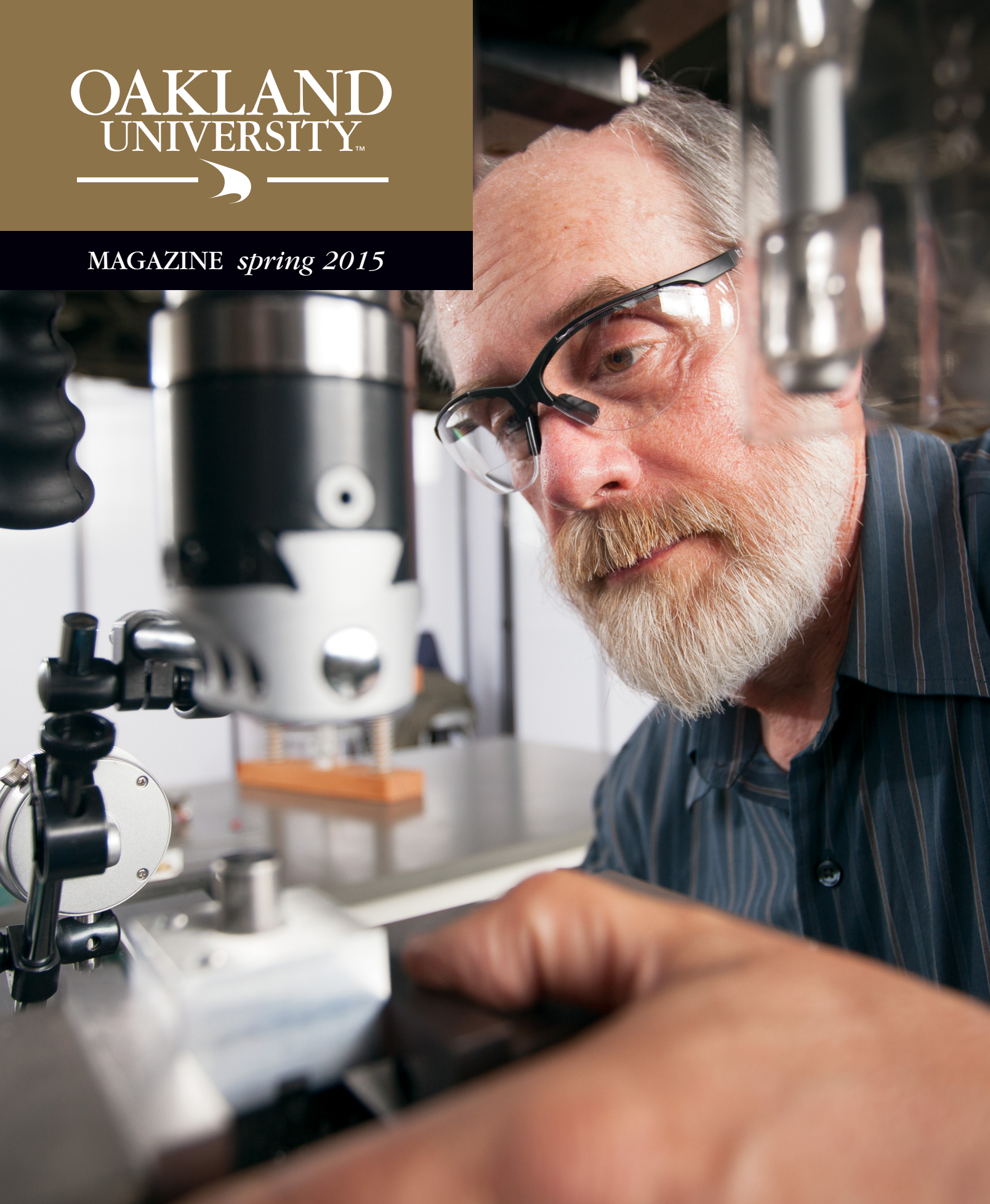




MAGAZINE *spring 2015*



Marketable research | Shaping the future | Studying a Founding Father



OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

MAGAZINE *spring 2015*



Inside

6 Feature: Going to Market

Oakland University joins a partnership that works to market university research and technology.

Insert FOCUS

See how Oakland University is making an impact in Macomb County.



Departments

2 President's Perspective

8 Sports

16 Giving

20 Around Campus

26 Student Life

32 OU Moment

Alumni

22 Alumni News

27 Ambassador Spotlight

28 Class Notes

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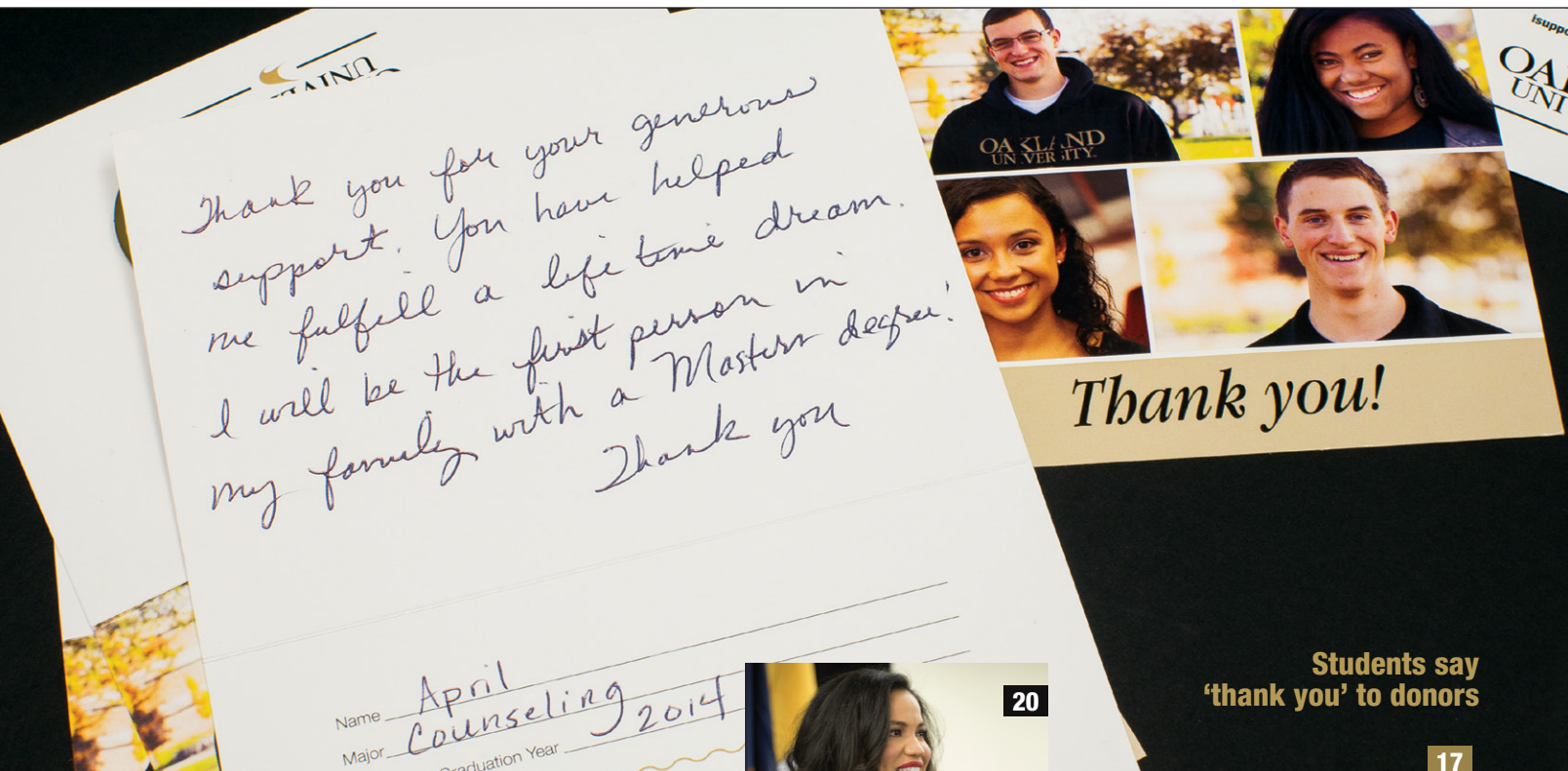
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Students say
'thank you' to donors

17



11



12



14

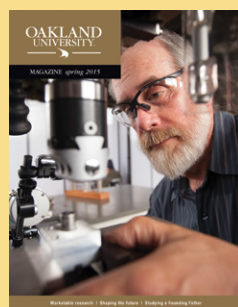


20

Alumni Profiles

- 11 Tony Sakich, SBA '09**, stays on the cutting edge, working daily with new technologies like blockchain networks and the digital currency bitcoin.
- 12 Merry Ellen Scofield, Ph.D., CAS '02**, started a new life studying the old — specifically the Papers of Thomas Jefferson, housed at Princeton University.
- 14 Josh Slaughter, SECS '07, and Ashley Forcier Slaughter, CAS '08**, are married, but also “click” as co-owners of a Detroit-based website design start-up.

ON THE COVER



Michael Latcha, Ph.D., OU associate professor of mechanical engineering, works with a piece from a system that is designed to dissipate the force of a blast from improvised explosive devices (IEDs). His research could have life-saving implications if it's adopted by the U.S. military. OU has joined a consortium of Michigan universities that focuses on commercializing and selling their technologies and research in the marketplace.



32

Oakland University is a doctoral, research-intensive University located in Oakland County, Michigan. The University has 135 bachelor's degree programs and 135 graduate degree and certificate programs. Dedicated to delivering a distinctive undergraduate experience that is complemented by the strength of its graduate offerings and research accomplishments, Oakland University is organized into the College of Arts and Sciences and the Schools of Business Administration, Education and Human Services, Engineering and Computer Science, Health Sciences, Medicine, Nursing and The Honors College.

President's Perspective



OU and health care professionals partner with Pontiac, Mich., to promote access to healthy foods, physical activity and culturally relevant health programs for Hispanic residents.



(Left) Annual Giving Director Kelly Brault and (second from right) DACE Vice President Eric Barritt with 2014 AUFD co-chairs Ellen Keaton, academic records coordinator, Office of the Registrar; Kathleen Moore, Ph.D., retired associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences and professor of Chemistry; Kevin Corcoran, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Buck Dillon, Ph.D., professor of Accounting; and Shaun Moore, manager of Support Services, E-Learning and Instructional Support.



The Liaison Committee on Medical Education has granted full accreditation to the OUWB School of Medicine.

BUILDING ON OU'S TENETS TO SHAPE THE FUTURE



President George W. Hynd

Dear Alumni and Friends of Oakland University,

Just months before the University's first medical students will cross the Commencement stage, a promise made out of a regional partnership was fulfilled: The Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) was granted full accreditation by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education.

Besides the medical school's accreditation, a look back at what has happened in the past season shows us we have already come a long way. We are striving toward a new vision for our University – one that makes clear Oakland University is a student-centered, highly regarded

scholarly institution within our own community, and globally. Oakland is growing in scope, size and reputation.

When I began as president of OU, I took steps to ensure that our staff and faculty thought critically about what we aim to accomplish. I did not have to push very hard to get our University family involved. As we continue our work to construct a proposed mission and strategic plan, I have been delighted by the amount of enthusiastic input provided by staff members, strategic planning committee members and faculty.

A point of pride in crafting our strategic plan has been the fact that every step of the way, examples of community engagement, academic excellence and growth have been easily found. In December, we watched our 100,000th graduate walk across the stage. We gained international acclaim in January as our own Oakland University Brass Band took second place in their division of the prestigious Butlins Mineworkers National Open Brass Band Festival in Skegness, England. Further, we continue to have not only generous alumni, but a staff that is truly invested in our vision.

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of announcing that a total of 786 faculty, staff and retirees donated \$388,814 during the All-University Fund Drive (AUFD) campaign. This demonstrates so clearly the passion and belief our employees have in OU, and their dedication to our students.

One of the Strategic Planning Committee's tenets throughout the process of honing in on what the University intends to accomplish includes focusing on staying student-centered and maintaining the levels of service that the modern college student expects in a metropolitan university. I could not have been more proud to attend the Jan. 30 unveiling of Oakland's new, 108,000-square-foot athletic

Continued

President's Perspective



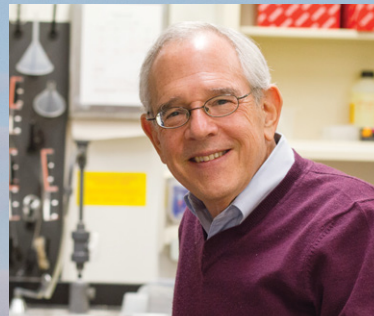
dome, which is a microcosm of our commitment to engaging the community and attracting students to our campus.

We have seen capital enhancements such as the athletic dome, the Upper Fields, and much more attract a greater number of committed students over the years. The number of full-time students since 1996 has grown 15 percent to around 75 percent of the student body now taking a full class load each semester. The dome, which is built to be used around the clock, accommodates a central component of campus life. An array of vibrant campus-life options – the dome, in addition to more than 250 student clubs and many campus enhancements – is leading students to choosing to live on campus. This is an important

point. We know that living on campus requires a vibrant campus life and it also positively impacts students in it can lead to higher grade point averages, higher retention rates and an increase in our 4-6th year graduation rates.

As we think about the goals of Oakland University, we understand that while we are looking to attract students, we are also looking to enrich our community surroundings. A partnership with schools in Pontiac, Mich., which sits just six miles east of campus, is a step in the right direction.

Through a three-year, \$1.95 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Oakland University has partnered with health professionals and Pontiac to create a program that provides increased access to healthy foods and promotion of physical activity in the community, as well as strengthen culturally relevant health programs for Pontiac's Hispanic residents.



Michael Chopp, Ph.D., professor of physics





Laila Guessous, Ph.D., associate professor of engineering

As a doctoral research institution, OU has consistently been spotlighted for its performance in academia. During the winter semester, distinguished physics Professor Michael Chopp, Ph.D., received the prestigious 2015 Thomas Willis Lecture Award from the American Heart Association. Dr. Chopp is an internationally recognized expert in the development and treatment of stroke, traumatic brain injury and cerebrovascular neurodegenerative diseases. His research has uncovered therapeutic approaches for injured brain tissue that can significantly reduce neurological damage from stroke.

The University also prides itself in keeping in tune with growing industry trends, and in February, Oakland was ranked by the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) as 11th in the country for the percentage of tenured or tenure-track women faculty members in engineering. Oakland was also ranked 32nd out of 171 schools for the number of undergraduate computer science degrees awarded within an engineering program.

While I have only highlighted a few outstanding programs and events at OU, there are many great achievements constantly being made by the University's staff and faculty. Their dedication to student success and thoughtfulness in cultivating a new Strategic Plan drives Oakland's pursuit of academic and institutional excellence. I am inspired by all that Oakland has to offer, and share the enthusiasm that our exceptional leaders in academia and administration have as we forge new opportunities for our students, and communicate to all in our state, nation and beyond the value of a degree from Oakland University.

Sincerely,

George W. Hynd
President



GOING TO MARKET

OU aligns with six other state schools to drive technology transfer efforts *By Kevin Knapp*

Colleges and universities have always been wellsprings of ideas and innovation. Converting those breakthroughs into success in the wider marketplace — where the public can enjoy the benefits — requires planning, strategy and more than a little promotional know-how.

To help market the new technology it develops and also protect its intellectual property, Oakland University has joined six Michigan universities in a partnership that aims to commercialize their respective technologies by sharing resources and marketing strategies.

The consortium, the Michigan Tech Transfer Talent Network (or T3N), was created in 2011 to connect entrepreneurs with university tech transfer offices to launch startups or license university technology to established companies. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation funds the consortium to create job opportunities for graduates and positive economic development for the community, the state and the general public.

Opportunity knocks

The University of Michigan (among the top 10 universities in the nation in tech transfer performance) leads the network, which includes Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Oakland University, Wayne State University and Western Michigan University. Automation Alley, a technology business association and business accelerator based in Troy, Mich., is also a partner.

OU's Dorothy Nelson, Ph.D., vice provost for research, says the multi-university network offers a great opportunity and tremendous community for the University. Although the University typically had worked alone in the past to commercialize its intellectual properties, Dr. Nelson says that the T3N partnership offers the benefit of having both expertise and "muscle," thanks to the successful track records of the larger institutions.

"It's not enough for only the well-resourced institutions of Michigan to push their innovations, if we want to elevate the state's tech game," she observes. "As they say, 'it takes a village,' and to U-M's credit they formed a network where we could share best practices and talent. By sharing that entrepreneurial knowledge and expertise, we all will be better off."

OU currently has 18 issued patents and seven more that are pending, Dr. Nelson says. The first entry from OU into the T3N commercialization pipeline is a patented rapid decoupling technology that holds great promise for military and civilian use (see below).

Pipeline for progress

Why the keen interest in marketing OU's technologies? One reason, of course, is to attract more research money from public and private sources. A successful program is always a magnet for further funding,

Dr. Nelson observes. It is also the fastest and most efficient way to get innovations out to where more people can benefit from them.

"Sharing intellectual property among scholars — which has been the tradition in academia — is not always benefiting the public; at least not directly," she says. "The federal government, which funds a lot of research from which technologies are developed, is really trying hard to push these innovations out for the public good. We always hope these innovations will have some benefit to those outside our University community."

Bringing new ideas and innovation to the marketplace puts the spotlight on the contributing institutions, fortifying a school's reputation for research and development. This can attract bright, enterprising students to the schools.

"We at OU are fortunate because we are in an area surrounded by industries that are hungry for new technologies," Dr. Nelson adds. "We have two start-up incubators at OU, one on the main campus and one at OU Macomb, and our administration is very supportive of the tech transfer drive. We're just in phase one, but we believe OU is well-positioned to succeed." ➤

Kevin Knapp was previously editor of OU Magazine.

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH


While researching ways to reduce the loss of lives and limbs by U.S. Army soldiers from landmines, Michael Latcha, Ph.D., OU associate professor of mechanical engineering, and his research team hit on an idea that may have far-reaching implications if adopted by the military.

The team invented a system that rapidly decouples the fasteners supporting a military vehicle floor in order to dissipate the force of the blast from improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Based on the explosive components used in automotive airbag systems, the decoupling system deploys at an extremely rapid speed. When the fasteners holding the vehicle's floor are decoupled, the shock of the impact from the explosion can be diffused, so less deadly energy is transferred to the vehicle occupants.

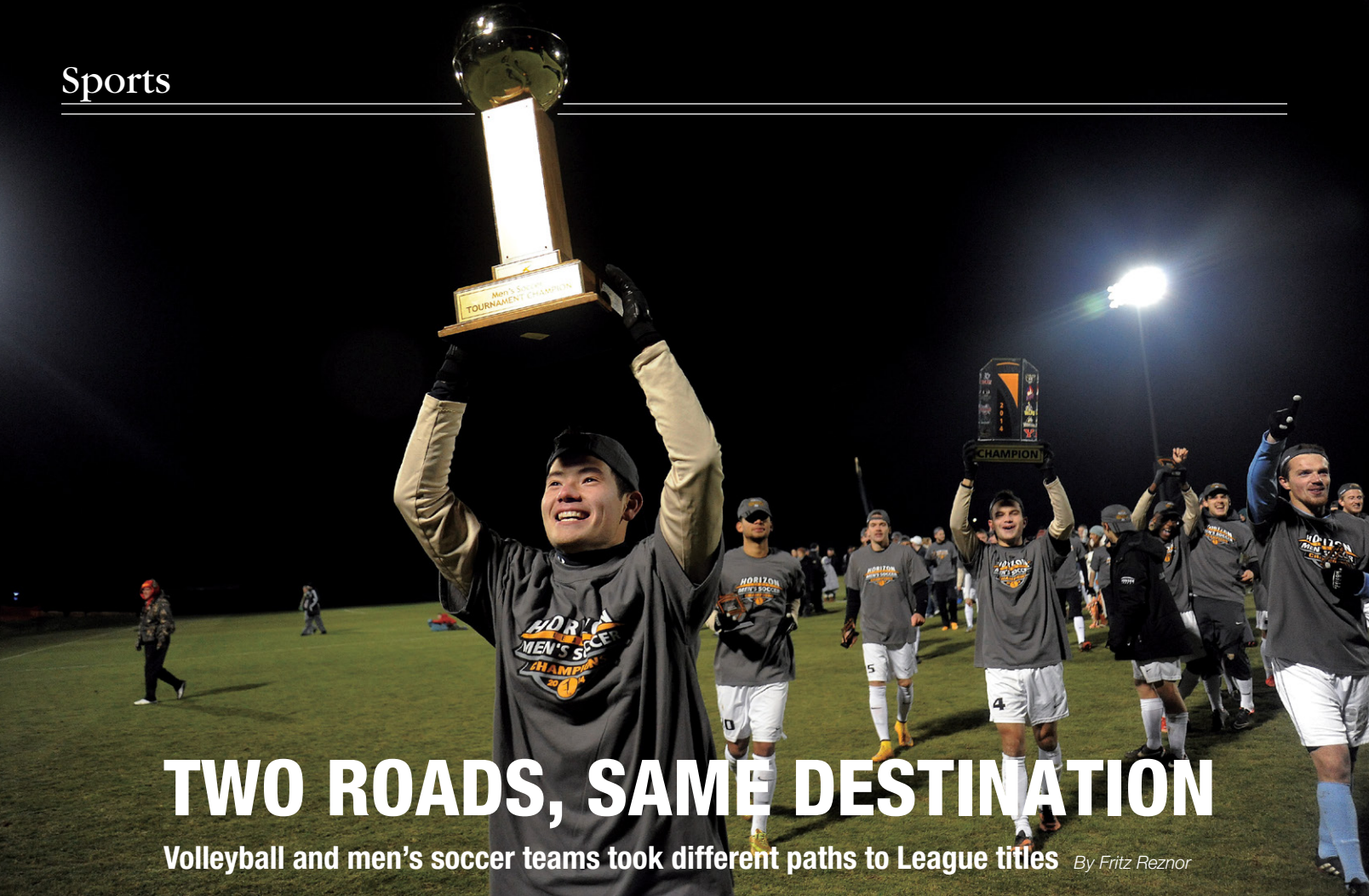
"Basically, it allows you to manage a catastrophic event," Dr. Latcha says, adding that the same technology could be employed in automotive and transportation sectors. ➤

Dr. Latcha has since started a company, Fulcrum Engineering, to license and market to large companies.



“There are lots and lots of studies into how to put things together. But there’s almost nothing on how to take things apart quickly and systematically. That’s the area we’re looking into.”

— Michael Latcha, Ph.D., associate professor,
mechanical engineering



TWO ROADS, SAME DESTINATION

Volleyball and men's soccer teams took different paths to League titles *By Fritz Reznor*

Oakland head volleyball coach Rob Beam has two favorite sayings: “Necessity is the mother of invention,” and “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.” The former is an old English proverb, the latter a quote from Albert Einstein.

Both aptly describe the Golden Grizzlies’ volleyball and men’s soccer seasons last fall, as they found ways to overcome mid-season obstacles en route to Horizon League regular season and tournament championships and berths in their respective NCAA National Tournaments.

But while they’re happy with the previous year’s placements, neither coach is standing still. Both are already looking ahead to next year. So is Oakland University Athletics Director Jeff Konya.

“Men’s soccer has had a history of success here, but this was brand new for volleyball; this was an unprecedented run for them,” he shares. “So, I’m interested to see what is yet to come for both those programs.”

Konya says the eventual success of these programs and others, such as Oakland’s defending Horizon League championship men’s and women’s swimming teams, “sets the bar in this new league.

“It represents to our team sports that we have the student-athletes, the facilities, the coaches, the intangibles — the whole enchilada — to compete at the highest level and win championships. And quite frankly, that’s what we’re in this business for, at least partially: to have success in athletic

competition and the life lessons you learn from the journey to success.”

Reframe and reinvent

Life lessons are what each team got while facing its own set of difficult challenges. The volleyball team’s journey started strong with an early-season win over defending Southeastern Conference champion and nationally ranked Missouri, along with winning Army’s Black Knights Invitational. But after starting 4-0 in Horizon League play, the Golden Grizzlies dropped consecutive matches, including a loss at last-place Green Bay with a key match against league-leader Milwaukee set for the following day.

“Going into the (next day’s) match at Milwaukee, I reframed our expectations,” says Beam, in his eighth season of coaching the Golden Grizzlies. “I wanted them to understand that we were not trying to reach some sort of perfection or absolute level, but instead to focus on our response to our own mistake, or our response to that great play by our opponent and control our side of the net, control our preparation, control our practice.

“All of a sudden you started seeing our team go down 0-2, and win. You saw us down 2-1, and win. You saw us win every match

in the Horizon League that went five sets. And that's all about perspective."

Oakland went on to win its next 10 matches to post the first 20-win season, the first league championship and the first NCAA Tournament appearance — stopped only by a tough, competitive first-round loss to Kentucky — in the program's Division I era.

The men's soccer team went through a different kind of struggle, opening the season with matches at Penn State, at West Virginia, and a trip to Colorado to play Denver and Air Force — all losses. After a Homecoming loss to Incarnate Word, head coach Eric Pogue felt it was time to reinvent his team.

"We knew we were better than an 0-5 team," explains Pogue.

"We needed to make some lineup changes and really get back to playing the way successful Oakland teams had in the past: good back line defense, good goalkeeping and taking advantage of our scoring opportunities."

The Golden Grizzlies went 7-0-3 in their next 10 games, allowing just seven goals in that span, including a 2-0 shutout of Kentucky in the first round of the NCAA National Tournament — the second NCAA Tournament win in the program's Division I history — before being eliminated by Michigan State in the second round.

Looking ahead

The 2015 Golden Grizzlies volleyball team returns eight of its nine regulars from last fall, led by kills leaders Cassie Pelloni, Jessica Dood and Melissa Deatsch, middle blockers Amanda Baker and Sammy Condon, and record-setting setter Ciara Schultz. Pelloni and Condon both were All-Horizon League selections, while Dood, Schultz and Condon were named to the league's All-Tournament team.

"We should be really good," Beam says of his volleyball team, "but even though we have talented players returning, it's not the same team. We've got to remember that we're not trying to re-create something. We're trying to create something new."

Pogue feels the same about his soccer team. Four of the team's top six scorers are returning in 2015 — including All-Horizon League midfielders Matt Dudley and Shawn Claud Lawson — along with 6' 5" all-league goalkeeper Wes Mink, who posted seven shutouts last fall and was selected to the 2014 College Soccer News All-Freshman third team. Of those not returning, Joseph Tinnion made the Horizon League first team and Cody Archibald was selected to the second team. Pogue himself was also named the league's Coach of the Year.

"We're proud of our accomplishments, but we're not complacent," Pogue shares. "The next step is to get to the Sweet 16 (of the NCAA Tournament). Then we won't be content with that, and we'll want to go even further."

"Every year there's a team that gets to the Final Four that doesn't seem to belong there," he says, noting Maryland-Baltimore County's run to the NCAA semifinals in 2014, "so why not us? Why not Oakland?"

Why not, indeed? 🐻

Fritz Reznor is a freelance writer from Pleasant Ridge, Mich.





NATIONAL CHAMPS!

Fledgling club football team went 9-0 in only second season

The Detroit Lions could learn something from the Oakland University Club Football Team. While the local professional football team hasn't won a championship since 1957, it took the Golden Grizzlies only two years to claim the National Club Football Association (NCFA) title.

After sweeping through the Great Lakes Conference East Division with a perfect 7-0 record, Oakland defeated West Division champion Robert Morris University-Peoria 27-26 in the conference title game before downing the same RMU-Peoria team 14-12 two weeks later in the 2014 NCFA National Championship game.

"This was a huge accomplishment for us as a club," says junior safety David Brosky, the founding member and team president for the pay-to-play club team who was named

the 2014 NCFA President of the Year. "Only 12 guys who played the previous year came back, so to do what we did with more than 30 new players is unbelievable."

Brosky is already planning for the 2015 season, with tryouts and a half-dozen spring practices, culminating with an upcoming spring game in mid-April. He noted that Michigan State University has announced plans to form a club football team, and the University of Alabama-Birmingham, which dropped football as

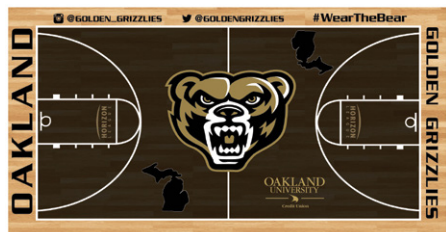
a varsity sport after last season, has shown interest in joining the NCFA.

"We're very excited for next year, to build on the talent we have and the success we had," he says. "Having Michigan State join the league and be in our division would make for a nice in-state rivalry and generate some interest in our program." ➤

By Fritz Reznor

FANS VOTE FOR NEW BLACK TOP COURT DESIGN IN O'RENA

After five months of an online voting campaign, the new O'rena floor design was unveiled Feb. 15 at halftime of Oakland's home men's basketball game.



Final design may be altered in production.

More than 10,000 Golden Grizzlies fans have chosen the Black Top Court design, which features an all-black court with white lines designating the lanes and three-point arcs. The Bear Head will be at center court, flanked by silhouettes of the state of Michigan. The baselines will have "Oakland" imprinted on one end and "Golden Grizzlies" on the other.

"The new court represents a new energy and another branding opportunity," Oakland University Director of Athletics Jeff Konya says. "Our fan base can take some ownership that this is truly our court, and hopefully that's going to transcend into a true home court advantage."

"I think the Black Top will resonate with current prospects and student-athletes," Konya adds. "It's going to cater to those that thrive off of innovation and something new, and hopefully something distinctive like this can increase our efforts to brand our home court in a way that is going to continue our resurgence in the marketplace both as a basketball brand and as a new Horizon League member."

The new court is expected to be in place for the start of the 2015 volleyball season in August. ➤ *By Fritz Reznor*



Tony Sakich, SBA '09, feels it's better to prepare for the future than to fight it. That's why, just last year, he signed on as a digital marketing manager with digital currency bitcoin processor BitPay and recently took another job at a start-up that's so cutting-edge it hasn't officially launched.

To understand how advanced the 30-year-old Warren, Mich., native really is, you need to understand blockchain technology and how it's used to transfer bitcoin, a form of public digital currency maintained by its users rather than the government.

Bitcoin is processed through a decentralized online ledger called the blockchain that records every transaction on the Bitcoin network, through which every transfer of funds needs to be verified before the next transaction can happen. The technology has received a lot of media attention since it was introduced in 2009, both positive and negative. Confused? Imagine teaching that every day.

It was Sakich's job at BitPay — based in Atlanta, Ga., where he now lives — to explain this to anyone who would ask, create digital marketing campaigns for the bitcoin processor and more. "Sometimes it's like what it would be like explaining the Internet to someone in 1993. They'd look like a deer in headlights."

In his short time at the currency distributor, Sakich saw clients such as Warner Bros. Records, rapper 50 Cent, Microsoft and more sign on to start making transactions with bitcoin. He also launched the most successful social media campaign for the currency at the NCAA Bitcoin Bowl in St. Petersburg, Fla., working with online money distributor ChangeTip to hand out \$10,000 in bitcoins to Twitter users who used the hashtag #BitcoinBowl.

He loved the energy at BitPay, he says, but has since transitioned to a role with tech start-up Augur — another open-source, decentralized platform dealing in prediction markets. What that

technology could affect at a base level remains to be seen, as it is so new, Augur's formal business plan hasn't been made public yet. The company hopes to unveil a beta version of its product within the next few months, according to its website.

Sakich said he's able to understand such high-level concepts thanks to the teaching strategies of several of his instructors at OU, including his former marketing instructor Larry Schramm. "They really went out of their way to give you the real world application of whatever they were teaching," he says.

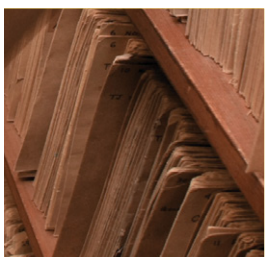
Schramm, someone with a breadth of real-world experience, teaches marketing classes ranging from the introductory to graduate levels. He remembers Sakich's determination to fully grasp concepts in his classes by constantly asking questions.

"Some students probably ended up rolling their eyes back because of the dialogue, but I liked the interaction," says Schramm, a former General Motors employee for 35 years. "Tony is just not intimidated by much. He's one of those people you remember."

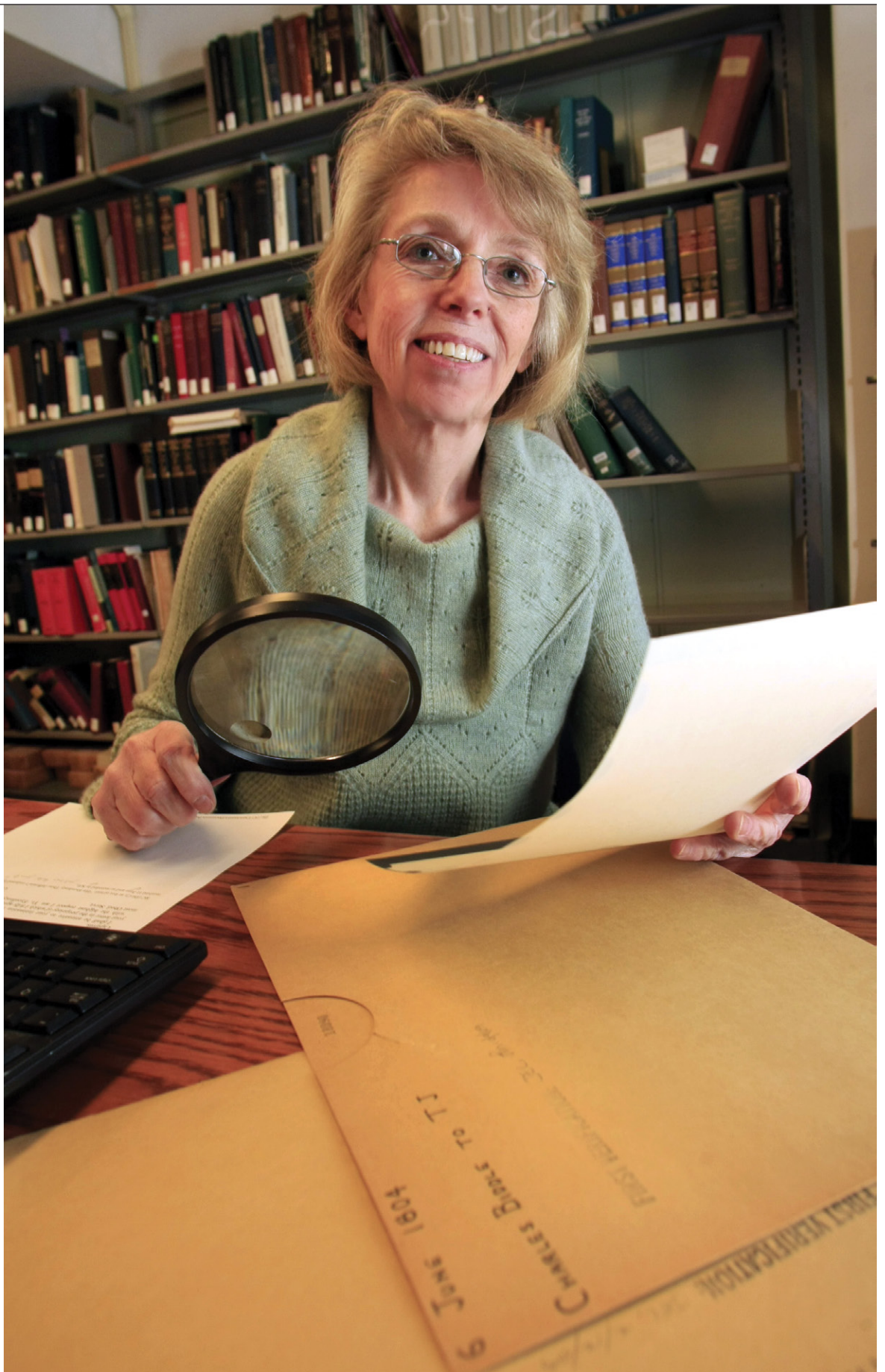
What's ahead for Sakich with Augur is nothing short of building a brand from scratch, he says. "This is something that was built on a technology even more sophisticated than bitcoin. It's scary in a great way, and I'll get to work with really smart people and learn a lot."

As Sakich says, better to be prepared. 🍌

John Turk is editor of OU Magazine.



photos by
Frank Wojciechowski



“Really good people come here, and sometimes they don’t know how much talent they have. But once they get some guidance, they begin to glimpse that.”

— **Todd Estes**, Ph.D., chair, History Department

A UNIQUE PATH TO STUDYING THE PAST

By John Turk

Take a moment and list what can be said about Thomas Jefferson — easy things first. He authored the Declaration of Independence, was America’s third president ... and was also an entertainer extraordinaire?

Oddly enough, yes. **Merry Ellen Scofield, Ph.D., CAS '02**, landed her dream job, thanks in part to a master’s thesis at Oakland University based on that fact — the Founding Father’s use of parties for politicking.

“He was very low key, very behind the scenes, and this was his way of influencing people,” says Dr. Scofield, 65, assistant editor on the Jefferson Papers project at Princeton University. “I love the dinner records, and it’s amazing what you can learn from looking through them. They have done me well.”

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson project began in 1943 at New Jersey-based Princeton, with help from a major gift from The New York Times Company, and following a congressional mandate, to be an authoritative voice on all correspondence written to or by Jefferson. Scofield, also known as Melly, is one of a team of eight working with the documents.

A Michigander by way of Indiana, Dr. Scofield came to Oakland University after earning a Master of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Northern Michigan University, and in the midst of a 19-year career teaching middle school history in White Lake, Mich.

Todd Estes, Ph.D., Oakland University History Department chair, helped Dr. Scofield dive into the discipline, she says. Dr. Scofield eventually found charm in learning about Jefferson’s social life, completed her thesis and then moved on to earn a doctoral degree in history from Wayne State University.

Dr. Estes says it’s safe to say Dr. Scofield is a highly respected scholar on Thomas Jefferson’s presidency and, in particular, his White House dinners. Hers is also a classic Oakland University story, he explains.

“Really good people come here, and sometimes they don’t know how much talent they have. But once they get some guidance, they begin to glimpse that,” says Dr. Estes. “Melly wasn’t quite sure, and it took a while to find her feet. But man, once she did, she just took off.”

Dr. Scofield’s resume glimmers. Her work has been published in several historical journals, and she wrote a chapter in the upcoming book, *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to First Ladies*. Upon her graduation from Wayne State, a Jefferson Papers editing job opened. Dr. Scofield remembers how taken aback she was when she learned she landed an interview.

“I couldn’t believe it,” she says. “I was up for a job where I’d be doing what I did in my free time.”

Now that she has landed the position, Dr. Scofield often stays late, poring over documents — even Jefferson’s barber bill — verifying transcriptions and annotating the texts. All aspects of the work entail a heavy amount of research and fact-checking.

And she hasn’t forgotten Oakland University. “That first day I walked into class with Todd Estes was the beginning of a trail that has led me to Princeton. There’s a smile on my face every day.” ➤

John Turk is editor of OU Magazine.



OU COUPLE ‘CLICKS’

By Sandra Beckwith

You might say that in work and love, things “click” for OU grads **Josh Slaughter, SECS '07**, and wife **Ashley Forcier Slaughter, CAS '08**.

The couple, who met at OU and married the year after Ashley graduated, are co-owners of Clicks & Mortar Websites, a forward-thinking website design firm based in Detroit. Josh's older brother Dave is the third owner.

Responsibilities at Clicks & Mortar are divided among the partners according to who does what the best. Ashley handles the creative aspects, Josh executes her vision, and Dave takes care of the behind-the-scenes technology.

Both Josh and Ashley believe their complementary skills and personalities make them ideal business and life partners.

“I’m more impulsive, while Josh is more methodical,” Ashley says. “When we combine that, we make better decisions for our clients.”

Josh agrees.

“She excels at things I’m not good at, and I’m better at things she doesn’t really care about. Plus, client projects give us time together doing something we both care about,” he says.

Ashley thought IT was “boring” when she met Josh while both attended OU. Today? Not so much. “I love working with technology. I’m challenged every day, so I never get bored,” she says.

The year-old firm uses an unusual model that makes websites for small businesses and nonprofits affordable.

“Too many small businesses create their own websites because they can’t afford to spend a few thousand dollars up front to get one done professionally. Because of that, they often spend hours of valuable time setting up a site that’s unattractive and ineffective,” Josh explains.



Josh Slaughter and Ashley Forcier Slaughter

The Clicks & Mortar solution? It charges clients a monthly fee for two years rather than the total fee up front. The monthly charge includes site hosting and maintenance, leaving the firm’s clients free to spend their time doing what they do best.

It’s part-time work for all three for now while the business grows. Josh takes the lead while also working remotely maintaining a manufacturer’s e-commerce systems. Ashley, who majored in communications at OU and recently learned computer programming, creates automated tests for her employer’s software. Pennsylvania-based Dave has a technology job.

While neither Josh nor Ashley would have predicted the path they’re on now when they first met at OU, they’re happy with where it has taken them — at home and at work. 🍷

Sandra Beckwith is a Fairport, N.Y.-based freelance writer.

“I love working with technology. I’m challenged every day, so I never get bored.”

— Ashley Forcier Slaughter



Faculty couple's gifts show strong ties to students, OU *By John Turk*

When New York natives Bob and Jackie Wiggins attended college, they paid very little for their tuition. Times have changed in a big way, say the couple, both longtime faculty members at Oakland University. That's why each has set aside a \$25,000 planned gift to establish endowments in their respective departments.

Bob Wiggins, Ph.D., professor in the School of Education and Human Services and chair of the Department of Teacher Development and Educational Studies, says he never could've gone to college if it weren't for the fact that Queens College in New York was tuition-free. His planned endowment will be dedicated to supporting graduate students and teacher education.

"It certainly was more motivating for me to know I could keep going in my education without having to worry about going into serious financial debt," says Bob, "so whatever way our contribution makes that possible for even a small number of students, that's what motivated us to do this."

Jackie Wiggins, Ed.D., professor of music education and chair of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, regularly contributes to support Oakland's music education and music performance

programs. Her future endowment will continue her longtime support of these programs.

The couple has been with Oakland University for more than 20 years, and both have helped shape academic excellence and acclaim at their schools. They have strong ties to OU not only in their successful careers, but within their family as well. Their daughter and son-in-law hold OU music degrees, and a nephew also attended.

Bob and Jackie say they decided to give in hopes that others will contribute: their endowments are set up so that others can give to them, much like other faculty who've set up similar gifts. "One of the characteristics of Oakland that is very different from a lot of other schools is the passion that faculty have for this school. It's what makes it what it is," Jackie says. "We are very dedicated to OU and to what it can become."

They hope to help "the students themselves, who might not have the personal funds for doing the things they need to do" in education, says Bob. He adds, "It's not just our personal feelings about the students — it's about what we feel for Oakland University, too."

Angie Schmucker, executive director of Planned and Annual Giving at OU, says she is grateful the University has employees like Bob and Jackie who support causes that are close to their hearts. "What I love about this gift is that it reflects exactly who these two dedicated faculty members are, where they've spent their time and energy and what they truly love about OU."

To learn more about the Wigginses' endowments and how to contribute to them, call (248) 370-4504 or email giving@oakland.edu. 🐾

John Turk is editor of OU Magazine.

Couple's gift supports, encourages practitioner program

Although they now live in Florida, Diana and Bill Mitzelfeld are still making a difference for OU. The couple, longtime Rochester, Mich., residents, recently pledged continued support to the School of Nursing with a gift of \$75,000 over five years.

Their gift will provide scholarship awards for 30 nursing students studying at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Six years ago, the couple's first gift to the School of Nursing provided 20 students with scholarship awards of \$2,500 each.

Diana Mitzelfeld and her husband have always had a strong interest in helping students, particularly those who choose careers that involve caring for others. "I think that anyone who chooses to study nursing is a caring person by nature," Diana Mitzelfeld says. "And in any hospital, the care of the nurses is so essential." She adds, "We also saw a great need for nurse practitioners and thought we should develop and encourage the program."

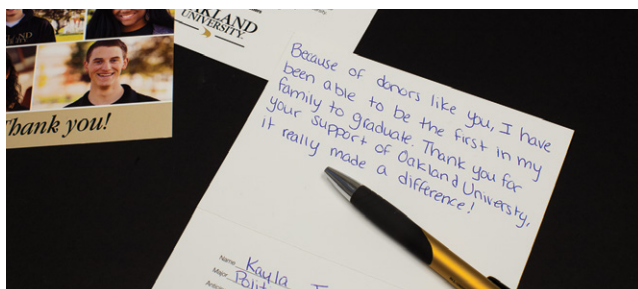
Gary Moore, Ph.D., interim dean of the School, appreciates the couple's generosity and penchant for supporting those who serve others. "We are grateful for the Mitzelfelds and what we can accomplish because of them," he says. "With changes in health care reform, the need for nurse practitioners trained to provide primary care is rapidly increasing. This gift will not only benefit dozens of students, but ultimately the community by ensuring that more people have access to quality health care."

Reflecting on their gift, Diana Mitzelfeld says the couple is gratified to know that their gift supports several student scholarships. More important, she adds, "It is very gratifying to think of what they are doing for us." 🐾

By Donna Mirabito



Bill and Diana Mitzelfeld enjoy meeting School of Nursing scholarship students at an October 2011 recognition reception at Meadow Brook Hall. (From left) Bill Mitzelfeld, Brittany Nicely, Kathleen Gardiner, Elaina Navock, Matthew Karim and Diana Mitzelfeld.



Graduates uniquely say 'thanks'

It's not often that students pause and ponder how philanthropy affects their campus lives, although the reality is that the microscope they use in chemistry class could have arrived thanks to a generous gift.

Last December before graduating, OU students thought — and wrote — about philanthropy and its impact on them during college. They sent nearly 900 letters to donors with two words in common: "Thank you."

Adrianne Penney, Oakland's assistant director of Annual Giving, says students were given the opportunity to write their thanks during commencement fairs in the Oakland Center. After talking with students for only a few moments, Penney says most were happy to take some time to write a letter.

Seniors chose to thank those who helped provide OU with campus technology, career services, tutoring, computer labs and more. "The letters create a double impact," Penney says, because, "We're educating future donors and alumni, and we're also able to reach out and thank these donors in a very unique way."

For Director of Annual Giving Kelly Brault, the letters that stood out were from first-generation college students and students raising a child.

"I think that's representative of OU's general population," shares Brault. "Most of our students are balancing multiple priorities; they're often working a full-time job and going to school. The notes where students really get to the heart of their situation ... are the ones that kind of hit me."

The Student Philanthropy Committee, which set up tables for writing the letters, was formed in 2013 to educate students on the importance of philanthropy at OU. Committee chair Halla Hilborn says the group aims to show students that philanthropy is not only for the wealthy — that everyone can make a difference.

"Philanthropy is responsible for many of the benches around campus, not to mention the Elliott clock tower, Elliott Hall and countless other campus gifts," Hilborn says. "These generous gifts have benefited every student at Oakland. The Student Philanthropy Committee is dedicated to making sure that students understand the generosity of donors." 🐾

By John Turk

'MATH IS COOL BECAUSE IT IS USEFUL'

OU Summer Math Institute brings out the best in high school students
By Donna Mirabito

More than a dozen papers were published in refereed journals with research guidance from OUSMI director Eddie Cheng, Ph.D., OU distinguished professor of mathematics.

Nearly 400 of the area's best and brightest high school math students have gone on to great success since their summers at OU's Summer Math Institute (OUSMI). They excel as CEOs, professors, consultants and researchers within mathematics-related fields.

That is the original idea for OU's first math camp and what its anonymous donor intended with a generous gift that runs the program today.

In the late '60s, MSU-O Mathematics Department Chair James H. McKay, Ph.D., (1963-65 and 1991-97) was connecting with the area's brightest high school and undergraduate mathematics students as a judge in the Michigan Mathematics Prize competition, says his son, Marty McKay. Dr. McKay had the idea of a camp as a way to motivate and challenge students about mathematics.

"My father loved math," McKay says. "He would always say, 'you can never take too much math.' Growing up, he made math fun for us with riddles, logic problems, woodworking, sailing, and hands-on projects. We had math camp kids over to our house in the faculty subdivision."

A subdivision neighbor, OU President Emeritus Donald O'Dowd, Ph.D., recalls sending his son, Dan, to 269 Hannah Hall for the first summer math camp on June 22, 1970. Dan O'Dowd went on to found Green Hills Software, Inc., one of the world's largest cybersecurity firms, in 1982.

Today, Eddie Cheng, Ph.D., OU distinguished professor of mathematics, directs the OUSMI.

Each summer, the donor's gift provides for 36 students to attend the OUSMI for six weeks. Their tuition and fees for two undergraduate mathematics courses, lab activity, books and tutoring, counseling and on-campus expenses are covered. Students receive college credit for the courses.

Dr. Cheng enhances the OUSMI by mentoring students in research and with an annual colloquium.

Through his mentoring, students have presented at national mathematics conferences. At the prestigious Siemens Foundation competition, OUSMI students twice reached the "final five," each winning \$30,000 scholarships.

During the OUSMI, students hear talks by such esteemed mathematicians as Rutgers University's Doron Zeilberger, Ph.D.; 2012 MacArthur Fellow Maria Chudnovsky, Ph.D., of Columbia University; and OUSMI alumnus Ned Dimitrov, Ph.D., of The University of Texas at Austin.

Last year, Dr. Dimitrov told the students, "I have used math to detect nuclear smugglers, help intelligence collection and control infectious diseases. Math is cool because it is useful."

Often their experience inspires hardworking OUSMI alumni to select Oakland University as their college destination.



Alexandra Zetye

Alexandra Zetye is a fifth-year OU senior majoring in piano performance, engineering biology, mathematics and French. "Thanks to OUSMI, I was able to do mathematics research with an OU faculty member during my freshman year, using differential equations to analyze the population dynamics of Chagas disease," she says.

Donna Mirabito is executive editor of OU Magazine.

Students are encouraged to apply for the 2015 OUSMI by mid-May. Visit oakland.edu/mathematics/2015OUSMI for a brochure, application and more information.



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Take advantage of an OU Credit Union Certificate to earn more on your savings. Keep your funds on deposit for the amount of time that works best for you with term lengths ranging from three months to seven years. Whether you want to grow your funds or save for a future goal, an OU Credit Union Certificate can help!

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**OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY™**

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2011 Charter Class White Coat Ceremony

OUWB School of Medicine receives accreditation, awaits charter class Commencement

The Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB), which in February was granted five-year accreditation by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, will graduate its charter class of 47 students on May 15 at 2 p.m. in the O'rena.

John E. Prescott, M.D., chief academic officer of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), will deliver the Commencement address. Dr. Prescott oversees AAMC efforts that prepare and assist deans, faculty leaders and future physicians for the challenges of 21st-century academic medicine.

Class sizes in the program's first four years increased to 100 students in 2014. This fall, 125 students are expected to be accepted from among more than 6,100 applicants.

The OUWB School of Medicine is Michigan's fourth fully-accredited allopathic, M.D.-granting medical school, in addition to the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University.

The OUWB School of Medicine is a collaborative, diverse, inclusive and technologically advanced learning community dedicated to enabling students to become skillful, ethical and compassionate physicians, inquisitive scientists who are invested in the scholarship of discovery and dynamic and effective medical educators. ➤

President Hynd inauguration set for April 29

Oakland University officially welcomes George W. Hynd, Ed.D., its sixth president, with an inauguration ceremony at 3 p.m. in the O'rena on April 29.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni, university presidents and community leaders have been invited to celebrate the historic event. Inauguration Day includes various events for faculty, staff and students.

The Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Hynd president of Oakland University in July 2014. Prior to coming to the University, he served as provost and executive vice president of Academic Affairs for the College of Charleston in South Carolina.

Visit oakland.edu/inauguration for more information. ➤



Keynote speaker Jurnee Smollett-Bell (center) meets 2015 scholarship recipients (from left) Aukury Cowart, electrical engineering; Zienab Fahs, social work; Taylor Moore, nursing; Joseph Kirma, biomedical science, and Chanel Daniels, STEP, history.

Five students earn Keeper of the Dream scholarships

Five students who promote diversity, cultural understanding and community activism were recognized with scholarships during the 23rd annual OU Keeper of the Dream Awards Celebration honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Keeper of the Dream provides annual scholarships of up to \$5,000 for students who have demonstrated strong citizenship, scholarship and leadership. This year, they were sponsored by Autoliv Americas, Beaumont Health System, L&L McIntosh Scholarship, Oakland University Alumni Association, and the Oakland University Credit Union. Unity Sponsors for 2015 were AAA Michigan and Avis Ford.

According to *The Oakland Post*, keynote speaker Jurnee Smollett-Bell, an actress and humanitarian/activist, posed a challenge to the OU students: "Continue to be a vessel in which you broaden society's definition of who we are as young people." ➤



OU Brass Band places at English competition

OU's Brass Band began 2015 by making history at the Butlins Mineworkers National Open Brass Festival in Skegness, England.

OU's was the only brass band from a university to perform at Butlins. In the first section of the competition against 19 bands, Oakland University took second place, against Unite the Union of the City of Sheffield.

As 4barsrest.com reported: "The two expertly led competitors certainly showed their class on the dangerously underestimated set-work, 'Three Folk

Song Settings,' which bared its bucolic teeth to scupper the contest-winning aspirations of many of the 19 contenders — almost from the word go."

It's not easy getting invited to perform at Butlins. Band Director Kenneth Kroesche and his 34 students did so after they won the First Section of the North American Brass Band Association Championships in April 2014.

Alumni, friends and followers of the Brass Band raised more than \$12,000 in a crowdfunding campaign to provide the necessary funds to travel to England. ➤



Travis Bader

Travis Bader No. 3 jersey on display in the O'rena

Travis Bader, CAS '13, returned to the O'rena for his banner-raising ceremony during halftime at the men's basketball game on Jan. 15.

Bader broke the NCAA Division I record for most 3-pointers on Feb. 2, 2014. He also received the Coleman Award, given to the Horizon League's top senior student-athlete.

Read more about Travis Bader's record and the Golden Grizzlies at goldengrizzlies.com. ➤

Cinderella wears basketball shoes

Whether it's in the office or on the basketball court, teammates often become family. That's what happened when the 1989-90 women's basketball squad took their chemistry and the University to the NCAA's Final Four.

Led by Head Coach Bob Taylor, the Pioneers took the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season title with a 14-2 record. After beating Hillsdale College in the conference tournament championship game and making it to the NCAA Division II Tournament, the squad defeated both St. Joseph's College (Ind.) and Central Missouri State to earn a Final Four bid.

At a press conference in California, the team was dubbed the "Cinderella team." Dawn Lichty (1987-90) says the team didn't mind.

"Our attitude was definitely the Cinderella team mentality — 'we have nothing to lose' and 'no one expects us to win' ran through our heads often."

Although the lady Pioneers came up just four points short to Bentley University in the final possession, the team will always remember the magic of their 1990 Final Four bid.

Find the full story by Samantha Franz at ougrizzlies.com/m/sports/w-baskbl. ➤

Inspired by fellow alum's gift, retiree donates final check to OU

Giving back has always been a common thread in Camille Klimecki's life. Inspired by a fellow alumna, she picked up the thread and donated her final paycheck to OU upon retiring from her high school counseling job.

After **Klimecki, SEHS '74, '71**, saw media reports of fellow alumna **Samantha Wolf, CAS '14**, donating her first paycheck to OU, she designated her final \$3,000 paycheck to support undergraduate and graduate scholarships within OU's School of Education and Human Services. Klimecki retired in June as director of counseling at De La Salle Collegiate High School in Warren, Mich.

The 64-year-old Warren resident said she has felt close to Oakland University throughout her 43-year career in counseling. As department head of Saint John Hospital's Patient and Community

Education Center, Klimecki oversaw interns from OU. As a counselor at Macomb Community College, she often interacted with students planning on transferring to OU. Klimecki says she would like to see other alumni give back, and hopes that donations of first and last paychecks will become an OU tradition.


"Keep this place going strong and secure and keep the quality," she says.

Visit isupportou.com or email giving@oakland.edu for information on giving to Oakland University. ➤



Camille Klimecki

 **MALE ALUMNI**
36,387

 **FEMALE ALUMNI**
63,505

Pioneers **PIONEERS ALUMNI**
54,259

 **GOLDEN GRIZZLIES ALUMNI**
45,664

CELEBRATING 100,000 GRADUATES

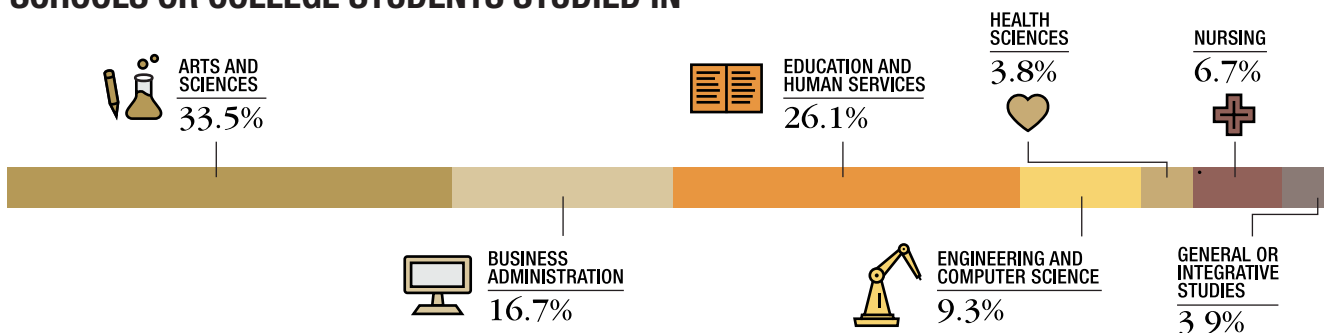
Oakland's alumni population has reached a milestone six digits following the fall Commencement. On Dec. 13, the 100,000th graduate crossed the stage to receive a diploma. The new graduates join alumni who live in every state in the continental U.S. and in many countries around the world.

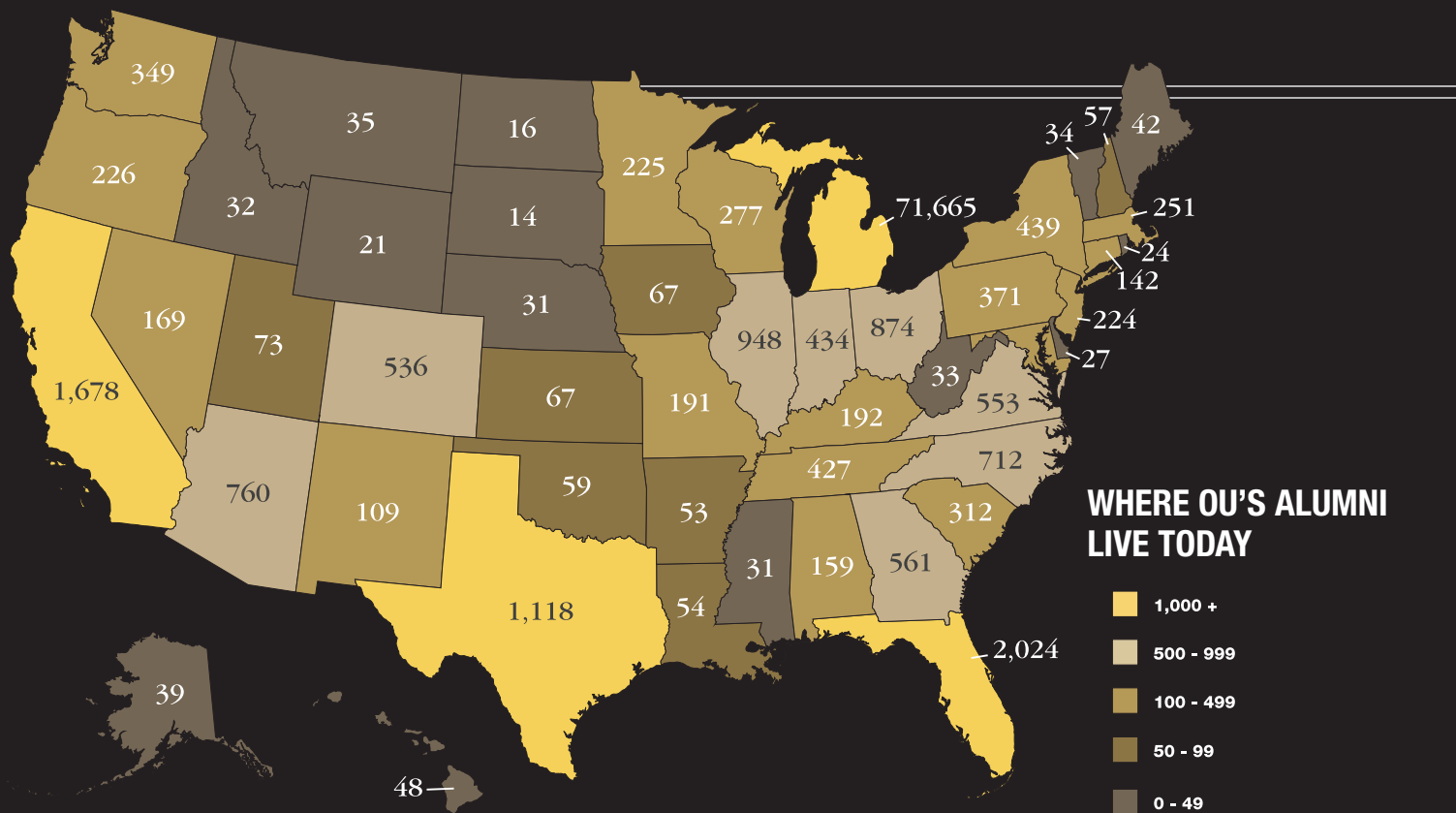
Among the top programs at OU in the past 57 years are arts and sciences disciplines such as psychology, education and human services programs, including teacher development and education studies, and engineering and computer science.

Top companies for graduates — according to an OU study on LinkedIn — are Chrysler, General Motors, OU, Beaumont Health System and Ford Motor Co.

Share in the celebration and visit the Oakland University Alumni Association Facebook page to view spotlights on past graduates. Celebrating 100,000 Alumni, an infographic on oualumni.com, displays alumni by class year, type of degree, employment, gender, Pioneer/Grizzly and more. ➤

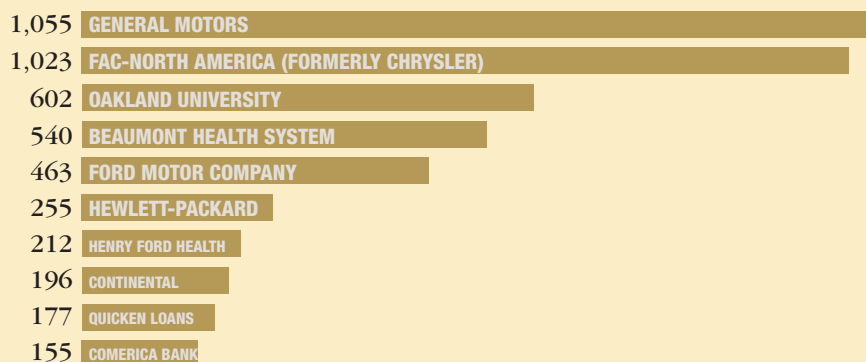
SCHOOLS OR COLLEGE STUDENTS STUDIED IN



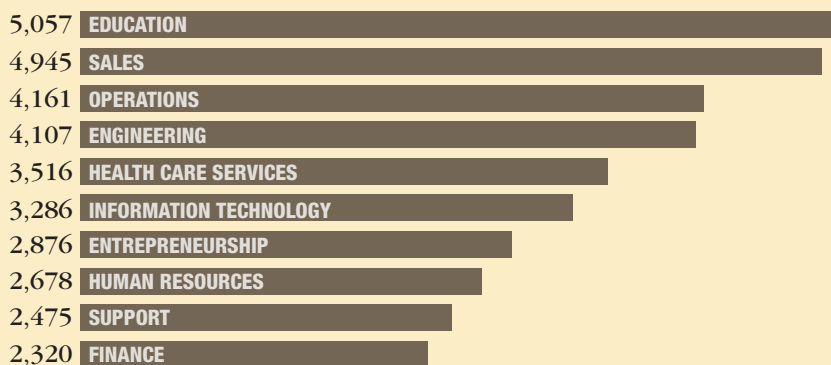


WHERE OU ALUMNI WORK TODAY

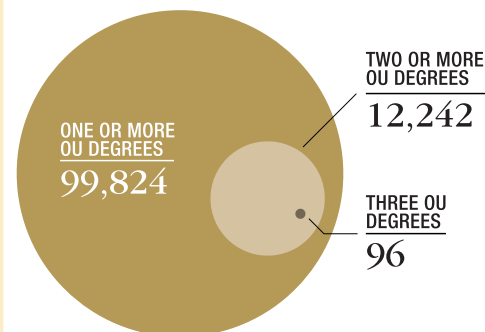
Top companies and organizations



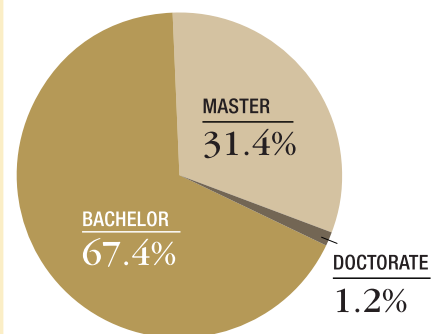
Top industries



NUMBER AND TYPE OF OU DEGREES



Number of OU degrees each student earned



Type of OU degrees each student earned

Summer alumni events

JUNE 26: GRIZZLY GATHERING IN MT. CLEMENS

Enjoy dinner, drinks and fireworks with OU alumni and friends from Macomb County. This family-friendly event is part of the greater fireworks celebration in downtown Mt. Clemens and features lots of exciting things to do. For more information, please contact Robin McGrath at mcgrath@oakland.edu.

JULY 13: OUAA GOLF CHALLENGE

Play a round of golf on the R&S Sharf Golf Course while supporting the OUAA Scholarship program. Participants who register before June 15 will receive the early-bird rate of \$175 per player. Cost includes 18 holes of golf with a cart on R&S Sharf Golf Course, a boxed lunch, an afterglow reception and player gift. Available sponsorship opportunities include hole, cart, lunch and player gift sponsors. Call (248) 364-6130 or email ouaa@oakland.edu for details.



AUG. 5: OU NIGHT AT COMERICA PARK

Cheer on the Detroit Tigers at the 11th annual OU Night at Comerica Park. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with an all-you-can-eat buffet at the ballpark. At 7:05 p.m., find your seats for the first pitch of the game against the Kansas City Royals. Join us on the charter bus from campus for hassle-free transportation to the game. Tickets go on sale on Opening Day, April 6. Visit oualumni.com/events to register. ➤



OUAA WEBSITE GETS A NEW DESIGN

Stay connected with campus news and events. Visit the newly redesigned OUAA website oualumni.com and check out the Featured Alum of the Week. To be featured in the Alumni Spotlight, send an email to OUAA at ouaa@oakland.edu and tell us what you have been up to. ➤

Class of '65 Alums: Come Back for Your 50th Reunion Sept. 18, 2015

Alumni look forward to a changed, yet familiar, OU

To Class of '65 graduate Mary VanderVen Schwark, CAS, the most visible changes each time she returns to campus have undoubtedly been in the realm of expansion.

Although she is connected to the modern Oakland University, there are still corners of campus that remind Schwark of her time as a student.

"When I speak with those who are familiar with only the current OU, they're amazed that the University of 50 years ago was so very small and so very different," she says, "and yet, in the southeast corner of Oakland Center's ground floor, the lounge and fireplace area appears to have been frozen in time."

Schwark and her former classmates will return to campus Sept. 18 for the Class of 1965 Golden Reunion and will get a chance to attend the annual Alumni Awards Banquet, tour the University Archives and revisit former classrooms in North and South Foundation Hall. The reunion also coincides with the second annual Homecoming & Reunion Weekend Sept. 18-20. Students, alumni, faculty and friends participated in more than 70 events at last fall's celebration.

Alumna Jenita MacDonald Day, SEHS, says she's excited to come back and see capital improvements such as the 151-foot Elliott Tower, and to see her classmates. She, Schwark and a group of women in her class have kept in touch since graduating. "We've all stuck together over the years," she says. "OU definitely played a role in that."

An alumna who has returned to OU — Betty Youngblood, Ph.D., CAS, the vice president for organizational development and strategic planning — also recalls the strong academic traditions established by the early alumni.

"Remember the intense discussions in our classes that were often conducted like seminars ... all the papers we wrote, and re-wrote, often to re-write yet again?" Dr. Youngblood asks her classmates. "Our University was new, but we had no doubts that we were studying at a university second to none — measured by the excellence of the faculty and the innovativeness and strength of the curriculum."

Dr. Youngblood says those strong traditions have carried on through the years. "When I talk to students today, they tell me about the incredible things they are learning, and they tell me about the exceptional teaching that is making it all possible."

For information about the Class of '65 Reunion, contact the Office of Alumni and Community Engagement at (248) 364-6130 or ouaa@oakland.edu or visit oualumni.com/50reunion. ➤

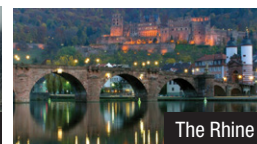


Save the date! 2015 Homecoming & Reunion Weekend Is Sept. 18-20

Whether you are a Pioneer or a Golden Grizzly, be sure and save Sept. 18-20, 2015, for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. Come back to campus and reunite with old friends, check out how your old classrooms have changed and see how OU has grown. Visit oakland.edu/homecoming for more details and a schedule of events. Meet your classmates at the Tower! ➤

Grizzly Getaway Travel Program

Pack your suitcase and your love for learning when you travel with Oakland University Grizzly Getaway Alumni Travel. Choose from among several extraordinary places to explore and immerse yourself in the history, art, culture and cuisine of faraway corners of the globe.



Join faculty host and lecturer Alan Epstein, Ph.D., director of Religious Studies and Political Science faculty member, for a Cuban Discovery Feb. 25-March 4, 2016.

Experience Cuba firsthand on a once-in-a-lifetime journey specially designed to highlight the country's unique artistic heritage. A cosmopolitan melting pot blending Spanish, African, Caribbean and North American influences, Cuba features a vibrant art scene and is home to some of the world's greatest painters. Throughout this enriching program, travelers will delve into the country's compelling history and artistic evolution while touring renowned museums and galleries.

Dr. Epstein will share his knowledge and research of Cuba's political history, efforts to develop and sustain a socialist society, and relations between Cuba and the U.S. through a pre-departure lecture, "Cuba: An Overview" and trip lectures that include "Cuban Socialism" and "Cuba-U.S. Relations."

This opportunity to explore Cuba is organized and operated by Go Next, Inc. In 2013, Go Next, Inc. was first issued a special People-to-People license from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), authorizing

registered travelers on these educational exchange programs to visit Cuba. Pending the renewal of this license, Go Next, Inc. will continue to operate these programs.

UPCOMING TRIPS

- **Mediterranean Artistic Discoveries:** May 10-22, 2015
- **Treasures of Northern Italy:** May 13-21, 2015
- **Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park:** July 24-30, 2015
- **Discover Southeast Alaska:** Aug. 28-Sept. 4, 2015
- **The Rhine by River Ship:** Sept. 5-13, 2015
- **Yangtze River and China:** Sept. 9-23, 2015
- **Galapagos Island:** Oct. 7-14, 2015
- **Machu Picchu, Cusco, and the Sacred Valley:** Oct. 18-23, 2015
- **Holiday Markets in Paris and Moselle:** Dec. 1-12, 2015
- **Cuban Discovery:** Feb. 25-March 4, 2016
- **Palms in Paradise:** April 24-May 10, 2016

For more information about upcoming trips, please contact Amanda Fylan, assistant director of Alumni and Community Engagement, at (248) 364-6128 or fylan@oakland.edu. ➤



Student Program Board NYC trip multi-tasks as young alum networking

By John Turk

The feeling of multi-tasking can be summed up in one word: rewarding.

Multi-tasking while on a trip to New York City with classmates? Well, that's perfection.

For 106 students on a Student Program Board journey to New York City last fall, the trip multi-tasked as an alumni engagement opportunity.

An OU graduate hosted an optional excursion each day to provide an insight into New York City and life after graduation. Students met with Columbia University graduate student **Kay Nguyen, CAS '12**, who traveled to Aberdeen, S.D., after graduation to be a news reporter. **Shawn Ward, SECS '98**, a footwear entrepreneur who owns a consulting firm known as Boardroom Rockstars, took students walking down Wall Street. Another group took an evening stroll on the Brooklyn Bridge with former *The Oakland Post* sports editor **Ross Maghielse, CAS '11**, now a Facebook journalist.

The idea for the hybrid trip sprang from a conversation between Regional Development Officer Luke Fleer and Digital Public Relations Manager Colleen Campbell. They anticipate the start of a tradition.

"This seems to have been a huge success!" says Campbell, who worked with the Student Program Board to have one alumni

meeting each day the group was in the city. "Good-sized groups showed up for each meet-up."

According to Fleer, it's a win-win. "For the students, it's about the connections. You could envision yourself as young alum with different options in Michigan and other metropolitan areas," he says. "For alumni, it's about re-engaging with their alma mater. They get a chance to showcase what they're currently doing, and get a face-to-face update on their alma mater from current students."

OU's Alumni Engagement office plans an alumni gathering in New York City in 2015. Alumni can stay connected with Oakland University by visiting oualumni.com/social. 🐾

John Turk is editor of OU Magazine.

A growing corps of volunteers participates in the Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program (AAAP) to help attract talented students to Oakland University. **Josef Bastian** is among more than 350 alumni volunteers from 20 states who are spreading the good word about OU.



Bastian, CAS '97, '90, who wrote for the former student publication, *The Sail*, as a Pioneer at OU, has been a published author for 20 years. His main work, a series called “The Nain Rouge,” is a take on the 300-year-old Detroit legend of a red dwarf — said to be a harbinger of doom — who is spotted throughout the city during terrible times. Bastian, who lives in Royal Oak, has written a trilogy of novels based on

the myth and recently released a graphic novel based on the first book. He is working with *Pirates of the Caribbean* actor Martin Klebba on a film adaptation. Learn more at folktellerstories.com.

How the AAAP benefits OU

It's an opportunity for a few things: for alumni to give back to the school that's given so much to them, and an opportunity to re-engage. Oakland has seen so much growth, and it's nice to come back and see all that has changed over the years. I'm a lifelong learner, so every time I'm on campus, I also get to learn

something new, talk to someone new. One thing I've told the staff at OU is that it's challenging as an alum because the University is not necessarily a destination spot. You really have to have a reason to come on campus; something needs to draw you back. OU's AAAP program gives alumni a big reason to go back.

Favorite part of being an ambassador

Engaging with the students, being able to share intellectual capital and experiences. It's a two-way street, and often in meeting with them, I'm able to get a fresh perspective on things. OU has created such a dynamic learning environment that there is always something fresh and interesting to experience. I'm very proud of OU and got a great education here — it prepared me for the adult world. To come back and share some life lessons with students is really rewarding.

For information on joining the AAAP, go to oakland.edu/aaap or contact Anthony Gallina at gallina@oakland.edu or (248) 370-GRIZZ. 🐼



Looking for something fun to do? Downtown Rochester has a wide variety of events and activities for you to enjoy!

2015 DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER EVENTS CALENDAR

Farmers' Market

Every Saturday, May 2-Oct. 31

Deck Art

May 14 and 15

Mini Market Thursdays

May 21, June 18, July 16, Aug. 20

Greater Rochester Heritage Days

May 23 and 24

Movies in the Moonlight

June 13, July 11, July 25 and August 8

Sidewalk Sales

July 9-11

Explorers Club

July 9-August 8

The Big, Bright Ball

August 2

Rockin' Rods in Rochester

August 9

Art & Apples Festival

September 11-13

Rochester Posed

October 1

Trick-or-Treat Downtown

October 24

Trick-or-Treat @ Farmers' Market

October 31

Holiday Expo

November 16

Festival of Trees

November 20-22

Lagniappe

November 23

The Big, Bright Light Show

November 23-January 3, 2016

Small Business Saturday

November 28

Kris Kringle Market

December 4 and 5

Friday Night Carriage Rides

November 27, December 4, 11 and 18

Christmas Parade

December 6



For more information, contact the DDA Office at (248) 656-0060 or visit www.DowntownRochesterMI.com.

1980s

Connie M. Bongiorno, CAS '89, accepted the position of senior librarian and supervisor at the Mayo Clinic Hospital Library in Rochester, Minn. Bongiorno's research on parasomnias (disruptive sleep-related disorders) was recently published, and her work has been acknowledged in several medical journals.



Anthony Brogdon, SBA '84, produced *The Great Detroit, It Was-It Is-It Will Be*, a documentary released in April 2014 that examines Detroit and its history. Brogdon embarked on filmmaking three years ago and has several film projects in production.



certification in the three-dimensional treatment of scoliosis based on the Schroth Method.

Lynne A. Lombard, SHS '84, is a physical therapy director at Great Lakes Orthopedic Center in Traverse City, Mich. Lombard recently completed advanced

Julie Ann Roberts, SEHS '87, was hired by Americold Logistics, LLC, as director of human resources.



Roger B. Thomas, SECS '84, is a self-employed computer consultant and lifelong Michigan resident. His collection of short stories, *The Last Ugly Person*, was published by Ignatius Press, which will publish his most recent work, a novel entitled *The Accidental Marriage*. Thomas and his wife, Ellen, have six children and eight grandchildren.

1990s

Jon-Paul Frappier, CAS '93, arranged strings and horns for Canadian superstar Johnny Reid's 2012 recording and JUNO Album of the Year *Fire It Up*, which recently went platinum. He has played and arranged for thousands of live shows and hundreds of recordings. Frappier has performed at the Hollywood Bowl, Staples Center, the Montreal Jazz Festival, Austin City Limits Festival, and on 10 international tours. He lives and works in Nashville as an active session and touring musician. Frappier's two recordings are the 2012 solo release *Funkybrass* and the 2010 *Brass Christmas at the National Shrine of the Little Flower*.



Kristin Penrose, daughter of **Kurt Penrose, SECS '95**, and **Kimberly DiMartino-Penrose, SEHS '97**, is Miss Oakland County's Outstanding Teen 2014 and an honor student at Lake Orion High School. Kristin hopes to attend Oakland University in the fall of 2017.

2000s

Kaniqua S. Daniel-Welch, CAS '04, was named by the *Michigan Chronicle* as one of the top "40 Under 40," an honor highlighting young professionals in the City of Detroit who exhibit strong leadership, a love for community, a spirit of philanthropy and a passion to empower others. Daniel-Welch is the program supervisor of media and new media for Detroit Public Schools.

Nichole K. (Bousson) Gabridge, SBA '03, is one of the 309 certified veterinary practice managers in the U.S. and a hospital administrator at Frey Pet Hospital. Before joining Frey, Gabridge worked in Rochester, Mich., overseeing a practice of seven doctors. She has been in veterinary management for more than eight years and has extensive knowledge with client services, employee relations and other operational areas. Gabridge is currently studying for a master's degree in management from Walsh College in Troy, Mich.

Jane Harper, SBA '02, director of IT risk management and internal audit at Henry Ford Health System's Health Alliance Plan, was named to the *Crain's Detroit Business* "40 Under 40 Class of 2014." Harper was recognized for her work with the Health Alliance Plan information security system and team as well as for her accomplishments with credit card security for Ally Bank. Harper's achievements include work in security and risk management and establishing IT standards, methodologies, ratings, practice and reports.

Matthew James Kelly, CAS '09, is an assistant director for residence life at Christopher Newport University. He lives in Virginia with his partner and sings with the Virginia Symphony Chorus. Prior to that, Kelly was a residential education director at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington, as well as a featured soloist and member of the Palouse Choral Society for five years.



Jessica Knapik, SBA '01, was recently listed in *dBusiness*’ “30 in Their Thirties.” Knapik is a data analyst at Walsh College in Troy, Mich., and self-described liaison

between the college’s departments. Knapik monitors student enrollment data, manages social media pages, and coordinates special events for Walsh, among other duties.

Nicholas J. Monterosso,

CAS '06, holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Oakland University and recently received his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. Monterosso served as general editor for the winter 2014 edition of *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*, and as a legal intern for Michigan Family Forum.



Michael A.

Morrish, SBA '03, graduated from Oakland University with a bachelor’s degree in accounting and began his professional



career with Dearborn Federal Credit Union in 2004. Morrish then worked as a customer service manager at Fifth Third Bank before working at Citizens Bank as a credit analyst. Morrish is now a credit analyst at Michigan Business Connection based in Ann Arbor, Mich. He resides in Hartland, Mich., with his wife and two children.

Katie O'Donnell, CAS '08, is completing her Ph.D. in biological sciences at the University of Missouri. O'Donnell's doctoral research focused on the impact prescribed fires and timber harvests have on the abundance and behaviors of terrestrial salamanders. O'Donnell recently accepted a postdoctoral

position with the U.S. Geological Survey in Gainesville, Fla., where she will work on a Flatwoods Salamander recovery-habitat restoration project.



Christina (Golden) Ostrander, SEHS '07, became a Renaissance Extraordinary Educator and Champion and has published a piece in the October 2014 edition of

Extraordinary Educators. Ostrander has presented at Commonwealth of Learning, High School Summit, EdCamp Bluewater, Michigan State University and the Future of Educational Technology Conference. In December 2014, Ostrander took five students to the Student Technology Showcase in Lansing, Mich. Ostrander’s was one of only 35 Michigan schools and the only Genesee County school represented. In addition to her OU degree, Ostrander holds bachelor and master of arts degrees from Michigan State University.

Cindy L. Todd, SEHS '00, was named Educator of the Year and Higher Education Art Educator of the Year for 2014 by the Michigan Art Education Association

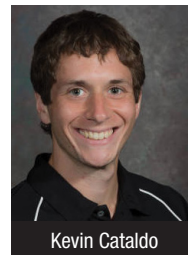


(MAEA). Todd chairs the art education program at Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University. Previously she taught at Cornerstone University and Oakland University, as well as at the high school and junior high levels. Todd has gained a wealth of leadership experience through a number of positions with both the Michigan Art Education Association and the National Art Education Society, where she currently serves as vice president-elect of the Western Region.

2010s

Kevin Cataldo, SHS '11, was

named assistant track coach at the University of Delaware in August 2014. He coaches the distance and mid-distance athletes for cross country and track and field.



Whitney N. Litzner, CAS '10, is the coordinator of public health at ACCESS Community Health and Research Center in Dearborn, Mich., where she oversees, develops, evaluates and implements public health programs. The focus is on access to care and implementing and evaluating programs to serve the needs of low income, vulnerable populations.



Nicole Malak, CAS '10, is a community relations coordinator at Fraser (Mich.) Public Schools (FPS). Malak and the FPS district received a 2014

Gold Medallion Award from the Michigan School Public Relations Association (MSPRA) for the district’s 2013-14 enrollment campaign. MSPRA’s Gold Medallion Award recognizes outstanding programs or projects that advance responsible school communications.

Genna Piscopo, CAS '11, spent nearly five years with Automation Alley as a member relations supervisor and has accepted a position with Wayne State University in the office of Economic Development. Piscopo will work with the Goldman Sachs “10,000 Small Businesses” program and looks forward to continuing to contribute to the economic development of Southeast Michigan.



TALK ABOUT OU IN YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES

Show your OU pride and affiliations in your Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and company bios. oualumni.com/social

2010s *continued*

Robert M. Puskarz, CAS '11, was accepted into the Peace Corps and departed for Samoa on Oct. 1, 2014, to be trained as an education volunteer. After training, Puskarz will make a difference teaching English to primary school students. He will also assist teachers in building their skills through co-teaching and the exchange of ideas, methods and techniques. During his first three months of service Puskarz will live with a host family to learn the language and integrate into the culture. After acquiring the language and cultural skills that will help him make a lasting difference, Puskarz will be sworn into service and assigned to a community in Samoa, where he will serve for two years. Before joining the Peace Corps, Puskarz taught English as a Second Language as a tutor and substitute teacher for the Avondale (Mich.) School District.

Births and Adoptions

Carrie B. (Marr) Farley, CAS '04, and her husband, Jermaine Farley, announce the birth of their daughter, Calynn Alexandria, on Sept. 11, 2014.



ENGAGEMENTS, MARRIAGES AND ANNIVERSARIES



Marissa Carr Kenyon and Brendan Kenyon

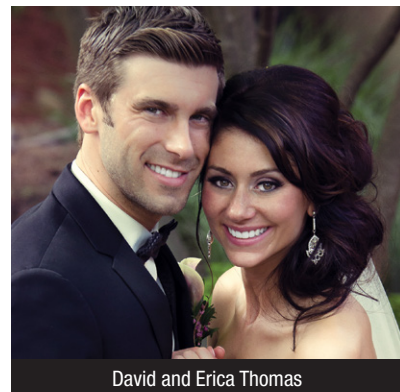
Marissa Carr Kenyon, SEHS '11, married Brendan Kenyon in September 2014. Marissa, who over the summer earned a master's degree in physician assistant studies from Wayne State University, is a member of the Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants and the American Academy of Physician Assistants.



Sheris and Ansley Paul

Sheris A. (Sargeant) Paul, SBA '01, wed Ansley Paul on Jan. 3, 2014, in sunny Key West, Fla. Mr. and Mrs. Paul reside just outside of Miami, where Ansley works in corporate finance for a national firm, while Sheris is putting her OU education to work at Miami Children's Hospital as a member of the IT clinical systems team.

James M. Shaw Jr., CAS '00, married Aida Ahmić in November 2014 in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The couple now resides in Florida.



David and Erica Thomas

Erica (D'Angelo) Thomas, SEHS '11 and '09, and **David Thomas, SBA '11** and **CAS '09**, were married May 30, 2014, at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth, Mich. They met in 2007 while running track for the Golden Grizzlies. During their time at OU, Erica also ran cross country, while David pitched for the baseball squad. Recently, they ran the Detroit Marathon together where Erica qualified for the 2015 Boston Marathon, which she will be running this April. Erica works in Organizational Development for HHI, a Tier 1 global manufacturing supplier headquartered in Royal Oak, Mich. David works for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) in the Chrysler Leadership Development program. They reside in Royal Oak with their little Biewer Yorkie, Ellie.

Alums **Ben Wiersma, SHS '12**, and **Jill Finn, SHS '12**, became engaged in January at the Elliott Tower. The couple met at Pre-Physical Therapy Club in their freshman year (2009), lived in West Vandenberg, were in The Honors College, worked the Nightwatch, and attended countless OU events together and with friends. "We think of Oakland as the start of something great for us!" says Wiersma. "Oakland helped us aspire, develop, and become the professionals we are today."

**Alumni,
we want
to hear
from you!**

Send us the latest information about you and your accomplishments for future publication in Class Notes. You may also include a photo, either print or high resolution (300 dpi) digital file.

To submit new information, go to oualumni.com and click on "Update Your Record."

You can also mail your update to: Oakland University Alumni Engagement, John Dodge House, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester, MI 48309-4497. 🐾

Get connected with OUAA social media

Be social and stay in the loop. Keep in touch with fellow classmates and your alma mater through these online social networks:

LIKE OUR FACEBOOK FAN PAGE

- Matilda Mondays
- Transformation Tuesdays: See how campus has changed.
- Swag-Pack Wednesdays: Participate to win OU gear and prizes.
- Throwback Thursdays: Stroll down memory lane.
- Submit your OU photos to be highlighted on the OUAA page.

CONNECT ON LINKEDIN

- Share career tips and explore employment options.
- Discover inside connections and past and present colleagues.
- Connect with Oakland alumni, faculty, staff and students.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

- Find the latest campus news.
- Stay connected with upcoming events.

Visit oualumni.com to find OUAA on social media. ➤

DEATHS

1960s

Brian B. Bojesen, SBA '65, on Nov. 14, 2014.

James Dieck, SEHS '64, on Oct. 7, 2014.

1970s

Anne B. (Lurie) Galovich, SEHS '75, on Aug. 17, 2014.

Ethel Heard, SEHS '75, on Oct. 24, 2014.

Sherrill A. Jackson, CAS '75, on Aug. 3, 2014.

Kathy S. Martin, SEHS '76, on March 27, 2014.

Paul Panczyszyn, SBA '72, on Aug. 15, 2014.

Nell Phillips, SEHS '77, on Aug. 3, 2014.

Bruce Schwemmin, SEHS '79, on Aug. 15, 2014.

John M. Skiba, SBA '79, on Aug. 27, 2014.

James E. Ulrich, SBA '79, on Oct. 17, 2014.

Robert E. Weil, SECS '71, on April 5, 2014.

1980s

Scott C. Gibson, SBA '86 and '83, on Nov. 15, 2014.

Henry A. Phillips, SEHS '89, on Sept. 4, 2014.

Matthew Tomlanovich, BGS '84, on Oct. 19, 2014.

1990s

Sharon M. Alsip, SEHS '96, on Aug. 26, 2014.

Tina M. Bologna, SEHS '90, on Aug. 25, 2014.

Gary F. Boyce, SECS '91, on Sept. 30, 2014.

Betty L. Calhoun-Orlunkpo, SON '96, on Feb. 4, 2014.

Michael J. Hines, BGS '92, on Aug. 12, 2014.

Gerard M. Knorr, CAS '93, on Sept. 6, 2014.

Jimmy T. McClure, CAS '91, on Nov. 29, 2014.

2000s

Rachelle M. Davies, SEHS '08, on Jan. 26, 2014.

Elaine M. Zielinski, SEHS '09, on Aug. 3, 2014.

2010s

John Biedron, SBA '11, on Aug. 10, 2014.

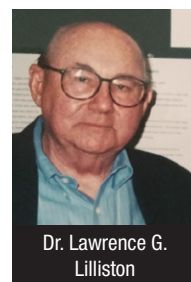
FACULTY AND STAFF DEATHS

Randy Hansen, Ph.D., professor emeritus of psychology, on Dec. 21, 2014, in Branford, Conn., of a heart attack. Professor Hansen



Dr. Randy Hansen

joined the OU faculty in 1975 in the Department of Psychology. During his tenure, he served as interim vice provost for Research and Graduate Study, interim director for the Office of Grants, Contracts and Sponsored Research and director of the Center for Social and Behavioral Research. Professor Hansen retired from OU in 2013.



Dr. Lawrence G. Lilliston

Lawrence G. Lilliston, Ph.D., professor emeritus of psychology, on Dec. 13, 2014, at age 77. Professor Lilliston joined the Oakland University faculty in 1973 in the Department of

Psychology. During his tenure, he served as the department chair from 1990 to 1995. Dr. Lilliston was a clinical psychologist and taught at several schools, including the University of Arkansas, and finished his career at OU on his retirement in 2008. He published numerous articles and book chapters in the areas of schizophrenia, child and family psychotherapy and children in a variety of new religious movements. His private practice specialized in psychotherapy with families and children. Share a memory at <http://dr-lawrence-grant-lilliston.forevermissed.com/>.

Jimmy T. McClure, M.A., special instructor in English, on Nov. 29, 2014. McClure joined the Oakland University faculty in 1992 in the Department of English, where he taught until his passing. Memorial tributes can be made to the English Department at Oakland University, 2200 North Squirrel Road, Rochester, MI 48309-4401.

Look of Raptor

A red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) on the eastern edge of campus scans the open fields — likely for a passing vole, squirrel or rabbit — from its Meadow Brook Road sign perch. These raptors travel between 20 to 40 mph, and their diving speed may exceed 120 mph. OU has two biological preserves that cover approximately 110 acres of forests, meadows, streams and wetlands. Although their primary use is for teaching and research, they are open to the OU community and public for hiking, bird-watching and nature study. Visit oakland.edu/biology/preserve or oakland.edu/biology to learn more. ➤

Photo by Khales S. Dahr, AIA, senior architect, Plant Engineering.





Your gift *matters* to Shelby.

Name: Shelby Toft **Year:** Junior

Major: Elementary Education **Hometown:** Sterling Heights, Mich.

Career plans?

I plan to teach at an elementary school. Ideally, I would like to teach first grade.

Why did you pick OU?

Since I live 20 minutes from OU, I am able to live at home. I also like that OU has a small-school feel with all the opportunities of a large school. OU has a wonderful Elementary Education program that I know will give me the knowledge and experience I need to be a great teacher one day.

What do you love most about your major?

I love working with kids! Every semester that I am in the elementary education program, I have a field placement that provides hands-on classroom experience. So far, I have worked in fifth-grade and second-grade classrooms.

What student organizations are you involved in?

I have been a part of Alternative Spring Break for the past three years. I started as a site leader and am now vice president of the organization. I am also a Student Philanthropy Ambassador and a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society. And in the fall, I plan to join the Student Michigan Education Association.

To learn how your gift matters to other OU students like Shelby, visit **isupportou.com/yourgiftmatters**.

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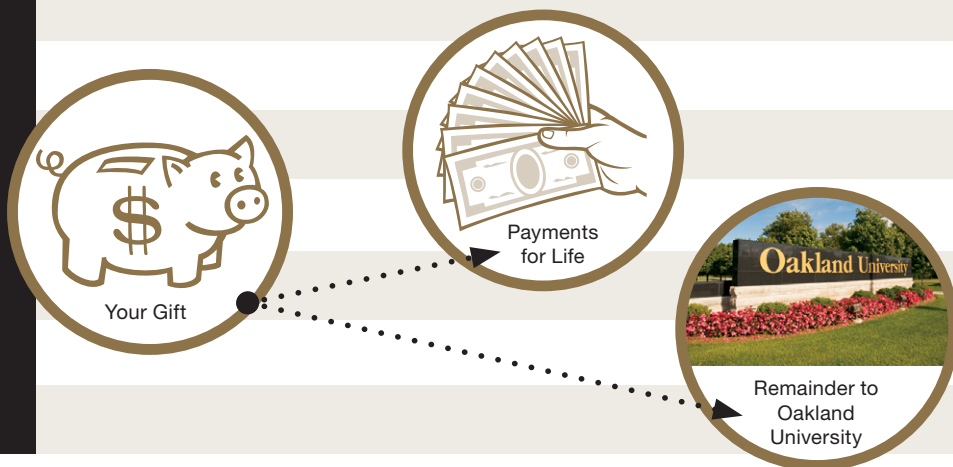
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