration programs in China

Beginning next fall, the School of Engineering and Computer Science will launch new engineering degree programs at the Macomb Community College University Center. Oakland will be the sole provider of engineering programs at this site.

"The future could not be brighter as we look ahead to continued student and campus growth, academic program enhancements,



OU President Gary Russi

technology advances, new partnerships with business and industry and sound fiscal times," Russi says.

**Read President Russi's address at:
<http://www.oakland.edu/russi.htm>**

History On Display

Maybe OU thought you ought to be in pictures. Stop by the new History Wall in Oakland Center to find out. You may be in some of the 26 photos of moments and significant people in Oakland's history — from 1957 to the present. Was that you in the Beer Lake canoe race? Or were you in the crowd cheering for OU Chancellor Woody Varner to stay at Oakland?

The history is on the wall next to the Office of Student Affairs (144 OC).

Here is a sampling of the photos:

- The 1957 Meadow Brook Seminars to establish the curriculum of Oakland, which was then called Michigan State University Oakland.
- 1968 Miss Oakland
- OU's first chancellor, Woody Varner, and presidents Donald O'Dowd, Joseph Champagne, Sandra Packard and Gary Russi
- A 1960s aerial view of campus
- Alfred and Matilda Dodge Wilson, OU founders
- The first registration in 1959
- 1963 charter class commencement

"We know that the OU community is proud of its history as a groundbreaking institution," says OC Director Richard Fekel. "We wanted to create a place to honor that past."

The wall's content will change as events occur and as items are provided — so make some history! To contribute to the display, contact Fekel at (248) 370-3245 or fekel@oakland.edu.



Attention Alumni!

Get priority on available season ticket locations for next season if you purchase in May.



The home opener in men's basketball is November 17 vs. the University of Michigan!

The women's basketball team home opener is November 22 vs. the University of Detroit-Mercy. Call (248) 370-4000 for more information or visit <http://www.oakland.edu/ouathletics>.

We are the champions! 5 teams claim first Division I titles

In the first official year of NCAA Division I competition, five Oakland University teams earned Mid-Continent Conference titles.

The 1999 women's soccer team was the first Oakland team to win a Division I league championship. The team won all five conference games and finished the regular season with a record of 14-4-1. Nick O'Shea, women's soccer coach, was named Mid-Con Conference Coach of the Year.

One month later, both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams claimed the Mid-Con Conference Championship. The women's team also took all the top Mid-Con Championship awards, with head coach Scott Teeters named Mid-Con Conference Coach of the Year; Rachelle Atrasz, Swimmer of the Year; Kazi Murr, Diver of the Year; and Danielle Ward,

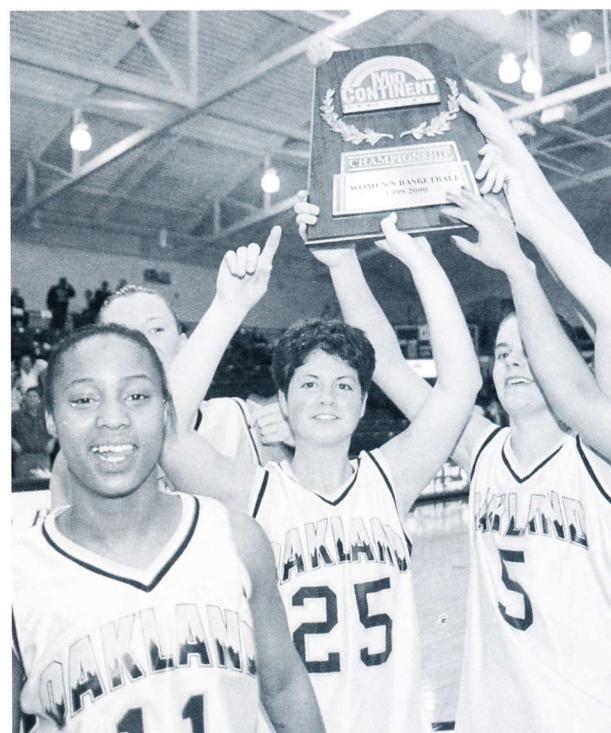
Newcomer of the Year. The men's coach, Pete Hovland, also was named Coach of the Year, while Thiago Orso earned the Swimmer of the Year honors and Drew Williams, Newcomer of the Year.

The men's and women's basketball teams also won Mid-Con Conference titles. The men's team ended the season with a six-game winning streak and improved to 13-17 overall and 11-5 in the Mid-Con. Coach Greg Kampe was honored as Mid-Con Coach of the Year and was selected National Coach of the Year by *College Hoops Insider* magazine. The women's team won the last 10 games of the regular season, nine of which were conference games, and finished the regular season 18-9 overall and 13-3 in the conference.

Coach Beckie Francis also was named Mid-Con Coach of the Year and OU freshman guard Katie Wolfe earned the Newcomer of the Year award. The women's team competed in the Mid-Con tournament, winning its first game against University of Missouri-Kansas City and bowing out in the semifinals to Valparaiso.

"We're very proud of our fine athletes and coaches," says OU Athletic Director Jack Mehl. "Oakland has always had

strong athletic programs — now they're getting the widespread recognition they deserve with our move to Division I. Our change to Division I status is consistent with Oakland's unprecedented campus growth in recent years. The athletics programs are a positive for the university — they've increased Oakland's visibility and outreach."



The women's basketball team celebrates its Mid-Con victory.

In Brief

1999 men's soccer season

The 1999 Oakland University men's soccer team, in head coach Gary Parsons' 19th season, completed a very productive year, finishing with an overall record of 11-6-2.

1999 volleyball season

Despite a coaching change in the off-season,

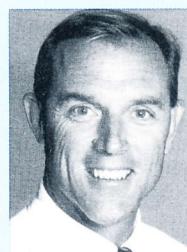
Coach of the Year Honors



O'Shea



Teeters



Hovland



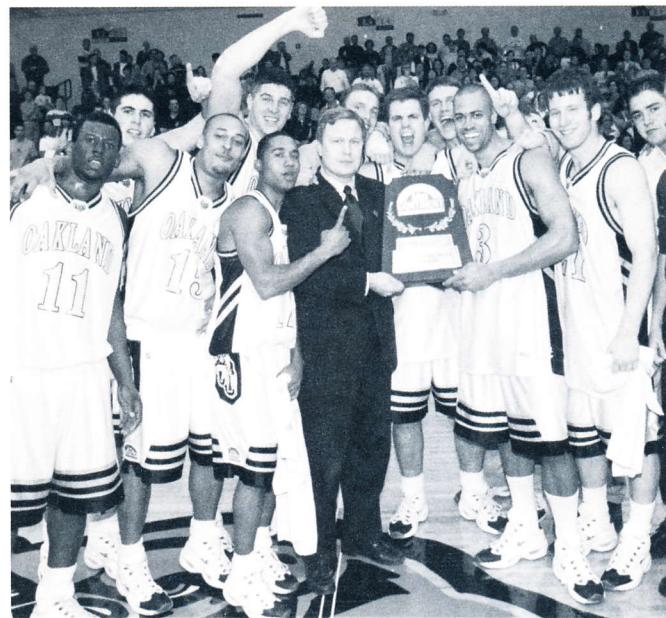
Kampe



Francis



The Oakland University dance team placed eighth in its first national competition.



John Steinbrecher, Mid-Con Conference Commissioner, presents the conference title plaque to OU's men's basketball team.

Oakland's 1999 volleyball team struggled to a final record of 6-24 overall and 2-12 in the Mid-Continent Conference. First-year head coach Ed Tolentino inherited the team.

1999 cross-country season

The Oakland University men's cross-country team finished three of their six meets in the top five.

The women's cross-country team finished five of their six meets in the top 10.

Black Bears hockey club 2nd in tourney

OU's men's hockey club, a member of the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA), won second place in a November 1999 tournament in its first year of Division II play. Two hundred teams across the nation compete in ACHA's Division II. At the Outback Steakhouse tournament in New Hampshire last November,

the Black Bears beat Daniel Webster College 12-1 and lost to Franklin Pierce College 7-6, says team president Jeremy Sarnovsky. OU finished 16-12-1 overall.

Dance team places eighth in national competition

The Oakland University dance team, Images, placed eighth in the Universal Dance Association/Universal Cheer Association College National Championships in Orlando, Florida, in January. The eighth place finish came in the first-ever Division I dance and cheer competition in which Oakland has competed.

Teri Bossi, Oakland's dance team coach, said it is unusual for a team competing in its first national competition to finish in the top 10.

Drawn to storytelling

by Ryan Poquette

OU alumnus, director, writer and artist scraps conventional wisdom for the artful life



Talking corpses, demonic superheroes and voluptuous women.

When it comes to fictional characters, Emmy-Award-winning director, writer and comic artist Mike Vosburg ("Voz") CAS '70 has worked with them all.

Vosburg has pursued his art across many media since he was a kid — despite the advice of a counselor in Battle Creek, Michigan.

"I was living there, working as a comic book artist on *G.I. Joe*," says



Oakland alum Mike Vosburg has drawn a host of fictional and actual characters, including himself — in an uncharacteristic, curmudgeonly pose (above). Left: Vosburg receives his Emmy for his directing work on HBO's animated series, *Spawn*.



A panel from Vosburg's illustrated edition of Robert Louis Stevenson's book, *Kidnapped*. The book, one of a series of illustrated literature classics, was next in line to be produced when the publishing company went bankrupt.

Vosburg. "I told the counselor that I wanted to move to Los Angeles and get a job storyboarding in Hollywood. He told me I should get a realistic goal. I know he was trying to be helpful, but it had never occurred to me that mine wasn't."

Fortunately, he ignored the counselor and set out to achieve his dream — something that he had been working on for years.

Like most comic artists, Vosburg is self-taught. When he was 15, he produced *Masquerader*, one of the earliest comic "fanzines," which he sold through the mail. At its peak, *Masquerader* was selling about 1,000 copies per issue. The recent book, *The Golden Age of Comic Fandom*, covers Vosburg and his fanzine cronies.

When Vosburg started at Oakland in the late '60s, there was no official art program. But even if there had been one, he still would have pursued his English degree.

"Knowing the basics of literature really appealed to me," he says.

"I love to tell stories. As much as I like art, it's really just a tool to tell stories."

At OU, he divided his time between class and playing basketball in the gym. "I was so shy that I didn't meet anybody," says a much-less-shy Vosburg.

After graduating, he spent the next few years teaching at a couple of local Catholic schools before moving to Battle Creek. There, he accelerated his comics career and for the next 10 years or so sold his artwork — usually by working through the mail — to comics giants Marvel and DC.

His many assignments included *Star Wars*, *Isis*, *Ms. Marvel*, *She-Hulk*, and of course, the military-themed *G.I. Joe*.

In the comics, he earned a reputation for his illustrations of women, especially the sexy heroines. Outside of the comics, he met and exchanged vows with his own heroine, Annie. "Meeting her was the turning point in my life," he says. In 1985, they made the move to Los Angeles, where Vosburg immediately procured storyboarding and other illustration work at some major animation studios,

Vosburg's love of film and illustration have culminated in the creation of his REELART, a collection of acrylic paintings, including this classic scene from the 1935 film *Bride of Frankenstein*.

while continuing to draw comics.

A few years later, he landed a freelance job for *Tales From the Crypt*, a live-action HBO show based on the popular '50s comic series. Vosburg did the initial concept design for the now-famous opening sequence, where a camera pulled the viewer along through a haunted house and down a staircase into the Crypt, a dungeon where the Crypt Keeper, an animated corpse, hosted each half-hour show.

The producers liked Vosburg's work so much that they kept him on the show for its entire seven-year run (and even had him work on the two *Tales* feature films). Besides doing storyboarding, character and concept design work for various episodes, he also drew each of the promo comic book covers that introduced the episodes (93 in total). The covers paid homage to the '50s originals by keeping the same logo, but beyond that, each one was made for the specific episode, including drawing the principal characters to match their real-life acting counterparts. To do this, Vosburg was often on the set of the show, taking photos of the stars and studying the story lines.

His work was not all behind-the-scenes. In two episodes, both of which ironically featured a *Tales* artist in the story line, Vosburg (or his hands in the first case) made a cameo appearance.

After *Tales*, Vosburg worked some more in the comics, did storyboarding for various advertisements and began painting, before returning to HBO, this time to the animation division. He worked first as a storyboard artist, then as one of five directors, on *Spaun*, a series about a damned man

who is given demonic,



superhero-like powers for evil, but chooses to use them for good. Vosburg was one of the people who received an Emmy last fall for his directing efforts on the third and final season of *Spawn*.

Spawn was a provocative show, in that it was an adult cartoon.

"Adult means more sex and violence," Vosburg says in an earlier interview with Rob Allstetter of *The Detroit News*.

"That's great," he says. "But if you don't have mature and worthwhile content with it, what's the point?"

Vosburg and a friend, screenwriter Pete Ventrella, ventured into the mature market on their own with their original comic book series, *Lori Lovecraft*, about a washed-up movie actress who uses her newfound mystical powers for good . . . and comedy.

Given a choice, he would prefer to keep producing comics, but he recognizes the fact that the traditional comics market is rapidly shrinking.

"As a paper medium, comics will probably cease to exist in the next four to five years," says Vosburg. "It's too expensive to produce for what you get."

He has always been quick to recognize the changes in his field and quickly adapt to the new technology, whether it meant using a color copier or advanced graphics software.

Now he is joining the latest trend — designing websites. His first effort, www.vozart.com, features an original on-line comic, *Mummy's Boy*, and samples of his *REELART*, a collection of acrylic paintings inspired by his love of films.

Even after drawing countless illustrations for high-profile comics, books, animation, television and films, Vosburg is still humble. "I don't take any of this stuff very seriously."

A not so long time ago, in a city not so far away (Battle Creek, Michigan), Vosburg launched his professional comics career working on comic books like Marvel's *Star Wars*.



Vosburg drew all of the *Tales from the Crypt* promo comic book covers that preceded each Tale. This cover, from an episode entitled *Whirlpool*, featured actress/comedienne Rita Rudner. Vosburg also had a cameo role in the episode as a Tales artist.

he says with a characteristic grin.

These days, he spends a lot of time at home working on the things that mean the most in his life: his marriage, his paintings and his website.

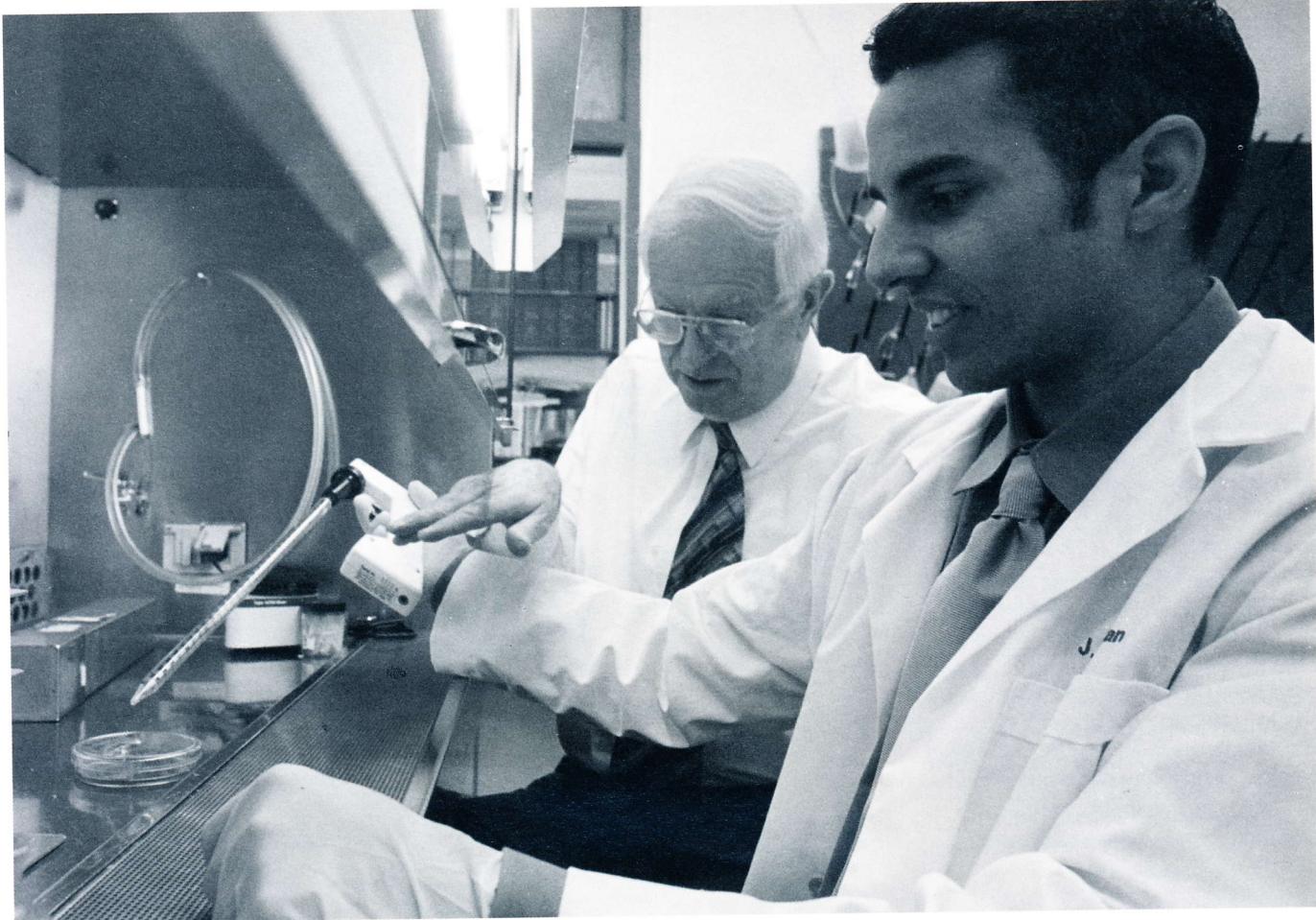
He is also thinking about getting more involved in education, something that is still very important to him. He speaks on occasion to art students, telling them about his

experiences.

"I tell them that I don't believe in talent," says Vosburg. "I started out with little or no talent myself, and just worked hard to learn this stuff. If I can do it, anybody can."

Ryan Poquette CAS '96 is a staff writer for *Oakland University Magazine*.





John Pena, right, works with his mentor, John Reddan, OU eye research expert.

Cultivating Young Scientists

by Amy Mindell

In OU's Howard Hughes Fellowship Program in Biological Communication, top researchers foster undergraduates' scientific growth through hands-on opportunities

OU senior John Pena planned to go into business, until participation in an Oakland research program changed the course of his academic career.

When Pena started classes at Oakland four years ago, his goal was to earn an MBA. Now, after gaining valuable research experience in OU's prestigious Howard Hughes Fellowship Program, he plans to attend Yale University School of Medicine.

A good student, Pena was tending bar at night and taking general education classes during the day, including a required introductory biology class. He discovered he enjoyed biology, and when he spotted a poster advertising the Howard Hughes Fellowship Program in Biological Communication, an advanced biology program for undergraduate students, the opportunity intrigued him. He applied to become a research fellow.

Pena, then a sophomore, started laboratory work with eye research expert John Reddan, professor, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences.

Pena helped Reddan in developing a line of human lens epithelial cells that have properties

similar to cells on the intact human lens. The cultured human lens epithelial cells provide a logical system to understand the factors that may delay or prevent cataract formation. This work is important because cataract formation is the leading cause of blindness in the world.

While working in Reddan's lab, Pena discovered that he enjoyed scientific research tremendously — and that he was good at it.

Through opportunities and contacts made in the Howard Hughes program, Pena was able to spend a summer conducting gene research with a Yale University professor at a renowned Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory in Maine. He was given a top tier position in the lab of Yale Professor John N. Forest, and succeeded in cloning a gene that helps regulate cystic fibrosis. Pena won grants from the National Science Foundation and the Howard Hughes Foundation to fund the trip.

Pena, a biochemistry and philosophy major, says the Hughes program was a launch pad. "You can do anything you want with it," he says. "I appreciate the opportunities it has opened up for me."

Pena will spend the upcoming academic year working as a research associate at Yale, then he plans to attend Yale University School of Medicine in the fall of 2001.

Virinder Moudgil, chair and professor, Biological Sciences, and director of Oakland's Howard Hughes program, calls the program an unqualified success.

"The program provides a rare opportunity for undergraduates and area high school science teachers to perform hands-on research with faculty members who are experts in their disciplines," Moudgil says.

"It also enables the students to be mentored early in their undergraduate careers. And, it promotes intensive one-on-one and group interactions to exchange scientific ideas and data,"

Moudgil says.

Moudgil heads a research team dedicated to breast cancer research, and he mentors two Howard Hughes program fellows.

Pena, a biochemistry and philosophy major, says the Hughes program was a launch pad. "You can do anything you want with it," he says. "I appreciate the opportunities it has opened up for me."

He is studying the effects of the drug, Tamoxifen, and estrogen on human breast cancer cells that he grows in the lab. Researchers have discovered that when the cells are exposed to estrogen, the main female hormone, it promotes the cell's ability to make a tumor-suppressing protein. Moudgil explained that this protein is involved, under normal circumstances, in the suppression of cancer growth. At least 50-60 percent of people with breast, colon and prostate cancers possess an altered form of this protein, he says. And the presence of a mutated or altered form of this protein puts a person at high risk of developing cancer.

"Our role is to unlock the mystery of the mode of action of this tumor-suppressor protein. The object of our research is to be able to determine or establish experimental conditions which will allow a woman to take full advantage of the beneficial effects of estrogen and minimize her risk of breast cancer," he says, adding that correct amounts of estrogen are beneficial, but an excess concentration has been shown to promote cancer growth.

"We are fine-tuning the concentration that allows all the benefits and decreases any of the risks," he says. "And the fellows are playing a very active role in our research efforts."

Senior Seemah Shah, a biology and Spanish major, is one of the fellows in Moudgil's research group. She greatly enjoys her work in the lab, especially the opportunity to shape research

directions and test her own theories.

"Before I began the program, I was not sure of my potential as a scientist," Shah says. "At first it was hard to go to classes and perform

research, but once I got the hang of it, I was able to come up with my own ideas. My mentor encouraged me, and we would discuss my ideas and I was able to implement some of them into the research project," Shah says.

Shah plans to pursue a master's degree next year, with her sights set on becoming a professor and researcher. She wants to focus on endocrinology.

Other fellows tackle research topics, including the influence of hormones on anatomical development and chemical signaling that regulates cellular processes.

OU is one of 49 out of 1,200 eligible American universities that received the four-year, \$600,000 grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in 1996. Oakland was chosen based on the strength of its undergraduate education, and is the only public university in Michigan to receive this award. If the continuation of the



Judette Haddad is the Howard Hughes lab coordinator.

program is contingent on its performance, there is a good chance that the grant will be renewed, Moudgil says.

About a dozen undergraduate students are admitted annually to the highly competitive two-year program, which begins with an eight-week summer seminar. These fellows then engage in four to six weeks of full-time mentored laboratory research, and in the fall and winter semesters, they do part-time research with faculty mentors. They also participate in a regular Biological Communications Colloquium featuring visiting speakers and updates on individual research projects.

A second summer of full-time research in faculty laboratories completes the experience. All fellows receive summer stipends along with materials, supplies and a travel allowance to attend a national scientific meeting. They also receive limited tuition assistance.

In addition, the student fellows visit area schools, sharing their experiences to encourage underrepresented minorities to pursue biological or medical research at OU.

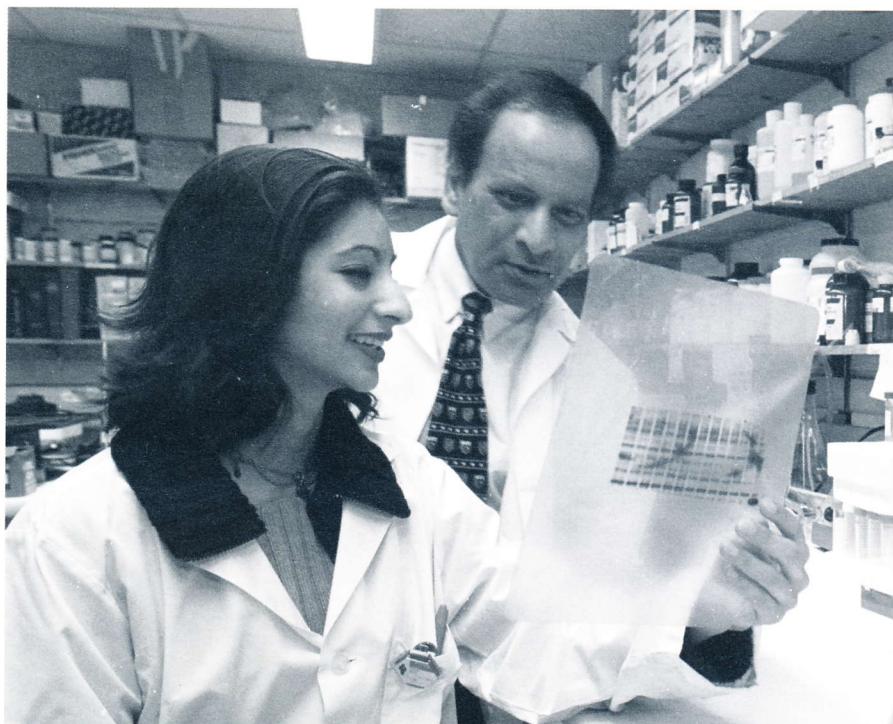
Another component of the program is outreach to high school science teachers. Two or three teachers participate each year in a one-year program in which they work to develop hands-on science experiments for their classrooms.

Dawn Reeves, who teaches biology and chemistry at Oak Park High School, says she enjoyed the Hughes program very much.

Reeves graduated from college in 1978, and since then many new technologies have been developed in her field. The Oakland-based program enabled her to explore these new technologies in the university's state-of-the-art labs.

"They didn't have a lot of these things when I was in college," she says, referring to technologies such as electrophoresis for DNA and protein sequencing and microscopy.

"The program gave me a good idea of what's happening in the world of technology," Reeves says. "I can prepare my students better for



Seemah Shah, left, works with her mentor, Virinder Moudgil, on breast cancer research.

**"They didn't have a lot of these things when I was in college," says Dawn Reeves, referring to technologies such as electrophoresis for DNA and protein sequencing and microscopy . . .
"I can prepare my students better for college. I can integrate technologies from the program into my classroom . . ."**

college. I can integrate technologies from the program into my classroom and hopefully inspire college-bound students to go into biotechnology."

All in all, the Howard Hughes program has far-reaching benefits.

Associate Professor Fay Hansen-Smith, a mentor in the program, believes that in addition to helping

students, the program also benefits faculty and the university. Hansen-Smith, who performs biological research on mechanisms of blood vessel growth in muscle and the heart, has been involved with the program since its inception at Oakland.

"OU has always made progress in research labs, but because of the program, there is a tremendous cross-fertilization of ideas," she says.

"The Howard Hughes Program is a mechanism of interaction, and undergraduate students can learn what's going on in other labs, just like the graduate students do. They learn to help each other and solve research problems. The program takes this multidisciplinary interaction to a new level — for students and for professors," says Hansen-Smith.

Hansen-Smith herself was once the recipient of a summer research fellowship sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

"It was a pivotal experience in my life," she says. "Just like the program is to OU students now." ■

Amy Mindell is a freelance writer in Southfield. Her work has appeared in local and national publications.

CORPS CURRICULUM

OU ALUMNA
INSPIRES
BELIZEAN
TEACHERS
AND CHILDREN
WITH MODERN
SCHOOLING
METHODS

BY SUZANNE HAXER

Suzanne Haxer graduated from Oakland's School of Education and Human Services in December 1997 with a BS in Elementary Education. Here, she shares her experiences as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Belize, a Central American country bordering on the Caribbean.

My mom tells me that when I was four years old, I came home from kindergarten and said, "When I grow up, I want to teach kids how to read, because it's really important." Now, that's exactly what I do.

While attending the Elementary Education program at Oakland, I worked with the Student Association



Suzanne Haxer, left, runs a workshop for Belizean teachers on classroom management and methods of teaching language arts.

for Teacher Education (SATE), as the secretary and newsletter editor for three semesters. The program offered many opportunities for university students to work in the underprivileged schools of Pontiac. I had the opportunity to work with teachers and students in Longfellow and Will Rogers elementary schools. Working in those schools left me with a desire to continue to work with schools in communities that lack resources and opportunities that provide technical support for their teaching staff. I channeled this desire and chose to volunteer for two years as a teacher trainer for the Peace Corps.

As a teacher trainer in Belize, I work under the Ministry of Education as a Curriculum Field Officer. My primary responsibility is to train teachers to implement the new National Comprehensive Curriculum in their classrooms by providing workshops, site visits, orientation sessions and technical support.

Belizeans wrote the new curriculum which focuses on delivering content through child-centered activities in which students explore and create, instead of just sitting and listening.

One goal of a national curriculum in Belize is to standardize the education for all pupils in primary schools across the country. The broad



morsel. It's amazing how people who seem to have so little can give so much.

After lunch, I will return to the school to conduct a two-hour meeting with the lower-division teachers.

These sessions usually consist of a group discussion, a question-and-answer period, and a mini-workshop on any topic from whole language to using manipulatives to teach mathematics.

Manipulatives are real objects that teachers use to teach a given concept. For example, in Belize, teachers use things like bottle tops, stones and uncooked beans to teach students to count and make sets.

Teachers have been very receptive and excited about

using the new curriculum in their classrooms. I have seen many teachers move from the "chalk and talk" method of teaching to using a more child-centered approach. Many of the teachers in my district now use manipulatives every day with their students.

The most challenging parts of my job are transportation and communication. First, transportation is often difficult if there is no bus that travels to a particular village. At times I have begged for a ride in the back of a pickup truck that is heading in the direction that I want to travel. Surprisingly, in Belize, it is relatively safe to hitchhike. As it is extremely expensive to own and operate a private vehicle in Belize, many teachers and principals and other workers share rides. On the rare occasion that I ride alone with strangers, I do so in the back of a pickup truck only; that way, I am not confined in the cab with someone I do not know. I generally take this type of passage only with other volunteers or with coworkers. I have also had to spend the night in one village to reach another village the following day.

Secondly, communication is difficult. Unlike schools in the United States, most schools in Belize do not have telephones, fax machines, or cell

objectives for student learning and core content are in alignment with other Caribbean countries, as well as the United States.

I am responsible for training all teachers at the lower division (K-2) in the 39 schools in the Orange Walk District. It is challenging and rewarding.

A typical day for me is catching an old school bus, if one goes to the village that I want to visit, and traveling to a remote village for a site visit. Some villages are up to two hours away by bus, down bumpy, dusty, dirt roads that wind through sugar cane fields and the bush. Upon my arrival at the village school, I spend my mornings observing and providing feedback to the teachers; I subtly offer suggestions for improvement in the delivery of content and/or classroom management.

Generally I am invited to share lunch with one of the teachers who lives in the village. The generosity of the villagers always astounds me. I am privileged to spend an hour and a half in the home of a teacher, along with his or her family. I have learned much about the culture and customs of Belizeans by spending this time immersed in their lives. I have also

been served some very interesting local delicacies, such as pig tail, venison stew, and even gibnut, the jungle rat. Although I am flattered to be invited into the homes of teachers, I often find that if I think too much about what I'm eating — for example,

"SOMETIMES, I KNOW THAT BY SHARING THEIR FOOD WITH ME, THEY MAY NOT HAVE AS MUCH FOR THEMSELVES OR THEIR CHILDREN. I APPRECIATE EVERY MORSEL. IT'S AMAZING HOW PEOPLE WHO SEEM TO HAVE SO LITTLE CAN GIVE SO MUCH."

jungle rat — I want to claim vegetarianism. My usual response to the question, "So, how do you like it?" is, "Mmm. It's very tasty, thank you for sharing."

Sometimes, I know that by sharing their food with me, they may not have as much for themselves or their children. I appreciate every

phones. Often I have to send a letter on a bus, or with a relative who may or may not see the person I wish to contact.

When I'm not working, I have several hobbies that keep me busy. First, on Saturdays, I host a story hour program for children at the library in town. I usually read a couple of short stories and then work with the children on arts and crafts activities. One week we read the story of the gingerbread man. We then made the dough for gingerbread cookies and every student got to cut out and eat his or her cookie. I am also the editor for the Peace Corps Belize quarterly magazine for volunteers, the *Toucan Times*. When I have a weekend totally free from my other responsibilities, I enjoy traveling around this beautiful country. I have visited a couple of the cays, or islands, off the coast. There is gorgeous snorkeling and diving off the cays. I particularly enjoyed a manatee sightseeing tour and snorkeling along the reef. There are so many natural attractions in Belize that I could never tire of exploring.

Unlike the typical vision of a Peace Corps volunteer living and working in a hut in a remote area, I live and work in the busy town of Orange

Walk. Orange Walk is situated in the center of the Orange Walk District, which borders Mexico to the west. Although the population of Belize is educated in English, many people in Orange Walk speak only Spanish or Yucatec Mayan. The staple industry in the district is sugar cane. During the sugar cane season, you can see the big trucks filled with cane as it awaits processing, you can smell the pungent

smell of the freshly chopped cane, and you can feel the heat of the blaze as the fields are burned.

Shattering the myth that all volunteers are isolated, I have a fellow volunteer as a roommate. Her name is Laura Korin and she works with the Belize Family Life Association, doing HIV and AIDS education and counseling.

We live in a cement house that has running water and electricity. It is located near many town schools, the bus station, and the center of town.

It is a friendly community. Many neighborhood children visit our house daily and hang out on our front porch to play with our dog, Maya, or, if they're lucky, to beat us in a game of UNO. The house is situated on a well-lit corner and we have never had any problems with our safety. The only invaders in our house have been malaria-spreading mosquitoes and an occasional roach. (All volunteers in Belize take anti-malaria drugs).

Each month when I flip the calendar, I am amazed that I've been in Belize for so long. I came to Belize on June 6, 1999, and I will be returning to my hometown of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, during the summer of 2001. I have yet to make any decisions regarding my life after Peace Corps. There are so many

OU's Office of Alumni

Relations would like to hear from other alumni who are former Peace Corps volunteers. Please send e-mail to ouaa@oakland.edu; faxes to (248) 370-4206; or mail to OUAA, John Dodge House, Oakland University, Rochester MI 48309-4401.

options. Part of me wants to continue to live an exciting life abroad. Another part of me aches for the comforts of family and the familiar. Only time will tell me the next step to take.

Some days seem endless and others fly right by. I have been profoundly changed by my adventures here. I know that later in my life I will look back at my experiences in Belize with awe and wonder, as if it were all a dream. I will not regret my decision to leave my comfortable, predictable life to serve the people of a far-away nation. Every day the beauty of this experience leaves me breathless. ■



Maya welcomes visitors to Haxer's house in the Orange Walk District.



Giving teachers the write stuff

An Oakland professor's latest book shows educators how to develop children's learning and writing skills

by Ann Ruppenthal

Everyone has at least one, or should have, anyway. Someone who encouraged you to go for your dreams. Often it's a teacher.

For Ron Cramer, professor, School of Education and Human Services, it was Mrs. Anderson, his college English teacher, who encouraged him to write.

In his latest book, *Creative Power: The Nature and Nurture of Children's Writing*, Cramer is trying to produce more teachers like Mrs. Anderson by helping educators understand how children develop as writers. In the book, he says that with a little encouragement, teachers can fill children with confidence, an essential element in carrying them through their entire academic career.

Cramer became interested in children's writing while he was a student working on his Ph.D. in Behavioral Science. After coming to OU in 1967, he studied children's writing for a year at the University of Nebraska in 1968. When Cramer returned to OU, he was awarded a grant to create an early childhood program in 1970.

With his colleague George Coon, professor emeritus, Education, SEHS, Cramer received a \$500,000 four-year grant from the then-United States Office of Education. Cramer and Coon were part of a 10-university consortium given grants to sustain an

early childhood program at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

At that time, there were no early childhood faculty members and no program at OU. The two men developed a curriculum and trained as many as 40 master's-level fellows in early childhood education, and a small charter faculty in early childhood education.

After setting up the program, Coon and Cramer were credited with executing one of the few funded grants that ended with a permanent early childhood department in place.

Currently, the early childhood department offers Ph.D., master's and undergraduate programs and is known for running one of the best programs in Michigan.

Cramer's method of teaching students, who will later teach children to write, was first shared through the publication of an earlier book, *The Spelling Connection: Integrating Reading, Writing, and Spelling Instruction*.

Brenda Spencer, assistant professor, Department of Elementary, Bilingual and Reading Education, SEHS, has chosen to use Cramer's book for her reading methods class for pre-service teachers. She says the book tells teachers to be respectful so children in their charge are encouraged to take the important steps that will allow them to become independent learners.

"This powerful role of the teacher is conveyed throughout the book and provides a model of teaching that I

want my students to emulate," says Spencer.

Cramer's general philosophy of teaching children to write is evident in his instruction of his own students.

"I approach teachers . . . with the notion of loving writing yourself, participating in it, appreciating it. If you do that, you will be a better model for the children."

"I love to write, to revise, and try to make something the best it can be," Cramer says. "Writing can help you remake the ideas you are trying to present. It is how you discover what you really think."

Cramer has also teamed with other writers on spelling and language arts books, some of which are in their sixth or seventh editions.

The encouragement to write, Cramer suggests, should not only come from school; it also needs to come from home.

"Parents can encourage early writing by providing the materials and the support needed to engage in the early stages of writing, which are the Scribble Stage, the Drawing Stage, and the Letter String Stage," Cramer says. (see chart at right) "In the fourth, or Developmental Stage, parents can encourage their children to spell as best they can, display their work, and send them to school with a positive attitude toward reading and writing."

In addition to his long list of projects and presentations, Cramer is currently involved in a research project, *Frequencies and Patterns in Children's Spelling Errors in Grades 1-8*. In this study, 18,599 compositions from 50 states were analyzed to determine spelling patterns, errors, and word frequencies.

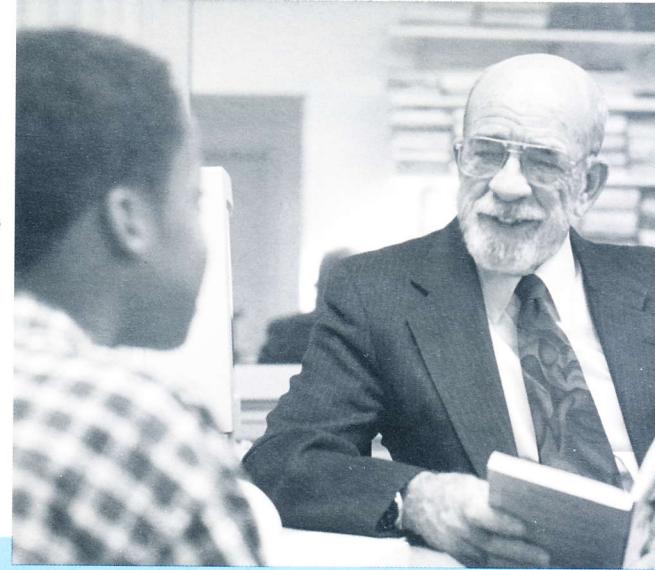
Creative Power: The Nature and Nurture of Children's Writing, which is to be published in Spring 2000 by Addison Wesley, Longman, is for undergraduate and graduate education students in language arts and writing courses. It will be an essential tool in teaching students the importance of a child's development in the writing process.

Cramer still has one goal in mind and hopes his new book will help that

goal take shape.

"My goal is to teach teachers the importance of writing by expecting them to practice the art of writing. Unless they take part in writing, it is unlikely that they will have the skill or desire to teach writing." ■

Ann Ruppenthal is a staff writer for Oakland University Magazine.



Ron Cramer evaluates a child's reading skills.

Best practices to encourage early writing

From Ron Cramer's new book, *Creative Power: The Nature and Nurture of Children's Writing*.

Scribble Stage: Ages 2 to 3

1. Encourage early attempts to write (scribble).
2. Provide crayons, paper and other writing devices.
3. Read books, play with letter blocks, talk about letters and words.
4. Write children's names on their writing.
5. Display writing in conspicuous places.

Drawing Stage: Ages 3 to 4

1. Comment positively on the details within a drawing.
2. Comment on letters, names or words incorporated into drawings.
3. Read writing back to the author, if asked.
4. Praise and make specific observations about the piece.
5. Display drawings and writing prominently.

Letter String Stage (writing individual letters): Ages 4 to 5

1. Encourage children to incorporate into their writing the words they see during the early years of development.
2. Suggest ideas for a string of letters children may write and a list of words that they may spell or partly spell. In effect, this helps them take inventory of what they know.
3. Answer questions and make observations about words and letters.
4. Ask children to tell you about their writing and drawing.
5. Share writing within the learning community, whether it is the informal, family learning community, or a formal learning community such as preschool or school.

Developmental Stage: Ages 5 to 6

1. Encourage spelling inventions and provide help as needed.
2. Encourage detailed illustrations.
3. Have children read their writing aloud.
4. Read good literature and talk about the authors.
5. Share writing from the "author's chair" by having children read aloud to the class what they have written.



Olympian Tasks

Skaters shoulder OU classes, work and training

By Joanne C. Gerstner

Oakland University students Larisa Spielberg and Craig Joeright have little trouble trying to figure out what to do with their free time outside of class.

They have divided their lives up into three neat chunks: school, competitive figure skating and work.

Spielberg and Joeright are one of America's up-and-coming pairs teams, showing enough potential to qualify for the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City.

But the road to the Olympics is a long one, and both realize there is a lot of hard work ahead of them.

"Dreaming of skating in the Olympics is the thing that keeps you going and practicing when you might feel like taking a break," says Spielberg, a 19-year-old from East Lansing. "We've come a long way, but there is still a lot more improvement to go before we're ready for something like the Olympics."

Each takes two classes each semester at OU, a schedule that meshes well with their six-day training week. Spielberg is a first-year student who wants to major in physical therapy; the 21-year-old Joeright is a sophomore majoring in psychology with a minor in business.

They train at the Detroit Skating Club, a world-famous facility in Bloomfield Hills. The DSC played a key role in creating Olympians Tara Lipinski, Todd Eldredge, and ice dancers Elizabeth Punshon and Jerod Swallow.

Another pair of OU students and possible 2002 Olympic skaters is the sibling team of Danielle and Steve Hartsell of Westland. The Hartsells, the 1999 U.S. National pairs champions, are taking a break from competitive skating this season while Danielle heals from a broken kneecap.

Spielberg and Joeright say OU was the logical choice to continue their education, because it offers the right majors and is close to the DSC.

"Oakland is a great school and it really helps to have it by the DSC," Joeright says.

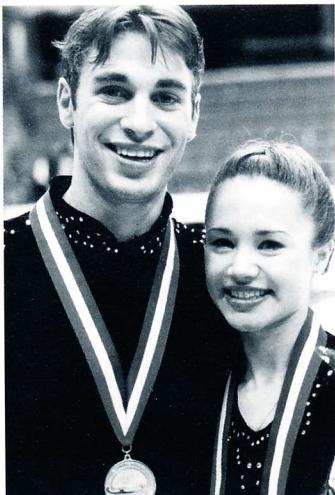
A typical day for Spielberg and

"Everything is starting to really click. Plus, I think we're in the best shape of our lives. It's just a matter of staying calm and performing."

Joeright starts with an 8 a.m. class, then it's off to practice for up to four hours. Then they throw in the off-the-ice weight training, choreography work, ballet and dance lessons, and meet with a sports psychologist to work on their mental strength.

Both also work part-time at Max and Erma's restaurant, trying to help defray their skating expenses. A national-level skater such as Joeright or Spielberg can incur annual expenses of \$50,000 or higher, thanks to travel to international competitions, paying multiple coaches and buying custom-made costumes and skates. They're trying to find sponsors, such as a company or individual, to help their families with the costs.

The pair traveled to Japan and



Joeright and Spielberg

Hungary during the fall 1999 skating season for competitions. They placed second in the Junior Grand Prix of Japan in Nagano, and third in the Junior Grand Prix of the Czech Republic in Ostrava.

"We just told our OU instructors that we were going to

be gone for a little bit and that we would catch up on our work when we got back," says Spielberg. "They were mostly understanding about it. And that's all we really want. A chance to skate and do our work at the same time. We don't want special treatment."

Spielberg and Joeright's big competition of early 2000 was the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, held in Joeright's hometown of Cleveland. They finished third, earning a bronze medal and topping their 1999 finish of eighth place.

"We wanted to be top five, so finishing third is like a dream," Spielberg said after the event.

The pair finished 13th out of 22 at the World Junior Figure Skating

Championships in Oberstdorf, Germany, in the first week of March 2000. It's a very respectable showing for their first time in a world championship.

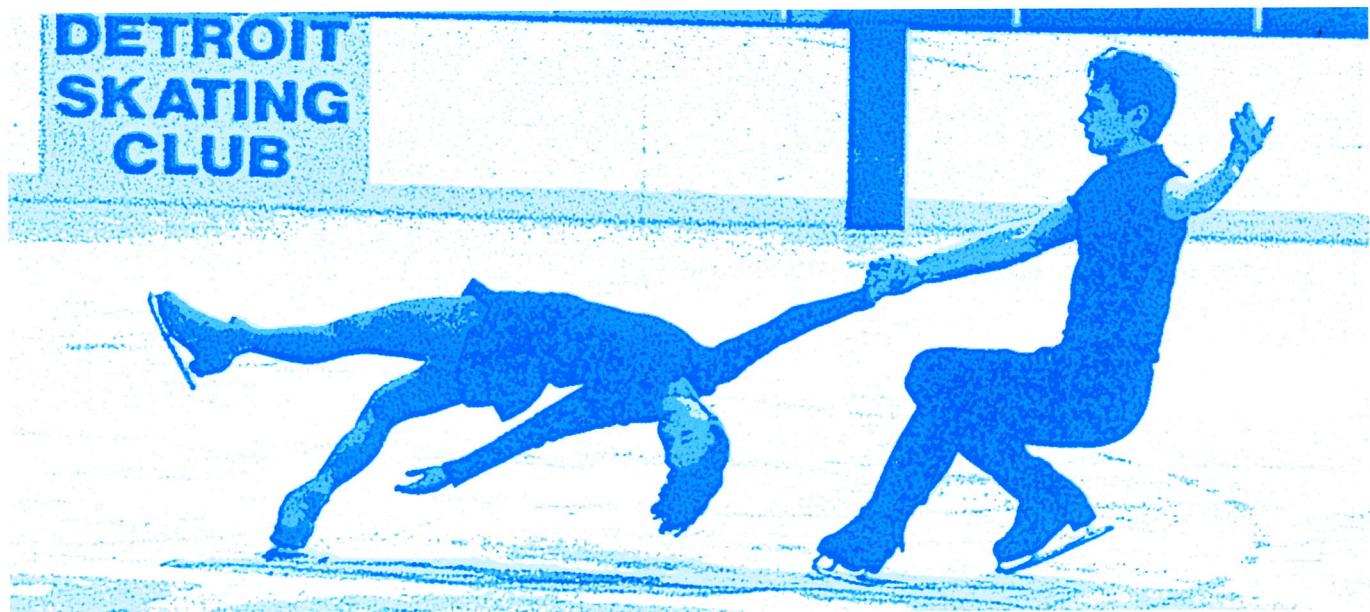
The pair's strengths are throw-jumps and lifts, in which the 5-foot-10-inch Joeright and 5-foot Spielberg show off their power and athleticism.

"We've been skating so well lately," Joeright says. "Everything is starting to really click. Plus, I think we're in the best shape of our lives. It's just a matter of staying calm and performing."

One of their coaches, Mitch Moyer, says the team is developing every day. They've only been together since 1996, a mere bit of time for a pairs team.

"It takes years for pairs to develop that chemistry, that connection on the ice that they need," Moyer explains. "You can see that Larisa and Craig are getting there. They're very exciting to watch and it's fun to watch them improve so quickly." ■

Joanne C. Gerstner CAS '93 is a sportswriter for The Detroit News. She holds a master's in journalism from Northwestern University. Her articles have appeared in USA TODAY, The Cincinnati Enquirer, PGA Magazine, NBA Inside Stuff, The Flint Journal, and the Lansing State Journal.



Partners in Success



From left: Carl and Anna Barnes and OU President Gary Russi show prints from the collection donated to OU.

Barnes boost art collection

Carl and Anna Barnes are donating 259 fine prints and 314 related research volumes to OU. Seventy-two of those prints made up the Meadow Brook Art Gallery exhibit, *Personal Favorites: Fine Prints from the Collection of Carl F. Barnes Jr. and Anna M. Barnes* early this year. Carl has been a professor of art history and archeology in the College of Arts and Sciences since 1971. He is beginning a phased retirement.

Anna, Carl's wife, was a special instructor in Spanish and Italian at Oakland for 20 years. Their donation includes works created between 1512 and 1997 by artists such as Jacques Callot, Albrecht Durer and William Hogarth.

The Barnes' latest gift follows their establishment of a \$250,000 endowment made in memory of Carl's brother, Ward V. Barnes, to provide scholarships to Oakland art history majors. "The Barnes' generosity shows how dedicated faculty can enrich the lives of students and the Oakland community long after they leave the university," says OU President Gary D. Russi. "We are grateful for their support."



Penny Crissman

Crissman, Howlett join OU Foundation

Penny Crissman and James Howlett joined the Oakland University Foundation last November.

Crissman, a member of OU's Board of Trustees, and a former state representative was the mayor of Rochester from 1989-1992 and currently serves on the Rochester city council. She and Chuck, her husband, are longtime members of the President's Club and have supported OU's Meadow Brook Hall, Meadow Brook Theatre and Meadow Brook Music Festival. Crissman also serves on the School of Nursing's Nightingale Awards Benefit Committee.

Howlett is retiring as senior partner of Beier Howlett PC. He served as legal counsel to the OUF. He and Anne, his wife, have been active supporters of Meadow Brook Music Festival, Meadow Brook Theatre and Kresge Library. They are members of the President's Council Society. In 1998, the OU Alumni Association honored the



James Howlett

Howletts with the Spirit Award for their exemplary volunteer service to the university.

"We're honored to have these leaders on our board," says OUF Executive Director David Disend. "Their experience will be valuable in shaping the future of higher education to provide students with the skills they need to succeed in the 21st-century workplace."

The OUF is a private, nonprofit corporation comprised of business, civic and community leaders that advances Oakland University with financial support of scholarships, internships, academic programs and research.

Six corporations sponsor KOD scholarships

Thanks to the generosity of six corporate sponsors, eight Oakland undergraduates were awarded scholarships of \$5,000 at the Eighth Annual Keeper of the Dream Awards Banquet on February 23. The awards were funded by Ameritech of Michigan, which sponsored three students; Bank One; Champion Enterprises Inc.; Haden Inc., Oxford Automotive Inc., and William Beaumont Hospital.

In 1993, OU established the Keeper of the Dream Award to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., support diversity initiatives at Oakland, and help foster a climate of

inclusion and respect among students. The award recognizes Oakland students who have demonstrated strong citizenship, scholarship and leadership in challenging cultural stereotypes and promoting understanding among people of different races. The awardees are

Annie Chung, Bonefacio De La Rosa, LaShanda Evans, Razzaaq McConner, Aniesha Mitchell, Kristin Kouba, Tamarcus Southward and

Partners in Success



From left: OU President Gary Russi; Brian Murphy, Honors College director; Nancy Vitale, Honors College student; sculptor Joseph Wesner; Ann Nicholson, vice chair, OU Board of Trustees, and Jim Nicholson, Ann's husband, with *Echo Cognitio* at the sculpture's unveiling.

Ralph Williams II. Mychal Thom, a scholarship athlete, received the first non-monetary Keeper of the Dream Special Recognition award for his outstanding contributions to Oakland.

"These award recipients are building a dynamic future, not only for themselves, but for the young people who will come after them, and for the nation as a whole," said OU President Gary Russi.

Robert Cooper CAS '73, OU trustee and president of Ameritech of Michigan, was the keynote speaker.

Sculpture complements Honors College

A sculpture donated by Ann Nicholson, Oakland University Board of Trustees vice chair, and Jim Nicholson, her husband, adds the finishing touch to OU's new Honors College hall, which was begun in the spring of 1996.

Last October, Oakland unveiled a sculpture by Joseph Wesner, who also created pieces for the new Comerica Park baseball stadium in Detroit and DaimlerChrysler Corporation in Auburn Hills. *Echo Cognitio* is the second Wesner outdoor sculpture to grace the OU campus. Wesner's other sculpture, *Motherswell*, is located on the lawn in front of South Foundation Hall.

Echo Cognitio is located outside the Honors College where student traffic is brisk. It is visible through the large, glass windows in the Honors College student lounge.

The Honors College's contemporary new home, Dr. Alvin R. Larson Hall, symbolizes the college's independent role and OU's commitment to an honors curriculum. Larson was a longtime OU benefactor.



Robert Cooper CAS '73 keynoted the Keeper of the Dream Banquet

If you have...

- received a degree, certificate or professional designation
- a new job
- married
- had a child
- run for office
- received an honor

your news _____

We want to hear from you. Don't forget to include
a photo, class year, major and degree.

E-mail ouaa@oakland.edu or mail to:

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Oakland University
John Dodge House
Rochester MI 48309-4497

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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE keeps you informed about OU's many programs, alumni and friends. If you're moving, send us your new address right away!

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John Dodge House
Rochester, Michigan 48309-4497
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I want to volunteer for the OUAA. I am interested in _____

Please call me.

Recreation Center opens to credit union members

The Department of Campus Recreation is now extending Recreation Center membership to MSU/Oakland Credit Union account holders. Membership may be purchased on a daily, 10-visit, semester or annual basis. Individual, individual and spouse or family memberships are available. Call (248) 370-4732 or stop at the Recreation Center Welcome Desk for more information or an application form.

Alumni honored at banquet

OU alumnus and actor Steve Blackwood CAS '78 and his quintet featuring George Benson entertained guests May 5 at this year's elegant Alumni Awards Banquet. The evening began with a reception and informal music at the incomparable Meadow Brook Hall. A bagpiper led alumni and their guests into the dinner pavilion for the awards presentations, followed by a multicourse dinner, entertainment and dancing. Read the next issue of *Oakland University Magazine* for details on the winners.

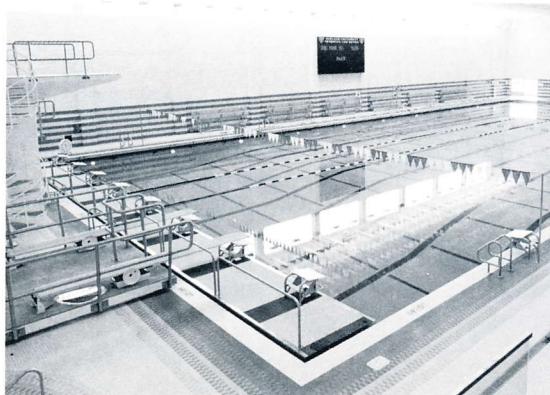
Events galore

Get into the habit of checking OU's alumni website often. There you'll find a current calendar of lectures, performances, community services and other events of interest to alumni.

Get set for Grizzlies basketball

The Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team will face the University of Michigan November 17 in OU's first home game of the season. The first away game of the season is at Michigan State University on November 19. If you live in Ohio, Kentucky or Indiana, cheer for the Grizzlies as they play the University of

OU alumni website:
[http://www.oakland.edu/
alumniframe.htm](http://www.oakland.edu/alumniframe.htm)

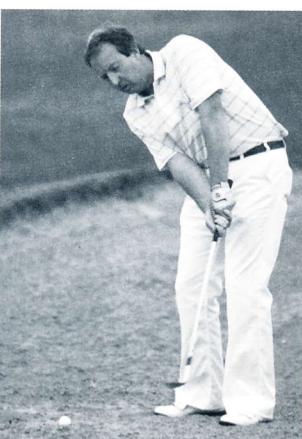


Recreation Center membership includes use of the new pool.

Cincinnati on December 9. The complete Division I basketball schedule will be on the OU alumni website (<http://www.oakland.edu/alumniframe.htm>) as soon as it is final.

Golf outing comes to the fore

Tee off at the Silver Anniversary Alumni Golf Outing on August 14. The 1999 outing was the largest ever. This year will top that event with many special touches. For more information or to volunteer, call Adrienne Bass at one of the numbers listed in the box at the right.



Play in August at the alumni golf outing.

Group works on retiree offerings

An alumni committee is working to develop an Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR), including components in senior community leadership and travel-study. It's all for Oakland alumni who

want to connect with their university and continue learning. For more information or to get involved, contact Alumni Relations at (248) 370-2158 or ouaa@oakland.edu.

New program to link alumni, students

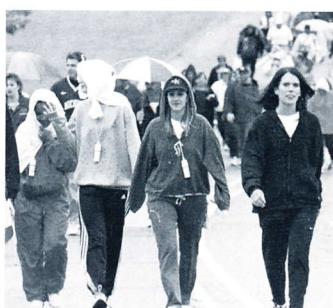
The OU Alumni Association will sponsor a new program this fall in which alumni advise and encourage Oakland students one-on-one. Matilda's Mentors will honor the generosity of OU's founder, Matilda Dodge Wilson, by matching alumni with incoming students who request a mentor. Check the alumni website for more information.

Chemistry department honors alumna

The Department of Chemistry, CAS, organized an April 15 Y2K reunion for chemistry alumni and their guests. Dr. Rebecca Failor CAS '75, Livermore National Labs, was selected to receive the distinguished alumna award.

Big hearts at OU

On October 7 for the second year, OU will host the largest American Heart Association (AHA) walk in the nation. You're invited to join other members of the Oakland University community and the public to raise money from friends and family for AHA educational and research programs. Last October more than 10,000 participants raised \$835,000.



The AHA Heart Walk drew 10,000 participants to Oakland in 1999.

Stay in touch!

We suggest that you clip this list of contact numbers for OU Alumni Relations. We are here to help you. Let us know if you have a question or a concern. If we don't have the answer, we will connect you with the person who does, or do some research for you. It is essential that you let us know when you move or change jobs. We want to hear any personal or professional news that you would like included in Class Notes.

U.S. mail:
 Alumni Relations
 Oakland University
 John Dodge House
 Rochester MI 48309-4497
 Fax: (248) 370-4206
 E-mail: ouaa@oakland.edu
 Local phone:
 (248) 370-2158
 Toll-free phone:
 (877) 445-ALUM (2586)

CAREER/ ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1960s . . . Found!

Remember the charter class ring that was showcased on the cover of the last *OU Magazine*? One of these famous rings was found recently and turned in to Alumni Relations. If you think this ring might belong to you, please contact Linda Oliver at (248) 370-4685.

David A. Ciaramitaro CAS '68

celebrated his 10th anniversary working for the U.S. Navy in California as a materials chemist.

Fred Korzon CAS '63

announced his retirement as Bloomfield Township supervisor after 33 years of service in township government.

1970s

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Working with national drug control policy

So far, the relatively short career of Lisa Feldman CAS '96 has been marked by a meteoric rise to an office of the White House. Feldman, formerly of West Bloomfield, Michigan, graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology and a concentration in criminal justice. She is Special Assistant to the Director of the Office of Programs, Budget, Research and Evaluation at the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) in Washington, DC. There, she coordinates drug prevention programs with state governors' offices, meeting with state representatives and criminal justice workers. She also researches and coordinates drug control initiatives.

Recently, Jay Meehan, associate professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, CAS, welcomed his former star student back to class to talk about her new job.

Feldman gave a presentation and answered questions in Meehan's Sociology 240 class, Sociology of Crime and Punishment.

She says she likes working in the trenches, or, as she says, "in the weeds" because she can "get things done."

Linda L. Fry MAT '74 recently retired from Fairbanks, Alaska, schools after 27 years and is currently teaching a gifted class at York City Schools in York, Pennsylvania. She also received certification as an Adolescent/Generalist from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Joseph A. Gardella Jr., Ph.D.

CAS '77 has been named associate dean of external affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences at State University of New York, Buffalo.

Christine Hartwig CAS '79

is currently a trustee on the Royal Oak Board of Education.

John J. Hartwig CAS '77

works in the industrial hygiene department at DaimlerChrysler Corporation.

Rosemarie Hirsch CAS '72

accepted a position with the Detroit chapter of the American Red Cross.

Daniel V. Kinsella CAS '73 joined the Chicago law firm of Rooks, Pitts & Poust to head its Labor and Employment Law practice group.

Kay A. Knowles SEHS '76 is a teacher and curriculum coordinator at Montross Middle School. She is also the school's representative on the board of directors of the National Council for Social Studies.

Mary E. Lamparski MAT '78, CAS '75 recently retired after 31 years in the field of early childhood education. For the past 13 years she worked at Arizona State University Child Development Lab as a special instructional coordinator.

Wendy W. Lull CAS '74 is executive director at the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, New Hampshire, where Al Gore conducted a coast-to-coast town meeting to announce his campaign's environmental proposals.



Lisa Feldman CAS '96

She also told the class she thinks longer-term juvenile offender programs are the most effective in preventing drug use.

Feldman's other experience includes treating substance abuse offenders in the Macomb County Jail and working for a clearinghouse that researches drugs for the ONDCP.

"I'm very proud of her," Meehan says of Feldman. "She's an enormous talent. And she's certainly put her degree to good use."

James H. McCown SBA '73

received a master's degree in Professional Management from Indiana Northern Graduate School and is currently director of contract administration for EDS on the nine-state BellSouth account.

Gregory Miles CAS '74 was elected to the Oakland County Democratic Party Executive Board as an officer-at-large in April 1999.

Kenneth Olen CAS '73

accepted a position as tax manager in the estate planning division at Nemes Allen & Company, Bingham Farms.

Shelagh O'Rourke CAS '76

recently completed her work with reproductive health and development projects in Haiti after 16 years. She is presently employed as the director of reproductive health at the Center for Development and Population Activities in Washington, DC.

Dean Shackelford CAS '77 is

an Oakland County director on the Employers' Unemployment Compensation Council for 1999-2000.

Michelle Simmons CAS '73

became manager of Bowling Green State University's student employment program.

1980s

Melva Bentley Ross CAS '89

is a counselor at Cromie and Wilkerson elementary schools in the Warren Consolidated School District.

Thomas D. Brewer CAS '83

accepted a promotion to senior research scientist at Millennium Inorganic Chemicals, Baltimore, Maryland.

Martha L. Brown CAS '86 was

recently promoted to team leader, at Volkswagen of America Inc., Auburn Hills.

Robert Crisan SECS '83 was

hired as senior benefits consultant, group benefits consulting department, at Troy-based insurance consulting firm, Gallagher AROW Inc.

Dominic DeMark Jr. SBA '84

was promoted from manager of indirect sales, Detroit/Flint market, to director of indirect sales for all Michigan markets at Airtouch Cellular.

Thomas A. Febraro SBA '81

credits Oakland University for helping to establish the core of his professional development in the fields of private industrial accounting and corporate finance.

Lisa M. Flynn, M.D. CAS '89

is employed by St. John Hospital in a private practice vascular surgery group.

Vigor, discipline, compassion

Leonard J. Gallagher CAS '86 believes "anyone can succeed if he pursues his dreams with vigor, discipline, and compassion." Less than 15 years after graduating from Oakland University, Gallagher has found that success as a husband, father of two, and licensed clinical psychologist.

He began his career as a social worker while studying toward a Master of Science degree in Clinical Psychology at Eastern Michigan University. After completing his MS in 1993, Gallagher worked as a psychotherapist in an emergency room consulting on traumatic brain injuries. In 1998, Gallagher obtained his Doctor of Psychology degree from the American Psychological Association-accredited Illinois School of Professional Psychology.

As a licensed clinical psychologist at Hastings Regional Center in Nebraska, Gallagher treats neurogeriatric patients over the age of 65 who are experiencing cognitive decline that is not a normal part of aging. He is the team leader of Neurogeriatric Services Outreach, a

program that specializes in providing psychological assessments, behavior modification programs, mediation reviews, and psychoeducation to clients in an effort to maintain them in the least restrictive setting possible.

When he is not working, Gallagher, Anna, his wife, and their children, Christina and Daniel, are active in various activities in the Hastings community.

"My experiences at OU afforded me a degree of knowledge and a desire to help others," Gallagher says. "I am delighted that my OU experience provided the foundation for lifelong learning which continues to this day."



Leonard Gallagher CAS '86

Robert L. Foster CAS '80 obtained the degree, Doctor of Arts in Music Theory and Composition from the University of Northern Colorado. He directs the university's jazz band and is an assistant professor of music.

John Lauder MBA '82 was promoted to vice president of general services administration programs at Affiliated Computer Services, Government Solutions Group.

Mary Gardner Martin SBA '81 has been selected for promotion to commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

Douglas Muniga SBA '86 accepted a promotion as vice president of commercial real estate at Comerica Bank.

Joyce Palmquist, Ph.D., CAS '86 has earned a Ph.D. in education.

Bob Quigley SBA '85 is an automotive research consultant at Allison-Fisher, Inc., providing marketing research and consulting for Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Volvo and Land Rover. He has also taught marketing research classes at both Oakland University and Walsh College.

Vernal T. Reaves SON '82 received her master's degree in Health Administration in 1998 and is currently working as director of managed care for a local HMO.

Laurie Van Pelt SBA '87 was promoted to deputy director, department of management and budget for Oakland County.

Kathleen M. Walton CAS '82 has been appointed as a referee for the Third Circuit Judicial Court, Family Division. She sits as a jurist hearing both delinquency and child abuse

matters. Kathleen is married and has two children.

1990s

John T. Below CAS '90 is now featured in *Labor and Employment Lawnotes*, a publication of the State Bar of Michigan, Labor and Employment Law section. He practices business and employment litigation at the Detroit firm of Kotz, Sangster, Wysocki, and Berg, PC.

JoAnn (Garris) Berryman SBA '90 recently completed her MBA at Wayne State University and is currently working as a Solomon software consultant for Rivendell Technologies.

Paul Campbell MBA '91 was recently promoted to CEO of the North American manufacturing unit at Hutchinson FTS, Inc., in Troy.

Aaron M. Carpenter SBA '97 was promoted to scheduling distribution analyst at Ford Motor Company's Romeo Engine Plant, and is pursuing a master's degree in manufacturing management at Kettering University.

Martha A. Cervenak CAS '97 is pursuing a degree at Tulane Medical School in New Orleans.

Susan DeMeulenaere MSN '99, SON '95 has graduated from the Family Nurse Practitioner program and accepted a position as nurse practitioner in the preadmission testing department at Mount Clemens General Hospital.

Tiffany F. Donovan MA '96 graduated from Cornell Law School in May 1999, earning a J.D. and L.L.M. in International and Comparative Law. She is working as an associate

at Jones, Day, Reavis, and Pogue in Washington, DC. and is seeking admission to the New York Bar.

Gary Foster CAS '91

accepted a new position at Budd Company Plastics Division, Troy, as senior buyer, Indirect Material, responsible for four manufacturing facilities.

Jeff Gilberg CAS '97 is employed at Business Information Systems as a Call Center Specialist responsible for the sale and promotion of various digital voice recording products in the public safety and court recording arena.

Randy Graca Ph.D. '95, MS '93, BSE '91 is a senior systems engineer at Alton Paint Application in Rochester Hills.

Angela (Callewaert) Hawkins SON '97 is a registered nurse and educator of family care at Providence Hospital, working toward becoming a women's health practitioner at Wayne State University.

Bridget Green CAS '98 is vice president of public relations on the 1999-2000 board of directors of Women in Communications, Detroit.

Charles J. Hitt II SBA '97 is working as District Manager, San Francisco zone at DaimlerChrysler Corporation in California.

Viktor N. Ivezaj CAS '94 earned a master's degree in political science from the University of Detroit Mercy and is pursuing a Ph.D. in political science at Wayne State University. He is currently conducting independent research with plans to travel to the Balkans.

Laura Lee CAS '91 has published her second book, *The Name's Familiar: Mr. Leotard, Barbie and Chef Boyardee* with Pelican Publishing. Her next book *Arlo, Alice and Anglicans: The Lives of A New England Church* was scheduled for release in March 2000.

Jack A. Lipar SBA '92 will serve as noise, vibration and harshness control systems purchasing manager at Cooper Tire & Rubber Company.

Heidi J. Losey SEHS '96 recently accepted a position at Wayne State University as the education coordinator for the Community Outreach and Education program in the Institute of Chemical Toxicology.

Christina (Caponi) MacDonald CAS '93 is a recruiter for Alltel Communications in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Todd Mitchell SBA '94 earned a master's degree in Business Administration from DePaul University and was recently promoted from division controller to plant manager at Illinois Tool Works.

Patricia Morrison Malone MBA '92, CAS '80 joined Campbell Ewald Communications as senior vice president, management supervisor, on the OnStar business. She is responsible for retention communications and subscriber analysis for OnStar.

Laura Nelson SEHS '93 was promoted from program developer to program supervisor for the Arc of St. Clair County River District location.

Zelia Orlikowski SBA '96 has accepted a position as human resources specialist at General Motors Corporation in Detroit.

Charles A. Peck MS '90 has been promoted to quality manager and appointed chair of the Council on Statistical Process Control at White Oak Semiconductor in Sandston, Virginia.

Elizabeth A. Poss CAS '92 has been named 1999 Employee of the Year at Campbell-Ewald for her leadership and service throughout the year.

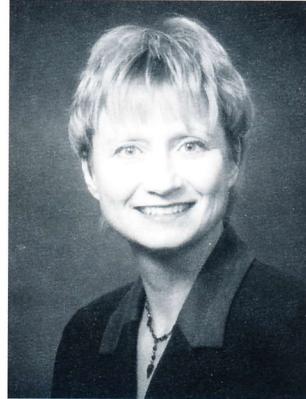
James R. Reddan, CPA, SBA '91 received a master's in Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin and earned the professional certification of Certified Public Accountant. He recently accepted a position as director of mergers and acquisitions at Cornell Companies.

Don Rochford SBA '94 finished first place in his age group at the annual Rochester Apple Amble Race that took place at Oakland University in September. He completed the 5-mile race with a time of 34:15. Don is currently employed at Electronic Data Systems in Lansing.

Mary Ann Samyn CAS '92 won the Ohio State University Press/The Journal Award in poetry for her manuscript, *Captivity Narrative*.

Jennifer Schilke SBA '92 is currently the marketing director for a construction management firm in Chicago, where she has lived with her husband for nearly four years.

Jeffrey B. Schmidt, Ph.D., MBA '92 recently moved from Kansas State University and accepted a position as assistant professor of marketing for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Denise Sedman

Denise Sedman CAS '95 has joined the advertising and public relations agency, Marontate & Co. in Auburn Hills, as director of media relations. Previously, Sedman was a marketing specialist for Oakland County in Pontiac.

Richard Shelley CAS '96 was awarded with a James Madison Fellowship, a national award, and has returned to Oakland University to begin his MA in history. He is currently teaching eighth-grade history at Avondale Middle School.

Ryan Smith GS '98 has accepted a position as a human resource administrator at Source Technology. He is responsible for orientation, training and employee concerns.

Helena Stovall CAS '96 is pursuing a master's degree in social work at the University of Michigan.

Denise Anne Taylor CAS '91 has formed Competitive Advantage, Inc., which specializes in assisting individuals and corporations in the fine art of dining, international protocol, business manners, and image enhancement. She earned her certification at The Protocol School of Washington.

Tracy Utech CAS '91 has been appointed the new development officer for the OU School of Business Administration.

Inna Zager SBA '97 is employed by Great Lakes Bank as a credit analyst and is planning on attending Oakland University to begin her MBA.

Frank Phillip Zdanowicz CAS '93 is a real estate agent with Red Carpet Keim serving Macomb and Oakland counties.

ENGAGEMENTS/WEDDINGS

Aaron M. Carpenter SBA '97 announced his engagement to OU senior Carolyn Brown. The wedding will take place August 12, 2000.

Lisa M. Flynn CAS '89 was married to Daniel Zacharek in June 1999.

Mable Fowler MA '87, CAS '84 married Dominic Doot in September 1999.

Ashley (Rowell) Mabbitt CAS '97 was married to Paul Mabbitt on September 18, 1999.

Vernal T. Reaves SON '82 announced her engagement to Patrick Blakley. A June 2000 wedding is planned.

Charles Sulikowski SON '99 is happy to announce his engagement to OU student Nikolina Todorovski. The couple will be married June 4, 2000.

BIRTHS

Amy Ackley (Ballou) SEHS '96 and her husband Michael announce the birth of their daughter, Peyton Leigh, born December 18, 1998.

Brian DiBartolomeo SBA '92 and his wife Angela are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Alexa Lee on January 25, 1999.

Angela (Callewaert) Hawkins SON '97 and her husband Mark Hawkins welcomed the birth of their son Brennan Matthew on August 6, 1999.

David Martin SECS '94 and Anne Martin CAS '94, CAS '97 proudly announce the birth of their daughter Ashley Catherine on October 6, 1999.

Jeffrey B. Schmidt, Ph.D. MBA '92 and his wife are pleased to announce the birth of their son Alexander in October of 1998.

Steven Stimson SECS '89, Gaby Adler SEHS '88, and their son Robert John welcomed their newborn son and brother Benjamin Johannes Stimson on September 10, 1999.

Heather Wanamaker SON '97 and her husband Scott wish to announce the birth of their second son, Kyle Alexander on September 9, 1999.

DEATHS

Marion Beers MAT '78 died on October 19, 1999 at the age of 58. She spent 23 years working as a special education teacher for the Waterford School District.

Shannon M. Lloyd SBA '95 died on October 19, 1999 at the age of 27.

Robert W. Swanson died on March 6, 2000. Swanson was one of the first employees hired at MSU-Oakland, in August 1959. His many Oakland roles included director, Business Affairs; professor, Administration;

treasurer, Board of Trustees; vice president, Developmental Affairs; and executive vice president, Oakland University Foundation. He remained vice president, Developmental Affairs, until his retirement with emeritus status in 1989.

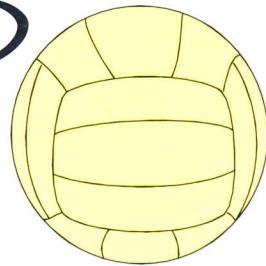
ABBREVIATION KEY

BGS	General Studies
CAS	College of Arts and Sciences
MA	Master of Arts
MAT	Master of Arts in Teaching
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MM	Master of Music
MPA	Master of Public Administration
MS	Master of Science
MSLS	Master of Science-Library Science
MSN	Master of Science-Nursing
MSW	Master of Science-Social Work
SBA	School of Business Administration
SEHS	School of Education and Human Services
SECS	School of Engineering and Computer Science
SHS	School of Health Sciences
SON	School of Nursing



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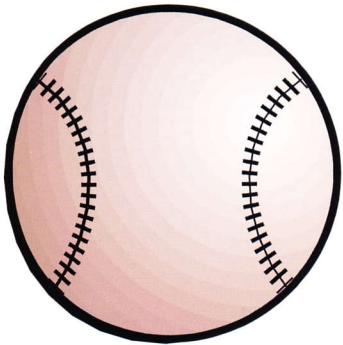


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