

## MEN LOSING ACADEMIC DOMAINS

Women students are delving more and more into fields which have been traditionally dominated by men, but not vice versa, according to a comparative analysis of student majors in 1969 and 1976 done by David Beardslee, Director of the Office of Institutional Research.

The majors of men and women have been shifting since 1969, Beardslee says, and although a large number of women still select majors in the traditionally female fields of elementary education, health, nursing, and human resource development, more and more women are moving into fields which used to be largely masculine domains.

"The manner in which women have spread out their choices into traditionally male major fields has reduced the percentage of males in most majors and, as a result, few fields are now dominantly masculine.

"On the other hand, one-third of women are still in majors which are dominantly female."

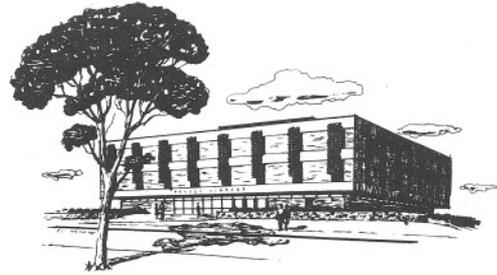
Beardslee noted in a previous report the overall shift to a more feminine undergraduate student body. Male enrollment peaked in 1973, while fall 1976 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) enrollment of men is below that of fall 1972. The general trend of an increasingly female enrollment is consistent with national trends, Beardslee says, but is probably exaggerated at OU since the recent introduction of such traditionally female majors as health professions, human resources, and nursing.

Those males who are attending OU are now selecting majors in the traditionally male fields of management, engineering, computer information science, and biology.

The number of secondary education majors is down overall for both sexes. As job opportunities in teacher education declined, men retreated to the traditionally male majors. For women, the decline in teacher education majors was replaced with enrollments in human resources, health, and nursing.

However, large numbers of women also enrolled in almost all of the previously masculine fields as well. In consequence, enrollment of men is quite concentrated while that of women is diverse.

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# OU NEWS

ROCHESTER, MICHIGAN

## O'Dowd lectures at Harvard

Oakland University President Donald D. O'Dowd is scheduled to lecture at a proseminar in postsecondary education at Harvard University. O'Dowd will visit Cambridge on March 2 to lecture on "The More Enduring Effects of Higher Education, Economic and Other."

The proseminar is held by the graduate school of education at Harvard to expose students to major issues in postsecondary education, enable students and faculty to interact with practitioners in postsecondary education, provide a forum for discussing research, and create a community of interest for those individuals concerned about postsecondary education.

President O'Dowd has also been selected to participate in the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools' periodic review of membership and joint visit with the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education for Northern State College in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

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Fields which were stereotypically masculine in 1969 now show larger percentage increases in females, with the most masculine majors showing the largest increase.

The number of majors which are dominantly masculine has declined from five in 1969 to two in 1976: engineering and physics.

On the other hand, enrollment in the heavily feminine elementary education, languages, and art has declined a great deal, but three of the newly introduced majors are 75 percent or more female. Nursing at 95 percent female is now the most sex-stereotyped major.

Interestingly, half as many men but one and a half times as many women in 1969 are now in majors in which enrollment is dominated by one sex.

### ANTHROPOLOGIST CO-EDITS BOOK

A new book co-edited by James Dow, anthropology, and Rhoda Halperin was published by St. Martin's Press. In the book, entitled Peasant Livelihood: Studies in Economic Anthropology and Cultural Ecology, the editors have brought out recent work by economic anthropologists on the organization of traditional peasant economies.

The book represents a movement away from developmental perspective towards a reconsideration of the institutional structure and ecological foundations of traditional peasant economies.

Dow, who has been with the Department of Sociology and Anthropology since 1970, is also the author of two other recent books: The Otomi of the Northern Sierra de Puebla, published by the Latin American Studies Center of Michigan State University, 1975, and Santos y Supervivencias, published by the Instituto Nacional Indegenista in Mexico, 1974.

### MEMORIAL FUNDS ESTABLISHED

Two memorial funds have been established for members of the OU community.

Contributions in memory of John Rue, a member of the political science department since 1967 who died on February 4, 1977, may be sent to the American Friends Service Committee, 2965 Twelve Mile Road, Berkley, Michigan 48072.

A memorial scholarship fund has been established in honor of Mark F. Schapler, a 1976 classics graduate, who died in an automobile crash on January 3, 1977. Donations should be sent to the Mark F. Schapler Scholarship Fund, Department of Classics, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan 48063.

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•The University Research Committee will award up to ten grants for materials and/or equipment to departments or other academic units to help faculty conduct scholarly and creative work. Priority will be given to proposals which appear to offer the greatest promise of meeting present and future needs of several investigators in the same or different departments.

Completed applications (please provide 12 copies) will be accepted in the Office of Research and Instructional Services, 212 Varner Hall, until 5 p.m. Friday, March 11. For further information contact Sheldon Appleton or Lewis Pino.

•The February 24 meeting of the AP Seminar Series has been changed to 3:30 p.m. in Lounge II of Oakland Center.

•The National Air and Space Museum, through the support of a fund established by the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Foundation, announces a one-year residential appointment for graduate research.

Persons interested in research related to technology transfer, planetary exploration, or the history of aviation are encouraged to apply. Minimum academic requirement for the position is a bachelors degree; additional qualifications are recommended. Deadline is March 1. For further information contact the Placement Office at 201 Wilson Hall or phone 377-3250.

•The Oakland University Board of Trustees February 23 meeting has been cancelled. The board will meet again March 23.

•House for sale, 756 Cambridge, four bedrooms, two and one-half baths, frame colonial, \$48,500. Call Clifford Harding, 375-9181.

## AREA STUDIES AIDS CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Students today often decry the lack of practical knowledge gained in their college careers. Carlo Coppola felt undereducated, too, after receiving his first degree, but in a different sense.

Coppola is chairman of Oakland University's area studies program, a field he was introduced to after graduating from John Carroll University with a degree in comparative literature.

"Area Studies is an inter-disciplinary view of cultures other than the west," Coppola says. "When I was an undergraduate, no such thing was offered. I felt undereducated."

Coppola first started studying the field after a thwarted attempt in the early 1960's to join the newly-formed Peace Corps. Coppola was selected and trained as an English teacher to work in Pakistan. He never went abroad, however, because of his health.

He soon decided to return to school and enrolled in the University of Chicago's master's program in Urdu languages and literature.

"I took a wide spectrum of courses and realized how narrowly trained I had been before."

In his graduate study at the master's and PhD level, he concentrated on Urdu, Hindu, Sanskrit languages and literatures; South Asian literature in translation; and linguistics. He finished with a dissertation on "Urdu Poetry, 1935-1970: the Progressive Episode" and a firm belief in the benefits of Area Studies.

"It opens up vistas to students no matter how sophisticated (they are)."

Area Studies students learn about different cultures not only from textbooks, but from visiting foreign restaurants and seeing plays. "It's interesting to see the growth (in students). Some come into the course with an 'I dare you to teach me anything' attitude."

Others have had different expectations, like those who enrolled at the peak of the popular 'ethnic' movement. One student, enrolled in a language course, was surprised to be studying nouns, verbs, and other grammatical terms. She told Coppola: "The only reason I wanted to take this course is I thought it would help my yoga."

The ethnic movement both hindered and helped Area Studies, Coppola says. "It was a beginning of awareness, but the presumptions were so wrong. It was detrimental as far as serious understanding of India. Fortunately,



**Carlo Coppola**

none of us (the faculty) were taken in by it. We knew it was a fad."

Everyone involved in Area Studies is proud of the program, Coppola says. The office employs one secretary, and faculty are drawn from other disciplines. For instance, James Graham of New Charter College is on the faculty for African studies, DeWitt S. Dykes of history is in Afro-American studies, and James Ozinga of political science is in Slavic studies.

Coppola expects students to emerge from Area Studies' classes with "A sympathy for what is going on in the rest of the world; to see a story in the New York Times and have the knowledge to temper it. We are just incidentally different," he says of other cultures. "The surface structure is all that is different."

*Note: This is the first in a series of periodic articles on OU department heads.*

# OU news calendar

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## Cultural Events

- 22-7 Meadow Brook Art Gallery exhibits Art in Architecture
- 23 Arts and Craft Series, 11am-1pm, Exhibition Lounge, Oakland Center
- 24-7 Meadow Brook Theatre presents The Merchant of Venice
- 25,26 Oakland Dance Theater in Concert, 8pm, Varner Recital Hall
- 27 Student Recital, 3pm, Varner Recital Hall, Department of Music
- 27,6 Meadow Brook Hall open for tours 1-4pm
- 6 Oakland Youth Symphony Concert, 4pm, Varner Recital Hall
- 7 Concert, 8pm, Varner Recital Hall, Department of Music

## Campus Activities

- 22 The Paul Roberson Players, 8pm, Crockery, Oakland Center
- 23 The Garden Party, film, noon, 126 Oakland Center and 7pm, Fitzgerald House
- 24 Soul to Soul, film, 11:30am, Abstention, Oakland Center
- 24 Talent Show, 8pm, Vandenburg cafeteria, sponsored by the Area Hall Council
- 24 Chinese Cooking Demonstration, noon-1:30pm, Oakland Room, Oakland Center
- 25 The String Machine, concert, 8pm, location to be announced
- 28 Poetry reading by Anne Waldman, noon, Oakland Room, Oakland Center
- 1 "Exploring Faith Issues," 7:30pm, St. John Fisher Chapel, Campus Ministry

## OU Sports

- 23 OU basketball vs Wayne State, women, 6pm, men, 7:30pm
- 24 Women's swim team vs Central Michigan, 7:30pm
- 25 Men's swim team vs Wayne State, 2pm
- 3-5 Motor City GLIAC Swimming Championships, 10am, in Detroit
- 3-5 MAIAW Swimming Championships, 10am
- 4-5 NCAA II Wrestling Championships, Cedar Springs, Iowa

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