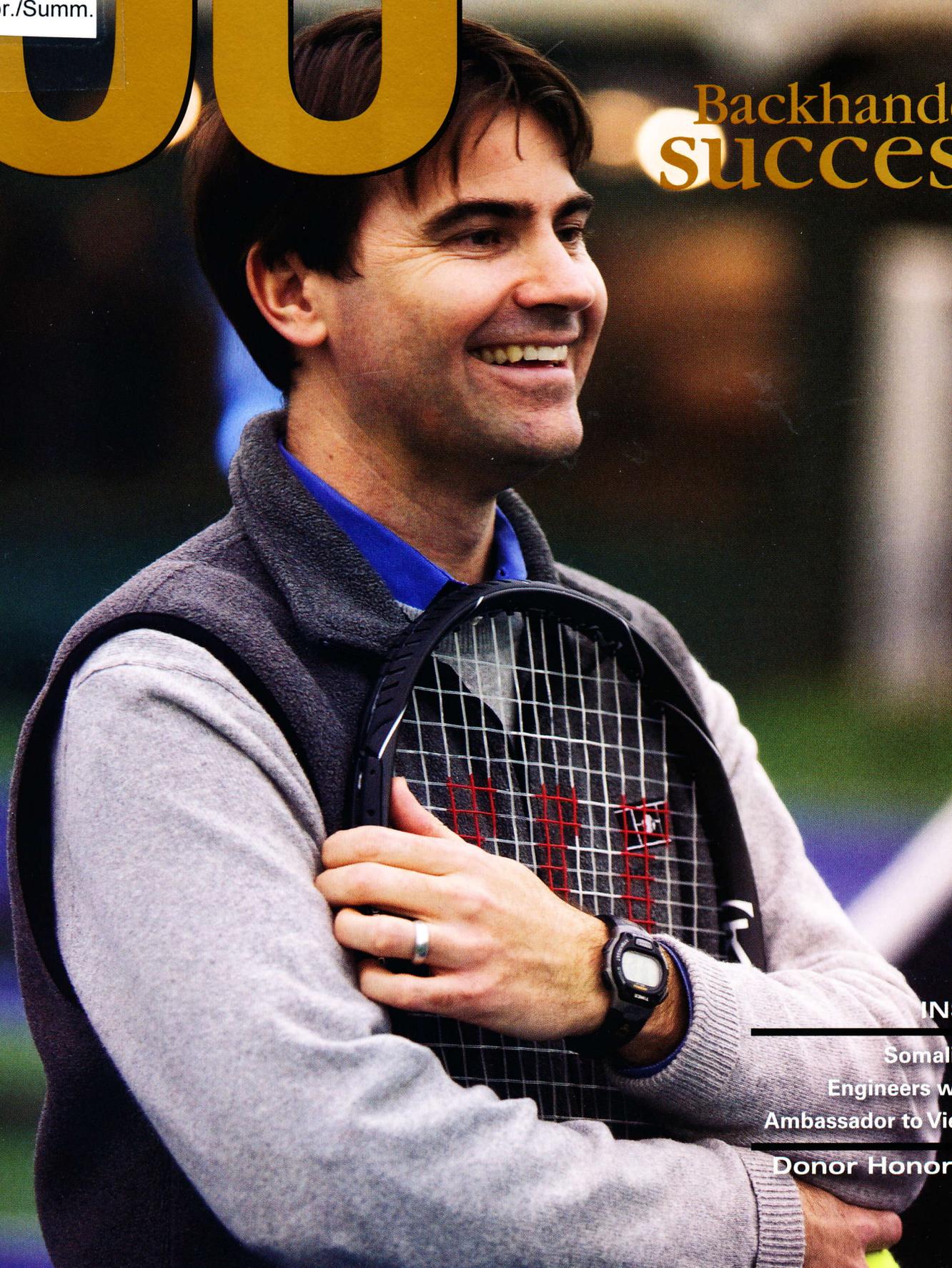


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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | Spring / Summer 2008

Backhanded SUCCESS



INSIDE

- Somali tears
- Engineers win big
- Ambassador to Vietnam
- Donor Honor Roll

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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | Spring / Summer 2008

MAGAZINE STAFF

Executive Editor | **Geoff Upward**
Editor | **Lillian Lorenzi**
Art Director | **Debra Lashbrook**
Photographer | **Rick Smith**
Sports Photography | **José Juarez**
Illustrator | **Kevin Fales**
Editorial Assistant | **Sheila Carpenter**
Production Coordinator | **Bonnie Dragan**
Class Notes Coordinator | **Carol Carpenter, CAS '00**
Staff Writers | **Dawn Pauli, CAS '88**
Susan Thwing-McHale

DONOR HONOR ROLL

Contributing Writer | **Flori Meeks, CAS '83**

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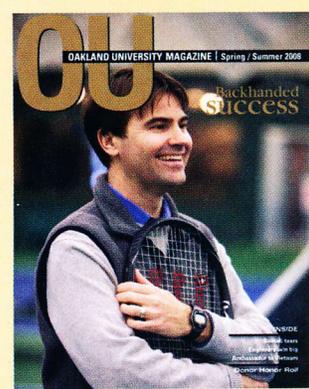
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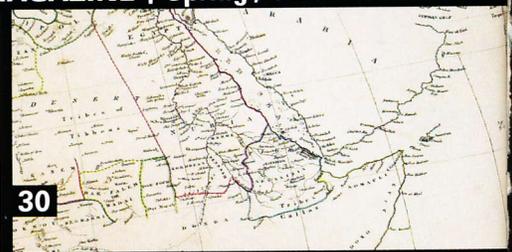
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ON THE COVER

Jim Fleming, CAS '93, combined his passion for tennis with some savvy marketing instincts to carve out a successful business niche.



FEATURES

16 Close to their alma mater
The Auburn Hills City Manager's office is rife with OU alums.

20 Eyes to the East
OU Alum appointed U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam.

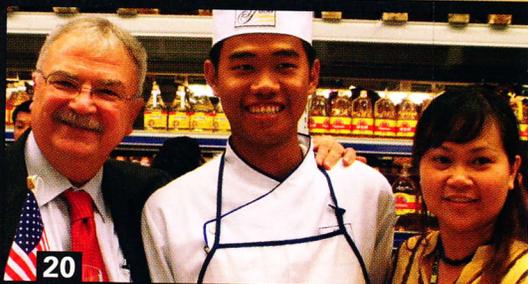
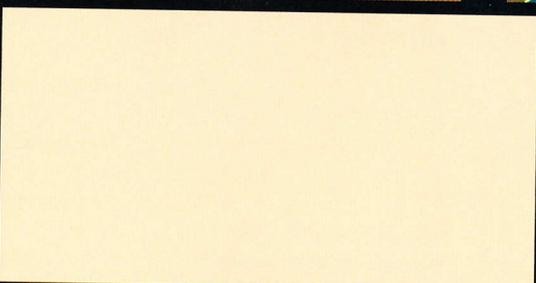
Cover Story
22 Backhanded success
Tennis star scores with an entrepreneurial twist.

24 Social capital: Good for your health?
Studies suggest that a strong social network can make the years ahead longer and healthier.

28 Engineers win big prize
Alums capture coveted Car of the Year award.

30 Somali tears
Professor's research traces impact of immigration, discrimination.

47 Donor Honor Roll
OU recognizes the thousands of donors who make all our achievements and efforts — from research to artistic performances to student scholarships — possible. This special section showcases the enormous impact of giving to Oakland University.



DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Behind the Stories
- 4 News
- 8 Campaign for OU
- 12 Sports
- 80 OU Moment

ALUMNI

- 32 Alumni News
- 36 Schools & Colleges
- 38 Class Notes

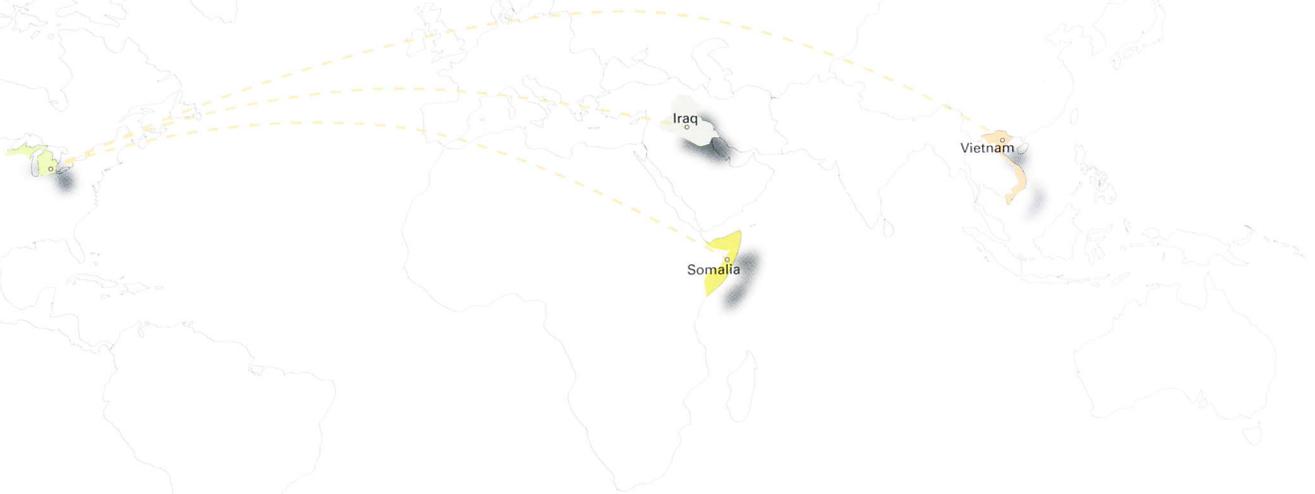


ALUMNI PROFILES

- 39 *John Masson, CAS '92, snags an Emmy*
- 40 *Catherine Stier, CAS '86, teaches young readers*
- 43 *Ronnie Hall, SON '84, is a nurse's nurse*
- 44 *Brent Lilly, SBA '95, keeps his eye on the goal*

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Behind the Stories



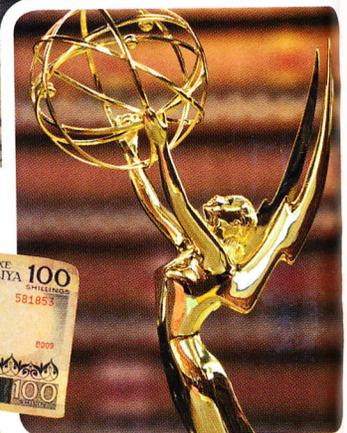
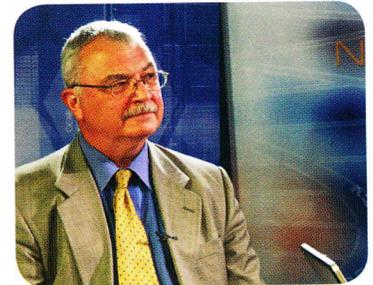
What does it really mean to be part of a community? There are nearly limitless answers to that question and a myriad of ways to interpret it in the first place. However, at some level, it all comes down to the impact people have on one another. This issue of the magazine is all about people reaching out to one another, the value of those connections and a strong sense of being an integral part of a larger community — whether it's right around the corner or halfway around the world.

On these pages you'll find stories that take you from Europe to Africa to Asia and the Middle East — stories of individuals and research that reinforce the importance and value of our interactions with one another. Sherman Folland, economics professor, has spent the last several years examining the potential health benefits of social capital and what he and others like him have found is that the stronger your social connections, the healthier and happier you may be. That's good news for the many others you'll find on these pages who have made connections in communities that extend across the street, across nations, oceans and nationalities.

You'll read about Associate Professor of History Abdi Kusow, who was born and raised in Somalia and has spent much of his career studying the impact African immigrants have on their adopted countries. He recently returned from Italy, where he served as an adviser to an international group hoping to help stabilize his native country. You'll also read about Brent Lilly, SBA '95, who served two tours of duty in Iraq and came away with a better understanding of that country and his own; Michael Michalak, CAS '69, who has spent his career in the Foreign Service and was appointed Ambassador to Vietnam this past year; and John Masson, CAS '92, who helped bring the human impact of the Iraq war on soldiers and their families to the forefront with his role in the Emmy-winning production, *Band of Brothers*.

A strong sense of community has been at the core of Oakland's mission since its founding. These stories embody that ideal. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as we enjoyed writing them.

Lillian Lorenzi



▶ "The professors in Oakland's master of training and development program were always willing to share their personal perspectives with the students. They helped us understand the many ways we would be able to put the skills we were learning into practice and the types of careers we would be able to pursue after graduation."

Michelle Serafino
Human Performance Specialist, Accenture
Master of Training and Development program



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2008 Downtown Rochester Event Schedule

FARMERS' MARKET OPENS
May 3 - October 25

HERITAGE FESTIVAL
May 24 - 25

RIVER DAY
June 7

SOAP BOX DERBY
June 21 - 22

MOVIES IN THE
MOONLIGHT
July 12, 19, 26

SIDEWALK SALES
July 17 - 19

DANCIN' IN THE STREET
August 8 - 9

ROCKIN' RODS 'N
ROCHESTER
August 10

SPOTLIGHTS ART SHOW
September 5 - 7

ART & APPLES FESTIVAL
September 5 - 7

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT
October 2

TRICK-OR-TREAT AT THE
FARMERS' MARKET
CLOSING DAY
October 25

MOVIES IN THE
MOONLIGHT -
HALLOWEEN EDITION
October 25

KRIS KRINGLE MARKET
November 28 - 29

LAGNIAPPE
December 1

THE BIG, BRIGHT LIGHT
SHOW
December 1 - January 4,
2009

CHRISTMAS PARADE
December 7



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SEHS, University of Botswana collaborate

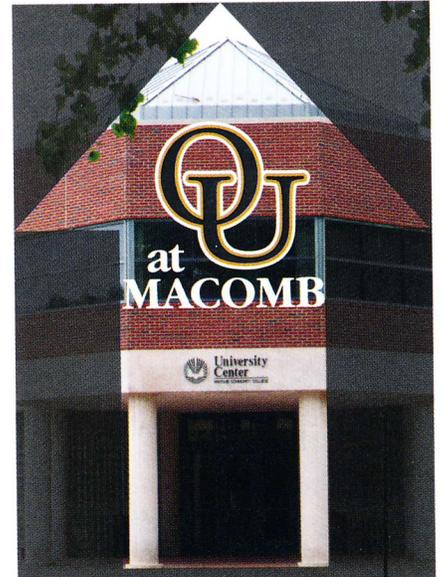
Oakland's School of Education and Human Services has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Botswana (UB) to further a collaboration between the schools that was launched in 2006. Their agreement provides for student and faculty exchanges, videoconferences and partnerships in research, scholarship, teaching and service.

"This partnership puts OU in an elite group of universities that works closely with the University of Botswana," says OU Counseling Department Chair Luellen Ramey. "They have Memorandums of Understanding with schools like Harvard, Penn State and the University of Florida."

The connection to UB started in October 2006, when Ramey visited Africa, met with Botswana's Jabulini Muchado and arranged a January 2007 videoconference between OU and UB counseling students.

In March 2007, SEHS sponsored UB professor Merci Montsi at the American Counseling Association conference in Detroit. Montsi also visited OU, met with Department of Counseling representatives and presented a lecture.

A second videoconference was held last fall. UB and OU students have begun e-mail correspondence and both universities hope to have OU students visit Africa to participate in student exchanges. ■



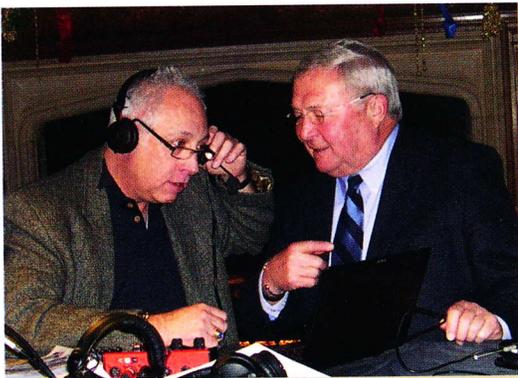
Enrollment in MCC, OU partnership up 43 percent

One of Oakland University's partnerships with Macomb Community College, called Macomb 2 Oakland or M2O for short, saw a 43.2 percent increase in enrollment this winter over the previous semester. In January 2008, at the start of the program's fourth semester, 252 students enrolled for M2O classes, compared with the 176 students who enrolled for the fall 2007 term.

Oakland University Registrar Steve Shablin says, "These enrollment increases are the result of a team effort between Oakland and Macomb staff who support this partnership on a daily basis."

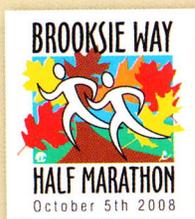
The Macomb 2 Oakland integrated degree path is designed to help move students toward degree attainment more quickly and ease educational debt loads. In the M2O program, students are able first to earn an associate's degree, which gives them the opportunity to leverage the credential in the labor marketplace while they complete their bachelor's degree.

M2O was named the 2007 Outstanding Transfer Program by the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (MACRAO). For more information on M2O or to apply, visit the M2O Web site. ■



WJR's Paul W. Smith (left) broadcast his morning show from the Meadow Brook Hall living room last January and interviewed Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson (right) and other members of the Brooksie Way planning team.

Brooksie Way Half Marathon comes to OU



Thousands of runners will enjoy OU's scenic grounds this fall when the inaugural Brooksie Way Half Marathon comes to the

university. Meadow Brook Hall will serve as the starting point and the finish line for the Oct. 5 event, which also will feature a 5K race/walk.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson shared plans for the half marathon during a January presentation at Meadow Brook Hall with officials from the Crim Fitness Foundation, which is co-sponsoring the event with Oakland County. Also

attending were representatives from Oakland University, the cities of Rochester and Rochester Hills and the Paint Creek Trailways Council.

The Brooksie Way Half Marathon is named in memory of Brooks Stuart Patterson, the county executive's son. The younger Patterson died as a result of a snowmobiling accident last February, days after his father announced plans for the half marathon during his State of the County address.

The event's 13.1-mile course will take runners through Rochester and Rochester Hills and include stretches of the Clinton River Trail and Paint Creek Trail. For more information, visit www.thebrooksieway.com. ■

Professor gets NSF CAREER award

Oakland University Assistant Chemistry Professor Ferman Chavez has been selected to receive a prestigious CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The award, designed to encourage and support the early career development activities of promising teacher-scholars, comes with a \$640,000 five-year research grant.

This honor is especially meaningful to Chavez. He has applied for it twice in the past. "It reaffirms my research goals and objectives," he says. "It also means I have the financial resources to expand my work with high school students."

Chavez's research explores the role of metals in biology, focusing on enzymes that break down oxalate. Too much oxalate in the human body can cause kidney stones. Chavez plans to create a synthetic version of the enzymes and study how they work.

The other component of his grant involves learning opportunities for high school students. During the past three years, Chavez has been hosting high

school students from the Bloomfield Hills-based International Academy in his lab. After witnessing their enthusiasm, he decided to find a way to spread that interest in chemistry to other high school students.

Since he learned he'll be receiving the NSF grant, Chavez has asked several high school chemistry teachers to work with him as consultants. He plans to introduce the teachers to his research and work with them to develop related experiments and demonstrations for high school students.

Eventually, he plans to create videotapes of lab experiments that teachers can use in their classrooms to write workbooks, develop teacher workshops and create an online teacher resource.

Chavez hopes the interest he helps spark at the high school level will stay with students as they further their education. "I think there's a potential to have a large impact," he says. "If students stay excited about science, they'll keep on going." ■



On the campaign trail

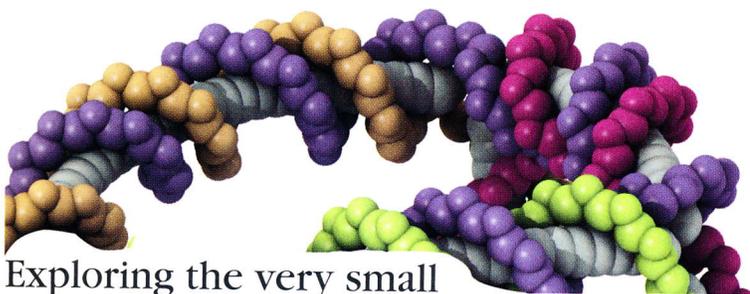
A number of Oakland University students will be watching campaign commercials with a knowing eye this election year. David Dulio, associate professor of political science, introduced a new course last fall focusing on political television advertisements.

Dulio developed the course after The Honors College Director Jude Nixon asked him to create a program for his students. "It was a timely thing," says Dulio, who will start offering the course to all OU political science students this fall. "It examines the influence and effectiveness of television commercials. We could sink our teeth in a topic that gets a lot of negative attention in the media, but we don't know a lot about it as citizens."

Dulio presents the course as a multidisciplinary study exploring psychology, voting behavior, political parties, interest groups and the democratic process. During the first course, students created a commercial for the presidential candidate of their choice. "I told them, it's Oct. 30, 2008, and you are a media adviser," Dulio says. "It's the end of the campaign, and your candidate wants to make a final message."

It was up to the students to develop the ads from that point. "They did so much better than I ever imagined," Dulio says. "The quality of their productions was fantastic."

He attributes the students' strong work to talent, ingenuity and the resources at their disposal. The students used digital cameras and software from OU's Student Technology Center. ■



Exploring the very small

Oakland University will explore all things miniscule Aug. 18 and 19 when it presents the 2008 Nanoscale Science and Engineering Conference. This conference was created by the university's Grants, Contracts and Sponsored Research office to provide a platform for researchers and engineers to exchange ideas and promote multi-disciplinary, inter-institutional partnerships.

Conference themes will include nanoscience and nanoengineering, nanotechnology, structural DNA, nanomanufacturing and nanofabrication, nanomedicine, nanosystems, nanodevices and ethics. For more information, call (248) 370-4110, e-mail research@oakland.edu or visit www.oakland.edu/research/conf. ■



2008 Nanoscale Science and Engineering Conference

SAE Asian delegation visits OU for one-day symposium

For the second year, Oakland University co-hosted a Michigan Chinese Academic and Professional Association (MCAPA) Asian delegation for a one-day symposium on April 15. The delegates, in Detroit for the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Congress, met with local engineering and business leaders for a portion of the day and then OU faculty presented to the delegation. A panel on the quality in the auto manufacturing sector was also held.

The MCAPA was established to promote academic and professional connections and collaboration between the automotive, business and academic institutions in Taiwan, China and Michigan. Last year, Oakland's School of Business Administration (SBA) partnered with MCAPA to host an auto-related symposium.

"The MCAPA tries to bridge the gap between the auto engineers and those in academics, and the School of Business Administration is supportive of this kind of outreach program," says Peggy Chiu, SBA computer facilities administrator and facilitator of the Asian delegation visit to OU. ■

Helping students overcome Asperger's

OU sophomore Sara Erbe sees herself as a guide of sorts. For the last two semesters, Erbe has been working as a peer transition consultant. She's been helping students with Asperger Syndrome (AS) have a more positive experience at Oakland.

"I am a psychology major, and I have some experience working with students with disabilities," Erbe says. "I thought it would be great to help someone at the university."

Erbe is one of 10 consultants working with Disabilities Support Services' Peer Transition Assistance program for AS students.

AS, also known as Asperger's Disorder, is a neurobiological disorder. Someone with AS generally shows normal intelligence and language development, but may also exhibit autistic-like behaviors and struggle with social and communication skills.

Oakland University's Peer Transition Assistance program was launched by

Linda Sisson, director of the Disabilities Support Services, and Elizabeth Deverna, assistant director of student success with the university's Academic Skills Center in fall 2007.

The program pairs AS students with peer consultants who can demonstrate successful habits and connect AS students with campus resources, including The Writing Center, tutoring services, and guidance and placement support. The Graham Counseling Center offers the students an opportunity to meet as a group to share communication concerns and difficulties that they experience and then discuss alternative solutions and appropriate responses (social skill development).

"So far, it's been very effective," Sisson says. "The students seem to be flourishing, and the consultants have expressed an appreciation for what they're learning."

For more information, call (248) 370-3266. ■

OU, Beaumont plan stem cell conference

The first Midwestern Stem Cell Biology and Therapy conference was held May 9-11 at Oakland University and brought together scientists and clinicians from across the globe to share the latest advances in stem cell research.

Jointly sponsored by Oakland University and Beaumont Hospitals, the conference addressed the latest advancements in research on stem cell biology, tissue engineering, and therapy involving embryonic stem cells, adult stem cells, as well as umbilical cord blood stem cells. In addition, the event provided an opportunity to educate the general public in ethical and scientific issues concerning stem cell research and clinical applications. ■

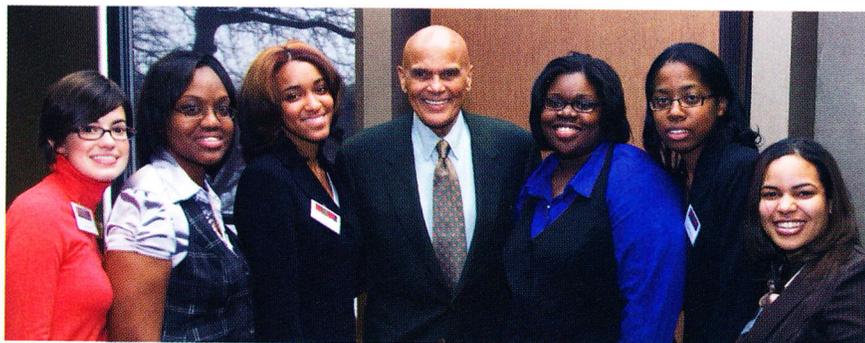
General Studies program renamed

Oakland University's general studies program is now known as the Bachelor of Integrative Studies (BIS). The name change is intended to better represent the goals of the program, which allows students to design a personalized course of study using a cross-disciplinary approach.

"Our students are nontraditional students with nontraditional academic interests," says Scott Crabill, BIS director. "BIS students have very specific goals that cannot be met through other majors on campus."

The name change was recommended in 1999 after the program underwent a comprehensive self-study. The program, which was created in 1975, has seen 698 students graduate since fall 2000. Today, 351 are enrolled. ■

Belafonte headlines at Keeper of the Dream celebration



Harry Belafonte (center) with scholarship recipients (l-r): Avery Neale, Denise Jones, Yakela Roberson, Latonia Garrett, Ronee Harvey and Jinae Stoudemire



Six OU students received scholarships at the 17th annual Keeper of the Dream Awards Celebration on Jan. 21 for their efforts to contribute to interracial understanding. Keeper of the Dream Awards honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his achievements on behalf of civil rights. Human rights activist and entertainer Harry Belafonte was the award program's keynote speaker at the Jan. 21 event.

In addition to their citizenship and leadership efforts, student honorees must demonstrate academic achievement, a clear career focus and academic persistence.

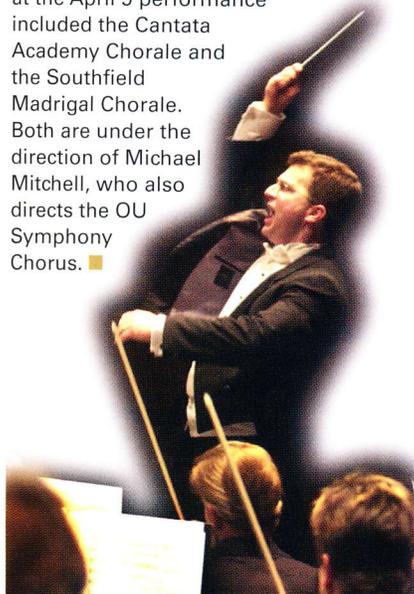
This year's scholarship sponsors included the Alice Gustafson Endowment Fund, the Keeper of the Dream Foundation, LaSalle Bank, William Beaumont Hospitals, Oakland University Alumni Association and the Ford Motor Co. Fund.

The student honorees are: Jinae Stoudemire, a junior pre-med/biology major; Yakela Roberson, a medical laboratory science major; Latonia Garrett, a journalism major; Avery Neale, a pre-med/biology major; Denise Jones, a psychology/pre-law major; and Ronee Harvey, a medical laboratory science major. ■

Verdi in Pontiac

The Pontiac Oakland Symphony Orchestra and the Oakland University Symphony Chorus joined forces to present Verdi's *Requiem* on April 9 at Orchestra Hall in Detroit, Mich. The program also included *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis* by Ralph Vaughn Williams.

Several OU faculty members and students are on the Pontiac Oakland Symphony Orchestra's roster. Gregory Cunningham, associate professor of music, is the orchestra's music director and principal conductor. Guest artists at the April 9 performance included the Cantata Academy Chorale and the Southfield Madrigal Chorale. Both are under the direction of Michael Mitchell, who also directs the OU Symphony Chorus. ■



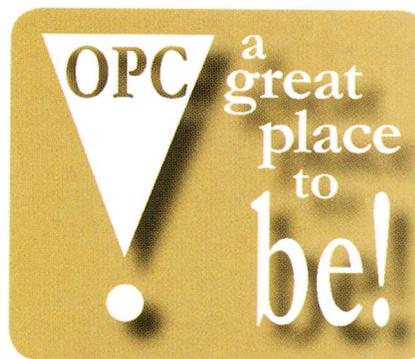
Oakland and the OPC

Once a week, a group of Oakland University students take over the kitchen at the Older Persons Commission (OPC) in Rochester to cook up food like vegetarian chili, polenta, apple cobbler, meringues and other tasty treats. The students are getting hands-on experience for the class Introduction to Food Science, which looks at the basic principles and the chemical and biological properties of food preparation.

Course instructor Betsey Mikulec presents certain concepts in the classroom at OU and once a week, the class heads over to the OPC to test out the idea. "There are very scientific principles behind food preparation. There are certain ways to combine ingredients and even specific ways to mix and stir the food," Mikulec says.

The lab portion of the class is two hours and the students work in groups of two to cook two to three recipes focusing on the week's theme. They spend the last half hour evaluating and eating their work.

The cooking class is another example of Oakland University's growing relationship with the OPC. In 2006, the two organizations entered into a

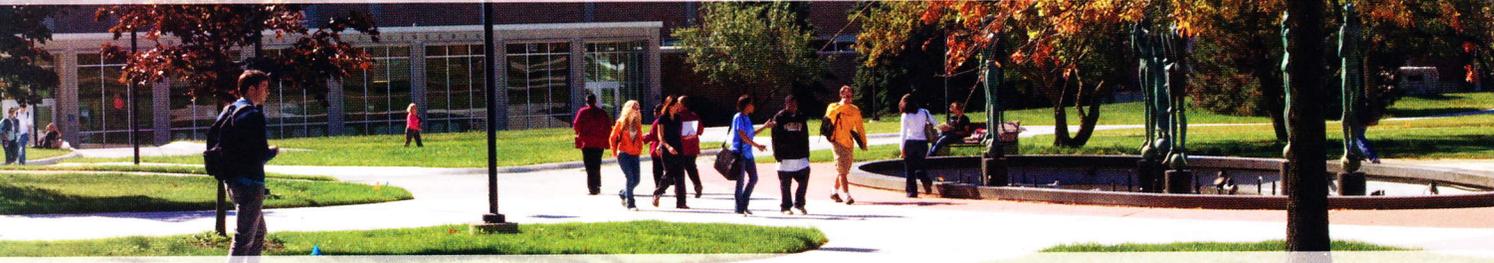


collaboration to offer "A partnership in lifelong learning," including lectures and programs for OPC members featuring OU faculty. Topics offered have ranged from My Space, Facebook and John Lennon to the mysteries of black holes and autism.

The program continues to grow in popularity, says Rhonda Nelson, program and events department head, OPC. "Seniors are interested and curious about what relates to their families, the community, and the world. They have tremendous respect for the OU professors, and the knowledge and expertise they bring."

For a list of the 2008 fall OU/OPC lectures and classes, visit the OU Rochester Web page at www.oakland.edu/rochester or call the OPC at (248) 608-0251. ■

INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY



Visionary \$15 million gift will impact generations

"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."

Poet and philosopher Henry David Thoreau summed up the idea of a visionary in those few simple words. History shows us that it's people who see possibilities and act on that vision who make a lasting impact. Oakland University is fortunate to have such a visionary among its major donors. This individual recently made the largest gift in the institution's history with an anonymous \$15 million bequest to OU, \$4 million of it designated as a lead gift to support the deanship for a new medical school. This historic gift will play an integral part in making the school a reality and changing the face of medical education in this country.

The medical school, opening in 2010 in partnership with Beaumont Hospitals, promises to create thousands of new jobs, make a significant economic impact on the region and set a new standard for the training of tomorrow's physicians. It will join an elite group of only 126 allopathic medical schools in the United States and as it grows, will help combat the physician

shortage predicted for Michigan, and provide expansive opportunities for far-reaching research.

The curriculum will focus on training physicians who are patient-centered and community-oriented, who emphasize collaboration, pre-symptom and preventive medicine, and who can navigate the rapidly expanding advances in technology to treat the growing elderly population.

"This bequest will make a lasting impact on the future of this institution and the region," says Gary Russi, president. "It also means that, 'Innovation and Opportunity: The Campaign for Oakland University,' is taking great strides forward, positioning us even stronger within the community and as a national university."

The remainder of the \$15 million gift will support student scholarships, research endowments and academic programs. Created as a combination of a direct estate gift and a planned gift annuity, the donation will be a legacy of support for the university and its students, Russi adds. ■



Endowed professorship to help improve patient care

Crittenton Hospital Medical Center has created a \$2 million endowed professorship in Oakland University's School of Nursing with one goal in mind — to help change the clinical education and training of nursing students and, thereby, improve patient care.

"This endowment will help change the education of nurses, providing a platform for bringing the highest level of care to patients," says Lynn Orfgen, CEO, Crittenton Hospital.

The program will create a more patient-centered nursing approach.

"One aspect of this program is to study how nurses can successfully create relationships with patients and their families. Patients and their families must have confidence and trust in their nurses, so that nurses can help them overcome any potential impediments to their

recovery," says Kathleen Van Wagoner, chief nursing officer, Crittenton Hospital Medical Center.

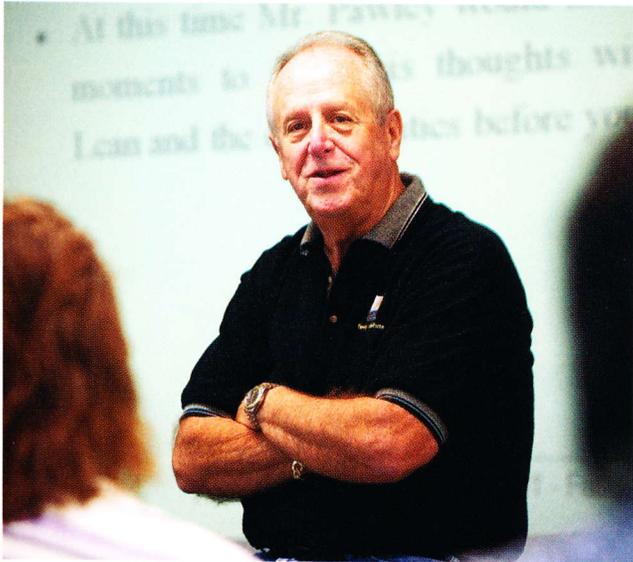
In addition, students in the new program will conduct clinical rotations at Crittenton Hospital, enabling them to become familiar with the hospital's methodology. The program provides the students and the hospital with an opportunity to work together, which could lead to future career placement for OU students after graduation.

The professorship also helps address the widely publicized nursing shortage. According to the Michigan Nurses Association, Michigan alone is expected to have a shortage of approximately 8,000 nurses by 2010. The Crittenton professorship will allow 24 more students each year to begin the accelerated BSN program as early as the fall of 2008. ■



Crittenton Hospital Medical Center has created a \$2 million endowment in the School of Nursing. Representatives from OU and Crittenton are (l-r): Gary D. Russi, OU president; Kathleen Van Wagoner, chief nursing officer, Crittenton Hospital Medical Center; Lynn Orfgen, Crittenton Hospital CEO; Linda Thompson-Adams, SON dean; Dr. Anthony Nebra, Crittenton Hospital Medical Center trustee.

'Follow your passion' urges longtime Oakland supporter



Dennis Pawley, SEHS '82, is encouraging OU alums to consider giving to Oakland University.

Oakland University alumnus and long-time supporter Dennis Pawley, along with his wife Carlotta, have extended a unique and inspiring challenge to OU alums: Follow your heart in considering a gift to your alma mater. In doing so, they've initiated the first challenge campaign in the university's history — an exciting step in Oakland's five-year capital campaign.

The Pawley Alumni Leadership Challenge encourages Oakland University alumni to support a program, initiative or scholarship opportunity that they feel especially passionate about by pledging \$100,000 or more. In turn, the Pawleys will match the collective gift commitments garnered through their challenge with a \$600,000 gift to the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS). The award will permanently endow a professorship, a faculty research award and two student awards for pursuing, promoting and facilitating learning in lean studies — a philosophy close to Dennis Pawley's heart.

In 2002, Pawley established the Pawley Lean Learning Institute at Oakland to teach others the lean approach to conducting business, a concept that increases efficiency and streamlines processes. Through his gift to launch the Pawley Alumni Leadership Challenge award, Oakland will be able to offer opportunities for students and faculty to continue to work in lean and build on the strong reputation of the Pawley Institute.

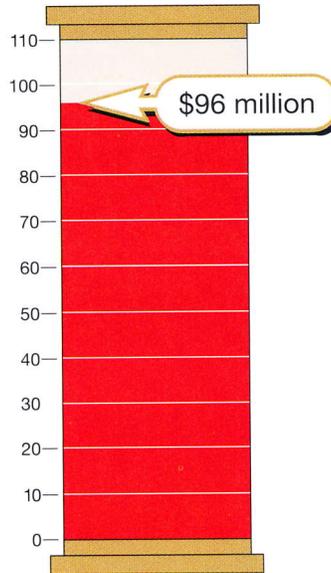
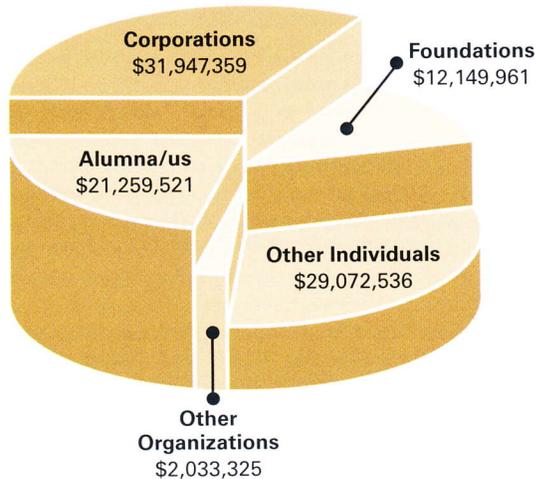
"As a leader it's important for me to set an example," Pawley says. "We have an obligation — and that's a strong word but I believe it — to support the organizations and programs that helped make us successful. We need to give back so that others can experience success as well."

For alumni who are ready to meet Pawley's challenge, he says the key is to choose an area that is important to them. Pawley said he chose the School of Education and Human Services to benefit from the endowment because it is the school he attended, and also because "SEHS is all about people. I think we can reach the most people and make the greatest impact this way." ■

Capital Campaign Update

Oakland University kicked off its first ever capital campaign, "Innovation and Opportunity – The Campaign for OU," in April 2005 with an ambitious goal of raising \$110 million by 2010. Three years later, thanks to the tireless support and vision of Oakland's faculty, staff, students, donors and friends, the campaign has already reached \$96 million. Here's a quick look at how that number breaks down.

Campaign Dollars by Constituency Through 2/29/08 Total \$96,462,702



A vision for Oakland University

The President's Campaign Council was created to help lead and inspire Oakland's first comprehensive capital campaign, "Innovation and Opportunity," announced in spring 2005. The council is comprised of a group of distinguished alumni and friends who provide philanthropic leadership, guidance and support and serve as ambassadors of OU to raise leadership gifts. Their generous contributions of time, wisdom and inspiration have made the achievements in this campaign possible. We'd like to recognize them here. ■

President's Campaign Council Members

- Frederick Adams
- Margaret Allesee
- Henry Baskin
- Janet Bennett, CAS '90, '79
- Susan Cischke, SECS '76
- Walter Douglas
- R. Hugh Elliott
- David Fischer
- John Ganfield, SBA '81
- Diane Grieves, SBA '83
- Susan Kampe
- Barry Klein, CAS '68
- David Baker Lewis, SBA '65
- Ron May
- Ann Nicholson
- Dennis Pawley, SEHS '82
- Gary Pilibosian, SECS '86
- Richard Rassel
- Joan Rosen
- Robert Schostak, BGS '78
- Stephan Sharf
- James Sharp Jr.
- Walter Young
- Gary Russi, president
Oakland University
- Susan Davies Goepf, vice president
University Relations
Oakland University

Capital Campaign Dollars to Units February 2008

College of Arts and Sciences	\$8,552,594
School of Business Administration	5,282,134
School of Education and Human Services	6,927,473
School of Engineering and Computer Science	25,982,381
School of Health Sciences	294,212
School of Nursing	5,771,993
Academic Affairs – other	11,035,153
Athletics	1,279,615
Student Affairs	672,784
Office of the President	1,617,893
Meadow Brook Hall	9,126,132
Other	19,920,338
Total	\$96,462,702

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Of course, you can always call one of our mortgage specialists at **800.544.5567**, email them at **cuonlinemortgage@cuone.org** or visit a Credit Union ONE location.

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Sports Wrap Up

Student-athletes excel in classroom

More than 200 of Oakland University's student-athletes were named to the 2007 Fall Academic All-Summit League team, an honor the OU student-athletes consistently earn. Through programs, planning and mentoring, Athletics helps students prepare for the challenge of busy schedules and demanding workloads to help them succeed not only at Oakland, but also in the future.

"The NCAA has strong academic requirements and the student-athletes know that if they don't take care of their academics, they will not be playing their sport," says Holly Kerstner, assistant athletic director for Student Athlete Services, who has worked for the past two years advocating for student-athletes to succeed in academics. "The coaches are really good about finding prospects who fit really well with this institution. This is not a blow-off and the student-athletes know that coming in."

Additionally, the graduation rate among student-athletes who started attending Oakland in the 2000-01 academic year and went on to graduate from OU reached 70 percent. About 44 percent of the general student population from that group graduated from the university.

The graduation rate for student-athletes has been increasing steadily since Oakland made the transition from a Division II to a Division I university during the 1998-99 academic year.

"We take pride in what we do academically with our student-athletes and the support services we provide," says Director of Athletics Tracy Huth. "The graduation rate points to the reason our student athletes are really here at Oakland: to get an education and a quality degree."



Greg Kampe and Beckie Francis

Behind the grill

Oakland University men's basketball Head Coach Greg Kampe, and women's Head Coach Beckie Francis, were two of several OU basketball coaches who helped cook at bd's Mongolian Barbeque on Feb. 27 to help raise money for Coaches vs. Cancer. The event raised over \$1,200 dollars, surpassing last year's effort.

Joining Kampe and Francis behind the grill were associate head coaches Jeff Tungate (men) and Eric Stephan (women), along with Assistant Coach Jenny Roulier.

Coaches vs. Cancer is a program founded by the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches. It empowers schools and communities to join the fight against cancer by participating in a variety of national and local events.

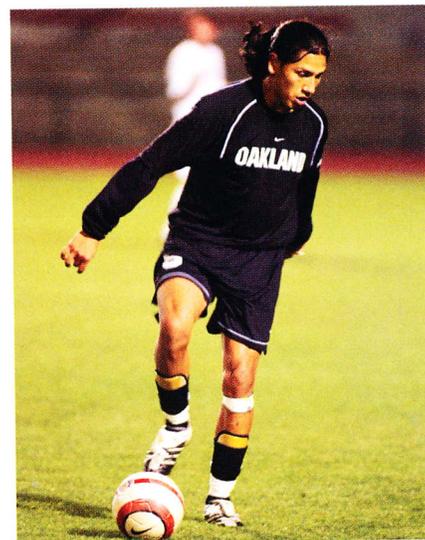
Through the program, basketball coaches lead fundraising and advocacy efforts that provide individuals a chance to give something back by rallying around an important cause. Coaches vs. Cancer promotes healthy living and cancer prevention and rallies people around the cause of eradicating this disease. ■



THE SCOREBOARD

Men's soccer

The Golden Grizzlies responded from a disappointing season by tying a single-season Division I school record with 12 wins (a feat they accomplished in 1998, 2000 and 2003) and went undefeated in league play for the first time since becoming league eligible, claiming their sixth league championship. OU claimed their second league tournament crown, with wins over UMKC, 2-1, and tournament host IUPUI, 2-0. Senior **Michael Reyes** netted both goals for the Golden Grizzlies off the bench in the title game, earning tournament most valuable player honors. Senior **Adam Brent**, and juniors **Ian Daniel** and **Piotr Nowak** joined Reyes on the all-tournament team. The team earned the automatic bid to the NCAA tournament with their league tournament title. OU faced Michigan State in a rematch of the regular season contest where the 19th-ranked Spartans edged the Grizzlies, 2-1. With the stakes much higher this time, Oakland raced out to a 2-0 lead on the Spartans, defeating MSU 2-1. The win was the first for any Summit League team in NCAA postseason. Oakland had six players garner all-league honors, including Gary Parsons earning Coach of the Year for the second time in his career (2005). Daniel was tabbed Defensive Player of the Year, while junior **Martin Sandell** earned Newcomer of the Year honors. Sophomore **Stew Givens** garnered all-league honors along with *ESPN the Magazine* Academic All-District III first team accolades. ■



Senior Michael Reyes

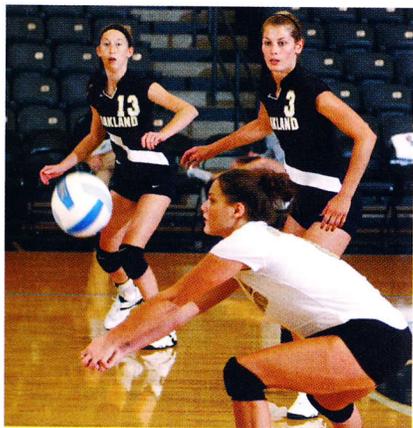
Sports



Senior Kristi Tomczyk

Women's Soccer

The season-ending results were what fans expected from women's soccer – the team claimed its sixth tournament championship this year, defeating top-seeded Western Illinois 3-1. After starting league play 1-2, Oakland rattled off five consecutive wins to end the regular season in second place with a 6-2 league mark. By virtue of their win in the league tournament, Oakland made its fifth trip to the NCAA tournament, falling to No. 8 Purdue in the opening round. Senior **Kristi Tomczyk** was honored as Summit League Offensive Player of the Year as well as all-region by *Soccer Buzz*, and was joined by senior **Kristi Mitchell** and junior **Jessica Boyle** on the All-Summit League first team. ■



Lauren Duquette (front)

Volleyball

Oakland University made great strides in volleyball in the first year under head coach **Rob Beam**, improving from just one win in the 2006 season to eight wins in the 2007 campaign. The Golden Grizzlies played a tough schedule, facing top-notch competition throughout the year, taking on teams such as Maryland, Miami (Fla.), Marquette, and 10th-ranked Michigan. Along the way, the Golden Grizzlies posted a three-game winning streak with wins against LaSalle,

St. Francis, and Toledo, the longest such streak for the program since the Division II years. **Lauren Duquette** set a new program standard with 619 digs, breaking her previous record of 475. Duquette and freshman **Katy Wilson** were honored by The Summit League with post-season awards, as Duquette earned a second team all-league honor, and Wilson was named to the all-freshman team. ■



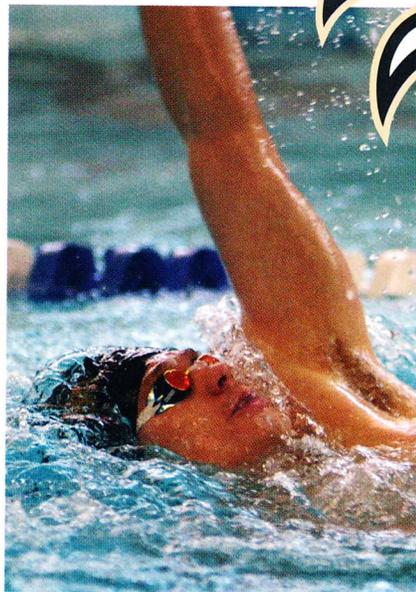
Junior Andrew Lawrick

Men's and Women's Cross Country

The men's cross country team posted a runner-up finish at The Summit League Championship, behind defending league champion Southern Utah. Senior **Jason Young** and junior **Andrew Lawrick** led the way for the Golden Grizzlies with 10th- and 11th-place finishes, respectively. Both garnered all-league honors for Oakland. The men went on to finish 17th at the Great Lakes Regional, out of 30 teams, led by sophomore **Brett Busuttill's** time of 32:48 in the 10K race.

The women's cross country team was very young heading into the fall season. Competing with three freshmen and two sophomores, the Golden Grizzlies tallied a sixth-place finish at The Summit League

Championship led by freshman **Kelsey Carmean** and sophomore **Kayla Doan**, finishing 17th and 24th, respectively. The Grizzlies went on to finish 23rd in the NCAA Great Lakes Regional. OU was also honored as a team by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA), for achieving a team 3.00 grade-point average and scoring at the regional meet. ■



Sophomore All-American Marcin Unold

Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving

The Golden Grizzlies cruised to their ninth consecutive Summit League championship in both the men's and women's meets hosted by Oakland University. OU broke the men's record with 1,050 points at the league championship and had two NCAA Automatic qualifying times. Sophomore **Marcin Unold** shattered league records along the way, clocking NCAA 'A' times of 46.77 in the 100-yard backstroke and 1:43.57 in the 200 back, both ranking in the top seven in the NCAA. Unold, who scored 60 points at the meet, was named The Summit League's Most Valuable Swimmer, also breaking the league record in the 200 freestyle as the leadoff of the NCAA championship 800 free relay team. He went on to place fifth in the NCAA championship final in the 200-yard backstroke, breaking his school record and earning All-America honors. It was





Sophomore Agnes Solan

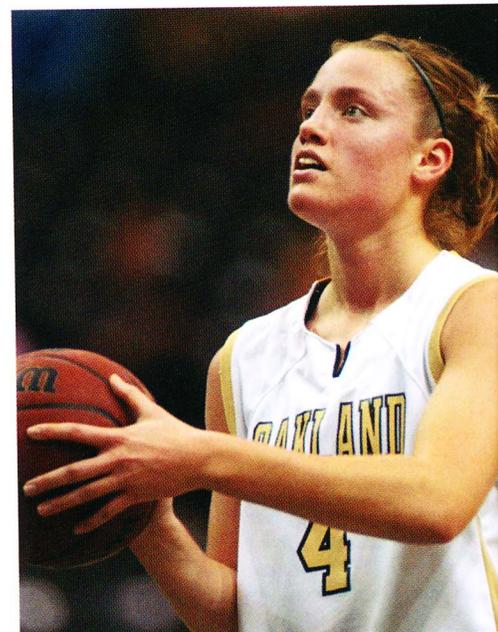
the highest NCAA finish by an OU swimmer since OU moved up to NCAA Division I. Freshman **John Ledda** earned Newcomer of the Year accolades, while senior **Zoltan Horvath** became the all-time winningest swimmer in league history with his 12 individual championships, capturing the 100 and 200 breaststroke events in each of his four seasons.

The women's swimming and diving team also won in record fashion. The Golden Grizzlies scored 1,023 points to win by over 500 points. Sophomore **Agnes Solan** led the meet with 60 points, setting new league records in the 100 and 200 backstroke events, posting NCAA 'B' cut times of 54.65 and 1:58.95, respectively. She won three individual titles and earned Newcomer of the Year honors for the Grizzlies. Junior **Sophia Gustafsson** captured the 500 freestyle (4:59.91) and 400 individual medley (4:26.18) en route to earning Swimmer of the Year honors. Freshman **Chelsea Oates** set new league records in the one- and three-meter springboards, as she was named Diver of the Year.

Between the men and women, the Golden Grizzlies swam two NCAA 'A' cuts, 10 NCAA 'B' cuts, set 19 league records, eight school records and five pool records. ■



Sophomore Melissa Jeltema



Junior Jessica Pike

Golden Grizzlies wrap up tough campaign

It was a year of ups and downs for the Oakland University women's basketball team. The Golden Grizzlies opened the season picked to finish second in The Summit League pre-season poll, and seemed destined to surpass those expectations after a strong showing in non-conference play.

After opening the season with a pair of wins, including a 107-40 demolition of Marygrove, the Golden Grizzlies dropped a heartbreaker to No. 24 Auburn, 71-63. After knocking off Central Michigan at home, the Grizzlies dropped another game in similar fashion to the Auburn contest, this time at No. 7 Georgia, before returning home and posting an 85-75 win over No. 21 Florida State. OU's win over FSU marked the only time a Summit League women's team knocked off a ranked opponent this season. In their final non-conference tune-up, the Golden Grizzlies turned in a record-setting performance in a 99-19 win over Rochester College. The win was OU's largest win of the Division I era, and saw the Golden Grizzlies turn in a 42-0 run during the game.

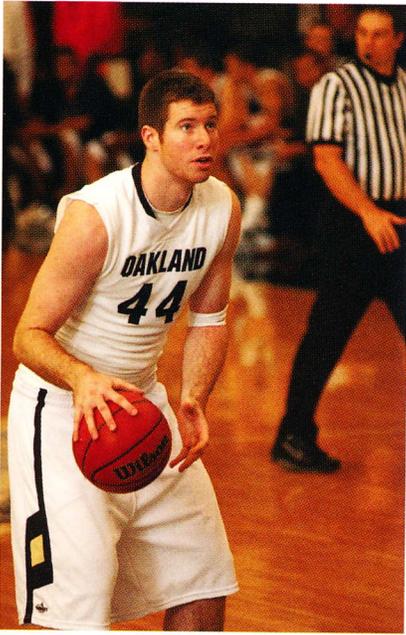
OU won its final two games of the regular season to enter The Summit League tournament on a five-game winning streak and bested Centenary 60-49 before Oral Roberts abruptly

ended the Grizzlies' season with a 71-61 defeat in the semifinals of the league tournament.

Despite the difficult ending to the season, the Golden Grizzlies posted several notable accomplishments. Junior **Jessica Pike** became a two-time first team all-league honoree, picking up First Team All-Summit League honors after being named First Team All-Mid-Continent Conference the year before. The Clawson, Mich., native eclipsed the 1,000-point mark in the final game of the season, and was also named to the *ESPN The Magazine Academic All-Region* team.

Sophomore **Melissa Jeltema** earned a Second Team All-Summit League honor after leading the OU squad in rebounding and finishing second in scoring.

The Golden Grizzlies 20 wins marked the third time of the Division I era (and the third time under head coach Beckie Francis) that OU reached the 20-win mark. OU finished the season at 153 in the RPI (Ratings Percentage Index), second in The Summit League only to South Dakota State. ■



Senior Patrick McCloskey



Junior Derick Nelson

A seesaw season comes to a close

It could have been a year to remember for the Oakland University men's basketball team. The Golden Grizzlies had their first win over a nationally ranked opponent in the Division I era, defeating No. 23 Oregon, 68-62, and had a pair of three-game winning streaks to start the second half of league action.

The team followed up those wins with a loss or two but ended the regular season on a high note, winning seven of their last 10 games, including a big 84-69 victory over second-place IUPUI. That finish allowed Oakland to be the No. 3 seed at The Summit League Championship.

The Grizzlies fell to IUPUI 80-65 in the semifinals of the conference tournament in Tulsa, Okla. Junior **Derick Nelson** led the Grizzlies, tallying his fifth double-double of the season, with 21 points and 12 boards. The Golden Grizzlies had two players make the all-league teams, Nelson earning first team honors, and sophomore **Johnathon Jones** garnering second team honors with a league-best 186 assists, ranking second all-time in OU's Division I era.

Nelson led Oakland with 17.3 points per game and 7.4 rebounds per game. He became the seventh player in the

Division I era to surpass the 1,000-point plateau, ending his junior year with a total of 1,106.

Oakland also set a new program record with 114 points against the Kangaroos, and set a new all-time record with 14 blocks versus Duquesne in November. The Grizzlies also set a new school record with 120 blocks on the season.

Senior **Patrick McCloskey** became the all-time leader for Oakland with 125 games played, while redshirt freshman **Keith Benson's** 40 blocks were one shy of tying the all-time single-season record at OU. The Golden Grizzlies' 11-6 mark during league play was the sixth time in nine seasons Oakland has been at least .500 or better. ■

Check out the
online shop for
Grizz gear

You can now shop for exclusive Athletics department Golden Grizzly merchandise 24/7 online. The online store has short and long-sleeve T-shirts and hooded sweatshirts. Log on at www.ougrizzlies.com.



Close to their alma mater

Alumni in the Auburn Hills city manager's office By Alice Rhein

"How many people have a job where they can look out of their office window and see their alma mater?" asks Thomas Tanghe, MPA '90, CAS '88.

It's not a question the assistant city manager of Auburn Hills expects to have answered. It's simply his self-professed "sappy" response when asked to describe his Oakland University experience. A lifelong resident of Shelby Township, Mich., Tanghe was the youngest of four kids and chose Oakland because he could live at home, work and take classes. Though Tanghe graduated with a bachelor's degree in English, he knew a graduate degree would help him compete in the job market. Tanghe went to the Office of Graduate Studies and with their help, decided to pursue a Master's of Public Administration.



These OU grads all landed right across the street in the Auburn Hills City Manager's office. They are (l-r): Assistant City Manager Tom Tanghe, MPA '90, CAS '88; Coordinator of Community Relations and Legislative Affairs Stephanie Carroll, BGS '99; and City Manager Peter Auger, MPA '92.

This map shows where the Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills boundaries fall on Oakland University's campus.

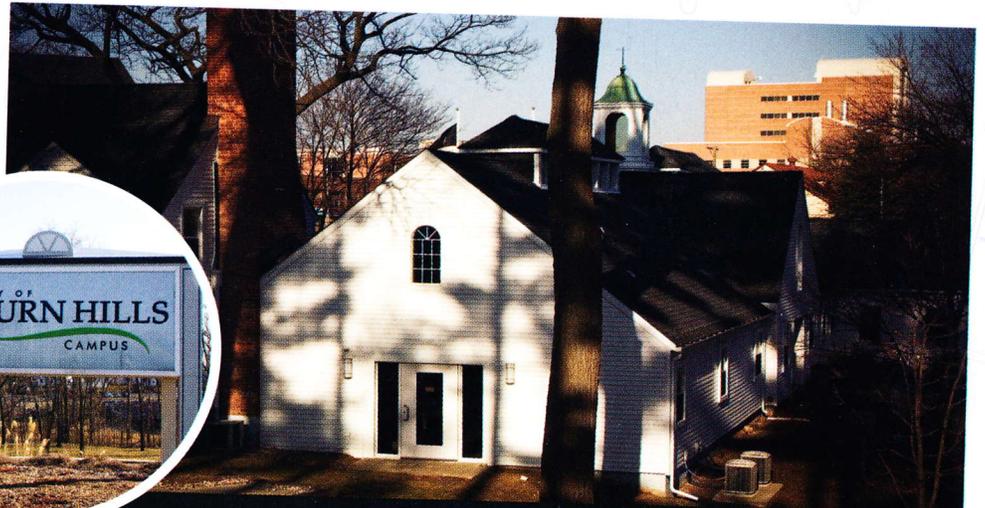
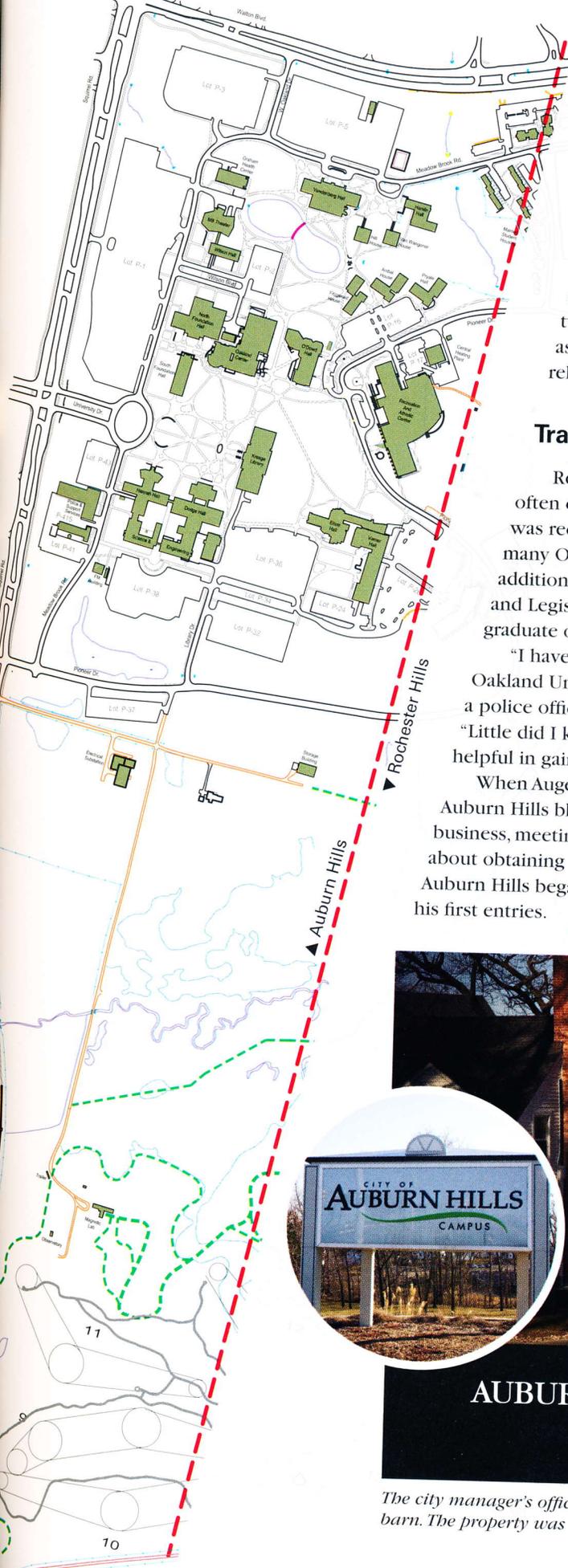
"I was so interested in hearing more about it and what it would lead to as a career," says Tanghe. What that conversation and the resulting degree led to was an immediate position with Lathrup Village, followed by Southfield, a few years later, and in 2001, Tanghe was hired as one of two assistant city managers of Auburn Hills. His official title is assistant city manager, director of human resources and labor relations.

Training ground for city officials

Retiring City Manager Michael Culpepper, MPA '84, and Tanghe often compared OU backgrounds, and when Peter Auger, MPA '92, was recently hired as the new city manager, Tanghe thought so many OU graduates in one office was too ironic to go unnoticed. In addition to Tanghe and Auger, Coordinator of Community Relations and Legislative Affairs Stephanie Schlegel Carroll, BGS '99, is also a graduate of OU, as are several other staff members.

"I have met many city managers who have gone through the Oakland University Public Administration Program," says Auger, who was a police officer for Auburn Hills while he attended evening classes at OU. "Little did I know that the network I was building back then would be so helpful in gaining knowledge well beyond the OU experience."

When Auger started his new position in January, he also started an Auburn Hills blog (www.auburnhillsblog.org) where he chronicles city business, meetings and observations. "One of the most exciting things about obtaining the position of city manager at this particular time is that Auburn Hills began its 25th year as a city on January 1, 2008," begins one of his first entries.



AUBURN HILLS STATS

17.5 square miles.
 The 2000 census reported 19,837 residents
 Date Incorporated: December 31, 1983
 For more information on Auburn Hills, see the
 OU Magazine Web site at www.oakland.edu.

The city manager's office is located on Squirrel Road in a building that was originally a horse barn. The property was once part of Meadow Brook Farms.



Eyes to the **EAST**

Alumnus appointed U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam By Alice Rhein

When Michael Michalak graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1968, the Vietnam War had reached its critical mass. The coordinated efforts that signaled the Tet Offensive were a turning point for many Americans, and on college campuses across the country, students were protesting en masse.

As a budding physicist, Michalak wasn't all that interested in politics, and didn't really think about Vietnam very much. His world view and interest level were destined to grow and change — by global proportions. Michalak was sworn in as the new U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam last August.

"I remember a conversation with a high school classmate who was gung ho to enter the Marine Corps. He was sure that this was the war to stop communism," says Michalak.

Diplomat training ground

He was not as convinced about the purpose of the Vietnam War, yet like many others, he trusted the political leadership at the time. When later he went to Washington, D.C., to work for NASA for four years, he was thrown into a much more active debate and attended many demonstrations. "I wanted peace, but was unsure how to go about it. I believe I gradually came to the view that we were in the middle of a civil war that was more about domestic policies than the international war against communism."

Forty years later and from the vantage point of spending most of his career in the Foreign Service, Michalak finds himself now with very strong views about the country he has come to embrace. "I really got to know Vietnam during my time as U.S. Ambassador for APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum)," says the Detroit native, who helped negotiate the bilateral WTO (World Trade Organization) in 2006. "Working with the Vietnamese during that year was a real treat."

And being named Ambassador to Vietnam a year later was the "greatest thrill" for this Oakland scientist who earned a master's in physics from the Catholic

Michael Michalak, CAS '68, has spent his career in the Foreign Service, primarily in Asia. He was appointed U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam in 2007.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Michalak at the new Hanoi Metro store during an American Food Festival.



University of America in Washington, D.C. and a second master's degree in public administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He was also honored with the OU Distinguished Alumni Service Award in November in recognition of his peerless volunteer leadership at his alma mater. Michalak, who lived on campus in Fitzgerald House, says that his earliest interest in Asia was sparked at OU.

Asia bound

"I had sort of a connection with Asia with what was then called 'Little College,'" he says. "We had to write a daily journal and one of my entries was about language and philosophy. I thought I already knew something about the West, but figured learning Japanese or Chinese would give me knowledge of the East. I was right and Japanese was my first Asian language."

Michalak's service with the U.S. Department of State has taken him to Sydney, Australia; Islamabad, Pakistan; Beijing, China; and Japan. When he began working in China, Michalak was contacted about the OU Woodcock Legacy Seminar and has been involved with it since its inception in 1993. He also helped forge the Guizhou partnership, an exchange program for OU students.

In his new role as ambassador, Michalak is the voice of the U.S. President in Vietnam. All the decisions made in the Embassy are his responsibility, and he regularly offers opinions to U.S. cabinet officials on issues of business and human rights. "I think there is a lot about the current [Vietnamese] government that needs improvement, especially the human rights situation. But the current government has improved markedly the living standards of

the people and they seem to appreciate having the first 'peace generation' in hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years," he says.

Michalak's wife, a native of Japan, and 16-year-old daughter are living with him in Vietnam, as they struggle to learn a very tough language. "Vietnamese is the hardest language I've ever studied," says Michalak, who speaks Japanese, Chinese, French and a little bit of the Russian he took at OU with Madame Kovach (Helen Kovach-Tarakanov, professor of modern languages and charter faculty member). "Vietnamese has six tones and if you mess them up, you are saying something completely different and often embarrassing!"

The language may be a challenge but he certainly has no complaints about the food. His favorites are fried fish with noodles and herbs (Cha Ca), spring rolls and grilled pork and beef with noodles. "There are any number of clay pot dishes that are excellent. I could go on, but you get the idea."

You also get the idea that Michalak is never too busy to take a moment to reach out and make a connection with someone. "OU prepared me for what I am doing now, but in ways you might not think," he says, noting that the best thing at OU was the relationship between the students and the faculty. "I learned that I could have friends and make friends with people of every rank and station. This has been great for me, as I have met presidents and secretaries of state. The easy-going familiarity with authority I believe I developed at Oakland has been a real asset to me."

For Michalak, making things personal and getting down to the person-to-person level is a lesson that began at OU and has traveled with him ever since. ■

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



Backhanded success

Tennis star scores with entrepreneurial twist **By Sandra Beckwith**

Oakland University helped Jim Fleming, CAS '93, ace the career of his dreams — but it wasn't exactly the career he planned for while in college.

Fleming wanted to be a sports announcer, but a disappointing internship with a local television station changed his mind. "I would watch reporters sitting outside locker rooms waiting to get the next sound bite from athletes and I realized I wasn't really all that interested in what they might have to say," Fleming explains with a chuckle.

A new angle

So maybe he wasn't destined to report sports news. That didn't keep him from making plenty of it as OU's top singles and doubles tennis player for three years straight. His academic and athletic accomplishments served up job offers from a TV station needing an evening/weekend sports director and a country club looking for a summers-only tennis director. The jobs paid about the same; no surprise, the tennis slot won out.

Fleming spent 13 years at the country club, working off-season at several indoor facilities. During that period, he became friends with another former college tennis star, Jeff Stassen, who had a fledgling business managing tennis programs. After the two teamed up in 1999 to expand Stassen's reach, they uncovered a market for professionals who could provide tennis lessons *and* run a quality tennis program, too. In 2003, they formalized their business venture as Baseline Tennis Inc., a tennis service and management company based in Birmingham, Mich.

Today, the journalism student who never took a college math course is the firm's president and chief financial officer. Fleming might regret blocking the math curriculum — "I'm thinking about taking a few finance courses this year," he concedes — but he doesn't regret studying journalism. "I use my writing skills constantly to communicate with staff or club members," he adds.

Baseline currently serves eight clubs, seven community tennis programs, and one middle school team with 50 year-round and 30 seasonal employees. Two have OU connections — Mike Graff, Baseline's director of programming and operations, graduated from OU in 1990 and played for the university for four years, and Chris

Dobson, director of personnel, played tennis at OU in the early '90s.

Trading back courts for balance sheets

Finding qualified employees is one of the biggest challenges for the company that saw revenues increase 30 percent in 2007 to \$1.7 million. "We can't grow if we can't find good people so our goal is to keep seeking out those who want to be in this business and developing them to our standards," Fleming says.

That growth also keeps Fleming off the courts and in the office more than he would like. "We're focusing right now on developing the systems and processes that will help us expand, so I'm not connecting with clients personally on a daily basis as much as I used to," he says, adding, "I miss that."

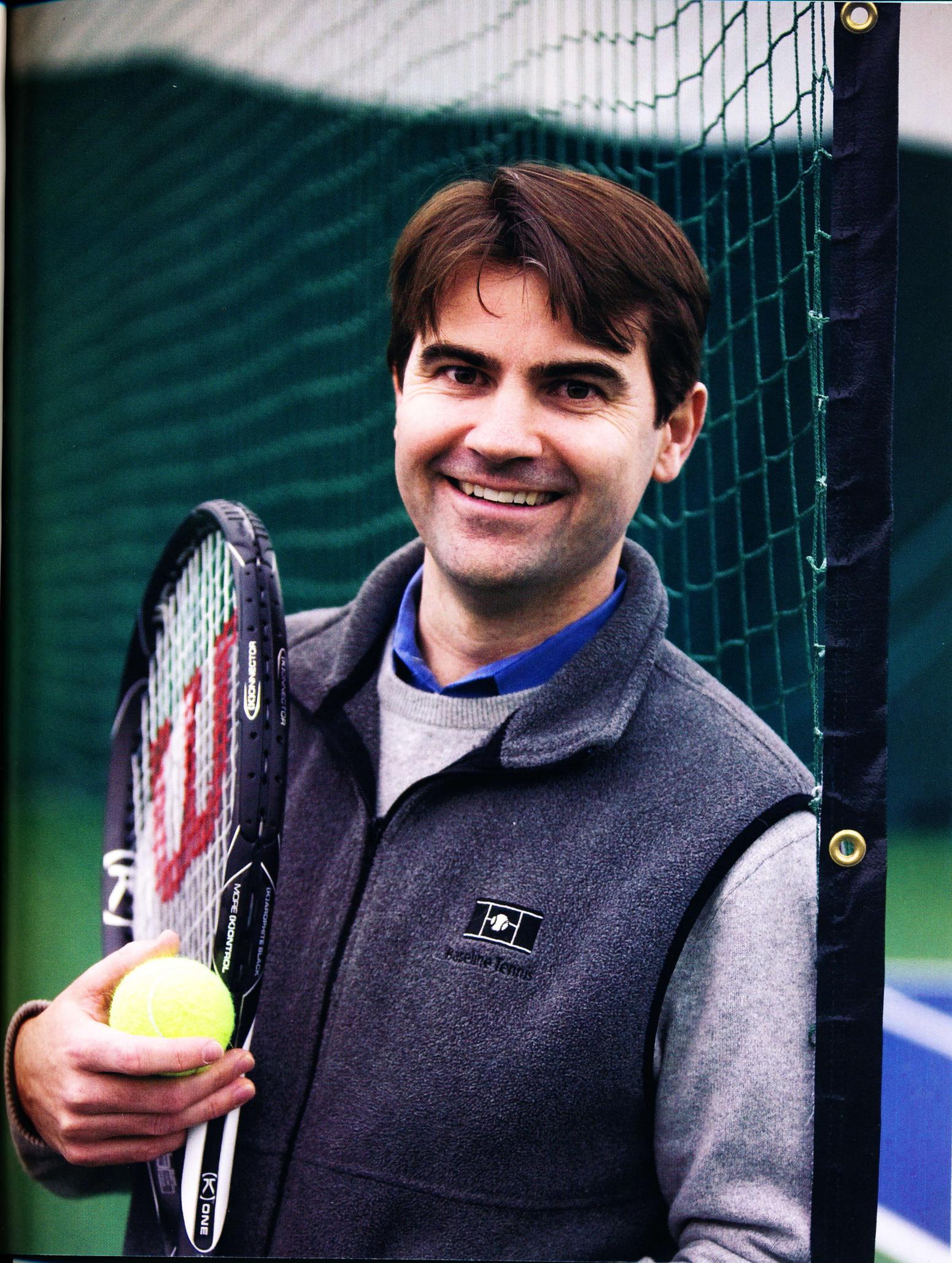
Still, he enjoys watching the employees who have replaced him in the clubs develop and grow. "It's fun when I do get to walk into a facility when nobody knows I'm coming and I see a bunch of kids playing and having a great time while the staff's working together cohesively," Fleming says.

The married father of a toddler and a baby reflects on how his OU education prepared him for this unexpected turn as an entrepreneur and financial officer. Having an opportunity to be a star tennis player was more pivotal than he realized at the time. But just as important as that — or the Rhetoric 101 professor who urged him to capitalize on his writing skills by switching from a communications major to journalism — was how the school brought Fleming out of his shell. "When I got to OU, I stepped out of my parents' shadow, opened up, and started to grow. I went from being a shy introvert to someone who loves working with people," he says.

Is he still playing tennis? Not as much as he likes, thanks to recent shoulder surgery prompted by years of serves and volleys. But Fleming expects to play competitively again soon. "I don't play just for the sake of playing," he says. "I'm very competitive and I miss competing."

That passion for competition has certainly powered his career. ■

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



SOCIAL CAPITAL

Good for your health?

By Mary Gunderson-Switzer





Economics Professor Sherman Folland was on sabbatical last year in Norway. As he walked the wintry streets, he noticed something different about the Norwegians. They hustled about with neither eye contact nor “hi-how-are-you?” greetings to one another. But if anybody slipped on the ice, Norwegians were there in a flash — lending a helping hand.

This type of socially responsive community backs up data ranking Norway among countries with the highest levels of social capital.

In economic circles, “social capital” refers to the extent and value of social interaction and connectedness — a seemingly intangible quality that researchers are studying and increasingly finding ways to measure. Social scientists and economists are exploring the idea that valued social interactions can result in health benefits as indicated by increased levels of trust, caring for others, and mutual assistance.

Folland has been studying how social capital affects health since 2003.

Measuring sociability

When comparing countries, Norway ranks #1 in the area of “trusting others” — one of the more frequently studied (and increasingly seen as the most significant) social capital elements. The U.S. ranks in the middle of the pack.

As a visiting professor at Norway’s University of Bergen, Folland was there to do research on social capital. He was encouraged to see that Norwegian society backed up what he’d read about it.

“I’m a health economist — not a sociologist,” Folland says, “but before I went to Norway, I wondered if I’d be able to see it [social capital]. And I could.”

Folland first became interested in social capital reading articles online. He was especially intrigued by social scientist Robert Putnam’s 2000 best-selling book *Bowling Alone*, which details the U.S.’s decline in vital social connections (family, friends, neighbors) and general community-mindedness. Putnam devised a social capital index of 14 descriptive elements that correlates social capital to community effects (educational attainment, child well-being, crime, etc.).

Putnam’s index has become a standard measure for other researchers pursuing this topic, including Folland.

The elements of Putnam’s social capital index

VARIABLE NAME AND EXTENDED DEFINITION

Served on committee — Served on committee of local organization in the past year (percent)

Served as officer — Served as officer of some club or organization in last year (percent)

Organizations per capita — Civic and social organizations per 1,000 population

Mean club meetings — Mean number of club meetings attended in last year

Mean group memberships — Mean number of group memberships

Turnout — Turnout in presidential elections, 1988 and 1992

Attended public meetings — Attended public meetings on town or school affairs in last year (pct)

Number of nonprofits — Number of nonprofit (501c3) organizations per 1,000 population

Mean community proj. — Mean number of times worked on community project in last year

Volunteered — Mean number of times did volunteer work in last year

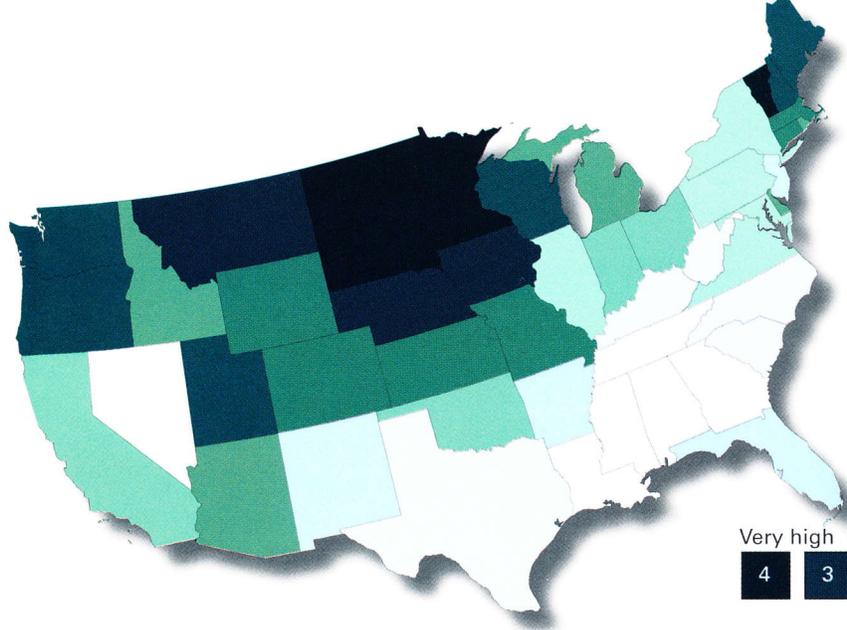
Visited friends — Agree that “I spend a lot of time visiting friends”

Entertained — Mean number of times entertained at home in last year

People can be trusted — Agree that “most people can be trusted”

People are honest — Agree that “most people are honest”

Source: Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone*, 2000.



Social capital in the United States

Color coded from very high to very low with number of states in box.

Beyond Bowling

As a health economist, Folland's interest in this topic compelled him to ask a specific question: "Does social capital contribute to less health-risky behaviors?" In other words, do health-risky behaviors (i.e., smoking, excessive drinking, overeating) tend to diminish when a person has a strong social network?

Folland's research in this area suggests the answer is "yes."

His findings indicate that a person will change negative health behaviors when experiencing an increase in social capital: when marrying, having children, gaining friends, or engaging socially within a community — they value their own life more.

This "value of life" concept appears to be a strong motivator to reduce unhealthy behaviors.

"The idea is that people bond with each other and those relationships increase the loss if you should die," Folland says. "So put simply, it really is: 'Life is worth living — I don't want to die.'"

Folland's findings, "Value of Life and Behavior Toward Health Risks: An Interpretation of Social Capital," were published March 2006 in the prestigious *Health Economic*. In addition, Folland says there are plans to include his research in the next edition of the leading health economics text, *The Economics of Health and Health Care*, which he co-authored.

Despite increasing data indicating social capital influences many facets of wellness, applying this concept proves trickier — there's no way to pour social capital into a bottle and pass it out as a health tonic.

No quick prescriptions

In the U.S., research shows what one might expect: states with higher social capital are healthier as measured by life expectancy, mortality rates and low-weight births. However, there are perplexing social capital differences

among the states. There appears to be a pattern of states with higher social capital (the North) vs. states with lower social capital (the South) [See Map]. But *why*?

Interestingly, the general pattern resembles immigration patterns: just like in Norway, states with higher Nordic populations seem to exhibit higher levels of social capital. Is it coincidence or a cultural phenomenon? Does Putnam's "trusting others" element play into the regions? Or is it related to differences in standards of living or education levels? There are more questions than definitive answers, Folland admits.

"Social capital can't always be directly correlated," Folland says. "It's always possible that social capital may be present for some other reason than what we are looking into, which we have to be open to ... it takes time. But when a hypothesis is challenged really hard and succeeds — that's when we can say that the relationship we're trying to prove must be true."

Folland sees exciting possibilities for this body of research.

"How do we take the high social capital in Wisconsin, for instance, and bring it down to the Deep South?" he reflects. "Because if we could do that, it may mean a health revolution ... I do think that what health care providers have been saying for a long time is true — that a lot of our health comes down to healing ourselves with our choices."

For a science-minded health economist who works with numbers, variables and models, Folland doesn't try to wrap social capital research into a perfect, pretty package.

"I love economics, but I'm the first to say 'don't get too excited' because there are so many variables," he cautions. "Although I'm enthusiastic, I have to temper that with pessimism so that I challenge the theory the hardest that I possibly can. But so far, the social capital theory [concerning health implications] holds up extremely well." ■

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

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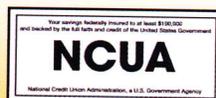
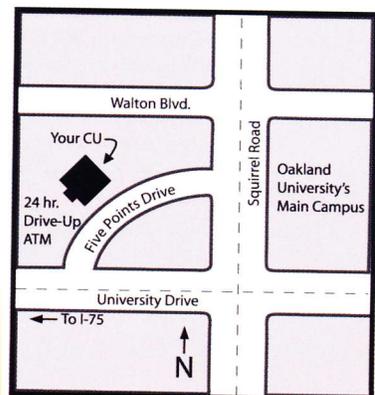


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The big PRIZE

OU engineering alums capture coveted *Car of the Year* By Tom Schram

Dave Leone, SECS '79, and Elizabeth Pilibosian, SECS '83, have both spent their careers at GM. This year they captured Motor Trend's Car of the Year prize for the Cadillac CTS.

All world-class vehicles have one thing in common: World-class engineers who put all the pieces together to work flawlessly. Such is the case for the 2008 Cadillac CTS, named winner of the prestigious *Motor Trend* Car of the Year award in November, beating out 17 of the finest vehicles from around the globe. And not to gloat, but it was also named among the Top 10 Cars for 2008 by *Car and Driver* magazine.

And while putting together a package like the CTS is clearly a team effort involving dozens of professionals at all levels, two of the primary engineers who worked to make the CTS a success began their careers at OU: Global Vehicle Chief Engineer Dave Leone, SECS '79, and Vehicle Chief Engineer Elizabeth Pilibosian, SECS '82.

Make no mistake. The CTS is a huge success.

"The CTS obliterates the 'old man' image of Cadillac," said Angus MacKenzie, editor-in-chief of *Motor Trend*. "This car will turn heads in the same way that the



elite European models do, but it is unmistakably American and uniquely Cadillac. This is a bold and uncompromising showpiece of a sedan."

It was cars from Day 1

Leone and Pilibosian, who work at the GM Tech Center in Warren, Mich., have similar backgrounds in suburban Detroit homes. Both were influenced by fathers in the automobile business and both chose Oakland for similar reasons: They had to work through college and OU offered a high quality engineering education.

"I went to Oakland University and it was a fantastic experience," Leone says. "Each class and laboratory was taught by a professor. It had an excellent placement program. When I got out of school, I had 11 interviews and I got nine job offers."

Pilibosian said that when she attended Oakland 30 years ago, female engineering students at some schools were often stigmatized as second-class citizens. Not at OU.

"Oakland University was great," she says. "The professors were so good and always wanted to make sure the students understood what they were teaching. I worked hard but I didn't feel that I was treated differently from anyone else."

Both chose General Motors right out of Oakland. Pilibosian's father was an engineer for Chrysler. Did he have issues with her spurning an offer from that company and choosing GM?

"Maybe at the time, yes," she says. "But he is so happy for me now."

Leone has spent 27 of his 29 years at GM working on Cadillacs and he says he feels very privileged.

The CTS debuted in 2002 and both got in on the second-generation CTS project early in the game. "The first CTS was a very good car," Leone says. "But it didn't

demonstrate the level of refinement we needed to take on the rest of the world. We determined very early on that this one was going to be special."

Solid from concept to production

Pilibosian said that when engineers attempt to implement the concepts that vehicle designers create in clay models there is a natural tension. "You can't always make the car that the design center desires. But in this program there was good tension," she says. "What you see in the CTS looks like the clay. We were very successful in engineering the design we were given."

As leaders of the project, both found out about the *Motor Trend* award well before it was made public, but were sworn to silence. When they found out, of course, they were more than delighted. "This is the best thing that could ever happen," Pilibosian says. "Cadillac hadn't won it in years."

"I was in an airport and I got a phone call," Leone recalls. "I was elated. It's really something to see all your efforts over the last several years really pay off."

Both say that rumors of an imminent end to GM's reign as a top player in the automobile business are highly exaggerated.

"I don't think so," Leone says. "Those people don't have all the facts. We're actually on a roll. We're starting to pick up momentum with several new products and the CTS is just one of the examples."

Pilibosian echoes that sentiment. "Our goal here is to make cars that appeal to the public and pull them away from the competition," she adds. "We know that we have to fight for every sale; that we have to put products out faster."

Both say they have to continually read and learn to keep up with changes in technology. But that comes with the business.

"We've yet to break Newton's rules," Leone says. "We can't prove him wrong and so we're continuing to apply the new technologies to create even better solutions. There's a very bright future in this business."

And for these two world class engineers, many more roads to travel. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some readers might recognize the Pilibosian name. Liz's brother-in-law, Gary, ME '86, SECS '84, was featured in this publication in spring/summer 2006 for his winning role as CEO of Microbeat, Inc. His company provides HotShot (a product that melts ice off windshields) for select GM vehicles, including, of course, the Cadillac. We'd like to thank another alum, Vince Muniga, CAS '77, CTS product communications manager, for helping us with this story and our photo shoot.

Tom Schram is a freelance writer from Huntington Woods, Mich.

1860s

France acquires foothold on Somali Coast, later to become Djibouti.

1875

Egypt occupies towns on Somali coast and parts of the interior.

1887

Britain proclaims protectorate over Somaliland.

1888

Anglo-French agreement defines boundary between British and French possessions.

Italy sets up a protectorate in central Somalia, and later consolidates territory in the south.

1950

Italian Somaliland becomes a UN trust territory under Italian control.

1960

British and Italian parts of Somalia become independent, merge and form the United Republic of Somalia.

1964

Border dispute with Ethiopia leads to a war between the two countries.

1969

Siyad Barre assumes power in a military coup after the civilian president is assassinated.

SOMALI

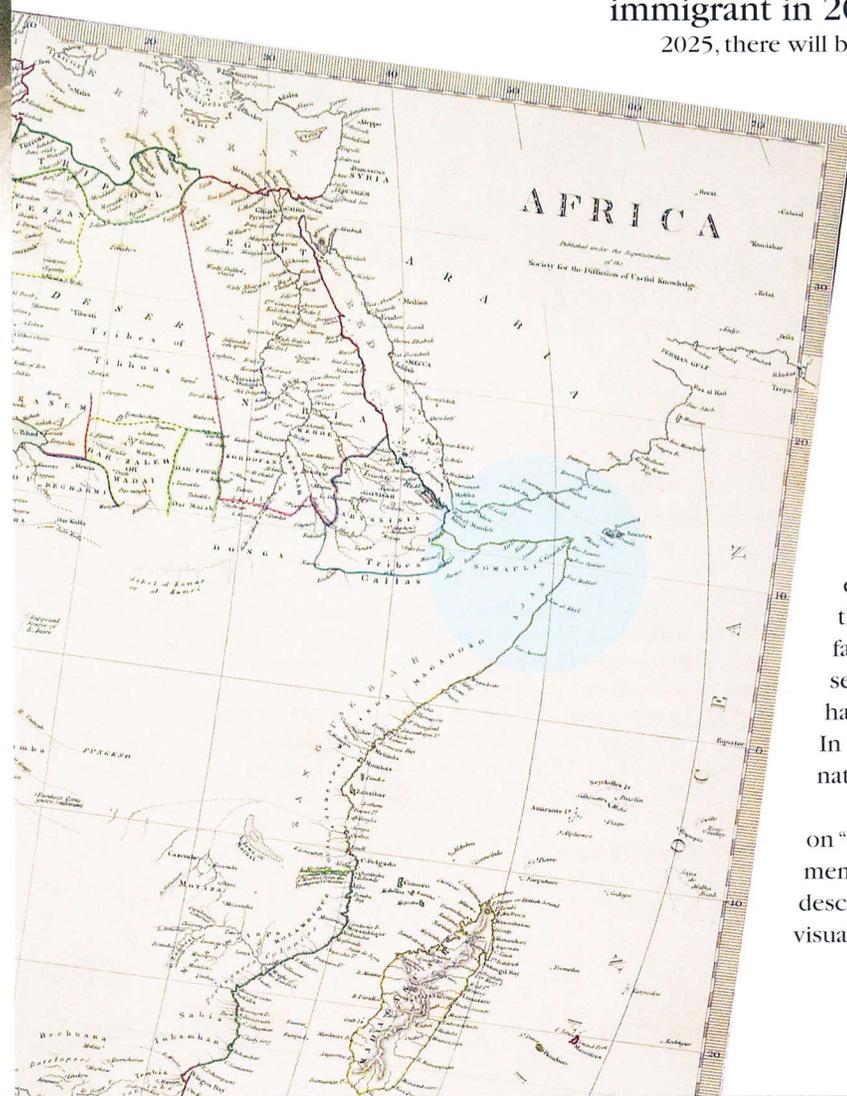
Professor's research traces impact of immigration, discrimination By Sandra Beckwith

According to a February 2008 report by the Pew Research Center, nearly one in five Americans will be an immigrant in 2050, compared with one in eight in 2005. In addition, by 2025, there will be a greater percentage of foreign-born residents in the U.S. than there was during the last great wave of immigration a century ago.

While the Pew report made national headlines, it wasn't news to Associate Professor of Sociology Abdi Kusow, an expert on the impact of immigration on race and ethnicity on immigration. Kusow, whose work has appeared in leading publications such as the *Journal of Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Symbolic Interaction* and who recently participated in a UNESCO conference on the future of the Horn of Africa, is an American citizen of Somalia descent who studies the motivations of people who migrate to North America from other countries, particularly Somalia. His recent focus is on cultural conflicts Somalis experience when they settle in the U.S. and Canada.

One of the largest groups of African-born black Muslim immigrants in North America, most Somalis emigrate to escape dreadful conditions caused by an ongoing civil war that has splintered the East African nation into separatist factions. The country, recently described by UNICEF's representative as "the most difficult place on the globe" for children, has not had a functioning national government since 1991. In Kusow's words, "Somalia represents a total breakdown of a nation," he says. "They are now in full crisis."

In their own country, Somalis face discrimination based on "clanism," a system of social differentiation where clan membership is determined by which mythical ancestor you descended from — a noble or non-noble. Because there is no visual indication of ancestry — no differences in hair, eye or skin



1977

Somalia invades Ethiopia as a result of border disputes, but is pushed out with the help of Soviet advisers and Cuban troops.

1991

Barre is ousted and power struggle between clan warlords kills or starves several hundred thousand civilians.

1992

U.S. Marines land in Mogadishu ahead of UN peacekeeping force sent to restore order.

1992

Eighteen U.S. Army rangers are killed when Somali militias shoot down two U.S. helicopters in Mogadishu. This event is depicted in the film, *Black Hawk Down*. As a result, U.S. mission formally ends in March 1994.

2006

Militia loyal to the Union of Islamic Courts take control of Mogadishu.

2006

UN Security Council resolution endorses African peacekeeping forces.

2006

Joint Ethiopian and Somali government forces capture Mogadishu.

2008

Somalia remains a country without a collectively recognized central government.

TEARS

“Somalia represents a total breakdown of a nation ... they are now in full crisis.”

color — determining who to discriminate against takes more effort.

“They engage in an interesting process of figuring out who is who through conversations and stories,” Kusow says. “In essence, Somalis have to know something about you before becoming prejudiced against you.” He compares this to the religious conflict in Northern Ireland, where people can’t determine who is Protestant or Catholic without knowing something about them.

A new brand of discrimination

Because there is no discrimination based on skin color, Somali immigrants are unprepared when they encounter this bias here, which is one of the most important categories of social, political and economic differentiation in North America. Kusow studies how these Somalis who are unfamiliar with color-based racial categories adjust in communities where skin color is the primary source of social stratification.

His research reveals that many Somali immigrants ignore or reject attempts to classify them according to their skin color. Instead, they choose — like many other “black ethnics” — to be discriminated against because of their culture and religion.

“Somalis prefer to be identified by their culture because bias against religion might change over time but their skin color won’t,” Kusow says. He adds that some insist that their culture is superior, using that to draw a symbolic boundary between them and the primarily Judeo-Christian population of North America. It is one reason why Somalis tend to not assimilate fully in the traditional melting pot sense. This pattern is consistent with the nature of contemporary

assimilation among recent immigrants in the United States, according to Kusow.

“Unlike earlier generations, contemporary immigrants are less likely to maintain allegiance to one country or another as they lead simultaneous lives here and in their homeland, even participating in the political, economic and social structures of the home country,” he says, citing changes in transportation and technology that make staying connected to the homeland easier than it was a century ago.

America of the future

What, then, will it mean to be an American in the 21st century? The Pew Center research predicts that non-Hispanic whites will be in the minority for the first time, comprising just 47 percent of the population mid-century.

Kusow believes this will generate more racial tolerance. “When we have more minority populations of different kinds, it is likely that every individual will have an experience where a relative is married to a different ethnicity. That will change our perceptions of other groups and we’ll have more respect for each other,” he says.

“On the surface, this demographic transformation seems like a fear-generating situation but in the real sense, it’s more positive than negative,” Kusow adds. “America will have a different face but that face will make this country even more powerful than it is now because it will be a microcosm of the global state.” ■

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

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



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

A new face in Alumni Relations



In November, Ryan Bladzick joined the Alumni Relations office as the Marketing and Membership Manager. He is responsible for the Oakland University Alumni Association's (OAAA) membership program, marketing and promotions, sponsorships and digital media. Bladzick spent the previous three years at the University of Miami, Fla., where he worked as the Director of Alumni Communication and Digital Media. While at Miami, his work was recognized by several national organizations, including the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), the League of American Communication Professionals (LACP), and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). A Michigan native,

he received his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Michigan State University, and currently lives with his wife and son in Holly, Mich., and is expecting a new family member in August. ■

Ambassadors get as much as they give

"As an alumnus, it is very fulfilling to connect with new students and help make them feel welcomed to the OU family," says Tom Schramski, SECS '78, of his participation as an Alumni Admissions Ambassador at a recent on-campus welcome reception for new students held on OU's campus.

Connecting alumni with their alma mater and with prospective students is what the Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program (AAP) is all about. Initiated last September, this joint program between Undergraduate Admissions and Alumni Relations brings alumni together with high school and transfer students at regional and national college fairs. Alums happily share their positive OU experiences and encourage others to consider Oakland. Volunteers may also help welcome newly admitted students to welcome receptions, open houses and at events around the country.

"We wanted to provide alumni a more rewarding avenue for service to their alma mater and to use alumni talents more effectively to attract the best students to Oakland," says

Luke Fler, program coordinator.

"Alumni play a vital role in our recruitment efforts. They are the best evidence of what an OU education has to offer."

Fler works with alumni volunteers, locating college fairs and providing training with up-to-date admissions resources. "This is really a win-win for everyone," adds Fler. "The alumni ambassadors get a lot out of sharing the OU experience and prospective students get to know Oakland and are welcomed to the university by a member of the OU family."

Recruitment events run from September through April. For more information on how to become involved in the AAP, visit www.oakland.edu/aap or contact Fler at fler@oakland.edu or (248) 370-GRIZ (4749). ■





A new twist on the POWER LUNCH

What better way to find out about a potential career choice than asking seasoned professionals in the field? That was the idea behind the first Student-to-Alumni Power Networking Dinner, held

at the Oakland Center on April 8. The OUAA, OU Student Congress and Future Alumni Network hosted the event, which brought alumni and students together for dinner and conversation. Seating for dinner was arranged to match students with alumni who are working in their field of interest, followed by dessert with alumni in other fields. Each table matched one or two alumni with six to eight students.

"This event gave alumni the opportunity to share their career successes and challenges and gave the students a chance to learn more about their prospective career choices from professionals working in those fields," says Karen Stacy Ballard, program and events coordinator. ■

Scholarships put education within reach

The OUAA has been helping students achieve the dream of an education for more than 50 years with scholarship support. To date, the program has awarded more than \$800,000 in scholarships. The funds for this program are provided through the generous donations of OUAA members and from the proceeds of OUAA events and programs.

This year, 21 scholarships representing approximately \$60,000 are available and will be awarded at the Sept. 20 Scholarship Breakfast including:

- School of Nursing Alumni Affiliate Scholarship
- School of Health Sciences Alumni Affiliate Scholarship
- Honors College Alumni Affiliate Scholarship
- Working Student Scholarship
- Returning Alumni Scholarship

If you would like more information on the 2009 scholarship program, contact Carol Carpenter at (248) 364-6134 or cmcarpen@oakland.edu, or log on to the alumni Web site at www.oualumni.com. ■



Grizz on board!

Show off your alma mater and help future students get an education with an OU signature license plate sporting the Golden Grizzly. We've sold more than 10,600 plates, representing more than \$148,000 raised for student scholarships. The cost of an OU license plate is \$35, with \$25 of that going to support student scholarships.

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



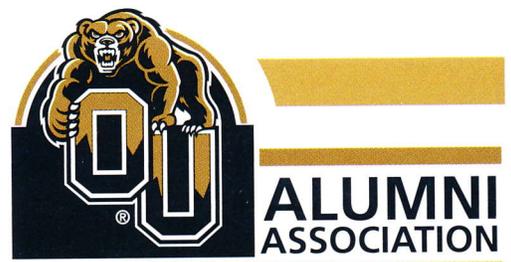
The OUAA Lit to Film Book Club starts up again this September, meeting the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in Kresge Library room 225B. Members read the book before the gathering, then meet to view and discuss the literature to film adaptation. Meetings are typically over by 9 p.m.

Meeting dates for 2008-09 are:

- Sept. 2: **Personal Velocity**
by Rebecca Miller
- Oct. 7: **Atonement** by Ian McEwan
- Nov. 4: **No Country for Old Men**
by Cormac McCarthy
- Dec. 2: **The Bee Season**
by Myla Goldberg
- Jan. 6: **About a Boy** by Nick Hornby
- Feb. 3: **Love in the Time of Cholera**
by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- Mar. 3: **Memoirs of a Geisha**
by Arthur Golden
- April 7: **In Cold Blood**
by Truman Capote
- May 5: **The Diving Bell and the Butterfly**
by Jean-Dominique Bauby
- June 2: **Into the Wild** by Jon Krakauer

For more information, contact Gail Meyers at (248) 364-6132 or meyers@oakland.edu. ■

We want to hear from you ALUMNI



OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

MEMBERSHIP

An Oakland University Alumni Association membership offers many benefits — on campus and off. Campus benefits include opportunities for service and leadership, borrowing privileges at Kresge Library, a reduced rate for Recreation Center membership, discounts around campus and invitations to special alumni events. Community benefits include discounts at Stevens Worldwide Van Lines, Hertz and participating Choice Hotels. For details, check www.oualumni.com.

Alumni Membership

For those who have received a degree from OU.

___ \$35 Regular Alumni Membership

___ \$60 Two-year Alumni Membership

both OU graduates

___ \$60 Married Alumni Membership

___ \$100 Two-year Married Membership

Friends of OUAA

For those who wish to be connected to OU but did not receive a degree from the university.

___ \$50 Friends of the OUAA Membership

___ \$90 Two-year Friends Membership

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

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

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

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SAVE THESE DATES!

Aug 11 — OUAA Golf Challenge

Aug. 27 — OU Night at Comerica Park

The Detroit Tigers play the Cleveland Indians. Reception at the Fox Theatre before the 7:05 p.m. game.

Oct. 11 — Family Festival

Nov. 8 — OUAA Alumni Awards Banquet at the Oakland Center

For more information on all these events, visit www.oualumni.com. Watch for the 2008–09 OUAA calendar of events, which will be hitting mailboxes by mid-June.

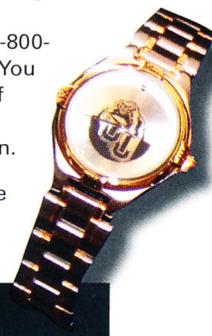


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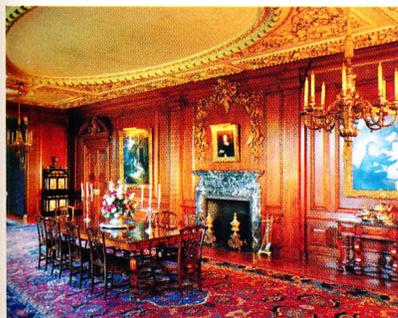
Here's an exclusive invitation for OU and Golden Grizzlies fans: Apply for the new OUAA VISA Affinity card and you'll receive a signature Golden Grizzlies gold and stainless steel watch. The OUAA and MSU Federal Credit Union are offering the VISA Platinum card, which has a low fixed rate of 12.9 percent APR and no annual fee. And every time you use your new card, you'll be helping to support student scholarships and alumni programs.

The OU VISA Affinity card is available to all OU graduates, friends and members of the community. The affinity card offers \$1,000,000 travel/accident insurance and is accepted at more than 25 million retailers worldwide. To get our affinity card, go online to www.ouvisacard.com or call 1-800-MSU-4-YOU (1-800-678-4968). You can also visit the OU Branch of MSU Federal Credit Union in Auburn Hills for an application.

So get on Grizzly time and take your OU pride with you every time you hit the stores. ■



Charter Class Reunion scheduled



The 45th Charter Class Reunion is right around the corner. Scheduled for June 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Meadow Brook Hall, the event is open to 1963-64 graduates and emeriti faculty and retired staff. The cost is \$40 per person and includes brunch, mimosas and time for socializing in the Christopher Wren Dining Room and tours of the hall. For more information and registration, call the OUAA Event Hotline at (248) 364-6140. Please RSVP by June 9. ■

Globetrotting with Grizzly Getaways

Grizzly Getaway to Scandinavia

Aug. 22-30, 2008

This trip offers a rare chance to travel with the OU women's basketball team to Sweden and Finland and watch them play against leading teams in both countries. The trip starts out in Finland's capital, Helsinki, and includes Stockholm and the 13th century Finnish hill town of Porvoo, which is rich in czarist history. The excursion also includes the chance to see four Grizzly games against local teams in Helsinki; Espoo, in the Finnish countryside; Vantaa, a suburb of Helsinki; and Stockholm.

Cost: \$3,349/based on double occupancy.



Croatia and Venetian Treasures

September 18-26, 2008

Explore Opatija, one of Croatia's most famous resorts on the sparkling Adriatic Coast, and then travel to Venice, Padua and Lido di Jesolo, one of Italy's most popular and attractive resorts.

Cost: \$1,299 plus airfare per person



Treasures of Italy

October 2-10, 2008

Start out in the beautiful landscapes of Tuscany and see the charming spa towns of Chianciano and Fiuggi before moving onto the ancient treasures of Rome and the quaint hillside towns of Assisi and Siena, or explore the ancient ruins of Pompeii.

Cost: \$1,299 plus airfare per person



For more information on all OUAA trips, visit www.oualumni.com and click on the travel section.

CAS

Series brings history to life

An annual program at Oakland University is giving participants a little taste of time travel.

The College of Art and Science's History Comes Alive series is known for providing guests a serious — and not so serious — look at the events that have shaped our world. Its presentations, free and open to the public, span the globe and the ages. Lecturers have explored topics ranging from the Cold War to frontier life in central Brazil, medievalism in literature to Victorian-era séances.

"I think the topics are always interesting," says Judy Christie, MPA '87, CAS '81, who has been instrumental in helping the college garner support for the program through the Knudsen Family Fund. "The school does a good job of appealing to different interests."

The series' scope and success have inspired other alumni and lecture series attendees to support the program. John W. Carter, who received his master's degree in history in 1989, is an excellent example: For the past three years, he has supported the lecture series. OU alumni tend to be very generous to the history department. The donation of Kimberly Whipple, CAS '81, for instance, recently allowed the department to renovate its conference room.

Learning history is vital in light of the challenges facing our world today, Christie points out. "There's more to it than memorizing dates. Knowing about history can help us deal with the issues of today."

For details about the 2008-2009 *History Comes Alive* series, visit www2.oakland.edu/history/n_lectures.cfm

SBA

Complementing classroom skills

Students in the School of Business Administration's (SBA's) new Scholars Program are having fun and at the same time, building experience through networking and project work.

For freshmen like Oleksandra Perepelytsya, the program has delivered educational opportunities. She and the

other freshman scholars are building a peer network by taking courses purposely reserved for freshman scholars. This included the MIS course in the fall and the accounting course this semester. The bonus is these freshman get to take courses normally reserved for those with sophomore status.

"It's really nice to have all of us in the same classes," Perepelytsya says. "You get to know each other's strengths and weaknesses and help each other."

The program, launched in fall 2007, offers select business students from their freshman to senior years resume building learning experiences that complement classroom experience.

Another opportunity to participate is the Research Scholars. As a participant in the program's paid research component, senior Carlena Janiak has been assisting SBA Associate Dean Ronald Tracy as he tries to determine if the federal government has contributed to the "Big Three" automakers' deteriorating dominance. Her personal research project, meanwhile, explores whether the increased Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFÉ) standards outlined in the nation's new Energy Independence and Security Act will increase the country's pollution.

The program has been challenging, Janiak says, but worthwhile. "It's definitely something that sets participants apart from students who haven't had this experience."

Senior Ally Kelly is among the juniors and seniors serving as Scholars Program Ambassadors, which includes a scholarship for each participant. Kelly has attended a number of outreach programs designed to introduce high school and new OU students to the SBA. "We try to paint a better picture for them so when they come to OU they know what to expect," Kelly says.

Overseeing the junior-senior program components are junior Chris Valmassoi and graduate assistant Renee Mannino. They coordinate the ambassadors' activities. "It's been a great experience," says Valmassoi, who has received the Scholars Program's Junior Rising Leadership Scholarship. "I think this is really going to help me in the future."

SECS

Broadening horizons

Last month, a group of twelve School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) graduate and undergraduate students spent two and a half weeks in Beijing, China, studying at Beijing Jiaotong University. The trip entailed a joint design/manufacturing project with their Chinese counterparts, classroom lectures, tours of Beijing Jeep and a visit to Shanghai and cultural sites including the Great Wall of China and the Forbidden City.

Students had the opportunity to learn about the manufacturing industry in China and how it differs from the U.S. In 2005 and 2007, mechanical engineering students traveled to Tongji University on a similar trip. The 2008 trip was open to all SECS students.

"These trips are an eye-opener for our students," says Gary Barber, chair of the mechanical engineering department and professor of engineering. "Engineering is more and more a global field and getting a broader perspective on the world and engineering in different countries will help our students be better engineers and compete in a global market."

Those who wanted to participate in the trip applied to Barber at the beginning of the semester. Chrysler and the Provost's office provided financial support to students to help cover the cost of the trip.

SEHS

International perspective

Oakland University's School of Education and Human Services (SEHS) is now offering an International Baccalaureate (IB) certificate program for teachers and administrators.

The program makes Oakland the only university in the world to offer an IB Level 1 program spanning the entire K-12 curriculum. OU's first cohort started coursework in January. The program is offered in conjunction with the International Baccalaureate Organization in Cardiff, Wales.

Once students complete the 20-credit program, they will be eligible to apply for IB's Teacher Award Level 1 certificate at the Primary Years, Middle Years and

Diploma Program levels. The IB program is intended to provide students with an international perspective and a positive attitude about learning.

"The perspective offered by the IB curriculum complements Oakland University's mission of preparing students for a global society," says SEHS Dean Mary Otto.

Participants in Oakland's program will cover five key areas: global education; curriculum development; teaching and learning; assessment; and reflection and practice. The program was designed to be convenient. Sessions will be taught on weekends and online, and the training will include an eight-day summer intensive session.

"It has always been our practice to respond to the needs of teachers and school districts whenever we can," says Bob Wiggins, associate dean, SEHS.

SHS

Studying childhood obesity

A Beaumont Hospitals program has been working for years to find the root causes of childhood obesity and help clients overcome them. Now Oakland University's School of Health Sciences (SHS) is preparing to help Beaumont determine if its Healthy Kids program is having a significant impact.

Several representatives from the SHS have agreed to provide Beaumont researchers with their expertise and research experience for a prospective clinical trial. The OU team includes Associate Professor Brian Goslin, Exercise Science; Assistant Professor Patricia Wren, Wellness, Health Promotion and Injury Prevention; and assistant researcher Ron Gellish, SHS.

One of the qualities that drew Goslin and his team members to Healthy Kids is its multi-faceted approach to obesity interventions. The 12-week program addresses nutrition, exercise, self-image and parental influence, among other areas. "It's not taking a one-sided approach," Goslin says. "Obesity is a very persistent disease people struggle to resolve. I liked what Beaumont was already doing and the fact it already demonstrated some success."

The research team has spent the last year developing its research protocol. This spring, it plans to submit it to Beaumont's Human Investigative Committee and Oakland's Institutional Review Board for approval. If all goes well, the researchers will be able to begin gathering data this summer.

SON

Exploring career options

Oakland University nursing students took an in-depth look at some of the opportunities in their field Feb. 18 when the School of Nursing (SON) Advising Department presented its second annual Career Path Program.

Four distinguished alumni, all with Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees from OU, addressed the students and answered questions about their personal career paths. The speakers described the obstacles they've overcome and offered students advice for launching their own careers.

The panelists included Veronica Hall, chief operating officer and chief nursing officer of Henry Ford Hospital; Marie Adam, senior manager of medical operations and compliance for Chrysler Corp.; Cheryl Smith, heart transplant and ventricular assist device coordinator in the Henry Ford Health System; and Petra Hurt, affiliate clinical coordinator/assistant director of the nurse anesthesia program at University of Detroit Mercy.

The presentation attracted between 30 and 40 students representing each of the SON's programs, says Sarah Mullin, a SON academic adviser. "We thought it was a wonderful opportunity for our students to hear from nurse leaders in the community," Mullin says. "Students could see the spectrum of careers they could go into and ways to be leaders they may not have thought about."

The initial Career Path Program was designed for the Dean's Circle Program, the SON's student leadership program. This year's panel discussion was open to all SON students. "We've been receiving positive feedback from the students who attended," Mullin says. "They really enjoyed what they heard."

HC

Commemorative quilt

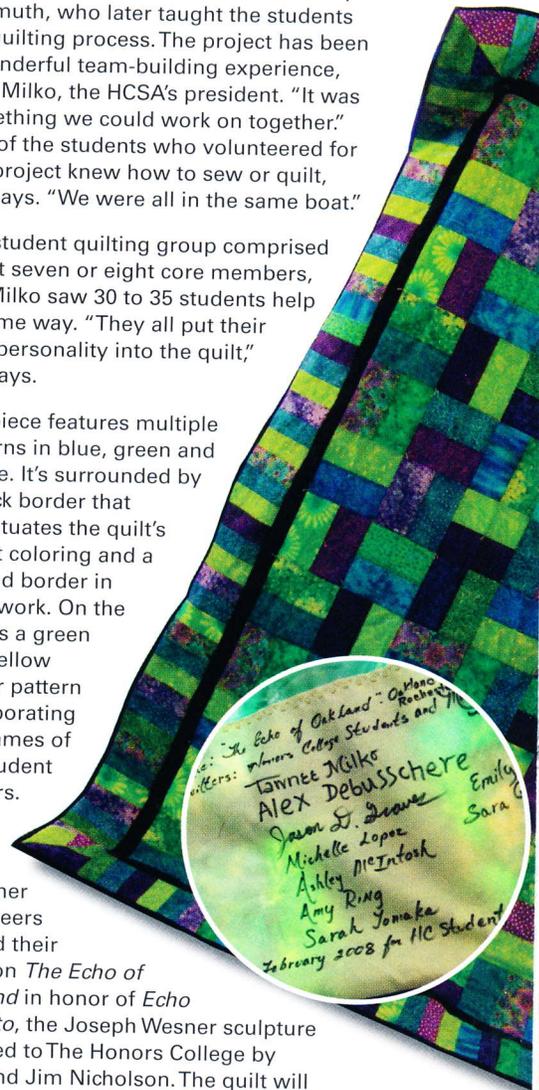
Tawnee Milko knows her way around a needle and thread pretty well these days. She and her fellow Honors College Student Association (HCSA) members have spent the last several months creating a quilt to commemorate the Honors College's 30th anniversary.

The idea for the commemorative piece came from OU alumna and quilter Mary Wermuth, who later taught the students the quilting process. The project has been a wonderful team-building experience, says Milko, the HCSA's president. "It was something we could work on together." Few of the students who volunteered for this project knew how to sew or quilt, she says. "We were all in the same boat."

The student quilting group comprised about seven or eight core members, but Milko saw 30 to 35 students help in some way. "They all put their own personality into the quilt," she says.

The piece features multiple patterns in blue, green and purple. It's surrounded by a black border that accentuates the quilt's bright coloring and a second border in patchwork. On the back is a green and yellow flower pattern incorporating the names of the student quilters.

Milko and the other volunteers named their creation *The Echo of Oakland* in honor of *Echo Cognito*, the Joseph Wesner sculpture donated to The Honors College by Ann and Jim Nicholson. The quilt will be the prize in a HCSA raffle this spring. Proceeds will support the intellectual and social activities the association hosts throughout the year.



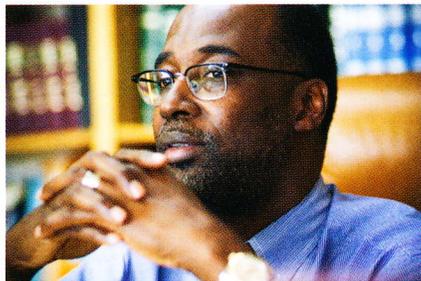
CAREER/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1960s

Joseph Cool, SECS '69, was retained by Multicultural Business Council as General Advisory Consul.

Jim Wynns, SBA '69, is semi-retired after selling his corporation, Michigan Coffee Service, to a Japanese consortium. He retains his Chicago Coffee Service and his Internet business, cheaper coffee.com.

1970s



The Honorable Leo Bowman, CAS '76, has been named chairman of the POH Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees.

Richard Cameron, SBA '74, has been a full-time healthcare consultant for the last 10 years after spending 23 years in hospital administration, physician practice management and managed care services. He and his wife, Elaine, have lived outside St. Louis, Mo., since 2000 and enjoy volunteering and traveling along with their three adopted retired racing greyhounds.

Richard Clanton, CAS '76, is in his second term as city commissioner for the City of Kentwood. He has over 15 years of local government experience in the City of Kentwood, having previously served on the Zoning Board, Economic Development Board, Brownfield Authority, Pension Board, and the Planning Commission. Clanton has been involved with the Michigan Municipal League for the past eight years as secretary, vice president and president of Region III, president of the Elected Officials Academy, and vice president of Michigan Black Elected Officials. He is also a Level III graduate of E.O.A. In 2005, Grand Rapids awarded him the "Giants Award for Community Service."

Sharon Finley, MAT '80, CAS '76, has been teaching English at Pontiac Northern High School for the past 14 years.

Maurice Freed, CAS '77, is running for the office of County Commissioner, District 8, Seat B in Knox County, Tenn.

Robert Grant, SBA '79, is president, TCF Bank Michigan in Ann Arbor. Previously, he held the position of Senior Vice President and division manager of middle-market banking in southeast Michigan for Fifth Third Bank in Southfield.

Deborah Hejl, SEHS '73, is a Fishers High School Social Studies teacher in Indiana who recently completed a tour of duty as a U.S. House of Representatives Fellow. She competed against a prestigious group of high school teachers of American history and government from across the country for a coveted spot in the program.

Myron Kopin, CAS '73, has been practicing medicine in the Rochester area for nearly 30 years.

Thom Lucas, CAS '78, has recently published a book titled *The Anxiety Fix, Cognitive/Behavioral Therapy for Fast Effective Treatment of Anxiety, Panic and OCD*. The book can be previewed at www.LULU.com.

Carolyn McCloud, SEHS '75, is author of a children's book called *Have You Filled Your Bucket Today?*

Ayers Morison, Jr., CAS '71, has joined SSOE, Inc. as design leader; previously, he was with Harley Ellis Devereaux as a senior project designer.

Kenneth Olen, CAS '73, is now principal for the tax department of MSW Group, PLC in Farmington Hills.

Carol Petrea, CAS '79, is founder of Carol S. Petrea Youth Golf Foundation, an organization created to impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life enhancing values through the game of golf and other character building activities.

Timothy Wiedman, CAS '76, completed his Doctor of Business Administration degree at Argosy University in Sarasota, Fla., in 2006 and is a professor of management and human resources at

Doane College in Crete, Neb. He is in his 22nd year of teaching at the college level.

1980s

Melinda Conway Callahan, MPA '85, president of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan's Foundation, was among the 65 professionals selected to participate in Leadership Detroit's Class XXIX. Leadership Detroit is the Detroit Regional Chamber's leadership development and training program, creating awareness of issues that affect the region.

Andrew Cardimen, SBA '88, is senior vice president and market manager, Commercial Middle Market for Harris Bank. He is responsible for leading a team charged with providing superior commercial banking services and advice to middle market companies throughout Central Indiana.

Richard Corona, SECS '88, was promoted to partner and is remaining MEP engineering group leader with DSA Architects. He joined DSA in January 2007.

John Gabor, SBA '84, is the new manager of Marine City, Mich.

David Graebner, CAS '89, owns a residential/commercial painting business called Regal Painting of Michigan LLC, serving the Detroit Metro area.

Veronica Hall, SON '84, is COO and chief nursing officer of Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Kim (Devroy) Kemske, CAS '88, completed her doctoral degree in clinical psychology in 2006 and has accepted a position on the board of directors with Archway Associates based in Royal Oak. She is also working in private practice in Novi with Providence Hospital Behavioral Medicine.

Donald Korn, SBA '88, is senior vice president and director of Institutional Services for Regions Bank in Birmingham, Ala.

Connie Kramer, SBA '82, is an associate professor of business/marketing at McPherson College in McPherson, Kan. After 25 years working as an executive management/marketing professional, She is sharing her knowledge and experience with college students.

On the front lines

Alum earns national Emmy

A groundbreaking video series by the *Detroit Free Press* propelled **John Masson, CAS '92**, and his colleagues into the national spotlight last year when they won an Emmy Award for their poignant production of the Iraq war's impact on a group of Marines and their families. *Michigan Marines: Band of Brothers*, a 23-part video series, followed the 1st Battalion of the 24th Marines, a group of Michigan-based reserves.

Masson and a Free Press videographer reported stateside on the war's impact on local families, while colleagues traveled with the Marines to their training in California and service in Iraq.

"We thought it would be nice to bring the global picture down to a local level that people can reach out and understand," says Masson. "You got a picture of the local impact in Michigan, and the impact on the guys who were fighting the fight."

The video won in a new broadband category of the News and Documentary Emmy Awards, beating four other national news organizations: *PBS' Frontline*, *National Geographic*, *Newsweek*, and *The Washington Post*.

Masson served as a corpsman in the Navy during the first Gulf War, when he was deployed to the hospital ship USNS Comfort in the Persian Gulf. He now serves in the Coast Guard Reserve. He drew on this experience as he forged a journalism career covering the military, police and crime. He recently joined the University of Michigan Law School as a media relations officer.

The project was one of the first major multi-media efforts by the *Free Press* to bring information to its readers by joining print and video on the Web.

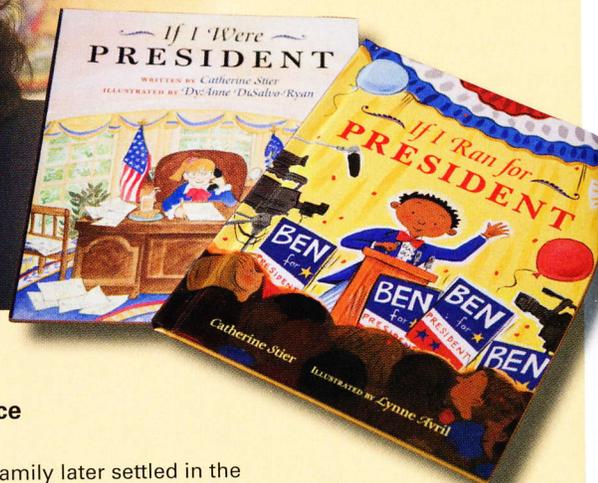
For example, a Thanksgiving Day piece was covered simultaneously in Michigan and Iraq. Masson spent part of the Thanksgiving holiday with a Marine's family, while his colleagues in Iraq spent part of the day with the same Marine in Fallujah. "The two stories were combined for a print and electronic piece in real time," he says.

Masson believes *Michigan Marines: Band of Brothers* resonated with people because it brought the war and its impact on the soldiers and their families close to home. "These are our friends, these are our neighbors, and this is what they go through," he says. "That's what gave the piece its power." ■





When Catherine Stier was looking for resources to teach her preschoolers about President's Day, she discovered there wasn't much available — so she wrote her own book.



Presidential hopefuls

Author inspires kids to picture themselves in the Oval Office

Presidents' Day was approaching, and **Catherine Stier, CAS '86**, was on the hunt. Scouring the shelves of Chicago's libraries, she couldn't find the right book to explain the presidency to her preschool class. So she wrote one.

Not long after her 1997 library quest, Stier wrote *If I Were President*. With more than 30,000 copies sold, her witty children's book was named an "Honor Book" by the Society of School Libraries International. It's also stocked at White House and Mt. Rushmore gift shops and at The Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

A fun, informative book that portrays a multicultural cast of children imagining themselves as president, *If I Were President* is shelved nationwide in libraries, bookstores and schools.

"I hear how my book's being used throughout the country, and it's surreal," Stier says. "From students in Maine writing book reports to kids in Massachusetts making a mock presidential podium and taking photos of each kid as 'president' — it's just so rewarding to know the book is having an impact."

Stier's writing success is a process that began in college. As a communications major, she has fond memories of living at Anibal House and working for WOUX radio station and the *Oakland Sail* newspaper.

"I remember Communications Professor [Donald] Hildum emphasizing how to write clearly and succinctly," she says. "We'd practice answering complex questions in as few words as possible. I took that lesson with me."

Besides the educational experiences gained at OU, Stier also met her future husband on campus. Later, his job as a chemical engineer brought years of travel for the couple and their children. Stier typed away — mailing articles to the U.S., which were published in national magazines such as *My Friend* and *Child Life*.

The family later settled in the Chicago area and today, Stier remains connected to her young reading audience by giving school presentations and substitute teaching. She's also a newspaper and magazine contributor. Her articles appear in publications including *Woman's Day*, *Ladies' Circle*, *Highlights for Children*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, and *The Schaumburg Review*.

Since writing *If I Were President*, Stier wrote a companion book, *If I Ran for President*. She's also just released *Bugs in my Hair?!*, a humorous but sensitive book about childhood lice. Being an author isn't all work and no play. Stier looks forward to an exciting July 3rd book signing at Mt. Rushmore, where her family will join her for Rushmore's Independence Day fireworks.

Having a Mom who's an author brings additional perks for her son, Drew, 16, and her daughter, Julia, 11. While writing an article on sledding, Stier treated her kids to three sledding hills in one day. While Stier busily interviewed people and jotted notes, her children whizzed by on sleds, yelling out to Mom: "Your job's the greatest!"

She thinks so, too. ■

By Mary Gunderson-Switzer, a freelance writer from Warner Robins, Ga.

Connections

Catherine Stier welcomes alumni connecting with her via e-mail by checking out her Web site at: www.catherinestier.com

Mark Lewakowski, SBA '80, retired from the United States Air Force after 26 years of military service and has taken a new position within the Air Force as a civilian in the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Programs. He is building a home west of Yuba City, Calif. He has been married for over 23 years with a 20-year-old son who is in college.

MaryAnn Northcote, CAS '81, joins Henry Ford Macomb Hospital as director of safety and security; previously, she was with Trinity Health as the director of loss control.

Marc Ott, CAS '81, SBA '79, is assistant city manager of Austin, Texas.

Barbara Palazzolo, CAS '83, has been named COO of Detroit-based Inforum.

Lisabeth Pinto, CAS '89, has joined Decuss Communications, Birmingham as vice president and COO.

Gregory Quick, MBA '81, is senior vice president of the Peoples State Bank.

Thomas Quisenberry, MA '82, is one of three individuals who formed Patriot Services Corp., a consulting company that assesses and trains public and private entities in security risks and how to fight threats.

Mark S. Rogers, SEHS '81, MA '88, is working as a clinician for Easter Seals, a therapist with Henry Ford Macomb, a premarital counselor, a webmaster for Stooltime Counseling, and sits on the Public Relations and Human Development Steering Committees with the Statue of Responsibility Foundation.

David Schulte, SBA '83, joined the McKendree University staff as director of information technology.

Fred Schwark, CAS '89, was appointed the new regional manager by the Northern Group Inc. to oversee a collection of premier buildings in downtown Detroit.

Daniel Stanco, MBA '87, retired from General Motors finance staff effective February 1, 2007, after 36 years of service.

Art Waldowski, SBA '83, is the new vice president of purchasing for Commercial Vehicle Systems at ArvinMeritor in Troy.

Joyce Weiss, MA '80, is owner of Joyce Weiss Training & Development, which became a Best Practices Certified Company in 2007.

Virgil K. Williams, SBA '82, left corporate America after 20 years, got married and opened Custom Sign Solutions, a signage company specializing in visual communications.

J. Tim Zipple, Ph.D '07, SHS '86, has completed his doctorate in science at Oakland University in 5 years. He returned to campus in 2002, 20 years after coming to OU to work toward a bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy. He has been married for 20 years, has an 18-year-old daughter who is a freshman at Grand Valley State University and a 17-year-old son who is a junior at Sacred Heart Academy in Mt. Pleasant. He has been teaching at Central Michigan University for 9 years after teaching at Des Moines University for 4 years. He has many fond memories of OU regarding the academics and competing on the wrestling team.

1990s

Laura (Forester) Amatulli, SBA '98, is a sixth grade science teacher at Avondale Meadows Upper Elementary School in Rochester Hills. She won a \$10,000 classroom makeover by a New York designer in the Honeywell and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Got 2B Safe! Awards Program for her lesson plan about Internet security.



Peter Auger, MPA '92, is the new city manager for the City of Auburn Hills. He was chosen unanimously from 25 applicants. Previously, he was manager for both Ortonville and

Davison. (See story, page 16.)

Thomas Birk, SHS '97, is chair, Health Care Sciences, and associate professor of physical therapy at Wayne State University.

Kimberly Bracewell-Thorpe, CAS '92, is founder and chief administrator of Let's Talk About It, Girl's Home. The licensed child-caring institution aims to provide 24-hour nurturing and counseling to teen girls who will live in the home for a minimum of six months to a year. She has been in private practice since 2002 in Kalamazoo where she provides counseling to teens, couples, women and families.

David Breen, CAS '92, is Michigan market manager for the Detroit office of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

Mary C. (Crova) Clor, SECS '97, has been recognized by the Society of Women Engineers with a Distinguished Engineer Award for demonstrating outstanding technical performance in the first 10 years of her engineering career.

Wendy Drum, CAS '97, is associate claims attorney for the Guarantee Company of North America USA, located in Southfield.

Jill (Boggess) Gaitens, SEHS '90, earned a master's degree in Education; Administration and Supervision with a concentration in business. In January 2007, she earned her Arizona Principal's Certification. She is currently serving as Dean of Students for a Pinal County, Arizona K-8 school. She has three boys ages 8, 11 and 13 and has been married to a recently retired Marine for nearly 15 years.

Mike Gingell, CAS '93, has been promoted to VP, General Motors Team for R.L. Polk & Co. Previously, he was VP for aftermarket and commercial vehicle teams in the strategic markets group.

Gregory Grabowski, BGS '91, was selected as president and CEO of The Leader Dogs for the Blind.

John Lesser, SBA '92, was named to the inaugural list of the top 100 independent financial advisors in the U.S. by *Barron's*. He is employed with Plante Moran Financial Advisors.

Micheal Lohmeier, SBA '96, is senior manager with the dispute resolution team at Virchow Krause in Southfield, has been elected to the College of Fellows of the American Society of Appraisers and was awarded the Fellow Accredited Senior Appraiser Designation.

Jeri Manning, CAS '92, has relocated to Morocco to teach English to sixth, seventh and eighth graders at the Rabat American School in Rabat.

Brian Murphy, CAS '93, is assistant city manager for the City of Troy.

Charles A. Peck, MS '90, is a certified six sigma master black belt at Bose Corporation. His job includes mentoring, training and internal consulting.

Michael Perazza, SBA '95, is now a partner with Deloitte Touche L.L.P., Audit & Enterprise Risk Services; previously he was a senior manager with the firm.

Carla Sabbagh-Keyser, CAS '98, completed her doctorate in clinical and humanistic psychology from Michigan School of Professional Psychology. She recently relocated to Seattle, Wash., with her husband and is working for a Latino non-profit organization as a Children's Mental Health Therapist.

Karl Siegert, CAS '99, has been promoted to director of product development and information technology, MVP Collaborative LLC., Madison Heights. Previously, he was director of business operations.

James TerMarsch, CAS '96, has been named senior vice president/creative director at Daniel Brian & Associates.

Brad Wood, SEHS '96, opened a full-time private practice as a licensed clinical social worker.

April Wuest, SEHS '97, is the new principal at Long Meadow Elementary School in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

2000s

Kimberly Boyd, SBA '07, is a financial analyst for General Dynamics Land Systems in Sterling Heights, Mich.

Krystle Czajkowski, CAS '06, relocated to Tampa, Fla., and works for Audio Visual Innovations handling all internal communications and external public relations.

Kirsten Denyes, MBA '01, was promoted to vice president at Mopace Inc., in Farmington Hills, Mich.

Adriana Ferrari, CAS '04, has been promoted to senior account executive at Troy-based Bianchi Public Relations, Inc.

Deborah Fleischmann, SON '03, loves being a family nurse practitioner in Garden City. Thanks School of Nursing!

Nicola Gilson, MED '07, was made dean of students for the Upper School, The Academy of the Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Hills.

Patricia Harris, MA '06, formerly director of Academic Technology at Oakland Community College, is now associate dean of Learning Outreach at Macomb Community College. Her youngest son, Ezra, has started his freshman year at the International Academy in Bloomfield Hills.

William Holleran, CAS '02, works as a librarian for the Rochester Hills Public Library Bookmobile.

Jeff Lepior, SBA '02, is an account manager in West Palm Beach, Fla., for Stryker Medical Corporation headquartered in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Joanne Lim, SBA '07, is working as a division controller assistant at Analysis International Corporation.

Mike Massucci, MAT '00, is the varsity basketball coach at Shrine Catholic High School in Royal Oak, Mich.

Robert Metzger Jr., SECS '05, is currently working for Dale Earnhardt, Inc. as the backup race engineer and lead data acquisition engineer on the #8 Budweiser car for Dale Earnhardt Jr. He does testing and R&D work for the car in the race shop since the lead race engineer handles the engineering duties at the race track. He worked in automotive for two years after graduation from OU before he got the opportunity to work for Dodge Motorsports in Martinsville, Va., building the RP57 Nascar Engine. He has also been responsible for tuning Mike Egge's Evernham Motorsports Engine at the track on race day for Fitz Motorsports, and has been seen frequently on ESPN.

Sarah Miller, MED '06, recently published her first book titled *Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller*.

Sarah Morgan, CAS '05, and two of her friends created a Web site called ThinkGirl.com as a means to motivate women to take action on issues they are passionate about. ThinkGirl was started in 2005 and continues to be used as a launching pad for local and international interaction on feminist issues.

Adam Ossipove, BGS '03, has joined Schafer Development in Farmington Hills as a partner; previously he was a sales associate with the Land Division of Colliers International, Southfield, Mich.

Nichole Rhodes, CAS '01, was recruited to work as VP Relationship Management in conjunction with U.N. sanctioned innovation and peace initiatives with Dubai World and Nakheel in Dubai, UAE. She is currently producing maximum exposure and alliances for an environmental initiative titled the "Blue Communities," a global campaign for ecological longevity in coastal communities. She is also promoting humanitarian efforts in convergence with President Kagame of Rwanda and

supporting networks for the World Summit on Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Peace, taking place in Dubai, April 2008, and the "Future Capitals Summit" in Abu Dhabi, November 2008. She is also developing initiatives in a \$1.6 billion real estate development project in Muscat, Oman.

Jennifer Ritter, BGS '03, will graduate in May 2008 with an MPH in Health Services Administration from San Diego State University. She is currently working for San Diego's largest health care organization, Sharp Health Care.

Sheris Sargeant, SBA '01, recently accepted a position as a system engineer for Cerner Corporation within Imaging Operations. This position required relocation from Pontiac, Mich., to Cerner World Headquarters in Kansas City, Mo.

Kelly Thomas, SBA '05, joined InsightExpress, a leading online market research firm as a project manager in the Online Media Measurement Group.

Andrew Trahan, CAS '06, is employed as a research consultant for the recruiting firm Qualigence, Inc.

Mike VanPamel, BGS '03, is now division president of Centex Homes Michigan; previously he was division president for Centex Homes in Columbus, Oh.

Michelle Voss, CAS '04, is an account executive at Simons Michelson Zieve Advertising Inc.

Julie (Fish) Wood, SEHS '05, is currently working as a project coordinator for Field Support Services, Inc. and manages various tasks for the Department of Defense.

ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS

Charles Archer, CAS '01, and **Juliana (Pete), SEHS '06**, were married on October 20, 2006. They took a whirlwind, seven country honeymoon through Europe, including Germany, Italy and France in summer 2007. The couple lives in Shelby Twp., and both work as teachers pursuing their master's degrees.

Tia Stevens, CAS '04, married **Seth Anderson, SBA '04** August 4, 2007. She is a doctoral student in criminal justice and he is employed with Borg Warner and is an MBA student at Michigan State University.

Henry Ford's Ronnie Hall a 'nurse's nurse'

Veronica "Ronnie" Hall, RN, SON '84, thought she had it all when she headed to Lake Superior State University on an academic and athletic scholarship in the early 1980s. But the fast pitch softball player quickly realized that a career in chemical engineering or criminal justice was not her passion. She wanted to be a nurse, and as one of seven siblings, she wanted to be closer to her family in Clawson, Mich.

So Hall did something few would dare. She turned down the scholarships and applied to Oakland University's School of Nursing. "I never thought of applying anywhere else," says Hall, who coached girls' sports at Clawson High School and worked at the Troy Drive-In to earn tuition money. Now the Chief Operating Officer for Henry Ford Hospital and Chief Nursing Officer for Henry Ford Hospital and Health Network, Hall credits OU for making her a success in a profession she loves.

"The big controversy when we graduated is that OU didn't have nursing caps. We were taught that nursing is a profession and professionals don't wear caps," says Hall, who followed her BS in nursing with an MBA and a Master of Science in Management at Walsh College. She counts Oakland's bachelor's program as the toughest of the three.

Hall says one of the most valuable lessons she learned at OU was to create a career map — a two-, five- and 10-year plan. She followed that general plan for several years, working first as a staff nurse at Henry Ford Hospital, moving up to midnight supervisor two years later, and eventually nurse manager. She became senior vice president of clinical operations and chief nursing officer in 2004, and now oversees the nursing services of 903 hospital beds and 25 ambulatory satellites. "I've pretty much been on every nursing unit in this hospital," she says with a smile.

As a SON (School of Nursing) Board of Visitors member, Hall remains active at OU and has helped facilitate education for displaced autoworkers interested in health care careers. "If you ask 90 percent of nurses, they'll say the reason they do this is they want to help people. You have to like people, have compassion and passion for the work."

That certainly sums up this career nurse. Despite being a top-level administrator, Hall is still involved in direct patient care, which is why she's been called a 'nurse's nurse' by her colleagues. "The nurses know I want them to be able to provide the care that is needed for each patient," she says. "It is always rewarding to go out on the patient floors. I never lose touch with that. It gives me a sense of direction." ■

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



Veronica Hall says that OU taught her how to create a career map, which helped her plot out a career that led her to the top nursing spot at Henry Ford Hospital.





Keep your eyes on the prize

Brent Lilly, SBA '95, learned Arabic growing up in the diverse community of Oak Park, Mich. While in the United States Marine Corps, he received formal language training when stationed in California. But it was while Lilly was stationed in Ohio and befriended a Lebanese family that he really learned about Middle Eastern language and culture.

Lilly credits his immersion language training and his OU management courses for his success during two tours of duty in Iraq, where he was known for establishing trust with key leaders and enhancing the efficiency of the Logistic Operations of the Marine Battalions.

When it came to brokering deals, establishing construction contracts or hosting meetings, the now 36-year-old financial advisor for Merrill Lynch was often called upon because of his honest reputation and his ability to hold a decent conversation in Arabic.

"I would go on numerous combat foot patrols and nearly everyone knew who I was or had heard about me," says Lilly, who married his Shrine High School sweetheart, Susan. "I guess you stick out as an African-American Marine Officer who speaks Arabic and knows Islam."

Lilly, the son of a Marine and father of three young children, joined the service during his sophomore year at Oakland to help pay for his education. During the summers, he completed recruit training and officer candidates' school, and after graduation, he accepted a commission as a second lieutenant.

"After serving in Iraq, I have a better appreciation for our country," says Lilly, who has numerous military awards from his 2003 and 2006 deployments. "Something that stands out in my mind is the deplorable condition of the schools that Iraqi children have to attend. The worst school in our area is 10 times better than any school in the area of operations where I was stationed."

And for someone who lives by the motto "Knowledge is power," that lack of basic instruction is difficult to witness. "The United States of America is not perfect, but we do have a very good standard of living," says Lilly, who is the Membership/Nominations Chair for the Oakland University Black Alumni Chapter and is also on the board of Lighthouse Path in Pontiac.

"A quality education is the one true-tested method of achieving the American Dream," he says. "To anyone who has to pay for college themselves, don't give up. Keep your eyes on the prize. You may have to sacrifice while you are in college, but sometimes you have to sacrifice to get where you want to be."

And for Lilly, sacrifice is something he knows all too well. ■

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

Tegest (Kebede) Taylor, CAS '00, married Antonio Taylor. She and her husband are proud parents of two sons.

Joe Van Marcke, CAS '02, and **Julie Garstecki, SBA '03**, were married April 21, 2007.

Nancy Zimmelman, CAS '83, married Robert Lenoil in Orangeville, Calif. on August 5, 2007. Nancy is the State Archivist of California. Robert owns an insurance agency in Placerville, Calif., near Sacramento.

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS



Gretchen (Schroeder) Bates, CAS '92, and her husband Mark are proud to announce the birth of their third child, Sidney Ann on December 1, 2007. She joins brothers Logan age 5, and Jameson (deceased).

Mandy (Cribar) Battaglia, CAS '95, and her husband Nick are proud to announce the birth of their third son, Nicholas Joseph on March 2, 2007. He joins big brothers Gino (5) and Sammy (2).



David Benedict, MS '96, SECS '84, and his wife Laura are happy to announce the birth of their third child, a daughter, Elisa Josephine on June 27, 2007.

Mary (Crova) Clor, SECS '97, and her husband **Patrick Clor, SECS '97**, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Ella Fread on November 11, 2007. They look forward to the day she becomes a Golden Grizzly.

Linda (Mebius) Ebsworth, SEHS '98, and her husband are thrilled to announce the birth of their first daughter, Isabelle, on October 23, 2007.

Christopher Grabowski, SEHS '98, his wife **Nicole (Wigley) Grabowski, SEHS '98**, and identical twin daughters Angelina Aliza and Brianna Ewa, welcomed a new addition to the family. Ethan Christopher was born on July

12, 2007. Christopher is currently an Independent Instructional Design and Training consultant. Nicole has the toughest job in the world, stay at home mom.

James Kocis, CAS '93, SECS '91, moved to New York City, N.Y., after completing his MBA at the University of Michigan. He is married to Mary and the two are proud to announce the birth of their first child, James on March 16, 2006.



Heather (Ahee) Schodowski, MAT '04, SEHS '02, and her husband David are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Lily Sophia Schodowski on August 17, 2007.

Proud grandparents are Eileen and Jim Knowles of Macomb, Mich. and Sue and Bill Humiston of Port Hadlock, Wash., and great grandparents Sophia and Ken Adams of Warren, Mich.

DEATHS

Edward C. Balow III, CAS '85, died January 7, 2008.

Ernest C. Butki, MA '79, died October 9, 2007.

Harold Casstevens, CAS '74, died September 22, 2007.

Carol A. Charette, SEHS '82, died December 22, 2007.

Anthony Cornellier, SEHS '65, died September 26, 2007.

Margaret Cranick, MA '85, died November 26, 2007.

Olivia M. Edwards, CAS '75, died October 10, 2007.

Kenneth Eichman, CAS '90, died December 17, 2007.

Scarlet A. Ericksen, CAS '01, died on November 12, 2007.

Linda K. Fernelius, MA '88, died November 1, 2007.

Birta Fowlkes-Allen, MAT '71, died November 13, 2007.

Philip Francis, Jr., BGS '94, died September 4, 2007.

Chad A. Goklani, CAS '99, died January 7, 2008.

Muriel Graber, CAS '74, died September 7, 2007.

Richard J. Gutherie, CAS '71, died December 22, 2007.

Mary Halpin, SBA '83, died October 6, 2007.

Dr. Elinor Holland, CAS '66, died on November 10, 2007.

Rosemary Joliat, CAS '74, died November 4, 2007.

Anna M. Kamyszek, SEHS '64, died January 14, 2008.

Magaret F. Koltz, CAS '77, died November 21, 2007.

Barbara A. Koppitz, CAS '76, died January 25, 2008.

Judith Naomi Larson, MA '86, died September 25, 2007.

Sally Lashbrook, SEHS '65, died October 18, 2007.

Mary E. Leavy, MA '01, BGS '90, died October 28, 2007.

Beth (Smith) Lyons, SEHS '75, died January 17, 2008.

Thomas McNally, SBA '73, died November 4, 2007.

Sandra D. Miller, BGS '94, died November 6, 2007.

Frederick Morrison, CAS '64, died May 28, 2007.

Vivian Morrow, MAT '73, died January 9, 2008.

Judith M. Peoples, SEHS '72, died October 3, 2007.

Daniel Sak, CAS '82, died October 1, 2007.

Elizabeth Wagner, MA '75, died November 19, 2007.

Marvin S. Washington, CAS '77, died on October 10, 2007.

Kellie A. Whitmill, CAS '94, died January 19, 2008.

Sandra (Relich) Willett, CAS '78, died August 27, 2007.

Billy D. Williams, CAS '89, died November 13, 2007.

Sarah J. Wood, CAS '71, died June 7, 2007.



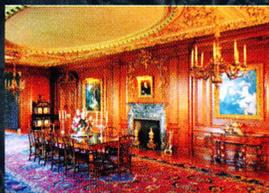
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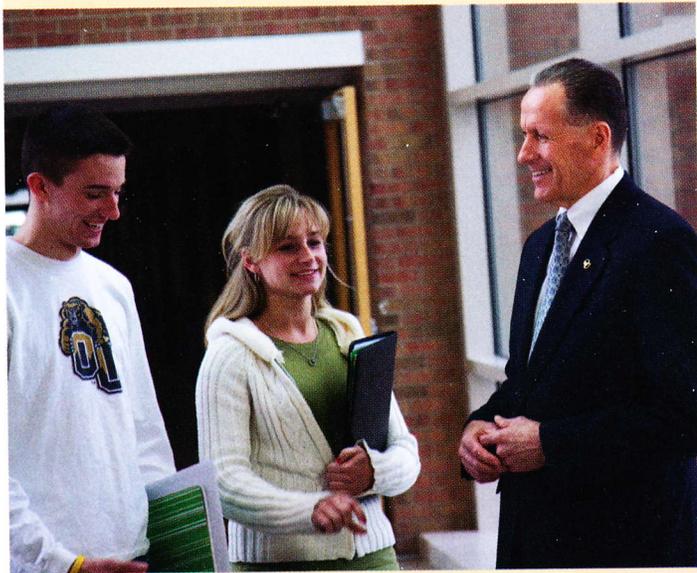


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2007 Donor Honor Roll



INNOVATION AND
OPPORTUNITY



Dear Friends,

This year's donor honor roll is a powerful illustration of the deep commitment our alumni and friends have to this university and to the community in which we live. The gifts we have received not only support the success of this university, its faculty and its students, but promote advancements that will positively affect the success of our region.

As you read the stories in the following pages, you will see that there are many developments underway that will make a significant impact on our region's economy, the future of health education, and our students' and faculty's ability to grow in ways that are meaningful in today's global community. The Oakland University William Beaumont Hospital School of Medicine, opening in 2010 and supported through individual, corporate and foundation donations, will redefine the face of medical school education. The Crittenton Endowed Professorship in the OU School of Nursing will help to change the clinical education and training of nursing students, improve patient care, and meet the looming shortage of nurses. And initial support for the OU INCubator, a resource-intensive program for growing businesses, will ensure that development and expansion in this region steadily continues.

All of this happens only through the support of our generous donors. I am deeply grateful for your commitment to Oakland University.

Gary D. Russi
President

Lifetime Gift

SOCIETIES

Matilda Wilson Founders Society

The Matilda Wilson Founders Society recognizes donors who contribute cumulative gifts of \$10 million or more or a planned gift of \$20 million. This society honors Oakland University benefactor Matilda R. Wilson and pays homage to her commitment as a university founder.

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The Varner Society recognizes donors who contribute cumulative gifts of \$5 million or more or a planned gift of \$10 million. The Varner Society recognizes Oakland's founding chancellor Woody Varner and his leadership and vision for Oakland University.

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Golden Oaks Society

The Golden Oaks Society recognizes donors who give cumulative gifts of \$1 million or more or a planned gift of \$2 million. This society is named in honor of Oakland's charter faculty members, who often referred to themselves as "The Old Oaks."

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Making history ... OU receives \$15 million gift

Oakland University has received a \$15 million bequest — the largest single gift to the university in its history. The donation, given anonymously, includes a \$4 million lead gift to support the Oakland University William Beaumont Hospital School of Medicine deanship.

“This bequest will make a lasting impact on the future of this institution,” says Gary Russi, president. “It also means our campaign for the medical school is taking great strides forward, positioning us even stronger within the community and as a national university.”

The medical school, opening in 2010 in partnership with Beaumont Hospitals, will provide jobs and applied research capacity, and will address the impending physician shortage. A charter class of 50 students is anticipated.

“Unique by design, the medical school will prepare physicians to adapt to and embrace the changing demands of patient care in the 21st century. It will produce a physician

with the ability to balance the art of science and medicine in a high tech environment,” Russi adds.

The remainder of the gift will support student scholarships, research endowments and program support. Created as a combination of a direct estate gift and a planned gift annuity, the \$15 million donation will be a legacy of support for the university and its students.

“We are extremely grateful for this significant gift and investment in OU’s future,” says Susan Davies Goepp, vice president for University Relations. “There are so many people who would like to make a difference for the university and this gift illustrates how we can make a lasting impact on the institution and its students through careful estate planning. We rely on planned gifts such as this to fund research, scholarships and programs. It’s a giving option that works effectively for the donor, their heirs and Oakland University.” ➤

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Changing the focus of nursing education

A \$2 million endowed professorship in Oakland University's School of Nursing, created by Crittenton Hospital Medical Center, will help change the clinical education and training of nursing students — and improve patient care.

The nursing professorship, which is expected to be filled by spring of 2008, will emphasize patient-focused research on the science and best practices of nursing, an area that has not received much attention to date.

"This is an exciting partnership opportunity for Oakland University and Crittenton Hospital to help advance nursing as a profession and to provide our students with invaluable opportunities," says Linda Thompson Adams, dean, OU School of Nursing.

In researching and implementing the most effective and efficient practices of patient care, the goal of the program is to create a more patient-centered nursing approach. Crittenton is especially interested in the opportunity to have more BSN-trained nurses working with their staff in the hospital.

"One aspect of this is to study how nurses can successfully create relationships with patients and families. Patients and their families must have confidence and trust in their nurses, so that nurses can help them overcome any potential impediments to their recovery," says Kathleen Van Wagoner, chief nursing officer, Crittenton Hospital Medical Center. "Research is showing that the higher the level of education the nurse has, the more quickly they are able to assimilate into their clinical practices."

In addition to promoting nursing excellence, the professorship also helps address the widely publicized nursing shortage. According to the Michigan Nurses Association, Michigan alone is expected to have a shortage of approximately 8,000 nurses by 2010. Students have responded to this news by applying to nursing programs at near-record rates.

At nursing schools across the country, there are more qualified applicants to nursing programs than there are faculty to support them, forcing many schools to delay admittance for accepted students. At Oakland University, a student accepted into the School of Nursing may be asked to wait three semesters before they can begin the program. The Crittenton professorship will allow 24 more students to begin the accelerated BSN program as early as the fall of 2008. ➤

* deceased > first time society donation >> increased society level

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After pledging donation to OU, Pawley doubles gift

Dennis Pawley continues to make supporting Oakland University a high priority. In August 2006, Pawley and his wife, Carlotta, pledged to donate \$100,000 a year, for the next three years, to Oakland's Pawley Institute for Lean Learning.

Now Pawley, the institute's chairman of the board, has taken another step to help OU. In September 2007, when it was time to honor his pledge with a second payment, Pawley added a gift of stock valued at \$104,754.

"He made a generous gift the previous year, and then he doubled it," says Angie Schmucker, director of development for Oakland's School of Education and Human Services.

Pawley asked the university to channel the additional gift into Oakland's area of greatest need. An OU alumnus and member of the President's Campaign Council, Pawley established the Pawley Institute for Learning with a \$1 million gift in 2002. The institute's ultimate goal is to



Carlotta and Dennis Pawley continue their unwavering support for Oakland University with another generous gift to the Pawley Institute for Lean Learning.

enable the business, education and public service sectors to develop more efficient, streamlined approaches to meeting their goals.

The program also strives to help OU students as it shares the concepts and practices of lean manufacturing.

"Mr. Pawley has been helping the Pawley Institute grow through his support, and now he's taking steps to help the university grow with this new, generous gift," says Mary Otto, dean of the School of Education and Human Services. ➤

Alfred G. Wilson Society

The Alfred G. Wilson Society recognizes individuals who contribute \$25,000 or more in cumulative gifts or a planned gift of \$50,000.

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Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering Xia Wang (center) with Ismat Abu-Isa, professor of engineering (left) and Ph.D. student Elain Petrach.

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Gifts support new engineering opportunities

Gifts from the DTE Energy and the DTE Energy Foundation are energizing Oakland University students in the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS).

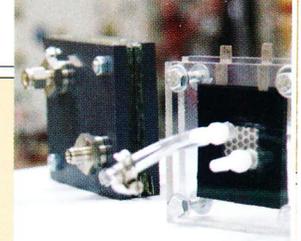
The SECS Fastening and Joining Research Institute (FAJRI) received a commitment of \$150,000 from DTE Energy to provide student fellowships for research at both the graduate and undergraduate levels including post-doctoral visiting scholar research fellowships, fastening and joining technology transfer support, and technical publications, such as research briefs, technical reports and periodicals.

FAJRI is a unique facility that pursues fundamental and applied research to develop and disseminate new technology for the fastening and joining of metals, composites, polymers and advanced lightweight materials.

The DTE Energy Foundation provided a \$40,000 grant for Oakland University to obtain a fuel cell test bench, providing

opportunities for student research and the addition of a laboratory course. The grant also provided five undergraduate engineering students the opportunity to design and test a fuel cell through the Research Experience for Undergraduates program funded by the National Science Foundation.

"Michigan's college and university engineering programs are a tremendous resource for DTE Energy. We depend on them to provide the well-educated, highly skilled employees we need for our business to be successful," says Ron May, DTE Energy senior vice president, and chairman of OU's SECS Advisory Board. "The technological advancements and research that come from a program like the Fastening and Joining Research Institute are critically important to us and the energy industry as a whole." ➤



President's Club Society

The President's Club Society recognizes individuals who have made cumulative cash gifts of \$10,000 or a planned gift of \$20,000.

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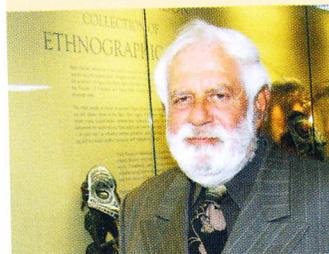
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Dr. Berton London (left) has made a lifetime pledge to support cardiology research at the new medical school.



Retired physician determined to help medical school succeed



Dr. Berton London

Dr. Berton London has watched Oakland University grow up from the beginning. "I purchased a house in Oakland County in 1958, which was the first year of Oakland University," the retired cardiologist says. "Oakland became a second home to me."

Now the Bloomfield Hills resident will play an important role in a critical step forward for the university: the creation of a successful medical school. London has contributed a \$100,000 gift annuity to designate the Berton London Cardiology Research Endowed Fund. The gift, in concert with an additional lifetime pledge of \$10,000 annually, will support cardiology research at the new medical school.

London has found a number of ways to support the university during the course of his career as chief cardiologist at Grace Hospital (now Sinai-Grace Hospital), and later, as a cardiologist at Beaumont Hospital. He has made gifts to support improvements to Oakland's golf courses, and he gave his private art collection to Oakland University Art Gallery.

"They became my two favorite institutions: Oakland University and Beaumont Hospital," London says.

When he heard OU and Beaumont Hospitals would be collaborating to create a private medical school on Oakland's campus, London knew he wanted to be involved. The school is expected to admit its first class of students in 2010.

"The medical school is getting no government funding, so it will be strictly a community effort," London says. "I realized it needed support. I chose to make a gift for cardiology, my area of interest." ➤

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Lifelong learning is dean's passion

Mary Otto, dean of the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS), is committed to inspiring students and faculty to be lifelong learners. She recently doubled her pledge for the Professors' Legacy Fund to \$200,000. She established the fund in 2003 for SEHS faculty research and tuition awards.

"I am very passionate about education; I believe it is the one thing that can make a positive difference in everyone's life," she says. "I see the teaching and learning process between students and faculty as the heart of the university. Faculty need support for research and scholarship and students need support so they can concentrate on their academic work."

The fund provides scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in education and human services. The number of scholarships in SEHS has quadrupled over the past four years, but there is still a great need for students who are not eligible for any of the SEHS administered funds.

SEHS faculty and friends are encouraged to support the Professors' Legacy Fund. Otto hopes to make a difference for the people who follow in their footsteps. "My fondest hope is for this fund to grow so that students and faculty far into the future will be impacted by the awards that are made to support their academic work." 🐣



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* deceased > first time society donation >> increased society level



Marjorie Simmons, who helped design Pawley Hall, is supporting students who study in that building with an endowed scholarship.

OU friend is designing a bright future for students

As a principal partner at SHW Group, Marjorie Simmons helped design the award-winning, 132,000-square-foot Pawley Hall which opened in 2002 to house the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS). Now, she's supporting the students who study and learn within those walls by endowing a \$25,000 scholarship.

The scholarship will support an Oakland University pre-human resources development or pre-elementary education student during their entire undergraduate career at Oakland University. She also added \$5,000 so awards could be made immediately.

"I made a commitment that when I was able to, I would give other people the hand up that I received," says Simmons, who attended college on a scholarship. "I firmly believe in the power of an education and what it can do to transform people's lives."

As an active board member for SEHS, Simmons was instrumental in planning a scholarship fundraiser last year for the school. In 2007, she received Oakland University's Distinguished Volunteer award.

"Dr. Russi and the board are doing an outstanding job of moving the university forward," she adds. "They're doing a tremendous thing. OU is making an enormous contribution to the state as it helps transform Michigan from a manufacturing to a knowledge-based economy. I wanted to do what I could to help forward that vision." 🌟

- Malcolm A. Harris*
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 Jeffrey L. and Marianne Hauswirth
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 Daniel J. Helfrich
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 Richard W. Henderson
 Thomas M. Henderson and Allison L. Kelly-Henderson
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 Donald G. and Virginia Heth
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 John William and Katherine Kennedy





Bernard and Nina Kent believe in education that goes way beyond the classroom walls.

Beyond the classroom

Bernard and Nina Kent know that experiences outside the classroom can be just as educational as those within it. That belief led them to establish the Bernard and Nina Kent Judaic Studies Endowed Israel Travel Fund to support enrichment travel for program students, including archeological digs and other travel abroad opportunities.

"When we heard about the Judaic Studies program, we knew we had found our niche," explains Bernard Kent. "(It's) a chance to be in on the ground floor of a new, exciting program."

Designed to help foster understanding, tolerance and a broader knowledge base of the world, the Judaic Studies minor in the College of Arts and Sciences was launched in 2007 as part of the Religious Studies program. The Kents believe that travel opportunities are an essential component of the total Judaic Studies program experience.

"We know many, many people who have traveled to Israel. Without exception, they felt that this experience had an important impact on their life," says Mr. Kent. "This opportunity should be made available to Oakland students, particularly those taking the minor in Judaic Studies."

Kent said that the endowed gift is a logical step in his relationship with the university. "Oakland University is an integral part of the southeast Michigan community. As a proud alumnus, it is important to provide financial support where we think it will make the most impact." 🐣

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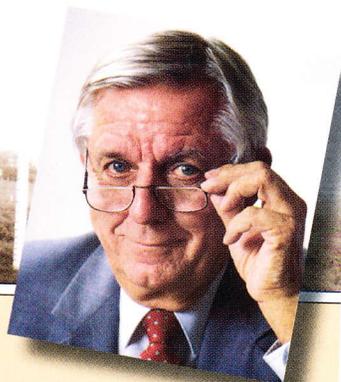
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Roy Rewold

Preserving our history

A gift from a longtime OU supporter will help preserve an important piece of area history for future generations. Roy Rewold has contributed \$25,000 to fund an oral history of Meadow Brook Farms.

Rewold, CEO of Rochester-based Frank Rewold and Son Inc., has strong ties to Meadow Brook Farms, the estate that became home to Oakland University. Rewold's father, Frank Rewold, started the family's construction company in 1918 after John and Matilda Dodge (later known as Matilda Dodge Wilson) purchased the 1,500-acre estate.

Wilson is known for her role in establishing Oakland University. She and her second husband, Alfred Wilson, donated \$2 million along with Meadow Brook Farms to give the university its start. During her early years on the estate,

Wilson hired Frank Rewold to construct many of the buildings on the land, including Sunset Terrace.

"Roy Rewold worked for his father, so he was involved in a lot of the tasks," says Kim Zelinski, associate director for Meadow Brook Hall. "He has many fond memories, and he thought it would be a great idea to capture these in an oral history."

Last year, Roy Rewold and several staff members from Meadow Brook Farms taped their recollections. Later, Barbara and Richard Wilson, the children of Matilda and Alfred Wilson, were able to add their stories. Now the documentary is being edited, and Meadow Brook Hall hopes to present the final product this fall.

"This is a great way to portray what this estate was like in its heyday," Zelinski says. ➤

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Corey Schmidt says that his grandmother, a nontraditional student who got her degree at OU after her children were grown, is his inspiration.

* deceased > first time society donation >> increased society level

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Scholarship helps sophomore find his own way

Corey Schmidt has seen how his grandmother put her Oakland University degree to work.

Patricia Eriksson, SEHS '73, was a nontraditional student who started her college career when her children were grown. After earning her degree in music education, she taught in Sweden, Bahrain and Cypress. She didn't return to the U.S. until last year, when she decided it was time to live near family again.

Now Schmidt is trying to follow her example of hard work and devotion to learning as he finds his own path. "I think it's pretty cool my grandmother went to this school so long ago, and now I'm continuing that legacy," the OU sophomore says.

Schmidt, who is majoring in public policy and public administration, is offsetting his college expenses with a \$3,000 Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) Legacy Scholarship. Legacy Scholarship recipients must be the child or grandchild of an Oakland University graduate who is a member of the OUAA. Applicants also are considered for academic achievement and involvement in extracurricular activities.

Schmidt learned about this award during his freshman year. After speaking to his grandmother, he applied and learned he was a recipient last spring. "The impact has been huge," Schmidt says. "I'm basically paying for college myself. I'm almost entirely loan free for this academic year."

"I think what they're looking for with this Legacy Scholarship is someone who strives for excellence in the classroom and on campus," Schmidt adds. "I'm trying to do that."

He juggles his academic responsibilities with a job as an OU admissions ambassador and a night watch position with the residence halls, which provides him with a free room. Schmidt, who grew up in Fenton, hasn't decided how he'll use his degree in public policy and public administration. For now, he's enjoying his coursework. "As far as what kind of job I'll get, all I know is whatever I do, I want to do something I love and I enjoy," he says.

And because of his grandmother's legacy, Schmidt knows that goal is within his reach. ➤



Thanks to a fellowship funded by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, Erin Strang is serving as assistant director of business innovation at OU INC.

Building business connections

With a \$98,100 fellowship funding an Adams Entrepreneurial Fellow at OU INCubator, the Community Foundation is continuing its long-standing support of Oakland University. The Ann and Carman Adams Fund is a permanent endowment fund of the foundation and was established through the estate of M. Ann Adams.

"The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is always looking for effective program and project ideas that can improve life in southeast Michigan," says Mariam Noland, president and CEO. "Through its programs supporting the development of entrepreneurial and strategic business solutions, the OU INCubator will have a long-term impact on the growth and economy of this region and we are proud to support this endeavor."

Erin Strang, the recipient fellow, will serve as assistant director of business innovation at OU INC. Strang, a former project manager and marketing director for Michigan Virtual University in Lansing, Mich., is currently pursuing a master's degree in public administration at Oakland. The Adams Entrepreneurial Fellowship will last for one year, with possible renewal for a second year.

The OU INCubator supports existing and grows new technology-based and life science businesses with university resources, decision support technology, business counseling services and financial/capital acquisition assistance.

In addition to supporting the Adams Entrepreneurial Fellowship, the Community Foundation also provided support for the School of Education and Human Services with a \$5,000 gift for the OUCARES program. The OUCARES program works to improve the lives of families and children with autism spectrum disorders by providing counseling, support groups, and therapeutic and recreational programs for families. ➤

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Faculty, staff come together to support All-University Fund Drive

To Simon Dover, SBA '88, supporting Oakland University through the All-University Fund Drive (AUFD) makes perfect sense. "Oakland is my alma mater, and I work here," says Dover, OU's associate athletic director. "We try to lead by example here. And with the All-University Fund Drive, we know President Russi will match what we give."

Charles "Bob" Maxfield, an assistant professor with the educational leadership department, took a similar stance on supporting the AUFD this school year. "It was a natural," Maxfield says. "It was convenient, and it was logical."

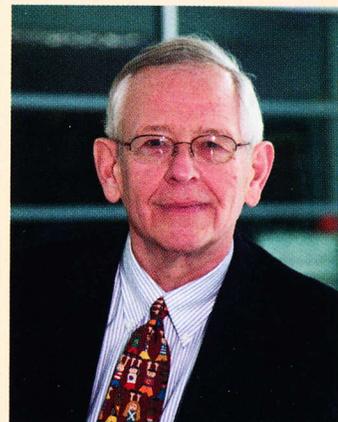
The annual fund drive gives OU faculty, staff and retirees a chance to come together to support Oakland University, the United Way for Southeast Michigan and the Black United Fund of Michigan. OU President Gary Russi matches gifts made to the university with 50 cents on the dollar. The 2007-08 AUFD, which concluded Dec. 19, saw \$220,468 in contributions.

Dover directed his gift to the Golden Grizzly Athletic Fund. "That's basically giving an unrestricted gift to Athletics," he says.

Maxfield supported the Educational Leadership Gift Fund.



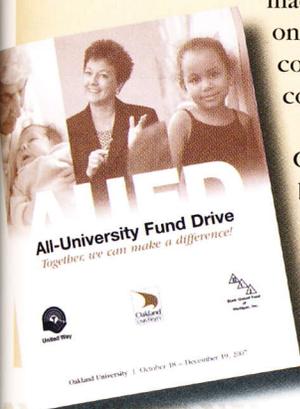
Simon Dover, SBA '88, associate athletic director



Charles Maxfield, assistant professor of education

"I think we're on the cusp of some important work here from research to our outreach to local school districts."

Maxfield also supported the Galileo Institute for Teacher Leadership, an OU program dedicated to improving student learning, elevating the education profession and enhancing teachers' leadership skills. ➤





Ken Hightower (second from left), dean of the School of Health Sciences, meets with (left to right) Ewa Matuszewski and John Coumbe-Lilley, representatives from Medical Network One, and Stafford Rorke, program director for OU's Wellness, Health Promotion and Injury Prevention Program.

Scholarships for Wellness, Health Promotion and Injury Prevention students

Medical Network One (MNO) has made a \$25,000 pledge to support a \$5,000 annual scholarship for students enrolled in the School of Health Sciences' (SHS) Wellness, Health Promotion and Injury Prevention (WHP) program.

"Many worthy students struggle to make ends meet, and any assistance to help them achieve their goals and become successful contributors in the health promotion field is laudable," says Stafford Rorke, WHP program director and associate professor of health sciences.

MNO is an interactive health management service provider offering comprehensive disease management support for individuals living with chronic conditions. The group's disease management arm, Michigan Institute for Health Enhancement (MIHE), works with patients, physicians, health plans and employer groups to promote healthy lifestyles and to help control the cost of health care.

"We became interested in a collaboration because of our shared interest in the prevention of chronic disease," says Ken Hightower, dean of the SHS. "MIHE is committed to addressing and treating chronic disease in our state. Their goal relates to our goal in providing expert health care practitioners or graduates who serve as ambassadors to produce a healthier population."

The WHP curriculum is designed to produce broadly educated wellness generalists with expertise in one of eight specific areas of interest, creating well-rounded professionals with a thorough knowledge of healthy living. Scholarship applicants must be willing to engage in a service-oriented project to support the WHP program. ➤

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Remembering a close friend

Nursing school never was an easy proposition for single mother Carol Ann Weber — but it was her dream. Her determination made the 1984 car accident that cut her life short all the more tragic.

Nearly 25 years later, close friend Dale O'Hara, CAS '71, has found a way to memorialize all of the good qualities he saw in Weber. O'Hara created the Carol Ann Weber Endowed Scholarship Fund, a need-based scholarship that will award \$1,000 a year to an Oakland University nursing student. 🐾

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Support for a new medical school

The Humana Foundation has stepped up with a \$100,000 pledge to support the Oakland University and Beaumont Hospitals medical school partnership.

"We're a part of this community and a significant player in the health insurance industry in Michigan," said Mark Mathis, corporate communications manager for Humana. "This donation will help support education for future doctors and health care providers. By supporting them, we're supporting the development of a strong health care system in southeastern Michigan."

The Humana Foundation is the charitable arm of Humana, a Louisville, Ky.,-based health benefits provider with 172,000 clients in Michigan and offices in Troy and Grand Rapids.

The medical school is currently being developed with plans to open its doors with 50 students in the fall of 2010. Students will attend classes in Oakland University's classrooms and labs during the first two years of the program, and then complete two years of hospital rotations at Beaumont Hospitals in Royal Oak, Troy and Grosse Pointe. ➤

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Todd Persells, SBA '80, SEHS '78, has been an OU donor for more than 28 years. *"I found the education I received at Oakland, in both engineering and business, very helpful in the workplace,"* says Persells, director of asset management and engineering for DTE Energy Co. *"I want to give so others can enjoy the opportunities Oakland offers."* 🐾

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Holiday Walk keeps magic alive at Meadow Brook Hall

A sense of the magical seems to settle on Meadow Brook Hall around the holidays. There's something about the beauty of the building and grounds, combined with the unique holiday decorations, which epitomize the wonder and beauty of the season.

Visitors are encouraged to discover the ambiance for themselves during Meadow Brook Hall's annual Holiday Walk, which opens the mansion for touring. This tour is a critical fund-raising event that supports the preservation and educational programming of the hall.

The walk includes a number of activities that introduce community members to this nationally recognized historic house museum and provide families an opportunity to spend time together. These activities range from candlelight evening tours and a Holiday Tea to the Breakfast with Santa series and the traditional pickle hunt for children.

The 2007 walk, held Nov. 23-Dec. 21, generated more than \$200,000, says Kelly Glaza Lenda, community relations manager for Meadow Brook Hall. Walk sponsors included David and Jennifer Fischer & the Suburban Collection, Autometric Collision Inc., CareTech Solutions, Gary and Margaret Valade, William and Story John, Bill and Irene Connors, Modetz Funeral Homes, Oakland University Branch-MSU Federal Credit Union and G.A. Frisch Inc.

"Holiday Walk sponsorship is of tremendous benefit to our mission to preserve and interpret one of our nation's most treasured historical landmarks," Lenda says. 🌟

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Kresge Foundation steps up with unique pledge

Two Oakland University entities are benefiting from a new Kresge Foundation initiative to support metropolitan Detroit area arts and cultural organizations. The foundation has pledged to donate \$20,000 a year to Meadow Brook Hall and \$5,000 a year to the Oakland University Art Gallery for 2007-2009. These programs are among 53 nonprofit organizations selected to receive a total of \$6 million from the foundation during a three-year period.

It's rare for a major foundation such as the Kresge Foundation to offer general operating support, as it has in this case, says Kim Zelinski, associate director of Meadow Brook Hall. "This is a rare and a wonderful opportunity for us," Zelinski says. "We try to earn money every day to keep Meadow Brook Hall operating. This is a huge boost toward that effort."

The foundation's gift has had a profoundly positive effect on the Oakland University Art Gallery as well, says Dick Goody, gallery director and associate professor of art. "We are very proud to have been recognized by the Kresge Foundation," he says. "It helps us to stay focused and helps us continue our commitment to what is most important, which is to bring people and art together." 🐉



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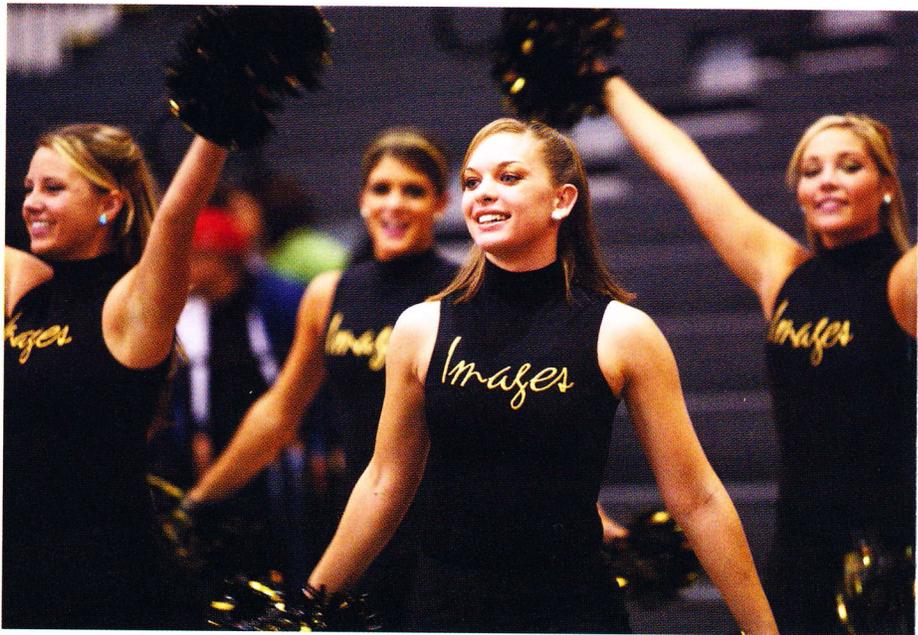
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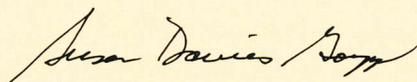
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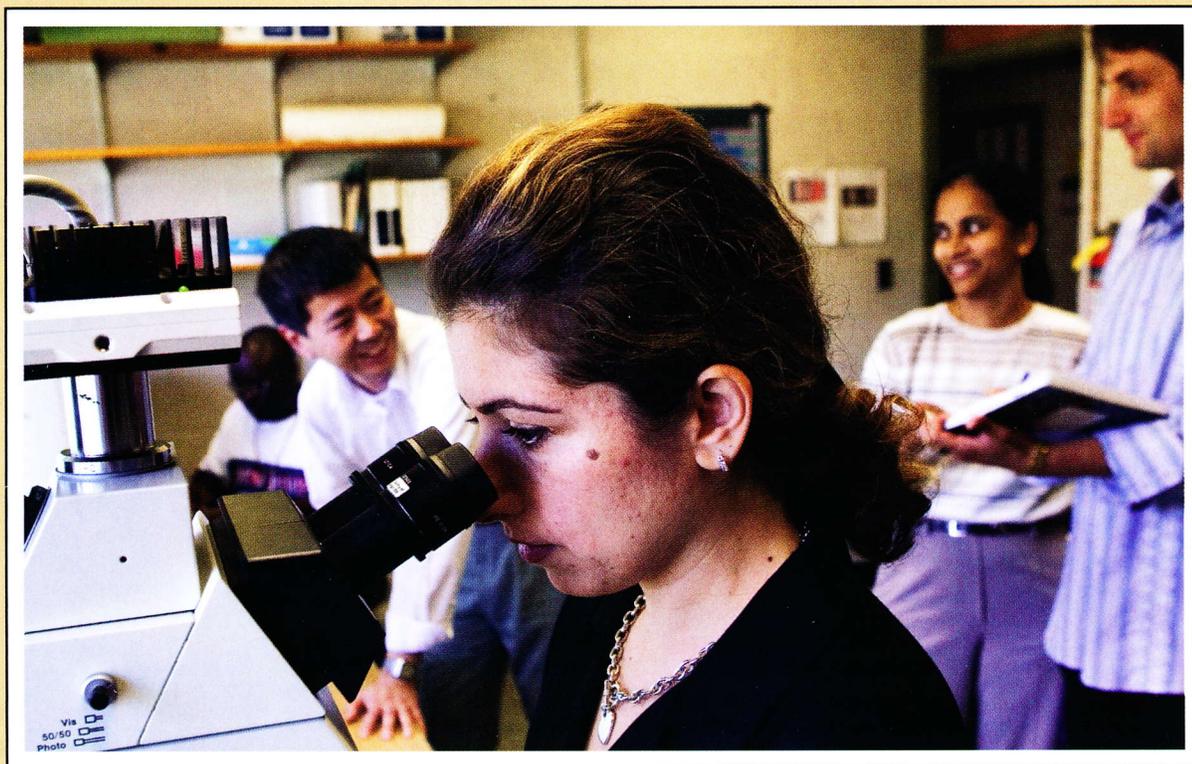


OU Moment



The Department of Music, Theatre and Dance takes its productions seriously. So when it was time to produce a play about the life of playwright Anton Chekhov, the department sent a group halfway around the world to research their material. Director Thomas Suda, Professor Pavlo Bosyy, costume shop supervisor Donna Buckley and students Christa Koerner and Josh Rotarius spent 10 days in the Ukraine learning how to accurately present *Chekhov in Yalta*. The play, set in 1900, depicts Chekhov's stay in his villa battling tuberculosis and the visit he receives from a troupe of actors. Travel for faculty and staff was funded by the R.F. and Robert C. Howes Slavic Fund. Student travel was funded by the Brad M. Glass Endowed Fund and a provost's research grant. *Chekhov in Yalta* appeared on the OU stage in February. For a complete list of cast members, see the *OU Magazine* page on the OU Web site. ■

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