

SPRING 2022

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



NOSTALGIA

Look inside to explore the historic Gate Lodge, OU's 25th anniversary, the evolution of student attire and more.



Expanding Success

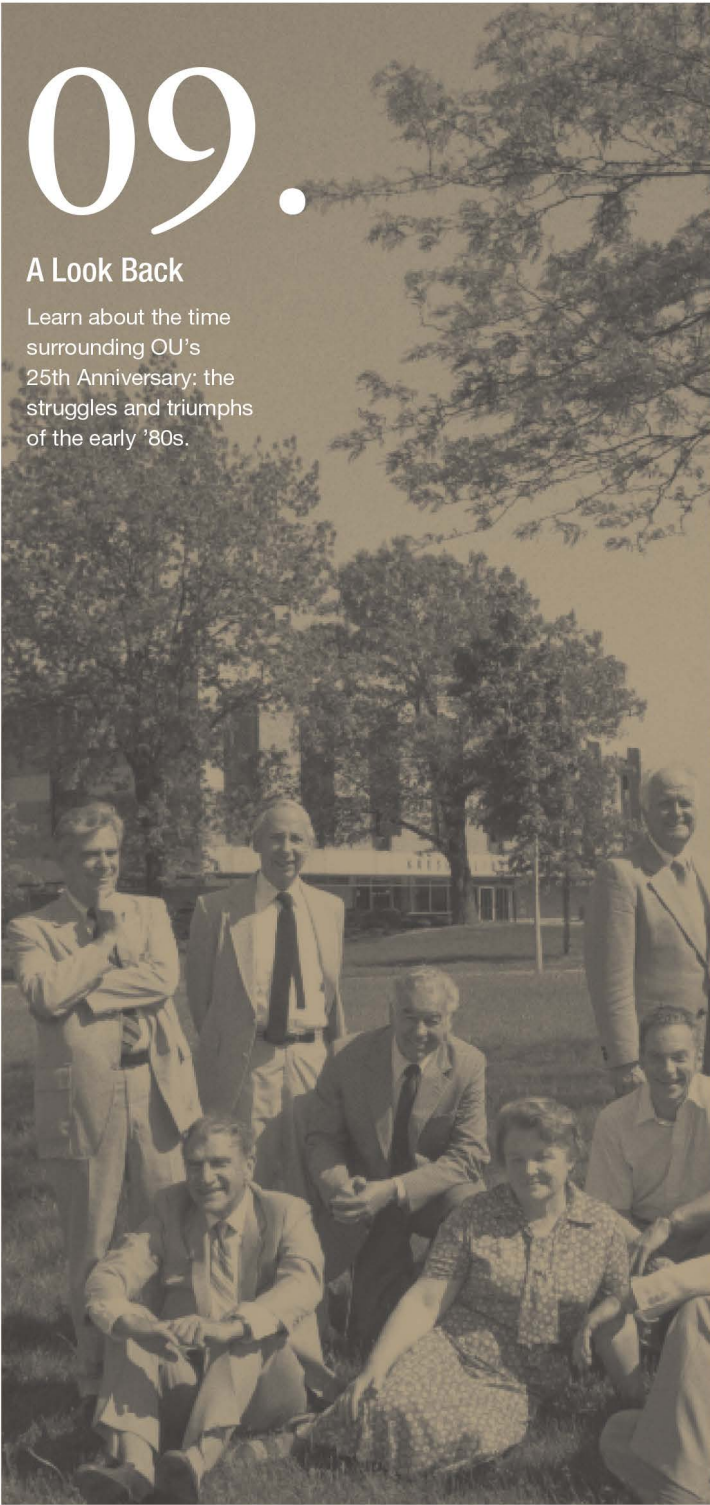
Oakland University is in the process of expanding Wilson Hall. The new construction will accommodate a range of student services to further improve graduation rates and job placement throughout southeastern Michigan. Nearly 70 percent of the 54,000 square feet renovation and 40,000 square feet addition to Wilson Hall is dedicated to student activities. In addition, the revamped Wilson Hall, originally built in 1965, will be the consolidated site for admissions, including a new OU welcome center and several administrative offices. The expansion is due to be completed by the fall of 2022. ➤

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Learn about the time surrounding OU's 25th Anniversary; the struggles and triumphs of the early '80s.



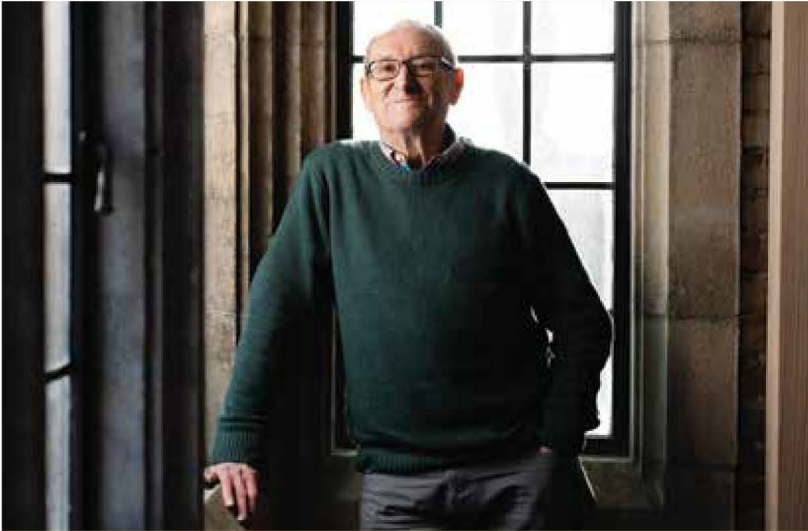
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WOS TA LGA

Celebrating 40 years of the OU Magazine

By Kelli M. Warshefski  Oakland University Archives

In the spring of 1982, Oakland University created a magazine to share relevant and important stories about the university. Forty years later, we celebrate not only the growth of this publication, but also the growth of the university and the memories made throughout the years.

“We see this magazine as an opportunity to provide our many long-standing friends with accurate insights and glimpses into university life, programs and goals,” states past OU President Joseph Champagne in the first edition of the Oakland University Magazine.

The conception of the OU Magazine

The OU Magazine has always served as a tool to connect with alumni and community members. The 12-page first edition was adorned with black and white sketches and grayscale photos paired with stories about the struggling economic environment, alumni updates, sports recaps and news articles. Since then, the magazine has continued to change and adapt to reflect OU’s ever-evolving culture.

“We had an alumni newsletter, ‘Intouch,’ that was largely just connecting with alums,” says Joan B. Stinson, former director of alumni relations. “And then, in anticipation of the capital campaign for Kresge Library, we decided to have a higher profile to showcase the entire university, its direction and high-ranking alumni, so we established the OU Magazine.”

Stinson played a big part on the editorial committee, finding prestigious alumni, connecting them to the writers and often being in attendance at the interview. Stinson remained a liaison between the magazine’s staff and the alumni until she left OU and handed the committee off to the magazine’s editor, Geoff Upward. And while the content of the magazine was already in the process of changing, the size and design still felt too much like a newsletter to Upward. So, he made a few changes.

“When I came in to work on publications, I felt an institution like Oakland needed a magazine and not a newsletter,” Upward explains. “We basically started to morph it into the magazine format it is today.”

But, it was not easy. Since the magazine’s conception, budget has always been an issue. “It would’ve died because of the lack of budget, but the staff loved doing it and we kept it going,” says Upward. “It was a struggle, but we did everything we could to keep it alive.” Luckily, Upward and his team kept the magazine moving forward, and eventually, the need for it became more prevalent and its budget increased.

Since Upward’s time at the helm, there have been a number of editors, writers and redesigns. But the soul of it all comes from a team of dedicated people who believed Oakland’s alumni base deserved more.

“I was proud to be a part of the birth of the magazine,” Stinson says. “I recognized the importance of that little newsletter but I knew it wasn’t doing its job. People really worked hard to bring the magazine to fruition.”

Memories that move us forward

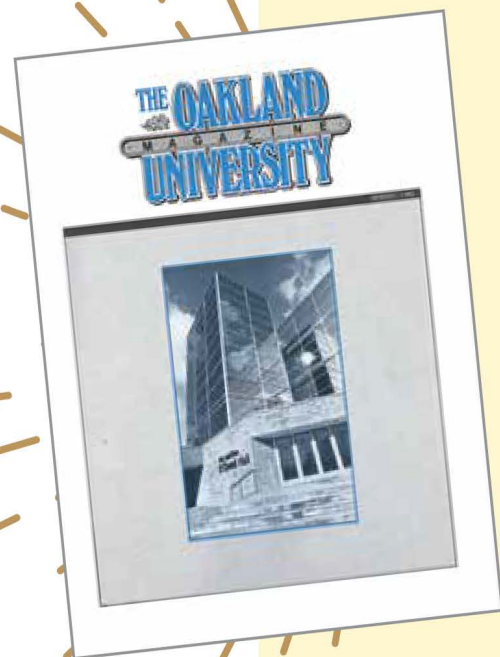
This issue we are looking back through the years, reminiscing about OU. As the OU Magazine editor, I have had the honor of meeting spectacular alumni, traveling to unique places and sharing stories of triumph that (hopefully) inspire others.

One of my favorite memories as your alumni magazine editor was a story we covered in the summer of 2020, about a student learning about his Italian heritage through translating his Sicilian grandfather’s memoir. For the photoshoot, I asked the student to gather his family and we would get candid photos of them together at his parent’s home. My team and I showed up at a house with more than 30 of the student’s relatives, many of whom were from Italy. We spent the evening talking, eating and laughing with some of the loveliest people I have ever met. If you have not read this story, you can find it at oakland.edu/oumagazine/alumni-voices. The article is titled “Found in Translation.”

Upward says one of his most memorable stories was of a famous poet, alumnus Thomas Lynch, who was featured on the cover. This summer 1988 cover boasts a black and white close-up photo of a bearded man, with thin-framed glasses and fedora hat, smoking a cigarette. “I got called down to the president’s office and we got in trouble for using a photo of him smoking,” laughs Upward.

“Looking back on it, though, I think the best thing was how deep our talented writers and art directors dove into the university inner-workings with faculty and programs,” he says.

While your life has evolved over the years since you were at Oakland University, it’s grounding to look back at your time on campus. Remember the events you loved to attend. The friendships you made and may still have today. The classes you loved (and maybe one you hated). The OU Magazine will continue to be here to walk with you down memory lane. Enjoy this issue as you recall the memories you hold close to your hearts and experiences that left you changed forever. 🌟



LETTERS

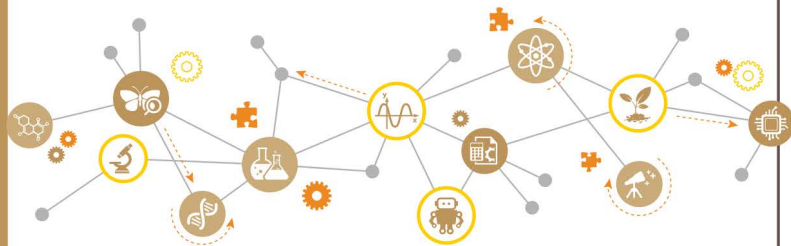
SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

at oumag@oakland.edu
or to: Oakland University,
University Communications
and Marketing
Anibal House, Room 124,
630 Pioneer Drive,
Rochester, MI 48309



I just read the Fall 2021 Alumni Magazine. As always, there are a lot of nice stories about alumni that have gone on to wonderful careers and do great things for the community. I enjoy these stories and admire the people very much, but it did have me thinking about my own time at OU. I'm retired now, and while I didn't have a job/career like many of the alumni I read about in the magazine, my degree from OU helped me get into management at my company, where I supervised several different areas and mentored many people throughout a long career. I just wanted to say, OU was good for me and I hope it continues to help others along their life's path, as it did me. ➤

Dave Lipowski, CAS '94



Receiving the latest of the Alumni Magazine, for the first time I took a few minutes to reflect on the 47 years that have passed since my graduation. I realized the value of the systems engineering approach to education. Now, happily retired, I provided my community of 1,000 residents design services and project management for facility improvements. Amazing how my education in chemistry, physics and engineering program management continues to serve me well. Failure analysis and resolution is probably the greatest skill. I wish our university great success in the future. ➤

John Giganti, SECS '74

I have been thinking about sharing a little of my story for some time. My grandmother's first cousin is OU legend Dr. Manuel Pierson. Uncle Manuel is how I arrived at Oakland University; he actually insisted upon it. I came to OU with my infant daughter right out of high school in fall of '97. I had a very robust experience on campus including the Association of Black Students, Akanke' (the Traditional African Dance Group) and involvement in many other organizations. I am thankful for the many experiences during my time on campus at OU and look forward to ongoing opportunities to stay connected in the future. ➤

Lohren Carter-Nzoma, CAS '02



I love the magazine's new look!!! Thanks for providing us w/positive stories. I especially enjoyed reading "Finding Common Ground." ➤

Mike Lerchenfeldt, SEHS '08



I received your latest magazine in the mail and it was terrific to read about fellow alumni. I graduated from OU's National Honor Society in 2004 with a B.S. in marketing and a B.A. in Spanish. I completed OU's study abroad to Valencia, Spain to top off my major. I cannot say enough good things about my time at OU and how my schooling there set me up for an amazing career. ➤

Christy Maraone, SBA and CAS '04

ALUMNI *Voices*

Oakland University alumni emit pride, empowerment and resilience. Your diverse careers speak to the wealth of knowledge instilled in all graduates. Despite varying paths, however, it's evident by your alumni voices that you took the tools you learned at OU and used this knowledge to become leaders in your fields.

“
We are all examples of women who are going after it. And we encourage our clients to do the same.

”
SHAY BAILEY, CAS '05
page 26

The Visitor Center at Meadow Brook Hall



Images by HopkinsBurns Design Studio and
The Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio

Meadow Brook Hall, located on the Oakland University campus, is proud to announce the creation of a new Visitor Center.

Meadow Brook Hall was completed in 1929 by Oakland University founders Matilda Dodge-Wilson and Alfred Wilson. Now a National Historic Landmark, the 110-room mansion serves as a museum and cultural center for thousands of guests each year.

The new Visitor Center will welcome guests to The Great Estate and begin their journey back in time with an orientation gallery, engaging exhibits and much more.

Join us to transform the future of Meadow Brook Hall. For more information, contact Myles Harper at (248) 364-6242 or mkharper@oakland.edu.

Scan the QR code to support the Meadow Brook Hall Visitor Center.



MEADOW BROOK HALL

350 Estate Drive | Rochester, MI 48309-4481 | (248) 364-6200 | meadowbrookhall.org



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In Fall 1984, OU celebrated its 25th anniversary. The university had come a long way since 1959, with nearly 12,000 students enrolled. The birthday cake reception on September 18 was followed by an open house with over 100 activities including mimes, musicians and clowns strolling the grounds, a grease pole competition and a hot air balloon festival.



A LOOK BACK

OU's 25th
Anniversary:
the struggles
and triumphs
of the
early '80s

By Michael Downes

Courtesy Archives and Special Collections, University Libraries, Oakland University

Oakland University started off as Michigan State University-Oakland, opening its doors in the fall of 1959. South Foundation Hall held classes taught for 570 students with a \$255 per year tuition. Business, education and engineering were "concentrations" within a common liberal arts curriculum, taught by a total of 24 faculty members. It was a humble beginning.

Throughout the '60s, OU would see an architectural boom, breaking ground on 16 buildings. In 1963, the university's name was changed to Oakland University so it could appear on the very first diplomas delivered to students graduating in April. By 1969, OU had over 5,000 students enrolled, five major schools, a graduate program and summer options. The university also started competing in intercollegiate sports.

In 1970, OU officially became an independent university. The college's first chancellor, Woody Varner, was replaced by Donald O'Dowd, who became the first university president and would hold the spot until 1979. Twenty years after their first semester,

OU was up to more than 11,000 students.

The 1980s

Going into the '80s, the search for a new president was atop the priority list. George Matthews was the appointed interim president, until naming Joseph Champagne the new president in 1981. President Champagne faced quite an uphill battle, though. At the time of his inauguration, the United States was dealing with a recession. Economics Associate Professor Ronald Tracy arrived on campus in 1982 and says it was an unusually difficult era. "It was the worst recession we've had post-WWII. We had the highest unemployment rate since the 1940s," he says.

When O'Dowd stepped down in 1979, unemployment in America was just under 6% and by 1982 it shot up to nearly 10%, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Despite the outside pressures, the university, its faculty and the students persevered.

"When you were on campus, it was almost like its own world," says Geri Graham, SBA '86, project director for Oakland University's Project Upward Bound, who was a marketing student in the early '80s. "We were all in the same boat. The focus was getting funding for college and deciding how to best use our financial aid refunds."

On campus, many students were not balancing work and education, they were full-time students. Isolated from the issues outside of OU, they worked closely with each other and faculty to get the most out of their classes and had fun doing it.

"Morale was really high on campus," Tracy recalls, "for both faculty and students."

There was a great relationship between students and faculty. This was before email, so if students had questions, they'd go to their professor's office and have a face-to-face meeting, helping to create lasting, impactful bonds.

Time to celebrate

By 1984, Oakland University had come out on the other side of the recession stronger than ever, exceeding 12,000 students for the first time in history, and was ready to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Over the course of a week in mid-September, Oakland University held events to honor the growth and prosperity of the college. A two-day Trivial Pursuit tournament was held on campus, old Tiger Stadium hosted OU Day and Meadow Brook Hall was booked with tours and had an art collection on display. All of the academic buildings and residence



Joseph E. Champagne (with wife Emily) served as the third president of Oakland University from 1981–91.

halls hosted open houses with pancake breakfasts. They also hosted the Fun Run to go along with the Lepley Sports Center.

During that weekend, the residence halls put on an after-school party for the students. They had a hot air balloon festival on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and tailgate for the OU versus Michigan Wolverines soccer game that featured an ox roast and array of games.

Over 10,000 people came together to celebrate and honor the university for the strides it made for itself and the hard work from the faculty, staff and students over the first quarter century.

Memory lane

Royal Oak native John Cowan, CAS '82, first arrived at OU as a fourth grader, as he won a young writer's contest and was awarded a day workshoping on campus. That day had a lasting impact on him, and from then on Cowan never imagined attending any other university. In 1978, Cowan arrived on campus as

a full-time student pursuing his bachelor's in English, with a minor in philosophy. Despite living a stone's throw away, he yearned to live on campus.

"I had a great home life, but I wanted to get away," says Cowan. "It seemed like that was what college was, that's what you did."

Cowan lived in Pryale House for his tenure at Oakland. In his off-time, he'd watch General Hospital in the Oakland Center, walk around Beer (Bear) Lake and hangout in the field that later became O'Dowd Hall. While looking for creative outlets for himself, Cowan landed a position



In the 1980s, the Pioneers built upon the successes of the previous decade and shone in the NCAA Division II by winning many titles in men's and women's basketball, as well as swimming and diving. Cheering spectators proudly wore OU's black, gold and white colors, which represented the university since its founding.

writing a satirical column for the The Oakland Sail, OU's student-run newspaper, satirizing life on campus. He also spent time at the Barn Theater before it burned down in 1987, having roles in "Dracula," "Happy Birthday Wanda June" and "Bloody Bess."

"For Dracula, I would get killed off stage, but then as part of the play they'd drag my body back onto the stage and my head would dangle off the edge, looking into the crowd," recalls Cowan. "I will never forget, one time they did it, a woman in the front row leaned over to her boyfriend and said, 'I told you we should have sat further back.'"



The Rochester Apple Amble was a five-mile road run that was part of Rochester's Art & Apples Festival. Starting in 1982 the run was included in Septemberfest, OU's series of back-to-school programs to welcome students every September. The run through campus was a way to bring the OU and Rochester communities together.



Charter faculty and staff gathered at the university's 25th anniversary. From left to right are (first row) Lowell Eklund, Helen Kovach-Tarakanov, Richard Moore; (second row) George Karas, Paul Tomboularian, Richard Burke; (third row) George Matthews, William Schwab, Robert Swanson, Thomas Fitzsimmons, Clare McVety. Matthews was interim president from November 1979 to February 1981.

Graham's favorite memories surround her contributions to student life and her school achievements. She served on OU's first African American Awareness Month Executive Board and was a role model of success for peers by excelling in a challenging degree program. As one of only a few African American students in the School of Business Administration during that time, Graham reflects on the pride she felt succeeding as a non-traditional student and being named a Chrysler Merit Scholar.

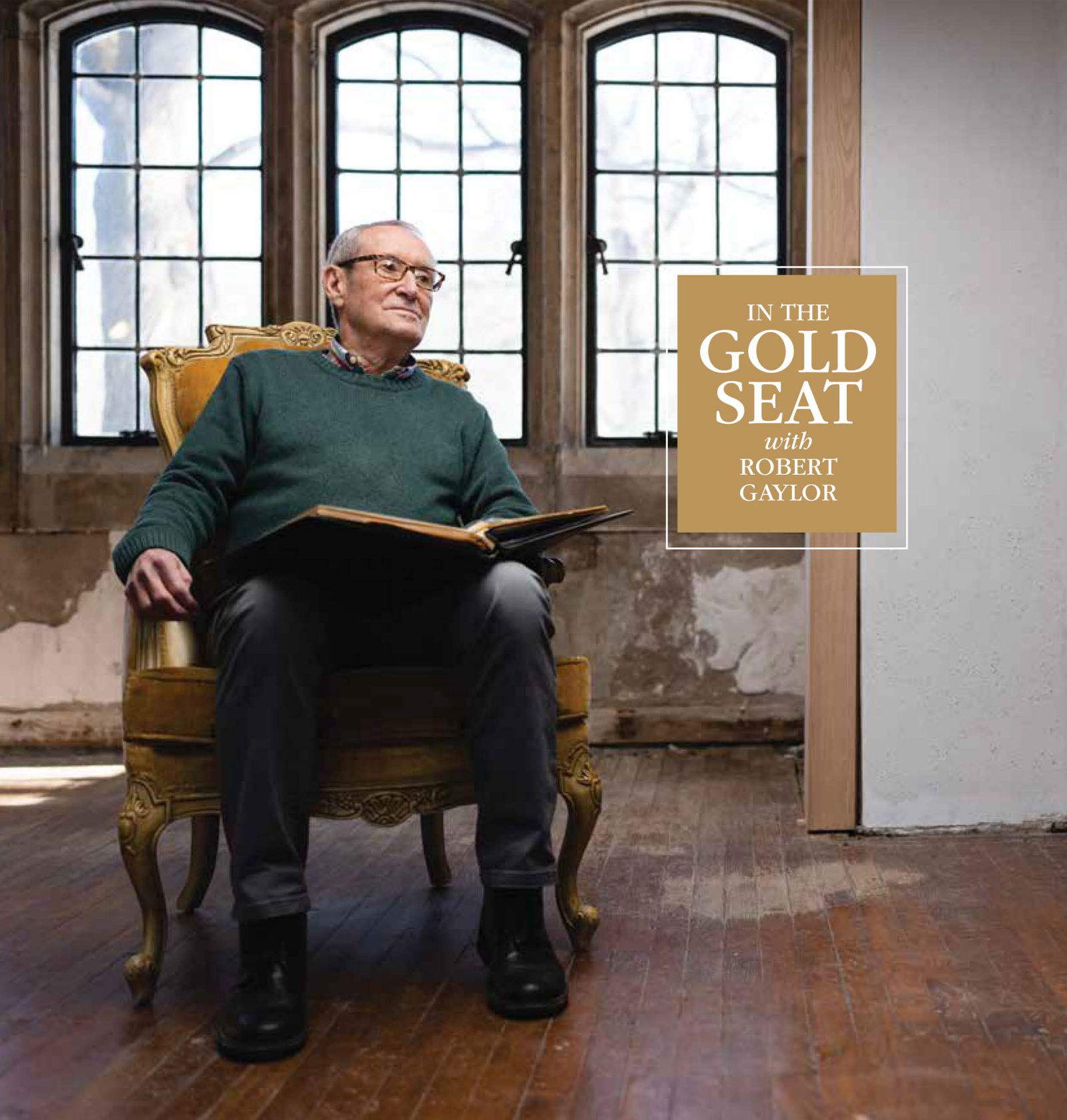
"I felt very guilty about missing time with my family, especially because my father was in poor

health," Graham says. "So it was gratifying that my dad got a chance to see me graduate at Meadow Brook Music Festival with departmental honors and receive the Human Relations Award. He was also able to attend the Seventh Biennial Black Graduates and Alumni Awards, where I received the Flame Award and the Isaac Jones Achievement Award, the Academic Excellence Award and the Student Leadership Award." 🐾

Read more and check out photos of the 25th anniversary celebration at oakland.edu/oumagazine.



Grease pole competition with mime at the Open House, fall 1984.



IN THE
**GOLD
SEAT**
with
ROBERT
GAYLOR

TITLE: **Former librarian and professor at OU**

HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD: **2018**

YEARS OF SERVICE: **I worked at OU for 38 years.**

SOMETHING UNIQUE ABOUT YOURSELF: **I lived in the Gate Lodge on the Meadow Brook Hall Estate.**

TIME SPENT LIVING AT THE GATE LODGE: **I moved in shortly after Mrs. Dodge Wilson died in 1967. Anybody from the OU family could be considered, but since I had been at OU the longest, I won out. I lived there for about 30 years.**

FAVORITE MEMORIES: **I planned volleyball parties at the Gate Lodge every year. There would be five parties a year. I entertained hundreds of people who attended these parties. One of these parties was a drag queen fundraising event which raised around \$2,000 to buy TVs for the gay hospital ward in Metro Detroit. 🍷**

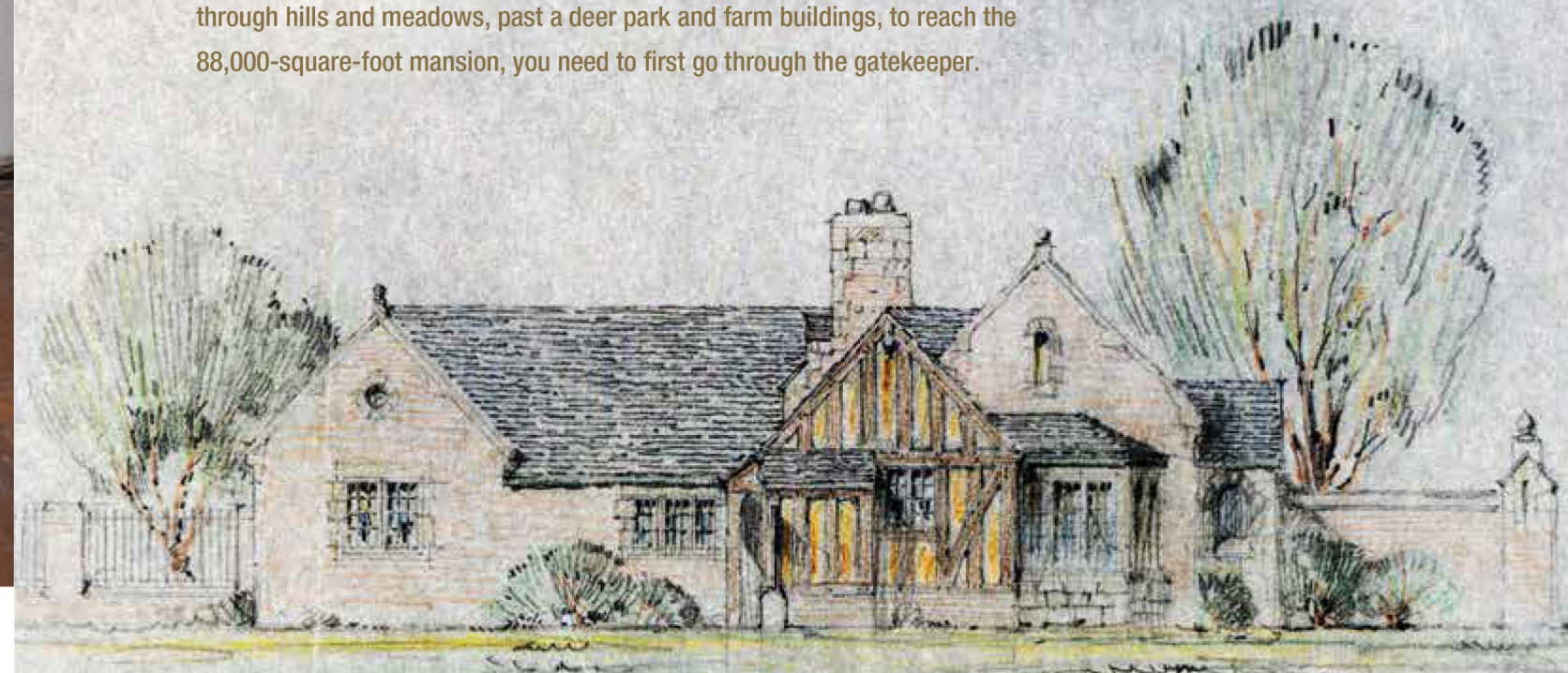
📷 Robert Hall

THE GATEKEEPERS

Alumni and philanthropists spearhead project to restore the history of the Gate Lodge

By Kelli M. Warshefski 📷 Courtesy of Meadow Brook Archives

It's the late 1920s. You are invited to a party at the 1,400+ acres Meadow Brook Hall estate. Donned in your best garb, you jump into your Dodge Roadster. You drive along the Rochester Hills road and glimpse the peaks of the Tudor-style mansion ahead. But, before you can head down the winding, gravel drive, weaving through hills and meadows, past a deer park and farm buildings, to reach the 88,000-square-foot mansion, you need to first go through the gatekeeper.



GATE LODGE

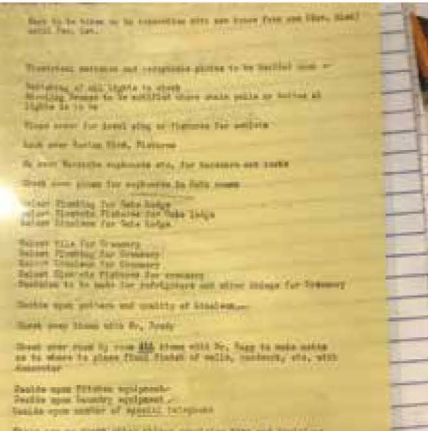
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SCHENK, B.

The gatekeeper managed access to the estate and lived in the Gate Lodge, a two-bedroom house attached to the primary entrance of Meadow Brook Hall. He would check visitor names on the guest lists and call the hall to confirm their arrival. The gatekeeper logged each visitor's name, license plate and time in and out.



In 1928, Matilda Wilson wrote this to-do list, which included choosing construction and decoration materials for the Hall, creamery and Gate Lodge; meeting with the architect; Christmas shopping; and more

Additionally, the gatekeeper kept tabs on the estate and its residences, Alfred Wilson and Matilda Dodge Wilson. At night, he would turn on a set of lights that crossed the mile-long drive from the Gate Lodge to the hall; when the residents returned safely home, they would hit a master switch to turn off all the lights along the drive. If the gatekeeper didn't see the lights turn off within a few minutes of their arrival, he would call the security guard to check in.



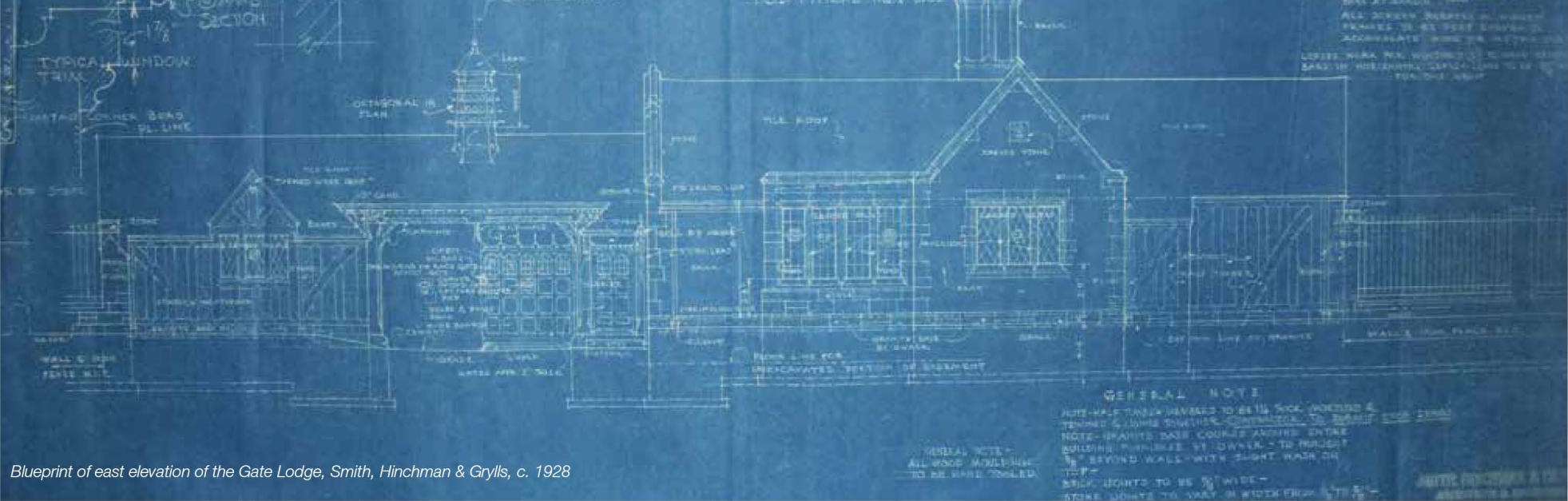
Robert Gaylor entertaining friends at the Gate Lodge, c. 1984, courtesy of Robert Gaylor

in the summer; each year the parties grew until his final year in the house when he received the greatest attendance at 400 people.

Once Gaylor moved out, however, the Gate Lodge sat vacant for more than 20 years.

In 2020, while alumni Michael Klieman, GEN '83, was golfing at the R&S Sharf Golf Course, he noted the state of the Gate Lodge and asked his playing partner, Michael Westfall, OU's vice president for advancement, the future plans for the building. When Westfall explained the resource challenges involved in restoring the structure, Klieman called upon fellow Oakland University golfers and

Robert Gaylor with antique car on front drive, c. 1974, courtesy of Robert Gaylor



Blueprint of east elevation of the Gate Lodge, Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, c. 1928

alumni to help, and received an overwhelming amount of support.

"It was a shame that a huge part of history was sitting there, deteriorating," says Klieman. "It was too valuable to let go."

While the lodge needed a complete overhaul of renovations, the most important and glaring issue was the gate. "What was once a majestic entrance to the estate, was sagging and marred by rotten wood," explains Madelyn Rzakdowolski, curator at Meadow Brook Hall. "The gate was completely rebuilt by a craftsman using the same techniques and materials that were used a century ago."

Advised by Rzakdowolski and funded and executed by the Klieman donor group, the Gate Lodge is now undergoing much-needed renovations. Using

blueprints, construction plans and Gaylor's photographs of the building, Rzakdowolski is lending her expertise to help restore the house back to its original glory.

"It's like a dream come true partnering on these renovations," says Rzakdowolski. "We didn't have many interior photos of the house until recently, when Robert shared his with us. Thanks to these photos, I get more and more clues on how to return it back to its original state."

The Gate Lodge is in its early stages of renovations. So far, enough money has been raised to update the plumbing, ventilation and electrical wiring, as well as restore the bathroom and fix some structural damage to the front of the house. The next step is the kitchen: tiling, painting, flooring and bringing in appliances, all of which will resemble those from the lodge's early years, with some minor adjustments for modern use. "Like most kitchens of the 1920s, the room did not originally have tiled walls," Rzakdowolski explains. "But we were concerned with creating a barrier behind the kitchen sink, so we used the original kitchen of Meadow Brook Hall to inspire the tile used."

A fully-restored Gate Lodge is still a few years away, but Rzakdowolski, Gaylor and all those invested in its history, are excited to watch the process of

bringing this remarkable treasure back to life.

"It's been so long since I've lived here," Gaylor says with a smile, recently touring through the Gate Lodge to check on renovations. "But, walking in here now, it still feels like home." 🍷

Find out how you can help preserve the historic Gate Lodge by contacting Michael Westfall, vice president of advancement at mwestfall@oakland.edu.



The Gate Lodge was the main entrance to Meadow Brook Estate, c. 1947

A National Historic Landmark, Meadow Brook Hall is the historic home of one of the automotive aristocracy's most remarkable women, Matilda Dodge Wilson, her second husband Alfred Wilson, a lumber broker and their four children, Frances and Danny Dodge, and Richard and Barbara Wilson. It exists as an indirect product of the achievements and good fortune of her first husband, automotive pioneer John F. Dodge, co-founder of Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company who quickly prospered in the burgeoning auto industry before his tragic death in 1920, leaving Matilda one of the world's wealthiest women. This fortune not only built one of America's finest residences and country estates, it also supported numerous Detroit charities and organizations, and made possible the founding of Oakland University. Source: meadowbrookhall.org



Right: Gatekeeper William Bates takes a break to give a treat to one of the estate's Shetland ponies, c. 1946

Below: Each tenant house had a chicken coop, but the Gate Lodge's brick coop was the most elaborate, built into the corner of the fence and outfitted with electricity and a tile roof. Gaylor planted the gardens around the coop with flowers and vegetables, c. 1990, courtesy of Robert Gaylor



ALL RISE

A conversation with the Honorable Judge Rena Marie Van Tine

By Laura Phillips and Michael Downes ✍️ Kevin Fales



The Honorable Judge Rena Marie (David) Van Tine, GEN '82, is on the leading edge of inclusion in the legal field, being the first female Indian American judge in the nation to serve on a state court. We sat down with Judge Van Tine who earned her bachelor's of general

studies with minors in computer science, human resource development and communications.

When did you decide you wanted to pursue a career in law?

After graduating from OU, I completed one semester in graduate school at Michigan State University, studying intercultural communications. During that time, I took the LSAT and decided that I would like to experience living in New York. I decided to attend New York Law School.

Why did you decide to attend Oakland University?

It was a university that was close to home and, at that time, gave all faculty and their dependents

free tuition. My mother, Dr. Indra David, was a faculty member for the library. After I graduated, she went on to become the dean of Oakland University's library.

What do you remember most about your undergraduate experience at OU?

I loved the opportunity to work in a real-life work environment and gain great experience for law school. I worked for the then vice president's administrative assistant, as well as one of the accountants in the office. I also had the opportunity to work at

Meadow Brook Music Festival in the summer and attended many concerts. I spent a lot of time reflecting on life at the foosball and pool tables. I also spent way too many quarters on video machines and pinball machines, but I learned a lot about life from my fellow OU students.

What is your favorite part of the legal work you do?

I enjoy resolving disputes between parties so that people have closure on their legal issues; deciding what the right thing to do is, rather than being an advocate for either side. I also enjoy the intellectual part of the job, researching the law and applying it correctly, fairly and equally. I love jury trials because I get to see lawyers at their very best and see how a group of 12 people can unanimously come to a decision on what the facts of the case are.

Why did you switch from being a lawyer to a judge?

I have been practicing law for 35 years. As an assistant states'

attorney, I advocated for the victims of hundreds of violent felonies including murder, rape and armed robbery. As a criminal defense attorney, I protected the constitutional rights of defendants charged with misdemeanors. I also defended Cook County Hospital and other government-run medical facilities against medical negligence cases, and I've been a plaintiff's lawyer representing injured parties in a variety of tort cases. I've worked in private practice and in the government. I appeared before many judges over the course of my career as a lawyer, and somewhere along the line, I decided that being a judge was something that I would be good at too.

How was that transition?

With a well-rounded legal background, my transition to the bench went smoothly. I enjoyed the transition from my role as an advocate, to making the correct and final decisions in court. I was initially surprised at how solitary the job was. I no longer celebrate or bemoan the outcome of cases

with colleagues. I simply decide and move on to the next case. Luckily, I have a fabulous network of judge friends with whom I can discuss the law with as I'm ethically prohibited from discussing cases with anyone else.

Was advocating for inclusion always a career goal?

Yes. The judiciary is stronger when it is reflective of the people who we serve. It's important that we have judges from all backgrounds, or people will lose confidence in the system.

Have you seen the practice of law change throughout your career?

Yes. I think it's become more accepting of women and minorities, but there is still room for considerable improvement. I am happy to report that I no longer get mistaken for the court clerk, the court reporter, the secretary or the law clerk. My role as judge is easier to identify as I wear a black robe and I am physically seated on the bench higher than anyone else in the courtroom.

What advice would you give to young lawyers, especially OU students, following in your footsteps?

Going to law school is a great idea. We always need more good lawyers in our profession. It doesn't matter what your major is, you have the background for law school. Outstanding grades and LSAT scores are helpful, but not necessarily essential. You can do it!

What are you most proud of in your career?

I'm most proud of helping thousands of abused and neglected children when I sat in the Child Protection Courts. Some of these children had delinquency cases pending too. It was sad but rewarding work when I could change people's lives for the better. In 2021, the Illinois Supreme Court elevated me to a Circuit Court position. The promotion in the judiciary makes me more influential in deciding who should be appointed to the judiciary and whom our Chief Judge should be. ➡

Explore the pre-law opportunities OU has to offer at oakland.edu/prelaw.

THE EVOLUTION OF ATTIRE

By Mary Gunderson-Switzer

© Courtesy of Oakland University Archives

Student dress through the decades brings history to life

While the clock of life unrelentingly ticks each decade into being with precision, what's been lost — and what's been gained — is not always apparent at the dawning of each new era.

"It takes us awhile after each decade, in a collective sense, to see the [societal] shifts, as we really do realize much more over time," says Erin Dwyer, associate history professor, whose area of focus is the 19th century; she also has a special interest and expertise in material culture.

While major shifts in politics, science, technology and cultural and social norms are often robustly discussed between the decades, there has always been a silent, up-close-and-personal visual to reflect societal change: what we wear.

Trending: fun fashion flashbacks

To highlight how America's changing fashion sense touched OU's campus, Dwyer examines on-campus photos of OU students over the past 60 years. She gives her insight of the times with fun facts, creating an interesting snapshot of where we've been — and where we are now.

The '60s: The long (skirt) goodbye — and who wears the pants now? Everyone!

The '60s began with formality, and OU students reflected that. The women were the picture of elegance, with their short bobs and perfectly put together pearl button sweaters and pencil skirts. "They had that Mamie Eisenhower look down, wow — such an effort, to be so formal [in class]," says Dwyer.

Not to be outdone, it was Mr. Rogers sweaters for the guys, with short hair gelled to perfection.

However formal the '60s began, America's youth culture continued to gain momentum. Students born after WWII began to separate from the opinions and ideas of their parents. For the ladies, their fashion sense led them to the wearing of mini skirts and pants. Pop culture was increasingly brought into the mainstream, with youth copying the clothing style of the Beatles, and cat eye (popularized by Marilyn Monroe) and Buddy Holly eyeglasses became the rage.

"Although the most significant change in fashion definitely occurred from 1959-69, it had been brewing for some time," says Dwyer. During WWII, while

men were away fighting in the war, women had worked in factories to support their families. On-the-job, many donned men's work trousers and that became freeing for them. The war's fabric rations that brought about tight pencil skirts (and other constrictive clothing) began to make them feel "bound," which brought a backlash of the free-flowing, looser skirts of the '50s. The wearing of pants by women — something practical and comfortable and identical to men — burst forth, in full, by the late '60s.

"Women wearing pants was empowering, as it brought continuity between the sexes. It was a fashion change that stuck and was present in the '70s and on, so it was quite significant," Dwyer says.

The '70s: The Farrah flip

Free-spirited youth, exemplified by Woodstock in 1969, began to surface on college campuses.

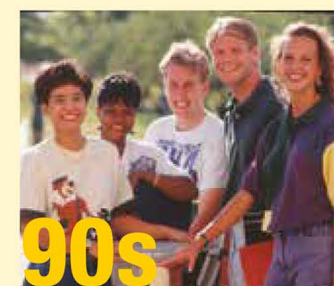
"Although we don't see dramatic hippie-long hair on the guys at OU, we do see their hair falling onto the nape of their neck, and we know that had to drive many fathers crazy," laughs Dwyer.

The '70s began with "nothing" being done with hair. "Then we see that natural turning into blown-out hair and the Farrah Fawcett look," she says.

For the guys, the '50s and '60s Motown suit formality had been replaced by denim, untucked shirts, bell bottoms and afros.

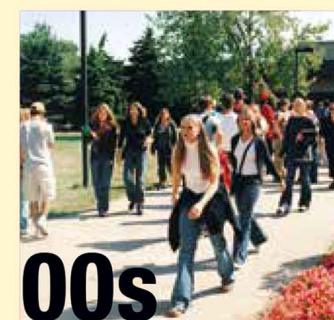
The '80s: Keeping it casual

This was a decade that introduced athleisure wear in the form of relaxed and high-waisted jeans, ballooned pants, leggings and short shorts (for both sexes). Blown-out hair was the trend; it was permed or feathered (Princess Diana style) for the ladies and guys were showing a bit more facial hair.



The '90s: Bridging the GAP

The '90s was a mishmash of styles including hoodies, "Grunge" and baggie pants. On campus, though, "It was mainly GAP clothing," says Dwyer, with a lot of light-blue relaxed or fitted jeans and t-shirts.



The 2000s: Boot cut, bombers and bears — oh my!

Tracksuits and sweats were in high demand. Dwyer says that graphic tees were plentiful due to the increase in logo licensing. Bell bottoms made a comeback, in the name of boot cut jeans. Bomber jackets emerged, harkening back to the '50s. Shorts became longer and hoodies were still popular.



The 2010s: Lounging around

"Some of the professors did not take to the student attire in the 2010s. I remember hearing, 'Do they really need to wear PJ pants and UGs to class?'" chuckles Dwyer. Yes, athleisure had fully arrived, but it didn't stay for long. Sweats and yoga pants still make appearances on campus, but it would be rare to find a student in pajama pants.



60s



70s

80s

00s

10s

THE EVOLUTION OF ATTIRE



20s

That “blast-through-the-past” brings us to the 2020s.

“What will they be saying about our 2020 fashion, 20, 30, 50 years from now?” muses Dwyer, who believes she knows the answer.

Let’s give them something to talk about

“They’ll be talking about our masks,” says Dwyer, who kindly sewed 200 fabric masks to pass out to those needing one during the earliest days of COVID, when masks were in short supply.

As OU students have acclimated to alternating between class on-campus and through virtual technology, Dwyer finds humor in the ironic.

“I had one student on campus for one of my classes one semester, but it wasn’t until she was on

Zoom in another semester that I was able to actually see her from the neck up,” she laughs, “So in some ways, virtual has been more personal.”

Dwyer has been able to find some positives with the masks.

“There may be a tendency to think of fashion as frivolous or superficial,” Dwyer says, “but we reveal so much, personally, with what we wear. The same is true for the masks we wear. One student came to class with a Detroit Lions mask, so we talked about how he was a fan. Others have worn rainbows on their masks or other things that convey their feelings or views.”

When OU gave out Grizzly masks to students, it reminded Dwyer of past times.

“It’s reminiscent of all the licensing of the 2000s,” she says. “That’s become a big thing during COVID — all the logos on masks.”



20s

Despite all the trends through the decades, Dwyer sums up the fashion equalizer that’s here to stay, in a simple but refreshing way: “We’ve found what works, for all of us, in a pair of jeans and a t-shirt. That’s continuity. And we all enjoy the comfort in that.” ➤

Explore more historical flashbacks in the University Archives and Special Collections at library.oakland.edu/archives.

HALL OF MEMORIES

By Michael Downes 📷 Robert Hall

During the chilling winter months in Michigan, Annie Burns, CAS ’82, found solace at Meadow Brook Hall’s Christmas walk. She’d see the lines of people over the bridge and through the woods. Inside, she was greeted with the dim glow of Christmas lights and trees in every room. She could hear the Christmas music playing in the background and the crackling of the fireplaces throughout the hall. But what really got her excited?

“It was the smell,” says Burns. “That smell, it was magical. It was beyond a Hallmark movie to say the least. Those are the memories that will never leave me. It was the gift we were giving to the people walking through.”

Born in Detroit, Annie comes from a rich Irish background, with roots in Cork, Ireland. Her family had a hand in creating Corktown downtown, before moving to Rochester when Annie was in her teens. Going from the big city to something smaller was jarring, but she stumbled upon a building that would change her life forever.

“At 14 years old, I found out about Meadow Brook Hall and headed over there,” says Burns. “I was blown away at how big the building was. I knocked on that huge front door and a lady answered. I told her a little bit about myself and asked if they had any volunteer opportunities.”

“As soon as I walked in, it just felt like home to me,” she continues. “You can’t walk into the hall and not fall in love.”

Burns remained a volunteer with the hall until she was 26. Throughout the years, her roles changed. Starting as an envelope stuffer, she moved up to answering phones,

giving tours, giving in-depth detail about the art, history and architecture of the hall and eventually having a hand in planning events, which was integral for her future career.

After years of wandering the halls of Meadow Brook Hall, you can now find Burns inside the Flagstar Strand Theatre for the Performing Arts in Pontiac. The historical venue puts on dance performances, concerts and shows. As the theatre’s development director, Burns is in charge of developing events and shows, working with donors and focusing on increasing the theatre’s income through grants and sponsorships. Her goal is to have the theatre lead the charge for revamping Pontiac.

“We want the theater to become the link to the arts within Pontiac,” Burns says. “We want people to want to come to Pontiac and see all the changes that have happened within the city. I believe that the city will become the place for cultural creatives and artists to land and grow, to lead the comeback.” ➤

Learn more about Flagstar Strand Theatre for the Performing Arts at flagstarstrand.com.



CLASS NOTES



Andrea Moon

Piano Pedagogy/Piano Performance, CAS '92

Studying at OU gave Andrea the opportunity to study private recorder lessons with Dr. Lyle Nordstrom. She became a piano pedagogy major and worked on her master's project with Dr. Robert Facko. One of the greatest opportunities she had was to accompany dance classes for Jo Frederiksen. After years of teaching music for the Troy School District, Andrea now composes for the FJH Music Company. All of her years of study at OU helped Andrea to become the composer she is today. ➤

Leonard Magro

Electrical and Computer Engineering, SECS '01

Leonard is the vice president commercial controller for Veoneer. He is a results-driven senior finance executive with a track record of measurable results in business development, commercial finance, costing, quoting and valuation. He is an adept leader with a history of building a successful business from the ground up and a great desire to positively impact the world. ➤



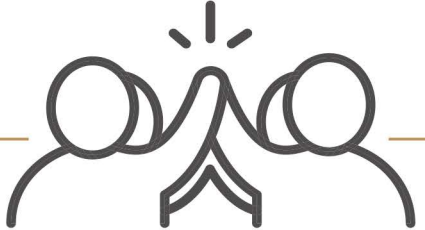
READ MORE CLASS NOTES

at oakland.edu/oumagazine/classnotes

Marsha (Harris) Manley

Human Resource Development, SEHS '02

Marsha started OU as a freshmen in 1983. She stopped after two years to get married and raise a family. Prior to attending OU, she attended the Upward Bound program at Oakland University and was the first in her family to attend college. Marsha returned to OU in 1999 before graduating in 2002. She saw her future self as a teacher or social worker and knew she wanted to change lives. Marsha is currently an author, with her book "Illusional Loves" selling at all major bookstores and across the country. ➤



TOP TEN ALUMNI OCCUPATIONS

**First-Destination Survey respondents that graduated between 2015-20 and identified they were working full-time*

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 NURSE/REGISTERED NURSE | 6 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER |
| 2 TEACHER | 7 MANAGER |
| 3 SOFTWARE ENGINEER | 8 HUMAN RESOURCES |
| 4 SUBSTITUTE TEACHER | 9 ENGINEER |
| 5 SOFTWARE DEVELOPER | 10 FINANCIAL ANALYST |

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Share your story with us at oakland.edu/oumagazine.



The Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022. All alumni are members of the OUAA by virtue of their graduation, so help us celebrate this milestone year by sharing your favorite OU memory or story. And, save the date for a special celebration during Homecoming weekend October 14-15, 2022.

2022

HOMECOMING WEEKEND OCTOBER 14-15

Tej Yale

Marketing, SBA '13, '16

Tej is the Founder/CEO of ThinkImpact Inc., which works with organizations to help expand their digital footprint. The company serves a wide array of clients in various industries — tech, diversity/inclusion, 3D printing, medical technology, property management, AGV/robotics, staffing/recruiting and renewable energy. Tej recently won the Young Alumni 10 within 10 Award from Oakland University, recognizing business leaders who are making an impact in the local community. ➤



Scott Dendler

Accounting, SBA '90

Scott is the vice president of accounting and finance of Assembled Products Corporation in Arkansas. He is the winner of Arkansas Business 2021 CFO of the Year. Assembled Products Corporation features a unique assembly of products forged into world class brand lines serving a multitude of industries and people of all walks of life, nationally and internationally. ➤

PICTURE OF EMPOWERMENT

NAVY B. RAE PHOTOGRAPHY

"Navy" represents strength. "B." is because of you: their clients, children, ancestors and all those that came before them. "Rae" stands for resilient to achieve excellence. Navy B. Rae's mission is to reflect unapologetic confidence through elevated, creative and collaborative experiences.

Glamming with
four alumni who
are doing it all

By Kelli M. Warshefski 📷 Robert Hall

Shay Bailey, CAS '05

April Payne, CAS '06

Brandi Young, SBA '04

Shelby Wilder, CAS '03

Navy B. Rae Photography (NBR) is about more than just taking a photo. It's an idea conceived from a team of women supporting one another in their creative endeavors. It's a growing, successful business. It's a venture in lifting up women in the community. It's the picture of empowerment.

In 2019, Brandi (Gaskin) Young, SBA '04, had a vision to start a unique, full-service photography business. Photography had been a passion of Young's since childhood, but she set her career path toward STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), continuing to put her artistic dreams on the back burner. It wasn't until she had an approaching milestone birthday that she decided to "take a leap of faith" and turned to friends and fellow Oakland University alumni to help bring her vision to fruition.

"I knew that I wanted to separate the business from every other photographer," Young explains. "I wanted to really zone in on portraits with the focus of mainly photographing women and giving them a glam photo shoot."

Young knew she needed a team to put her dream into action and reached out to three friends. "I met these ladies at OU and have been able to witness their talents ever since. I had to bring them all on board."

First, Young called her former OU sorority sister, April Payne, CAS '06, to share the idea. They had been talking about it for a while when Young realized she needed a full-service photography business. "We brainstormed a lot over the phone, but the whole full-service process just kind of organically happened with our conversation. I always believed in

my friend's vision and I said, 'Sign me up!'"

Shelby Wilder, CAS '03, was next to join the team. The two met at OU through mutual friends and remained in touch after graduation. Young worked with Wilder on a few other projects prior to NBR as a stylist and model, and knew Wilder would be a great asset to the team.

However, Wilder took a bit more convincing than Payne. "At first I was a little hesitant," Wilder admits when first learning about Young's vision. "I know from past experience that it takes a lot of work to style people. There's a lot of back and forth, convincing people to do something different and taking them out of their comfort zone. But, I decided to try it out."

It didn't take long for Wilder to jump all in. "Talking to that first client — and it was a great client that made it easy — is what made me realize this would be really rewarding," she says.

Lastly, when it became time to bring in another makeup artist, Shay Bailey, CAS '05, was the clear choice. "Shay and I had mutual friends at OU and knew each other through different circles," Young explains. "So, I reached out to her. I was intimidated, though, because I knew she was fabulous."

"And the rest is history," she says.



Glamming it up

NBR clients range from those who need a professional headshot for work, want to dress up and feel like a model for a day or just need to reconnect with themselves. No matter the reason, they all get the Luxeperience: a full-service photoshoot that offers hair, makeup and wardrobe.

Young sets up a consultation to learn about the client and their style. Then, she contacts the stylist, Wilder, to give her the rundown: the client's likes and dislikes and the purpose of the photoshoot. Wilder then schedules a one-on-one consultation with the client to discuss wardrobe — whether it's to use clothing the client has or if the client wants help shopping for new clothes.

"I grew up in a very fashion-forward family," Wilder says. "My mom and grandmother loved to shop and put things together, and they always did it on a budget. So, I am a firm believer in 'shopping your closet' — if you start in your own closet, you save so much time and money. I encourage any of our clients to explore what they already have."

From there, Wilder creates a style board that outlines the whole look for the shoot, from wardrobe styling to hair and makeup recommendations. On photoshoot day, Wilder, Bailey, Payne and Young arrive at the client's home to set up the photoshoot and start the glam process. But first comes the mimosas and pastries.

"This is what I love about Brandi," says Bailey. "She doesn't just



bring in generic ‘snacks,’ — it’s fresh pastries from local bakeries. She’s very intentional about the vendors that she brings into the space.”

Bailey and Payne get to work on the client first with hair and makeup, a task the two describe as an initial step in helping the client relax and ease into the photo shoot experience.

“We’re glamming but we’re also talking and shaking off their nerves,” says Payne. “We get a chance to really engage and learn about the person.”

With hair and makeup complete, Wilder goes to work with her garment rack, trays of accessories and a prep kit with needle and thread, double-sided tape, steamer, lint roller and shoe shining kit, to name a few. Wilder helps the client dress, adjusting and fixing their wardrobe as needed.

“I love to make sure that everything looks as perfect as possible,” says Wilder.

With music playing, mimosas and pastries consumed, and the client dressed to the nines, it is time for Young to take over. And, while she goes into it with some ideas, it’s not until Young starts shooting that the creativity really begins to flow. “I know it sounds cliché, but I really do get into a zone when I start,” she says. “I like to try new poses and make the most use of the space. I also have the client move around to get different looks and vibes.”

As Young shoots, the team stands back and observes, ensuring the client’s hair, makeup and wardrobe remains perfect; all while NBR’s number one goal remains for the client to feel spectacular.

“I remember one client saying ‘thank you for allowing me to reconnect with myself,’” Young recalls. “Another said ‘you never know what feeling like a model does for your psyche’ or ‘I needed this day to focus on me, not the family, not work.’”

“The best part is the client doesn’t have to do any work,” says Wilder. “Once they book the appointment and have the consultation, they just show up on the day. That’s really a good thing for the client.”

“They sit in a chair and we do the rest,” Young continues. “From beginning to end, we take care of it all.”

Looking back

“When I think of my days at OU, I immediately think of the days and nights spent at the Oakland Center, and crossing over Beer Lake going back and forth to my dorm,” Young says. “I remember in the cold months literally walking on the lake because it would freeze over ...”

“Oh, you were one of those people,” Bailey chimes in, laughing.

“Yeah! When it was frozen, we would sneak out there to take a picture,” Young explains. “Memories like that and hanging out with your friends, going to events on campus ... really just having fun, but we didn’t really realize we were having fun at the time.”

As students, Young, Payne, Wilder and Bailey spent a lot of time on campus. They lived in dorms, had full schedules in their designated majors and were all involved on campus in different ways.

While working toward a degree in management information systems, Young spent a lot of her time in the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Payne, who majored in communications, was in the same sorority as

Young, and with a passion for the performing arts, she minored in dance and leapt at any chance to perform on campus. Bailey shared a similar interest in dance, which she manifested into creating a new student group, Intrigue Hip Hop Dance team,

while majoring in communications with a minor in advertising. Wilder was earning a degree in sociology and remained heavily involved in her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and Greek life.

“I think the friendships and the web that we have today almost 20 years later is a testament to OU’s student life,” Bailey says.

“I think of the amazing friendships and relationships I’ve built and still have to this day,” Young

adds. “Actually, most of my friendship circle stems from my OU family. That alone continues to bring some of my most favorite lifetime memories.” 🍷

Find behind the scenes photos and more at oakland.edu/oumagazine.



The Luxeperience

MY CLOSE-UP WITH AN EMPOWERING ALUMNI BUSINESS

PICTURE OF EMPOWERMENT Brandi Young

There I was, staring at myself in the mirror thinking, ‘who is this person?’ My makeup was flawless. My hair was exquisitely curled. My boho-chic styling was on point. I transformed from no-makeup, top-bun and sweats to a fabulously glammed human being.

Leading up to this moment was a carefully orchestrated process by the NBR ladies, catered specifically to make me feel at ease for my Luxeperience day. However, to say I was nervous going into this would be an understatement. I’m a behind-the-scenes person. I coordinate photo shoots. I’m never in front of the camera. But this was my day to experience what I wrote about in “Picture of Empowerment.” This article divulges the ventures of four female alumni who lift up and empower women through their full-service photography business. I needed to give in to self-care and lean into the experience.

Read more about my first hand experience in front of the camera, and see behind-the-scenes photos and videos at oakland.edu/oumagazine.

Kelli M. Warshefski, CAS '13 and '16
Editor, Oakland University Alumni Magazine



NAVY B. RAE Photography

- Photographer: Brandi Young
- Hair: April Payne
- Makeup: Shay Bailey
- Wardrobe: Shelby Wilder



CAMPUS Highlights

The Oakland University campus community is ever-evolving. Through keeping in touch with your alma mater, you can witness these changes firsthand. Your memories keep OU rooted in its rich history, and your love for campus continues to help it grow.

“

I’m probably never going to retire. They’ll have to carry me off of campus.

”

TERRY DIBBLE, CAS '80 AND SHS '93

page 37

NEWS

The 2022 Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Award recipients are:

DESTINY WILLIAMS
Public Relations



KELLY KNIGHT
Social Work



TA'NIYAH HARRIS
Social Work



KEYARA PEPPER-CAMERON
Elementary Education



MARKEAL WILLIAMS
Psychology



AZANA JONES
Elementary Education



ISABELLA MAHUAD
International Relations, Spanish



Student leaders honored with Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards

At its 30th annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration, Oakland University recognized seven students for their efforts to break down stereotypes and promote racial and cultural understanding. This year's event was held on January 17, 2022. Emmy and Golden Globe nominated actor Anthony Anderson took the stage as keynote speaker at the event. ➤

Lecturer Kitty Dubin celebrates 25th anniversary of playwriting being offered at OU

Kitty Dubin is celebrating her 25th anniversary teaching playwriting courses at Oakland University this year. She created the first class in 1997 and now teaches beginning and advanced classes, which are offered through both the School of Music, Theatre and Dance and the Creative Writing program, which is part of the English department. Due to the initial success, playwriting was expanded to a four-credit class, and then it was cross-listed in the English department. Thereafter, an advanced class was added because there was a demand for those who wanted to continue to study playwriting. Dubin brings both her passion and decades of experience as a working playwright into her classroom. ➤



Photo from "Exes," a play written by theatre student Kassie Dunaj, performed on the Varner Courtyard Stage in April 2021

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON OU NEWS

at oakland.edu/news.

ANTHONY ANDERSON
2022 keynote speaker



OU offers Graduate Certificate in Human Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice

Organizations of all kinds are committed to diversifying their workforce and customer base, but they often lack the expertise to succeed. Oakland University is helping to fill this important niche by offering a graduate certificate in human diversity, inclusion and social justice. As the only graduate certificate in Michigan specifically focused on diversity and social justice, this program adds value to students' resumes and sets them apart in the job market. Students can earn their diversity and inclusion certificate as a stand-alone credential, or they can pair it with a graduate degree in a related discipline such as organizational leadership, education or counseling. ➤



Automotive Lighting Certification addresses important industry topics

Automotive lighting is important to vehicles. It is vital to safety and aids in the aesthetic appeal of many vehicles. The industry has changed from kerosene burning lamps to light-emitting diodes, or LED lights, that are used in cars today. Oakland University's School of Engineering and Computer Science and Professional and Continuing Education have worked with automotive lighting companies to develop an Automotive Lighting Certificate program to provide students, particularly those new to the industry, with a solid foundation in automotive lighting technology and the opportunity to interact with those already in the field. ➤



Oakland University named a Best Business School by The Princeton Review

Oakland University's School of Business Administration (SBA) is one of the nation's most outstanding business schools, according to The Princeton Review. The education services company chose the school for its 2022 list of Best Business Schools. In addition to being named on the national 2022 Best Business Schools list, The Princeton Review also recognizes SBA on its list of Best Business Schools in the Midwest and its list of Best Online MBA (Master of Business Administration) Programs. ➤

New web tool spotlights post-graduation outcomes among OU students

Oakland University introduces a new web tool that provides information on the career and educational pursuits of OU students following graduation. The Post-Graduation Outcomes Dashboard is a searchable database that provides post-graduation details on OU students from the 2015-20 academic years. Users can search by academic year, college/school and major. The dashboard includes a wide range of information, including percentage of graduates employed, percentage of graduates who pursued continuing education, companies where graduates are employed and median salary earnings. It uses the First-Destination Survey results administered annually by Oakland University Career Services. The dashboard is available at oakland.edu/app/post-grad-dsh. ➤





Join us at the ALUMNI NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE

to recognize and celebrate alumni and friends
who achieve success in business, community services,
volunteerism and other areas.

June 18, 2022

Visit oakland.edu/alumni/awards/alumni-night-of-excellence
for more information.



ucm24090/2.22



LEGENDS OF OU

Most OU students know
Bear Lake for its photogenic
location where you can come
and unwind between classes.
But the history behind Bear
Lake is far deeper than you
might expect.

Over the years, multiple cars have been found at the bottom of Bear Lake. Beginning in 1973, students would leave class only to discover that their parking brake failed and their vehicle was sitting in the lake. One student intentionally drove into the lake in 1993 and it was not discovered and removed until 2002.

Bear Lake was originally known around campus as Beer Lake. Though the truth is murky, one story claims a student threw a beer can into the waters and named it "Beer Lake." Others say students used the lake to store their beer to keep it cool. Regardless of the truth, in 1998, the university rebranded it to Bear Lake.

At least two Big Boy statues have been found in Bear Lake. In both cases, students stole the statue and left it in the lake. At the time, the Oakland University News quipped that the Big Boy was "perhaps a bit smarter after a day in school."

Students used to swim, boat, ice skate and canoe on Bear Lake. On a few occasions, members of the swim team were known to practice their racing starts by jumping off the bridge. A 1968 Department of Health survey found that "Beer Lake" was unsuitable as a public beach because most of the water was from an established county drain filled with runoff from nearby subdivisions and septic tanks.

Legends of OU brings you tales of legendary stories on campus: ghost encounters, student superstitions, epic parties and famed pranks. The history of Bear Lake is the first of this upcoming video series that can be found at oakland.edu/oumagazine. ➤

*Share your stories and
legendary OU moments
at oumagazine@oakland.edu.*

AN EASY DECISION

By John McTaggart 📷 Robert Hall

Oakland University student Matthew Moretuzzo had plenty of options when he graduated from high school. In fact, when the Saginaw, Michigan native sat down to decide the next step in his academic career, his 4.1 high school grade point average left him with many options.

"I could have gone just about anywhere I wanted to go," Moretuzzo says. "Initially, I thought that it would be a really big school. Michigan State, University of Michigan or Western Michigan were high on my list. Then, I noticed that Oakland University's School of Business Administration (SBA) really had a lot to offer."

The school's double accreditation, along with an environment where Moretuzzo felt he could get more one-on-one attention with professors and SBA support staff, started to shift Moretuzzo's attention to Oakland University.

"When I actually came and visited the campus was when OU really stood out to me," he explains. "I love the campus. And I love the surrounding area."

The opportunity to be a part of the university's men's hockey team, as well as the chance to receive a quality education at a reasonable cost also helped tip the scales toward OU. Moretuzzo got involved both on campus and off, in the Business Honors Program and Financial Management Association, to name a few.

Anchoring the entire experience at OU, though, has been the SBA. "The support and encouragement I get from the school is amazing," Moretuzzo says. "They're always there for me, making sure I stay on the right path and have everything I need to succeed. And, they're right in the middle of so much business and industry. They have so many great connections and that gives students real opportunities."

Once Moretuzzo graduates, which is slated for spring 2023, the finance major with an economics minor will likely begin his career in financial planning with Plante Moran in Auburn Hills. However, as exciting as life beyond OU is, he admits he will miss plenty.

"I will definitely miss the people in the SBA a lot," he admits. "I learn and grow from them every single day."

Right now, however, Moretuzzo plans on enjoying the rest of his time as a student at OU. "I'm just going to continue to work hard and make the most of every day I'm a student here," he says. "I just love where I'm at. I really do." 🐾

Discover more opportunities at oakland.edu/futurestudents.



📷 Provided by Matthew Moretuzzo

THREE-PEAT

After graduating high school, Terry Dibble, CAS '80 and SHS '93, had a tough decision to make.

By Michael Downes 📷 Robert Hall

"I joined the Army," explains Dibble. "I didn't really want to, but I needed the money so that I could get into college." After two years in the military, Dibble returned home with his Veteran Affairs benefits and just one college on his mind: Oakland University.

"I didn't really look anywhere else," says Dibble. "It was close, just 20 minutes down the road and seemed to be the right spot for me."

Dibble arrived at OU in 1976. He ran on OU's cross country team in '78 and '79 and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in public administration with a concentration in health behavioral sciences in 1980, thoroughly enjoying every second on campus. "It was a great learning experience," says Dibble.

Dibble returned to campus to earn his master's degree in exercise science in 1993 and taught a class as a graduate assistant. In his years away from Oakland, Dibble worked as an exercise physiologist at a spinal rehabilitation center and later on at an adult living community running exercise programs, but didn't feel like he was reaching his full potential.

"I really liked doing what I was doing," says Dibble, "but I thought there had to be more. I sat down and thought about what skills I have and teaching people was at the core of what I did. Working in rehab and with the older community it really was just teaching people how to do things."



In 2001, while Dibble was going through this self-reflection, he was offered a position to teach at OU, responsible for teaching the first half of HS 201 Introduction to Health and Health Behaviors, which is now HS 2000. In what seemed like overnight, though, he went from instructing a patient one-on-one course to having over 200 students in a lecture hall.

"To see the students progress through the process, from freshman to graduation, it's incredibly rewarding," says Dibble. "They have taught me

so much, they all have different perspectives and understandings on topics and classroom exercises, they keep making me better. I enjoy being in the room and being able to help students."

Dibble, now a special instructor and the coordinator of internships for the exercise science program, is always looking for ways to improve himself as an educator and has even returned to the classroom as a student. He is currently working on a thesis to earn his master's in psychology. He has shown no signs of stopping anytime soon.

"I'm probably never going to retire. They'll have to carry me off of campus." 🐾

Learn more about
Oakland University's
School of Health Sciences
at oakland.edu/shs.

RESEARCH



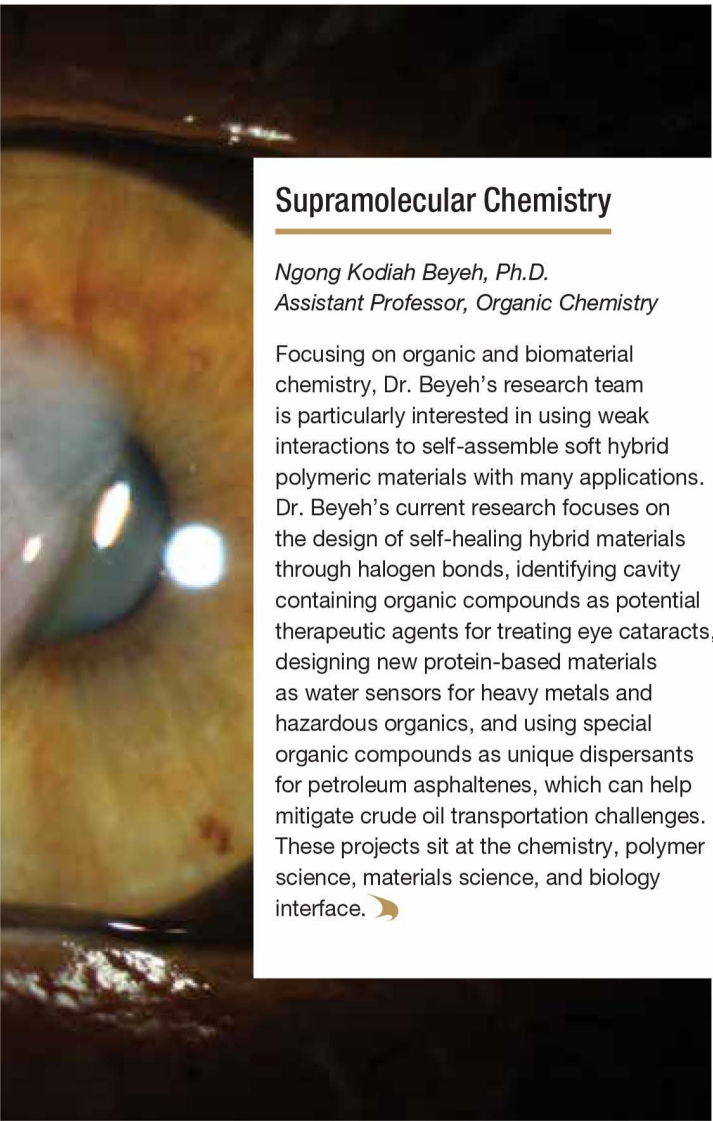
Neuro-Symbolic Artificial Intelligence

Khalid Malik, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Computer Science and Engineering

Dr. Malik’s research interests include trustworthy and decentralized neuro-symbolic artificial intelligence (AI) in cybersecurity and health care. In cybersecurity, he focuses on developing forensic examiners for authenticity, integrity and veracity of audio and videos by using explainable artificial intelligence (XAI). He also works on hybrid cryptographic and generative AI models for secure group communication. In health care, he focuses on prediction of neurological disorders with focus on subarachnoid hemorrhage prediction, and infectious diseases using clinical text and medical imaging by using neuro-symbolic learning and automated knowledge graph generation, XAI and fairness-enabled AI, and federated learning. Dr. Malik’s research is supported by various international, federal and state agencies such as the National Science Foundation, Brain Aneurysm Foundation, and Michigan Translational Research and Commercialization Innovation Hub. ➤

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Supramolecular Chemistry

Ngong Kodiah Beyeh, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Organic Chemistry

Focusing on organic and biomaterial chemistry, Dr. Beyeh’s research team is particularly interested in using weak interactions to self-assemble soft hybrid polymeric materials with many applications. Dr. Beyeh’s current research focuses on the design of self-healing hybrid materials through halogen bonds, identifying cavity containing organic compounds as potential therapeutic agents for treating eye cataracts, designing new protein-based materials as water sensors for heavy metals and hazardous organics, and using special organic compounds as unique dispersants for petroleum asphaltenes, which can help mitigate crude oil transportation challenges. These projects sit at the chemistry, polymer science, materials science, and biology interface. ➤

Electrochemical Transformations

Ankun Yang, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering

Seeing is believing — Dr. Yang’s research focuses on developing platforms to visualize and probe electrochemical transformations on site and during operations. These platforms will integrate a range of advanced testing methodologies and characterization techniques to allow simultaneous visualization, sensing and analysis. With these in-situ (i.e., on site) and operando (i.e., during operations) platforms, Dr. Yang’s team aims to understand, predict and ultimately control energy materials and their electrochemical transformations in their native environments and at the most fundamental levels. This research will impact the design and performance of energy-storage devices, which are critical for many important technologies including portable electronics, transportations and integration of renewable energy. ➤



AMOUNT OF RESEARCH AWARD BY SOURCE

FY 2021

FEDERAL: \$14,478,606

STATE/LOCAL: \$914,052

CORPORATE: \$405,667

PUBLIC/NONPROFIT: \$311,652

Vision Health

Andrew Goldberg, Ph.D.
Reddy Professor, Biomedical Sciences

Photoreceptors live in your retina, at the back of your eye, and they have a very distinct shape — without which healthy vision is impossible. Dr. Goldberg has devoted much of his career to studying the molecular basis for how this unique shape is achieved. One of the biggest challenges to treating diseases involving rods and cones (the two types of photoreceptors) has been a lack of understanding about their fundamental structure when healthy. By discovering how normal rod and cone structures are achieved, Dr. Goldberg and colleagues are laying the groundwork for development of treatments that could be deployed much earlier in disease progression. ➤



Adam Sparkes

Health Care Equity

Christina Papadimitriou, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences and Sociology

Dr. Papadimitriou is a sociologist and medical rehabilitation researcher interested in how people with disabilities and their caregivers make meaning of their health care experiences. She uses what she learns from their experiences to develop more inclusive and collaborative health care practices. Dr. Papadimitriou works with multidisciplinary and interprofessional teams to study peer support — people with physical disabilities trained to support peers with disabilities to improve community participation and health care outcomes — and relationship-centered assessment — for persons experiencing disorders of consciousness due to brain injury to improve shared decision-making between health care providers and family caregivers. This work leads to greater shared benefits for persons with disabilities, their caregivers and health care providers. ➤



Neuroscience and Cerebrovascular Disorders

Luca Cucullo, Ph.D.
Professor, Foundational Medical Studies

Dr. Cucullo’s research interests are largely focused on the cross interactions between the cellular elements of the neurovascular unit; the development of multidrug resistance at the blood-brain barrier (BBB); biomarkers of BBB disruption; environmental and cellular modulation of BBB functions, and their relevance to the onset of neuroinflammation, stroke/ischemia and the pathogenesis of secondary brain injury. In the past 10 years, his research has focused on characterizing the impact of chronic smoking and vaping on the cerebrovascular system and its potential impact on promoting neurological disorders and worsening the outcomes of brain injuries related to stroke, traumatic brain injury, neuroinflammation and, more recently, COVID-19. ➤



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SEE AN EXHIBIT at the Oakland University Art Gallery.

Enjoy the **SOUNDS OF SUMMER** at the Carillon Concert Series.

TOUR THE HALLS of Meadow Brook Estate.

Explore the variety of events on OU's campus at calendar.oakland.edu.



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ACADEMIC *Spotlight*

“

*I aspire to help
end the stigma of
counseling and
normalize talking
about how we are
feeling ...*

”

GREGORIO COGNETTO,
SEHS '17
page 42

Oakland University's academic programs do exceptional work every day – not only in educating students, but through community advocacy, securing grants and creating new programs. These schools are empowering the next generation of OU alumni.

HRD Program Inspires Alumnus Toward Career in Leadership

The need to balance her work and school is what led Claudia Henderson to a career path in human resource development (HRD). “These challenges taught me the value of time management and dedication.” Having the experience of working within different cultures has helped Henderson learn more about herself as an individual and has helped shape her career path as a student. “While being in the workforce and seeing the importance of company culture, it became clear to me that I was passionate about creating environments that support all walks of life.” ➤



New Master of Physician Assistant Science Graduate Degree

The Oakland University Board of Trustees recently approved the creation of a new Master of Physician Assistant Science graduate degree program within the Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences in the School of Health Sciences. “We are thrilled to be collaborating with regional health system partners with plans to launch the first cohort of the Master of Physician Assistant Science in the fall of 2023,” says Kevin Ball, Ph.D., dean of the School of Health Sciences. Lindsay Gietzen, Ph.D., associate professor of clinical and diagnostic sciences, will serve as director of the program. ➤



The Right Fit

Orthotics and prosthetics is an exciting field that combines human movement, materials science, design and fabrication skills. The Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science offers a new specialization in orthotist and prosthetist assistant studies (OPA). Students learn the skills needed for patient care under the direction of a certified orthotist or prosthetist. “The program functions as a bridge between interventions of physical therapy and human movement science assessments, utilizing the definitions of a patient’s physical limitations, and providing orthotic (bracing) or prosthetic (replacement) approaches that maximize an individual’s daily functions,” explains Tamara Treanore, C.O., director and instructor of OPA. ➤

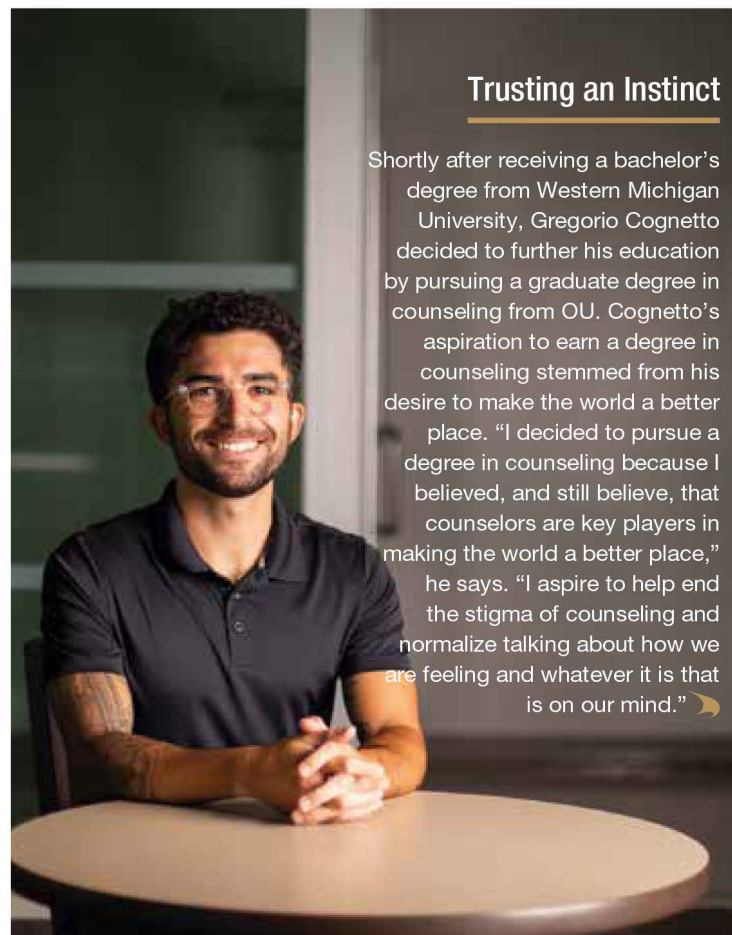


Transforming Students into Leaders

The School of Health Sciences launched the Explorations in Collaborative Leadership and Interprofessional Education (ECLIPSE) program across its entire curriculum and participants are thriving. This unique leadership development experience is one of only a few health-science-specific programs in the country designed for undergraduates. With students working collaboratively across multiple disciplines, ECLIPSE aims to develop health professionals who positively impact individuals, communities and populations. Through workshops, service and continuous reflection, ECLIPSE encourages self-discovery and a space for students to realize the impact that they can make as a leader in their health-related field. ➤

Trusting an Instinct

Shortly after receiving a bachelor’s degree from Western Michigan University, Gregorio Cognetto decided to further his education by pursuing a graduate degree in counseling from OU. Cognetto’s aspiration to earn a degree in counseling stemmed from his desire to make the world a better place. “I decided to pursue a degree in counseling because I believed, and still believe, that counselors are key players in making the world a better place,” he says. “I aspire to help end the stigma of counseling and normalize talking about how we are feeling and whatever it is that is on our mind.” ➤



Alumnus ‘Soars’ to Success as Entrepreneur of Autism Clinic

The opportunity to work as a behavior technician is what made Drue Joseph fall in love with applied behavior analysis (ABA). “It was amazing to see kids make the progress they were making and it was also great to see the impact these changes had on their families’ lives.” Shortly after receiving her master’s degree in special education with a concentration in ABA from OU, Joseph opened SOAR Autism Center. The center is a resource designed to positively impact individuals with autism, developing individualized treatment plans for each client that emphasize collaboration with families and caregivers. ➤

OUWB grad has 57,000 (and growing) Instagram followers

OUWB alumnus Fatima Fahs, M.D., has more than 57,000 followers on Instagram, but she would rather you not refer to her as an influencer. Fahs, OUWB '16, says the term "influencer" implies that one is influenced by money, opportunities, clout, followers, etc. — and she is not. Rather, she has simply channeled her passion for art and creativity, a love for all things dermatology and a commitment to her role as a physician. "It's just been a part of my journey and I think people have been interested to follow along and see where things take me," she says. ➤



OUWB Class of 2019 alumnus serves as chief resident in Family Medicine at Beaumont, Troy

Going above and beyond to help others has always been important for Jamilah Alhashidi, M.D., OUWB '19 — an approach that she practices daily as a chief resident in family medicine. The OUWB alumnus says she practices it when spending hours on the phone with a distraught patient and when showing grace to patients who are late due to transportation issues. She also draws on this ability when helping patients who struggle to make ends meet find cheaper prescription options or need help understanding the importance of proper nutrition. The numerous ways Alhashidi goes above and beyond is almost endless. ➤

Two OUWB students receive National Health Service Corps scholarships

Two OUWB medical students have received scholarships through the highly competitive National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program. The students are David Howell, M1, and Gabbie Rowilson, M2. Only two other OUWB students have been National Health Service Corps (NHSC) scholars. A program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the scholarships call for each student to commit up to four years of post-graduation practice in underserved rural, urban or tribal communities. Jeremy Jones, associate director of financial services, OUWB, says both students should thrive because they each "have the heart to serve." ➤



Business Honors Program celebrates first graduates

Business Honors Program (BHP) students Alayna Gotham, Michaela Merlo and Robert Round are accustomed to being trailblazers. As members of OU's first BHP cohort, they flourished in the honors-based business curriculum. This December, they marked another milestone as the program's first graduates. "I appreciated taking classes with the same group of people throughout college," Round says. "I found a support system," Gotham says. "BHP students have an adviser who knows us, so we can go to her for anything." Merlo explains that "the BHP encouraged me to be open to exploring career opportunities." ➤

New FinTech certificate focuses on future of financial services

From banking and mobile payment to cryptocurrency and crowdfunding, financial technology (fintech) is disrupting the finance sector. Professionals interested in a fintech career can turn to Oakland University's FinTech Graduate Certificate program. The program combines finance with specialized data management skills. As organizations across industries adapt to new demands and opportunities, the need for tech- and finance-savvy professionals is expected to increase steadily. "Students will develop an encompassing grasp of the interaction of finance and technology," says Robert Uptegraff, special instructor, finance. "When you can combine those two, it opens up career possibilities." ➤



EMBA students, alumni gain insight in creating culture of intentional inclusion

Trina Scott, SBA '96, chief diversity officer, Rocket Companies, shares her journey, experience and insight into how the strategic commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion influences building a strong community and culture in an organization with Oakland University Executive MBA students and alumni as part of the EMBA Executive Speaker Series. Even with a strong commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, Scott says one of the biggest challenges to overcome is mindset. "I want people to understand, it's not about othering, it's not about marginalizing majority groups," she says. "It is about how you continue to innovate as an organization." ➤

Engaged

On May 8, 2021, Circuits Laboratory in the Engineering Center was a rare sight to witness. Strings of white lights were draping from the ceiling and circling around the equipment. The aroma of red roses filled the room. Dozens of roses composed a border of the path leading to the table in the center of the laboratory. There, nestled among the flowers and the lights, sat a diamond ring, sparking triumphantly under a red LED sign that displayed the most life-defining question, “Marry Me?” This is how Axel Van Hoyweghen, SECS '18, chose to propose to his girlfriend of five years, Kimberly Pawlowicz, SECS '18. ➤

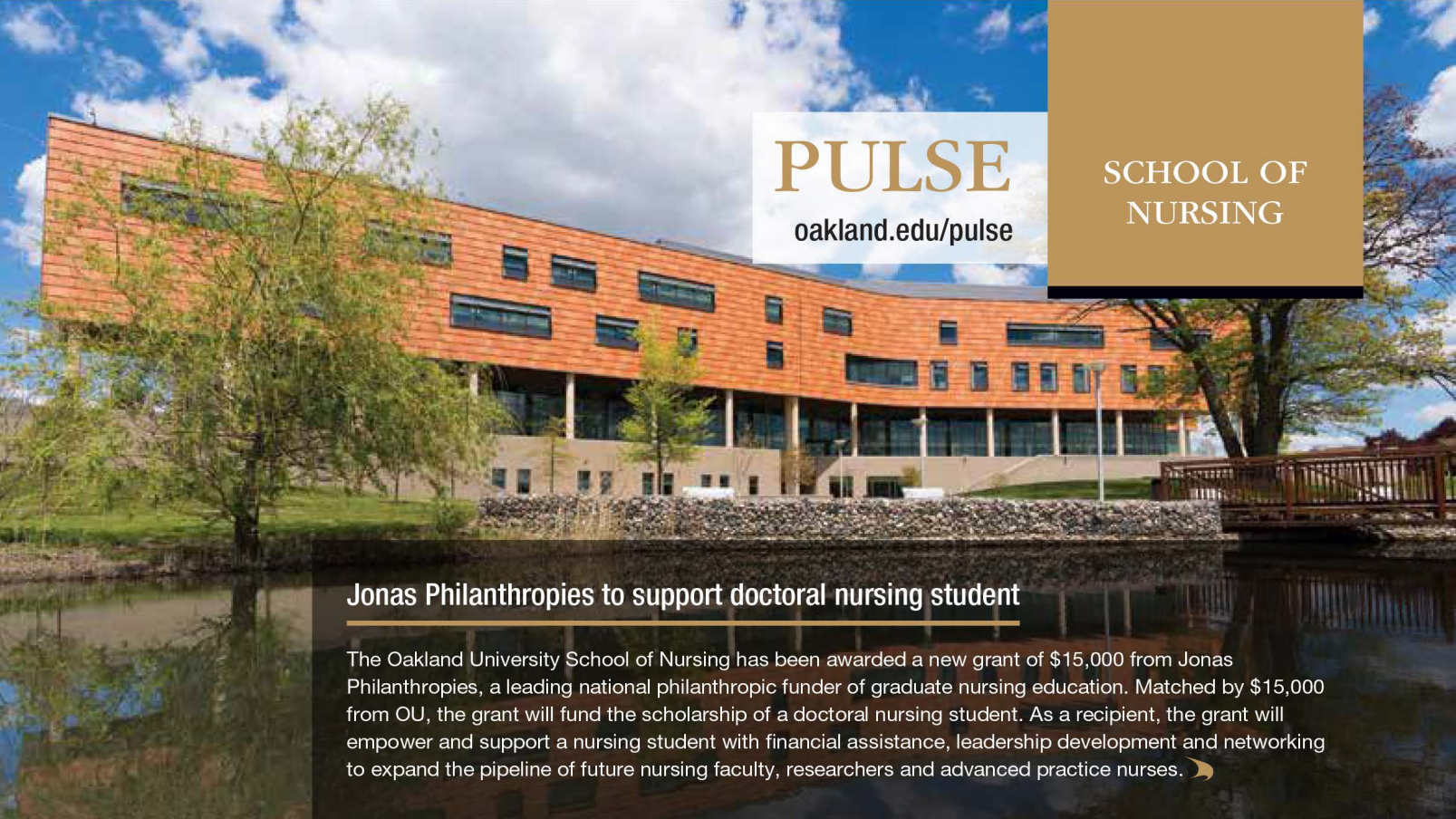
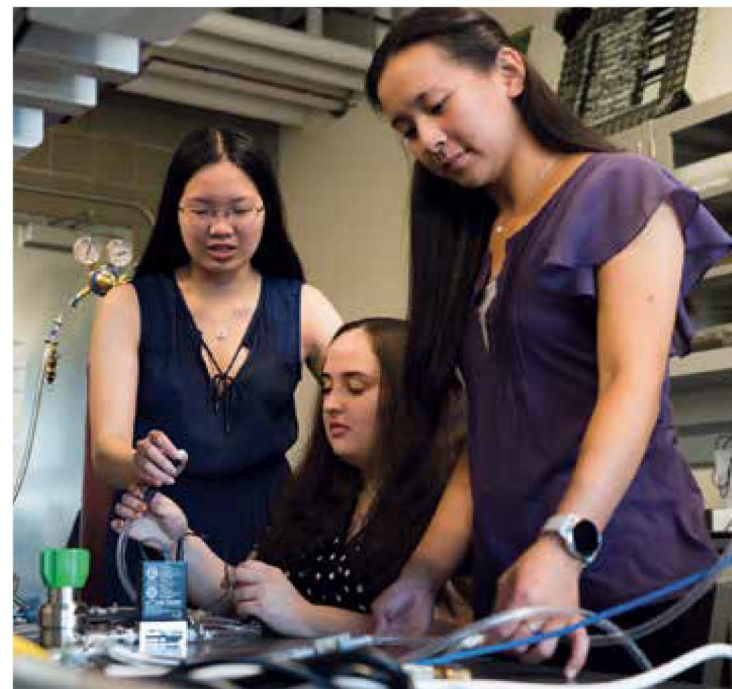


Lighting the Way

Modern instrumentation and equipment for display, computation, communication and sensing largely depend on electronic and optoelectronic devices as their central components. Continuous increases in device speed and functionality present many challenges to materials science and engineering. Nanostructured materials in particular have attracted a lot of attention lately due to their contributions to different disciplines, including photonics — the physical science behind the generation, detection and manipulation of light. This growing area in materials development became a subject of recent research conducted by Ankun Yang, Ph.D., assistant professor of mechanical engineering. ➤

Growing Innovators

For hundreds of students, Oakland University lights the way to innovation with learning experiences that empower and exhilarate their creative potential. Joanna Chang, Victoria Sutherland and Olivia Racette can attest to this firsthand: In summer of 2021, they became the first SECS students to work on a NASA team challenge — The Deep Space Food Challenge — an international competition aimed to create novel and game-changing food technologies for long-duration space missions that also have the potential to benefit people on Earth. ➤



Jonas Philanthropies to support doctoral nursing student

The Oakland University School of Nursing has been awarded a new grant of \$15,000 from Jonas Philanthropies, a leading national philanthropic funder of graduate nursing education. Matched by \$15,000 from OU, the grant will fund the scholarship of a doctoral nursing student. As a recipient, the grant will empower and support a nursing student with financial assistance, leadership development and networking to expand the pipeline of future nursing faculty, researchers and advanced practice nurses. ➤

OU professor receives grant from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing

Kristen Munyan, DNP, assistant professor and undergraduate program director in Oakland University's School of Nursing, was selected to receive a \$25,000 grant from the Foundation for Academic Nursing, the philanthropic arm of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. The grant will support Dr. Munyan's work on enhancing laboratory infrastructure to support at-risk and non-native English speaking students. ➤



Diversity grant to benefit students, communities

The School of Nursing (SON) received a four year, \$2.2 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration, which will aid in increasing nursing progression, graduation and retention rates for a population that is underrepresented among registered nurses: those from diverse or disadvantaged backgrounds, specifically racial/ethnic minorities. Developed under the leadership of Julie Kruse, Ph.D., associate professor in the School of Nursing, with assistance from her project team, the OU nursing workforce diversity project is known as ASPIRE (Achieving Success through Professionalism, Integrity, Resilience and Engagement). ASPIRE's objectives are focused on creating lasting, positive effects at the individual, group, SON, OU and community levels. ➤



The conception of Wilson Hall

Wilson Hall is named after Matilda R. Wilson, benefactress of the university. Built in 1965, the building originally housed the social sciences and some humanities departments. It was connected to a large auditorium designed to be the home of the Meadow Brook Theatre and a new art gallery. In addition to its classrooms and study halls, Wilson Hall houses several departmental offices for faculty and staff as well as various administrative departments. Wilson Hall still includes Oakland University’s art gallery, which offers public viewing of standing and featured exhibits of works within a variety of artistic mediums. ➤

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

17270



Doing it all

With all that goes into NBR, it's important to note that this luxeperience is merely a side hustle for these four ambitious women. "We all have full time work commitments aside from NBR," says Bailey. "Women, in particular, are made to choose one thing — a career, love or family — to stay there and be grateful for where they are. But we are all examples of women who are going after it. And we encourage our clients to do the same." 🍷