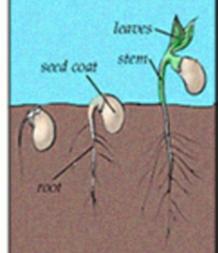


From the Office of the  
President

## Points of Pride

Colleagues,

The rudimentary tissues needed to build an adult plant are contained within the husk of its seed.



Yet, a plant cannot grow toward maturity until the primary root anchors itself in soil outside the husk. Likewise, the plant shoot and seed leaves must emerge and rise above the soil. Only in sunlight will a mature plant unfurl its leaves and flourish.

I think the germination process offers valuable insight in a symbolic sense, particularly if we choose to view our community as an organic entity. While the life of the institution originates from within our campus boundaries, our vitality lies beyond those bounds.

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.  
President

### SETTING THE PACE

The Oakland University community has not only hosted the Brooksie Way since its inception 10 years ago, it has also made the annual festival of races part of its own fabric of traditions. In fact, we may have had the **highest level of student, faculty, staff and alumni participation in the event's history** this year.

All told, more than 5,000 runners converge on our campus, and some 4,000 people take part in the Fitness Expo in the Recreation Center. The fact that campus community members help create a fun, welcoming and exciting experience each year sends a positive message about Oakland University to people far beyond the county and the region.

Kudos to those of you who stepped up to represent us, including but certainly not limited to OUCARES, University Admissions, University Recreation and Well-Being, the Oakland University Police Department, Meadow Brook Hall, The Grizz, and athletic teams including women's and men's track and cross country, baseball, softball, women's golf and women's basketball.

And to everyone who was participated in the event for the sake of your own fitness, kudos to your commitment to a healthy lifestyle. A healthy community is a productive one, and we need you here!



### USING OUR VOICE



Tina Pietrzyk, a third-year, pre-nursing student (center) and Jessica Bumpus, a first-year, pre-nursing student (right), register to vote with Oakland County Clerk and Register of Deeds Lisa Brown (left) on Tuesday, September 26 in conjunction with National Voter Registration Day.

Being actively involved in a community does not always mean that one will find unanimity in views about what is best for that community. Fortunately, the democratic system of government provides us a means of addressing differences and creating plans and programs to move forward despite them.

Chair and Professor of Political Science David Dulio notes in an [Oakland Post article](#) that Oakland University students clearly see the value and power of this system. Dr. Dulio explains that although young voters are notorious for not showing up at the polls, OU student voter turnout during the 2016 presidential

election was 57 percent. **This rate outperformed other student populations and voter turnout for the nation as a whole.**

As if this is not enough, OU student groups have been working diligently this month to boost the campus' population of registered student voters, which now stands at 70 percent of the total student population. How much more engaged can one be than working to ensure that others are involved? I hope you will join me in commending our students for their tenacity.

### SHARING OUR STRENGTH

**Louise Harder** had established herself as a high-achieving student and athlete before confronting an eating disorder that became a struggle for her life. Not only did she refuse to let the illness win, but she also would not be derailed from her pursuit of a degree in wellness, health promotion and injury prevention.

Resilient and determined, Louise came to Oakland to complete her degree, as well as serve as a resident assistant for University Housing and a peer wellness ambassador and wellness intern for University Recreation and Well-Being.

If there is a silver lining to the challenges that Louise has faced, it is that they have emboldened her with the determination to educate and assist others who face similar challenges. Since graduating from OU, she has accepted a position as the Michigan Higher Ed Network coordinator for Michigan Prevention Network. She holds eight health and wellness certifications and has been active with FEMA, the National Wellness Institute, the American Mental Health Association, the American Heart Association, and the American Red Cross. In her spare time, she gives back at a local domestic violence shelter.

Perhaps the greatest indication of her commitment and pioneering spirit is that she intends to build upon her own education. She is currently working toward more certifications within mental health and is planning the pursuit of graduate studies in the health and wellness disciplines.



Is there a point of pride you feel is worth sharing with the campus community?

If so, please [submit your idea](#) for consideration.

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