

Matilda Dodge Wilson statue unveiled at Homecoming



 October 9, 2018

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An idea that had been many years in the making came to fruition this past weekend during Homecoming and Reunion Weekend activities.

A life-sized, bronze statue of Oakland University founder Matilda Dodge Wilson was unveiled near the walkway between the Oakland Center and South Foundation Hall at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6.

The original idea came from the class of 2010 and began as a Senior Class Gift project. However, the class was unable to fund the creation and the project had to be shelved for the time being.

“As the university’s 50th reunion for the classes of the 1960s began organizing, a small group of reunion committee members thought it would be a wonderful project to complete,” said Kelly Brault, director of Annual Giving for [University Advancement](#). “Many of these alumni we were meeting during the planning had personally known Matilda and even spent considerable time with her at [Meadow Brook Hall](#) events in those early years.”



Matilda Dodge Wilson statue

The [Oakland University Alumni Association Board](#) also joined the effort as funding near completion and made finishing the statue a project of theirs, giving generously to help turn this nearly decade-long idea into reality.

Brault said everyone involved along the way agreed that, “We wanted to portray Matilda true-to-life as possible and thanks to all the alumni feedback and photos provided by Meadow Brook Hall, she’s accurately portrayed – from her height, to her clothing, to her signature pearl necklace.”

The statue’s sculptor is renowned Chicago-area artist [Lou Cella](#). Recently recognized as the 2018 Sport Artist of the Year by the American Sport Art Museum and Archives, he has created notable statues all across the country. He has also created several local ones, including statues of Ernie Harwell, Al Kaline and other Detroit Tigers baseball players.

featured at Comerica Park. Cella is currently an instructor and artist affiliated with the Rotblatt/Amrany Studio of Fine Art in Highwood, Illinois.