

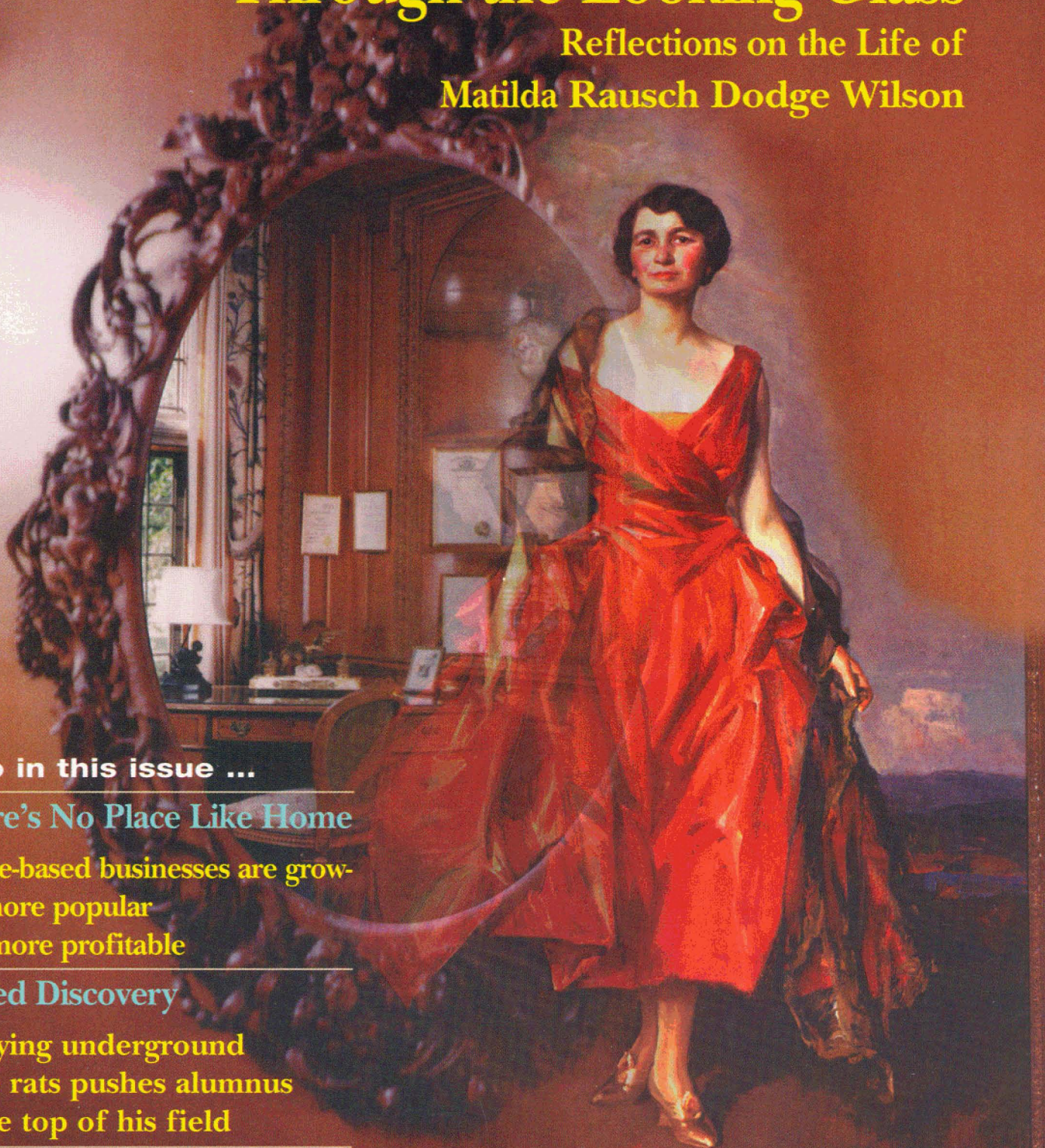
Oakland University

Spring/Summer 1998

MAGAZINE

Through the Looking Glass

Reflections on the Life of
Matilda Rausch Dodge Wilson



Also in this issue ...

There's No Place Like Home

Home-based businesses are growing more popular and more profitable

Naked Discovery

Studying underground mole rats pushes alumnus to the top of his field

Take Your Best Shot

ATTENTION ALL OU ALUMNI BASKETBALL FANS!

Oakland University alumni will have the opportunity during August to buy season tickets for Division I basketball in our new arena before any public sale (September 10). Use this convenient order form:

■ **Ticket Price:** \$96, all 2,000 reserved seats are theatre-style, chairback seats.

■ **Number of games included in the package:** 12 men's games, including Michigan State and all Mid-Continent Conference games, and 12 women's games.

1998-99 Oakland University Home Basketball Schedule

Day	Date		Opponent	Time
Tue.	Nov.	17	Michigan State	7:00 p.m.
Tue.	Nov.	24	UM-Dearborn	7:30 p.m.
			Morehead State (WBB)	5:30 p.m.
Wed.	Dec.	16	Ohio University (WBB)	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	Dec.	19	Rochester College	3:00 p.m.
Tue.	Dec.	29	Loyola (IL)	7:30 p.m.
			Detroit Mercy (WBB)	5:30 p.m.
Thu.	Jan.	7	Valparaiso #	7:30 p.m.
Thu.	Jan.	14	Oral Roberts #	7:30 p.m.
Sat.	Jan.	16	Missouri-Kansas City #	3:00 p.m.
Tue.	Jan.	19	UM-Dearborn (WBB)	7:00 p.m.
Thu.	Jan.	21	IUPUI #	7:30 p.m.
Sat.	Jan.	23	Youngstown State #	3:00 p.m.
Thu.	Feb.	4	Southern Utah #	7:30 p.m.
Sat.	Feb.	6	Western Illinois #	3:00 p.m.
Sat.	Feb.	13	Chicago State #	3:00 p.m.

Indicates Mid-Continent Conference doubleheader, men's game time listed, preceded by women's game two hours earlier. All dates and times are tentative and subject to change. For any additional questions, call (248) 370-4034.



OU ALUMNI BASKETBALL SEASON TICKET ORDER FORM

I am interested in _____ season tickets @ \$96 per seat.

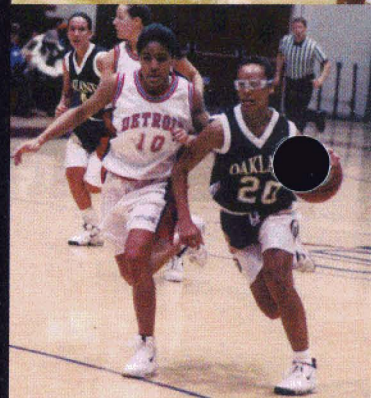
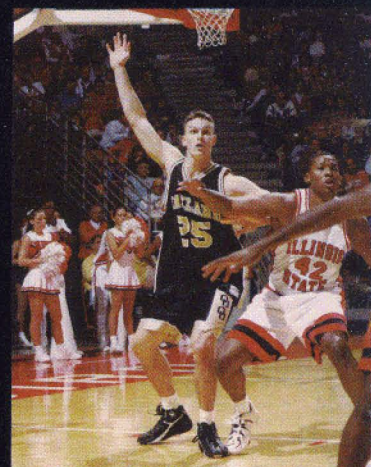
Enclosed is my check (payable to Oakland University) in the amount of _____ (please enclose \$2 for postage/handling).

My preferred location, if possible, is (check where applicable) _____ Players' side _____ Opposite players _____ Rows 1-7 _____ Rows 8-14 _____ Behind basket (top row only).

NAME _____ DAYTIME PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

Return to: Oakland University Basketball Tickets, Lepley Sports Center, Rochester, MI 48309-4401. Order must be postmarked before August 31 to receive alumni priority.



Oakland University

Spring/Summer 1998

MAGAZINE

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Oakland University is an equal opportunity and affirmative
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Matilda Wilson



Printed on recycled paper 

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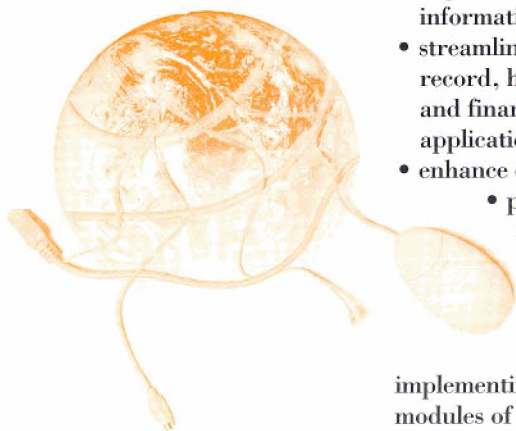
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Spring/Summer 1998



Oakland opens the door to a new world of information

Over the next two years, Oakland University will completely automate the campuswide administrative computer system.

Called BANNER, the new system will provide the technology to move Oakland into the 21st century while creating a true learner-centered environment.

BANNER will benefit academic users while providing students with access to financial, registration, advising and academic records. The new system will

- improve access to information
 - streamline student record, human resource and financial computer applications
 - enhance communication
 - provide better, faster and more personalized student services.
- Oakland is

implementing three modules of the BANNER series — Student/ Financial Aid, Finance and Human Resources. Certain modules of the system will go on-line beginning later this year.

Oakland unveils new nickname

Exit the Pioneers. Enter the Golden Grizzlies.

A 19-member universitywide Mascot Advisory Committee spent months working with a professional design firm — SME design, one of the country's leading firms in creating sports brand identities — to suggest names, create designs



and conduct focus group testing.

"We are really excited about the new name," OU Athletic Director Jack Mehl says. "It's original, it ties in directly with our school colors, and it represents the new, aggressive nature of our athletic program's move to Division I competition. The coaches and student athletes can't wait to see the images show up on hats, sweatshirts and our new building.

"This is a great moment in the university's history. It's great to be a Golden Grizzly."

Art and Apples festival a big contributor, OU study shows

How do you like them apples?

The 1997 Art and Apples Festival in Rochester pumped more than \$1 million in food, retail and accommodations expenditures into the local economy, according to a recently completed analysis by Oakland University.

The two-day annual festival, held the weekend after Labor Day, features 300 exhibitors from 34 states, Canada and England. The nonprofit Paint Creek Center for the Arts in Rochester organizes the festival.

Professors Kevin Murphy and Ronald

Tracy, Department of Economics, School of Business Administration, conducted the analysis, surveying artists and visitors at the festival.

Murphy and Tracy randomly surveyed 412 festival attendees on demographic characteristics and spending patterns and they distributed a shorter survey to 354 attendees. A third survey questioned 66 artists on estimates of attendees' purchases and the amount of money artists put back into the local economy.

The festival generated \$2,415,274, including the money attendees spent on art.

Oakland honors popular English professor

An Oakland University professor's knowledge, warmth and idealism netted him the prestigious 1997 Judd Family English Department Achievement Award.



Nigel Hampton

Nigel Hampton, associate professor, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences, earned the award March 25.

Hampton joined OU as an instructor in 1969. "Since then, he has established himself as a preeminent teacher, who

has inspired thousands of OU students," English Chair Brian Connery says.

In 1984, Hampton won the Oakland University Teaching Excellence Award.

Diary helps asthma patients cope with condition

An Oakland University study shows that asthma patients who kept a diary and recorded results of self-administered breathing tests felt they had more control and were more competent in handling their condition.

Darlene Schott-Baer,



Darlene Schott-Baer

associate professor, School of Nursing, and Margaret Christenson, assistant professor, School of Nursing, Northeastern University, entered into a collaborative effort in 1996 with staff at Henry Ford Health System to use behavioral intervention with asthma patients.

Forty asthma patients from Henry Ford were enrolled in classes to learn more about their condition. A control group of 20 patients participated only in the classes; the other 20 patients also kept a diary and recorded results of self-administered breathing tests twice daily. They also noted when attacks occurred, what they

thought caused the attacks, and what they did to reduce the occurrences' frequency and severity. This group also received follow-up calls every two weeks.

We'll give you leaders

Oakland University's School of Education and Human Services will offer a new doctoral program leading to a Ph.D. in education with specialties in counseling, early childhood education and educational leadership this fall.

All work toward community development with OU graduates in leadership roles, SEHS Associate Dean James Clatworthy says. He envisions 21st-century school district superintendents, curriculum directors, heads of human services agencies and other leaders with Ph.D.s from Oakland.

"Demand is quite high," Clatworthy says, "with renewed attention on early childhood education. Professionals want and need an advanced degree. SEHS intends to fill that need."

SEHS master's program graduates are expected to be among the first doctoral candidates. Students will be required to fulfill 76 credits.

New furniture completes dream for Honors College director

Honors College Director Brian Murphy is sitting pretty these days.

The Honors College has a new home in 112 Vandenberg Hall, and now new furniture.

The addition of the furniture completes his vision for a facility, which began more than five years ago, and is testimony to what a little creativity, and a few architects, can accomplish.

The new building houses offices, work areas, computer terminals, a conference room and a lounge for Honors College students and staff. Bright colors, contemporary curves and rows of sunlit windows are a few of the interior elements that come together to create its airy, open feel.

"While brainstorming on interior design," Murphy recalls, "architect Stuart Pettitt pointed out that when thinking of an honors college, he imagined book-lined walls, dim lighting



Resting in new furniture, Honors College Director Brian Murphy gets the last licks with the line: "The tongue (the chair he is sitting on) is a hit!"

and deep mahogany furniture. So I said, "Great, that's perfect. Now let's do the exact opposite."

The new site boasts walls of glass. The furniture is light and comfortable, some with a definite '60s retro feel.

"Everyone seems right at home here," Murphy says. "This is just what I'd hoped for."

It's a capital idea

Oakland University capital improvements continue to sprout across campus. The O'Dowd parking lot expansion is the most recent example. The project will add 161 parking spaces to the existing 89, bringing the total to 250.

Construction began in May at an estimated cost of \$625,000 and will be completed by fall 1998.

An Angel of a production

For the first time, Oakland University's Meadow Brook Theatre and Department of Music, Theatre and Dance collaborated on a theatrical production April 29 through May 17.

Titled *Angels In America, Millennium Approaches*, the three-hour, Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning play by Tony Kushner, marked the beginning of a relationship that will find MTD and MBT staffs sharing their expertise.

"Meadow Brook Theatre Artistic Director Geoffrey Sherman's electric staging whets your appetite for Part Two, *Perestroika*, and for a continuation of this thrilling new OU experiment that yields what some lab tests never do: genuine results," says Kenneth Jones, writer, *The Detroit News*.

Hall's first curator set to launch ambitious agenda

Ann Marti Friedman has a shopping list of ideas to help improve Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall.

Friedman, who will begin in June as the hall's first curator, plans to carry out an ambitious agenda to further preserve and interpret the 100-room, Tudor-revival style mansion. Her key ideas include an increase in programs for schoolchildren, college students and tourists. She also wants to increase preservation efforts and work on registering and studying the hall's collections.

"I'm really excited about the possibilities," she says. "I certainly want the hall to be more widely known."

Friedman brings to OU 20 years of experience in museum work, college teaching and interpretive programming. She comes to the hall from the prestigious J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles



Ann Marti Friedman, new MBH curator

with expertise in 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century European and American decorative arts — a perfect match for Meadow Brook Hall, says Lisa Ashby, MBH executive director.

Ashby calls this current flurry of activity "phase II" in the hall's development. The hall, in its first 25 years after the university acquired it from Matilda Wilson, operated on a shoestring budget under Lowell Eklund, dean, Continuing Education, and

the hall's managing director, Margaret Twyman Eustice.

During those years, they worked to secure its baseline survival.

"Now, Oakland University is renewing its commitment to sharing this building of national and international significance with the public, schoolchildren, OU students and the world," Ashby says. "It is still a tremendous challenge to operate this complex building. It takes an unwavering commitment to the business side to allow the cultural elements to flourish and be enjoyed."

Team performs well, by the numbers

The Oakland University Putnam Exam Team made a strong showing in the 58th William Lowell

Putnam Mathematical Competition.

Putnam is the most difficult and prestigious mathematical competition in North America.

Of the more than 2,500 colleges and universities, only 419

had students participate in three-person teams. Coached by Darrell Schmidt, professor, Mathematical Sciences, OU's team ranked 102. "I'm extremely proud of our students," Schmidt says.

University strengthens diversity efforts

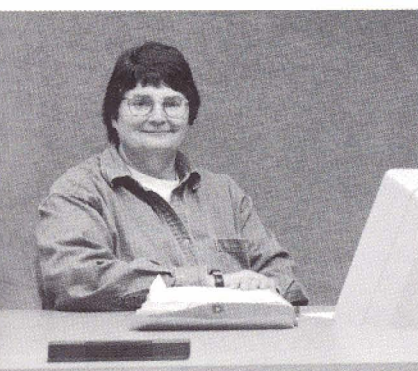
Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism faculty members John Bello-Ogunu, Rose Cooper, David Lau and Shea Howell are establishing

student dialogues on diversity as communication class requirements this fall. The peer-led discussions cover issues of opposing groups in society such as Caucasians and African-Americans. Students will try to come to a better understanding of themselves and each other. Conflict is encouraged to move toward a deeper level of understanding.

"People don't really have the tools for talking about their differences," Howell says. "One of the tools is being able to listen. Another is being able to make a mistaken assumption and have that be OK. Another tool is having a space where you can ask whatever you want and have people respond to that as honestly as they want."

Other recent OU diversity efforts:

- The Human Relations Committee and the Honors College



Sharon Howell, professor, Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism

sponsored an April dialogue by The Institute for the Healing of Racism. The event explored how racism is perpetuated and how to overcome it.

- Last January, OU held

its Spirit of Diversity Career Fair. About 300 students checked out the fair's 66 companies and organizations.

- OU marked African-American Celebration Month last January and February, exploring the richness of other cultures with educational and social activities. The university also awarded five student leaders its prestigious Keeper of the Dream scholarships for demonstrating strong citizenship and leadership in breaking down cultural stereotypes. Attendance more than doubled at this year's banquet compared with the first banquet in 1993.

Oakland opens 2 laboratories

Oakland University dedicated two laboratories recently—one to improve software reliability in April and another for its unique Applied Technology in Business (ATiB) program in March.

Created with a \$200,000 gift from Electronic Data Systems, the new EDS Software Verification and Testing Laboratory is a consulting center that will serve area industries.

Goals for the teaching and research facility include studying the development and testing of safety-critical software. Such software is vital to many industries such as avionics, nuclear energy, medical monitoring and vehicle brake control. The lab features prototyping tools to test and debug software before the design process begins. The facility also includes software

testing and analysis tools for debugging delivered code.

Credit for creation of the lab is shared by Al Goci, EDS chief technologist, who has played a fundamental role in the facility's development.

"We will integrate various verification activities into a comprehensive package," says Lab Director Janusz Laski, School of Engineering and Computer Science.

The ATiB program is an academic minor that combines rigorous education in business administration with hands-on training in information technology. Corporate sponsors give assignments to students majoring in accounting, finance, human resources management, management information systems and marketing.

The assignments are real-world projects. As seniors, ATiB students apply their skills to computer problems



Oakland University's new laboratories focus on integrating cutting-edge technology into the curriculum.

of the supporting companies in an on-site internship. OU's program is the only one in Michigan in which corporations contribute two-year full-tuition scholarships to students.

The ATiB corporate sponsors are Champion Enterprises, Chrysler Corporation, Comerica Incorporated, Compuware, Core Industries, Durakon Industries, Eaton Electron Products, Electronic Data Systems, Hubert Distributors, IBM, ITT Automotive, Kelly Services, Lear Corporation, Meritor Automotive and MSX International.

With excerpts, accounts and clips from campus archives, a university writer takes readers on a first-person historical

Waltzing Matilda

journey inside the modern fairy tale life of Oakland benefactor Matilda Rausch Dodge Wilson.

By Debbie Patrick

Scrapia photographs, faded newspaper clippings and un-published manuscripts tucked away in the archives of Meadow Brook Hall tell an intriguing tale of mystery — one that reads like a Theodore Dreiser novel. Episodes of tragedy contend with moments of triumph and joy in chapter after chapter. It is a story brimming with ambition, mystery, love and loss, set against a backdrop of immense wealth. Filled with auto barons, lumber magnates and debutantes, this singularly American epic spans eight decades. Through it all, weathering every catastrophe and inspiring great admiration, is a resilient woman named Matilda.

A VIEW THROUGH MATILDA'S EYES

September 1967. Fall is settling over Meadow Brook, turning leaves vibrant hues of red and orange and yellow. I can see its beauty for miles through my French bedroom doors. I think of seasons past — 38 years in the public eye.

Tomorrow, I leave for Brussels, Belgium, where I will buy a new team of horses. At 83, raising my Belgians remains one of my few passions.

Today, the hall is empty. I am alone except for the dogs and a couple who help out during the week. Once there were children, grand parties and weddings.

As I approach the grand staircase in the upper great hall on my way to get breakfast, I am drawn to the children's wing. I turn the floral, porcelain doorknob and enter Frances' bright, cheerful room. Frances and I talked about everything — from horses to husbands. It remains a young girl's room.

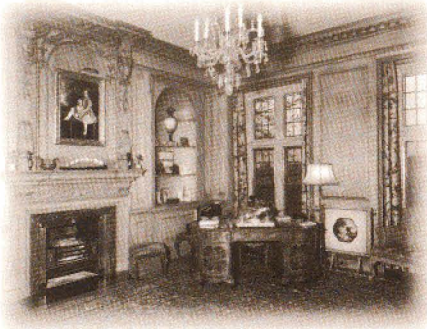
Daniel's room is a boy's room. Swords adorn the walls. Model planes and ships, hunting knives and seashells fill surfaces and spaces. And enclosed in glass, there is a map showing the overland and overseas flights of Charles A. Lindbergh. I find horse-riding trophies and schoolbooks

from his days at Choate. He would have followed in his father's footsteps if death had not snatched him away. How my heart aches, even now, when I think of my son — his life cut short, his dreams unfulfilled. I can hear his laughter from the playroom above. He and Frances would climb to that third-floor room through private entrances. The memory takes me to the top of the house. I've stored plenty here: china and linen, replacement fixtures and decorations, tea sets, glasses, luggage and mementos of John Frances Dodge, my first husband.

THE ROARING '20S

Millions were dancing the Charleston, watching Mary Pickford, America's silver-screen sweetheart, and mourning Prohibition.

1920 started the worst five years of my life. We were in New York that January for the Auto Show when John contracted influenza. Horace Elgin Dodge, his brother, business partner and friend, was stricken first. John sat like a sentinel outside his door. Then he, too, fell ill and



Matilda's study

died quickly at the age of 56. Horace would die the following December.

By the time they shipped my husband's body home, the children and I also had contracted influenza. I was too weak to attend my husband's burial, but I insisted the funeral and viewing take place at our home on 75 Boston Boulevard, Detroit. I remember being carried downstairs to a sofa near the casket where I could say my good-byes.

A few steps from Daniel's and Frances' playroom is a storage room. In it, I have saved treasured gifts from John — remembrances that my second husband, Alfred, may not have appreciated seeing. The sofa is there, and the sleigh bed I shared with John. I sit on it and run an old woman's hand along the curve of the smooth wood. I can't recall the day it arrived, but I remember the day I arrived — December 10, 1907, my wedding day. John, how I remember those days . . .

COMPANIONSHIP TURNS INTO COURTSHIP

John was a 38-year-old widower with three children and a keen mind for business and finance when we met in 1902. He was co-owner of Dodge Brothers, a company that made transmissions for Ransom E. Olds and engines for Henry Ford. I was 19, a graduate of the Gorsline Business College, and John's secretary.

I wanted more than the life of drudgery I saw my mother lead. Mother ran a boarding house that catered to sailors in downtown Detroit called the Dry Dock Hotel. My father ran the bar next door — the Princess Saloon. We lived in the apartment above the saloon, a situation that deeply disconcerted me. I confided this to my younger sister, Amelia, and told her we could overcome our rough beginnings if we aimed higher and applied ourselves. I was a Canadian-born farm girl of German stock paying a new way for myself and Amelia when John Dodge

entered my life and changed it forever.

John was a muscular man who had risen from poverty in Niles, Michigan, with his brother to build a business that was becoming indispensable to Detroit's thriving automobile industry. He was a master deal maker while Horace was a mechanical genius. Together, they made a formidable team.

John would curse like a sailor, get into drunken brawls in public bars and would probably have worn out a suit of clothes if Horace had not ordered one for him every time he ordered one for himself. He was old enough to be my father, but when he asked me out, I did not hesitate to accept.

An aura of good fortune surrounded him. I knew he would go far. He took me to the theatre, concerts, vaudeville shows and dinner at the finest restaurants — places I had only visited in my dreams. Then one day, in 1903, our companionship became a courtship.

Mother and father disapproved of the Dodge brothers' reputation for drinking. They allowed me to see him, nonetheless, until ugly gossip surfaced in 1905 that threatened to end our romance.

My uncle Harry Glinz retold a story he had heard in his Third Street barbershop. It concerned John and a woman named Isabel Smith.

Although he would introduce her to people as his housekeeper, I learned that John had secretly wed "Belle" Smith at the time he began to court me. For two years, he had deceived me, leading me to believe he wanted to make me his wife when he was already married.

LOVE, DIVORCE AND MARRIAGE

I left and found a job with the Detroit Lumber Company.

John vowed to remove "Belle" Smith and build a mansion for me. I told him I could never marry a divorced man. There was such a stigma attached to divorce. And I had no wish to be part of such a scandal.

His pursuit was relentless. He wore down my resistance and came up with a solution more tolerable than our separation. He arranged to get a divorce as secret as his second marriage had been. The rumors about "Belle" dissolved when

she moved out. The day I walked down the aisle, six weeks after the divorce, I became not only the wife of a fledgling millionaire, but an American citizen and the stepmother of three school-aged children — Winifred, Isabel and John Duval — whom I had never met. They would prove to be a handful.

DOWN ON THE FARM

A farm with a house is what Meadow Brook was when John bought it. After his death, it became a real working farm with a mansion and stables, built in the countryside. Alfred and I made Meadow Brook a showplace. We planned the hall, furnished and decorated it with care.

Our housewarming on November 19, 1929, was less than a month after the Black Tuesday stock market crash that launched the Great Depression. So many uninvited people came that we ran out of food and guests ate fruit from table centerpieces.

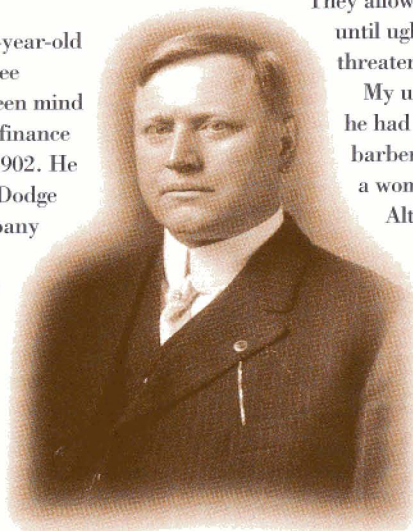
I had to close the hall for a time to cut expenses, although we were far from destitute. Alfred and I kept a staff of about 20 then. Frances made her debut in fall 1933. We traveled and I raised prize-winning harness show ponies.

SORROW AND CELEBRATION

A walk around Alfred's study tells you his life story. Hand-carved into a frieze along the top of the walls depicted in English burl oak are scenes from his boyhood, college days at Beloit, his career in the lumber business and our wedding.

Tall, handsome Alfred, a minister's son, was a pillar of strength for me when my youngest child by John, Anna Margaret, died. She was only 4 when she succumbed to an intestinal infection following a bout with the measles on April 13, 1924, Palm Sunday. Without him, without my church and my charity work, I might never have been able to endure it.

Alfred's kindness to me and his affection for John's and my remaining children, Frances and Daniel, endeared him to me. He again was a source of strength years later when Daniel died. The thought of marriage came on us suddenly about a year after Anna Margaret's death. We announced our engagement in May 1925, the same month Anna Dodge, Horace's widow, and I sold the car company to Dillon, Read & Company, a New York investment firm, for \$146



John Francis Dodge

million, making us two of the richest women in the nation.

Alfred and I would try for children of our own, but later adopted Richard and Barbara. We sailed on the *Aquitania* to the British Isles where we spent our honeymoon — a full year — touring castles and splendid estates, gathering ideas for what would become Meadow Brook Hall. I still have books of drawings and ideas the architects used when they began their work. They are kept on a special shelf in the library.

In the Morning Room, my study, I sit at an oval desk. I have spent a part of nearly every day in this room writing correspondence, composing speeches for one of my clubs, planning fund-raising events for the Salvation Army and the weddings of my children. On the flawless pine walls I have hung cherished awards given to me over the years. One stands out.

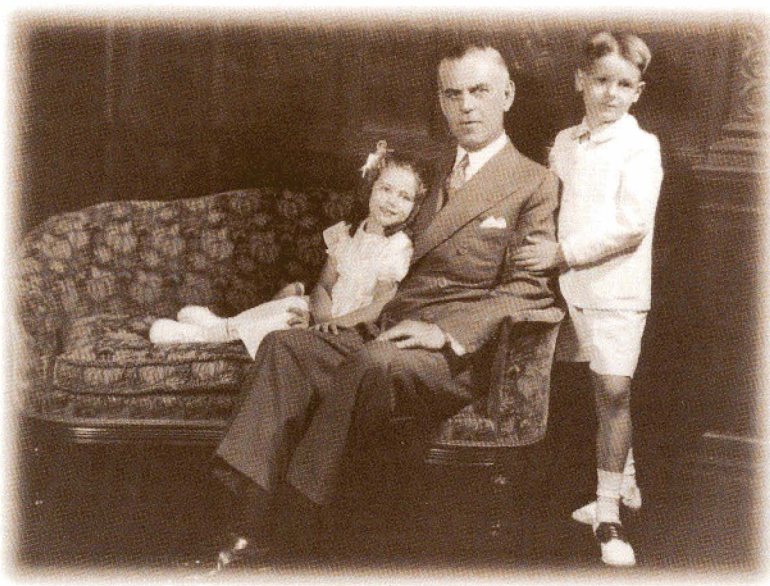
Few will remember that I was the first woman lieutenant governor of Michigan in 1940. I was thrilled, although it was an honorary appointment. *The Detroit News* ran a flattering photograph of me with my quotes, perhaps the only time I enjoyed media attention.

I have always detested the press coverage the Dodge family received. There were ugly stories about John Duval's escapades: his traffic violations, his conviction for possessing, transporting and distributing liquor, his elopement. There was society gossip about my stepdaughters, Winifred and Isabel, and about Frances. Worst of all was the frenzy when Daniel died, at age 21, while on his honeymoon.

NOT MY KIND OF WOMAN

I last saw my son alive on his wedding day, August 2, 1938. It was a quiet, family affair. Daniel disliked pomp and circumstance. Perhaps that explains his attraction to Annie Laurine MacDonald — a telephone operator and daughter of a tug boat captain. I had nothing against the girl; she simply did not impress me as the sort of woman who would be an asset to the young man destined to lead Dodge Motor Car Company. I had learned the hard way that Detroit society was not something one could waltz into without breeding, no matter how much money one had.

The fashionable Detroit City Club had denied John admission. Even the Detroit Athletic Club admitted him with reluctance. I had groomed Daniel for great things. A marriage to Laurine offered no strategic alliances, no link to an established family name or fortune.



Matilda's second husband, Alfred G. Wilson, with adopted children, Barbara and Richard. Wilson's emotional support helped Matilda through hard times.

Just 13 days after their marriage, Daniel was killed. Everyone tried to keep the details from me, hiding newspapers and evading direct questions. Frances had instructed the household staff not to speak of it. Alfred brought in two doctors to care for me. They all feared I could not handle the loss or the truth about it. I would learn that horrible truth from the radio, listening to news reports in the privacy of my bedroom as bits and pieces of the story came to light.

THE UGLY DETAILS

On August 15, Laurine reported Daniel's death to police in Little Current, Ontario, near remote Manitoulin Island where they had gone. Witnesses said Daniel found a cache of old dynamite, fuses and caps that had been used to remove stumps when the lodge was built and decided to see if the dynamite was still good. He was a tinkerer by nature, but not a fool.

Standing inside a garage, they said, a guide named Valiquette lit a fuse as Daniel held the dynamite stick. He tried to throw it out of the garage door, but it exploded, severely damaging my son's left arm and wounding his head. Laurine said she was on her way to call Daniel for dinner when the dynamite exploded. She sustained a broken arm and cuts on her legs and face, but she survived. The nearest doctor could be reached by land, but Laurine decided it was closer by boat, even though

the water on Georgian Bay that day was difficult to manage.

I pull a faded *Detroit News* clipping from its place and read:

"The waves were 4 feet high and were coming in over the side," said Mrs. Bryant. She and her husband worked as caretakers of the lodge. "Dodge lay in the bottom of the boat. I was bandaging his arm and he was instructing me how to stop the flow of blood. Mrs. Dodge was at the controls. Near the Rabbit Islands, about 7 miles from Little Current, Dodge struggled to his feet. I heard screams and when I looked around he was falling over the side."

They didn't find his body at first. Alfred and I sent our Sikorsky amphibian plane loaded with ropes and grappling hooks to assist in the search. Two fishermen found Daniel's body on September 7.

They should have waited. But Daniel had insisted on the August 2 wedding date so he could be with his wife on Manitoulin Island for the peak summer weeks. The hurry troubled me so, I insisted he make a will and she sign a pre-nuptial agreement.

Daniel had inherited \$1 million from his father's will on his 21st birthday, the

month before the wedding. His estate would be estimated at \$10 million. When I instructed my attorneys to give Laurine the \$250,000 she was entitled to, she refused to accept it saying, "It's inadequate and unfair."

Inadequate and unfair? A formal inquest was held but concluded Daniel's death was accidental. The young widow Dodge settled for \$2.5 million of my son's estate. I locked the door to his room and forbade anyone to enter.

THE LEGAL BATTLES

The 1940s — that was a riveting time for American women. I did my part — the fund-raisers, volunteering at the USO. I even had the unfinished mansion John Dodge and I had started to build in Grosse Pointe razed so that I could donate the iron to the war effort.

I pass through the Games Room, where Alfred played billiards with his friends, to the Ballroom. Such parties I remember. I danced the Lindy hop, the mambo and the waltz. It was here that Tommy Dorsey and his 22-piece orchestra played for Frances' 25th birthday party in 1939. That day she came into her share of the trust fund her father left — \$9.5 million. There was a time when I thought she would not.

When John died, his children from his first marriage contested his will, which left me all of his property as well as a share of the trust fund established for the children. John Duval led the challenge because his father had left him a paltry \$150 per month for the remainder of his life, in effect disinheriting him because he had discovered John Duval had secretly married an inappropriate woman. The incident capped a young life filled with ill-advised decisions, poor choices and bad behavior. Never mind that my husband had done the same thing in his youth. He would not tolerate it from his son.

In the end, John Duval's challenge succeeded with the support of his two sisters. When the legal battle was done, I took my children to Europe for more than a year and escaped the bitterness and enmity of our public family feud. It was there that I fell in love with and learned about art, architecture and furnishings. The influence of that year is seen all over the hall — in the octagonal breakfast room with its Sienna marble floor; in the Louis XIV and XV furniture, silk-covered walls and gold leaf cornices of



The widow, Matilda, and her children with John Dodge, Anna Margaret (seated), Frances and Daniel.

my bedroom; in the hand-sculptured ceiling, walnut paneling and parquet floors of the Christopher Wren Dining Room.

MY LONE REGRET

I regret that I allowed outside forces to interfere with my relationships with others who might be here.

My sister, Amelia, and I have been estranged for decades; I did not approve of the husband she chose. Frances divorced her first husband to marry a divorced man. My adopted son, Richard, married a Catholic. I allowed these things to come between us, and so the hall is empty.

When it became clear to Alfred and me that our children could not maintain the hall, we decided to donate the land and the buildings, plus a \$2-million building fund to Michigan State University in 1957 to establish a branch of the university. Education had always been an important issue for me. I had served as a trustee of Alma College and Alfred's alma mater, Beloit College in Wisconsin. My work with MSU had shown me the tremendous contribution it was making to Michigan's educational and cultural life. Mr. Wilson and I admired what was happening in East Lansing and could see how vital it was to prepare the young people coming after us for our ever-changing world. What I did not suspect was the depth of affection I would come to have for the students of this

new university.

I was so proud of the first class that I bought each graduate a ring with a full-cut diamond in the center.

Tomorrow, I will go in search of new horses to fill the stables. Perhaps when I return, I will go in search of lost relationships and fill the hall, again, with family.

A DREAM FULFILLED

On September 19, 1967, Matilda Rausch Dodge Wilson died of a massive heart attack at age 83 in Brussels, Belgium, where she had gone to tour horse breeding farms. A Cinderella of her time, Wilson wished to create a great American family to rival the Fords, the Rockefellers or the Vanderbilts.

Although her dream never materialized, another dream came true in the establishment of Oakland University. Now 41 years old, Oakland is destined to continue for countless generations, all the while perpetuating the Dodge and Wilson names, and the fairy tale story of Matilda, and preparing thousands for an ever-changing world.

Debbie Patrick is a writer in the Oakland University Communications and Marketing Department.

Matilda Wilson, through the years



- 1883 Born October 19 in Walkerton, Ontario, Canada, to George and Margaret Rausch, German immigrants.
- 1902 Graduated from the Gorsline Business College; went to work as a secretary for Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company.
- 1907 Married John Francis Dodge December 10.
- 1914 Gave birth to Frances.
- 1917 Gave birth to Daniel.
- 1919 Gave birth to Anna Margaret.
- 1920 John dies of influenza on January 14.
- 1922 Sails to Europe where she lives for more than a year after her stepchildren contest husband's will.
- 1924 Anna Margaret dies from complications following the measles on April 13.
- 1925 With Anna Thomson Dodge, sells Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company for a record \$146 million in May. Marries Alfred Wilson on June 29.
- 1929 Holds housewarming at Meadow Brook Hall on November 19, less than a month after the stock market crash.
- 1930 With Alfred, adopts two children: Richard, at 18 months, and Barbara, at 3 months.
- 1931 Elected to the State Board of Agriculture, the governing board of Michigan State University. Sister, Amelia, marries John Cline, Meadow Brook Farm manager. Matilda's disapproval instigates a 30-year estrangement.
- 1938 Son, Daniel, 21, is killed August 15 while on his honeymoon.
- 1940 Appointed Lt. Governor of Michigan by Gov. Luren Dickinson.
- 1952 With Alfred, builds Sunset Terrace on the estate to use as a "retirement" home.
- 1955 Receives an honorary doctor of law degree from MSU.
- 1957 With Alfred, donates estate, buildings and \$2 million to MSU to establish what became Oakland University. Receives the Distinguished Service Cross from the Salvation Army.
- 1962 Alfred suffers a heart attack and dies on April 6. Moves back into Meadow Brook Hall where she lives alone until her death.
- 1963 Gives each member of the first graduating class a diamond ring.
- 1967 Suffers a massive heart attack in September and dies at age 83 in Brussels, Belgium, where she had gone to tour horse-breeding farms.

There's no place like home

By Jennifer Charney

Home-based businesses are growing more popular and more profitable for industry, for families and for the environment.

The '90s 'workquake' is shaking the foundations of the traditional American workplace, workday and, indeed, life as we knew it.

As computers and faxes make it easier to telecommute, more people are swapping their cubicles for home offices.

John Knowlton, editor of the top-rated Web site, Business@Home (www.gohome.com), says more Americans are opting to head for home for the following reasons:

- ♦ People are very pressed for time because they commute and work all day. "They want to make a life while they make a living. They need more freedom and flexibility in the way they conduct their personal and professional lives. Working from home gives you that freedom. You don't have to commute. You have more time to spend with family and friends."
- ♦ Corporate downsizing has forced more middle management people to become independent contractors.
- ♦ People want to reap the full rewards of their own efforts.
- ♦ Many people are deciding they only go around in life once and they should do what they love for a living, rather than what they have to do.
- ♦ Others start businesses to accommodate disabilities.

At the end of 1997, America chalked up

20.7 million income-generating home offices.

"The forecast for the future is bright," Knowlton says. "The 1999 year-end estimate is 52.7 million home office households."

Oakland University alumni are part of this trend. Here's a look at a few:

Susan (Armstrong) Williams

SBA '76, MBA '79

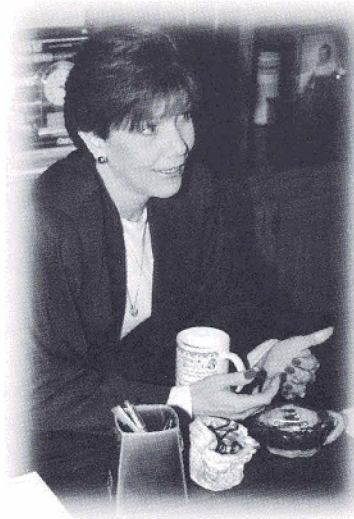
Milestone Marketing LLC
Rochester Hills, Michigan

Williams' company provides customized marketing research and market analysis and planning. She also works with human resources firms to evaluate people for management positions. Her clients range

from sole proprietors to corporate giants, including the Big Three automakers. David, Williams' husband and a Wayne State University faculty member, is a somewhat silent partner who helps with statistical analysis.

Williams has

worked for herself since 1989.



"It didn't start out to be a home-based business the way it is," she says. "I always was in marketing. The company I worked for was sold and reorganized. It came at a time when I thought maybe I should think about what I want to do."

So Williams started working occasionally for individual clients. She kept busy through referrals.

Williams draws on her 20 years of experience, including 10 years as an engineering administrator for Ford Motor Company.

Two years ago, she decided to focus on building the business, reorganizing the Williams Group under Milestone Marketing.

Williams loves her work. One reason she works at home is because she doesn't want to supervise a staff every day. She contracts clerical help, focus groups and field interviewers according to her projects' needs.

She's a huge supporter of people who work at home.

"An out-of-home office won't necessarily enhance service for my clients," she says.

Occasionally clients meet her at her office, but she usually meets them at their work site.

Williams realizes she might need an office in the next 12-18 months because the business occupies three rooms of her house. And it's growing.

"I'm really resisting getting an outside office," she says. "I like working here. One of the nicest things is the commute. Very often we work late into the night. It's nice to be here when the children get home from school."

One challenge is sticking to the work. "I was raised in the era that said you have to be superwoman," Williams says. "So it's hard for me to walk past the laundry and the dishes."

Taking vacations is tough, too. She doesn't have the benefit of paid days off. But the trade-off is worth it, she says, because it's rewarding to master new skills.

"I've never been comfortable in a selling role. It's one of the hardest things for me to do," Williams says.

So she finds that winning business contracts and doing a good job are the most satisfying benefits of her enterprise. "I love what I do," she says.

Patricia (Roan) Judd

SEHS '73

Beyond Storytelling
Birmingham, Michigan

Getting pink-slipped from her alternative high school teaching job turned out to be an ideal impetus for Judd.

"I had a choice to be let go or be put in a standard English class," she says. "I was not interested in being that kind of an English teacher. It's too sedentary."

So Judd in 1976 started a home-based business that evolved into Beyond Storytelling. Now she travels to at least 70 daylong bookings annually. She combines mime, puppetry, Irish drumming, improvisational acting and dialects to perform multicultural folk and fairy tales, myths and current literature.

She's performed at the Smithsonian



Institution's Discovery Theatre and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., Michigan art Museums, Meadow Brook Music Festival's Children's Concert Series, and schools and churches.

"I had been performing since I was a kid," Judd says, including her stint with a mime company at OU. "It took me about seven years to really make a full-time living at it," she says. "I'm making what I would have been making if I had been teaching, which is fine with me."

Most of her business comes from repeat clients and referrals.

Judd likes her work for its variety: working with different people in different places.

A typical day may include arranging bookings, performing for kindergartners

and researching folklore at libraries.

"It doesn't seem like work," she says. "You're happier and you're actually putting in more hours than you would on a conventional job."

But Judd shares complaints common among people who work at home: "I get lonely sometimes," she says.

Ann Clancy

CAS '72, MA '81

Clancy Consultants Inc.

Billings, Montana

"I never liked working in organizations earlier in my life. I just felt they were rather stifling. I like to do things on my own," says Clancy, owner of a writing business that developed into her present enterprise.

Clancy helps companies with strategic planning, fostering teamwork and diagnosing problems such as decreased productivity. Her clients include oil and coal companies in Montana.

Clancy started a writing business in 1983, producing public relations materials such as newsletters and speeches. She got contracts after six months of distributing resumes and describing her services to area businesses.

Referrals kept her busy from then on.

Clancy says she's always made much more money than she did working for someone else.

But the most satisfying reward of running her business, she says, is being in charge of her destiny. "But you worry a lot because you are in charge of your destiny," she says. "You're solely responsible for getting and keeping work."

"It's constantly with you. The only way I can really relax is to leave my home."



David Wigton

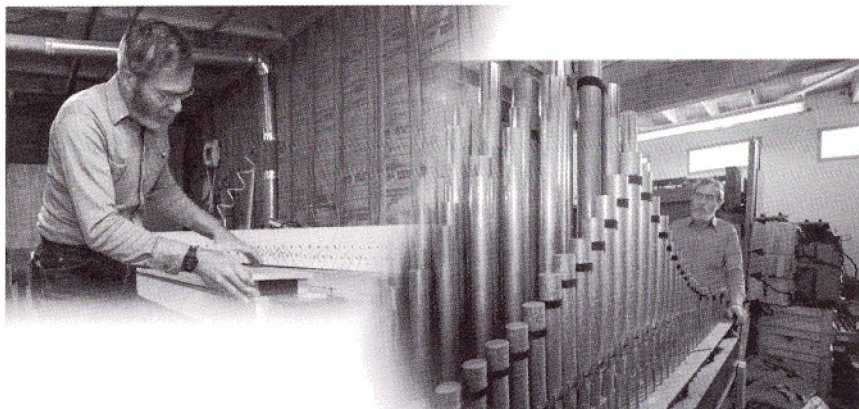
CAS '72

Wigton Pipe Organs Inc.

Dryden, Michigan

Wigton's corner of Dryden is alive with the sound of music.

Six years ago, he designed his basement as a workshop and built a 30-foot tall addition to his barn to set up large instruments. The organs are custom made or rebuilt for churches, most of them in Michigan and Ohio.



He could be working in a pipe organ factory. But he relishes the freedom of managing his own business out in the country and working with a staff of just two.

He started the company in 1977 by pooling money in a partnership. The partnership dissolved 1-1/2 years later, then Wigton continued on with the business. He got started by handling subcontracts for another builder and renting space in a church basement.

Wigton says the hardest part of managing a home-based business is juggling domestic duties.

"I've got two teenagers now — there are lots more places they have to be ferried to," he says. "When somebody forgets something at school or they're home sick, it's more likely to impact me than it used to."

His advice to prospective entrepreneurs: "Looking back on it, a business plan would have been good," he says. "We were really undercapitalized. But by the grace of God and a lot of long hours, we survived."

Jennifer Charney runs a home-based writing business in Ferndale, Michigan. Local, national and international consumer publications have featured her stories.



NAKED DISCOVERY

STUDYING UNDERGROUND MOLE RATS PUSHES ALUMNUS TO THE TOP OF HIS FIELD

By Theodore G. Coutilish

Thinking too much about biology gets in the way of life for H. Kern Reeve MS '84.

It's not that Reeve, an assistant professor at Cornell University, enjoys thinking about social biology. It's virtually *all* he thinks about.

"He lives and breathes it," says George Gamboa, Reeve's biology professor at Oakland University and longtime colleague and friend.

But being overly concerned with the social structure and organization of naked mole rats, for example, can get in the way of even mundane tasks. Such as remembering to leave the office with *his* suit coat. Or getting in his car. Or knowing even what clothes *he* has on.

"He's not what I would call a snappy dresser," Gamboa says. "When he was at OU, his socks often didn't match."

Stephen Emlen, professor, Behavioral Ecology, Cornell University, says Reeve is a great, albeit cluttered colleague. "Kern has a very crisp, organized mind, but a totally chaotic office," he says. "How he finds anything, nobody knows."

Reeve muses about his shortcomings with, true to his scientific nature, a carefully crafted theory.

"I am very prone to recognition errors in accordance with optimal discrimination theory," he says, laughing. "I have to be careful because the photographers at Cornell are waiting for slip-ups during speeches. They might have a field day with me."

They must wait their turn.

Social biological experts are having their way now praising Reeve. At age 41, Reeve's deep passion, unique ability to excel in fieldwork and mathematical and theoretical models, and hard work makes him one of the most highly regarded behavioral biologists in the world.

"There are a great deal of people interested in his work," says David Pfennig, assistant professor, Biology, University of North Carolina. "He's a great scientist and he's having a positive impact in his field. The sky's the limit for Kern."

Gamboa agrees.

"Kern is going to be a giant in his field. He's already published more papers than most biology professors in their careers."

Emlen, who has witnessed firsthand Reeve's meteoric rise, says, "He's very friendly, extremely brilliant, an excellent empiricist and he's always ready to listen and discuss ideas. He can translate ideas rapidly into mathematical models to tighten them up and see where the flaws and key assumptions are."

Reeve takes the high praise in stride.

"If I have a talent, it's the nose for the right questions," he says. "I'm driven to search for a unified vision of social animals and social systems. It's my life's mission."

Reeve met Gamboa at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where Gamboa was an assistant professor. After completing his bachelor's degree in 1979, Reeve and Jan Shellman, his wife, who now is studying termites as a Cornell doctoral fellow, later followed Gamboa to OU in 1981. They continued their study of social

wasps, a particular interest of Gamboa's.

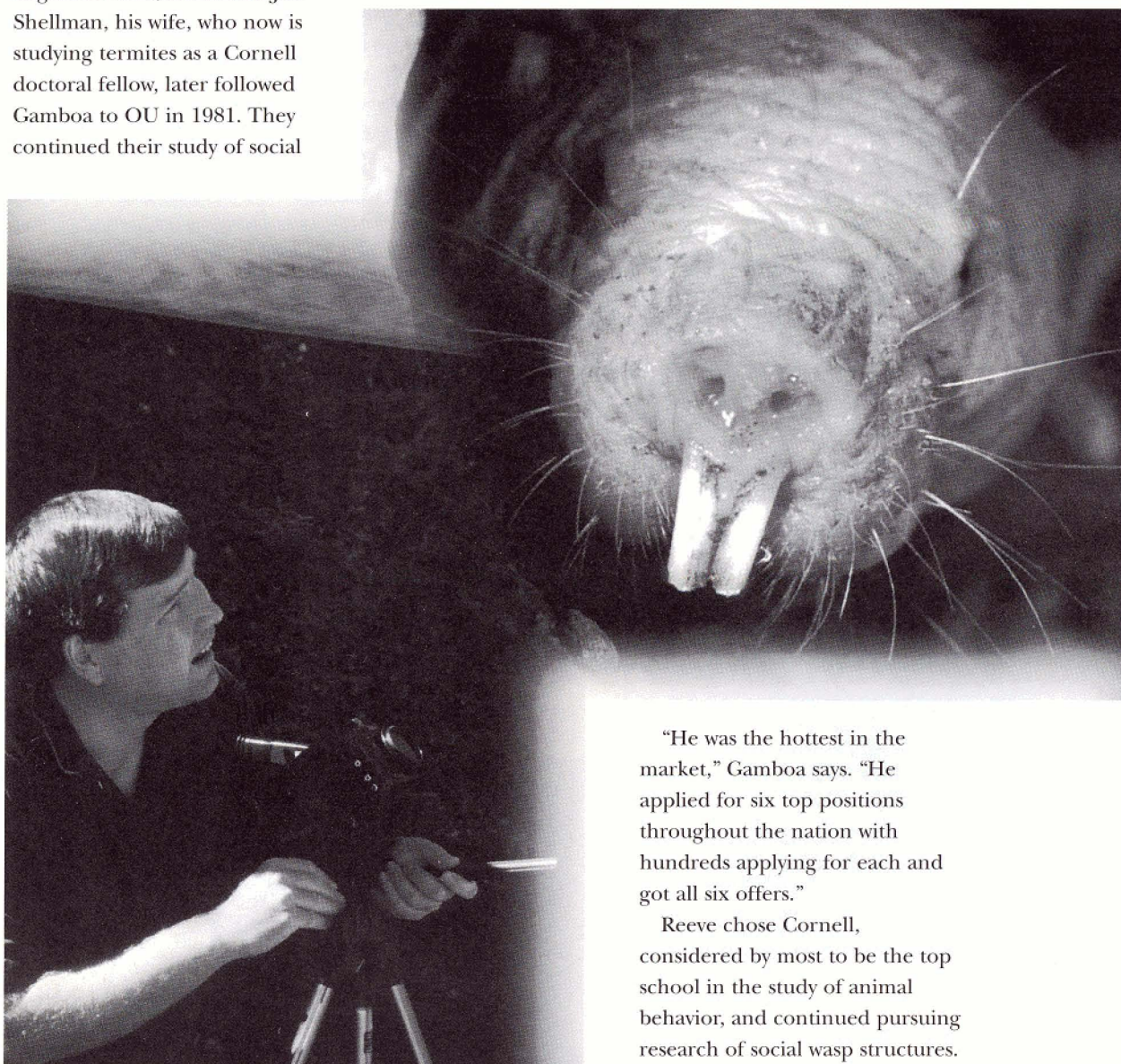
"I knew instantly he was the best and brightest student I had ever seen," Gamboa says of Reeve. "I had never even known another biologist with his skills. He was that good then."

The feelings were mutual.

"George has no ego," Reeve says. "He's a straight shooter. His thinking was extremely precise."

Reeve earned a master's at OU in 1984 and a Ph.D. from Cornell in 1988. He then entered the prestigious Junior Faculty Fellowship at Harvard for three years.

When he finished the fellowship, the job offers were overwhelming.



H. Kern Reeve MS '84 examines the social structure of naked mole rats (upper right).

"He was the hottest in the market," Gamboa says. "He applied for six top positions throughout the nation with hundreds applying for each and got all six offers."

Reeve chose Cornell, considered by most to be the top school in the study of animal behavior, and continued pursuing research of social wasp structures.

H. Kern Reeve — snapshot of a researcher

Favorite author:

Ed Wilson,
a social biologist.

Last book read: *The
Wisdom of the Hive* by Tom
Seeley.

Secret to my success:
Being persistent in
pursuing my goals.

My tombstone will read:
He tried to discover as
much as he could in the
time he had.

Ten years from now I . . . :
Hope to be at Cornell
studying social animals
and refining a unified
theory of social evolution.

Advice to alumni:
Their investment
in OU will yield
payoffs.

Researchers study them, in part, to draw parallels with human organizational structures. From this study, researchers hope to learn best how to organize people in small groups, accomplish tasks and regulate themselves with minimal group conflict.

The study of naked mole rats has been pivotal in developing a general theory of social evolution since the mammals are actually more closely akin to the insects than human structure.

Mole rats are new territory for behavioral scientists. Discovered in Africa during the 1970s, the hairless animals look like little pink walrus and exist only underground. They have a true queen who is responsible for all reproduction, complex social structures and division of labor between the young and the old.

Their reproductive and organizational structures have amazed researchers.

"Most sacrifice their own breeding to help others, particularly their relatives," Reeve says. "They police breeding levels and will punish those who do not follow the rules by being aggressive. These are common selective pressures that affect the structure and reproduction of societies

throughout the entire animal kingdom. It's tremendously exciting."

Reeve's research has two goals: 1) to better understand why social systems are shaped the way they are to help better understand human systems and 2) to develop a general theory on the evolution of societies that predicts levels of competition and cooperation.

"This information can be used to better design human social systems to minimize conflict and reduce selfishness," Reeve says. "My ultimate goal is to understand cooperation vs. conflict so that we all benefit."

Reeve has come so far, so quickly, Gamboa says.

"Kern has given me the greatest gift a teacher could have," he says. "I always feel satisfied when my students do well and I'm extremely excited about his success. To this day, he still gives me lots of valuable feedback. He hasn't changed. He's still modest, unassuming and has a great sense of humor."

Even about himself — and his socks.

Theodore G. Coutilish is editor of Oakland University Magazine.



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OUAA to honor alumni, volunteers at banquet

The Oakland University Alumni Association on September 18 will honor extraordinary alumni and OU volunteers at its fifth annual awards banquet. Michael Grieves MBA '79, president and CEO, Data Systems Network Corporation, Farmington Hills, will receive the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. The award recognizes outstanding professional achievement. Grieves built his company from less than \$30 million in revenues to more than \$130 million in three years. He and his wife, Diane SBA '83, donated \$204,375 in 1997 to support information technology initiatives at the School of Business Administration and to fund a martial arts room at Oakland. Michael Grieves is chair, President's Technology Advisory Board, and chair, SBA Board of Visitors. Diane Grieves is an OU Foundation director and vice chair, Investment and Gift Policy Committee.

Gary Laidlaw CAS '64, first vice president, Comerica Bank, Warren, earned the Distinguished Alumni Service Award, which recognizes volunteer leadership and service to the university. Laidlaw has been an active OUAA supporter since his graduation. He served as a member of the OUAA Board of Directors Executive Alumni Committee, Kresge Library Campaign; Executive Committee, Charlie Gehringer Golf Classic; President's Club and Matilda R. Wilson Society. He is also an OU Foundation director.

Jerry Clark CAS '75, director, Counseling, Veterans

Administration, Des Moines, Iowa, won The Odyssey Award, which recognizes alumni whose lives exemplify OU's motto, "to seek courage and knowledge." For years as a student, Clark volunteered long, erratic hours to help troubled Vietnam veterans find jobs, deal with marriage difficulties and cope with other problems. His work with the VA has been recognized for making substantial progress in helping clients.

Five people will receive The Spirit Award, which recognizes exemplary volunteer service to the university:

- Susan Jezewski Evans CAS '88, federal judicial law clerk for, the Honorable George E. Woods, Detroit. Evans serves on the OUAA Board of Directors and has chaired the alumni awards banquet and homecoming committees. She was also on the Honors College Alumni Book Scholarship committee.
- James and Anne Howlett. He is president and senior managing partner, Beier Howlett PC, Bloomfield Hills. He has donated his services as legal counsel to the OUF since 1966. He also served as general counsel for the university. He and Anne are members of the Alfred G. Wilson philanthropic society. She is a member of the Meadow Brook Theatre Advisory Board.
- Stephan and Rita Sharf. He is president, SICA Corporation, Troy. As a couple, they chaired the Meadow Brook Music Festival. He served on the OU Board of Trustees from 1987-94, and has been an OUF director since 1985. She is a member of the Meadow Brook Theatre Advisory Board. Both are members of the Founders

Society, Oakland's highest philanthropic group. Their philanthropy includes a scholarship, a lab in the Science and Engineering Building, and soon a new golf course.

All in the family

The family of the late Roderic Righter, a School of Education and Human Services professor, has roots that run deep at Oakland University. Five of his six children earned OU degrees: David Righter MBA '92; Donald Righter SEHS '90, MA '97; Rebecca Righter Smith MBA '81; Roberta Righter Gilman MA '84; and Rosemary Righter Hall MAT '88.



So have his in-laws: Donald's wife, Diedra Schepler Righter BA '94 and Roberta's husband, Brad Gilman, have taken OU graduate classes; and Angela Righter, David's wife, just enrolled at Oakland to pursue teacher certification. Donald was an OU baseball player. And Roderic, who taught at Oakland for 30 years, even coached the baseball team.

"Our dad thought very highly of Oakland," Rebecca says, explaining that he worked until he died in 1996. "He just really loved to teach. He didn't really want to retire."



The Righter family has a long history of OU involvement.

Plans for new golf course swing into action

The Oakland University Foundation will finance and manage the construction of a new golf course at Oakland University, Oakland's Board of



OU Golf and Managing Director Bill Rogers stands with Fran Engelhardt, Stephan Sharf and Rick Smith in front of Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall (from left to right).

Trustees announced in June. The proposed 18-hole championship R & S Sharf Golf Course will be constructed by the foundation on university grounds adjacent to the existing Katke-Cousins Golf Course. Golf course architect and teacher Rick Smith of Rick Smith Enterprises and Michigan's Treetops Resort fame has been commissioned to oversee the course's design.

"The new golf course will allow us to expand existing friendships and solidify new relationships with corporate and private donors," says



PGA teacher and course designer Rick Smith (right) with Lee Janzen, winner of the 1998 U.S. Open. "After walking the grounds, I was inspired by the potential that this land holds for a future course," says Smith. "The natural beauty of the environment and the size of the property promise to make this golf course a real feather in the cap for all of southeastern Michigan."

David S. Disend, vice president, University Relations and executive director, OU Foundation. "The seed of this project was sown last spring by Rita and Stephan Sharf's generous donation of \$2 million, and I'm pleased to announce that we should have the course open by fall 2000.

"Through the new golf course, the Sharfs leave a legacy to Oakland that will provide a true resource to the community and a source of relaxation, recreation and beauty for faculty, staff, students, alumni and donors."

Sharf, the retired executive vice president for manufacturing for the Chrysler Corporation and a current OU Foundation director, believes that President's Club members will double their total annual contributions, currently about \$1 million per year. The university will invite major President's Club donors to use the new golf course upon payment of an additional access fee to the university.

"In making our gift, we wanted the money to be used as an incentive to raise significantly more funds for this rapidly growing institution," Sharf says. "We hope our gift will inspire potential donors to contribute to Oakland University's program growth, providing creative new opportunities for students of the future."

Although President's Club members do not receive any specific benefits in exchange for their contributions, they are considered to be part of the Oakland University community and are eligible to use certain university facilities upon payment of usage fees.

Under this arrangement, many President's Club members are currently granted access to the Katke-Cousins Golf Course, Meadow Brook Hall events, Kresge Library, the Center for Family Business, Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute and the Recreation and Athletic Center, which opens in September. Those who contribute at the new contribution levels of Pioneer and Sustaining members will be invited to use the R & S Sharf Golf Course.



Kathy and Terry Odom, the first President's Club members to contribute at the Pioneer level, with Roy Rewold and Bert London, the first hole-naming sponsors.

The golf course design and construction will be supervised by past OU Foundation Chair Francis Engelhardt, who heads up the foundation committee that will oversee the project. Engelhardt, president of Engelwood Resources, was formerly project manager of Ford Motor Land Development, and in that capacity developed the TPC of Michigan Golf Course in Dearborn.

The OU Foundation is a private, nonprofit corporation comprised of business, civic and community leaders that advances Oakland University with financial support of scholarships, internships, academic programs and research.

For more information on the OU Foundation or President's Club membership, call (248) 370-2240.

Careers/Accomplishments

1990s

Thomas Bacarella SBA '95

is a manager of Mortgage Services at Greentree Financial Corporation, Tempe, Arizona.

Gloria J. Boddy MA '93 is the program director, Legal Assistant Program, Oakland University. Boddy created a program to illustrate the variety of jobs available in the legal assistant field.

Seth Ebarra CAS '96 has been named marketing coordinator, Transilwrap Company. Ebarra is responsible for trade show preparations, press releases, media kits, sales lead referrals and the implementation of new marketing programs.

Tracy (Shorland) Gruber

SEHS '96 is a fifth-grade teacher in Almont, Michigan.

Amy Heard CAS '93 is recording an album in memory of her sister. She is a musical director at Howell Community Theatre and McPherson Junior High schools.

Brent Lilly SBA '95 is a Supply Officer with the United States Marine Corps. He supervises 18 Marines and is responsible for managing more than \$30 million in accounts.

Ronald McKee SBA '96

was hired as a database coordinator, Securities Database Department, First Chicago NBD.

Diana Moak CAS '93, MBA

'93 has published an article, Teenage Dating Violence, a Problem without a Legal Solution, in the *Adelphia Law Review*.

Mary J. Moilanen CAS '95

has been promoted to editor, County Line Reminder, Ortonville, Michigan.

Kristin Montgomery BSN

'94 presented a session, titled Implementing Breast Feeding in the Academic Setting, at the 1998 International Conference on the Theory and Practice of Human Lactation Research and Breast Feeding Management, Orlando. She is also completing her Ph.D. in nursing at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland.

Tricia Olszewski SECS '92, MS '94 is a senior engineer, General Dynamics.

Carrie Petro BGS '95, MS

'97 received a promotion to coordinator, Oakland Fitness Council.

Gloria R. Preyck SEHS '95

is employed as a human resource consultant.

Amy Rovner SEHS '96

(see profile on page 23) was featured in *The Oakland Press* in the Getting to Know You column. She is a science teacher in Pontiac working with eighth-graders. Her class will be working on a project of building a car from scratch.

Maura (Conroy) Rylander

SBA '91 graduated from Wayne State University with an MBA. After working at J. Walter Thompson advertising agency for five years, Rylander obtained a new position with Kelly Services as a senior marketing research analyst.

In the driver's seat

Herbert Ferrer CAS '75 has come full circle.

During summer 1975, he worked as a driver for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

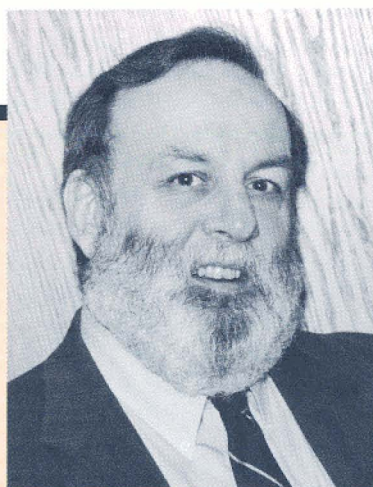
"I drove all the stars — Cleo Laine, Jessye Norman, Van Cliburn," Ferrer says. "I got hooked on the music and the business."

More than 20 years later, Ferrer finds himself back with the Detroit symphony. This time he is director of foundation and government grants. He returns to OU this summer when the symphony plays at Meadow Brook Music Festival.

Originally from Philadelphia, Ferrer was pursuing an acting career in California when he was offered a scholarship to Oakland's Academy of Dramatic Art. The academy was an intensive, full-time, two-year diploma program for actors at Oakland from the mid-1960s to the late 1970s.

At that time, Ferrer's roommate was Curtis Armstrong (*Risky Business*, *Moonlighting*, *Revenge of the Nerds*).

Following Oakland and the summer with the DSO,



Ferrer continued his acting career and became a founding member of Detroit's critically acclaimed Attic Theatre. He spent 11 years as grants officer for the Michigan Arts Council

before returning to the symphony last year.

Ferrer takes pride in his Oakland roots.

"My OU experience changed my life," he says. "When I come back to the campus, I'm amazed at how much it has changed. When I first arrived, Squirrel was just a dirt road."

And for this former driver, the road ahead is music to his ears.

Brian D. Tanner BGS '95 is employed at Electronic Data Systems, Troy. He is a business analyst in EDS' Project Management Consulting Group.

Mark VanderMey CAS '90 is the men's swimming assistant coach, Oakland University.

Michelle Walk SBA '93 accepted a position as a research analyst, Bureau of Worker's Disability Compensation, Lansing.

Jennifer J. Uhrick SBA '96 is conducting marketing research for Ford Motor Company in the Latin American markets. Her main area is vehicle quality.

1980s

Michelle Aiello SBA '89 graduated cum laude from the Wayne State University Law School. She is employed with Charfoos & Christensen, P.C.

Lisa Buczko CAS '89 was hired by Campbell-Ewald Communications as an editor.

Rene Jo Ro Cafmeyer SECS '84 is a senior product development engineer, Chrysler Corporation.

Laurie (Evans) Henning SEHS '89 is a full-time mother of two children. She plans to return to work while her children attend school.

Shella Howe CAS '86 joined Visual Services, Inc., a marketing communications company, as technical editor for the Ford Group. Previously, she was a marketing analyst with Wunderman Cato Johnson.

Tracy Huth CAS '85 is assistant athletic director and compliance officer, Athletic Department, Oakland University. Huth had coached the women's swim team for the past 11 seasons.

Mary (Masko) Joyce SECS '89 is working as a team leader, Engine Electronics, Chrysler Corporation. She is married and has four children.

Richard Kuhn CAS '82 is a candidate for Oakland County Circuit Judge. He is working as an attorney specializing in civil law.

Jonathan Locke SBA '93 has been promoted to systems engineer, Platinum Software Corporation.

Margaret Patton CAS '81 joins C-E Communications' Account Services group as a copywriter.

Dennis Pawley SEHS '82 will receive the 1998 Manufacturing Award from the Society of Automotive Engineers and the Engineering Society of Detroit. The award recognizes meaningful manufacturing contributions to development of the automobile, the truck or the automotive industry.

Deconstructing dating

Heidi Peterson CAS '89 knows so much about dating in the '90s you could say she wrote the book. Actually, she shot the video.

Her latest release, *Dating 101: The Word on the Street*, is a how-to guide for singles deconstructing dating in the '90s.

"The rules have changed," Peterson says.

Her inspiration for the video came in a bookstore.

"So many titles are about relationship issues and dating," she says. "For the

video, we contacted a relationship consultant who explained the new dos and don'ts. We also interviewed people who share real experiences." A freelance video producer, Peterson co-produced *Dating 101* with Tony Gorkiewicz, co-owner of

Amera Communications, Inc., Farmington Hills. He shot and edited the video; the creative content was hers. The two met at Bloomfield Community Television where Peterson completed an internship requirement for her communications degree.

Peterson was working as a freelance assistant producer for an advertising agency when in 1995 she and Gorkiewicz co-produced the documentary, *Tony Spina: Portrait of a Photojournalist*. Spina was the *Detroit Free Press*' chief photographer for nearly 50 years. The 30-minute documentary aired on WDIV's *Dateline Detroit* and was nominated for a local Emmy in the Cultural Affairs category.

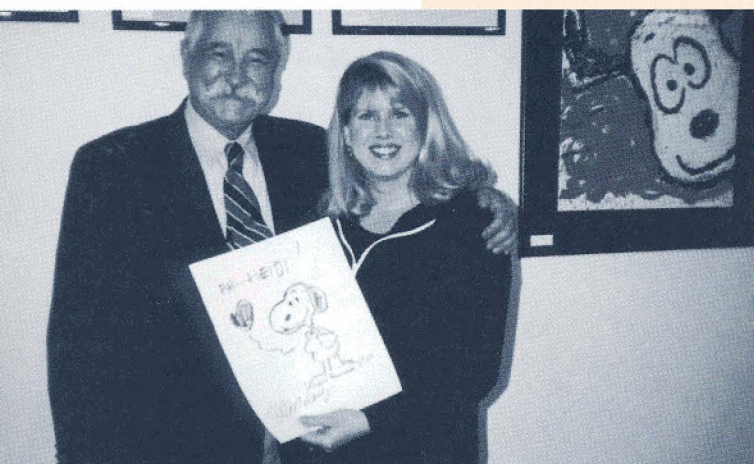
Dating 101 was released in February.

"We're trying to find a national distributor for it," Peterson says.

The video is attracting local interest.

"We've been on WJR twice and Fox 2 did a story on us right before Valentine's Day," says Peterson, who is planning to produce *Dating 102* through *Dating 105*.

Call (800) 455-7707 for more information.



Tony Gorkiewicz and
Heidi Peterson CAS '89

Sharon Plezia CAS '85 is coordinating the Women's Center at Florida International University.

Vicki K. Robb CAS '83 is owner of Kolka & Robb, Inc., a company that publishes Michigan PGA Magazine.

Grace A. Serra CAS '87 has been promoted to senior vice president, creative director, Campbell-Ewald Advertising.

James Spall SECS '83 was named one of the 25 smartest people in Baltimore by *Baltimore* magazine. He was also profiled in *The New York Times* for a project he and his wife are working on in statistical analysis; combining science and music.

Holly Waddell CAS '80 is an executive director for placement service of travel agents at Travelnet Placement Service, Ellicott City, Maryland.

Scott Westgate SBA '89 is president and CEO of Michigan Benefit Consulting. He launched a pension administrative business in 1995. Business revenues and profits have doubled each year since.

1970s

Gerald Alt CAS '76 was promoted to senior vice president and general counsel of The LOGS Group, a national legal network in Northbrook, Illinois.

Donald Beagle CAS '75 has joined University of North Carolina at Charlotte as associate director, Library Services, and head of the Information Commons.

Robert M. Hack CAS '79 was voted president of the Michigan Association of Professional Psychologists. His term began in January. Hack is a psychotherapist who works with individuals who have problems coping with life challenges.

John Jamian CAS '77 was appointed executive director, Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority, in January.

Sally (Lantz) Mattson CAS '73 is the special events coordinator, Paint Creek Center for the Arts. She is responsible for the annual Art & Apples Festival, the center's nationally recognized art fair, and for other fund-raising events sponsored by the PCCA.

David C. Levine CAS '73 is a partner at Baker & Hostetler LLP. He concentrates his practice in litigation, with an emphasis in business and commercial disputes, medical malpractice and other personal injury cases, and appellate practice matters.

Elizabeth A. Macauley CAS '73 is a senior at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. She plans to return to Michigan in June 1999.

Robert Matouka SECS '78 received certification as Michigan Certified School Business Administrator and was appointed to the state Fire Safety Board by Governor John Engler.

Jean Ann Miller CAS '77 is the assistant director of student activities and leadership development at Oakland University.

Michael D. Nelson CAS '77 has been named managing broker of Windmere Real Estate's Eastlake Office, Seattle. Windmere is the largest real estate firm in the Pacific Northwest. He has been in the real estate industry for the past 12 years. He is also restoring a 4,000-square-foot, turn-of-the-century home with partner David Updike.

Thomas Oswald CAS '76 is a certified financial planner and has been a financial adviser with American Express for five years.

'Just' knowing her market

Susan Brockman SBA '92 knows exactly what a grandma wants to buy for a new grandson and she makes sure she stocks it in her store.

Just Kids Outfitters in Rochester has specialized in unique children's clothing, shoes and accessories since 1993. After her fourth year of expansion, Brockman knows her market well.

"I'm satisfied with the store now," she says. "I knew what I had in mind when I started and I've reached a point where I've accomplished that."

Brockman and Leonard, her husband, have two children, Lauren and Mitchell, under the age of 5, so she has a good perspective on what her customers need.

"Everything in the store is selected with my taste in mind," she says. "I like it all, but I try to cover all price points. What someone looks for in a baby shower gift is different than what grandma wants for a holiday outfit."

OU advanced management courses helped prepare Brockman to own her business and successfully handle irate customers and employee conflicts.

"More than anything, the interactive situations involving people were the ones that I really felt I learned about and have helped me most," she says. "Oakland is a great school that has provided me a valuable and useful education."

Call (248) 375-8032 for more information.

Simon says

Michael Simon CAS '96 laughs when recalling the advice Oakland University Honors College Director Brian Murphy gave him on his first day of classes.

"He told me, 'Find something you like to do and find out how to get paid for it,'" says Simon, a communication arts major. "It's seven years later and I follow that advice."

These days, the former OU student body president is getting paid to be a staff assistant for Democratic U.S. Congressman Dale E. Kildee in Pontiac. The experience is rewarding to Simon.

"I feel like I'm helping people," he says. "This is a good environment in which to serve the public."

Simon's biggest challenge is to deal with people who may have false expectations.

"Some people expect us to work miracles," he says. "They want a solution to only benefit them in the quickest amount of time possible."

In the future, Simon expects to return to higher education, seeking a master's degree in public administration and a Ph.D. in student affairs administration. He says he someday would like to work for a university, incorporating his government and student affairs experiences. He is also not ruling out running for office.

"Being student body president was my most rewarding experience as a student," he says. "I loved it. It led to me getting this job. I could see myself in office someday."

You could say it's something he would like to do.



Sarah (Smith) Redmond SBA '70 has been named chair of the civic contact committee for Leave A Legacy Southeast Michigan, an organization that encourages planned gifts to local charities and cultural institutions through wills, trusts, insurance policies and other methods. Redmond is a financial adviser with Allmerica Financial, Southfield. As chair, she will be in charge of contacting and informing civic leaders, professional and service organizations and community business leaders in the seven-county Southeast Michigan area.

Edward Skiba CAS '75, MM '81, is principal of Lincoln Middle School.

Michael Solaka, CAS '79, MPA '82 was appointed president of the New Center Area Council, Detroit. His new responsibility is development of the 60-block area surrounding the historic Fisher and General Motors buildings in Detroit's New Center Area. Solaka is past president and current advisory board member of the Detroit Institute of Arts' Founders' Junior Circle.

Leann Swieczkowski MA '73, MA '80 joined the United States Army and became a major. Swieczkowski had served as the Department of Defense's spokeswoman on Gulf War illnesses issues. In June 1998, she will be assigned to the United States Army Forces Command, Atlanta.

Scott Teeters SEHS '79 is the new women's swimming coach at Oakland University. Teeters is no stranger to OU. He coached the Oakland Live Yers Swim Team from 1987-96. He served as the women's swim coach at Eastern Michigan from 1996-97.

Linda Wagner CAS '78 has been hired by Campbell-Ewald as a senior clerk in the accounting department.

Richard J. Zettel SBA '79 was appointed by Governor John Engler to a second term on the Board of Magistrates, Bureau of Worker's Disability Compensation. Zettel will preside in Macomb County.

1960s

Douglas R. Bastian SEHS '68, MAT '70 is currently employed at Crofoot Elementary, Pontiac. He is in charge of classroom writing/technology pilot with Oakland Schools; he also teaches interns at Oakland University in a classroom setting.

Jill D. Bastian CAS '68 was elected township clerk, Orion Township, in November 1996.

Evelyn (Adams) Gehres SBA '63 has been named chair of the Speakers Bureau for Leave A Legacy Southeast Michigan. Gehres is a Michigan development officer for the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation, Pontiac. As chair, she will be in charge of devising and scheduling presentations about the Leave A Legacy campaign, and recruiting and training speakers.

Nadine Gildner MAT '69, MAT '86, spent three weeks teaching conversational English in the city of Cilacap on the island of Java, as part of a Global Volunteers service program.

Linda Hansen SEHS '64 spent the 1996-1997 school year teaching English at the Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn Gymnasium in Forst (in the former DDR) as a Fulbright exchange teacher.

Donald C. Main CAS '68, began work December 1 as associate vice president for development at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston. He oversees the fund-raising, alumni, publications and media relations programs. He lives in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, with his two children, Alex, 10, and Meredith, 12.

Barbara J. Riddell CAS '65 is working for Options Counseling, Center Line. She performs outreach substance abuse testing at the Oakland County Probation Department.

Vincent E. Ruggers Sr. CAS '65 retired from West Bloomfield Schools after 30 years. He is assisting his wife at her day spa, Polished Outlook, Milford.

Engagements/ Weddings

Lisa M. McTevia-Steinert SEHS '93 is employed as a teacher in L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. She is married to John Steinert who is an engineer at Black & Veatch. They were married June 28, 1997, in Marine City. Lisa McTevia-Steinert is finishing up a master's degree in early childhood education at Saginaw Valley State University.

Stacey Brooke Zoellner CAS '95 married Craig DeRoche in May 1998. She is employed by Selectcare in Troy as an advertising and public relations administrator. DeRoche graduated from Central Michigan University in 1991 and owns an insurance agency.

Birth Announcements

Veronica L. Davis SBA '87 gave birth to her second child, Nicholas Ian, on June 13. Davis has a 3-year-old girl, Jessica.

Christina Grabowski BGS '93 and Greg Grabowski BGS '91 had a boy, Alexander Grabowski, on January 9.

Mark D. Guthrie SECS '86, MBA '91 announces the arrival of Garrett Nemon Guthrie, born October 18. He joins older brother Gil.

Mark T. Schultz MS '96 announces the birth of Brendan Patrick.

Peter A. Smokler CAS '68 is the father of two boys: Charles Patrick, born October 14, 1996; and Gregory Christopher, born November 18, 1986.

Robert T. Waters CAS '89 and Kimberly Chojnowski-Waters CAS '87 have two sons: Brendon, 4; and Nolan, 1 1/2.

Death Notices

Mary Cipielewski MAT '75, January 26, 1998

Dorothy J. Decker SEHS '70, February 9, 1998

Lula Beatrice O'Neal SEHS '78, March 1998

Kevin Lee Saintonge CAS '80, October 31, 1997

Andrew Shiel Jr. CAS '91, December 2, 1997

Susan Tessmar SEHS '75, December 22, 1997

Head of the Class

Amy Rovner SEHS '97 did what most only dream about.

She left her career in hotel management to pursue her lifelong dream to be a teacher.

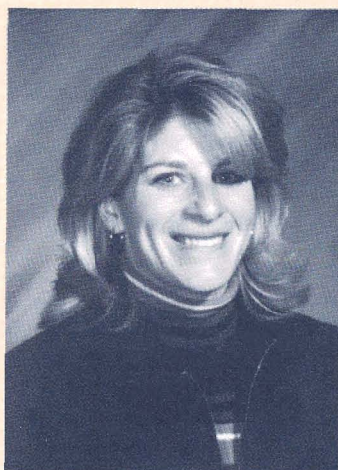
A single mother of two (Michael, 11, and Matthew, 10), Rovner enrolled in Oakland's undergraduate elementary education program, taking evening classes until she earned her degree. Her persistence paid off.

"It took seven years," Rovner says, "but it worked out perfectly for me. The field studies definitely prepared me."

Today, she's teaching science at Pontiac's Abraham Lincoln Middle School, and plans this summer to begin graduate work at OU.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher," Rovner says. "Ever since I was a little girl."

At Lincoln, Rovner teaches 120 students each day in four classes. Maintaining discipline and inspiring attendance, she says, are two of her biggest challenges. She finds that a little ingenuity goes a long way.



Rovner's latest assignment to her eighth-graders: building a car from scratch. "They will be learning the science behind how a car works," she says. "What better way than by building it themselves? Seeing them get excited about what they are learning is one of my greatest rewards."

Before arriving at Lincoln, Rovner was a substitute in the Bloomfield Hills schools. She also has taught in Hazel Park, Detroit, Troy and at Cranbrook Schools.

What would Rovner tell other teachers just starting out?

"Don't give up in your first year of teaching. People try to be perfect and, of course, you can't be. But if you give it time, everything will fall into place. For me, it's been well worth the wait."

Calendar of Events

August 2, 1998

Concours
d'Elegance

August 10, 1998

Alumni Golf
Outing

**September 8,
1998**

Opening,
Recreation and
Athletic Center

**September 18,
1998**

Alumni Awards
Banquet

**November 17,
1998**

Division I Men's
Basketball Game
Opener — MSU
vs. OU

*Take the
day off*



*and bring
the boss!*

Join us at the 23rd Annual
Oakland University Alumni Association Golf Outing

Monday, August 10

Double Shotgun tee-offs at 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Katke-Cousins Golf Course
Oakland University
Rochester, Michigan

Four-player scramble

Buffet Luncheon at Meadow Brook Hall
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Tests of luck and skill are planned throughout the
course. Great prizes and giveaways.

You'll have a great time while golfing with alumni
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Don't miss out on this annual networking event!

Prepaid reservation must be received by July 30.

For registration information, contact the OUAA
at (248) 370-2158 or email: bass@oakland.edu

Visit our Web site: www.ouaa.oakland.edu



ABBREVIATION KEY

BGS	General Studies
CAS	College of Arts and Sciences
MA	Master of Arts
MAT	Master of Arts in Teaching
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MM	Master of Music
MPA	Master of Public Administration
MS	Master of Science
MSLS	Master of Science- Library Science
MSN	Master of Science Nursing
MSW	Master of Science- Social Work
SBA	School of Business Administration
SEHS	School of Education and Human Services
SECS	School of Engineering and Computer Science
SHS	School of Health Sciences
SON	School of Nursing

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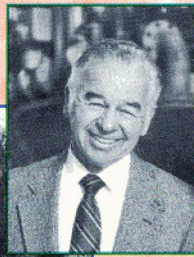
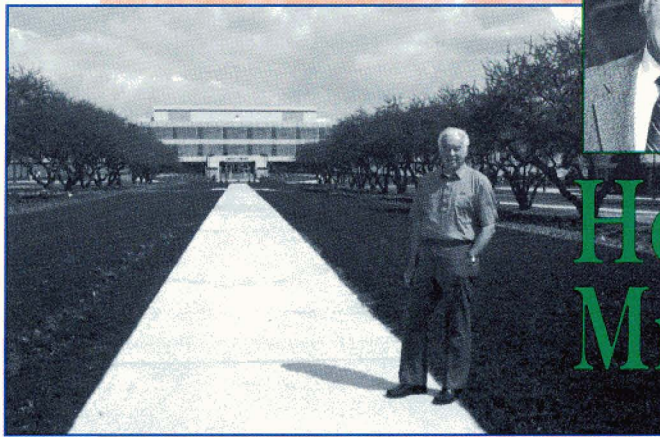
Telephone _____

Class _____

Major/degree _____

☐ I want to volunteer for the OUAA. I am interested in _____

Please call me.



Here's to you, Mrs. Wilson

By George Karas

The Last Page

Dear Mrs. Matilda Wilson,

Remember our first ground breaking?

It was May 7, 1958, and I was asked to drive you and Mr. Wilson from Meadow Brook Hall to the area that became Foundation Hall. You had tears in your eyes. An individual on Adams Road had shot a deer at Deer Park, in what is now the third hole at Katke-Cousins Golf Course.

Mr. Wilson said he was afraid this was going to happen after opening the estate to the public.

Still, you never had regrets, did you?

A few tears would never dampen your spirit. You loved people. You loved animals. You loved family and friends. You tried so hard to make people happy. And you showed your love in countless ways. Remember giving diamond rings to the first graduating class? Remember taking great care of the Shetland ponies you personally selected from Scotland? Remember inviting faculty and staff and spouses to Meadow Brook Hall for a formal dinner at the beginning of the first school year in 1959?

Here's to you, Mrs. Wilson.

You hired me first, as an engineer in 1958, and gave me a home, rent-free, for several years. You treated me like a son. You were kind, generous, frugal, hard working, meticulous, shy, humble, unbelievably strong and as close to a perfect lady as I had ever known.

It was a pleasure working for you. But it wasn't work. It was fun and challenging. I wanted to please you out of respect.

Yet, I grew cautious of your stern side. Like the time you discovered an employee not working the hours he had claimed to work. Or the occasion you found another employee making obscene phone calls.

Violating your trust was bad. You were always on guard. You had never questioned my invoices, but asked only that I never pay for any service not received. I obliged.

You had a sixth sense, didn't you? Like the time I bumped one of the dogs with my car on my way over from the stone well house. I saw that he was moving and with people, so I did not stop. Less than a minute away after I had arrived at Sunset Terrace, you came outside to tell me that the dog was OK. How did you know so quickly?

Here's to you, Mrs. Wilson.

You were always good to my family. You took time to write letters of appreciation, you sent holiday gifts and you let my daughters pick ornaments from your Christmas tree each year. I joked that you placed the better bulbs out of their reach, but you would have none of that.

You were humble to a fault. You never wanted to be recognized. You liked to do your work quietly.

From you I learned to be nice to people and to always look for the good. I never told you this, but I would visit you on weekends to make sure you were not stuck in the 30-year-old electric elevator after the staff had left on Friday.

If you were here today, I'm sure you would thank everyone for making your gift multiply and tell them how proud you are of the young people and the growth of the university.

Some people never change, Mrs. Wilson.

Here's to you.

George Karas, Oakland University's first employee, has the distinction of attending every ground breaking and virtually every building dedication on campus. He worked at OU from 1957-1987. Karas and Trudy, his wife, had three children graduate from Oakland: Michael SECS '74; Peggy SECS '87; and Paul SECS '77, MBA '85.

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July/August:

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Groups:

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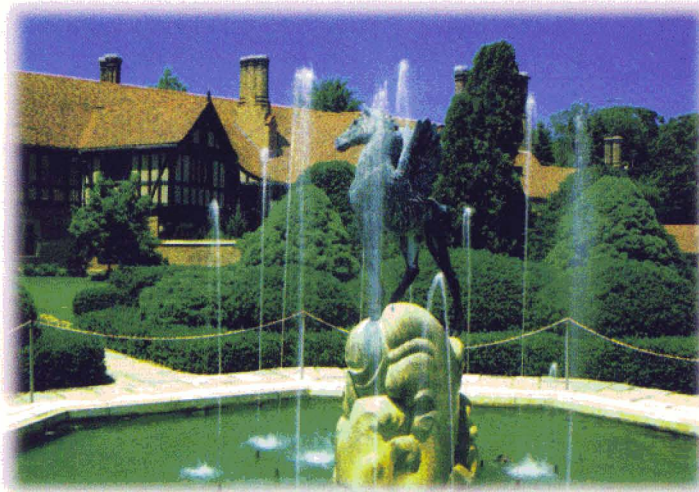
SPECIAL EVENT

Meadow Brook Hall

Concours d'Elegance

August 2, 1998

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