A newsletter for Oakland University colleagues



"Creating the framework for the future" is a good way to describe this busy year of growth, filled with new people, programs, services, technologies and partnerships. A quick scan of the headlines over the past year is all it takes to remind us that 1998 was an historic year, headlined by the Creating the Future initiative. And as we near year's end,

the momentum

continues.

Before it gets

away from us,

Inside Oakland

reviews some of

Oakland University's

major highlights and

accomplishments

during 1998,

Oakland's

41st year.

### It all starts with **Creating the Future**

- About 300 corporate and civic leaders join faculty, staff and students on nine Creating the Future task forces to evaluate and plan every aspect of OU's academic and administrative programs.
- Task force members study Oakland's history, mission, philosophy, current environment and the university's 10-year strategic plan.
- Oakland presents a final report June 13 during a gala event honoring the task force members.
- OU begins to review and implement the hundreds of task force recommendations.

### **Growing by division**

• Architectural plans are drawn for the new School of



**Business and Applied** Technology Institute, which will open in fall 2000.

- Oakland University joins Division I athletics.
- Oakland adds a second ATM this one is located near Oakland Center's Starbucks March 9.
- Oakland opens two laboratories — the Applied Technology and Business lab March 17 and the EDS Software Verification and Testing Laboratory April 3.
- Oakland builds a 161-space parking lot near O'Dowd
- Oakland opens the Copy Stop and the Information Center
- The School of Engineering and Computer Science creates the Product Development and Manufacturing Center.

The center tackles real-life, automotive-related manufacturing problems and turns them into practical learning experiences for OU students.

- Work begins on the \$1.9million lower-level renovation of the Oakland Center. Renovations include a games room, a TV lounge, meeting rooms, a quiet study lounge and a 20-station computer lab.
- Oakland completes a \$1.4million School of Health Sciences renovation in Hannah Hall.
- Voyager computer information system goes online September 3 in Kresge



Library with an electronic ribbon-cutting ceremony. Voyager replaces the LUIS card system.

 "The Tongue" lounge chair becomes a hit as new furniture is moved into the

> new Honors College.

- OU officially opens the stateof-the-art \$37million Recreation and Athletics Center September 9.
- Oakland completes

18-hole R & S Sharf Golf Course, which will wrap around OU's existing 18-hole championship Katke-Cousins Golf Course.

### **Increasing partnerships**

- Summer Academy North becomes Oakland's seventh charter school February 5.
- Oakland's Meadow Brook Theatre and the College of Arts and Science's Music, Theatre and Dance collaborate for the first time on the controversial theatre production of Angels in America April 29.
- The School of Nursing and Henry Ford Health System create a program to help disadvantaged, nonprofessional employees of HFHS pursue a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

### Firsts and milestones

- Robert Eaton, chair, Daimler Chrysler AG, chairs the largest-attended Keeper of the Dream Banquet February 19.
- 23,000 the largest crowd ever — attends Meadow **Brook Hall's Concours** d'Elegance August 2.
- The fourth annual Weekend of Champions draws record participants during the October 1-3 events.
- A Place in the Country: Matilda Wilson's Personal Guidebook to Meadow Brook Hall is the first book published by OU' University Press.

### **Bragging rights**

• Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer speaks February 16 in celebration of Dr. Martin

- an international conference on algebraic combinatorics May 1-3.
- Oakland launches new ID card to improve student services.
- John Gardner, dean, School of Business Administration, appears on the nationally televised Executive Forum series October 18 to talk about the SBA"s selection as one of the country's four emerging schools of business.
- Oakland's Strategic Plan Fund and Technology Fund support 15 projects with nearly \$1.3 million.
- Getting a job at OU becomes faster with a redesign of a system in which delays and backlogging often occurred.

### A+ academics

• Oakland prepares for the North Central Accreditation review by undergoing a comprehensive self-study using its strategic plan as a framework.



- The School of Business Administration Applied Technology in Business program offers a corporatesponsored scholarship program.
- Oakland explores diversity through student dialogues as Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism class requirements.
- Oakland introduces more than 20 market-driven degree programs, including new undergraduate majors, minors, specializations, graduate certificates and graduate degree programs and tracks.
- Oakland celebrates the work of six design and development teams: Minority Student Recruitment, Non-Faculty Hiring, On-Campus Software Support, Student Billing and Cancellation, Student Placement and Testing, and Training and Development.
- Most offices/classrooms are connected electronically.
- OU launches four on-line classrooms for a total of 28.



dozens of grounds projects, including new sidewalks, landscaping, pathways and a fountain near Beer Lake.

- In addition to last year's opening of the mall-style Pioneer Court, the Oakland Center in October opens the Heritage Room Buffet.
- On November 6, Oakland hosts groundbreaking for new
- Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Michael Brown SBA '97 receives word in March that

he had the highest score on

the Michigan Certified Public

Accountants exam and the second highest in the nation. The College of Arts and Sciences' Mathematics and

Statistics Department hosts



#### Student teachers embark on a first exchange with New Zealand counterparts

The first group of Oakland University education students to spend one third of their student teaching experience in New Zealand classrooms left for their five-week adventure in late October, accompanied by Curriculum, Instruction and Leadership Department Chair Eric Follo.

Their departure came shortly after five of their New Zealand counterparts, from Christchurch College of Education, arrived in Oakland County for a taste of public education in the Rochester public schools.

"It's very exciting," says Sherrill Karppinen, New Zealand student teacher exchange supervisor for winter 1999. "We've never done it before, and so each and every day you find new challenges that you need to be aware of and need to build into the program."

Plenty of planning went into the innovative program, beginning with preliminary discussions as early as March 1997. Meetings, letters, e-mails and visits back and forth ensued.

Distance learning connections were established in September 1998 to allow students to become acquainted with each other and with faculty. Soon, professors and students from both institutions were interacting, discussing opportunities and challenges to come.

### Unique Web site helps simplify the home-buying process

Kieran Mathieson, associate professor, Management Information Systems, School of Business Administration, has developed a Web site to help home buyers make decisions.

The prototype site was developed with Champion Enterprises of Auburn Hills, the largest manufactured homes company in the United States.

isionary

The site includes a home worksheet for buyers to figure out what they can afford — everything from a floor plan to decor. In the end, all selections can be printed out for an organized, convenient summary of the buyer's decision. Buyers may add columns for features that are important to them such as the number of bedrooms, kitchen size and subjective factors such as openness.

The site even offers pictures and narrated slide show tours of homes.

"It's a very flexible system," Mathieson says. "The customer is in charge."

Anyone can try Mathieson's system at http://w3.sba.oakland.edu/home\_cdt

He welcomes feedback at mathieso@ oakland.edu

#### Honors College to host new Faculty Forum

The Honors College is sponsoring six presentations in its new Faculty Forum series this winter. Speakers will address current issues in their disciplines. The series is open to the university community and will take place in 112 Vandenberg Hall.

112 Vandenberg Hall.Times, dates and speakers:Noon December 3, Lisa Ashby,

executive director, Meadow Brook Hall • 4 p.m. January 20, Gary

Shepherd, chair and professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
• Noon February 10, Sara Chapman, assistant professor,

Department of History
• Noon March 10, Robert
Eberwein, professor, Department
of English

• 7 p.m. March 15, guest lecturer Sighle Bhreatnach-Lynch, Department of Art History, University of Western Ontario (Oakland Center Gold Room C)

 Noon April 6, Mary Ann Samyn, special lecturer, Department of Rhetoric Communication and Journalism

Ninety percent of us will develop these cloudy areas in the lens, a major cause of vision loss.



### Oakland professor strives to slow cataract development in rare study of calcium regulator

Oakland University researcher Kenneth Hightower has a vision: to delay the onset of cataracts by discovering why and how calcium increases in the eye's lens as we age. Ninety percent of us will develop these cloudy areas in the lens, a major cause of vision loss.

Hightower, professor, Biomedical Sciences, Eye Research Institute, heads one of two labs in the world studying the relationship between calcium-regulating molecules and cataracts. Hightower, who has studied the calcium-cataract connection since 1978, thinks one key to slowing the disease is restricting the flow of calcium into the lens.

"The causes of age-related cataracts are poorly understood despite years of intensive research by nearly 100 investigators worldwide," he says. "Surgical removal of the lens is the sole remedy."

The National Eye Institute is reviewing Hightower's application for a \$500,000 grant to fund such research from 1999-2003.

"It's been about two decades since we first learned that calcium, which is essential to life, also influences cataract development and the pathophysiology of other diseases," Hightower says.

The body's cells have a powerful system to control the amount of calcium they contain, he says. These calcium pumps are a protein that's susceptible to oxidation, the process in which volatile molecules damage tissues.

"In the aged, calcium pumps begin to fail," Hightower says. "If we could protect these pumps with antioxidants, such as vitamins E and C, we might stop the oxidative damage. If we can deliver antioxidants, through drops, for example, that's certainly worth testing."

Chances for developing cataracts increase after age 40. Increased exposure to sunlight is also linked to the disease.

Some cataracts never seriously impair vision, but others can eventually block most or all vision. Eyeglasses, contact lenses or lens implants replace the natural lens after cataract surgery.

### RECISTRY

### of distinction

Rob Anderson, English, presented a paper at the American Conference on Romanticism October 17 in Santa Barbara titled Romanticism, Ecology, and Dwelling: Wordsworth's 'The Ruined Cottage.' He will also be presenting a paper November 21 at the Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies in Rhode Island called Godwin and the Logic of Psychological/Political Association.

Janet C. Blanks, Eye Research Institute, presented a talk, titled Photoreceptor cell development, generation, and rescue, at the Symposium on Strategies Regulating Cellular Development. This symposium was sponsored by the National Eye Institute and presented at the University of Pennsylvania.

Subra Ganesan, received a certificate of recognition from Motorola for taking part and being named one of the top 10 design winners in the HC12 University Design Contest for Students. Ganesan's CSE 470/570 class submitted two design entries to Motorola in May.

Greg Jordan and Dave
DeAngelo, Campus Recreation
presented Everything We Didn't
Know About Opening a New Rec
Center to the Michigan Intramural
Recreational Association at their
annual state conference October
29-30 at Ferris State University.
Oakland University will host the
1999 conference October 21-22.

Kathleen Pfeiffer, English, wrote a book review which was published in the fall 1998 issue of African American Review. Her review was titled Jean Toomer: Selected Essays and Literary Criticism.

Margaret B. Pigot, Rhetoric, presented a paper, titled British and American Advertising: Powerbased Discourse Strategies, at the 48th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association in Jerusalem, Israel. Her paper, Writing Persuasively for the 21st Century, given in Singapore in 1997 at the Conference on World Englishes, is being published electronically by the University of Singapore.

Philip Singer, Health Sciences, has been invited to be a part of an international film jury panel in the 1998 Italian Premio Petre ethnohistorical film/video competition. He joins a group drawn from Palermo, Rome, Turin, in Italy and Barcelona, Spain. He was the first prize winner in 1997 for his documentary on the giant bluefin tuna and the method of hunting it.

Winson Taam, Mathematics and Statistics, co-authored an article, titled Estimating the Biomass of Forage Fishes in Alaska's Prince William Sound Following the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, in the book Statistical Case Studies: A Collaboration Between Academe and Industry. The book summarized collaboration projects, which were led and organized by R. Peck of California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo, to team up statisticians from academe and industry to solve various realworld problems. In the book introduction, a former president of American Statistical Association, R. Iman, commented on the successful collaboration between statistics faculty and students of Oakland University and Ford Motor Company.

Richard Tucker, History, presented Insatiable Appetite: The American Empire and Environmental Change in the Tropics during the Department of History's Autumn Lecture November 12.

Christine Zamricki, Nursing, was selected by the American Academy of Nursing to serve as a Fellow. She was chosen to join about 1,000 Fellows who have made outstanding contributions to the field.

### neFACES

- Diane Ariza, director, Admissions
- Diane Bruglio, clerk, Academic Skills
- Douglas Coon, director, Marketing and Sales, Meadow Brook Theatre
- technical director,
  Music, Theatre and
  Dance

   Marcel Eldridge, office

• Brian Dambacher,

Study
• Geraldine Emery, secretary I, History

assistant III, Graduate

- Rosemarie Finitzer, teacher, School of Education and Human Services
- Joseph Hnatow, lab manager, Biological Sciences
- Eric Nelson, reproduction machine operator, University Services
- Holly Peters, adviser, Admissions
- Jacqueline Seines, secretary II, Nursing
- Roderick Shelby, reproduction machine operator, University Services
- Maurini Strub, assistant II, Library

Two Oakland University professors developed a way to help preschoolers get a better grip on science and math concepts.

Ambika Bhargava and Anna Kirova-Petrova, assistant professors, Education, Department of Human Development and Child

# Researchers give preschoolers better foundations in math and science

Studies, School of Education and Human Services, developed tools to help teachers assess and teach preschool children more effectively. The old school of thought asserted that preschool children will learn concepts by using materials that teachers provide such as puzzles, blocks, sand and water, the professors say.

"The focus was on the teacher setting up the materials, and then moving back and allowing the children to experiment and discover for themselves," Bhargava says. "This is good to a certain extent. You need to allow

children the
freedom to
explore. However,
it is also the role
of the teacher to
provide the
scaffolding
necessary to make
sense of the
experience."

Teachers need to know each child's stage of development so

that they can take them to the next level.

"The role of the teacher is as important as that of the learning materials," Kirova-Petrova says. "It is not enough to merely expose children to a wonderful environment and expect learning to take place.

There has to be a sequential development of math and science concepts with the adult mediating the learning between the child and the environment."

One example of a fundamental concept for preschoolers to understand is classification. Students first learn to classify things by one attribute such as color. Next they learn to classify by more than one attribute: shape and color, for instance. Once the child can classify objects by concrete attributes, he or she is ready to sort by more abstract concepts such as function.

"Can the child classify tools used by doctors vs. tools used by carpenters or gardeners?" Bhargava asks.

If the teacher is aware of this developmental sequence, he or she can recognize when a child is ready for the next stage.

As part of their research, the professors worked with teachers at OU's Lowry Center for Early Childhood Education to select classroom materials and establish routines that facilitate learning. Bhargava

and Kirova-Petrova also developed a checklist for teachers so they can monitor each child's development.

Bhargava and Kirova-Petrova incorporate their findings in their courses for education students. They emphasize the role of providing children with choices and working with small groups of preschoolers.

The next stage of their research is to find other sites to get feedback from teachers in many educational settings.

The Michigan Association for Mediated Learning was so impressed with Bhargava and Kirova-Petrova's presentation of their research that it honored them and visiting instructor Chic Foote of New Zealand with an award.

The OU research committee, the School of Education and Human Services and the Department of Human Development and Child Studies are funding the project.

### THE WRIGHT STUFF

### Project engineer helps others make inventions a reality

Forrest Wright BGS '84, MS '89, turns other people's ideas — and his own — into inventions.

As Oakland University manager of Mechanical

Equipment and Instrumentation and researcher in the School of Engineering and Computer Science, he works with faculty to design custom instruments and equipment for research and instruction. He also provides engineering support and consultation to students and

faculty.

"Let's say a
professor gets a
research grant,"
he says. "The
professor is
picked because he
or she is an
expert. But the
professor doesn't
want to do the

formal detail and design. So the professor brings the concept, presents what needs to be done and I figure out how to do it."

Usually, Wright's designs are assembled in OU's instrument and machine shop.
Occasionally, he makes the instruments himself — everything from interferometers to robotic systems to pneumatic controls to digital electronic circuits

"The equipment is obscure, but the behind-the-scenes people, especially those in the instrument shop, are really talented," he says. Wright is a lifelong inventor who holds 14 United States patents on everything from complex instruments to the consumer product "Space Weights," water-filled hand weights that once were sold at Sears and featured on Good Morning America.

Growing up, Wright was mechanically inclined and

curious. As an adult, he became attracted to more exotic inventions. As a member of the Air Force from 1971-74, he was an electronics specialist for F-111 aircraft in Southeast Asia. He then worked for Industrial Holographics, a firm that designed cutting-edge holographic cameras and optomechanical equipment.

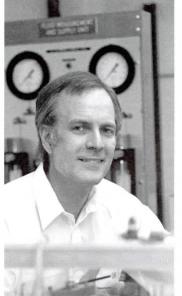
"I learned most of what I know there," he says. "It

really was the most interesting
— and stressful — place I ever
worked."

Unfortunately, it went bankrupt.

Wright then founded Binagraphics, Inc., a small company that focuses on a communication concept he invented called binagraphy, which uses symbolism as a way of expanding capabilities of keypads and expanding the versatility of virtual reality equipment.

Wright lives in Rochester with his wife and children.





Forrest Wright BGS '84, MS '89

## WAYOF LIFE

### Your survival guide for outdoor exercise in Michigan

Cold-weather injuries are far less common in exercising adults than heat-related injuries. But if you plan to continue your exercise regimen outside, be sure you know the risks of Michigan winter weather

Michigan winter weather.

First, understand that the dangers of cold exposure depend on air movement, humidity, precipitation and absolute temperature. Wind velocity is also a major factor, causing your body to lose heat.

So how do you know when you're in danger? If the wind chill is below -15 degrees Fahrenheit, make sure your face, nose, ears, hands and feet are protected before you jog — or even walk — around campus.

Wear several layers of loose clothing under a windproof, water repellent (not water tight) outer layer.

Early warning signs of cold injury include tingling and numbness in the fingers or toes, and a burning sensation at the nose and ears.

Overexposure can lead to frostbite or mild hypothermia, which can cause tissue damage if not treated quickly.

Also, you may have specific cold-weather risks. For example, cardiac patients with angina (chest pain) will often experience symptoms at a lower workout level when exposed to cold. If you have a specific medical condition that can be affected by the cold, discuss exercise with your personal physician first.

For many people, winter is no vacation from outside exercise. But it does mean paying greater attention to the dangers of frigid air, wind chill and precipitation.

For more information, call the Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute at 4523.

Next issue: Modifying recipes to reduce fat, sugar, salt and calorie content.



# emotythe MONTH

EMPLOYEE:

Judy Amir

TITLE:

Office Assistant II

DEPARTMENT:

University Relations

16 Years

LENGTH OF SERVICE:

COMMENTS:

"Judy is a super employee and is very committed to Oakland."

"Not only is Judy extremely capable, dedicated and hard working, she is infallibly friendly and goes out of her way to help others and make them feel like part of the OU team. For example: our area has had a significant amount of staff turnover recently. Judy organized a party to welcome new staff. She provided wonderful refreshments, flowers, etc., all at her own expense. This is just the sort of thing Judy always does. We are very fortunate to have her in our department."

For nomination forms, call ERD at 3430 or send an e-mail message to ryckman@oakland.edu



#### **OU STAFF WHO LOVE WINTER SPORTS**



JANE BRIGGS-BUNTING Professor, Journalism

Snow boarding and winter

horseback riding.



MARY ISSACS Office Assistant III, Oakland Center



Downhill skiing.

LAUREN HERRINGTON Assistant Director, Special Events



KEVIN HANSER Mail Supervisor and Computer Technician

Skiing.

What	t wii	nter	sport	(s)	do
VOII I	like	hes	2		

for beginners?

What advice do you have

For snowboarding, wear water proof, well-padded clothes to start. You will spend a lot of time crash landing and picking yourself up

Depending on your age, go slowly and carefully, and eventually you will be a competitor.

Down hill and cross country skiing.

Hang in there and don't give up. You'll eventually warm up, feel your toes again, and the bruises go away in about a week.

Take it easy. Don't try anything too big right away.

What do you like best about winter sports?

Good, healthy exercise while doing something a lot of experienced skiers can't do.

while strapped to the board.

I love being out in the cold. It is very invigorating, and depending on where you ski, you don't have

to fight crowds.

The speed and exhilaration, as well as the fresh air and scenery.

It's nice to be active outdoors and not be completely overheating.

What is your favorite winter get-away and why?

Boarding out west. There's great variety on the mountain.

New England, the White Mountain region; it's beautiful and very serene.

Our annual trip to Aspen. The restaurants, shopping and people — it is an amazing town to see and Sugarloaf, Traverse City.

What is your most memorable winter sport

After my second lesson skiing, I let my friends talk me into going up a chairlift to a more difficult run. I ran into the instructor who looked at me and shook his head.

As a senior in high school, a group of us spent two weeks skiing in Aspen, Colorado. Those were real mountains.

My very first trip to Aspen, Colorado. From the moment I got off the gondola, I couldn't stop smiling. I was in awe.

be seen in.

Taking my buddy to the hospital after he wiped out on the slopes.

# experience?



#### **Showing more than** their school spirit

Oakland University students, faculty, staff and alumni supporters cheered loudly during Oakland University's first home basketball game November 17 inside the new Recreation and Athletics Center. **OU lost the historic game to Michigan State** of the sellout crowd of 3,405 who stayed until the

University 96-66, but that did not dampen the spirits



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### **DEADLINES**

Submit items for publication no later than the 10th of the month before publication

### **NEXT DEADLINE**

December 10



### **Reporting for duty**

• Lynne C. Schaefer, vice president, Finance and Administration, and treasurer, Board of Trustees

Continued from page 1

- Ann Marti Friedman, curator, Meadow Brook Hall
- Janet Blanks, director, Eye Research Institute

### Sports speak

- Oakland creates new mascot and name, the Golden Grizzlies. New apparel is sold through the Grizz shop and Club Cappucino opens.
- 300 spectators attend first game in new Athletics Arena September 17.
- Music, Theatre and Dance visiting instructor Mike Mitchell writes OU's fight song, performed at OU's first-ever pep rally before the Michigan State University basketball game.
- OU men's basketball team plays MSU in front of a packed house November 17 in the new 3,000-seat Athletics Arena.

### 'Bah, humbug'

**Booth Colman performs as Ebenezer Scrooge and** Stephanie Lasmicski (left) and Joel Carpenter alternate the role of Tiny Tim in Oakland **University's Meadow Brook** Theatre's annual holiday spectacular A Christmas Carol through December 27. Call 3300 for ticket information.

People with disabilities who need special assistance to attend any of the events listed may call the sponsoring unit or the Office of Disability Support Services at 3266. Meadow Brook Hall tours are from 1:30 p.m. daily and 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sundays (last tour begins at 3:45 p.m.).

### **December**

- Karen Ann-Klein: Private Nature, Meadow Brook Art Gallery 1-27
- 1-6 Picture Perfect Holidays, Meadow Brook Hall
- 1-6 A Christmas Carol, Meadow Brook Theatre World AIDS Day
- Music, Theatre and Dance's Response to Aids, Varner Studio Theatre, noon
- 2 Health Education, ODH 204, 7:30 a.m.
- 2 Chemical Challenges in the Automotive Industry, Christine
- Sloan, General Motors, SEB 388, 1:15 p.m.
- Oakland Dance Theatre and Repertoire Company, Leaving 3-4 Ground, Varner Studio Theatre, 8 p.m.
- 3 The Museum Profession: Arts and Culture Today,
- 112 Vandenberg Hall, noon-1 p.m.
- Golf Course Pro Shop Holiday Sale, Katke-Cousins Golf Course
- 3-6 Meadow Brook Estate Holiday Spectacular, Varner Recital
- Hall 10 a.m. Oakland Dance Theatre and Repertoire Company, Leaving 6
- Ground, Varner Studio Theatre, 3 p.m.
- 8-13 A Christmas Carol, Meadow Brook Hall
- Craft Sale, Oakland Center Gold Rooms, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 8 Stress Free Zone, OC Fireside Lounge, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 9
- 9 Mutagenesis and DNA Repair, Ashhok Bhagwat, Wayne State
  - University, SEB 388, 1:15 p.m.
- The President's Club, OC 126-127, 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. 10 A Panel Discussion featuring OU Student Leaders with a
- Holiday Reception, KL Archives, noon-1 p.m.
- 12 Pontiac-Oakland Symphony, Holiday Concert, Pontiac
- Central High School, 3 p.m. OU women's basketball vs. Ohio University, ATH Arena, 16
- 7 p.m. 18 The OU Community Chorus, 36th Annual Yuletide Concert,
- Varner Recital Hall, 8 p.m. 19 OU men's basketball vs. Rochester College, ATH Arena,
- OU women's basketball vs. Detroit, ATH Arena, 5:15 p.m. 29
- 29 OU men's basketball vs. Loyola of Chicago, ATH Arena,
  - 7:35 p.m.