

# inside OAKLAND

A newsletter for Oakland University colleagues

## Community reacts favorably to Russi's appointment as president

### breaking NEWS

#### OU to receive \$700,000 from state year-end surplus

The state Department of Management and Budget has announced that Oakland University will receive an additional \$700,000 in state aid, thanks to a \$95-million surplus in the state budget reported for fiscal year 1995.

The extra funds — a result of state departments spending \$95-million less last year than planned — will enable state officials to distribute \$22.6 million among Michigan's 15 public colleges and universities.

Oakland will apply the funds toward unmet institutional needs.



*During the first 15 months of his interim presidency, Gary D. Russi has led Oakland University on an impressive course: record student enrollment, historic campus construction and renovation, approval and subsequent action of Strategic Plan 1995-2005 and wider recognition in Lansing and in the community.*

*Earning the confidence of OU colleagues and business, industry and governmental leaders through his leadership abilities, the Board of Trustees appointed Russi Oakland's fifth president April 11. Russi will continue using the interim title until contract negotiations and conditions of employment are approved by the board at its next meeting June 6.*

*In recognition of this honor, Inside Oakland presents a glance of Russi's accomplishments during the last year and a half, and reaction from university colleagues and friends.*

#### Community reactions

##### GOVERNMENT

*"I have enjoyed working with Dr. Russi during his term as interim president and found his skills and personality well suited to the job. I look forward to working with him in the future as president to help strengthen Oakland University and help build on the quality programs that exist."*

— State Sen. Michael J. Bouchard, R-Birmingham, District 13

##### BUSINESS/INDUSTRY

*"This is wonderful news and well-deserved. A natural from my observation after seeing his style of work ethic. He could be a model to other leaders in any kind of industry of when you just do what's right and when you do a good job, things come about and take care of themselves. I'm very excited about the appointment."*

— Gail Duncan '79, president, Jerome-Duncan, Inc., and member, Oakland University Foundation Directors

##### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*"I have seen firsthand how effective Gary Russi is with building Oakland's reputation and moving it forward. I have nothing but the utmost respect for his absolutely tireless dedication and hard work on behalf of this university."*

— David T. Fischer, chair, and president, Suburban Motors Company, Inc.

##### FACULTY

*"Gary is an exceptionally competent administrator who is a team builder. He has the experience, wisdom, patience, willingness to listen and vision needed to lead our quest to build an even stronger institution. It is important for this institution to have a permanent leader. Mr. Russi is the best person for the job."*

— Denis M. Callewaert, professor, Chemistry, and director, Institute for Biochemistry and Biotechnology

##### STAFF

*"I regret that the board did not involve the AAUP in the process. The university is an academic community and that means the board should consult with the faculty, especially regarding the selection of the president. The selection was excellent; the process was flawed."*

— James Clatworthy, associate dean, School of Education and Human Services

#### Highlights of the past 15 months

##### January 1995

The Board of Trustees names Gary D. Russi, vice president, Academic Affairs since 1993, the interim president. The University Senate approves the Strategic Plan and construction begins on a \$43-million Science and Engineering Complex.

##### February

OU joins partnership with six area universities to address underrepresentation of minority students in engineering and hard sciences, thanks to a \$5-million grant from the National Science Foundation. OU begins serving as the hub of the Macomb-Oakland Area Network that will eventually connect via the Internet more than 370,000 students in public schools and community colleges in Oakland and Macomb counties.

##### March

OU is on-line, offering admissions applications and other services via Internet. Students join alumni in "Partners in Success" radio ad campaign for university.

##### April

OU maps out extensive \$1.6-million plan to modify and update campus to meet Americans for Disabilities Act. OU begins first full year of formal assessment.

##### May

Kresge Library serves as local public access for national Internet "Town Meeting." School of Business Administration announces the formation of the Center for Family Business, the only one of its kind in the state, to serve as a major resource for the advancement of family-owned businesses.

##### June

OU approves policy to make transferring to OU easier for community college students; sells \$37 million in bonds; and chooses architect for Recreation and Athletic Center. OU creates director of government relations position to boost OU's image in Lansing. Rochelle Black appointed to post. Board approves Strategic Plan. OU creates Academic Success Fund to expand cultural horizons and diversity of student body. OU celebrates new main entrance to campus with ribbon-cutting ceremony.

##### July

Bill Connellan, associate vice president, Academic Affairs, assumes post of acting vice president, Academic Affairs, to help during interim presidency. OU forms Presidential Technology Advisory Board with area business leaders.

##### August

After conducting national searches, OU names interim deans Mary Otto and David Downing permanent deans of School of Education and Human Services and College of Arts and Sciences, respectively.

##### September

OU reports student enrollment rises to a school-record 13,600 students and launches its first distance learning class. OU publishes Strategic Plan 1995-2005.

##### October

Oakland University Center-Birmingham opens its doors. Center for Robotics and Advanced Automation forges partnership with Malaysian Center for Robotics and Industrial Automation. OU hires governmental consulting group to lobby the government and key legislators on the university's behalf. OU debuts student registration by phone. OU takes an aggressive approach to recruitment, retention and enrollment management. OU hires Robert Johnson to new post of associate vice president, Enrollment Management, and director, Admissions.

##### November

*Taking the Initiative* debuts; new monthly supplement shows the Strategic Plan in action. School of Engineering and Computer Science opens MICAR, the Michigan Center for Automotive Research.

Continued on page 2



**ON THE MOVE:** Interim President Gary D. Russi (photo below) celebrating the university's new entrance June 1995 with Trustee David T. Fischer and City of Auburn Hills Mayor James McDonald; (above, right) giving his first "state of the university" address to faculty and staff February 1995; and (above, left) at the Inaugural Marvin L. Katke Memorial Invitational July 1995 with Trustee Rex E. Schlaybaugh, Jr.



# HIGHLIGHTS

board of trustees

## Board approves new food service contract

A new Oakland Center food court is under way and a new food services contract with Delaware-based ARAMARK Corporation will offer OU colleagues, students and campus guests more culinary choices on campus and national franchise brands.

The new food service contract, approved by the Board of Trustees at its April 11 meeting, began May 2 and runs through April, 2001.

ARAMARK has taken over the operations of JW's in the Oakland Center and the Vandenberg Dining Center. The new food court will offer Burger King, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut, as well as Starbucks Coffee, Freshens' Yogurt, D.C. Subs, Gretel's Bake Shop and Wings and Things. Vandenberg will offer a cafe and grill, Deli Corner, World's Fare with international selections, a vegetarian bar and occasional speciality meals.

The new food court, to be located in the OC Crockery area, will be under construction May 9, with completion expected this fall.

New seating and expanded hours will help make the food court more accessible not only for meals, but for study sessions, group meetings and breaks, says Mary Beth Snyder, vice president, Student Affairs.

The university will spend up to \$1.3 million for food court construction and furnishings in the Oakland Center, Vandenberg

Dining Center and two other satellite locations. "Up-front expenditures to support the food court and associated start-up costs will be recouped over time through reduced labor and food costs associated with fast food outlets," Snyder says.

## Board reaffirms two-year tuition, fee plan

The Board of Trustees reaffirmed the university's general fund budget for fiscal year 1996-97 at its April meeting. The budget was originally approved in June 1995, at \$80,858,459, however, record enrollment growth, an increase in academic incentive programs and a proposed new business/classroom building necessitated a revision of the budget to \$83,109,601.

The increase will help offset nearly a million dollars of operating costs of the new Science and Engineering Complex and the funding gap of unrecognized growth caused by a two-year lag in the state appropriation budget cycle. It will also provide an initial payment of \$1 million toward the needed \$4 million the university is required to generate in order to take advantage of the opportunity to construct a new business/classroom building, says Paul E. Bissonnette, vice president, Finance and Administration, and treasurer to the Board of Trustees. This is due to the state announcement that it will help the university construct a new building if Oakland will provide 25 percent of the construction financing for the \$16-million building.

# employee of the MONTH

..... m a y



**Employee: Iola Adams**  
**Position: Administrative Secretary**  
**Department: Art and Art History**  
**Length of Service: 24 years**

**University Service: Second vice president UAW/TOP, Black Faculty and Staff Support Group, Women of OU, 1991-92 Presidential Search Committee**

### Plaudits:

"Iola is the kind of person that never praises her own actions, but her good deeds abound both here on campus and in the community. I have the most profound respect for her."

"This year marks Iola's 10th year as recording secretary for the UAW/TOP bargaining unit. This she has done without any compensation, but with good spirit and deep loyalty."

*Employee of the Month nomination forms are available in all departments, ERD and CIPO. For more information, call Gail Ryckman at 370-3480.*

## Russi appointment continued from page 1

### December

Board of Trustees approves final plans for \$28-million Recreation and Athletic Center. OU hosts first in a series of quarterly government relations forums.

### January 1996

School of Education and Human Services named North American Coordinating Center for Beginning School Math. Russi delivers "State of the University" address with the theme, "Quality, Quality, Quality."

### February

Winter student enrollment rises almost 7 percent.

### March

The State Senate Higher Education Appropriations subcommittee recommends increasing OU's funding by \$20 per fiscal year equated student.

### April

Board approves new \$1.3 million food court and food services contract for campus. OU breaks ground on new \$347,000 Honors College. Board appoints Russi president pending contract negotiations.

# REGISTER

campus

## new faces

**Michelle Clay**, library assistant, Kresge Library  
**Jeffrey Coble**, golf professional, Golf Course  
**Troy Griese**, communications administrator, Electronic Systems Operations  
**Kathleen Schultz**, accounting clerk II, Accounts Payable  
**Darrin Woods**, academic/program coordinator, Upward Bound

## leave of absence

**August 28 through December 17, 1996**

**Wallis M. Andersen**, associate professor, Rhetoric  
**Christopher R. Clason**, associate professor, German  
**Nigel Hampton**, associate professor, English  
**Michael Y. Y. Hung**, professor, Engineering  
**John D. Kim**, associate professor, Marketing  
**Donald O. Mayer**, associate professor of Management  
**Donald E. Morse**, professor, English  
**Carl R. Osthous**, associate professor, History  
**John P. Piskulich**, associate professor, English

**August 28 through April 26, 1997**

**David P. Doane**, professor of quantitative methods  
**Jane D. Eberwein**, professor of English

## of distinction

**Augustin K. Fosu**, Economics, has been selected as the president-elect of the National Economic Association. He spoke on *Values and Virtues: From Culture to Economics* on campus last fall. His article, *Occupational Mobility and Post-1964 Earnings Gains by Black Women*, appeared in the *American Economic Review*. In January, Fosu served on a two-man team that conducted the Mid-term Review of the Collaborative Master's in Economics Project, an international program directed by the African Economic Research Consortium for a large number of African universities.

**Subra Ganesan, Nan Loh and Mo Zohdy**, Engineering and Computer Science, have been awarded a contract by the Chrysler Corporation to conduct research on Robust and Optimal Controller for Engine Idle Speed. The award totals \$6,754. Chrysler also announced the following awards to Oakland University engineering faculty: **Zohdy**, Synchronized Multiple Views for System Modelling, \$1,000; **Ka C. Cheok**, Characterization of Multi-Input Multi-Output System Transfer Function Matrix for Saber Templates, \$24,900; **Patrick Dessert**, development of a systems engineering training course, \$35,243; **Ganesan**, Fuzzy Logic Controller of an Electronically Controlled Converter Clutch; \$26,718.

**Sean Farrell Moran**, History, presented a paper *Tracing 'The Echo of a Philosophy': The Post-*

*tivist Assumptions in the History of Post-Famine Ireland*, at the 1996 International Meeting of the American Conference of Irish Studies, Southern Illinois University.

**Darlene Schott-Baer, RN, and Margaret Christensen, RN**, Nursing, have received the Midwest Nursing Research Society/Midwest Alliance in Nursing joint collaborative research grant. The project, *The Effect of Self-Monitoring on Patient Outcomes in Adult Asthma Patients*, will compare outcomes of patients receiving standard treatment to outcomes of patients receiving an intervention designed to enhance mastery over self-care behaviors for disease management. This project is a collaborative effort between the School of Nursing and Henry Ford Hospital.

**Rikki B. Schwartz**, Environmental Health & Safety, presented a paper, *Sick Building Syndrome*, which received first place in the American Society of Safety Engineers Technical Paper Competition.

**Philip Singer**, Health Behavior Sciences, was prominently featured in an article which appeared in the *The Observer* February 22. In the article, Singer discussed his work to produce and edit programs aired on INFO TV-12, a community access television channel. Singer was also quoted in the *Detroit Monthly* in March on quality-of-life improvements.

**Robert Stewart**, Psychology, participated in the 14th Biennial Meeting of the Conference on

Human Development, Birmingham, Alabama, March 29-31. Stewart and four undergraduate students presented a symposium, *Adult Sibling Relationships: A Comparison Across the Late Adolescent to Late Adult Years*. Individual papers included: **Elissa Blake**, *Adult Sibling Relationships: The Sample and Measures*; **Stewart**, *A Typology of Sibling Relationships in Adulthood*; **Lynn Tingley**, *A Comparison of Sibling Relationships Across Four Stages of Life*; **Andrea Kozak**, *The Impact of Birth Order on the Nature of Sibling Relationships*; and **Wendy Cassel**, *Unraveling the Typologies of Adult Sibling Relationships*. For the students, the presentation represented the culmination of a year-long effort, including training in interview skills, data entry and management, statistical analysis and final interpretation/presentation of results.

**Geoff Wawro**, History, has been awarded a 1996 Society for Military History Moncado Prize for outstanding scholarship. His first book, *The Austro-Prussian War*, was published by Cambridge University Press, and has been made a selection of the History Book Club.

## retirements

**Elinor B. Walters**, associate professor, Education

Welcome to INSIDE OAKLAND. This newsletter is published monthly September through May by the Publications Department: Vicky Billington, Sheila Carpenter, Ted Coutilish, Lynn Metzker and Rick Smith. (810) 370-3185. E-mail: coutilish@oakland.edu

Copy deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Printed on recycled paper



# Economics for Africa

## Professor examines master's degree program that will help continent produce economic leaders

When Augustin Fosu got the call, he was surprised and honored. Within days, the professor of economics was on a plane to Nairobi, Kenya.

Fosu was one of two external reviewers of the collaborative master's of economics program, which is taught at 20 participating universities across Africa. The African Economic Research Consortium, based in Nairobi, financed Fosu's trip. The consortium administers the master's in economics program. It is the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), similar in part to the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business, that funds and reviews the program.

In a whirlwind three and a half weeks, Fosu visited six major African universities.

"It was a special privilege to



Augustin Fosu

go to Africa. I felt a special pride," says Fosu, who was born in Ghana, West Africa. He has lived in the United States since age 16. "There is a more critical need for people with economic knowledge in developing countries. They need new ideas to set the process moving, and often it's the economists who can help create new ideas for a country. Economists are the thinkers of the business world, the intellectual fire and backbone of all business as we know it, whether it's for government, nonprofits or companies.

"There are a number of international countries with interests in the program and they want to make sure that funds they provide for it are spent the right way," Fosu says.

During his stay, Fosu visited the Nairobi and Kenyatta universities, both in Kenya; Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, the University of Zimbabwe in Harare and the University of Ghana.

Fosu partnered with a professor from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, read documents and interviewed deans, faculty, students and top administrators of the six universities.

"We were looking at how successful the program has been, the pros and cons, and what

### Focus on Fosu

**Education:** B.A. with honors in mathematics and economics, Lawrence University, Wisconsin; M.A. and Ph.D. in economics, Northwestern University. Also received a certificate in African Studies, Northwestern University.

**Major fields of study:** Econometrics, economic development, labor economics, international economics, monetary economics and public finance.

**Extracurricular:** Highlights include president-elect, African Finance and Economics Association and president-elect, National Economic Association; associate editor, economics, *Journal of African Finance and Economic Development*; reviewer/panelist National Research Council; faculty consultant, Educational Testing Service, Princeton.

**Student involvement:** Faculty adviser, Minority Business Students Association and Omicron Delta Epsilon, the honor's society in economics.

**Why economics?:** "I originally wanted to go into engineering school, but I had a full scholarship to Lawrence University, in Wisconsin, which had no engineering program, so I got a degree in math."

**Personal philosophy:** 'Nihil Nisi Optimum' (nothing but the best). "It's my high school motto. One must always give one's best shot."

**Most people would be surprised to learn that:** "I lie awake at night sometimes wondering how my students could be motivated to learn."

**Hobbies:** "Reading. I also enjoy dancing for fun occasionally."

else can be done to improve it," Fosu says.

While in Africa, Fosu, with the help of Kevin Murphy, chair, Department of Economics, arranged for other professors to take over the teaching of his classes.

"It's quite an honor and distinction to be asked to serve in such a capacity," Murphy says.

"An external examiner evaluates programs offered by a university and makes recommendations concerning possible changes that might be implemented."

On being an external reviewer, Fosu says, "It's a lot of work, but a good experience. I made some good contacts, too. I would definitely do it again."

## bits and PIECES

### Home for sale/rent

The Office of Risk Management and Contracting announces the house at 789 Cambridge in the Meadow Brook Subdivision, adjacent to South Adams Road, is for sale or rent.

This tri-level home is located on a cul-de-sac and has four bedrooms, two full baths, a family room with a fireplace, central air conditioning and an attached garage. The house will be available for occupancy beginning July 1.

For information, call 4196.

### Outstanding Award

The Outstanding Administrative/Professional Selection Committee has chosen Lynn Hockenberger, director, Learning Resources, as this year's award recipient.

Hockenberger was chosen from a field of 17 nominations from all areas of campus.

She will be honored at a reception from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. May 8 in the Oakland Center, hosted by the AP Recognition Committee.

OU colleagues Stacy Penkala, Karen Meyer and Jeanne Carter nominated Hockenberger.

### Good seats available

A limited number of discounted tickets are available for Michigan Opera Theatre's production of *La Traviata* at 8 p.m. May 23 at the new Detroit Opera House. Regular \$55

orchestra seats are \$27.50 for seniors 60 and older and students; for others the cost is \$44. To order, send a check made payable to Pat Nicosia, Budget Office, 104 NFH.

This is also the last opportunity to take advantage of excellent half-off main floor tickets for *Miss Saigon*, June 30 and July 7 at Masonic Temple.

Discounted tickets for *Phantom of the Opera*, also at Masonic, will only be available through summer.

For information, call Pat Nicosia at (810) 375-0419.

### Oakland is in top 10% in voluntary support

For the first time in university history, Oakland University was among the top 10 percent of public comprehensive universities in terms of gift assets received in fiscal year 1994-95.

"The \$6,136,000 raised in fiscal year 1994-95 placed us 12th among the 132 reporting universities in this year's voluntary support of education survey," says David S. Disend, vice president, University Relations, and executive director, Oakland University Foundation. "In fiscal year 1992-93, we were in the top quartile, so we have moved up the list rapidly. I think much of the credit in our improvement belongs to our deans and our faculty. Their increased willingness to reach out to the community, identify

potential partners and to nourish those relationships makes all the difference in our fund-raising success. The community responds well to the excellence of our programs."

### Forensics team places 9th in nationals

OU's Forensics Team placed ninth overall in Division II competition at the national tournament in April, sponsored by the National Forensics Association. OU won the prestigious President's Traveling Sweepstakes Trophy for amassing the most points.

"We had 10 students who actually had events qualified for NFA," says Suzanne Enck, director, Forensics, and special lecturer, Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism. "Oakland has been working toward this achievement since 1979, when the team was founded. I'm looking forward to great things to continue from Oakland Forensics."

### Shop your local Home Shopping Network

Sharon Muir found a great gift to give her mother for Mother's Day this year, and she didn't have to leave campus to find it.

Muir, professor, Education Curriculum, bought a used Macintosh computer through Oakland University's Property

Management department for her 83-year-old mother.

The cost: \$250.

"She has wanted a computer for a couple of years, but thought they were too expensive," she says.

Property Management regularly has items for sale — from computers to musical and scientific equipment, according to Manager M. Sue Smith.

"Bids remain open for two weeks and it's suggested that people come in to view the equipment first before bidding," Smith says.

For details, call 4220.

### Retro WOCOU on the books

Mark your calendars for the second annual Weekend of

Champions-Oakland University (WOCOU). This year's theme — Retro WOCOU — will feature highlights and memorabilia of the 50s, 60s and 70s and spans October 2-5.

Co-chairs are Richard Fekel, director, Oakland Center, and OU sophomore Diana Pletz.

The Appreciation Day picnic for faculty, staff, students and their families is scheduled for October 4.



# get to KNOW

A feature for and about university colleagues



**PAUL GRAVES**  
Philosophy



**LYNNETTE KENNEDY**  
University Relations



**VINCENT KHAPHOYA**  
Political Science



**ELIZABETH NIEVES**  
CF&O

**Who is one famous person (alive or dead) you would like to talk to?**

John Locke.

Marcel Duchamp.

Nelson Mandela.

Jerry Lewis.

**What are your plans for Memorial Day?**

I'll be taking care of the kids while my wife attends a wedding in L.A.

I'll be working at Meadow Brook Theatre.

I will have a picnic with friends.

I will attend a cookout with my family.

**What is OU's best kept secret?**

The hiking trails through the woods behind campus.

Meadow Brook Theatre.

The international reputation of OU's faculty.

We have the best landscape in Oakland County.

**If you could change one aspect of your personality, what would it be?**

I would be less of a perfectionist about my writing.

I would get rid of my evil twin (personality) Yvette.

I would be more organized.

I would learn to control my temper.

**If you were president of the U.S., what would be first on your agenda?**

To reduce the international arms trade.

To select Dennis Rodman as vice president.

To issue an executive order banning hate groups throughout the country.

To take care of the homeless.

## calendar of EVENTS

People with disabilities who need special assistance to attend any of the events listed may call the sponsoring unit or the Office of Equal Opportunity at 370-3496.



About 1,570 degrees will be awarded during Oakland University's 34th spring commencement June 1. Ceremonies will be held in the Baldwin Pavilion, except for the School of Nursing, which will hold its ceremony in Meadow Brook Theatre. The schedule: School of Education and Human Services, 10 a.m.; School of Business Administration and School of Nursing, 1 p.m.; College of Arts and Sciences, School of Health Sciences and Bachelor of General Studies, 4 p.m.; and School of Engineering and Computer Sciences, 7:30 p.m.

### MAY

Meadow Brook Hall tours, 1:30 p.m. daily and from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sundays (last tour begins at 3:45 p.m.). Admission. Gift Shoppe also open. Call 370-3140.

**1-12** — Corpse! Meadow Brook Theatre. Admission. 370-3300.

**1-12** — Student-Faculty Art Exhibition, Meadow Brook Art Gallery. Call 370-3005.

**19** — Concert, Interims: Dance Past and Present with the Detroit Chamber Winds, 8 p.m. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Admission. 370-3024.

**21** — University Affairs Advisory Committee meeting, 3 p.m., Oakland Center rooms 129-130.

**27** — Memorial Day holiday, university closed.

### JUNE

Meadow Brook Hall tours, 1:30 p.m. daily and from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sundays (last tour begins at 3:45 p.m.). Admission. Gift Shoppe also open. Call 370-3140.

**1** — Spring Commencement, Baldwin Pavilion, Meadow Brook Theatre, starting at 10 a.m.

**3-4** — Gehringer Golf Classic. Celebrity golf outing with lunch and dinner. Fundraiser for Meadow Brook Hall. Reservations required. Admission. Call 370-3140.

**6** — University Board of Trustees meeting, 3 p.m., Oakland Center Gold Rooms.

**7-9** — Meadow Brook Landscape and Garden Show, Meadow Brook Hall. Experts answer questions and give seminars. Tours. Admission. Call 370-3140.

## safety SAYS

"Safety Says . . . is a series of articles on topical health and safety issues from the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S). In this series, EH&S colleagues will answer frequently asked health/safety questions, address common misconceptions and present "actual" hazards in OU's work environments and the methods available to manage these hazards.

### What is Ergonomics?

Ergonomics is the study of human characteristics for the appropriate design of the work environment. The science considers the physical capabilities and limitations (size, shape, strength) of each worker; it then attempts to "fit" the work methods, equipment and environments to these characteristics as the employee conducts "repetitive" tasks (such as sitting, typing, lifting, gripping, twisting, lowering, pushing, pulling, carrying). The primary goals of ergonomics in the workplace are to reduce fatigue, increase ease (and thereby efficiency) and reduce work-related "cumulative trauma disorders."

### What are cumulative trauma disorders and how do they occur?

Cumulative trauma disorders (CTDs) occur when the habitual performance of the same or similar physical movements does damage to the tendons, nerves, muscles and other soft body tissues of the joint(s) associated with this "repeated" motion. One of the most common job-related CTDs is Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, which results from a compression of the median nerve in the wrist.

### What Causes Carpal Tunnel Syndrome?

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome is believed to be caused when repetitive motions involving the hand/fingers are performed improperly, and become inflamed and swollen. When these tissues swell, they place pressure on the median nerve.

### What are the symptoms of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome?

Symptoms may include: Tingling, coldness, numbness, weakness, pain, discomfort, stiffness, tightness or loss of coordination in the hands, wrists, fingers, forearms or elbows.

### What should I do if I have any or all of these symptoms?

See your doctor and make certain that he/she is well-versed in occupationally related cumulative trauma disorders and/or Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. It should be noted that "syndromes" are not illnesses; they are "sets of signs and symptoms that occur together and characterize a particular abnormality," and as such are subject to interpretation, and misinterpretation. Carpal Tunnel Syndrome is considered to be the most "over-diagnosed," and even when correctly diagnosed, "mistreated" syndrome of our generation. It is recommended that patients obtain second opinions, particularly if the physician instantly recommends immobilization (bracing) or surgery.

### What job-related tasks are commonly associated with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome?

Jobs which require gripping combined with twisting, pushing or pulling motions can result in Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, if proper body positioning and gripping devices (on the equipment and/or hands) are not used. Additionally, long periods of operating personal computers have also been associated with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and other cumulative trauma disorders.

## OU receives \$1 million grant for research laboratory

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded \$1 million to Oakland University to help defray the cost of the university's proposed \$3.4-million animal care laboratory in the new Science and Engineering Complex.

The grant will help fund an 8,400-square-foot centralized, state-of-the-art facility on the east side of the complex. It will contain individual animal housing, two surgical suites and an X-ray and hematology laboratory, among other amenities.

"We're obviously pleased and deeply honored to be the recipient of such a substantial award," Interim President Gary D. Russi says. "NIH has a fundamental interest in providing state-of-the-art facilities for institutions engaging in top-flight biomedical research, and Oakland University has long been recognized for its stellar contributions in this field."

NIH's support makes Oakland fully competitive with

other research institutions in the country, says Donald A. McCrimmon, director, Grants, Contracts and Sponsored Research. "The NIH grant will help solidify Oakland University's position as an institution with both excellent scientists and excellent facilities for conducting biomedical research."

Oakland will gain full accreditation with the American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care after the facility is open, according to McCrimmon.

Dr. Lori Penman, OU veterinarian and assistant director, Research Institute, William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, says she has always been impressed with OU's researchers. "This facility will enable us to provide better veterinary care and will allow investigators to expand the volume and scope of their research," Penman says. "It puts us on the cutting edge in biomedical research."



# taking the INITIATIVE

A monthly supplement to *Inside Oakland*

about this **ISSUE**

*Taking the Initiative*, a monthly supplement to *Inside Oakland*, shows the Oakland University Strategic Plan 1995-2005 in action to Oakland faculty, staff, students and friends. Read *Taking the Initiative* for news about Strategic Plan "initiatives"— projects and programs moving Oakland toward its vision and strategies . . . and the 21st century.

## All wired up

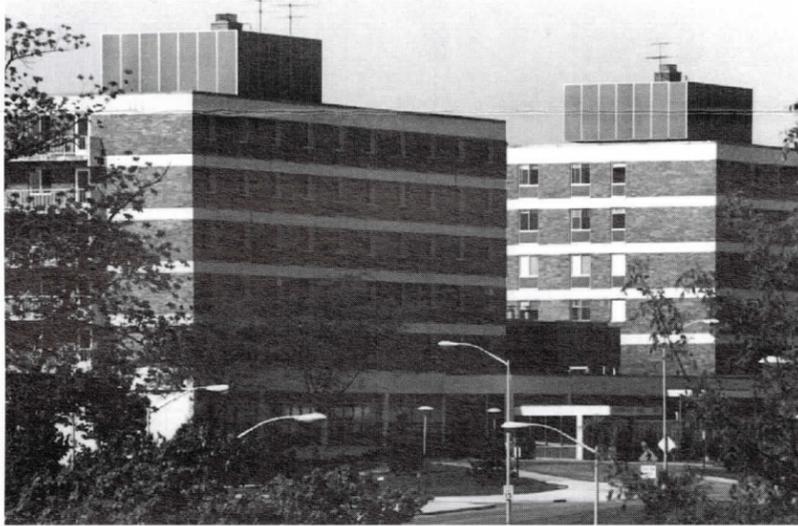


### CNN and MTV are rippling through the residence halls

Several years ago, Oakland University students — unhappy with relatively poor reception of some TV channels and the inability to receive their favorite shows — made a request for cable TV.

Through a negotiated contract with TCI Cablevision of Oakland County, work began last July to lay cable in the residence halls.

"The logistics were a bit tricky in some cases," says Mary Beth Snyder, vice president, Student Affairs. "The cable was being installed while rooms were occupied so we had to get the students'



**Renovation plans call for air conditioning the 575-seat dining facility inside Vandenberg Hall beginning this month.**

permission. It required a lot of staff participation and student cooperation. But we did it."

Wiring in the residence hall buildings was completed in late January, according to Eleanor Reynolds, director, Residence Halls. Current students were then notified to contact TCI to arrange for the cable service.

"Those who have signed up are happy with the service," Reynolds says. "The university and TCI plan to make a major effort to let students know about the service this summer, perhaps with a mailing to their homes, so they can budget for cable if they want it. We hope to offer some attractive packages."

So far, many students seem to favor sports and music channels over those featuring only movies. Reynolds attributes the location of a movie rental store across the street from campus as the major reason students don't sign up for movie channels.

Matthews Court Apartments, the university's family housing unit, is next on the schedule to be wired.

## Cool news

### Vandenberg's got it — air conditioning, that is

When temperatures soar this summer, diners in Oakland University's Vandenberg Hall will sit in cool comfort. Renovation

plans call for air conditioning the 575-seat dining facility beginning this month.

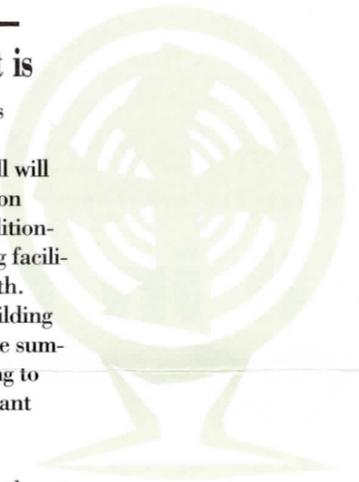
The 30-year-old building was seldom used in the summer months, according to Deborah Wade, assistant director, Finance and Operations. But with increased demand for the dining area and increasingly hot Michigan summers, air conditioning has become necessary. Heat from food preparation and the large area of western-exposure glass also contributes to temperatures in the dining hall area.

Wade describes the challenge of cooling the large facility, which measures about 14,400 square feet, as identifying where to locate the giant chiller so it would not detract from the exterior view and where it would give the best service. A 140-nominal-ton unit will be installed beginning May 20, with completion expected June 20.

"Air conditioning will greatly enhance Vandenberg," Wade says. "Not all buildings on campus are air conditioned and during the summer, there are a lot of open windows. Once Vandenberg is air conditioned, people will have a place to come sit and relax and dine, removed from the summer's heat."

In the future, she says the dining area will have increased usage for participants of summer campus sports camps and various conferences.

"The enhanced dining area, which can accommodate large afternoon luncheon groups, should now be even more appealing for bookings," she says.



# New name, new approach

## The Office of New Student Programs capitalizes on the word 'new'

The new Office of New Student Programs will welcome Oakland University freshmen and transfer students this fall with more than just a new name. A new approach focuses on the needs of incoming students beyond the day or two of true orientation to college life and the campus.

"Many freshmen have real trouble making the transition from high school to college," Director Beth Talbert says. "Some are far away from home, perhaps for the first time. Those who initially adjust may find the first half of the first semester easy. Then they face mid-term exams and papers. Many have difficulty adjusting to these new demands."

Part of the new approach is understanding that the first year is "pivotal." Talbert cites

national figures that indicate many students make the decision to leave college within their first three to six weeks on campus.

"They don't fit in, and they feel lost or overwhelmed," Talbert says. "They're in a new environment without having developed a new support system. If we can reach students the first part of their first semester, we can help them to become confident in their new environment."

Key aspects of the new approach are:

- "Collegiate Communications," (see related article on this page), an actual class on transitioning to college life.
- Resource Line. This "hot-line," previously for parents, will expand to students this fall. For information, call (810) 370-GOLD.
- Welcome Week and Convocation.

## Making the transition

### For new students, orientation program spells success

Oakland University's incoming freshmen and transfer students have a unique advantage: They may take an eight-week class for credit focusing on communication skills needed to make an easier transition to campus life.

Part of the Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism Department, "Collegiate Communications" offers one credit. The class is taught by a team of faculty and staff with expertise in the student's major area of interest.

"An advantage is that the student gets to form a peer group in his or her own area of study," says Beth Talbert, director of the newly named Office of New Student Programs. "Some class groups focus more on career choices, the type of major and what to do with it. For example, the nursing group's class may focus on deciding on a specialty. For those who haven't chosen a major, the class tends to be more for information gathering and helping them select a major."

The communications aspect of the class teaches students such skills as assertiveness, conflict resolution and how to access available resources. Part of the process involves making entries in a journal.

"The class focuses on helping the new students realize that they are now responsible for themselves, and that takes skills," Talbert says.

# All in the name of higher education

## Oakland's chief lobbyist relishes role as university advocate

*The following article focuses on Rochelle Black, Oakland University's first director of the Office of Government Relations. Before joining Oakland in August 1995, Black served as marketing and communications director for the Michigan Department of Public Health. Before that, she was deputy press secretary for the Office of the Governor.*

**INSIDE OAKLAND:** What exactly do you do?

**ROCHELLE BLACK:** I'm in charge of planning, presenting and implementing the university's legislative agenda to lawmakers and policymakers. As Oakland's chief lobbyist, I represent the university to elected and appointed officials and their staffs and serve as an advocate for the university. As a state-supported institution, we need to be responsive to the concerns of taxpayers and elected officials.

**IO:** How did you become a lobbyist for Oakland?

**RB:** I've been involved with politics for a long time and have never missed an election. My favorite channels are C-SPAN and CNN. Through my prior positions, I knew a lot of people in Lansing, including

the governor, agency and department directors, and legislators. One of the best background experiences for a lobbyist is to have this type of knowledge; knowledge of the executive and legislative process, government and politics.

**IO:** Describe your typical week.

**RB:** I'm usually in Lansing Tuesday through Thursday meeting with legislators, state officials and members of the governor's executive staff and sitting in on hearings and committee and subcommittee meetings. On Monday and Friday, I'm usually at Oakland doing follow-up work. I do a lot of writing. Almost every contact I make generates a formal response.

This schedule occasionally varies. Last Friday, I was at Eastern Michigan University for a subcommittee meeting on higher education appropriations. For the last four weeks, the presidents and chancellors of Michigan universities came to various sites to give presentations. I represent the university at anything related to higher education, either directly or indirectly.

**IO:** What do you like best about your position?

**RB:** I like the contact with legislators and keeping people informed. I have a strong appreciation for the legislative process and try to make a point of knowing individual legislator's likes, dislikes and priori-

ties.

Legislators look at things differently. One may be interested in our fiscal responsibility whereas another may be concerned with our commitment to diversity. My job is to make sure that both concerns are addressed.

**IO:** Why does Oakland need a lobbyist?

**RB:** Oakland was one of the few universities, if not the only university, in the state that did not have a full-time director of Government Relations on staff. Institutions that receive a significant amount of their dollars from

federal sources have larger staffs and do business in Washington, D.C., as well. We also have a multi-client lobbying firm in Lansing called Michigan Governmental Consulting Group. This firm provides backup and support for our lobbying efforts. They serve a number of clients, whereas I focus exclusively on Oakland and higher education.

**IO:** What are your primary challenges?

**RB:** In a general sense, to ensure that the governor and Michigan Legislature continue to make funding for higher education a top budget priority, that Oakland is treated fairly and that our needs and concerns are addressed. Beyond



**Rochelle Black is Oakland's first director of government relations.**

that, my role is to evaluate and track legislation, both good and bad, that may impact Oakland's programs, policies and operations.

**IO:** What specific accomplishments have you made thus far?

**RB:** One major accomplishment is that we've elevated awareness of Oakland University to a much higher level in Lansing. That's an important first step. We've also been successful in getting elected officials to visit our campus meetings, events and retreats. In addition, the department has forged working relationships with private and public sector lobbyists throughout the area.