



OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

News

104 North Foundation Hall
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A publication for the university community

February 19, 1993



President Sandra Packard accepts the keys to the first of two Saturns donated to the university by David Fischer, second from left, a university trustee and owner of Saturn of Troy. With them are Ron MacEachern, far left, general sales manager of Saturn of Troy, and Howard Witt, dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science. The SECS will use the cars to study electrical and mechanical engineering.

Search Re-opens for University Relations VP

A new national search for a vice president for university relations has begun.

The vice president will be responsible for developing and implementing a major gifts campaign and a significant planned giving program, and directing the Oakland University Foundation. As a member of the president's senior management team, the vice president will administer the programs and staff of the university's fund raising, alumni affairs, public relations, conference center units, and the cultural affairs offerings of Meadow Brook Hall, Meadow Brook Theatre and Meadow Brook Art Gallery.

Applicants must possess significant experience in fund raising and managing giving campaigns, commitment to the academic role and mission of the university, strong interpersonal skills, and strong budget management skills. A bachelor's degree is required (graduate degree and appropriate professional certification is considered).

Members of the university community who wish to nominate individuals, either from Oakland or other institutions, may send their names to Brian R. Goslin, associate professor of exercise science, and chair, Search Committee for Vice President, University Relations, 107 NFH, or to any of the committee members.

The committee expects to begin screening candidates on March 15. Committee members from within the university community are Greg Demanski, alumnus, and vice president and senior properties officer for Comerica, Inc.; Susan Gerrits, university assistant general counsel; Andrea Fischer, university trustee and partner with Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone; Frances Jackson, assistant professor of nursing; Naim Kheir, professor of electrical and systems engineering; Mildred Merz, associate professor of Kresge Library; Mary Otto, associate professor of education, and special assistant to the president; Manuel Pierson, assistant vice president for student affairs/university school relations; George Stevens, dean of the School of Business Administration; and Geoff Upward, director of publications.

Serving from the external community are James Howlett, attorney with Beier Howlett; and Boris Sellers, executive director of the Beaumont Foundation.

Diann Pendell of the Division of University Relations serves as staff assistant and may be reached at 370-4382.

Engineering Faculty in Seventh Heaven Over Saturn

Free cars, get your free cars!

If you were wondering why the folks in the School of Engineering and Computer Science were smiling last week, it was because they expected to receive a donated Saturn car to use for teaching and research.

On the day the gift arrived, there were some surprises.

When students and faculty members gathered to formally accept the light brown Saturn, donor David Fischer doubled the offer. Fischer is a university trustee and owner of Saturn of Troy.

During a brief ceremony inside Kresge Library on February 11 to acknowledge the gift, Fischer mentioned Oakland was the third institution to receive one of the four cars he had available for donation.

"I don't want to sound greedy, but..." began Joseph Hovanesian, who explained that a second car would come in handy at Oakland, too. No problem, Fischer said, you can have it.

In thanking Fischer on behalf of the university, President Sandra Packard asked engineering students at the reception to tell Fischer how the gift will benefit them. They

noted that the Saturns will help them apply what they learn in the classroom. The students were also members of the team that build's the SECS's entry for an annual high-mileage car contest. Taking apart a Saturn and finding out exactly how it works will help them better understand mechanical and systems engineering, they said.

"This gift is wonderful for us," the president said. "This provides our students with an opportunity that they normally would not have. For the university, it has special meaning, because it's not only a donation from Saturn of Troy, but from a member of our Board of Trustees."

Now with two Saturns, SECS students and faculty will be able to continue their research on mechanical and systems engineering problems. Professor Robert Edgerton already has his eyes on converting a car to alternative fuel systems, and perhaps solar applications.

Associate Professor Subramaniam Ganesan said he'd like to try out some electronic controllers. In any event, who gets to do what first to the cars will have to be de-

cidated by a "steering" committee, Dean Howard Witt noted a bit dryly.

Ron MacEachern, general sales manager of Saturn of Troy, said engineers at Saturn Corp.'s engineering facility in Troy will be interested in seeing the work Oakland students do on the cars. He also offered to arrange for the students to visit the engineering lab.

For the presentation, the first of the Saturns was parked on the sidewalk in front of Kresge Library. Faculty and students converged on the car, looking under the hood and pressing the plastic fenders to watch them spring back.

Richard Leonard, director of public safety, walked over to take a look — and mustering all his strength — resisted the temptation to ticket the car for improper parking. ▼

Performance Plan Seminars Set Up for Supervisors, Employees

Supervisors of administrative-professional and excluded employees are encouraged to attend one of two sessions on the AP Performance Appraisal System in March.

Victoria Junior, manager of employment, says the March 15 and 17 sessions are designed to teach supervisors how to evaluate job performance and plan ways for performance improvement.

"A performance appraisal system is only as good as the people who are responsible for administering it," Junior says. "All supervisors should attend one of the training sessions. Supervisors attending these sessions will learn the specifics of administering the university's performance appraisal system to avoid rating errors."

Junior adds that other information pertinent to the system will be shared. Materials relating to the performance evaluation system will be distributed to supervisors in March. Sessions are also available for APs and excluded employees who are interested in learning more about the system.

If you have questions, or wish to register for one of the following sessions, call Junior at 370-3480.

For supervisors

- 9 a.m.-noon March 15, Oakland Center Gold Room C.
- 1-4 p.m. March 17, Gold Room A.

For staff members

- 9-11 a.m. March 22, Gold Room A.
- 9-11 a.m. March 30, Gold Room A. ▼



Student Cheryl Angelelli, a communication arts major, will be featured in a segment of 'Health Matters,' a syndicated program carried nationally and on WTVS-TV in Detroit. A crew from Allentown, Pa., came to campus to interview Angelelli and discuss her positive attitude toward life following a spinal injury which left her partially paralyzed.

AOP Program: Caring Leads to Success

The Academic Opportunity Program is proving to doubters that if you care about people in need, the chance of success is enhanced.

Monifa Jumanne, director of special programs, says the list of successes for the AOP is long, but three which spring to mind immediately are significant:

- Retention rates are up, meaning AOP students are not as likely as in the past to drop out of Oakland. Those who do drop out do so mainly for financial reasons or inability to maintain academic progress, Jumanne says.
- Graduation rates are up for those who enter the AOP. Jumanne says the present graduation rate of AOP students after six years is 25 percent, but statewide the average is 20 percent. "Nobody ever expected that they would graduate at all," Jumanne says. Another success indicator, Jumanne says, is that six years ago, no AOP students entered graduate school. Now 5 percent do.
- The number of students who are on academic probation has dropped dramatically over the past six years, from 50 percent to 17 percent during the fall 1991 semester (the last for which figures are available, due to the changeover in computer systems).

Despite the successes, Jumanne notes, a number of myths abound about the program. Among them: that AOP students get all the financial aid money, and that dollars

spent in supporting AOP students are lost because no one graduates.

"Academic support students are alive and doing very well at Oakland University," says Jumanne, who is entering her seventh year as director. She points out that comparisons of how well the program is doing today should not be construed as a criticism of individuals who administered the program in the past.

"This program remains the primary vehicle through which African-American students are admitted to Oakland. It is a culturally diverse program: black, white, Native American, Hispanic ..." Jumanne says. "It truly is a rainbow-type program. We add to the diversity of Oakland University."

Another myth of the program is it serves only blacks. In 1992, 23 white students were among the 103 AOP students, Jumanne points out.

Jumanne is especially proud that retention rates are rising. "They're higher than any other federally funded TRIO program in the state. Our graduation rates have increased, too," she says. The Federal Department of Education expects at-risk students to graduate in six years. "We have a 25 percent graduation rate, but it tends to be about 20 percent for these programs elsewhere. We are a model for the state."

Jumanne attributes much of the success to intangibles, such as the caring atmosphere within the AOP offices in Vandenberg Hall. Students drop in to chat, get moral support and help each other, she notes. "We have to

chase kids out of the office," Jumanne jokes. "They want counseling, they want the services." Last fall the staff kept more than 1,000 student appointments.

"Three of the most glaring differences between now and six years ago are broad university collaboration through wide use of faculty and staff as presenters and mentors; re-installing 'institutional ownership,' meaning that OU has accepted the importance of having an AOP program; and student accountability, in that students themselves accept responsibility for their own education," Jumanne says.

"Students come here for academic preparation, acclimation to the campus, and to have a good time — in that order."

Jumanne adds that AOP students are involved in numerous student organizations, athletics and the Honors College. Many have assumed campus leadership positions.

Those who do become leaders, and those who do graduate, Jumanne notes, already



Academic Opportunity Program coordinator Kourtney Thompson, and Monifa Jumanne, director of special programs, counsel students Marc Shelton (top right) and Rob Waldick (bottom right).

surpass the expectations of critics of the program.

The fact that the program's reputation is improving is evidenced by the interest shown by high school students. Already 12 students have been accepted for this summer's program.

"What's going on over here is just a whole lot of caring about people," Jumanne says. ▽

Of Distinction ...

Items about professional activities or honors may be sent to the News Service, 104 NFH. Items run as space permits.

Roberta Schwartz, journalism, served as a consultant to the radio and television component of George Washington University in Washington, D.C. The consultancy will continue on an informal basis. She and groups of her students also toured the *Detroit News* and spoke with editors and reporters, and attended a press conference and speech by the Japanese ambassador to the United States at the Economic Club of Detroit luncheon.

Sean Farrell Moran, history, chaired a session, *Popular Ritual and the Social Order*, at the

American Historical Association annual convention in Washington, D.C.

Robert Fink, Counseling Center, participated in a workshop on sexual harassment sponsored by the Michigan Bar Association in Ann Arbor. He discussed the psychological issues connected with sexual harassment in the workplace.

Harriet Margolis, English, published an article, *Feminist Irony or Poisonous Fantasy?: Category Romance and the Conscious Reader*, in the *Yearbook of Interdisciplinary Studies in the Fine Arts*.

Robert T. Eberwein, English, presented a paper, *Remakes and Cultural Studies*, at two con-

ferences: The Modern Language Association meeting in New York, and the Florida State University Conference on Literature and Film in Tallahassee.

Joyce Eckart and **Rod Righter**, education, have been selected to serve in key positions in the Michigan Association of Teacher Education. Eckart is secretary and Righter serves on the Communications Committee. Righter also serves on the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Committee on Aging.

Dorsey Hammond and **Bill Devers**, education, presented a research paper on *Prediction as a Factor in Conceptual Change Through Text Reading* at the National Reading Conference in

San Antonio, Texas. Also attending from Oakland were doctoral students **Laurie Kauffman**, **Bruce Dow** and **Mary Jo Finney**.

Nancy O'Connor, nursing, authored a monograph on *Paterson & Zderad: Humanistic Nursing Theory*. It has been published by Sage Publications in the *Notes on Nursing Theories* series.

Kevin Early, sociology and anthropology, will present a paper, *Middle Class African American: Voices from the Intersection of Race and Class*, at the National Association for Ethnic Studies in Salt Lake City in March. The paper was co-authored by **Michael Hodge** of Georgia State University.

The Campus Register

New Faces

Recent additions to the university staff include the following persons:

- **Donise Brown** of Waterford, a pastry baker in the Food Service.
- **Christine Badertscher** of Dryden, a dispatcher in the Department of Public Safety and Police.
- **Laura Churchill** of Marysville, a secretary I in the Employee Relations Department.
- **Dr. Tim Eckstein** of Clarkston, medical director of Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute.
- **Joan Love** of Rochester Hills, a clerk II in the Office of the Registrar, records.
- **Angelete Melhado** of Southfield, a coordinator/liason in the School of Education and Human Services.
- **Sandra Oliver** of Pontiac, a food handler I in the Food Service.
- **Marc Thompson** of Davisburg, a food handler I in the Food Service.

Funding Opportunities

Information about the following sources of external funding for faculty research projects is available from the Office of Research and Academic Development.

National Science Foundation

Preapplications for studies that explore the ethical, value or policy aspects of issues facing scientists and engineers are sought. Grants support research and related activities, including conferences and workshops, that examine ethical, policy or value aspects of the interactions of individuals, institutions, and science and technology. Research projects often explore scientific or professional ethics, controversies involving science and technology, values in scientific or engineering practice, normative issues that arise in decision-making involving science and technology, and the relation between public policies and the directions, practices and effects of science and technology. Awards up to \$1.5 million will be given. May 1 deadline.

Department of Education

The Fund for Innovation in Education invites applications for projects to strengthen

and expand computer-based education resources in public and private elementary and secondary schools. Areas of interest are particularly in projects that develop new and advanced computer software and supporting instructional materials designed specifically for teaching math, science, history, the arts, civics, geography, foreign languages or English, and that develop and implement school- or system-wide training to help teachers use and integrate available state-of-the-art computer technology in teaching core subjects. March 29 deadline.

Environmental Protection Agency

The EPA seeks applications for a cooperative agreement to establish a long-term interdisciplinary research relationship to study health risks from nonindustrial indoor pollutants. Areas of interest are assessment of environmental pollutants, particularly indoor air pollutants; multidisciplinary indoor air research in engineering, exposure monitoring, toxicology, epidemiology and risk management; and the organization and administration of international symposia and workshops to bring together experts from NATO countries to discuss the latest methods and issues related to sampling analysis and risk management. March 26 deadline.

Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

Applications for short-term research to assess key cost and financing issues that underlie efforts to reform the U.S. health-care system are invited. The agency will give priority to research proposals that focus specifically on cost and financing issues in health-care reform.

Nominations

Outstanding AP Award

The AP Assembly asks that nominations for the annual Outstanding Administrative-Professional Award be submitted by February 26.

The award cites an AP who demonstrates extraordinary effort in support of the institutional mission, spirit of cooperation, and community and university service.

Anyone within the university community

may submit nominations to Felecia Bumpus, chairperson, Outstanding AP Award Committee. Nomination forms have been sent to all departments and they are also available at CIPO. For information, call 370-2020.

The award recipient will receive a \$1,000 stipend contributed by the Oakland University Foundation.

Research Excellence Award

The University Research Committee announces the annual Research Excellence Award competition for all faculty members of Oakland University.

The committee will select an award recipient in one of the following categories that rotate on a three-year cycle. In 1993 the award will be made in the natural and mathematical sciences, in 1994 in the professional schools, and in 1995 in the social sciences/humanities.

Persons eligible to compete for the 1993 Oakland University Foundation Research Excellence Award include scholars from biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, mathematical sciences and physics.

Candidates for the award may nominate themselves or be nominated by others. A letter of nomination should address the following: quality of the candidate's work, level of peer acceptance, national/international reputation, and information that clarifies the value of the candidate's contributions to the field.

Nomination letters also should include an explanation of the basis for the nomination. A candidate may be considered on the basis of a book or collection of related publications and presentations, for a career of research accomplishments, or for significant scholarly contributions in a field.

The deadline for receipt of nomination material is March 8. A \$2,500 award will be presented to the award recipient at the fall commencement in September. Letters of nomination should be addressed to Dean Purcell, chairperson, University Research Committee, Office of Research and Academic Development, 370 SFH.

Nightingale Awards for Nursing

The School of Nursing asks that nomina-

tions for the fifth annual awards that cite registered nurses be forwarded by March 2.

Each of four recipients will receive \$1,000 and a Nightingale statuette. The award is for nurses who embody the spirit of Florence Nightingale through outstanding service or expertise in nursing administration, nursing research, nursing education or nursing practice.

Any registered nurse who practices in Michigan or holds a Michigan license is eligible. Faculty and staff of Oakland University, however, are ineligible. Nominations should be sent to Acting Dean Carol Zenas, 428 O'Dowd Hall. For details, call 370-4081.

In the News

- **Kevin Early**, sociology and anthropology, appeared on WDIV-TV's *Open Door* program to discuss suicide and deviance in America's urban centers.

Jobs

Information about job openings is available from the Employee Relations Department, 140 NFH.

- Clerk I, C-3, Accounting Office.
- Supervisor, AP-8, Office of Student Accounts.
- Vice president for university relations, executive, Division of University Relations.
- Dispatcher (part-time), POAM, Department of Public Safety and Police.

Reaching Us ...

The *Oakland University News* is published every other Friday during the fall and winter semesters and monthly from June-August. Editorial offices are at the News Service, 104 North Foundation Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, MI 48309-4401. Copy deadline is noon Friday of the week preceding the publication date.

- **James Llewellyn**, News Service senior editor and news director, 370-3180
- **Jay Jackson**, *Oakland University News* editor, News Service staff writer, 370-4344, or E-mail at jacksonj@argo.acs.oakland.edu
- **Rick Smith**, Publications Department photographer, 370-4341
- **Jessica Gifford**, News Service student intern
- News Service fax: 370-4249

Quote

"We are handicapped by policies based on old myths rather than current realities."

—J. William Fulbright

Bits & Pieces

Chrysler Gifts Aid OU

Cultural offerings at the university received a boost this month when Chrysler Corp. donated \$20,000, plus a new car that will be raffled off this summer.

Dennis Pawley, executive vice president for manufacturing at Chrysler, who also chairs the Meadow Brook Executive Committee, presented the committee with the check at its February meeting.

Pawley also announced that Chrysler will donate a Chrysler New Yorker for the raffle. Members of the Theatre Guild and the Festival Women's Committee sell tickets throughout the year for the car raffle. The 1994 model car, a new version of Chrysler's popular LH models, is just going into production.

Why, It's Golfing Weather

The calendar says February but it's time to think about golf.

George Wibby will lead eight-week sessions beginning March 2-4 for beginning, intermediate and advanced golfers. The classes will be held within the comfortable confines of Lepley Sports Center. Sign up quickly, because each class is limited to 15 persons.

Classes meet Tuesdays for advanced golfers, Wednesdays for intermediate players and Thursdays for beginners, all from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Registration is \$20.

For details, call 370-3190.

Gallery Focuses on Africa

Meadow Brook Art Gallery is presenting *The University Art Collection, Part II: African Art* in conjunction with African-American Celebration Month.

The exhibit, which will continue through March 21, contains 92 pieces of sculpture and 10 photographs. The art represents a variety of styles produced by the people of three major regions of the African continent.

Photographs included are reminiscences of the late G. Mennen Williams, former governor of Michigan, who served as undersecretary of state during the Kennedy administration. The core of the university's African art collection was donated by Williams.

Gallery hours are one hour prior to Meadow Brook Theatre performances, and 1-5 p.m. Wednesdays. Individual or group viewing may be arranged by calling 370-3005.

Got the Latenight Munchies?

Faculty and staff members will serve the traditional Midnight Breakfast to students living in the residence halls on February 23.

This has always been a popular event for students. Students will get a chance to see their favorite—or maybe not so favorite...—professors and administrators doing everything from busing trays to serving food.

The event, coordinated among Marriott, the residence halls staff and the Division of Student Affairs, offers students a special night during winter semester. It also also gives the staff and administrators an opportunity to interact with students and colleagues in a different environment.

Meal hours are 11:30 p.m.-1 a.m. To find out if there's still room for you to lend a hand, call Peggy or Thelma at 370-2058 from 2-4 p.m.

Brown Poetry Date Set

The sixth Maurice Brown Memorial Poetry Reading has been scheduled for 3 p.m. March 25 in the Oakland Room of the Oakland Center.

Barry Wallenstein, author of three volumes of poetry, will read from his works. He has authored *Beast is a Wolf with Brown Fire*, *Roller Coaster Kid* and *Love and Crush*. His work has also appeared in the *American Poetry Review*, *Centennial Review* and *The Nation*. He teaches literature and writing at City College of New York.

The Department of English and College of Arts and Sciences sponsor the event, which honors the late Maurice Brown, who taught at OU from 1961 until his death in 1985.

Students, faculty and staff are invited to the free event.

Cooperative Ventures

Students Apply Classroom Learning to Real-World Jobs

Going to college often pays off in a big way—even before you graduate.

Students participating in the co-op program offered through the Department of Placement and Career Services are not only gaining real-world work experience, but some decent paychecks as well.

Prasanna Datta, assistant director of placement and career services, who directs the co-operative education program, says 148 students earned more than \$1.2 million in the 1991-92 fiscal year from private employers throughout the tri-county area. It's not uncommon for co-op students to graduate and accept full-time jobs with their co-op employer, either, Datta says. "Most employers want these students with experience," he notes.

This winter, 106 students have accepted co-op placements, making an average of \$9 to \$11 an hour. In nearly all cases, students do not get academic credit for working as a co-op student. Yet despite often putting in the equivalent of a part-time or even full-time job hours, many co-op students take a full load of classes by squeezing in courses at night.

A question Datta often hears is why the Oakland Technology Center in Auburn Hills has not offered more co-op jobs. Datta says the reason is that companies, like Chrysler especially, are busy transferring their own employees into new facilities. The co-op opportunities will come, he says, but the firms must first identify their own needs.

Students who are placed often find themselves in challenging jobs.

Jennifer Middleton, a human resources development major, landed a position with the Palace of Auburn Hills. The junior is editor of the Palace's employee newsletter and works with the 200 full-time employees on the events staff, including President Tom Wilson, or perhaps any of the 1,000 part-timers who keep the Palace in operation.

Middleton has a 12-credit course load and still works 30-40 hours a week at the Palace. "I'm very busy," she says, "but the management is very accommodating in letting me schedule my work around my class needs."

Among her responsibilities is scheduling monthly meetings between employees and management. Middleton chairs the committee, which includes representatives of each

wondering where the Palace stores all its gear, there's a basement.

Aside from all that, what is it that impresses Middleton the most?

"I think it's when you see Tom Wilson walking around. It's an inspiration because he's so young and involved," she says.

The co-op program turned out to be an education in itself for Matt Nahass, a marketing major. He got a co-op position with Research Data Analysis in Bloomfield Hills. When his co-op period ended, the firm hired him on as a part-time employee.

Nahass learns how to conduct testing to see what customers prefer in certain products, especially cars. "You could call it customer attitude assessment," he says. "It's determining what people think about a product."

A typical session might include blindfolding customers and asking them to sit in various cars. They are asked to assess quality based on touch, smell and hearing.

Nahass also gets to travel a bit. He recently returned from California where he helped Pacific Gas & Electric assess its HRD needs. Nahass' firm will help PG&E develop a needs assessment survey to enable the utility company to determine what's on the minds of its employees.

Nahass says he has gained a great deal through the job that started through the co-op program.

"I think I've learned discipline in a bunch of different areas, which helps me gear up for working on a full-time basis. I've learned to organize my time and work with people as a member of a team," he says.

He's also learned that although classes may teach one thing, employers may approach a subject from a different angle. "In the workplace, I realize I wouldn't be familiar with a lot of the material without the classes, though," he says.

Nahass says his employer is helpful to co-op students. "They go out of their way to involve us in all phases of the work. They don't bring us in and assign us to just one task." His work is varied, from writing bids to setting up and conducting studies.

Nahass is taking four classes this semester and working 20 hours a week. "My bosses tell me to learn as much as possible to become more marketable, even if it means getting a job someplace else later," he says.

Another past co-op program participant, Rhonda Revyn, graduated in December with a degree in industrial health and safety. She worked in a co-op job at Ford Motor Co.'s axle and transmission plant in Sterling Heights from June to December.

The co-op experience was particularly valuable, Revyn says, because it involved working in a large industrial complex. She did a little of everything, from auditing safety equipment and checking emergency eyewash stations to monitoring airborne contamination.

As part of her job, Revyn was responsible for seeing that many of the 3,000 employees were scheduled for safety classes. That meant not only getting them into classrooms, but arranging the schedules so as not to conflict with production schedules.

An unexpected lesson she learned was that safety is an issue to more than just plant employees. An unidentified carbon monoxide leak in the administration building sent 14 persons, including Revyn, to the hospital.

"I learned first-hand that the dangers people are exposed to are not limited to manufacturing areas," she says.

Ford offered its own research materials to help her further her education. "They were very open and understanding, and very professional," she says.

Revyn says Sherryl Schultz, director of the Department of Industrial Health and Safety, and Datta encouraged her to try the co-op program. "It was extremely worthwhile," she says.▼



Co-op student Jennifer Middleton has varied responsibilities at the Palace of Auburn Hills, including editing the employee newsletter.

Getting a co-op job is not as simple as requesting one, because companies are particular. Datta says one company called, looking for mechanical engineering students for work this summer. He lined up 40, and eight were selected for interviews. The chosen eight have an average GPA of 3.75, Datta adds.

This winter's placement number of 106 students is down about 10 percent from last year, due mainly to the economy. Even though some companies are doing well financially, they are "right-sizing" by trimming their workforces to the minimum level. Engineering and computer science co-op jobs are not as plentiful as in the past.

Datta says the accounting market was good this winter because of the uptick in the banking industry, and the fact that Uncle Sam has declared tax season again.

The co-op program itself has benefited the university. One employer reimbursed Oakland for its overhead costs, and that money was enough to upgrade the computers Datta's staff uses.

She helps keep track of employee concerns, and speaks to department managers if problems are not solved.

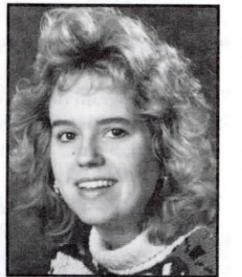
Middleton is also involved in setting up the Palace University, which is a training program for all employees. "We teach guest relations to make sure that everyone who walks through our doors feels important," she says. The first level of the Palace University course—four hours conducted in one night—is already in place. The sophomore through senior levels are now being compiled with Middleton's help.

Middleton says she is also learning about safety administration for injuries, an area important in human resources departments. "I know a lot of human resources employers will ask if you have training in worker's compensation, for example," she says.

Middleton also conducts tours occasionally, which means she needs to know Palace trivia. How many seats for a Pistons' game? Answer: 21,454. How long does it take to convert the Palace from a basketball court to an ice rink? Answer: 18 hours. Just in case you're



Matt Nahass



Rhonda Revyn

Folklorist Jenkins Offers Kids' Fun

Folklorist and children's recording artist Ella Jenkins appears at Meadow Brook Theatre on February 27 for the *Saturday Fun for Kids* series.

Jenkins is a regular guest on *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. Throughout her 35 years as a performer, she has been praised for her emphasis on active participation and multi-cultural education.

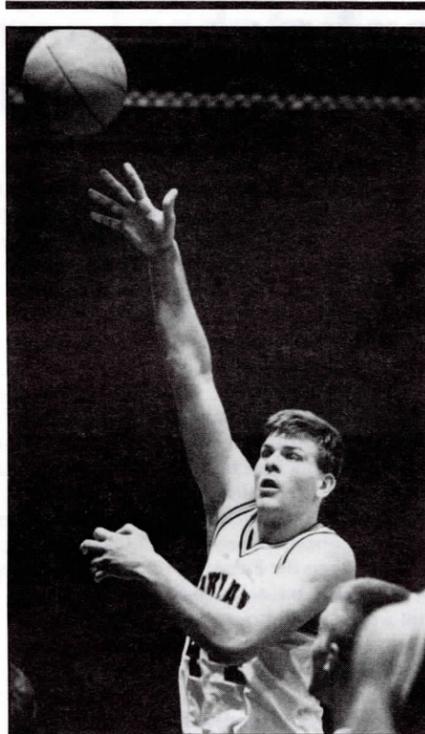
To each performance she brings a bag of instruments, including maracas, clave sticks, castanets and harmonicas. Her 11 a.m. performance will last about one hour. It is not recommended for children under age 3.

This *Saturday Fun for Kids* performance is presented with support of Volkswagen-Audi. Tickets are \$6 each and may be obtained from the box office at 370-3300. ▽

Early Serves as Presidential Assistant

President Sandra Packard has appointed an assistant professor of sociology to serve as a special assistant during the winter semester.

Kevin Early will continue to teach, but will also assist the president and the university in reaching its goals of meeting the needs of minority students. He will also work directly with faculty and staff to help improve service to students. ▽



Kann-Do Spirit

Pioneer Dennis Kann lofts a shot in a game against Ferris State University, which Ferris won. The senior center is the team's leading rebounder with a 9.3 per game average and the second-leading scorer at 17.9.

Things Shaping Up Nicely for Robotics Competition

Fourteen American and foreign universities have registered to compete for a single \$10,000 prize June 16-18 in the Unmanned Ground Robotics Competition.

The Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems is sponsoring the competition at Oakland University and is putting up the prize money. A team from the School of Engineering and Computer Science is entering a vehicle.

According to Professor K.C. Cheok, engineering, this is the first AUVS event designed for unmanned ground vehicles. Cheok says the association wants to interest more college and university engineering students in the field, which has immense potential in manufacturing, space exploration and warfare.

The all-terrain vehicles will be asked to navigate an outdoor obstacle course by means of robotic recognition systems designed into the vehicles. The competition will be held on the field at the corner of Walton Boulevard and Adams Road. Student designers will not be able to control their vehicles by an external source, sponsors say, although each entry will have an emergency stop system that can be activated in case of a malfunction.

Competition is limited to small, all-terrain vehicles like golf carts or lawn tractors, but vehicle chassis can be fabricated from scratch or commercially bought.

The vehicles must be from three- to nine-foot long and not exceed five feet in width or

six feet in height, excluding an emergency stop antenna. Propulsion is by direct mechanical-to-ground contact, such as wheels, tracks or pods. Vehicle power can be supplied by combustible fuel or electricity.

Jerry Lane, AUVS president of the host Great Lakes Chapter and an official at the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Command in Warren, notes tremendous advancements in ground robotics systems with many of these advancements coming from universities.

"It is important," Lane says, "that we continue to generate university interest and awareness."

The vehicles will be asked to travel over a kidney-shaped course that will be between 80 and 100 yards long. For safety, a maximum speed of five miles per hour will be enforced. Vehicles will be penalized for striking obstacles, stopping or wandering from the course.

The following other institutions have also entered the competition: Parks College of St. Louis, University of Tulsa, University of Michigan, Helsinki University of Technology (three vehicles), University of Colorado in Denver, Lake Superior State University, Cleveland State University, University of North Dakota (two vehicles), Northern Illinois University, University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada, University of Cincinnati, University of Minnesota and the University of Florida. ▽

Videoconference — Weather Willing — Rescheduled for March 24

What happens when you have a snow day and a live national videoconference on the same day?

As the people in the Division of Continuing Education know too well, the weather wins. A live national videoconference to assist managers of a multicultural workforce in making diversity their competitive advantage was snowed out. However, the videoconference was taped.

The *Managing a Multicultural Workplace*

seminar will be conducted from 1-5 p.m. March 24 in the Meadow Brook Hall Carriage House. Registration and refreshments will be served from 1-1:30, when Dean George Stevens of the School of Business Administration will offer opening remarks. From 2-4, participants will view the videotape of the January 13 conference. Following that, a panel of local experts will discuss the challenges in managing a multicultural workplace from the legal and corporate-manage-

ment perspectives, and from the perspectives of a business owner.

Panelists will be Steven J. Fishman, principal of The Fishman Group, Bloomfield Hills; Patricia Isaacs, regional vice president of McDonald's Corp., Detroit region; and Carmen Munoz, president and part owner of Munoz Machine Products, Livonia.

The conference is presented by the Division of Continuing Education and the SBA in cooperation with the Oakland County

Chamber Division of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, the Business Enterprise Development Center, Consumers Power and the *Oakland Press*.

During the taped portion, national experts will discuss dealing with the challenges of managing a multicultural workforce.

Registration is \$65. For information, call the continuing education office, 370-3120, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. ▽

Events

FEBRUARY

Until March 21 — Exhibit, *The University Art Collection Part II: African Art*, 1-5 p.m. Wednesdays and one hour before Meadow Brook Theatre performances. Free. 370-3005.

19-21 — Musical revue, *Broadway, Baby!* various times on weekends, Varner Studio Theatre. Admission. Sponsored by Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. 370-3013.

19 and 20 — Film, *Candyman*, 8 p.m., 201 Dodge Hall. Admission. Sponsored by Student Program Board. 370-4296.

20 — Women's and men's basketball with Saginaw Valley State University, 1 and 3 p.m. games, Lepley Sports Center. Admission. 370-3190.

20 — Dance concert with Inn-O-Vation, 9:30 p.m., Oakland Center Crockery. Sponsored by Student Program Board. 370-4296.

21 — Pontiac-Oakland Symphony young artists concert, 3 p.m., Varner Recital Hall. Admission. 370-3013.

22 — Luncheon program, *Politics: Process and Results*, by Andrea Fischer, Oakland University trustee and attorney, noon-1:30 p.m., Oakland Center Gold Rooms B-C. Admission. Sponsored by the campus ACE-NIP Chapter. 370-4116.

23 — Bible Study, noon-1 p.m., Oakland Center Annex II. Free. Call Victoria Junior at 370-3480.

23 — Alcoholics Anonymous confidential meetings, noon-1 p.m., room 11, Counseling Center, Graham Health Center.

24 — Women of Oakland University Brown Bag Lunch Series, *Counted Cross-Stitch*, by Lisa

Studym of the Office of Financial Aid, noon-1 p.m., Oakland Center Gold Room A. Free.

24 — Panel discussion of films *Do the Right Thing*, *Grand Canyon* and *Malcolm X*, noon, Oakland Center North Alcove. Free. Sponsored in conjunction with African-American Celebration Month by the Senate Human Relations Committee and Kresge Library.

25 — Women's and men's basketball with Grand Valley State University, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. games, Lepley Sports Center. Admission. 370-3190.

26 — Seminar, *Counselor's Role in Teaching Study and Test Skills*, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 125 Oakland Center. Admission. Sponsored by Continuum Center. 370-3033.

26 — AP Association Ultimate Fringe Benefit Party, 5-7 p.m., Meadow Brook Hall. Free for members, fee for guests and nonmembers.

27 — *Saturday Fun for Kids* concert with folklorist Ella Jenkins, 11 a.m., Meadow Brook Theatre. Admission. 370-3300. (Recommended for children age 3 and up.)

MARCH

2 — Six-session seminar begins, *Life Mission: The Essence of You*, 7-10 p.m., 126-127 Oakland Center. Admission (half-off for faculty and staff). Sponsored by Continuum Center. 370-3033.

2 — Seminar, *How to Rate Your Employability*, 7-10 p.m., 125 Oakland Center. Admission (half-off for faculty and staff). Sponsored by Continuum Center. 370-3033.

2 — Alcoholics Anonymous confidential meetings, noon-1 p.m., room 11, Counseling Center, Graham Health Center.

2 — Personal appointments with TIAA/CRF retirement counselor. Call Staff Benefits Office, 370-3483, for an appointment.

2 — Bible Study, noon-1 p.m., Oakland Center Faculty Lounge. Free. Call Victoria Junior at 370-3480.

3 — Personal appointments with Fidelity Investments retirement counselor. Call Staff Benefits Office, 370-3483, for an appointment.

3-4 and 6 — American College Dance Festival Association Great Lakes Regional Festival. Various times and performers. Varner Recital Hall. Admission. 370-3013.

4 — First of four-session seminar begins, *Women in Transition: A Support Group*, 10 a.m.-noon. Enrollment limited to 12. Admission. Sponsored by Continuum Center. 370-3033.

4 — First of four-session seminar begins, *Career Building: Preparing for Change*, 7-10 p.m., 125 Oakland Center. Admission. Sponsored by Continuum Center. 370-3033.

9 — Bible Study, noon-1 p.m., Oakland Center Lounge II. Free. Call Victoria Junior at 370-3480.

9 — Alcoholics Anonymous confidential meetings, noon-1 p.m., room 11, Counseling Center, Graham Health Center.

10 — Film, *Airplane!* 8 p.m., Beer Lake Yacht Club. Free. Sponsored by Student Program Board. 370-4296.

11-14 — Play, *Diviners*, various times, Varner Lab Theatre. Admission. Sponsored by Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. 370-3013.

12 and 14 — Film, *Under Siege*, 8 p.m., 201 Dodge Hall. Admission. Sponsored by Student Program Board. 370-4296.

13 — Impact jazz sextet, 8 p.m., Varner Recital Hall. Admission. Sponsored by Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. 370-3013.

15 — Administrative-Professional Performance Appraisal System explanation for supervisors of APs and excluded employees, 9 a.m.-noon, Oakland Center Gold Room C. 370-3480.

16 — Bible Study, noon-1 p.m., Oakland Center Faculty Lounge. Free. Call Victoria Junior at 370-3480.

16 — Alcoholics Anonymous confidential meetings, noon-1 p.m., room 11, Counseling Center, Graham Health Center.

17 — Administrative-Professional Performance Appraisal System explanation for supervisors of APs and excluded employees, 1-4 p.m., Oakland Center Gold Room A. 370-3480.

17 — Mainstage performance by singer Ricky Walter, 8 p.m., Oakland Center Abstemion. Free. Sponsored by Student Program Board. 370-4296.

18-April 11 — Play, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Meadow Brook Theatre. Times vary. Admission. 370-3033.

18 — University Senate meeting, 3:10 p.m., Oakland Center Oakland Room. 370-2190.

18 — Women's tennis with Northwood Institute, 1 p.m., Lepley Sports Center. Free. 370-3190.

19-20 — Meadow Brook Estate annual spring concert, various times, Varner Recital Hall. Admission. Sponsored by Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. 370-3013.

19 and 21 — Film, *Jennifer 8*, 8 p.m., 201 Dodge Hall. Admission. Sponsored by Student Program Board. 370-4296.

22 — Administrative-Professional Performance Appraisal System explanation for APs and excluded employees, 9-11 a.m., Oakland Center Gold Room A. 370-3480.

23 — Bible Study, noon-1 p.m., Oakland Center Annex II. Free. Call Victoria Junior at 370-3480.

23 — Alcoholics Anonymous confidential meetings, noon-1 p.m., room 11, Counseling Center, Graham Health Center.

24 — Rescheduled videoconference, *Managing a Multicultural Workplace*, 1-5 p.m., Meadow Brook Hall Carriage House. Sponsored by Division of Continuing Education, the School of Business Administration and the Oakland County Chamber Division of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce. Admission. 370-3120.

24 — Film, *Top Secret!* 8 p.m., Beer Lake Yacht Club. Free. Sponsored by Student Program Board. 370-4296.

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