

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Spring 1995

MAGAZINE



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Jane Abraham '81

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U.S. Senator
Spencer Abraham in
Washington

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Working on the
Biomedical Frontier

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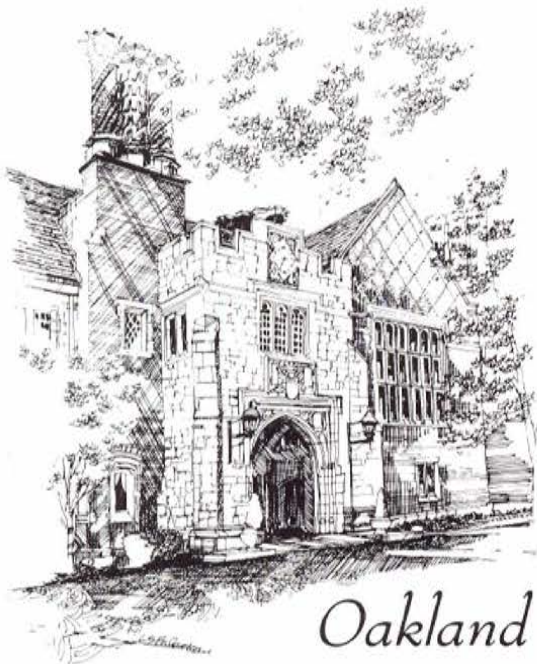
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Know when to let go

Getting the Word Out

If you live in Michigan, certainly in the metropolitan Detroit area, you've undoubtedly been hearing more about Oakland University of late. Oakland's fourth president, Sandra Packard, actively promoted the university's accomplishments and activities, and the media often picked up on her efforts. Perhaps the biggest story, however, was the announcement in January of her resignation after two and a half years to take a post with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C.

Will Oakland retreat to its quietly successful ways? Hardly. In fact, since Dr. Packard's departure, the university has been aggressively seeking ways to communicate more effectively with its constituencies. As Vice President for Academic Affairs and Interim President Gary Russi put it in this issue's article on Oakland's impressive but little-known medical research efforts (page 12), "Some people characterize our institution as a light under a bushel. We're going to remove that bushel. We need to talk about our strengths and what's really happening here."

Russi has been doing just that, in particular lobbying the state legislature to increase Oakland's state funding (page 3). Russi is also lobbying in Lansing for a new classroom building to accommodate Oakland's growing enrollment. Enrollment hit a record 13,165 in the fall and is expected to grow to 15,000 within several years. Apparently the word is getting out about Oakland's unique combination of expert teaching and research faculty, technology-rich support services, abundant student life activities, competitive costs and convenient location.

Part of the increase in enrollment activity can be traced to more user-friendly recruiting

methods, which include putting the OU application and admissions information on the Internet. The university is also running print ads in area and other college newspapers announcing its summer guest student program and airing radio ads in Flint, Saginaw, Bay City and the Thumb, as well as the metropolitan Detroit market, to increase Oakland's visibility around the state. The radio ads feature successful alumni and students talking candidly about Oakland's strengths (page 4).

Soon, students should be talking about two more strengths: the new \$43 million science and engineering complex now under construction and scheduled for completion in 1996 and a planned \$37 million student recreation/athletic center.

Actions on the field and court and in the pool haven't hurt. The men's soccer team and the men's and women's basketball and swimming teams once again had outstanding years, with the men's swimming and diving team winning its second consecutive national championship (page 7).

Amidst all this activity, Oakland's presidential search process is moving ahead. The Board of Trustees set a goal of this fall to have a new leader on the job. And the board is putting the finishing touches on Oakland's new strategic plan which, according to Russi, will be a "template for decision making" over the next months and years.

We hope this issue of the OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE gives you a little more detail about the outstanding people and programs that make Oakland so newsworthy. As always, your comments are welcomed.



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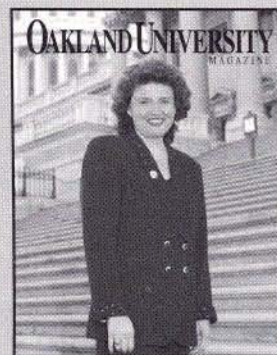
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ON THE COVER:

Jane (Hershey) Abraham
'81 on the capitol steps in
Washington, D.C. Photo by
John G. Akouri.

Presidential Search Moves Ahead

Following the resignation of Sandra Packard on January 10 as president of Oakland University, the Board of Trustees named Gary D. Russi, vice president for academic affairs, as interim president. The board has hired the national search firm, Spencer Stuart, to work with a special university committee to recruit candidates for the position. Three trustees and eight university representatives — including a combination of faculty, staff, students, alumni and OU Foundation members — have been selected to interview and select semi-finalists. The search is expected to be completed by late summer.



Interim President Gary Russi

During January and February, Russi met "with as many constituencies of the university as possible to help set the agenda for the interim period."

"Oakland University is an innovative university devoted to excellence," Russi said. "We are strategically positioning ourselves to seize unique opportunities for tomorrow and beyond."

An important part of Oakland's future rests in Lansing. Russi has been actively lobbying the state legislature to increase Oakland's state funding.

The state's 1995-96 budget recommendations include special adjustments for Carnegie Foundation classifications of Michigan's public universi-

ties. Russi says Oakland is wrongly classified as a masters (or comprehensive) institution, when it should be a Doctoral II University. A Doctoral II institution must grant at least 10 doctorates each year for a period of three years, which Oakland has done since 1991-92. Oakland stands to lose \$1,617 per full-time student for 1995-96 which amounts to more than \$15 million.

"We are not being funded relative to our true academic mission," says Russi, "and we are stuck with an unjust and inaccurate classification." The Carnegie classifications are updated only once every seven years and another update isn't due until the year 2000.

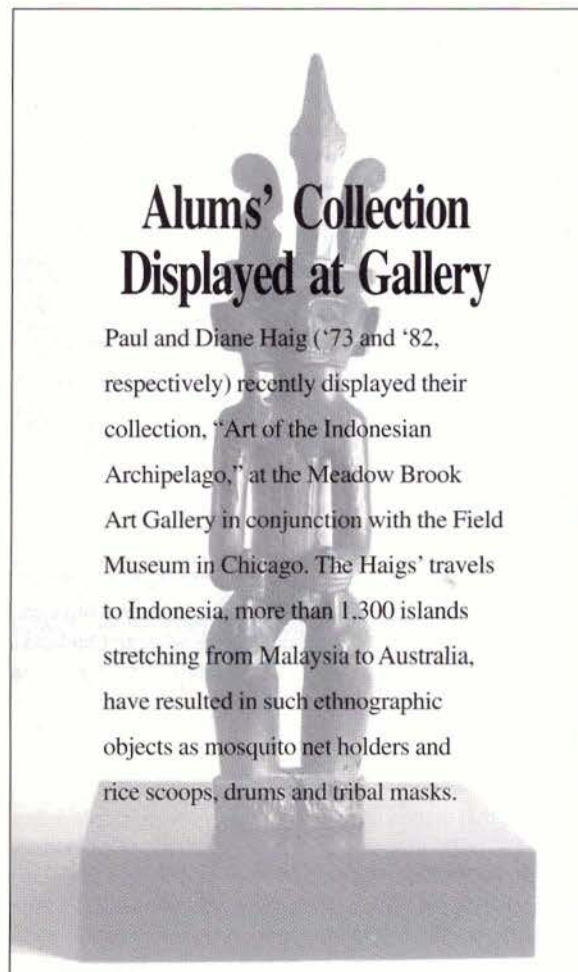
Russi is also lobbying for a new classroom building to accommodate Oakland's growing enrollment. Enrollment hit a record 13,165 in the fall and is expected to grow to 15,000 within several years.

Russi came to Oakland in July 1993 from Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, where he was vice president for research and strategic planning and a tenured professor of pharmacology and toxicology.

Packard, OU president from 1992-1995, left Oakland to become a senior fellow with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Washington, D.C.

Alums' Collection Displayed at Gallery

Paul and Diane Haig ('73 and '82, respectively) recently displayed their collection, "Art of the Indonesian Archipelago," at the Meadow Brook Art Gallery in conjunction with the Field Museum in Chicago. The Haigs' travels to Indonesia, more than 1,300 islands stretching from Malaysia to Australia, have resulted in such ethnographic objects as mosquito net holders and rice scoops, drums and tribal masks.



New Nursing Dean

Oakland's metropolitan location helped attract Justine J. Speer, the new dean for the School of Nursing. Speer took office January 3,

coming from the University of Louisville, where she had been dean and professor since 1984. "Health care is moving out of the hospitals and into the community," she says. "I see great opportunity for Oakland to develop a community-based curriculum to meet the growing needs of the diverse population of the Detroit metropolitan area. I believe Oakland is ready to move forward in ways other schools haven't been able to."





Leo Bowman, District Court Judge, records a 60-second radio spot for OU.

New Radio Ads Feature Successful Alums

Oakland alumni are on the air waves in a big way telling more than one million metropolitan Detroit radio listeners what an Oakland education has done for them. The "Partners in Success" radio campaign — running on the popular news station WWJ 950 AM and the '70s-music station Star 97 FM — is all part of a year-long promotional plan to build Oakland's image in the business/community, parent, and non-traditional-age student markets.

In each radio spot, alumni describe in their own words some of the experiences they had at Oakland that helped them become successful people today.

So far, radio listeners have heard from nine Oakland alumni: Jane Abraham, wife of new U.S. Senator, Spencer Abraham; Leo Bowman, a 50th District Court judge in Pontiac; Susan Cischke, general manager of all Chrysler Corporation scientific labs and proving grounds; Joe Davidson, a Wall Street Journal reporter covering the Justice and Immigration departments in Washington, D.C.; Marianne Fey, deputy general manager of McCann/SAS ad agency; Dr. Herman Glass II, owner and director of a chiropractic health center; Lisa Jesswein, a radio personality and comedienne who stars on Q95 FM radio with local funny man Dick Purtan; David Baker Lewis, chair and partner in a Detroit law firm; and Dr. Ken Whiteside, an emergency room physician in Flint and former Pioneer soccer star.

Fifteen different alumni "testimonials" are being planned for the campaign. The two stations (which are owned by the same company) were chosen for their audience reach and demographics, says Geoff Upward, director of publications, who is producing the commercials.

"The 'Partners in Success' radio ads are part of a long-term image-building campaign to get the name of the university out into the community," explains Upward. "The ads should bring us distinction in the marketplace. Not only do our alums make powerful statements reflecting the quality, variety and depth the university offers, but collectively they provide fresh ads and a reinforcing theme."

Along with successful alumni in the "Partners in Success" radio campaign, the university is airing a separate set of radio ads that feature current students on a variety of radio stations around the state.

Lisa Jesswein at her home station.



Construction on the Move

Construction is off to an earth-moving start for Oakland's new science and engineering complex, to be located behind Dodge and Hannah halls. Excavation to prepare the site for the new \$43 million, 186,465 square-foot structure began this spring. By this fall, the building's basic frame and skeleton will be in place, and by early 1997, the complex will be ready to open its doors.

Meanwhile, plans for the new Student Recreation and Athletic Center are on the move. Though still in the architectural planning stages, bonds will be issued later this year to help fund the \$37 million project, and alumni and other friends of the university will be put on a preferred purchase list. The center will have three main components: an athletic zone for varsity sports, a recreation zone and a "free zone" for offices, lounges and food service. Occupancy is expected in early fall 1998 or spring 1999.

And look for a new main entrance to welcome you to campus. By early June, a new low-rise wall with the university's name and logo should be complete, backed by new landscaping, including nearly 50 oak and evergreen trees.



Doyle '80 Named to Board of Trustees

David J. Doyle, a 1980 political science graduate of Oakland University, has been appointed by Governor John Engler to the university's Board of Trustees. He fills a seat vacated by Andrea Fischer Newman, who resigned in December to assume the office of regent at the University of Michigan.

Doyle, 36, of Okemos, is the former chair of the Michigan Republican State Committee. He was first elected to the two-year term at a statewide GOP precinct delegation convention in February 1991 then re-elected to the post in 1993 and served until February of this year.

"Dave Doyle brings with him a background that will serve the university well," said Governor Engler in making the appointment. "As an Oakland University alumnus, he has a wealth of knowledge about the university and will be a welcomed addition to the Board."

As a replacement to former Trustee Fischer Newman, Doyle's term to the university board will be effective through August 1998.

Summer Activities

Golf, golf, and more golf...

The **Charlie Gehringer Meadow Brook Memorial Golf Classic**, a tribute to the late, great second baseman Charlie Gehringer and fund-raiser for Meadow Brook Hall, will be held Monday and Tuesday, June 5-6, at Katke-Cousins Golf Course. For more information, call (810) 370-3140.

At 1 p.m. on Monday, July 10, President's Club members will gather at Katke-Cousins for the annual **President's Club Golf Outing**; 18 holes of "orange ball" golf and a reception/dinner will follow the shotgun start. Corporate and individual sponsors are needed to offset registration costs. Interested? Call (810) 370-2241.

The **20th Annual OUAA Golf Outing** will be held from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. the following Monday, July 17, at Katke-Cousins. Volunteers to help plan the event are needed; contact Alumni Relations, (810) 370-2158.

Music under the stars...

The first day of summer marks Meadow Brook Music Festival time; a full slate of popular artists will appear weeknights and weekends through Labor Day. Tickets are available



Concours d'Elegance

through the Meadow Brook Box Office or Arenas Associates, Inc., Auburn Hills. ***Elegant automobiles...***

Some 250 vintage cars and 14 car artisans will be featured at the **Concours d'Elegance**, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., August 6, at Meadow Brook Hall. The car show will be preceded by a fashion show by Oscar de la Renta on Friday, August 4; for more information, call (810) 370-3140.

New Artistic Director

Geoffrey Sherman has been named artistic director for Meadow Brook Theatre's 1995-96 season. He assumes his new duties in July.

Sherman was the producing artistic director of the Portland Repertory Theatre in Oregon. Prior to joining the Portland theatre in 1991,



Geoffrey Sherman

Sherman was the producing director of the Hudson Guild Theatre in New York City, and has worked as a guest director at several large American regional theatres. "We are delighted to have a producer and director of Geoffrey's stature bringing new artistic leadership to the Meadow Brook Theatre," Interim President Gary Russi said in announcing the new appointment.

Oakland Students Work for America Through the AmeriCorps Program

Forty Oakland University students are helping themselves by helping others through a new federally funded program called AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps offers a stipend and other benefits to workers, mostly college students, in exchange for 900 hours of community service.

At Madison Junior High in Pontiac two OU students, Christy Hicks and Ron Kelso, are earning money for their schooling by creating and supervising a conflict resolution program.

"It's been neat to see a program that was nothing, turn into something," says Hicks, an undergraduate majoring in secondary education.

tion.

"We're being utilized by teachers and students," she says. "They respect what we're doing. It frees teachers who don't have time to handle student conflict and neglect the rest of the class."

Hicks and Kelso do at least four or five interventions a day, negotiating settlements between kids involved in verbal or physical fights.

"The kids aren't equipped to solve conflicts," says Hicks. They recognize a need for this program. They just aren't socially adept

enough to deal with problems. Their whole social structure revolves around 'fronting somebody' ('fronting' is slang for confront-

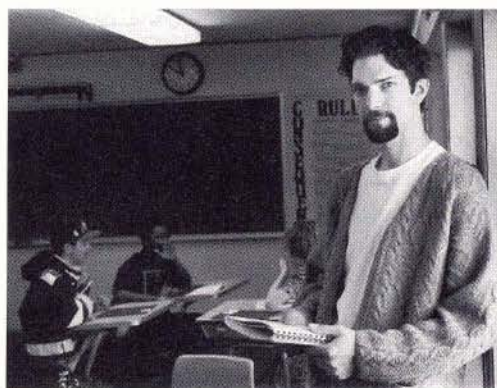
ing.)

"We helped a girl who might have been suspended for fighting. After working with us her punishment went down to a half day in-school detention."

But the program is more than just two college students popping in a few times a week to offer words of wisdom. Kelso and Hicks are also teaching junior high volunteers how to act as mediators for their peers.

Oakland is one of four Michigan colleges participating in the initial year of the \$376 million nationwide program. Participants in Michigan's AmeriCorps Oakland, are all full-time students earning a living wage.

As AmeriCorps participants, they will receive a lump sum of almost \$2,365 which can be used any time over the next seven years to cover educational costs (including



AmeriCorps participant Ron Kelso, a first-year engineering student.



Christy Hicks, an undergraduate majoring in secondary education.

loan repayments).

The main objective of all the Oakland-affiliated projects is to reduce violence and find alternatives to violence. The Boys and Girls Club of Pontiac, Lighthouse, the Sanctuary and Oakland County Probate Court are among the other organizations being served by the university students.

"When I heard about AmeriCorps I was sold," says Kelso, a first-year engineering major. "The opportunity to get out here, to work in the city and pay for my education was unbeatable."

The program they've created will go on after this year. And to show how strongly Hicks has become involved she says, "I've already put word in I want dibs on working here again."

— by Amy Parrent '78

Oakland on the Internet

On the Net? Log on to the OAK Software Repository, also known as the Oak Archive (oak.oakland.edu), computer host to more than 11,000 free software packages.

America Online, a major player on the Information Superhighway, has listed the repository — already tapped by some 2 million users monthly — as a featured site in its FTP (file transfer protocol) menu, ensuring its 1.5 million subscribers instant OAK access.

The OAK repository is maintained by the university's Academic Computer Service but serviced by the Coast to Coast Software Repository, Clarkston, Michigan.

Anyone with access to the Internet can now apply to any of Oakland's undergraduate or graduate programs via computer, plus receive screenfuls of other information about the university. On the Internet, you can find Oakland by typing <http://www.acs.oakland.edu>. Those using modems can call 810-370-4306 and follow these directions: at the prompt, enter c gopher; then at the login prompt, enter gopher; at the password, press the return key, and then select Oakland University from the main menu.



Swimmers Repeat as National Champs!

The Pioneer men's swimming and diving team won its second consecutive NCAA II championship by a wide margin over second-place Cal State-Bakersfield. The Oakland men earned a school record 890 points in winning its third all-time title.

Chris Zoltak, a junior from Tulsa, Oklahoma, was named NCAA II Male Swimmer of the Year. Zoltak won national titles in the 100 fly and 100 and 200 back, and was second in the 50 free.

Men's coach Pete Hovland earned Coach of the Year honors for the second year in a row at the national event, which was held mid March in Canton, Ohio. It was Hovland's fifth time winning the distinction in his career. He has also coached the NCAA II Swimmer of the Year seven times in his 14 seasons.

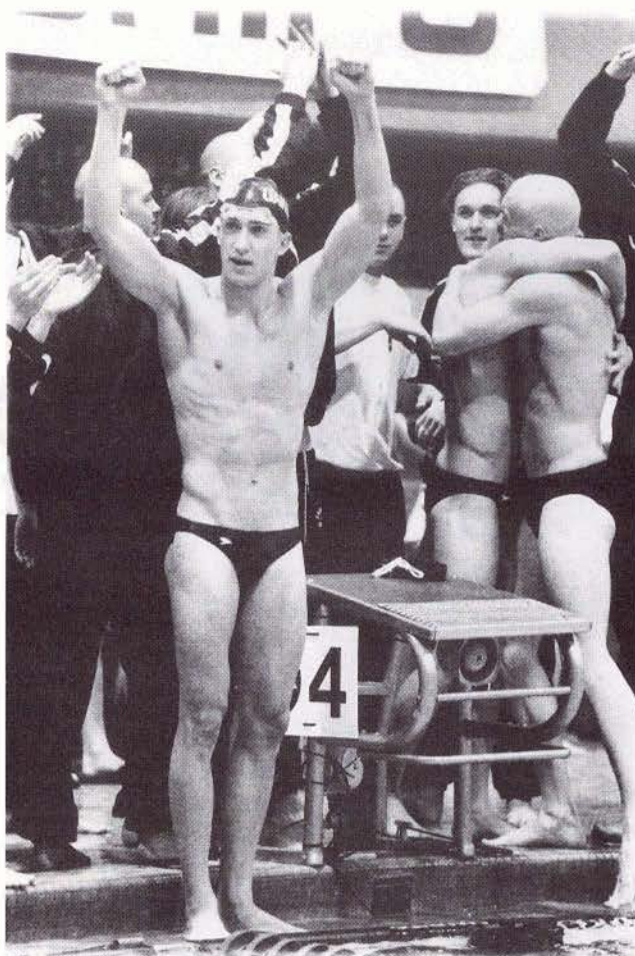
The women's swimming and diving team saw their streak of national championships end at five, finishing second to the Air Force Academy.

The women's basketball team made its second straight trip to the NCAA tourney. Oakland, seeded sixth in the Great Lakes Region, won three straight road games to capture the regional crown and advance to the "Elite Eight" after beating the co-champs of the Great Lakes Valley Conference (St. Joseph's, Indiana and Southern Indiana), before beating GLIAC champ Michigan Tech in the title game. Losing to perennial national champions North Dakota State in the quarterfinals, the Pioneers finished the season 22-9.

The Pioneer men's basketball team, who finished 20-8 and were runner-up in both the GLIAC regular and post-season tournaments, made their second trip to the

NCAA tourney, and their second in school history. The men lost the first round game to Quincy College.

The men's soccer team finished 18-2-2, earning its ninth straight NCAA tournament bid. The Pioneers made it to the Final Four in



Best in the land: Sophomore Ken Ehlen (above) celebrates a Pioneer victory in the final event, the 400 freestyle relay.

Tampa in December, beating defending national champion Seattle Pacific. Oakland lost in the championship game to host University of Tampa in overtime.

The women's soccer squad finished with a .500 record, in its first year, winning its last four matches.

Women's golf, also new, finished 6th of 13 at the Ferris State Invitational and 18th of 21 at the Michigan State Lady Spartan Springs Gold Rush Invitational.

Hall of Honor Grows

Tracey Jones Bearden '90, women's volleyball, 1985-88; John Stewart '94, men's soccer, 1985-88; and Ernie Maglischo, men's swimming and diving coach, 1979-81, received star billing at the Athletic Department's 30th Anniversary Hall of Honor Banquet held in February.

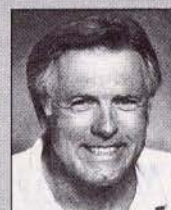
Oakland's first national champions — the 1980 men's swimming and diving team and 1990 women's swimming and diving team — were also honored at the event.



Bearden



Stewart



Maglischo

Men's golf placed first, second and third twice each in fall tournaments.

Women's tennis placed third in GLIAC dual matches and at the league meet.

Men's and women's cross country placed fifth at the GLIAC Championship meet, held at Oakland. Two runners, Tony Markel and Jim Haviland, were named Academic All-GLIAC.

Women's volleyball finished with an 18-12 overall record, placed fifth in GLIAC's upper division (11-7) and won the Colorado Springs Gold Rush Invitational.

Jane (Hershey)
Abraham '81
and U.S. Senator
Spencer Abraham
join forces
to fight
Michigan's
battles in
Washington



Honest Abraham

By Laura Arnsbarger



IN THE LATE '70S AND EARLY '80S OU's student newspaper, *The Oakland Sail*, frequently mentioned the name of student Jane Hershey. Hershey was politically active, and her interest in student politics was reflected in the titles that followed her name: vice-president, *Repolitik*; member, *University Congress*; president, *Repolitik*; member, *Republicans United*; and in 1980, president, *University Congress*. The newly elected Congress president said, "I have the enthusiasm and energy to deal with the problems facing Congress." Hershey's words may prove to be prophetic.

In January 1995 Hershey came back to OU, now as Jane Abraham '81, married to the recently-elected freshman senator from Michigan, Spencer Abraham. Abraham, who had taken the oath of office just the week before, was part of the great Republican sweep of last November's elections, a sweep motivated, according to *Newsweek* magazine, by "revolution and rejection of the politics we've known — Democratic Party politics." In her first extensive interview since her husband's election, Jane Abraham, 33, talked with OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE about politics, parenting and the role she played in her husband's campaign.

When did you first become interested in politics?

Right here at Oakland, during freshman orientation. Members from *Repolitik* introduced their group, and I was struck by it because it wasn't Republican or Democrat; it was nonpartisan and its goal was to show both sides of issues and try to bring candidates from both parties for forums and conferences. I became very involved in that organization, and then got involved in the Republican groups on campus and in student government.

Let's back up a bit; why Oakland University?

I grew up in Detroit, and my family moved to Warren when I was in high school. I'd skipped a grade in elementary school, so I was pretty young when I graduated — 16. My parents had anxieties about me going away to school, but I really wanted to go away. And we looked at all of the surrounding schools and I just fell in love with Oakland. It was very well-known in terms of academics — my high school counselor called it the "Harvard of the Midwest" — and it was close to home and it wasn't as large as U of M or MSU.

So in spite of mom and dad's trepidations, you lived on campus?

I did. And it was a wonderful experience. Oakland is unique, I think, because you've got a very diverse student body; students who live on campus for a traditional four-year experience with extracurricular activities and so forth, and people who are here as commuters — people who live in the community, older students, people who have families. It provides a melting pot that I think other universities don't provide. I loved

Oakland then and I do now. I received a terrific education, and the professors in public administration and political science — the areas I was interested in — were very good. They exposed me, on an academic level, to the area I found an interest in on a personal level.

That area, obviously, being politics.

Yes, through University Congress and some of the various clubs. When I graduated, I was Congress president, and the chairman of Oakland's Board of Trustees at that time



Spencer and Jane Abraham at the inauguration ceremony in Washington, D.C., with Vice President Al Gore.

was Dick Headlee, who was about to run for governor of the state of Michigan. I mentioned to him that I was interested in volunteering on his campaign, and before I knew it, I was a full-time employee in the campaign in one of the senior positions. That was my first political job, and after that I succeeded in getting other jobs that were of interest to me.

You also met a man who was of interest to you.

Yes. During Headlee's campaign — that was in 1982 — I met Spence Abraham. Little did I know I would one day be married to him!



So it wasn't one of those "love at first sight" things?

(Laughing) No, it wasn't! We became friends, and got to know each other a little bit during the campaign. Spence was the pollster for that campaign, and when Headlee lost, Spence decided to run for state chairman of the Republican party. He was elected in February of 1983. At that point I was working as a communications specialist for John Engler, who was the Senate Majority Leader. I'd only been working for the State Senate for a short period of time when Spence was elected chairman, and he — in a very convincing manner — talked to me about how critical the state party was, and how we were at a crossroads, and about his vision for rebuilding the party. He

wanted me to come work for him as his executive assistant, and I did. I worked for the state party and for Spence for six years as an employee and as a friend.

At some point you became more than friends.

Sometime during that process we both realized that we wanted it to be more. And so we became much closer than friends. And then I moved to Washington, to become the director of political education for the Republican National Committee.

And became, as they say, "geographically undesirable?"

Well, two months later, Spence proposed! I like to look back and say that absence does make the heart grow fonder. At least in my case, it did. Spence was still state chairman, and we decided that we were going to have a commuter marriage for the first couple of years. We were about to finalize the wedding date when the Vice President of the United States, Dan Quayle, called Spence out of the blue. Quayle's chief of staff had been looking for someone to serve as deputy chief of staff, and the chief of staff knew Spence from

his days at Harvard Law School. So they called Spence and asked if he'd ever dreamed of perhaps moving to Washington! He started about a week before we got married, in January of '90.

So now you were both busy politicians.

Spence continued in a volunteer capacity as the chairman of the party in Michigan, and after he left the White House he became co-chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee and was there for two years. I remained at the Republican National Committee and became deputy political director.

When did you make the decision that your husband would run for senator?

We decided to do this in the spring of '93. I was pregnant at the time, and we found out I was carrying twins, which was a happy surprise for us. But I was having some complications and I couldn't travel, so I was forced to stay in Washington and couldn't come to Michigan even when Spence came back to announce that he was running. The babies, Betsy and Julie, were born in June — they were six weeks early — and they were very small. I stayed in Washington until they were both in good physical condition, and I decided not to go back to work but rather to be a full-time mom and to help Spence.

What was your role in the Senator's campaign?

For a year and a half we devoted everything we had to this effort. We knew we needed to devote all of Spence's attention and my attention and the family's attention, because people needed to know us. People didn't know who Spence and Jane Abraham were. Spence had never run for public office before.

So you went from being a political force yourself to more of a support-type of role. Was that okay?

I thoroughly enjoyed it. During the campaign it meant a lot to me to be able to go out, meet with people, go to events, give speeches — on Spence's behalf. To be in a position to help elect my husband is an honor I never dreamed I'd have. I know Spence better than anybody else does, and his integ-

When I graduated, I was

Congress president, and the chairman of Oakland's Board of Trustees at that time was Dick Headlee, who was about to run for governor of the state of Michigan. I mentioned to him that I was interested in volunteering on his campaign, and before I knew it, I was a full-time employee in the campaign in one of the senior positions. That was my first political job, and after that I succeeded in getting other jobs that were of interest to me."

city and honesty are above reproach. And to know that someone like that is representing this state makes me feel wonderful. To be part of that process is very rewarding.

And perhaps very exhausting?

People asked me about the rigors of the campaign, but all I had to do was go home and look in Betsy and Julie's little eyes and realize it was worth it. What Spence is doing makes life better for them, and for other girls and boys. I think every parent wants to provide better for their children, and my husband has a unique opportunity to be able to do it in this way.

With the election behind you, what do you see in your future? Do you have your own political aspirations?

I don't have aspirations to run for public office myself. I've always enjoyed being in the process to elect good people that I trusted to office. As for the future — I'm still carving that out. ■

Laura Arnsbarger is a Troy-based freelance writer and OU readmit student majoring in Communication Arts.

Jane Abraham on...

Her upbringing: "Spence and I both grew up in very middle class families; both of our dads were UAW workers here in Michigan."

Her interest in politics: "In college, my friends would say, 'it's such an ugly process, there's so many crooks.' My attitude always — back then, and it's even stronger now — is, if good people like me aren't involved, then there will be bad people involved."

Favorite family activity: "We love to take the children with us and go to a local mall and eat in the food court. And we always get interrupted by people who come over to Spencer and want to talk to him. Fortunately, most people are respectful of your time together. I think most people understand that we want to be normal."

Oops: "I still go out in jeans and sweatshirts. Every once in awhile I regret that I've done that because I'll see somebody I wish hadn't seen me looking quite that normal!"

Second favorite family activity: "The best time of day was when Spencer would walk in the door at night and the girls would race over to him. He'd immediately drop his briefcase and coat and get down on all fours and start racing after them on his knees. The girls would start squealing and racing around — it would make the day complete."

Moving to Washington: "Our attitude is, Michigan is home and Washington is where Spencer works. When I was looking for a house to rent, I searched hard to find an area that reminded me of Michigan."

High point of her husband's inauguration: "After he was sworn in, Spencer turned to me from the Floor of the Senate and gave me a thumbs up. I just burst out in tears."

Their political goals: "Among others, changing Congress so that they have to live under the same rules we all do. A lot of them have been hypocrites over the years; they pass all these laws for all of us to live under, and then they exempt themselves!"

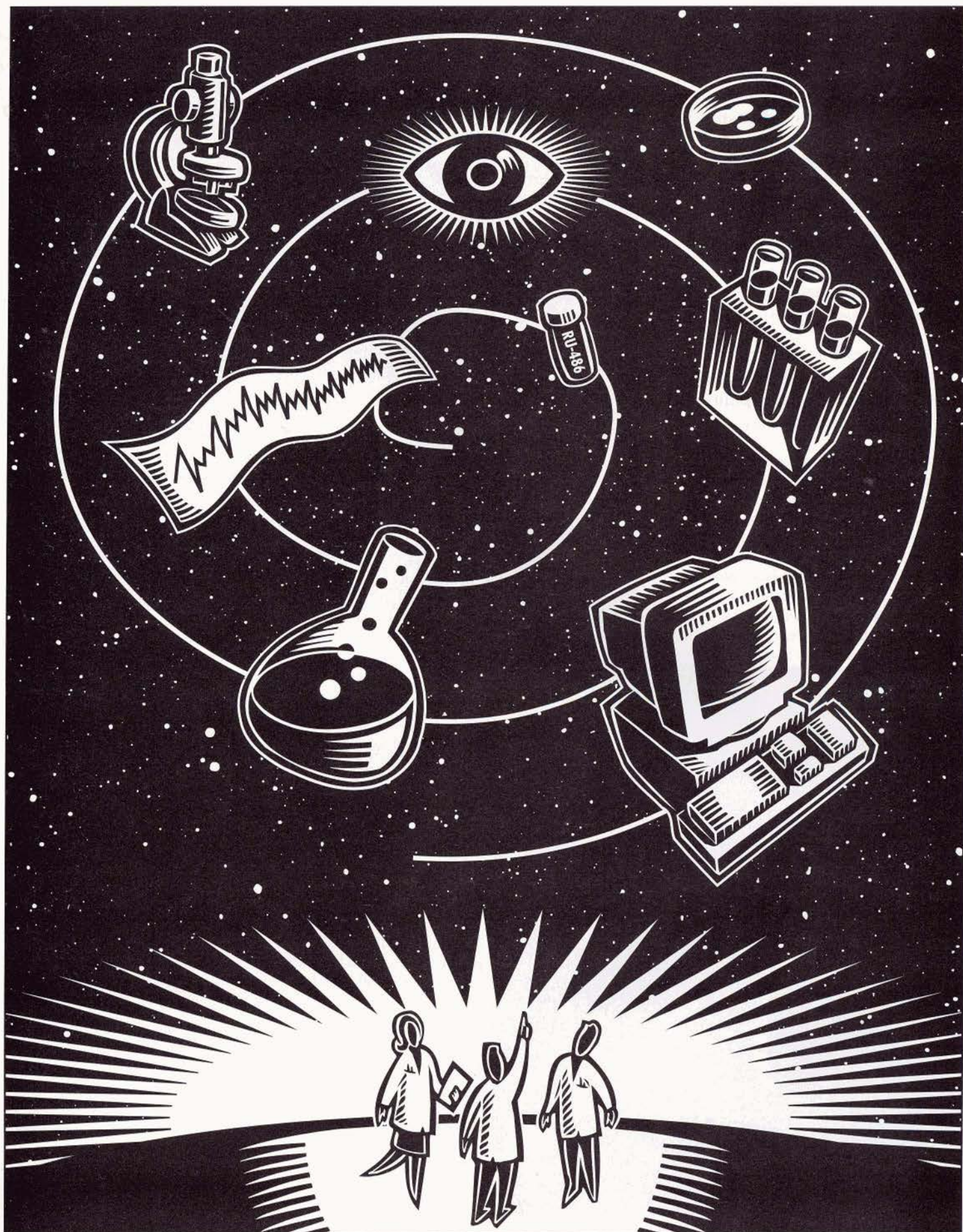
Their political future: "If things go well and the State of Michigan feels that Spence has done a good job, he's indicated that he would run for a second term, but not after that. He's a strong believer in term limits."

Political Positions held by Jane Abraham:

- Senior position in the Headlee campaign for Governor of Michigan.
- Communications specialist for John Engler (then senate majority leader)
- Executive assistant for the state Republican Party
- Director of political education for the Republican National Committee, Washington, D.C.
- Deputy political director for the Republican National Committee



Spencer and Jane Abraham with 18-month-old twins Julie and Betsy.



Working on the BIOMEDICAL FRONTIER

By Laura Arnsbarger

Compared to the output of the country's medical schools,
Oakland's activity in biomedical research is little known.
But you may be surprised at the results.

*"I'd like people to realize
what's going on at Oakland.
Not only the variety of things
that are happening but the
quality of what goes on. And
the real interest in the commu-
nity that is being expressed."*

— Brian Goslin, Ph.D.

*"In science the credit goes to the
man who convinces the world, not
to the man to whom the idea first
occurs."*

— Sir William Osler (1849-1919)

SOMEDAY, THE CAR YOU DRIVE may be safer — and more comfortable — because of biomedical research done at Oakland University by physical therapist Kornelia Kulig, Ph.D.

Biomedical research?
Oakland University?

A stroke victim may have a clearer prognosis of his rehabilitation potential. A woman suffering from migraines may at last find relief. A resident of Bombay, India may be vaccinated against elephantiasis.

Infertile couples, women with breast cancer, baby boomers developing age-related eye diseases, the chronically ill and even the chronically lazy; people in southeastern Michigan and all over the world have — or may, one day, have — healthier, happier lives because of the dedication and determination of Oakland researchers.

Though Oakland University does not have a medical school, the scope of biomedical research at Oakland is vast, and varied. It may focus on a single cell in a petri dish, or a single woman in Pontiac. It may involve equipment as complex as a million-dollar Neuromagnetometer, or as simple as a blood-pressure cuff. But what it involves

above all else is people — creative, curious, committed people — and those, Oakland has in abundance.

This is not widely known.

"We're better known across the country than across southeastern Michigan," says David Downing, Ph.D., acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "It's frustrating."

"Some people characterize our institution as a light under a bushel," agrees interim president and vice president for academic affairs Gary Russi, Ph.D., "We're going to remove that bushel. We need to talk about our strengths and what's really happening here."

So, what is happening here? In terms of medical research, a great deal.

"We do very, very well for an institution without a medical school," states Donald McCrimmon, Ph.D., director of grants, contracts and sponsored research, and adjunct professor of biological sciences, though the total funding, McCrimmon adds, is "modest." How modest? Consider this.

In fiscal '94, the 126 allopathic medical schools in the United States were awarded 4.3 billion dollars by National Institutes of

Illustration by Kyle Raetz

Health — a major source of funding for biomedical research. Johns Hopkins — a university with a medical school — received \$187 million. Harvard — also a university with a medical school — received \$77 million. Oakland University, in contrast, received \$2.8 million.

Modest indeed.

"We're very good at making do with what we've got," says McCrimmon. "And we've got a very able faculty."

And therein lies the story.

Grueling road

The research road often leads to results and rewards — but that road has plenty of bumps in it as well. "Research is very grueling," says Sheldon Gordon, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences at Oakland University and adjunct associate professor of biomedical sciences. "You walk into the lab, you have students. You help your students, advise them and guide them. You have to keep up on the literature. You write papers; there are grants to write, sometimes grants to review. We have committee meetings to attend and courses to teach. Some people in medical schools will give ten or less lectures per year. Here, we're talking about 45 lectures in one semester. Plus office hours — they don't do that in medical schools. It takes a tremendous effort and a lot of dedication on the part of the faculty to do this type of research."

It also takes a tremendous amount of money, money that is in ever-dwindling supply. Gordon, who is president of Oakland's chapter of Sigma Xi, a scientific research society with 100,000 members nationally, says, "Research persists here at Oakland despite the lack of research dollars that exist today as opposed to 15 years ago. It's very impressive that we've been able to hire faculty who have had the commitment to do this and have persevered when the funding is bad. The contributions that people make



are very strong."

Though Gordon admits that research volume at Oakland is not on the level of that done at a university with a medical school, the researchers certainly are. "It's not that we're limited in talent, it's that we're limited in resources." Gordon lauds the dedication and professionalism of the Oakland faculty, and offers this explanation: "It's a personal commitment that we have. We got into this because it's the thing that interests us. All of us could go home at 5 o'clock. But we don't." And though the hours are long, the money short and the breakthroughs sometimes seem few and far between, the work, says Gordon, does have its rewards.

"Doing the research helps you become a better teacher. And doing the teaching makes you a better researcher."

Every hospital has one

Oakland's Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute offers a shining example of the university's unusually strong research and teaching focus. The institute, part of the School of Health Sciences, offers programs addressing disease prevention and health promotion, according to Fred Stransky, Ph.D., director of the institute, including "one of the first programs of rehabilitation for cardiac patients in the state of Michigan."

When Stransky introduced the concept to local hospitals 14 or 15 years ago there was little interest, except at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac, where he started a joint program. Today, almost every hospital has one.

The Institute also offers its Primary Prevention Program — an extensive evaluation that helps healthy people avoid disease — along with programs for diabetic health, women's health, nutrition, weight control, stress management, and smoking cessation.

"Promotion and prevention are the largest areas of our interest," says Brian Goslin, Ph.D., an associate professor of exercise science at the School of Health Sciences. "If you can prevent the problem from occurring in the first place, then society as a whole is going to be significantly better off." Goslin, an associate professor of exercise science at the School of Health Sciences, divides his time between research, teaching graduate courses in exercise science and physical therapy, and assisting with the education that goes on at the institute — including leading the exercise programs.

"I believe strongly in what we do. And I think it would be wrong if I didn't involve myself in an active way in the clinical application of exercise science. I think it's important to be involved on the front lines."

"Probably the biggest effect of being physically active is not so much that you'll live longer — though you probably will — but that you'll live a lot better and have a lot more functional capability for much, much longer." Goslin, his students and other faculty in the exercise science program are carrying this message into the community, to corporate settings and to Henry Ford Hospital, site of a joint research program. "What I'd like people to know is that Oakland is at the leading edge of a lot of what is happening in clinical application of exercise knowledge. And I'd encourage people to inquire of us whether they can be involved in it."



"I love what I do; it's a concept I believe so strongly in. There's no down side to it. People can only feel better as a result of implementing the lifestyle recommendations we make."

— Fred Stransky, Ph.D.

"Life is not merely being alive, but being well." — Martial (c. A.D. 66)

Breaking the cycle

Another "leading edge" program that is benefitting the community was set up under the guidance of Mary Lou Wesley, adjunct instructor at Oakland's School of Nursing. Working with a team from St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac, Wesley has developed a community-based nursing care management program focusing on people who are, as she describes them, "chronically ill middle-aged people who fall through the cracks. They don't have a lot of social support or financial support, and they end up in the hospital or cycling through the emergency room every one to two months."

"What we wanted to do was see if we could break that cycle by teaching patients to take care of themselves a little better, and to access physicians and health care resources more appropriately." The process may also involve consulting with dietitians and pharmacists."

Wesley cites a Pontiac resident — the first patient in this program — as a success story. "She's in her mid-40's, a diabetic, has kidney failure, congestive heart failure and other multiple organ problems related to her diabetes. She hasn't worked for years. She's extremely poor; she's on Medicaid, welfare, food stamps. She was just a disaster when we got her."

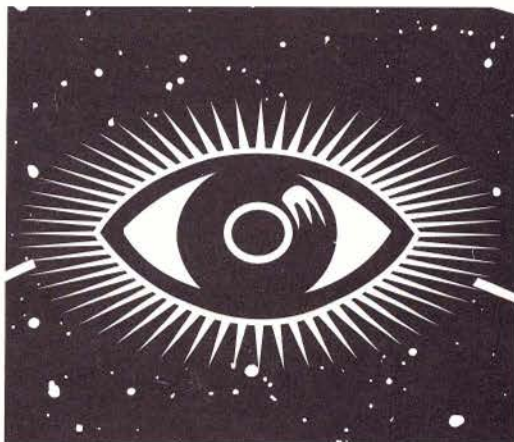
"Now, this lady is in great shape. She is going to get a kidney transplant, and she's starting to do some volunteer work — the first real work she's done in years — because she feels well enough. And she's planning to get married in June. Her whole life has been turned around." Wesley hopes that this program — the only one of its kind in Michigan — will demonstrate the need for expanded, and state supported, community-based nursing care. "It's really made a difference — this little group we have."

"We absolutely are moving out into the community, because that's where health care

is going," concurs Carol Zenas, Ph.D., associate professor of nursing and former acting dean of Oakland's School of Nursing. "We don't want our nurses to think of themselves as hospital nurses; they're going to be community nurses, and they're going to be go-getters."

To help reach that goal, Oakland's School of Nursing has joined its research forces with several major area hospitals' clinical expertise. OU faculty and hospital staff look, says Zenas, "at small problems but problems that have significant impact on the cost of health care and the recidivism of patients, and help nurses to devise research designs that can test these things out."

One such study looked at average size blood pressure cuffs and the possibility of getting false high readings when used on someone whose arm was quite heavy and/or muscular. "We found that we can use a larger size cuff on all patients and not intro-



duce any error into the average or healthy population, and reduce errors significantly in the muscular or obese population." And while the use of larger blood pressure cuffs is not universal — change is very, very difficult," admits Zenas — such studies demonstrate the creativity, curiosity and commitment that have earned Oakland, and its researchers, the designation of "world class."

Can you read this?

Obviously, you can. So you are able to do something millions of people cannot, because they are visually impaired.

There are many causes of visual impairment, and many problems that result. The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness estimates that surgery, hospitalization, compensation and work loss relating to vision disorders cost the United States more than \$15 billion annually. Add to that the physical and emotional hardship — the inability to simply *read* — and you have a formidable problem.

That problem has an equally formidable opponent: Oakland University's Eye Research Institute. Since opening its doors in 1968, the ERI has performed breakthrough studies on cataracts, glaucoma, retinal detachment and other blinding eye diseases. Under the leadership of director Venkat Reddy, Ph.D., the institute staff seeks ways to prevent, delay and reverse vision disorders, and lays the groundwork for new nonsurgical treatments.

The work of the ERI — the only major eye research facility in the country not associated with a medical school, is not just confined to laboratory research. In collaboration with the Department of Ophthalmology at William Beaumont Hospital, which is affiliated with the Institute, a major clinical trial is currently underway concerning age-related eye diseases. In this landmark, 10-year, multicenter national study, the first to track the natural history of age-related eye diseases, 450 Michigan senior citizens are recruited into and followed during a ten-year period for changes in cataract development and macular degeneration. According to Dr. Raymond Margherio, chief of ophthalmology at Beaumont and a clinical professor of biomedical sciences at the institute, the study will determine if vitamins and nutrients can have a positive effect on, and perhaps even prevent, age-related eye disease.

"Aging is something we can't control,"



"A lot of the research activity takes place at night ... people who stay up half the night in Dodge and Hannah Halls doing this kind of research, but you don't see them." — Donald McCrimmon, Ph.D.

"... an exceptional mind combined with the gift of synthesis and poetic conjuncture which was the mark of a true scientist ..."

— Barbara Chase-Riboud, The President's Daughter

says Margherio, "but we can control diet and nutrition. If we can improve treatments by giving people better vision for longer periods of time, we can offer a better quality of life."

Leading the world

Norman Tepley, Ph.D., and chair of Oakland's Department of Physics is often listed as director of the medical physics program. Tepley, however, prefers the phrase "physics applied to medicine" over the phrase "medical physics."

"Basically, the laws of physics are the laws that govern essentially everything. We're using physics techniques to analyze particular problems in medicine, and using the techniques of an experimental physicist or theoretical physicist to make some contribution in understanding medical problems."

"Some contribution" may be understating the research done by the Oakland University/Henry Ford Hospital research group (that is leading efforts to better understand migraine headaches) and similar medical physics collaborative programs at William Beaumont and Sinai Hospitals.

"We have also become the world leader in measuring neuromagnetic fields that change very slowly in time," Tepley says. There's a huge variety of clinical information hiding in these slowly varying fields. There are magnetic fields associated with stroke, head trauma injury, epilepsy and a variety of other pathological conditions."

The results of Tepley's research may lead to improvements in instrumentation, the creation of new computer programs for analyzing data and even provide useful prognostic information. "That is, whether a victim of stroke or head trauma is going to recover function or not. That becomes a very, very important issue when you're concerned about things like the cost of health care. It would be useful for both the patient and family to know the extent to which he or she can be rehabilitated."

Oakland's collaborative labs offer graduate students the opportunity to work with state-of-the-art instruments and each hospital's research physicians. "These are three of the very prominent research hospitals in the world," Tepley states. "It's an exciting opportunity for our students, and it's an exciting opportunity for the hospitals because our people have proven to be very valuable to those institutions. They value us and we value them."

The world at large values Oakland's grads as well. "Our Ph.D.'s are in high demand, getting very good jobs. So far every Ph.D. we've turned out has had a job offer before leaving Oakland. Education is our most important mission, and our students are a product that we're very proud of."

Spreading the wealth

That pride is shared by Virinder Moudgil, Ph.D., chair, Department of Biological Sciences. Moudgil can speak at length about the wide variety of biomedical research being conducted by his department and at Oakland's Institute for Biotechnology and Biochemistry, including fertility regulation; hormone dependent breast cancers; cataract formation; cardiovascular activities; the development of a vaccine against elephantiasis; and hormonal regulation of immunity. Then ask him about his students.

"That's my favorite area to speak about."

And not just his Oakland students. Every summer, students from local high schools work in Moudgil's lab, conducting experiments, observing, getting first-hand experience and "an appreciation of the fact that they see us struggle to get one experiment to work. This gives them a sense of tolerance, a sense of patience and it helps them understand that if they were to go into this type of work, then this type of discipline has to be there." At the end of the summer the students give a presentation and summarize their experience, and some of these students, says Moudgil, have gone on to medical

school. "It gives you such pride about the students' accomplishments and the feeling that you were a small part of their growth."

That pride extends to Moudgil's Oakland students: "Pick the name of any big city, and there is someone working and contributing there who got his or her training in our labs. A great number of our students are physicians in this community. There are many students who are now professors like us, and they go back to the community and start training more students, and you feel that the cycle has restarted. Many students are now researchers and medical technologists working at Beaumont Hospital and Henry Ford and Crittenton, so this is another service that we provide to our community.

"If someone asks, what have you accomplished that you are most proud of, I would have to say — our students."

From the rooftops

Offering a better quality of life — through outstanding education, research and public service — has been the mission of Oakland University since its founding in 1959. Thirty years after its founding, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools cited Oakland as a "model university for the 21st century." *U.S. News & World Report* has rated Oakland University 17th in academic reputation among the 119 top Midwestern regional colleges and universities for 1995.

Like the significant contributions in medical research, though, these distinctions are not widely known.

"I think there is some notion," says Gary Russi, "that we're doing a great job, we continue to do a great job, but it's not really necessary for us to talk about it. We've been very silent in general as an institution.

"That's going to change." ■

Laura Arnsbarger, is a Troy-based freelance writer and OU readmit student majoring in Communication Arts.



"When you see students grow and go on to make better lives for themselves and for society, then you can sit back and really take delight and pride that you were a small part of their growth."

— Virinder Moudgil, Ph.D.

"I touch the future. I teach" — Anonymous

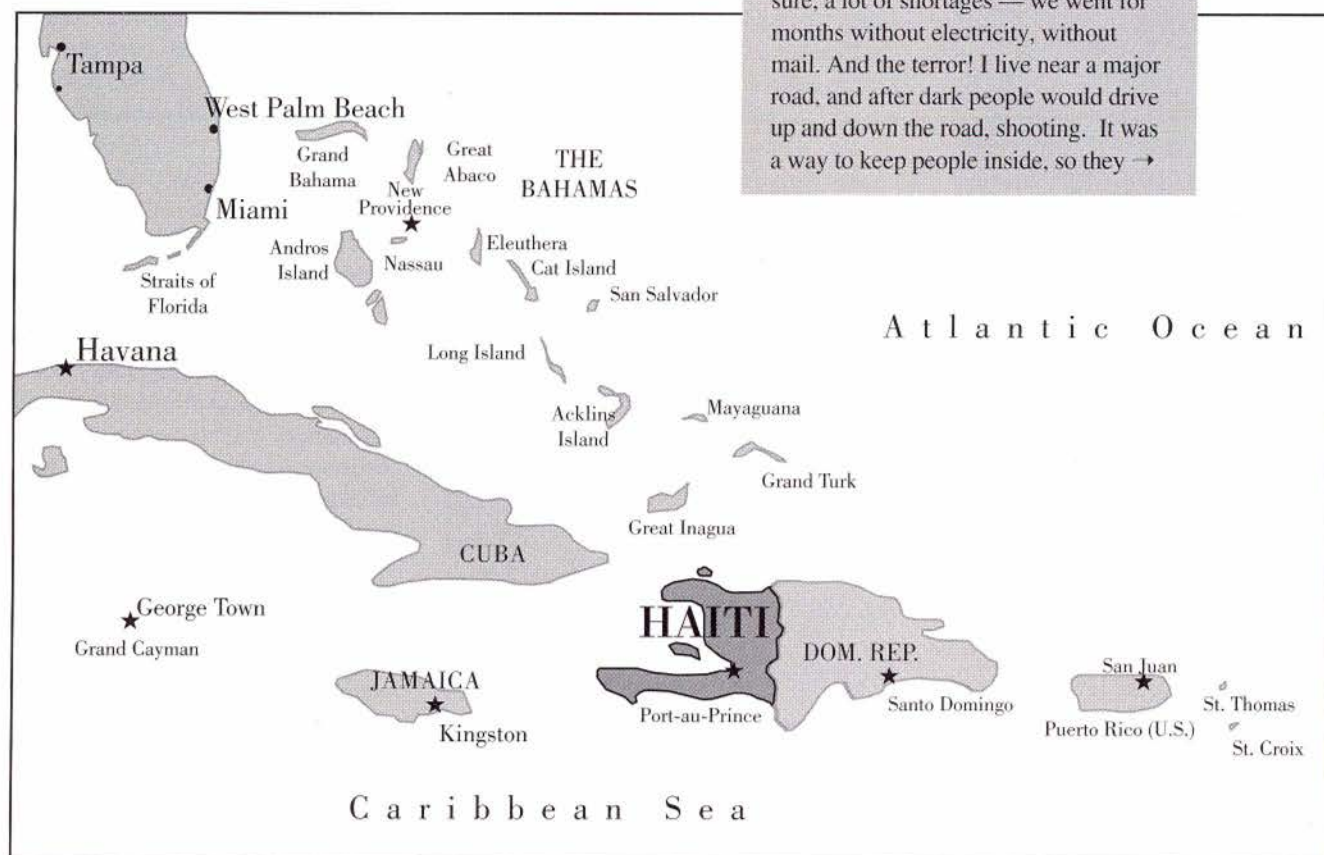
The Coups Chronicles

Living in Haiti...and loving it.

By Laura Arnsbarger

SHELAGH O'Rourke '76 LIVES in Haiti. Probably not a country on most people's lists of Top Ten Places I'd Like to Live.

"I've been there for every coup. I've been there for everything except this last flood. This past year, until the invasion, was a terrible year. A lot of pressure, a lot of shortages — we went for months without electricity, without mail. And the terror! I live near a major road, and after dark people would drive up and down the road, shooting. It was a way to keep people inside, so they →

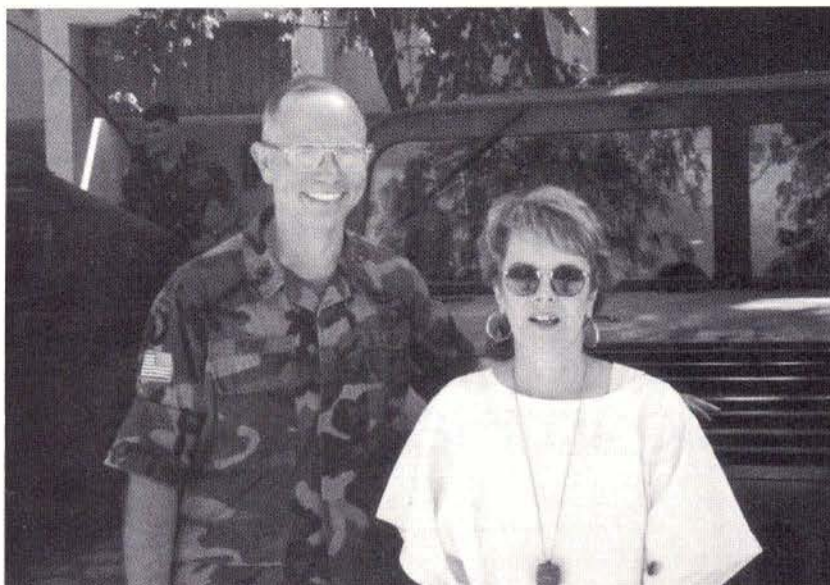


weren't out hatching plots. And in the morning there'd be bodies found..." Was that last year the worst time of Shelagh's life?

No, from 1968 to 1970, Shelagh lived in Zaire, in central Africa. "Zaire was much scarier than anything I went through in Haiti. The second night I was there we were held up by armed guys-guys that raped two women and killed a man in our neighborhood that night. The American embassy gave us pistols to protect ourselves." Surely that was the worst time in Shelagh's life?

No. Shelagh's worst time happened right here in the good, old U. S. of A., when she was a divorced, single mother with two teenagers, "trying to run a house, work two jobs and go to school, full time. It was a nightmare. A *nightmare*. Poverty and work. God, I was poor."

But it was that worst time that led to Shelagh's best time—living and working in Haiti for the past thirteen years. After completing her master's degree and course work for her doctorate at Harvard, she landed a job through the Harvard Center for Population Studies. "A group called MISEREOR was supporting an organization in Haiti that promoted natural family planning methods, and they wanted an evaluation done of the organization and how the methods were working. I thought there were all sorts of interesting behavioral questions around doing this piece of work, and I could probably get a dissertation out of it." She had no qualms about packing up her children and her life and moving to Haiti; she'd spent time there as the wife of a member of the State Department in



Shelagh O'Rourke '76 with General Jim Peake, U.S. Army Medical Director of the United Nations international peace-keeping force in Haiti, after a tour of public health projects in the Port-au-Prince area.

1974, then on an OU alumni grant in 1976, and again in 1980 for vacation. "I spoke the language—Haitian Creole—and I really liked Haiti; I'm terribly attracted to the country. It's beautiful, despite all its problems. The people are wonderful, hard working and law-abiding. There are some real crumbs that have kept the country under their thumbs for a long time and have done some horrible things, but they're not the majority.

"Plus, for a social scientist it's such an intriguing place. I mean, here's little Haiti. Essentially monolingual, Christian, with a population of six to seven million. It's not

"...the people who were being tortured—were Haitians that were perceived as being in some way political. Being political meant doing things like teaching adult literacy or organizing kids to play sports."

India, it's not immense. So you think, if things can sort of be moved around and done correctly, Haiti should be the place you could do it. It's like a siren call that's very, very loud for social scientists."

But how did Shelagh O'Rourke of Sylvan Lake, Michigan, evolve into Shelagh O'Rourke, social scientist in Haiti?

Her first step was enrolling in the charter class at OU (then MSU-O) in 1959. She remembers, "It was very small: North Foundation, South Foundation and the Wilson building. That was it. But it sounded like it was going to be a really exciting place, and it was! It

was a very liberal education in the best sense of the word. It was also rough, very rough. But I've always felt that my education at Oakland has served me very, very well."

Shelagh attended Oakland for three years, then dropped out because "I wanted to act. I moved to San Francisco and worked with theatre groups there, and later in Chicago. It probably was the right thing for me to do at that time, though I always felt it gnawing at me—that I just had this one year to go and didn't finish." Before Shelagh did return and complete her degree in anthropology in 1976, she'd married, had a family, lived in Australia, Africa, New Haven, Connecticut, Washington, D.C. and Haiti, and gotten divorced. After graduation came Harvard and the aforementioned "worst of times."

Now, of her life, Shelagh says, "I'm happy. And I love what I'm doing." After the research job she did consulting work for UNICEF and the World Health Organization, worked for CARE, and she's now a private contractor with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the Health, Population and Nutrition division. "AID is the biggest actor in public health in Haiti. My particular specialty is reproductive health though I've never seen my job as just getting contraceptives out there. I want a woman to think about her reproductive goals, what she wants in her life. If you help a woman think about all that, you're empowering, you're raising her consciousness, you're doing education and you're doing democ-

racy." Difficult goals in a country described as one of the most densely populated, and least developed, in the Western hemisphere.

And least advantaged. "One of the ways women survive is by having a number of children by a number of different men. If a woman has five kids by five different men, four guys will have nothing to give her but maybe the fifth one will. It's frowned on, but people understand it's a survival strategy." Shocking? Perhaps. Perhaps not. "Of all women in the U.S. age 15 to 49 at risk for pregnancy, only 60% use contraceptives. That's a contraceptive prevalence about the same as Mexico. So we should not be pointing the finger."

In spite of the difficulties, Shelagh is adamant about the value of the USAID program. "You hear a lot about how your tax dollar is wasted. I'm here to tell you that what we do with our tax dollars in Haiti in terms of health is very, very well spent. There are good people doing good things as cheaply and creatively as possible." And making a difference, though at times it must seem like an uphill battle, especially when the media focuses on Haiti's dark side, as in one recent newspaper article:

"The Chancery gynecological and obstetrics center in Port-au-Prince is a place of chance — and death...Flies are everywhere...screams of pain are constant...there have been reports of women who cannot afford \$70 for a procedure, dying in the hallways."

"Haiti is a public health...challenge," she admits.

Haiti is a challenge — period. "I figured it out once. We were having a coup — or an attempted coup — something like every nine months for a while. But it wasn't until the coup d'état in September of '91 that I felt in danger — and for me, not all that much. The people who were affected — people who were disappearing, the people who were being tortured — were Haitians that were perceived as being in some way political. Being political meant doing things like teaching adult literacy or organizing kids to play sports. These were people who wanted change, who weren't content with the status quo. Their lives became nightmares."

Haiti has a bleak past, but perhaps a brighter future now that (as of this writing)

democracy has been restored. "I'm guardedly optimistic. For the first time in my life, I was for an invasion. Funny, for somebody who was arrested during a Viet Nam protest. It was a real about-face for me. But I think we were morally obligated to do something, and we did it."

"Before, there was no chance. The 'haves' and the corrupt people were in control and there was no way things were going to change. Absolutely zip, zilch, zero. If there is a chance for Haiti, I think it's going to be because of this."

Coups, corruption, death in the streets. Perhaps not the life Shelagh O'Rourke envisioned when she enrolled for that first semester at MSU-O back in 1959, but it's a life she's met head on. "I had such good preparation at OU. It was a wonderful environment that opened up all kinds of worlds I never knew existed. And the Anthro department has such great people, incredible pros with international reputations like Judith Brown and Peter Bertocci."

"I feel a debt of gratitude to OU. I still use what I learned there — probably every day."

Shelagh is back in Haiti now, and not missing our Michigan winters one bit. She lives in a 50-year-old mahogany house with louvered doors and windows and a gallery on the ground floor. "The inside and outside flow together, so I can live outside -- a lot," The house is in the mountains overlooking Port-au-Prince, the sparkling, turquoise Caribbean Sea, those lush, tropical forests ... Hmmm. Maybe Haiti *should* be on that list of Places I'd Like to Live, after all.

Shelagh makes regular visits back to see her mother in Sylvan Lake, her brother and sister in Rochester, her daughter in Montreal and her son in Boston. And she writes letters — long ones. "I call them the 'Coup Chronicles'," she laughs. But for the present — and the future — Shelagh will continue to follow Haiti's siren call. "Professionally, I could not ask for a more exciting, productive environment. That's why I've stayed there, and that's why I'll probably always go back."

"Haiti is a country people love or hate. And if they love it, they become addicts. Like me." ■

Laura Arnsbarger is a Troy-based freelance writer and OU readmit student majoring in Communication Arts.

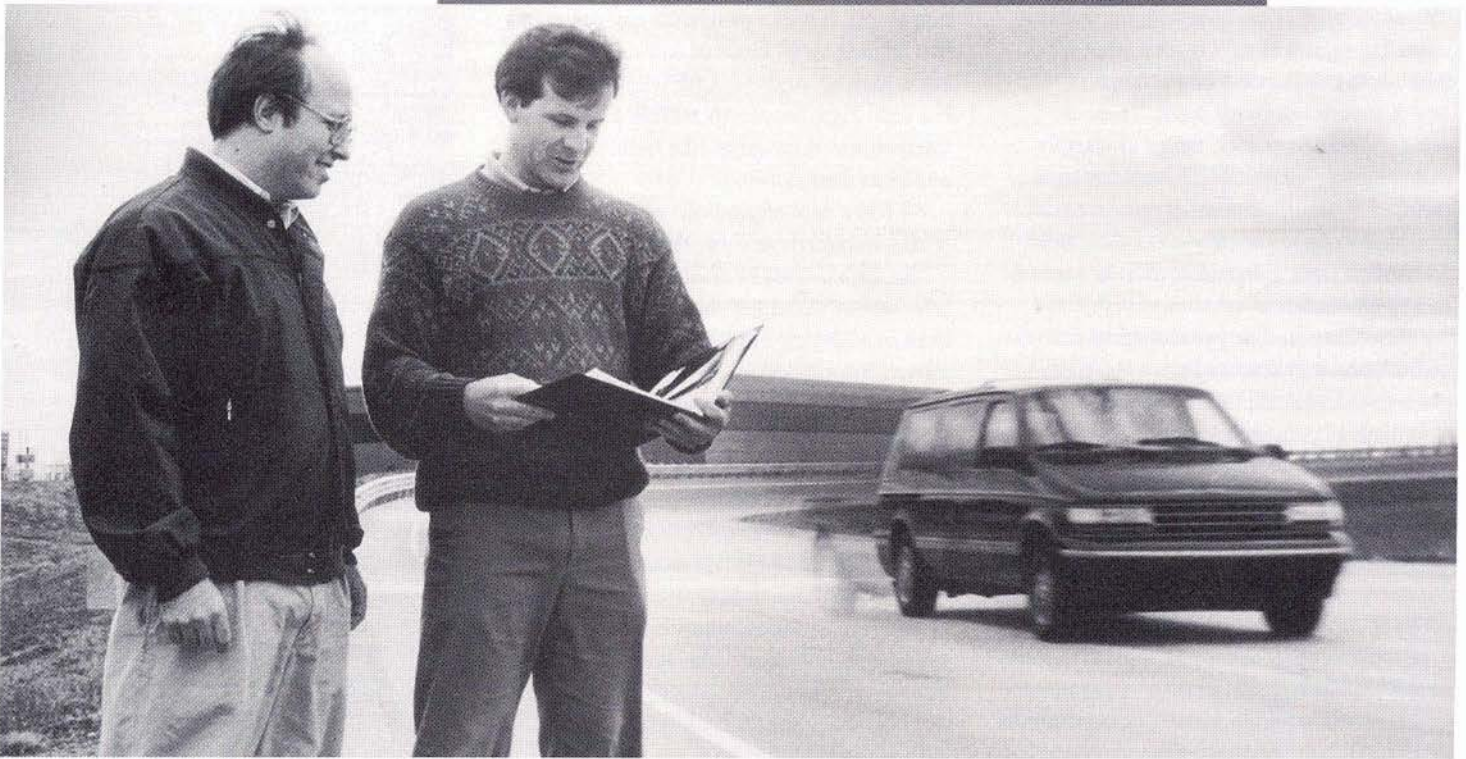


"I'm terribly attracted to the country. It's beautiful, despite all its problems. The people are wonderful, hard working and law-abiding. There are some real crumbs that have kept the country under their thumbs for a long time and have done some horrible things, but they're not the majority."

SCIENCE

FRICTION

BY NANCY RYAN



Gary Barber (left) and Don Hillebrand '84 at the Chrysler Tech Center test track.

OAKLAND RESEARCHERS ARE
FINDING WAYS TO SAVE RESOURCES
BY REDUCING
AUTOMOTIVE ENGINE WEAR

IMAGINE . . . ENGINES THAT USE lubricants more efficiently, burn less oil and emit fewer emissions . . . automobiles that run for at least 200,000 miles . . . the savings to our pocketbooks and natural resources that such improvements would entail.

Imagine . . . the world of tribologist Gary Barber, an associate professor of mechanical engineering at Oakland University, and the graduate students who share his enthusiasm.

Although applicable to anything with sliding parts, tribology* is most closely associated with automotive research and development. By extending the life of such engine components as cylinders, pistons and valves, Barber and his associates hope to make tomorrow's engines — and hence tomorrow's automobiles — last longer and run cleaner.

One of the most exciting aspects of his research involves the development of laboratory machines that simulate the tribological behavior of engine components.

"We lose a certain amount of energy to friction," explained Barber, a member of the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineering and associate editor of *Lubrication Engineering* magazine. "If we could reduce friction by a couple of percentage points, we could end up saving society a tremendous amount of money."

Prior to joining Oakland's faculty in 1991, Barber worked as a senior technology engineer at the Detroit Diesel Corporation, where he made tribological improvements to diesel engines.

Since coming to Oakland, he has served as a consultant to Dana Corporation, General Motors Research, General Motors Powertrain, Suncoast Chemical and Synmatix, as well as an adviser to a number of graduate students working on master's and doctoral theses related to tribology.

Alumnus and doctoral student Don Hillebrand '84 and '87 is one such student. Hillebrand was the first Oakland student to receive a DeVlieg Graduate Fellowship for Mechanical Engineering Education, funded by the DeVlieg Foundation to help foster improvements in American manufacturing.

A senior engineer in Vehicle Development at the Chrysler Technology Center in Auburn Hills, Hillebrand, first graduated

from Oakland in 1984. He received his M.S. in engineering from Oakland three years later through the Chrysler Institute Program.

Under the supervision of Barber, himself a DeVlieg Fellow while at the University of Michigan in the early 1980s, Hillebrand is investigating "the tribological effect of plateau honing in a machining process." His thesis, "The Effect of Surface Topography on Lubrication," involves determining if all of the honing and finishing operations currently done to machine a modern engine are necessary.

"The engine manufacturing process is the result of 100 years of trial and error," Hillebrand explained. "This project looks intensely at one portion of that manufacturing process and applies tribological principles to improve its efficiency. The goal is to prove that many of the time-consuming finishing operations currently used in engine manufacturing are unnecessary."

"Minor changes in the procedure could result in a 60 percent time savings — and in manufacturing, time is money. If we could save five cents per bore, with six bores per engine and approximately 10 million engines per year, it would add up to a \$3 million cost savings."

In September, Hillebrand will take his expertise in tribology to Washington, D.C., where he will fulfill a one-year fellowship through the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Through the fellowship — sponsored by ESD: The Engineering Society and approved by both Oakland and Chrysler — Hillebrand will work on the Partnership for the New Generation of Vehicles, a presidential directive designed to link the departments of Commerce and Energy with the Big Three.

"I'm looking forward to picking up on how government is put together and then relaying this information back to the students," said Hillebrand, who also teaches engineering laboratory courses at Oakland.

Yushu Wang, a post-doctoral engineering student at Oakland, is currently participating with Barber in a \$39,000 guided-research project at Eaton Corporation's Engine Components Division in Marshall, Michigan. Wang's "assignment," which began in November 1994 and will conclude in November 1995, is to analyze the wear of engine valves and to help develop and test materials with increased wear resistance, such as valve materials containing solid lubricants.

"We have the experience with the fundamentals to explain why the problem is occurring, whereas the focus in industry is on the product and satisfying the customer," Wang explained.

Wang and Barber's research is a continu-

ation of master's thesis work previously performed for Eaton Corporation, an automotive components supplier, by four graduate students, two of whom — Robert Trapp '93 and Rosa Zhao '94 — were from Oakland. In addition, two other former Oakland students who participated in tribological studies with Barber, Prasad Kamat '94 and Deirdre Pettigrew '91 and '94, now work for General Motors.

A year-long tribological study sponsored by another Big Three manufacturer involves the testing of various combinations of friction materials and lubricants for resistance to degradation, thought to be responsible for transmission vibration. This \$20,000 study,

which Barber and graduate student Jean Chu are currently conducting, follows a project completed for the same manufacturer that established a baseline test for future oil and friction-material ranking.

Being on the leading edge of the tribology movement is where it's at for current students like Hillebrand and Wang, alumni who have worked with Barber on tribology projects and are now employed in industry, and the Big Three and its suppliers.

"I chose tribology because it has a connection with what's currently going on in the automotive industry," Hillebrand explained. "Oakland is big on it, and it's a relatively new area of study that provides me with an opportunity for expansion. I wanted to study something that would really help American manufacturing, something where the engineering wheels really hit the road." ■

Nancy Ryan '82 and '89 writes nonfiction and fiction from her home-based office in Oakland, Michigan.

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SAVINGS."

*"Tribology" derives from tribo-, Greek for "to rub," and -ology, "any science or branch of knowledge," and is formally defined as "the study of the phenomena and mechanisms of friction, lubrication and wear of surfaces in relative motion."

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

OAKLAND ALUMNI BRING YOU THE LOCAL NEWS

By Amy Parrent

WHAT DOES IT TAKE to have a great newspaper? At two Oakland County publications the answer seems to be — hire an Oakland University graduate. The entire editorial staff at *The Clarkston News* and the Lake Orion Review earned degrees at the school.

"We work well together because we're all creative," says *The Clarkston News* editor Annette Aluzzo-Kingsbury '72. Her staff includes Darrel Cole '91 and Eileen Oxley '94. Lake Orion's staff consists of editor Elaine Stieb '86 and reporter Dan McCarville '93.

"We all have our niche," says Cole. "Eileen is a good feature writer, I do sports and investigative pieces." And the best photographer is Kingsbury, who picked up her knowledge of cameras during a college job in Hudson's photo department.

In Lake Orion Stieb and McCarville really split their coverage down the middle. She reports on village government, while he covers the township news.

The reporters have had varied backgrounds. Oxley, the mother of two teenagers, has been an artist, music teacher and freelance writer. Kingsbury worked for state government. Stieb raised three kids and sold men's clothing at Lord & Taylor while taking night classes.

"I always tell everybody 'don't give up' because it took me 21 years and if I finally did it anybody can," says Stieb.

Oxley was propelled into returning to school at the friendly insistence of her divorce lawyer. She started thinking about a writing career after receiving praise for book reports. "At the time I was cleaning houses," she says. "I didn't want to do that forever."

Journalism school lecturer Anita Lienert clinched Oxley's decision. "She made journalism come alive," says Oxley.

A class assignment to write about Royal Oak's Noir Leather, a store whose inventory

runs to leather and chains, was an eye-opening experience for the former suburban housewife. "It meant facing something you have to in the real world," says Oxley, whose subsequent article was entitled "Of Inhuman Bondage."

Even before earning an English degree her freelance writing career blossomed. "But one month you can make a lot of money, the next month you make zilch," she says. So after graduation last year she took a full-time job with the Clarkston paper.

Cole, who played basketball for Oakland, was encouraged by Professor Jane Briggs-Bunting to write sports features for Oakland's student paper.

The journalism school graduate praises Professor Roberta Schwartz as "the toughest teacher I've ever had. I thought if I can make it through here this is what I'm meant to do. She taught real life . . . the excitement, the challenge. She made you write stories on deadline and interview people on the spot."

During two years as an investigative re-

internship at the Oxford Leader, which is owned by the same company that produces the Clarkston and Lake Orion papers. Besides her formal education Stieb views the sometimes grinding world of retail sales as invaluable experience. "You have to learn how to deal with people so much that you can walk into any job and handle it."

McCarville, who joined Stieb at the Lake Orion paper last September, earned a B.A. in Spanish literature & political science at the University of Michigan. "Those degrees prepare you for everything and nothing," he says.

While at Michigan he tried his hand at freelance writing. Although he didn't make any sales, he was encouraged by the positive comments he received from some editors.

He got a job with the *Oakland Press* "almost by accident." While covering sports for the *Press* he took one class a term at Oakland University, eventually winding up with a master's in European history.

"My interest was more in learning, as much as where to apply it," he explains. "I wasn't thinking where is this going to get me? What's wrong with just trying to better yourself?"

Kingsbury believes her degree in Russian language and literature was beneficial for her writing skills. "You learn more grammar studying a foreign language."

She abandoned plans to become a translator when she realized she'd need to attend graduate school. "At that point I just wanted to get out of college."

She spent five years with the Department of Social Services in Macomb County. "It's very depressing work," she says. "There's a lot of turnover in those kinds of jobs."

Although she'd been coeditor of her high school newspaper, she had no professional writing experience. But she got a job at the Oxford Leader right off the bat. She later became editor of that paper before taking over the same duties in Clarkston.



porter for the *Spinal Column* newspaper group he covered such topics as "The Porn King of Michigan." Two years ago he was hired at the Lake Orion paper by Stieb, for whom he'd interned in college. He moved to the Clarkston paper a year ago.

Stieb herself had done a journalism

"You can criticize the media all you want, but whatever is in that newspaper is basically what the people want to read."

— Elaine Stieb '86



Soldiers in the journalistic trenches: From left, McCarville, Oxley, Stieb (foreground), Cole, Kingsbury.

"The good part about being editor is that you get to make decisions about what to cover," she says.

"When I took over the Clarkston paper the publisher told me point blank you've got to start sucking in readers who don't have kids in the schools."

"The paper was kind of dry," adds Oxley. "People used to call it the Clarkston Snooze. I don't think (the previous staff) cared as much about what they were writing."

In Lake Orion Stieb says, "Our 'sell' is that your child will be in the paper sometime in his school life. We're really feature-oriented — women who do quilts, men who retired after 80 years of doing something."

"I've been with the company seven years," says Kingsbury. "It's pretty clear to me what the standards of the newspaper are. They don't expect us to go out and rile up the community every week."

But the papers are not stuffed with fluff. In addition to substantial features on people and events the News has reported on a local government investment fund problem, contaminated school drinking water, and debates over zoning laws.

Stieb says in Lake Orion "There is a lot of gang concern. We're also focusing on domestic violence. These things would never have been covered in the past — now it hits the front page. I think it's just a reflection of

society."

These journalists are affected by tough stories and have on occasion withheld non-essential information. Cole recalls reporting on a child killer while at the *Spinal Column*. "Emotionally, it was more than I'd ever want to do again. You know so much more than you can print, more than you want to know."

Oxley, too, can recount details of a teen suicide which she says, "I couldn't put in. It was too gruesome."

Stieb says, "It's tough calling the family and trying to talk to people that are upset. We've all gotten criticized for things we've done. They say, 'You never have anything good on your front page.'"

Yet editions with prominent crime stories are among her paper's biggest sellers. "You can criticize the media all you want," she says, "but whatever is in that newspaper is basically what the people want to read."

"Anytime you put an article out you're exposing yourself for feedback," says McCarville. "People are going to be angry. I don't think that's easy to get used to."

Kingsbury says, "We're dealing with people's perceptions of the media — everything they don't like about any journalist they've ever met."

Cole recalls what a coach once said to him. "No matter what you do in the world,

ten percent of the people screw everybody else up. And I think those ten percent of (bad) journalists screw up all of us.

As to what makes a good reporter, Kingsbury thinks intellectual curiosity, writing ability, and good study skills are essential.

McCarville says, "I like to try to get to know people out in the community. People know I'm going the extra mile. A lot of them will respond to that by giving you more ideas or story information or confiding in you."

Cole says there's danger in getting too "buddy-buddy." "You have to have a good rapport with people, but have to ask tough questions. You have to say, 'this is my job, understand that and work with me.'"

McCarville stresses the need to present both sides of an issue. "Or even three or four sides. I've had some cases where I haven't always done that and I regret it later. There's always someone who has an opposing view. Make a phone call and if they don't want to talk, at least you've tried."

"You have to be able to listen," Stieb says. "In this business you have to like people — big ones and little ones." ■

Amy Parrent '78 is a freelance writer based in Royal Oak, Michigan.



Fey



Jesswein



Meyer



Wilbert

OUAA Elects Five to Board

Five new directors were added to the OUAA Board in recent elections. They are:

Marianne Fey, '80, B.A. in Communication Arts. Marianne is Deputy General Manager at McCann SAS, a major advertising firm in Detroit. Her service to Oakland University includes membership on the OU Magazine Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors of the Meadow Brook Art Gallery.

Lisa Jesswein, '89, B.A. in Communication Arts. Lisa is one of the vocal personalities on the Dick Purtan Radio Show on WKQI in Detroit. She also teaches drama and is a motivational speaker. Lisa served as a volunteer for the 1991 Alumni Reunion and has been a student recruiter through the Alumni Ambassadors.

Rosa Maria Meyer, '90, B.S. in Management Information Systems. Rosa Maria works for Troy Public Schools Continuing Education. For the past four years, she has been an active volunteer with the Alumni Admissions Ambassadors, with a special emphasis on recruiting ethnic minority students.

Lynn Westfall-Gross (not pictured), '87, B.S. in Economics. J.D. from Detroit College of Law, 1993. Lynn is an attorney with Lewis, White & Clay in Detroit. As a student, Lynn served as president of the Oakland University Greek Council and the Delta Theta Chapter of Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority.

James R. Wilbert, '73, B.S. in Accounting. Jim is a partner with the accounting firm, Coopers & Lybrand in Detroit. He is a former president of the School of Business Administration Alumni Affiliate. He is a founding member of the OU Accounting Department's Advisory Board and is a member of the SBA Board of Visitors. Jim recently assisted with the Accounting Department's successful accreditation bid.

Alumni Mailing List Hits the Internet

Oakland University alumni now have their own wave on the Internet — the OU Alumni Mailing List.

The list connects subscribers to the Alumni Relations Office and other alumni subscribers. It provides subscribers with the opportunity to conveniently update records, receive up-to-the minute information on volunteer opportunities and university events and network with other subscribers about job opportunities and other topics of interest.

To subscribe, send an e-mail message to: alumni-request@oak.oakland.edu. Leave the subject line blank, and in the body of the message type: *subscribe*. After that, you'll receive a welcome message giving further details and instructions.

For an annual fee of \$50, the university Computing Center will set up a personal e-mail account for current OUAA members.

For more information about this new service, contact the Alumni Relations Office at (810) 370-2158. We look forward to seeing you on the list.

Changes in Your Life? Notify the Alumni Office

Have you moved recently? Gotten married and changed your name? Did you get that promotion or start a new career?

Be sure to include the Alumni Relations Office among those you notify. When you update your records, we can keep you in touch with your former classmates, faculty and the latest information from your alma mater.

Simply jot the new information on a postcard, a letter or the form on page 27 and mail it to the Alumni Relations Office, John Dodge House, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan, 48309-4401. You can call us day or night at (810) 370-2158. Or send a fax to (810) 370-4420.

Save These Dates

July 17, 1995: 20th Annual OUAA Golf Outing

October 7, 1995: Alumni Awards Banquet

Make plans now to attend the Alumni Association's biggest events of the year.

Monday, July 17 marks the 20th Annual OUAA Golf Outing at the championship Katke-Cousins Golf Course. Teams of four will play morning or afternoon scrambles with lunch under the tent at Meadow Brook Hall.

Then, on Saturday, October 7, the OUAA will host the Second Annual Alumni Awards Banquet at the Oakland Center. This event pays tribute to outstanding alumni.

Volunteers are needed for both events. To offer your services or for more information on both events, contact the Alumni Relations Office at (810) 370-2158.



ALUMNI

1964

William Schwark is married to Mary (VanderVeu) '65. They have three children: Christina, married and a graduate of Alma College; Sarah, a senior engineering student at Virginia Tech and captain of the women's varsity soccer team; and Paul, a freshman engineering student at University of Michigan. Mary teaches at Henry Ford Community College.

Paul A. Turk was appointed Director of Media Relations, U.S. Air, Inc., in Arlington, Virginia. Paul and his wife Karen have a daughter, Katherine Antonia (Kate), born February 7, 1994.

1966

Jonathan Bensky is counselor for commercial affairs at the American Embassy in New Delhi, India and was promoted to the senior foreign service.

1970

Leslie G. Griffen was named vice president with Drake Beam Morin, an international management consulting firm and is working in their Kansas City office. Les received his M.A. in Industrial Relations from Wayne State University and lives in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

1972

Randall G. Corio has a private investigation business in Yorba Linda, California. He is married to Annette and they have two children, Kyle born in 1991 and Camille born in 1994.

Reverend Rodney E. Reinhart teaches English at Southwestern High School in Detroit and is the poet-in-residence in the City of Plymouth, Michigan. Reverend Reinhart administers and runs the annual Christmas celebration for People Who Care about People with AIDS.

Irene Slisinger has been teaching at Long Meadow Elementary School in Rochester, Michigan, since 1972. She is currently teaching 3rd grade.

1973

Mary E. Nellenbach was elected county commissioner in Lapeer County. Mary lives in North Branch, Michigan.

James Sugarman was elected president of the Atlantic Court Democratic Club, Gay Democrats of Palm Beach County, Florida.

1974

Lewis T. Bucy, Jr. is with the Ford Motor Company in Lenexa, Kansas, working for the Kansas City Parts Distribution Center as superintendent of distribution. He lives in Leawood, Kansas.

Toby S. Steiner was promoted to vice-president of Human Resources at Service Centers Corporation in Southfield, Michigan, and was designated Human Resources Ambassador by the Greater Detroit Human Resources Association. Toby and her husband, Neal Alpin, live in Southfield.

1975

Julia Casteel is staff development curriculum specialist and gifted/talented coordinator K-12 at Waterford, Michigan, schools.

Bill O'Brien co-authored an article in a new P. C. Heath book, "Teacher to Teacher: A Professional Handbook." Bill is a reading consultant for Utica Community Schools in Shelby Township, Michigan.

Beverly M. Smith, a retired teacher, is a docent at Cranbrook Art Academy Museum and a member of Lawrence Street Gallery Artists Cooperative. Beverly shows paintings and lives in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

1976

Richard Monroe is account manager of special markets – worldwide at ACCO Controls in Wixom, Michigan.

Geoff Pennington and his wife, Cathy, traveled to Tver, Russia to adopt two brothers, three-year-old Steve and two-year-old Alex.

1977

Mary Kay McNeight, D.D.S., is a root canal specialist at the endodontic practice of Cohen & Moricz, P.C. in Livonia, Michigan. Kay and her husband, Dr. Lloyd Larisey, have two children, Caitlin and Corey.

Kathy Overholser Kalmar was promoted to education coordinator at the University of Michigan.

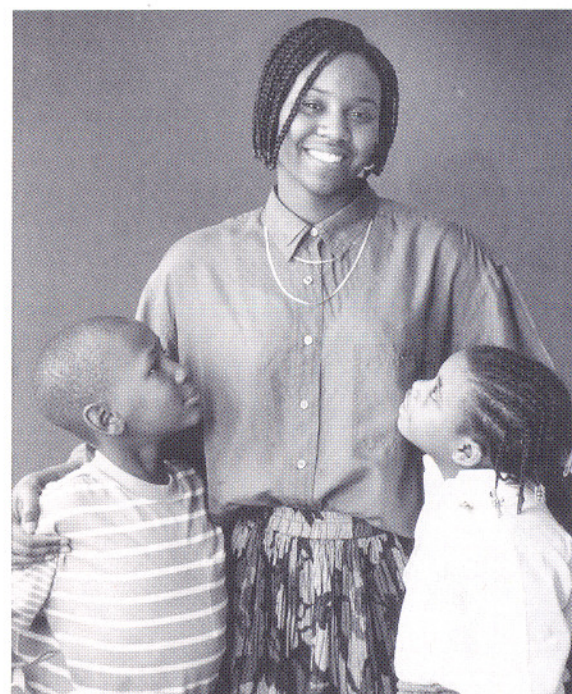
T. D. Schram was promoted to manager of Powertrain Electronic Controls Department in Dearborn, Michigan. T. D. lives in Troy, Michigan.

1978

Cynthia Brody and her husband, Rob Starkman, celebrated their 10th anniversary in December 1994. Meredith Julia Brody Starkman was born on July 26, 1994. Her big brother Charlie is four years old. Cynthia has been with National Bank of Detroit for more than nine years and is a senior attorney and assistant vice president. She and her family live in Southfield, Michigan.

1979

Sheryl J. Wragg married Michael Thomas in September 1994. Sheryl returned to Egypt with General Dynamics for another three year assignment after completing a previous six year in-residence assignment.



A Vote for Health Care

Alicia Cunningham-Sampson '93, a Cities and Schools Project Coordinator for Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), coordinates a health-screening program at Sherrard School in Detroit. Sampson serves as a liaison between Detroit Public Schools, the Detroit Department of Public Health, and Omnicare and the Wellness Plan, encouraging students to sign up for screenings and learn preventative health care. Sampson also created her own class on video technology.

1980

Kathi L. Askins is employed at Hayes Wheels International, Inc., in Romulus, Michigan, as assistant treasurer following 14 years with Federal-Mogul Corporation.

Susan Bendel and her husband proudly announce the birth of their second child, Shauna McHenry Bendel, born January 4, 1994.

Linda Steigerwald is academic clinical coordinator and instructor for the occupational therapy program at Baker College in Flint, Michigan. Linda lives in Clinton Township.

1981

Ann Sutherland is owner of English Improvement Services, a business that teaches English to businessmen and their families who speak English as a second language. Ann's service is from her home in Rochester, Michigan.



Acting on Their Own

Susan Keenan '72 teaches at Hosner Elementary School in Detroit and husband **Rory Bolger '69** is a Detroit city planner. When not doing that, they're off to rehearsals and performances. Daughter Maggie Keenan-Bolger and son Andrew Keenan-Bolger (*front right*) starred in last fall's *To Kill a Mockingbird* at Meadow Brook Theatre, and 16-year-old daughter, Celia, also an actress, performed off Broadway in spring '94. The other actor pictured is Mike Kopera.

Scott H. Phillips and wife Joann are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Erin Marie on April 12, 1993. Erin has a brother, David, three years older. The family lives in Columbia, Maryland.

1983

Mary Adesko married Paul in September 1993. She is teaching computer classes at St. Hugo's in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Mary and Paul live in Troy, Michigan.

Michael Landry, D.C., and his wife Creina Landry, D.C., both graduates of Palmer College of Chiropractic, have purchased Huonville Chiropractic Centre in Tasmania, Australia. Michael and Creina have a daughter named Addison and live in Huonville.

Betty Jean Ryan went to China in October 1993 for an Early Childhood Conference and in October 1994 as a delegate for Children's Literature/Language Arts Exchange.

1984

Judy Palnau was elected secretary of the Ingham County Republican Party. She lives in East Lansing, Michigan.

1985

Elizabeth Byrne-Rodzick is working for the Adjunct Nursing Faculty of Oakland Community College in Waterford, Michigan. Elizabeth lives with husband Tom, and children Jack four years old and Allison two years old, in Northville, Michigan. She reminds the OU Nursing class of 1985 it has been ten years and asks if anyone is interested in getting together.

David A. Hein is self employed with Hein's Designs in Sterling Heights, Michigan. He and his wife Julie have three sons: Michael, Matthew, and Mark.

1986

Cheryl (Scott) and John Loubert announce the birth of their first child, Eric Anthony, on July 9, 1994. They are living on Guam where Cheryl is a physician at the Naval Hospital.

1987

Chris Pesta and his wife **Christine '87** announce the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Michelle, on June 28, 1994.

Garth A. Peterson married Amy Brown on September 24, 1994. He and Amy met at an IBM class in Atlanta. Garth left IBM in November 1994 after seven years for Kelly Services in Troy, Michigan. The Petersons live in Bloomfield Hills. **Carol Roan** completed her Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is now a researcher at the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan.

Jim Schewe completed his Ph.D. in physics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is now a fellow in radiation oncology at the University of Michigan Hospital.

1989

Scott C. Phelps is MIS director at Flexible Products Company in Auburn Hills, Michigan. Scott lives in Milford, Michigan.

JoAnne Kolean-Burley earned a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Western Michigan University. She completed her internship at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and now works at Henry Ford Psychiatry in Dearborn. She lives in West Bloomfield with husband **Morris '87**, and son, Desmond.

Kelly Martek is manager, international department for Concorde in Denver, Colorado.

Victoria (Steffens) Zannetti and husband **Paul '88**, proudly announce the birth of their second son, Joseph Paul, born on August 4, 1994. Victoria works for Federal-Mogul Corporation in Detroit, Michigan.

1990

Laurie K. Brennan is employed by Arbor Drugs, Inc., and also has her own business: Brennan Enterprises, making and selling personalized children's books. Laurie also has a baby son.

Lisa Stamps-Jones is celebrating the birth of her first baby, Jordan Stamps Jones, born November 1994. Lisa is graduating from Brigham Young University with a J.D/M.Ed in higher education



No Law Against It

Four articles pertaining to family law written by **Paul J. Mastrangel '68, '72** of the law firm Dean & Fulkerson, P.C., Troy, Michigan, have recently been published in Michigan law journals — and he's now at work on a book. "I've received a number of letters and telephone calls from attorneys telling me these articles have helped them argue their clients' cases," Mastrangel explained. "If I can clarify an area of law, I feel that I've contributed in a positive way to our profession."

administration and working at BYU as researcher in feminist legal theory.

1991

Susan Andries was awarded a Master of Science in mechanical engineering at Purdue University and is working for EDS at the GM Powertrain Grey Iron Plant in Saginaw, Michigan.

1992

Brian Ris was promoted to commercial loan officer, Comerica Bank - Leasing, Southfield, Michigan.

Gary Drake was promoted to Commercial Loan Officer, Comerica Bank - Small Business in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

Randy Goltry is a midwest manufacturers' representative with Georgia Pacific.

Dan Murphy is working for GMAC in Los Angeles, California. Dan lives in San Bernadino, California.

Scott Helmer is a senior credit analyst with Comerica Bank in Dayton, Ohio.

1993

Patrick J. Moroschan was promoted to senior analyst, technical services at the American Medical Association in Chicago, Illinois.

Karl Randall was promoted to senior securities lending trader, National Bank of Detroit in Detroit, Michigan.

IN MEMORIAM

1963

Jim Morrison

1976

Diana Dye

1980

Gloria Fox-Cowlishaw

1981

Catherine F. Taylor

1982

Richard York

1988

Linda Carney-Hamilton

Nominate Now for '95 Alumni Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 1995 Alumni Awards which will be presented on Saturday, October 7, 1995 at the Second Annual Alumni Awards Banquet.

Recipients will be selected in the following categories:

The Distinguished Alumni Service Award recognizes outstanding alumni leadership in service to the Alumni Association or the university.

The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award recognizes outstanding professional achievement or service to a community.

The Odyssey Award recognizes alumni whose actions exemplify Oakland University's motto, "Seguir virtute e canoscenza" (To seek courage and knowledge).

The Spirit Award recognizes exemplary volunteer service to the university.

Nominations must be in writing and not to exceed two pages. Entries should include brief statements about the nominee's qualifications for the award.

To be considered for this year's awards, the nominations must be received by the Alumni Relations Office no later than Friday, May 5, 1995. Mail them to: Alumni Relations Office, John Dodge House, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan 48309-4401. Or fax them to: (810) 370-4420.



KEEP IN TOUCH

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE keeps you informed about, and in touch with Oakland University and its many programs, alumni and friends. Please send us news (appointments, promotions, honors, marriages, children and other activities) about yourself or your Oakland friends. Moving? Send us your new address right away. Let's keep in touch!

Mail to: Office of Alumni Relations

John Dodge House
Oakland University
Rochester, Michigan 48309-4401
Fax: (810) 370-4420

Volunteer to Help Visually Impaired Students

Oakland University is seeking volunteers to assist with the special needs of our visually impaired students. Guides to help new students find their way around campus, and readers to record course material on tape are needed. Call the Alumni Relations Office for details at (810) 370-2158.

Name _____ Maiden name (if applicable) _____

☐ Check here if this is a new address

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Class _____

Major/degree _____

Know When To Let Go

Inevitably we face the death of a loved one. When it is a parent who dies, the feelings of loss are often coupled with guilt: Could I have done more, did I find the best possible care?

Marilyn Becker, an instructor in the Women's Studies Department at Oakland University, shares her experiences and those of others who have lost a parent in Last Touch: Preparing for a Parent's Death. Becker's guide provides information about how to deal with the fatal diagnosis, how to talk to your parent about his or her impending death, the choices one must make beforehand concerning medical care and how to grieve.

Becker has been a practicing psychotherapist for 26 years. She is on the staff of Pontiac General Hospital, and her articles have appeared in such publications as New York Magazine and Ms.

Last Touch: Preparing for a Parent's Death has been published by New Harbinger Publications, Inc., Oakland, California. The following is excerpted from the book. — Ed.

AS IMPORTANT AS IT IS to hold someone close, it is also important to know when to let go.

Elizabeth, a social worker from Switzerland, had been very close to her father. She sat by his bedside as he was dying, and kept reaching out to hold his hand. But he kept pushing her away. She couldn't understand why. Later she realized that she had been begging him, over and over again, "Please don't die." He couldn't take her hand, because she was holding him back.

A client of mine had visited her father regularly; then she skipped one day, feeling tired and drained. The rest of her large family had been with him all day. But, shortly after they left, he died. My client felt guilty. A nun, who knew her father well, told her, "He needed that time alone so he could let go. Your father was a person very concerned with his family's feelings. It would have been hard for him to die with you present."

Everyone's parents are different. There is no one prescription for how to best help them.

My uncle told my aunt, "no hospice, no hospital bed, no porta johns" while their two sons were visiting. He didn't want any evidence around that he was clearly getting worse and dying. Even though both sons knew everything, he still wanted to put the best face on things. It made *him* feel better.

Then, when he was no longer able to eat or stand, my aunt asked him, "Do you want me to call hospice or the doctor?" He wanted the doctor. He was choosing to go to the hospital rather than to stay home. She knew he would be very upset if she called 911 for an ambulance, so she drove him to the hospital herself. She wasn't focusing on what *she* wanted or felt was best, but on what *he* wanted. One client recalls feeling angry as she watched her mother try to kiss her father on the lips during a pause between breaths. "He was trying so hard to breathe, and each breath seemed like a struggle, I couldn't believe my mother was going to interfere with that process by kissing him. I

wanted to yell, Take your hands off him!" The main focus of everyone's concern should be the needs of the dying person — not your needs, not anyone else's.

Your parent may try to keep going just for you. But when someone is fatally ill and in pain, hanging on like that can be an inhumane burden. Compassion must also sometimes include giving up and letting go.

When you find readiness to accept your parent's death, it will make death easier. Your mom or dad will no longer have to protect you or worry about how you are managing. They can focus on themselves.

Rosa, an artist who lives in San Francisco, could see that her father was in terrible pain. Although only 65, he had suffered a severe heart attack.

"I was alone in his hospital room with him, and I was breathing with him and telling him that it was okay for him to die. I felt him holding on, and realized he needed to know he had done everything he could and wouldn't be deserting us if he died. I recognized that he was trying to keep going for me and my mother. I kept saying, It's okay. It's okay, and with that his breath eased and he let go. To me that was the most beautiful and wondrous thing. I was there holding his hand and helping him let go of his breath." ■



Marilyn R. Becker: "We need to be helped to prepare for death as well as we have been helped to prepare for birth."

Membership
in the
Oakland
University
Alumni
Association

OUAA

This could be the start of a beautiful friendship . . .

or the continuation of one. Join the OUAA and keep your connection to the OU network of alumni and faculty. It's easier now with new special rates for married couples and alumni who are in their second year after graduation.

So whether you're in Casablanca or Rochester Hills, through the OUAA you can stay close to your alma mater and the friendships you made there. Renew your membership today!

☐ Renew my/our membership in the Oakland University Alumni Association.

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Eve. _____ Fax _____

Student #/Soc. Sec. # _____ Birth Date _____

(Please include spouse's information if applying for joint membership.)

☐ Please add me to the Alumni Electronic Mailing List. My e-mail address is _____

☐ Regular membership \$30

☐ Joint membership \$50

☐ Second-year membership \$15

☐ My check for \$_____ is enclosed (payable to Oakland University).

☐ Charge \$_____ to: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

☐ I am enclosing an additional contribution of \$_____ in support of alumni programs.

☐ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities at Oakland University.

Please return with your check or credit card number to: OUAA, John Dodge House, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan 48309-4401. Or fax your credit card order to (810) 370-4420

Join Us . . .

on July 17, 1995 as we
celebrate 20 Years of the best
golf in Michigan at the 20th
Annual OUAA Golf Outing.

Great golf, good food, fun and
prizes! To sign on as a sponsor
of this year's outing, or to
register your team,
contact the Alumni Relations
Office at (810) 370-2158.

Don't miss it!

The Oakland University Alumni Association thanks the Hole Sponsors
for their generous support of the 1994 OUAA Golf Outing:

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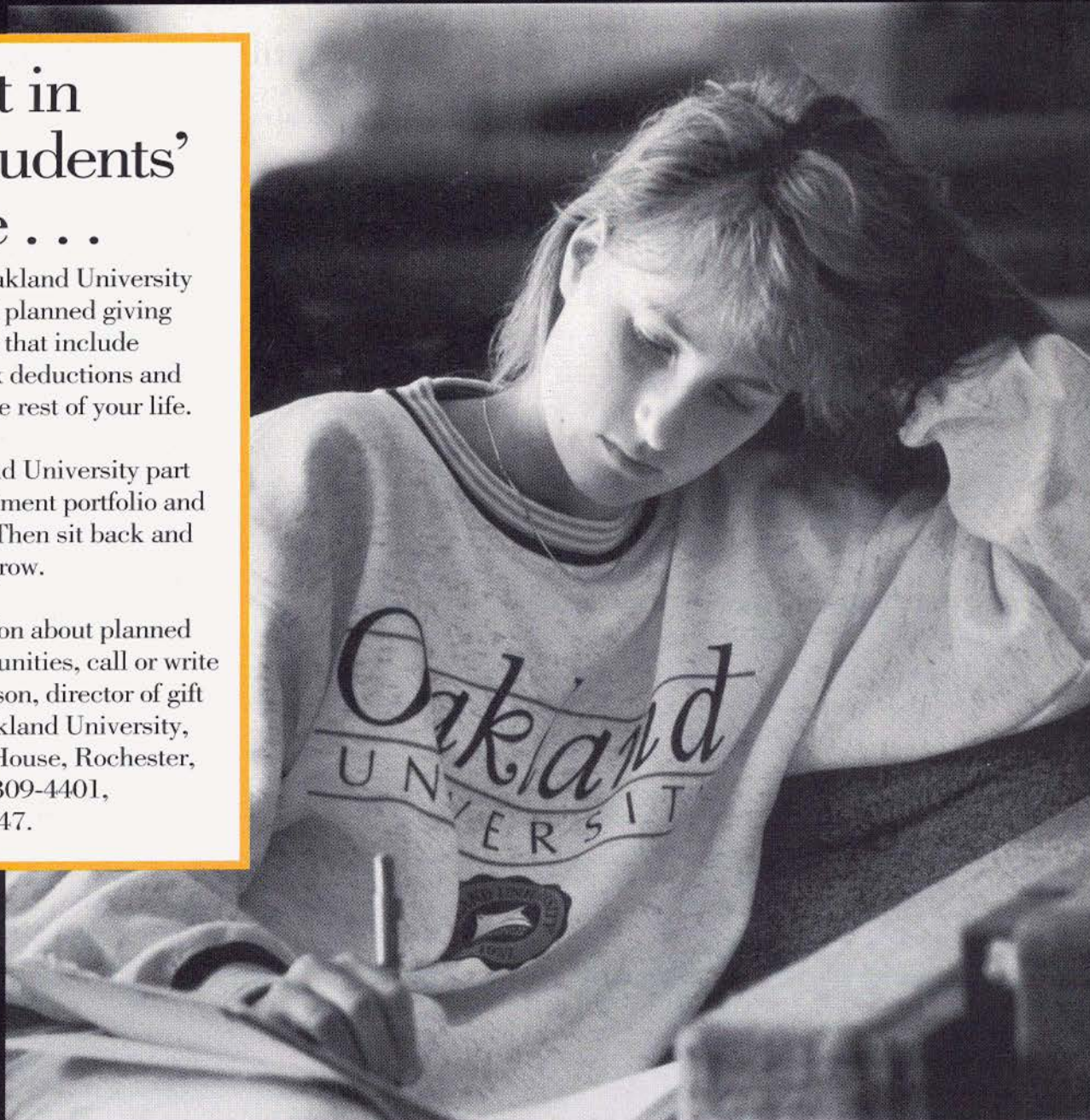


Invest in our students' future . . .

and yours. Oakland University offers several planned giving opportunities that include charitable tax deductions and income for the rest of your life.

Make Oakland University part of your investment portfolio and your legacy. Then sit back and watch them grow.

For information about planned giving opportunities, call or write to Pam Acheson, director of gift planning, Oakland University, John Dodge House, Rochester, Michigan 48309-4401, (810) 370-4247.



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