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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | Fall 2006



The Grizz arrives on campus

INSIDE

A shark's tale

Students find passage to India

Educators talk education

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On the cover:

"The Grizz" mascot was welcomed to his home near the Athletics Center on September 6 by faculty, staff and students. The bronze sculpture weighs in at nearly a ton and stands eight feet tall. In keeping with school spirit, Grizz merchandise is now available at numerous local stores. Check out our list on page 22. To see more of The Grizz, turn to OU Moment on page 48.

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"GrizzLink Arrives!"
See page 37!"

Jane Houdysbell, Academy of Dramatic Arts '74, shines on Broadway; John Felice, SECS '76, moves up the ranks at DaimlerChrysler; Joseph Gardella, CAS '77, receives Presidential honors; Geraldine Graham, SBA '86, leads by example.

Behind the Stories

I suppose it's a bit of a cliché, but anniversaries get us all thinking about times gone by and what might lie ahead. And mostly, what we're thinking about is the people who have touched us in some way — been there in good times and bad, tilted the world just a little to give us a different perspective on things, held out a hand when we needed it or just simply made us laugh.

In this issue of the magazine, we're thinking about anniversaries — next year Oakland University will celebrate 50 years of educating students and this magazine will mark its silver anniversary. These anniversaries, like most, are all about people. Faculty members, students and staff who have made up five decades of memories, learning, enlightenment and discovery on this campus. In talking to the alumni featured in this issue, I heard names of professors that are invoked over and over again as playing a pivotal role in the careers and lives of our graduates: Don Iodice, Shelly Appleton, Brian Murphy, Jim Hughes and Joan Rosen. They are but a few of the educators who have made such a difference for so many who have passed through OU's classrooms over the past 50 years.

Fittingly, one of our stories in this issue features a number of alumni who have pursued careers in education. A common thread in their comments is that they've hoped to pass on to their students and schools the values and dedication to enlightenment and making a positive difference in their community that OU's professors instilled in them. It's a tradition and a history that should make us all proud (and a little humble) and will, with the help of the many dedicated individuals that make up this university today, lead us into a future as bright as our past.

Lillian Lorenzi

Lillian Lorenzi, editor

Letters

Welcome to *OU Magazine's* Letters section. Past stories on OU's Distinguished Professors got one reader thinking about a professor who made a difference in her life and career. Another reader shares his thoughts on the article, *Shortchanged*, which discussed how height impacts teachers' perceptions of elementary school boys. We'd like to hear from you, too.



It was interesting to read about Professor of English Robert Eberwein in your Letters to the Editor page, who I still remember fondly. He was my first literature professor at Eastern Michigan University (EMU) and Robert Donald, associate professor of English, who was one of the most important people in my life. Through several classes and student teaching with Professor Donald, he not only taught me how to teach but how to be. He allowed me to find in myself the confidence and self-esteem that no one else had. In my 12 years of teaching in the English department at EMU, I passed on to my students many of the ideas of Mr. Donald and did my best to use his teaching techniques and, more important, to display a mere fraction of the grace and dignity with which he taught. They say a teacher never knows where his influence ends, and I know that Mr. Donald's did not end with me!

Lisa Mills Walters, CAS '77
Ypsilanti, Mich.

Drop us a note.

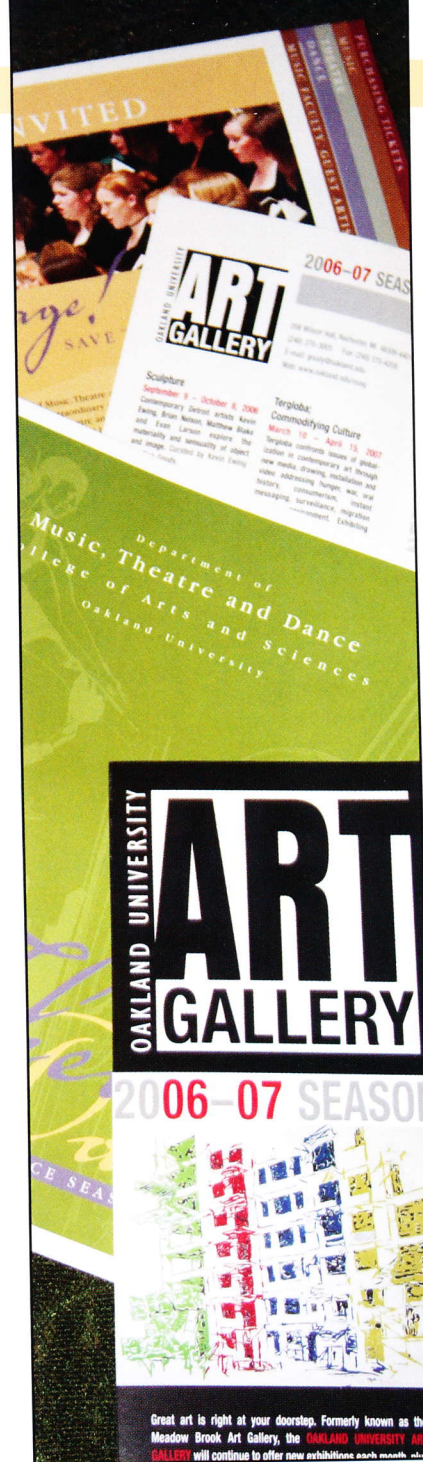
Next year Oakland University turns 50 and we'd like to ask you to be part of the celebration. If you have memories you'd like to share with your Oakland family, send us a letter or e-mail. We will be printing the letters we receive in next year's commemorative *OU Magazine* issue.

Letters to the Editor for publication should be mailed to our editorial offices, 433 Varner Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, MI 48309-4401. Or e-mail your letter to OUMag@oakland.edu. Please label as Letter to the Editor and include your name, address, a phone number or e-mail address. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

I take exception to Liz Lent's article, *Shortchanged*. I am a shorter male (5 foot, 6 inches). Not only am I shorter than average, but I also skipped the first and eighth grades in school (I became bored with the "average" classes). I was fortunate in that my parents and teachers in the Fairfax County school system recognized that I was being held back and allowed me to skip these two grades. In fact, by 12th grade, I was taking several college-level courses.

I participated in baseball, football and track. My track coach actively sought out the better students. He felt that good academic performers made for good track performers. I firmly believe that my stature has given me a strong will to succeed.

Bob Johnson, MSME '86
Troy, Mich.



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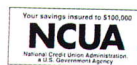
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Nixon commissioned by Oxford University Press

When the Oxford Press decided to publish a collection of the work of the late poet and priest Gerard Manley Hopkins, Jude Nixon, director of Oakland University's Honors College, was chosen as an editor along with professors from Cambridge University, Oxford University, York University and the University of Newcastle.



Jude Nixon

Born in 1844, Hopkins began winning poetry contests in elementary school and decided later in life he wanted to become a painter-poet. After college, he went on to become a Jesuit priest and felt that poetry was too individualistic and self-indulgent for Jesus and burned his early work. In 1872, he decided his work did not conflict with Jesuit preaching and began writing again.

Hopkins' first collected work was published 50 years ago. The group composed by the Oxford Press, the holder of the copyright to Hopkins' work, will put out an eight-volume collection of Hopkins' collected work including sermons, poems, artwork and other newly discovered work with new introductions and additional annotations.

Nixon became interested in Hopkins' work in graduate school because it was so challenging. Currently, he serves on the Board of Scholars of *The Hopkins Quarterly*, the advisory board of *Victorian Poetry* and has written many essays and articles on Hopkins.

For his part in the project, Nixon will be editing volume six of the collection, *Sermons and Spiritual Writing*, with Philip Endean from Campion Hall at Oxford University. The new edition, tentatively slated for a 2008 completion, will examine Hopkins' sermon assignments, frequency and his role as a preacher. It will also include an updated chronology of Hopkins' life and new annotations. ●



Richard Stamps, associate professor of anthropology, received the Earl Borden Award for Preservation Leadership by the Rochester Hills Historic Districts Commission.

Preserving the past

This May, Oakland University associate professor of anthropology Richard Stamps was awarded the Earl Borden Award for Preservation Leadership by the Rochester Hills Historic Districts Commission. The award, named for the city's first mayor, honors Stamps' contributions to preserving the history of the Rochester Hills area and beyond.

John Dziurman, a preservation architect who also serves on the Rochester Hills Historic Districts Commission, says, "Very few people deserve the Earl Borden Leadership Award as much as Richard Stamps. He has provided a gentle but powerful voice for preservation."

Stamps, an OU professor for 32 years, serves on the Oakland County Historical Commission.

The Earl Borden Award is far from Stamps' first. In 2002, he received the Honorary Alumnus Award from the Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA). He was recognized with OU's Teaching Excellence Award in 1986 and the Michigan Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities Distinguished Faculty Award in 1987. Stamps also has received more than 40 funded contracts to perform archaeological surveys for the state.

This is the second year in a row that the Earl Borden Award for Preservation Leadership has gone to an OU-affiliated honoree. In 2005, efforts to revive the Meadow Brook Greenhouse, built in 1914 for OU founder Matilda Dodge Wilson, were recognized. ●

SIFE places in top 40 at national competition

The members of the OU organization Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) competed against schools from all over the country in the SIFE USA National Exposition and Career Opportunity Fair held May 20-23 in Kansas City, Mo. OU SIFE earned first runner-up in their league for their projects and programs to teach economically disadvantaged middle and high school students from the area about global trade, business skills and the value of an education. The

team earned the trip to the national competition after winning the regional competition in March.

The team's placement in the national competition earned them \$1,000, which will be used to fund future SIFE programs.

In 2004, SIFE was the first runner-up in the semi-final round of the national competition, the team's best finish to date. ●



Students and faculty visit the Temple of Apollo in Corinth. From left to right are: Amanda Tong; Renee Turner; Alicia Pscuik; Gregory Patterson, associate professor, Music, Theatre and Dance; Courtney Lynn Warford; Annie Phillips and Jessalyn Brooks.

Summer studies in Greece

A group of Music, Theatre and Dance (MTD) students traveled to Greece this summer for a four-week program in classical Greek theatre. The trip gave OU students a unique opportunity to study in Greece and perform in outdoor amphitheatres. Students and professionals from the trip, co-sponsors Oakland and the University of Detroit-Mercy, along with other students from across the country, took morning classes in acting, voice, movement, Modern Greek and theatre history. In the evening they studied and rehearsed Euripides'

Hippolytus and Aristophanes' *Frogs*. At the end of the rehearsal period, the comedy and tragedy were performed on the island of Spetses and toured at other amphitheatres in Greece culminating in performances at the American University of Athens. While on tour, students saw a performance of Aeschylus' *The Suppliants* at the ancient theatre of Epidaurus, visited Delphi, Corinth and a number of archeological sites and museums for a more in-depth understanding of ancient Greek mythology and culture. ●

Kathleen Moore recognized with Googasian Award

The accomplishments of Kathleen Moore, associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences and professor in the Department of Chemistry, were recognized in March as she became the 14th recipient of the Phyllis Law Googasian Award.

The Googasian Award is presented by the Oakland University chapter of the American Council on Education Network for Women Leaders to a woman who demonstrates extraordinary service to the university community and commitment to the positive growth, development and advancement of women at OU. The award is in honor of Phyllis Law Googasian, trustee emerita, for her commitment to OU and her dedication to the advancement of women.

Moore joined OU in 1980 as an assistant professor of chemistry and was the only woman in her department when she started. She worked her way up the ranks and in 1995



Kathleen Moore

became the first woman to obtain full professor status in the department.

Moore has worked with a number of undergraduate and graduate students in the classroom and in the lab on research. She has been involved in developing the Meeting of the Minds research event and has worked to secure the Merck/AAAS Undergraduate Science Research Program, mentoring 17 undergraduate researchers, 13 of which were female. And in 2004, she became an associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. ●

Preserving Meadow Brook Hall



For nearly two years, workers have been busy in and around Meadow Brook Hall performing critical repairs and upgrades, thanks to a \$7 million gift from the Matilda R. Wilson Fund, a charitable trust OU founder Matilda Dodge Wilson established in 1944. The work, which began in 2005, wrapped up this fall.

"These renovations addressed the critical needs of our mechanical systems and architectural features, and included upgrades to the fire alarm and security systems," says Kim Zelinski, associate director of the hall. The repairs to the mechanical systems will greatly improve heating and cooling capabilities and upgrade the aging electrical system. The exterior restoration includes repairs to the tile roof and gutter system, windows, doors, stone work and wood timbers.

Grant helps preserve archives

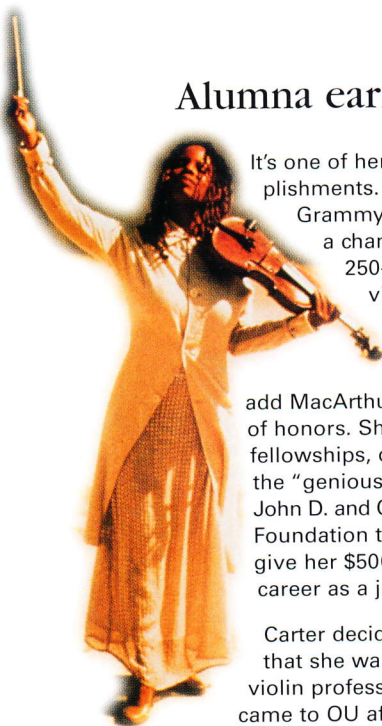
DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund recently awarded a generous grant of \$50,000 to

Meadow Brook Hall, adding to their support of numerous OU programs and projects over the years.

The grant made possible an archival materials assessment, the re-housing and relocation of archival materials to a more suitable location, and the transfer of 171 16mm films to digital format. The films document important moments in the lives of Matilda Dodge Wilson (widow of auto pioneer John Dodge) and her second husband, Alfred G. Wilson, builders of Meadow Brook Hall. Because the hall was originally built as a home, not a museum, a controlled environment had to be created for the archives. The refitted room includes temperature and humidity control, UV blocking film on the windows, museum grade shelving units and archival quality storage materials. ●

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

Alumna earns prestigious MacArthur Fellowship



It's one of her biggest accomplishments. She has earned a Grammy nomination and a chance to play the 250-year-old Guarneri violin once owned by Niccolò Paganini, and now, Regina Carter, CAS '85, can add MacArthur Fellow to her list of honors. She received one of 25 fellowships, often referred to as the "genious grant," from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation this fall, which will give her \$500,000 to further her career as a jazz violinist.

Carter decided at 12 years old that she wanted to play the violin professionally. When she came to OU after studying at New

England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Mass., Carter wanted to study jazz, so she joined the jazz band. With no other violins in the ensemble, Carter was placed in the saxophone section.

"It was like language immersion," she says. "It's like learning a foreign language. But the director just told me to follow them. When they took a breath, so did I."

After graduation, Carter moved to Germany and played with jazz combos in nightclubs. In 1991, Carter put her effort into pursuing a solo career, moving to New York and playing with the New York String Trio for six years. Her first two albums were released without much fanfare, but then she toured with Wynton Marsalis in 1997 and Cassandra Wilson in 1998 and

began to draw her own attention. In 1999, she signed with Verve Records and released two more albums, *Rhythms of the Heart* and *Motor City Moments*. In 2001, Carter reached another milestone by becoming the first jazz musician and African-American to play the 250-year-old Guarneri violin once owned by Niccolò Paganini, which is kept in Genoa, Italy, and only played once a year by an individual deemed worthy.

The MacArthur Fellowship will allow Carter to explore the next phase of her life. She would like to work toward her master's degree in music therapy and eventually work with children who suffer from a range of physical and mental challenges. MacArthur Fellowships are awarded to men and women of all ages to explore creativity in their fields. ●

MACOMB²OAKLAND

Macomb, Oakland launch state's first concurrent enrollment program

Macomb Community College and Oakland University are welcoming students into the state's first joint admission, concurrent enrollment program this fall. Dubbed Macomb 2 Oakland, the program is the centerpiece of a partnership between the two higher education institutions to bring more degree program options directly to the residents of Macomb County.

Responding to the Cherry Commission recommendations designed to increase the percentage of residents with college credentials while building a work force with the talent and skills necessary for success in the 21st century, Macomb and Oakland, in August 2005, announced that the two institutions were stepping up their more than two decades of collaboration by introducing the program by fall 2006.

Through Macomb 2 Oakland, students are granted concurrent enrollment at Oakland and Macomb, maximized financial aid at both institutions, expanded course selections, coordinated

advising and course planning and access to campus resources of both institutions.

"Our concurrent enrollment program with Macomb Community College is a vital component of OU at Macomb, Oakland University's initiative to greatly expand the opportunities for baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate education available in Macomb County," says Oakland University Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Academic Administration David Downing. "We are excited about the potential of this program and look forward to expanding upon it."

To support growth of the Macomb 2 Oakland program, Macomb is building the third phase of the Macomb University Center. The 40,000-square-foot classroom building addition is scheduled to open by fall 2007. A portion of the current University Center is being renovated to serve as headquarters for Oakland University's programs in Macomb County. ●



A day on the links

Five years ago, long-time Oakland University supporter Hugh Elliott founded the President's Invitational Golf Outing as a way to raise money for scholarships and academic endeavors. The 2006 outing, held on a sunny June day, brought 88 golfers to the R & S Sharf Golf Course and raised \$155,000. The theme of the day was "Royal and Ancient" and to set the mood, the event staff donned knickers and wool socks, and golfers heard the sounds of bagpipes as they arrived. To celebrate the occasion, Elliott, who served as event chair, even wore his Scottish kilt to the evening reception.

Sponsors for the outing included Pepsi, The Suburban Collection, Ashworth, EGI, The Palace Entertainment and Stealth Investigations. ●

OU and SCCCC engineer agreement

Oakland University and St. Clair County Community College (SCCCC) entered into an agreement this summer that will pave the way for students to enter bachelor's degree programs in OU's School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) with junior standing, after completing their first two years at SCCCC.

"This agreement is yet another example of how Oakland University is forging partnerships to advance higher education across the state of Michigan. By allowing students from St. Clair County to begin their computer science and engineering education close to home, we are broadening access to these important fields of study," says Oakland University Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil.

The OU/SCCCC agreement outlines a four-year program in which the freshman and sophomore years are completed at SCCCC, and the junior and senior years are completed at OU. Students admitted to the OU/SCCCC program who successfully complete the first two years of the program are automatically enrolled as juniors at OU. The agreement includes the following SECS bachelor of science degree programs: computer engineering,



Virinder Moudgil, vice president for Academic Affairs and provost, and Gus Demas, provost at St. Clair County Community College, announced a partnership for engineering majors this past June.

computer science, electrical engineering, industrial and systems engineering, information technology, mechanical engineering, engineering physics and engineering chemistry.

For more information on Oakland's engineering and computer science program, log on to www.oakland.edu/secs/. ●



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Oakland partners with MSU to create social work programs

Oakland University and Michigan State University (MSU) are working together to build an accredited bachelor's degree in social work (BASW) program for OU. In conjunction with this effort, MSU will establish an advanced-standing master's in social work (MSW-AS) on Oakland's campus.

OU currently offers a social work concentration within the sociology program. "Our concentration is thriving to such a degree that we know Oakland is more than ready for a bachelor's degree in social work," said OU President Gary Russi at the signing ceremony with MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon in August.

MSU, which plans to assign a faculty member to work with OU as the



university builds the new program, offers one of the oldest BASW programs in the country. BASW holders qualify for advanced standing in MSW programs, allowing them to complete their degree in one year rather than two. MSU will establish an advanced-standing MSW program on OU's campus, expanding access to this accelerated degree. The master's degree program will be in place when the first group of OU students graduates from the new BASW.

For more information, log on to www.oakland.edu/cas and select Sociology and Anthropology from the "Departments and Centers" list. ●



Oakland University continues to value its partnership with its hometown, the City of Rochester, participating in special events all year long. OU sponsored a "ScareBear" on Main Street in October as part of Rochester's Pumpkin Festival scarecrow event. The university will again be participating in the Rochester Christmas Parade this holiday season and a host of other events in 2007.



Spring Sports Wrap Up



Junior Kevin Carkeek

A stellar season

Under first-year head coach Dylan Putnam, Oakland's baseball team had one of its most successful seasons in recent years in 2006. After a tough start to the season against a strong non-conference schedule, the Golden Grizzlies regrouped at the start of conference play to win nine of 11 games, a streak that propelled the team into the Mid-Continent Conference Tournament for the first time in four

years. OU finished with an overall record of 20-38, but finished third in the Mid-Con standings with a 13-11 conference mark.

Junior Kevin Carkeek earned first team All-Mid-Con honors with his outstanding season. The first baseman/catcher hit .315 and led the team with six home runs and 43 RBI. He also had a solid effort at the Mid-Con Tournament where he was named to the all-tournament team. Fellow junior Scott Boleski also turned in a fine performance for OU in the spring, joining Carkeek on the All-Mid-Con first team. A relief specialist on the mound, Boleski was one of the top closers in the conference, recording seven saves.

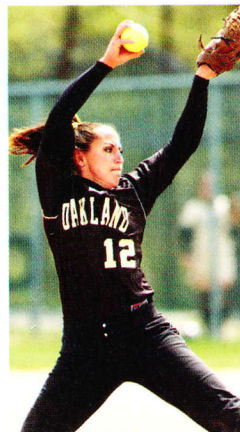
Junior infielder Kyle Crepeau, junior pitcher Brad Noel and freshman outfielder Justin Wilson were named second team All-Mid-Con performers. Crepeau led the team in hitting with a .350 average, with Wilson among the team's top hitters with his .337 average and six home runs. Noel led the pitching staff with four wins.

Coach takes honors in first time at bat

Like the baseball team, Oakland's softball team was under new leadership in 2006 with Glenn MacDonald taking the helm. With the new leadership and a senior-laden squad, the team finished

27-29, the second-most wins in the seven-year history of the program. In Mid-Con action the Golden Grizzlies finished fourth in the regular season standings with a 12-12 mark and earned their first trip to the Mid-Con Tournament after a two-year absence. More than doubling the win total from the previous season earned MacDonald Mid-Con Coach of the Year honors.

Senior pitcher Laura Chomokos was a key part of the success of the team. Named the Mid-Con Pitcher of the Year, the senior won a school record 20 games and set another school record by striking out 217 hitters in 221 innings of work. Another pair of seniors also earned first team all-conference honors, with Stephanie Zellner and Camie



Senior pitcher Laura Chomokos

Knorr joining Chomokos on the first team squad. Zellner led the team in hitting with a .357 average and in RBI with 31. Knorr was one of the top sluggers in the league, swatting a school record nine home runs.

Women take honors on the links

Oakland's golf teams had a solid outing this spring: the women saw four of their golfers earn all-conference honors and a second-place showing at the Mid-Con Championships and the men finished fourth at the conference tournament.

Senior Jon Pauli finished his career on an upswing, finishing fourth overall at the conference tournament to earn first team All-Mid-Con honors.

On the women's side, sophomore Jenna Goulet finished fourth as well, leading a contingent of four Golden Grizzlies that finished in the top 10 at the Mid-Con championships.

A good first run

History was made in the spring of 2006 with the debut of Oakland's newest varsity sport, outdoor track and field. The first year teams were small, so squads did not finish high in the Mid-Con Championship final results, however they did provide a foundation to build the program.

Oakland did produce an All-Mid-Con performance, with senior Paul Kulisek finishing third in the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase event. Overall the men's team scored 31 points for a seventh-place finish. The women's squad came in sixth in final standings with 14 points.

A strong swing

Oakland's women's tennis team had its best season as a Division I squad, just missing a Mid-Con Tournament berth with a fifth-place finish in the conference standings. The Golden Grizzlies finished the season with school records for overall wins (10) and Mid-Con wins (4).

Junior Angie Trecola was the top singles player during the season, setting a school record with her 15 singles wins. She also picked up 11 more victories in doubles action, with her 26 total wins setting another school mark.

Promising premier season for equestrians

Last fall a group of dedicated students and Christopher Ewing, an equestrian coach at Foxwoode Farms in Holly, Mich., began Oakland's first equestrian club. OU's team was small last year, six members at varying levels of competency in comparison to many teams' 13-15 riders, but that didn't dampen their spirits. One team member finished third at last fall's regional competition and two riders earned enough cumulative points in competition to move on to regional championships.

The club competed against 14 other schools and more than 200 riders including Michigan State University, Western Michigan University and the University of Michigan during their first season. ●



GOLDEN GRIZZLIES BASKETBALL

2006-07 Home Schedule

MEN'S BASKETBALL

December 2	Wisconsin-Milwaukee*
December 30	Toledo
January 4	IUPUI
January 6	Chicago State*
January 18	Southern Utah
January 20	UMKC*
February 8	Western Illinois
February 10	Valparaiso*
February 22	Centenary
February 24	Oral Roberts*

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

December 2	Rochester College*
December 5	Toledo
December 9	Marquette
January 6	Chicago State*
January 8	IUPUI
January 20	UMKC*
January 22	Southern Utah
February 6	Youngstown State
February 10	Valparaiso*
February 12	Western Illinois
February 24	Oral Roberts*
February 26	Centenary

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Former trustee builds on decades of support with planned gift

Stephan Sharf has a long history with Oakland University. Since 1981 he has contributed his time and personal resources to help Oakland grow into the successful institution it is today. A current member of the President's Campaign Council, Sharf served on the board of trustees from 1987 through 1994 and as a director for the OU Foundation from 1985 to 2005.

A former executive vice president of manufacturing at Chrysler Corporation, Sharf was instrumental in bringing Chrysler's headquarters to Auburn Hills. "I wanted to create togetherness between the university and a large corporation," he said. He felt it was an opportunity for Chrysler to draw from the expertise of the university as well as contribute something from the corporate world to the university.

Sharf, perhaps best known for his gift to establish the R & S Sharf Golf Course at OU in 2000, has also created scholarships at Oakland. A man whose career blended the worlds of engineering and business, he wanted to support students studying these subjects. Upon his retirement from Chrysler Corporation, he took the retirement gifts he received



Stephan Sharf

and matched them with his own funds to create a scholarship for Chrysler employees and their children.

"I owe the people who worked for me, and this was my gift to the people who

faithfully worked for me and made me what I am," Sharf says. This scholarship, named the Stephan Sharf Endowed Scholarship for engineering students, along with the Stephan and Rita Sharf Scholarship in the School of Business, have supported many students, who may, in turn, end up following a career path similar to Sharf's.

And now, his most recent planned gift will provide the university with a solid foundation from which to continue its growth. Sharf has established a charitable gift annuity, valued at \$3 million, which will be used to support scholarships and other university needs that Sharf will designate during his lifetime. Why an annuity? "It's a beautiful way to take care of your loved ones now, and after they pass away, it goes back where it can do a lot of good," Sharf says.

His latest gift speaks to the deep commitment he has to help Oakland succeed. "When you help something grow from the ground up, you feel a part of it. Looking at OU now, with more than 17,000 students, I can find enjoyment in that and feel good to be a part of it," he says. ●



State's first DNP degree made possible by W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Beginning in fall 2006, Oakland University's School of Nursing (SON) will become the first university in Michigan to offer a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, recently recognized by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing as the highest level of preparation for clinical nursing practice. The new program is made possible by a \$443,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to support the nursing profession's urgent need for faculty, clinical experts and industry leaders with doctoral degrees.

The 32-credit degree will prepare nurses for leadership positions as professors in academic institutions, administrators in health care systems, policy makers in government, and entrepreneurs in the health care industry. The curriculum also provides students with the skills required to become practitioners at the highest level of nursing practice in specializations including nurse anesthetist, nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist. The DNP degree is geared toward nurses whose

master's degree had a clinical focus, and builds upon that with doctoral-level courses in advanced research methods and theory, leadership, systems management and nursing informatics.

"We are very grateful for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's support of our DNP program, and we're excited to be the first institution in Michigan to offer this degree," says SON Dean Linda Thompson Adams. "It will provide wonderful opportunities for many nurses to pursue careers as educators, entrepreneurs and administrators." ●

For questions regarding philanthropic gifts to Oakland University or to connect with the appropriate development officer, contact Susan Goepp, vice president for University Relations, at (248) 364-6150.

— Compiled by Amy Barker

New options for IRA funds

Many Americans have more funds in their IRA accounts than they will ever be able to use. A new law has made it possible for the first time for IRA owners to make charitable contributions from their retirement savings by giving directly to charity. The federal Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows individuals age 70 1/2 or older to make contributions of up to \$100,000 per year from either traditional or Roth IRAs. Historically, withdrawals from traditional IRAs were taxed at the federal and state level before

proceeds could be given to charity. Consequently, taxpayers have opted to bequest IRAs to charitable organizations at their death to avoid income and estate taxes. Under the new law, taxpayers can make gifts during their lifetime and these donations are not treated as itemized deductions, as with most charitable donations. They are excluded from taxable income altogether.

The new law covers donations to churches, public charities and

universities such as Oakland, but excludes foundations, donor advised funds and split interest vehicles such as remainder trusts. The new law is effective immediately and applies to donations made in tax years 2006 and 2007.

If you would like more information on how to take advantage of this opportunity, call John Perillo, director of planned giving, at (248) 364-6129. ●

OUAA board member establishes scholarship to promote student involvement



Adam Kochenderfer

Adam Kochenderfer, CAS '02, knows the secret to the university's character. "At the end of the day, the thing that makes OU special is the people — people who you can tell have a genuine sincerity for helping students grow, for helping them to get involved and not just sit in the back of the classroom," he says.

Kochenderfer, a former all-star OU student whose list of accomplishments includes OU Alumni Scholar and recipient of the Alfred G. Wilson Award for Outstanding Achievement, is committed to keeping that spirit alive.

Kochenderfer has a long history of involvement as an Oakland student, which includes serving as student services director for the Student Congress, chair of the Student Activities Funding Board, treasurer of College Republicans and a PAUSE mentor who promoted awareness about the dangers of alcohol to incoming freshmen. Now a lawyer, he recently joined the Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) Board of Directors, where he will work to build programs and services that are responsive to alumni needs.

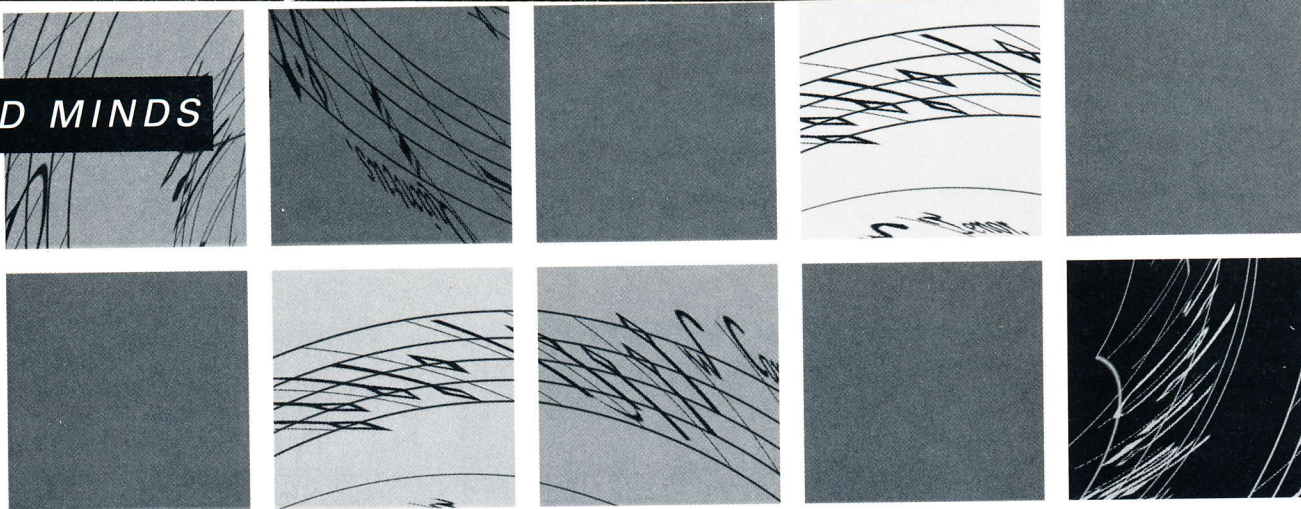
Kochenderfer feels it is important to give back to

students and reward the same commitment to service that he possesses. To this end, he recently donated \$25,000 to establish the Charlene and Michael Kochenderfer Endowed Fund at OU. The endowment, named in honor of his parents, will award a \$1,000 scholarship each year to a student majoring in political science, public administration, public policy or international relations.

"It's intended to help students who have shown a commitment both to their studies and to their community," Kochenderfer says. "Applicants will have to demonstrate community service in order to receive the scholarship." ●

Capital Campaign Update

A year and a half into Oakland University's first ever comprehensive campaign, "Innovation and Opportunity – The Campaign for OU," steady progress has been made toward the campaign goal of \$110 million to be raised by 2010 with \$70.4 million in pledges and commitments as of September 20. Among the campaign's many priorities is a new Engineering Design Center that would provide instructional and research facilities for programs that support automotive, defense and other industries critical to the economy of southeastern Michigan and the state of Michigan. Also, a new human health building is planned with facilities for both classroom and clinical education with equipment and technology that replicates hospital and community-based health care settings. Additional priorities include research endowments, faculty chairs and professorships, expanded classroom and performing arts space, student scholarships, and endowments to support programmatic initiatives including strengthening Kresge Library's print, media and electronic collections across the disciplines. ●



Long and winding road

Beatles spark multi-gen relationships

We all know, of course, that Oakland University has a well-deserved reputation for providing a distinctive education for its students. But recently I've come to realize that that distinctive experience extends to OU employees as well.

It was about two years ago that retired Professor of English and former director of The Honors College Brian Murphy [who lent his thoughts to this column a few issues ago] came to me with an idea. Knowing of my abiding love of the Beatles, Brian proposed that he and I start a discussion group about the Fab Four. Brian is, of course, a Beatles scholar of the first order, so I was flattered that he asked me to participate. We Beatles freaks tend to stick together.

We started to advertise the discussion group by hanging posters in strategic high-traffic areas around campus. The idea was to meet after my work day ended every other week in The Honors College.

The group started out with just a handful of interested persons, including a faculty member and three or four students. As we gained momentum through word-of-mouth, the group expanded.

I wish now that those discussions were taped, because Professor Murphy was masterful. He discussed the Beatles' global impact on style, music, the media and their rewriting of the cultural canon of the 20th century. Although I fancy myself as someone who knows more about the Beatles than just about anyone else, I learned a lot from Professor Murphy's thoughts about the group.

A few weeks into the meetings, I noticed a student who was wearing a Boston Red Sox cap. I asked her if she was from Boston, but she said she wasn't. She was just a fan of the team. Her name was Kalee Iacoangeli, and she was a tremendous student. I've never known a student more involved in school and extracurricular activities than Kalee. She was in The Honors College and was also an R.A. in the residence halls. Her energy and drive knew no bounds.

Kalee was interested in carving out a career in media relations, preferably with a sports focus. Because that's what I do, and because we had a need for someone like Kalee in our office, I hired her as a part-time student employee.

Kalee was an outstanding employee, and really made a positive impact in our department. She has

since graduated from OU (with honors, of course), and now is making her mark in graduate school.

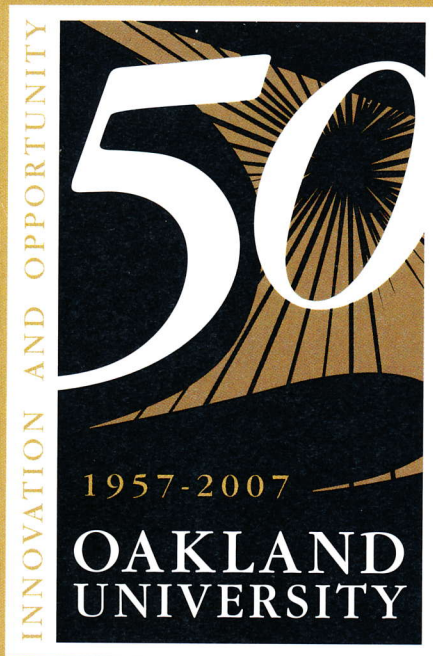
Believe me when I say that you will hear about Kalee Iacoangeli in the future.

So, I'm left to contemplate the overarching reach of the Oakland University experience. By dint of chance, I had the opportunity to interact with an amazing professor and a tremendous student, both brought together by happenstance. Both Brian Murphy and Kalee Iacoangeli have enhanced my time at Oakland University, and I remain amazed at the good fortune that I have had to know them both.

Just think of it: A professor, a student and a staff member had their lives intersect, for the benefit of all. Where else could that happen? It makes me proud to be a part of the Oakland University family. ♦

— Ted Montgomery
Oakland University
Media Relations Director

If you've got thoughts on life, learning and fun that you'd like to share, send us your essay. Gold Minds is open to alumni, faculty and staff. For submission guidelines, visit *OU Magazine* on the Web at www.oakland.edu.



We're getting ready for our Golden Anniversary . . . and you should, too!

Oakland University 1957-2007



Oakland turns 50 next year and we're planning to
commemorate our anniversary in style —

- Anniversary light pole banners will adorn the campus and area streets beginning next year.
- Oakland's 50th anniversary Web site will launch in January 2007. Log on to find OU's founding stories, histories and archival photos and images spanning the past 50 years.
- Meadow Brook Hall will offer exhibits relating to Matilda Dodge Wilson and the founding of the university throughout 2007.
- Anniversary mementos and gifts will be available through the OU Bookstore.

Watch for more on the Web at www.oakland.edu.

A Shark's Tale

Odyssey Award winner takes career seaward

By Sandra Beckwith

Thirty years ago, Wendy Lull, CAS '74, was discussing her class report on sharks with OU biology professor William Forbes when she had an epiphany about her life's direction. "Sharks..." Dr. Forbes mused at the start of the meeting. "I haven't thought about sharks in a long time."

His remark set her imagination sailing. "Just then I realized that I wanted the kind of job where I could think about sharks," says Lull, president of the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, N.H., where there are no sharks but lots of crabs, kelp and cod.



Wendy Lull (left in black jacket), president of the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, N.H., with local kids and Senator Judd Gregg at a ground-breaking ceremony this past spring for the center's upcoming expansion.

Her experience working in OU biology professor Doug Hunter's lab took her thoughts further from shore, helping Lull realize that she wanted to be a marine biologist, not a writer or an English teacher, as she originally thought when she enrolled at Oakland as an English major. She loved the collegial atmosphere of the lab, where students were encouraged to experiment beyond their science which often meant they discovered how to learn from their mistakes.

Seeking more of this after getting a biology degree, she continued on to graduate school at the University of New Hampshire, studying zoology. While there, she attended a lecture at Harvard by yet another influential professor, who told the students that their employment prospects were grim. If they weren't attending the best university and at the top of their class, he said, they wouldn't get jobs.

Getting her sea legs

This singular statement forced Lull to re-examine her career plans, which included getting a doctoral degree, doing post-doctoral work, and teaching for at least five years before seeking her dream marine biology job. "I realized that by the time I was ready, I would be 40, which at 29 meant that I'd be practically dead!" she says, laughing.

Her science career balloon deflated, Lull left science and academia with her master's degree, moving instead into the business world. Her first full-time job involved creating presentation slides for a management consulting firm; subsequent positions were similar.

How does one move from zoology to graphic design and marketing? While the connection might not seem obvious, it makes sense if you think like Lull, who has a knack for turning her head ever so slightly and seeing the world from a fresh perspective.

"We had to create all of our graphs and slides in college and I got pretty good at it," she says, adding that what she learned studying population biology applied to business, too. She explains: "When you have just one prey species, or just one customer, you have a problem. If you can only live in a limited habitat or if you can only operate under certain circumstances, you become extinct quickly. It all made sense to me."

She flourished in the business community for 10 years, until her employer had only one prey species. "If our next proposal to this very big client was accepted, we were golden. If it wasn't, we'd be extinct, so I started looking for a Plan B," Lull says.

Taking the plunge

She found it at the Seacoast Science Center, which was looking for an executive director in 1992. It turned out not quite a Plan B, though. It was Lull's dream job, a position that combined her education and her love of marine life with her communication and people skills. It was offered to her the year she turned 40 — that magical number from her graduate school days.

Now in her 14th year at the center, she finds that her job offers the intangible rewards of the nonprofit sector with the diversity of entrepreneurship. She might be writing a grant proposal in the morning, answering students' questions about coastal habitats in the afternoon, or participating in a community committee meeting in the evening. Her tireless work with the center was recognized last year by her alma mater, when she was presented with the OU Alumni Association's Odyssey Award, an honor bestowed on an alumnus/a who seeks to exemplify OU's motto "to seek virtue and knowledge."

Lull has helped establish the center, once a division of the New Hampshire Audubon Society, as an independent nonprofit organization, an accomplishment that has drawn



Wendy Lull, CAS '74, who started her academic career as an English major, discovered through work with OU's biology professor William Forbes that what she really wanted was a career in marine biology.

on the creative problem-solving skills she acquired in Hunter's OU lab. She has, for example, made the center less dependent on grant funding by instituting new revenue-generating business areas that have increased its non-grant income from \$250,000 to \$950,000.

One of those business areas is an international expeditionary travel program that took Lull and 10 others to the Galapagos Islands for a week this past April. It's an important part of the center's mission, which is to create a connection to nature through personal experience. And even though the tour agenda was packed with activities and lectures on land and sea, Lull made sure she had some time to think about sharks. ■

Sandra Beckwith is a freelance writer from Fairport, N.Y.



HEALTH *is* ACADEMIC *for* NURSING ALUM



Julia Lechtenberg, MSN '06, SON '99, discovered her professional niche while attending OU to finish her BSN. She decided she wanted to work in a school system. Putting that desire into practice, this mother of two landed a job with the Pontiac School District, where she is the school nurse for three elementary schools.

Her daily routine is all about removing barriers to learning *By Alice Rhein*

Ten years ago, a college degree of any kind was just a dream for Julia Lechtenberg, a wife and mother of two. Today, thanks to Oakland University, she has taken her career as a nurse to a whole new level. She earned her BSN in 1999, her master's this May — and now gets paid to go to school every day. She is a school nurse with the Pontiac School District and she has clearly found her niche.

School nurses are a bit of a rarity these days. The State of Michigan does not mandate nurses in public schools, something Lechtenberg is quick to point out, and few elementary schools even have a school nurse on staff. Yet the Pontiac School District not only has a school nurse program, it employs an extraordinarily dedicated, hard working nurse in this OU graduate. Simply put, she sees her job as an almost endless opportunity for positive change.

"My role is to remove barriers to learning. I need to be doing things that other people cannot do in a school setting. Anybody can pass a band-aid to a child, but who can do case management? Who can take care of chronic health issues? I have serious asthmatics, and students with diabetes and seizure disorders. They are my top priority," she says.

Dividing her time between three elementary schools, Lechtenberg works with staff to implement emergency protocols and does additional training based on each child's individual needs.

Lechtenberg began her nursing career as a licensed practical nurse and chose OU as the place to complete her bachelor of science in nursing. She credits her husband, Tim, for being her main support when she went back to college while her children were young. She also credits OU associate professor of nursing Sarah Newton for taking her writing skills to a new level, which Lechtenberg considers critical for communication in her profession.

A perfect fit

"I was completing my bachelor's and one of my clinicals was in the community. I was placed in the schools," says Lechtenberg.

When she told her supervisor that she'd like to be a school nurse "when I grow up," her supervisor encouraged her to apply for an opening in the Pontiac district. She did, got the job and at 48, Lechtenberg says she is so pleased that OU opened that door for her.

"The children in the schools are so wonderful. When they see me they run over and give me hugs," she says. What Lechtenberg gives is a chance for students to be at their optimal health for learning.

She makes sure that students with diabetes have their blood sugar monitored before lunch, and that children with severe allergies are identified and emergency protocols are put into place. She also coordinates the mobile dental program and collaborates with local dentists so that children without sufficient insurance can have proper dental care. For one student struggling to see the board, Lechtenberg had her glasses repaired, and had another pair donated.

A healthy learning experience

"When I can see a child who was struggling with reading being able to move up three book levels in six weeks, that's what I consider a personal success," she says.

At the beginning of every school year, Lechtenberg provides parents with a health questionnaire to identify any children who might have health issues. "I try to be proactive instead of reactive," she adds. "Parents have a right to ensure their kids are healthy at school."

Her efforts go beyond the students and extend to the staff. Last January, she organized a "Walk to Florida" campaign where the elementary school staff could log miles they walked and collectively walk to Florida before Spring Break. Lechtenberg says she wears a pedometer during the course of her day, and she rarely logs fewer than 13,000 steps, or about six miles. In her spare time,



Lechtenberg sees her job in terms of removing barriers to learning. Here, she's performing a finger stick test to monitor the blood sugar levels in a student with diabetes.

she rides horses that are stabled about a half hour from her home. "I keep pictures of them at school and the kids love to ask questions about them."

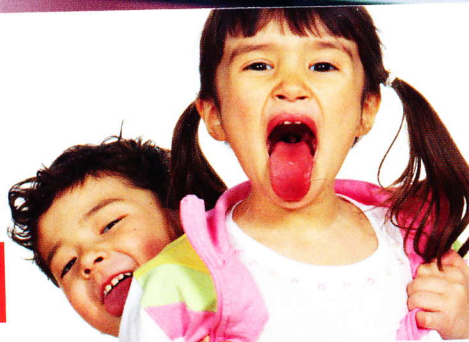
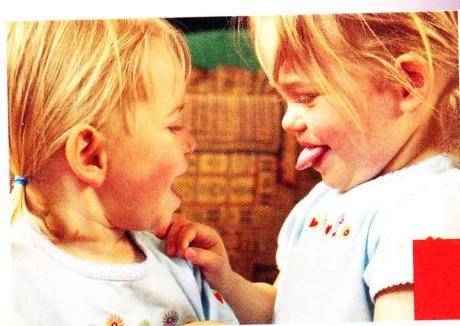
Earlier this year, Lechtenberg's dedication to her students earned her a nomination for the prestigious Nightingale Awards for Nursing sponsored by Oakland University, where she was runner-up in the Nursing in the Community category. She was also recognized with the Outstanding Nursing Student Award in 1994 from Oakland Community College and in 1999 she received the SON Board of Visitors Nightingale Scholarship. The Pontiac School District also honored her as the Support Staff of the Year in 2001.

Though pleased with the recognition, Lechtenberg is quick to say that she's just doing what needs to be done. "To me, health is academic. Healthy children learn better and it is up to me to get their chronic conditions under control so that they can learn. I don't see that as going beyond my job, I see that as my job."

With chronic conditions on the rise in America's youth, it gives Lechtenberg special satisfaction to help keep these in control. After all, if children don't have to focus on pain and illness, it sure is a lot easier to learn. ■

For more on OU's nursing degree programs, log on to www.oakland.edu/nursing.

Alice Rhein is a freelance writer from Huntington Woods, Mich.



TOGETHER *for life*



Siblings are key in all future relationships *By Liz Lent*

They've been with us from the beginning. They've seen us at our worst and cheered us on when we were at our best. Most likely, they also pulled our hair, told on us and laughed when we fell down. Siblings are in a class by themselves when it comes to family dynamics and personal relationships. Beyond our parents, our sibling relationships could be the most important we ever have.

For more than 20 years, Robby Stewart, Oakland University professor of psychology and department chair, has studied the nature and impact of lifelong familial relationships with a particular interest in brothers and sisters, how they impact each other over the course of their lifetimes and how they influence relationships with others.

"We develop our personalities through our relationships with others," Stewart says. "Our first relationship is with our mother. Our second relationship is with our father and that shifts things because the father does things differently than a mother. Our third relationship is with our siblings. With parents and children, there's an inequality. With siblings, it's closer to peers. It's the siblings that teach us how to have relationships with our peers."

For instance, research has shown that girls with older brothers will learn to interact better with men and boyfriends than girls who only have older sisters. The same is true of boys with older sisters. They will interact more comfortably with women. Stewart refers to relationships between siblings as "practice," setting the stage for the years to come.



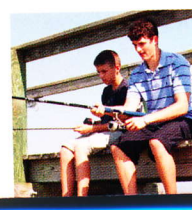
Moving through life stages

Sibling relationships change dramatically over a lifetime. "When most people think of siblings, they think of rivalry," Stewart says.

The truth of the matter is that relationships between siblings change over the course of a lifetime. "In younger children, you'll see competitive and hostile relationships," he adds. "If you share a bedroom or your family has limited resources, you'll fight about that stuff. The same thing can happen in late adolescence."

Competitiveness also will play a role as children grow and things like grades and sports fill a bigger portion of their lives.

While siblings may grow apart when they go off to college, get married or have families of their own, they inevitably will be drawn back together as their parents





age and they are forced to make group decisions. And when the parents have passed on, siblings may become even closer as they realize they are the closest

family members they have left. Compassion will replace competitiveness. "Sibling relationships always change because, as we move through life, we have different needs," Stewart says.

Stewart's research with siblings, which surveyed hundreds of individuals of different ages and circumstances, led to studies of friends, helping him catalog the most common types of friendships. His interest in the relationship between siblings and later friendships developed out of dialogues that occurred through his research. "One of the people I was interviewing said to me, 'My best friend is like a sibling to me.' Another told me that his significant other was his best friend," he says. "I began to trace that back — if a best friend is like a sibling and a significant other is a best friend, how does that all connect?"

Gender matters

When it comes to friends, men in general have two types — what Stewart dubs "Buds for Life" and "Loyal Buddies." With "Buds for Life," there is a high level of commitment and a great deal of dependability and trust. "They know they'll be there to take care of each other," Stewart says.

The "Loyal Buddies" category differs in that it lacks a sense of deep connection, and instead is based more on feelings of duty rather than a confidence in one another.

For women, their friendships tend to fall into two categories as well: "Close and Secure" and "Being There." The first is distinguished by a high level of warmth, commitment, kindness, gentleness and caring. The second still offers warmth, but is characterized more by calm and quiet, by being there and sharing the other person's presence. Perhaps the difference between the two could best be boiled down to the idea of the friend you talk to and do things with versus the person with whom you're satisfied just to share a quiet cup of coffee.

"Women appear to want a calm presence and to be together with their friends," Stewart explains. "Men have a sense of trust that doesn't actually require the other person to be there. This may be why some women fret if a friend doesn't call regularly, but many men can go years without seeing a buddy, then pick up the phone and play a

round of golf with them as if not a day had passed."

Siblings and friends

With the early years of rivalry and competition behind them, siblings can become extraordinarily close friends. "There are very few differences between siblings and friends. Most women will have the 'being there' types of friendships with their sister or brother while most men share the 'buds for life' friendship with their siblings," Stewart says.

When it comes to siblings, the most important thing to remember is that "these relationships will be our longest lasting ones on this planet. That's why we need to look at them in terms that go beyond sibling rivalry," Stewart says.

And for most people, lifelong relationships provide comfort and emotional safety for life's ups and downs. "Life throws things at us and as they're coming, it's important to have some sort of support network," Stewart says. Good siblings and good friends help soften life's inevitable blows. More than that, they can fill our days with laughter, companionship and good cheer. When it comes right down to it, few things in life are better. ■

Liz Lent is a freelance writer from Birmingham, Mich.





Leader in the lab

OU professor teaches the practical applications of student research By Alice Rhein

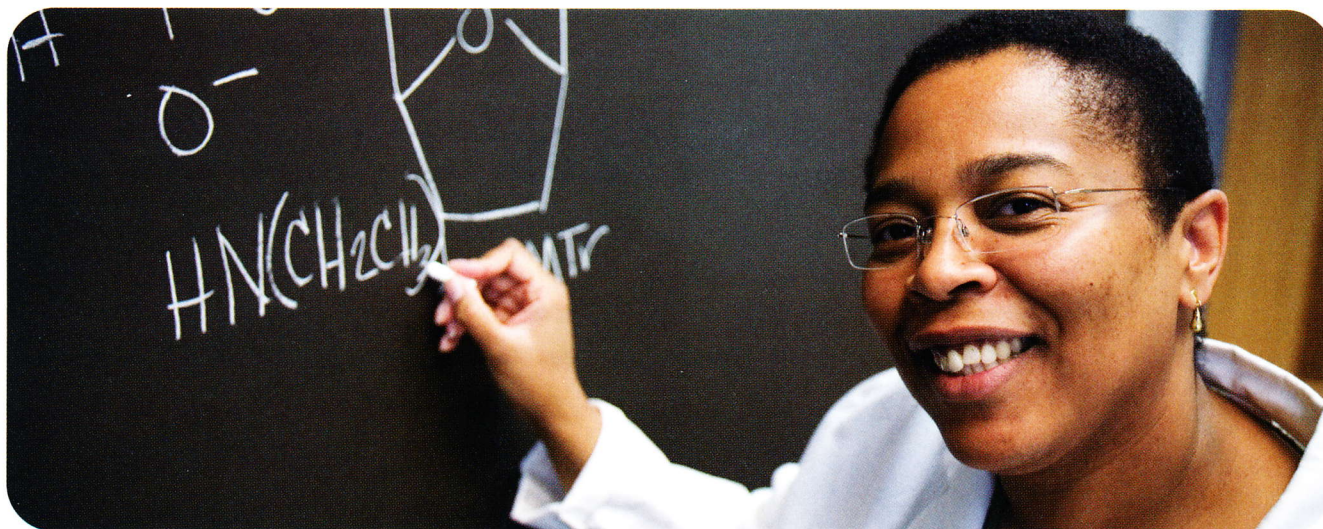
Line Jensen, biochemistry major, leans in to make a point with her colleague and fellow student, Jameelah Mubammad. Their professor and mentor in the lab (center) is Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, a professor who believes strongly in fostering ethnic and cultural diversity in her laboratory.

Pick any day of the week, and Amanda Bryant-Friedrich's organic chemistry lab in the Science and Engineering Building is brimming with activity. It's orderly, yet frenetic. Friendly, yet focused. Both by intention and fate, the 38-year-old Detroit resident has created a diverse laboratory where knowledge and curiosity form the basis of scientific research.

Since 2000, when the North Carolina native joined the Oakland University faculty, Bryant-Friedrich has welcomed students from at least seven different countries to her lab.

"I have a strong interest in diversity in science, and being an African-American woman, I have a soft spot in my heart for every woman, and for women of color. I know their struggles," says Bryant-Friedrich, who met her husband, Klaus, while at Duke University and accompanied him to his native Germany to complete her Ph.D. at the University of Heidelberg.

"In my lab, there is always a lot of ethnic diversity and cultural diversity. I don't think I orchestrated that so much. I think students are attracted to me because I have a background that's different, and I'm open to people of different cultures."



Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, assistant professor of organic chemistry, is committed to giving students, particularly at the undergraduate level, the opportunity to discover what research is all about.

Discoveries for life

Line Jensen, a 25-year-old biochemistry senior from Denmark who holds several records as a member of the OU swim team, says her experience in the lab has been invaluable. "It has meant everything to me. It has shown me the direction I want to go with my education," she says.

Jameelah Muhammad, a 20-year-old junior majoring in environmental health, says knowledge gained from her lab peers has helped in her development and motivation as a student and future scientist. "In the lab I have the opportunity to explore and learn about things you cannot obtain from simply reading books. It has given me the confidence to take risks and challenges me to think outside of the box."

It's only been in the past decade that many of the nation's larger universities have started undergraduate research programs. Even then, the demand often exceeds the availability. At OU, any student who wants to participate in undergraduate research can get that opportunity.

"Undergraduate research is a cornerstone of the educational experience here at Oakland," says Bryant-Friedrich. "Larger schools have a tendency to make research opportunities curriculum-based, but Oakland gets students involved at every level. They get to publish, attend conferences and work in the labs. They get the full feel of what research is about."

Environment, cancer and DNA

In her lab, the focus is on synthetic organic chemistry, and students have hands-on experience with instrumentation, experiments and analysis. "The big picture is that we want to understand how small molecules actually affect nucleic acids. We want to look at how drugs and environmental agents interact with DNA," she says.

Many diseases, especially cancer, come from a single event that occurs in the DNA. The aim of her research is to

get a basic understanding of how all the small molecules that people come in contact with affect genetic material.

"The belief is that when the DNA is initially damaged, it can create small molecules that are found in cells that we can actually fish out and identify. These can tell us early on if someone has a predisposition to developing cancer. We need to find out how cancer originates, which will give us a much better chance at fighting the disease," says Bryant-Friedrich, whose research is funded primarily by the National Science Foundation.

Students like Jensen and Muhammad research various aspects of DNA damage, and they find their mentor an invaluable source of knowledge and caring. "This lab has become the meeting point of the department. It is mainly because of Amanda and her character. She cares, and people can feel that," adds Jensen.

Muhammad agrees. "She finds time to mentor students by helping them explore career goals beyond their undergraduate career. Her leadership, professionalism and concern for students make working in her lab a great experience."

Bryant-Friedrich, whose 4-year-old son Klaus Jr. is already an OU student (at Lowry Center for Early Childhood Education), says she also encourages students who may not have an outstanding GPA to pursue research opportunities. "I have found that some of the best researchers are students that don't necessarily have the perfect GPA. What I do find is that those students become part of a community, and their grades improve."

In Bryant-Friedrich's lab, students come from all different academic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, but as Jensen points out, there is one parallel. "We all care passionately about science." ■

Alice Rhein is a freelance writer from Huntington Woods, Mich.



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GOLDEN GRIZZLY
HOLIDAY!



Grizz fans can now find Golden Grizzly T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, jackets and more at local stores. Grizz merchandise is now available at the Meijer location in Auburn Hills, all southeast Michigan Steve and Barry's locations (although the best selection can be found at the store located in Great Lakes Crossing mall in Auburn Hills) and Lytle's Pharmacy in downtown Rochester. Dunham's will begin stocking Grizz merchandise for the holiday season. And, of course, you can always find a complete selection at OU's Bookstore, www.oakland.bkstore.com. **Go Grizzlies!** ■

MEADOW BROOK HALL 2006 HOLIDAY WALK

The Sounds of the Season

NOVEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 22

The Sounds of the Season will come alive during the 35th annual Meadow Brook Hall Holiday Walk. Join us as we remember the traditions and melodies that make the holidays such a special time.

TOURS

Monday – Sunday
from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(last admittance 4 p.m.)

CANDLELIGHT TOURS

Nov. 27 & Dec. 4, 11, 18
from 5 – 9 p.m.
(last admittance 8 p.m.)

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Dec. 16 & 17 from 9 – 11 a.m.
Reservations required.

SUPPER WITH SANTA

Dec. 18 from 5 – 8 p.m.
Reservations required.

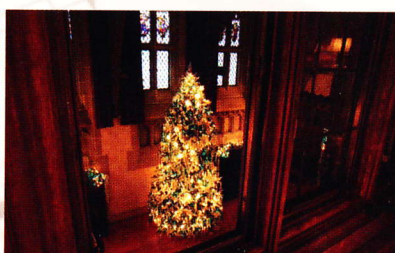
HOLIDAY HIGH TEA

Dec. 19 from 3 – 4:30 p.m.
Reservations required.

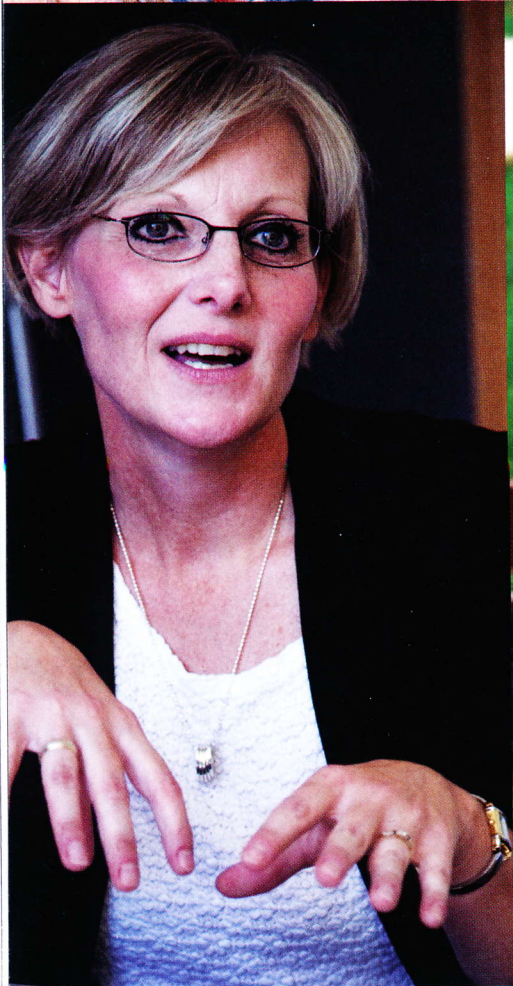
STARLIGHT STROLL

An elegant holiday celebration benefiting Meadow Brook Hall. Candlelight touring, live music, dancing, strolling dinner, open bar and more. Dec. 14 from 7 – 11 p.m. Reservations required.

Also check out Downtown Rochester's Big, Bright Light Show Nov. 27 – Dec. 31. Go to www.DowntownRochesterMI.com for more details.



Photography courtesy of Jerry Beznos



Educators *on* education



Six educators share insights, experiences and expectations

By Lillian Lorenzi

What does it mean to be on the front lines of the educational system? We thought we'd ask some experts in the field who spend their days teaching, leading and inspiring students and fellow teachers. We talked to six educators from our alumni ranks about why they choose education, their experiences along the way and the challenges, rewards and issues facing today's schools.



Anne Cairns Federlein, MAT '74
president of Kentucky Wesleyan College

Federlein, who was honored this year with Oakland's Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, has served in her current position since 2004. Before arriving at Wesleyan, she served as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at State University of New York (SUNY) College at Oneonta, president of co-located institutions at the Newark campus at Ohio State University and spent several years as associate professor of education at Oakland. She earned her Ph.D. in education at the University of Michigan.

Q: Why did you choose a career in education?

A: I believe that of all the professional degrees you can pursue, education has the greatest impact on people's lives. I always knew I wanted to go into education. I come from a family of educators: My father was a teacher and an administrator and both of my aunts were teachers.

Q: What strengths do you feel you bring to your role as an educator and administrator?

A: I have always been an agent for change. In my earlier career in early childhood, I spent a lot of time thinking of ways to help systems change for young students' needs and now I spend a lot of time thinking about how to best prepare college students to enter the business community. That's why I enjoy being a college president. I look at education from a broad perspective. I look at the process of educating students from a state, local and national perspective. I want our graduates to go out into the world and have a moral, ethical and professional impact on their communities.



Q: How did your years at Oakland prepare you for your career?

A: Oakland had the greatest impact on me in terms of who I am today. It opened my eyes to a whole new way of looking at the education of young children. I can honestly say it was the finest degree that I received and it made the greatest impact on how I look at the world through the eyes of students and parents. My goal has always been to give back the same quality education to my students that I received at Oakland.

Q: What is the most important aspect of your job as president of Wesleyan?

A: I represent the face of Wesleyan. I serve as mentor, leader and role model for this community and all those things combine to represent Wesleyan. That's what I aspire to do. It's such an exciting position to be in as an educator.

Q: What impact would you most like to have on Wesleyan?

A: I want us to send students out into the community to have a moral, ethical and professional impact on their communities. I want them to go out into the world and make a significant difference and when they're asked where they got their education, they can say they came from Wesleyan.

Q: What do you see as the biggest challenge facing higher education today?

A: The global economy is moving so quickly that it's very difficult for colleges and universities to keep up to date. That's why I strongly believe the best education is a solid liberal arts curriculum. It teaches you to think critically, to reason, to think creatively and to problem solve. You need a solid grounding in liberal arts and as a nation, we need people in today's business world who possess the critical-thinking skills learned in a liberal arts curriculum.

Q: What do you see as the most promising opportunities on the horizon for higher education?

A: I think it's our potential to reach a larger group of people in online education and classes that meet in different ways and at different times. We are changing the way we deliver education. I believe that everyone should have some education beyond high school, and today that's more feasible than ever. It's our responsibility to make sure we take every advantage of this. □



Clark Crews, SEHS '95, first grade teacher at North Hill Elementary School in Rochester, Mich.

Crews grew up in Rochester; went to Rochester schools and has spent the past 11 years teaching first grade at North Hill Elementary. He was honored this year by district parents with a Sparkle award, which recognizes educators for their classroom support of students with special needs.

Q: Why did you choose a career in education?

A: I wasn't sure exactly what I wanted to do after high school. I was taking classes at Oakland Community College and took an education course and really liked it. So, from there I started working at the Neighborhood Child Care Center in downtown Rochester and it just clicked. I had found what I wanted to do.

Q: What strengths do you feel you bring to your role as a teacher?

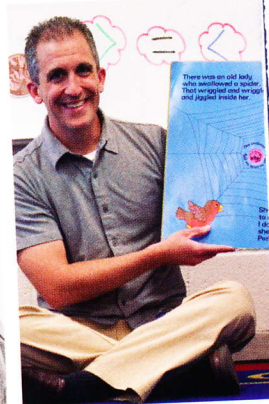
A: First grade is such an exciting grade to teach. Kids are still so little but they change so much in that year and I feel that I bring consistency, stability and enthusiasm into the classroom. I also hope that I bring creativity to their experience. I try to create an environment where they can thrive.

Q: How did your years at Oakland prepare you for your career?

A: I had wonderful instructors like Jim Hughes and they really gave us a lot of opportunities to collaborate with our peers. It was that framework for education that worked so well for me. For example, while I was completing my degree, I began student teaching at Longfellow Elementary School in Pontiac and it was such a valuable experience. It was hands on and you really saw how things worked.

Q: What do you see as the most important aspect of your job?

A: Creating a stable and empathetic environment for the kids so they feel confident and comfortable. That's the optimum way to learn. First-graders are still learning how to be in school and they really need a supportive environment.



Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: It's so nice to see the transformation from the beginning of the year to the end with these kids. It's such an exciting opportunity to teach these kids to read and write and watch them discover that.

Q: What impact do you most want to have on your first-graders?

A: I want them to be excited about learning in my classroom and excited about it when they move on to second grade.

Q: What's the biggest challenge for elementary school students today?

A: Overall, the challenge is that Michigan continues to raise the bar as far as standards are concerned. The standards are very high and the kids in first grade are still very little, so it's really a challenge in those young grades. □

Educators
on education



Educators on education

Daveda Colbert, principal at Clawson High School and current student in Oakland's Ph.D. in education program

Colbert has served in her current position for five years. She taught in the Detroit School District for eight years at the elementary, middle and high school levels and also served as assistant principal at Renaissance High School and athletic director at Commerce High School. In 2005, she received one of only six scholarships awarded nationally by the American Association of School Administrators.

Q: Why did you choose a career in education?

A: I received my BA in accounting and was working in Detroit for the government and an oil and petroleum company as an accountant when I was encouraged by a childhood friend to substitute teach in Detroit Public Schools. She said they needed substitute teachers, so I took off work and decided to do it. Immediately, I recognized the need for young adult educators and role models for Detroit Public School students and I decided at that moment that's what I wanted to do. There was no way that I would remain a substitute so I knew that I would have to become a certified teacher with dreams of becoming the superintendent of Detroit Public Schools.

Q: What strengths do you feel you bring to your role as an educator and administrator?

A: When I see a need, that's where I step in. Students are looking for relevance as to why they have to attend high school and/or what they should learn and why they need to learn it. I'm really attuned to that. I try to help all of the students find themselves here. I let them know that everybody has a purpose and can accomplish anything if they apply themselves. There are 535 students in the high school and I know the name of every one of them! It makes a difference

when you know your students, when they know that you care and are there for them.

Q: How has the doctoral program at Oakland contributed to your role as an administrator?

A: The program has helped me round out my education and perspective as an administrator. Relationships are very important to me and I found that at Oakland University, professors like William Keane and Julia Smith work with their students to make sure they have success and stay with the program. That's the kind of support you need in education and it's what I hope I'm bringing to the students at Clawson High School.

Q: What do you see as the most important aspect of your job?

A: The most important thing I can do is to encourage students to accept and tolerate others and motivate them to go beyond what they think they can do. My job is to make sure that the opportunity is there for all students to achieve. Most importantly, the students must be convinced that they can excel here. It's my challenge to convince them they need to participate in the educational experience that is offered at Clawson High School.

Q: What do you count as your biggest success at Clawson High?

A: As a team, the staff has accomplished a great deal within the past 4 years. Getting an education is critical! We have made huge strides with NCA, started an after school tutorial program, reinvigorated interest in the honors program by incorporating a parent pinning segment, created a reward system that recognizes honor roll students with an annual pancake celebration, etc. There are so many things happening that encourage students who are excelling to continue to strive for excellence and provide support to students who are struggling in all areas.

Q: What do you see as the biggest challenge facing public schools today?

A: One of the biggest challenges facing public schools today is the standardized testing and federal funding. We need to take a look at standardized testing in our schools. Does this prove that all students are learning, capable of learning, or not learning? We also have to make sure there are ways of funding programs across the educational spectrum to ensure that all students have the skills necessary to successfully complete any and all standardized tests. We need to continue with programs like dual enrollment, advanced placement, career and technical education, tutoring, etc., to ensure all students succeed regardless of their skill level. □



Educators on education

Sheryl Nienhaus, MA '02, counselor at Loon Lake Elementary School in Walled Lake, Mich.

Nienhaus was named 2004 Macomb County Teacher of the Year while serving as a counselor in the Lakeview School System and selected as one of 12 teacher fellows nationwide to attend the inaugural Teacher Fellowship Program at the Oklahoma City National Memorial in 2005. She taught preschool, third and fourth grades for 10 years before moving into counseling five years ago.

Q: Why did you choose a career in education?

A: I wanted to become a social worker. My high school guidance counselor sat me down one day and shared my entire file from kindergarten through 10th grade with me. It contained my standardized test scores as well as interest inventories. Those inventories showed that all things pointed me toward the field of education. I followed the advice of my guidance counselor when it came time to choosing my career focus and it was a perfect fit.

Q: What strengths do you feel you've brought to your role as an educator and counselor?

A: I believe that my experiences as a classroom teacher as well as a private practice therapist help me greatly in my role as a counselor. I try very hard not to forget what it's like to be in the classroom. I was drawn to the human services field because I wanted to connect with, empower and advocate for the underdog. Children often feel they have no power. But children can learn that not only do they have power, but they can see their ideas come to fruition.

Q: How did the master's program at Oakland contribute to your role as a school counselor?

A: The program was awesome in preparing me for my role both as a school counselor and as a private practice therapist. The lecture style courses, lab work,

supervisions and self evaluations all provided a steady and sturdy foundation that allowed me to leap right into the roles of school counselor and professional counselor without too many "skinned knees." OU's philosophy of client-centered counseling really prepared me for my work with children. Trust and unconditional acceptance are great counseling tools.

Q: What do you see as the most important aspect of your job?

A: Being an advocate for students, and often the only person who may be somewhat consistent and unconditionally accepting in their lives. Often it can be a delicate balance in helping them understand that advocacy doesn't mean that you do whatever you want! But it does mean I am here for you no matter what happens and we will work things out together.

Q: What has been your most rewarding experience?

A: I have loved mediating student issues — teaching students the process of using words to solve their problems and brainstorming solutions. The more I thought about my teaching style, the more I realized how much I loved the social/emotional part of teaching, and empowering the students to become lifelong independent successful learners.

Q: What is the biggest challenge facing school age kids today?

A: Children today are faced with many more unnecessary stressors than children of not too many years past. With the influence of mass media and many adults forgetting that children are just that, children, our kids are being exposed to things that they should not know about or have reason to care about. And, with mandated standardized tests being dropped lower and lower into earlier elementary years, younger children are faced with more academic pressures.

Q: What are you most optimistic about?

A: It never ceases to amaze me how resilient kids can be. Research states that kids who have one caring, kind adult in their lives are able to find the hope to continue pursuing in the face of adversity. I am able to remain optimistic in my position knowing that as long as one unconditionally loving and caring adult remains focused in that child's life, they can have hope. □



Betty J. Youngblood, CAS '65
president of Lake Superior State University (LSSU)

Youngblood assumed her current position in 2002, after serving as president of Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Ore., and chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. She earned a bachelor of arts degree at Oakland in South Asian area studies. She is a specialist in comparative governments and has been involved in international work with the U.S. and Indian governments. She earned her Ph.D. in political science at the University of Minnesota.

Q: Why did you choose a career in education?

A: During my entire childhood, I thought that I would be a high school English teacher. I started out in English at Oakland and completed a significant portion of the program's requirements. During my junior year, I decided that I really wanted to teach political science at the university level.

Q: What strengths do you feel you've brought to your role as an educator and administrator?

A: I would cite the following: a solid work ethic, a strong commitment and dedication to academic excellence, and an intense desire to help facilitate and ensure the success of undergraduates.

Q: How did your years at Oakland prepare you for your career?

A: Oakland provided an outstanding preparation in the liberal arts, including the ability to think analytically, to communicate creatively and effectively, and always to strive for academic excellence. The exceptional faculty that helped open Michigan State University Oakland — soon to become OU — challenged students to stretch themselves intellectually. My fondest memory is the faculty, their high expectations, and their willingness to help students reach those expectations. People like Sheldon Appleton, Joan Rosen, John Blair, and David Potter were incredible teachers. Their efforts played a very significant role in my career. Oakland provided an intense and exciting experience that has shaped my entire career and my thoughts about what is truly important in the educational process and in life.

Q: What has been your most rewarding experience at Lake Superior State University?

A: That has to be meeting new students at freshman orientation, watching them grow, both personally and academically, and then seeing them graduate, confident and prepared to contribute to society.

Q: What is the most important aspect of your role as president of LSSU?

A: The most important part of my job is representing the university effectively to all constituencies while working to increase and diversify institutional resources.

Q: What impact would you most like to have on your school?

A: At LSSU, I focus on supporting instructional excellence, effectively marketing the university, and helping position the university for a growing and dynamic future. As I think about higher education generally, I am most concerned about fostering a supportive, caring, and nurturing teaching and learning environment that helps ensure student success.

Q: What do you see as the biggest challenge facing higher education today?

A: The biggest challenge today is the view that higher education is a private good rather than a public good. All of society benefits from higher education, yet we are making it more and more difficult for students to meet the growing costs of getting a college degree. As a society, we must find ways to re-invest in higher education. □

Janet L. Holmgren, CAS '68

president of Mills College in Oakland, Ca.

Holmgren came to Mills in 1991 from her position as vice provost at Princeton University. She served as a faculty member and administrator at the University of Maryland-College Park for 12 years before moving to Princeton. She is past chair of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and current chair of the Board of the National Council for Research on Women. She earned her Ph.D. in linguistics at Princeton.

Q: Why did you choose a career in education?

A: I had originally been interested in the Foreign Service and started at Oakland as a French major. Sheldon Appleton (professor emeritus of political science) told me I should consider a professoriate. In terms of opportunities for women at that time, if you wanted to do advanced professional work, the professoriate seemed to be a good possibility. So it made good sense to go on and get my Ph.D. I certainly enjoyed learning so I had to believe I would enjoy teaching.

Q: What strengths do you feel you've brought to your role as an educator and administrator?

A: I think one of my great strengths is my value system. I have a very strong commitment to the public interest and to seeing that education is both accessible to students who want it and that we as educators are doing our best to influence students in education and public policy for a greater social good. I was part of that first wave of women in the Baby Boomer generation when we really believed we could shape the world with our energy. I've brought that energy and that optimism to my work.

Q: How did your years at Oakland prepare you for your career?

A: There was a great emphasis on the combination of learning and academic endeavors and social activism and social justices. Those were the values of the founding faculty. As a high achieving young woman I felt completely supported by the faculty and encouraged to achieve my full potential. There was a great spirit of egalitarianism but also of striving for excellence and being committed to using your education to have a great impact.

Q: What has been your most rewarding experience at Mills?

A: Watching Mills come into its own in terms of its strength and reputation. If

I can point to one particular accomplishment, I would say creating greater ethnic diversity on our faculty. When I came to Mills, three percent of the faculty were of color and that number is now more than 25 percent.

Q: What is the most important aspect of your role as president?

A: I see myself as a spokesperson for women's education and women's advancement in all of its ramifications. I like being an advocate for education and women's education in particular. That's the part I enjoy the most, too.

Q: What impact would you most like to have on your school?

A: The impact I've always felt that was most important is to model good values in every arena. I want graduates of Mills to feel that when they graduate they are more capable, more able and more liberated to do their best work and live their best lives. Aside from the content, which varies from field to field, I see education as a means for building personal self worth and a sense of responsibility for the larger community.

Q: What do you see as the biggest challenge facing higher education today?

A: I think the biggest challenge is keeping ourselves affordable so students can actually access higher education. A close second is an aging professoriate. It's becoming increasingly difficult for the public and private nonprofit institutions to compete financially with the for-profits. So preserving the quality of the professoriate — replacing these great minds — is a real challenge. I think our biggest opportunity is to reinvent ourselves as a part of society that supports social change and opportunity. ■



Educators on education





Passage to INDIA

**Grad students,
faculty get first-hand view
of emerging
economic giant**

By Tom Schram

In the short tenure of a typical Oakland University MBA student, India has transformed itself in the eyes of the typical American from an impoverished Third World nation, struggling to feed and house its masses, into a major player in international commerce.

On the economic scale, significant reforms begun in 1991 have turned India into the 800-pound gorilla in the room. From a business sense, to ignore India is to ignore the globalization trends that have overtaken the worldwide marketplace.

So when the School of Business Administration (SBA) last year began to formulate plans for its Study Abroad Trade Mission to India it was not undertaking an interesting side trip for the edification of a few students and faculty members. It was responding to a mandate.

Ravi Parameswaran, professor of marketing and chair of the department of management and marketing, and fellow SBA professor Nivedita Mukherji, used a \$180,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education supplemented by funds from SBA Dean Jonathan Silberman and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil to coordinate the two-week February trip for 12 SBA students and four faculty members. The objective was to show the participants how differently the sun shines on the business world outside of southeast Michigan.

Culture cues

"We teach many international courses here," Mukherji says. "However, unless you go and see how international business works, see the differences in business practices and culture, your education is never going to be complete."

Much of the emphasis was on that word "cultures" — seemingly insignificant in a dollars and rupees sense, but actually quite crucial.

"When you are doing business with people from other cultures, you're not going to get anything done unless you build trust with your business counterparts," Mukherji says. "So, if you are totally unaware of the culture of a country and their way of doing business, it becomes very hard, or nearly impossible, to establish long lasting relationships."

This was not a lesson that was lost on the students who went on the mission — even those born there.

"I'm an Indian so I have that perspective," says Milind Birajdar, who is pursuing an MBA with concentrations in international business and finance and works as an engineer for auto parts maker Benteler Corp. "But it really cleared some of the cobwebs in my mind and gave me new ways to think."

And for Gurjeet Jaggi, MBA '05, who works for Lear Corp., it was a matter of perspective.

"I lived in India for many years, but I looked at it with different eyes — from a business point of view," he says. "I was surprised by how well the economy is doing, how the industry is expanding, how the buying power is increasing."

Business, industry — and the Taj Mahal

The trip was intensive, with the group visiting the business hubs of Mumbai (formerly Bombay) and Pune. Emphasis was placed on visits to financial, IT and automotive-related firms. It also included stops at key governmental institutions.

"The trip exposed me to all of the different industries in India," says Allison Johnson, a MBA general management student who is an engineer in the PowerTrain Division of DaimlerChrysler. "I learned a lot about the IT industry, other automotive manufacturers, government offices and India policies. It was just seeing how business works."

And while the business of the trip was business, the students and faculty did get a chance to do some sightseeing, including a visit to the Taj Mahal. The main suggestion from the participants was for an encore.

"This was like a gift to me," Jaggi says. "It's something they should definitely do every year."

Indeed, that is the idea. Next year's mission is already in the initial planning stages. The DaimlerChrysler



SBA's students and faculty visited the Taj Mahal during their trip. Back, left to right are: Anil Gaur; Gurjeet K. Jaggi; Milind M. Birajdar; Vinod Badkundri, trip facilitator; Erik J. Schoneman; Margaret E. Pigott, associate professor of rhetoric and director of international education; Ram Mohan Pisbarodi, associate professor of marketing. Front, left to right are: Katie E. Atkinson, Catherine L. Tyler, assistant professor of management; Balapriya Manivannan; Daniel N. Agauas.

Corporation Fund is on board to help with the funding. Korea and China are in the mix as possible destinations, but Mukherji said that India is the likely venue again.

"Next year there is a very good chance that we may go back to India because we have these contacts and collaborations established," she says. "Also, the evaluator of the grant was very pleased with our success, so he suggested that we go back."

The evaluator was not the only one pleased. From the prestige bestowed on the university, to the faculty who will bring their first-hand experiences into the classroom, to the students who got the trip of a lifetime, the Study Abroad Trade Mission to India was an unqualified success.

"It was definitely the best experience of my time in the Oakland MBA program," Johnson says. "I was wavering on whether to get my MBA at Oakland or some other university and in the end I chose Oakland. After having the opportunity to go to India and attending a few of the other classes they've offered recently on special topics, I think it sets Oakland apart." ■

For more information on School of Business Administration programs, log on to www.sba.oakland.edu.

Tom Schram is a freelance writer from Huntington Woods, Mich.

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Class Notes Submit by e-mail to ouaa@oakland.edu or take advantage of the form on page 36. Help make the Class Notes section more interesting by submitting a recent photo of yourself (color or black and white print or negative), or high resolution digital picture.

2007 Student and Alumni Scholarships now available

Nearly \$60,000 in scholarships was awarded to 21 outstanding OU students in 2006. Applications for the upcoming 2007 scholarship season will be available online beginning in January. Deadlines, requirements and other information are listed on each scholarship application.

Among the many types of scholarships offered are the legacy scholarship, awarded to incoming freshmen and current OU sophomores whose parent or grandparent graduated from Oakland University, and the returning OU alumna/alumnus scholarship, awarded to incoming graduate students who are alumni of OU.

For more information on the many scholarships offered, visit the awards and scholarships section of the OUAA Web site at www.oualumni.com or call (248) 364-6140. ●

Making a positive connection

Oakland University Career Services offers alumni the opportunity to stay connected with students through the new Connecting Alumni and Students Together (CAST) program. This program pairs OU students with alumni who have successful careers in their chosen fields of study. Student to alumni networking opportunities may include informational interviews and career discussions, job shadowing, mock interviews and professional networking. For alumni, CAST provides an avenue to connect with Oakland students and give back to their alma mater in a meaningful way. To take part in CAST, interested alumni should contact Career Services at (248) 370-3250 or e-mail at careers@oakland.edu. ●

Pack your bags for these great trips



Mt Cook NP



Christchurch trolley



Melbourne skyline



Sheep, South Island

For those who love to travel, there's no better time to be a member of the OUAA. Five incredible trips are being planned for 2007, all at discounted rates for graduates, their families and friends. The globe-trotting begins **March 1-9** with an eight-day journey back in time to the Eternal City of Rome and into the heart of Tuscany with a visit to Florence. See the captivating Mediterranean coasts with a trip to Spain from **April 13-21** including a stay in the majestic capital city of Madrid. In the fall, get ready for some schnitzel with a trip to Germany and the Czech Republic from **September 13-21**. Guests will see the breathtaking Rhine River and the Czech capital of Prague. Practice your bad Australian accent for an unforgettable 15-day trek Down Under from **October 16-31** including several days in New Zealand. You'll visit Melbourne, witness the Little

Penguin Parade, experience the magic of the Sydney Opera House, enjoy the breathtaking scenery of the New Zealand fjords, marvel at the Great Barrier Reef and have the opportunity to visit Fiji.

And finally, if you're still looking for more stamps for your passport, there's one more trip left in '07: a week-long visit to Beijing, China. See the Great Wall and other historical wonders, and experience one of the world's fastest changing countries from **November 8-15**.

For information on the Rome, Spain, Czech or China trips, call Go Next travel at (800) 842-9023 or visit www.gonext.com. For information on the Australia/New Zealand trip, contact Adrienne Bass at (248) 364-6142 or bass@oakland.edu. ●

Cheer for the Grizzlies!



Grizzly fans, put on your black and gold! The OUAA is planning two pre-game events for alumni and friends to get together and cheer on their favorite Golden Grizzly basketball players.

On **December 16, 2006**, OU will visit UCLA for a 5 p.m. game on the west coast. Alumni and friends interested in more information about game tickets and a pre-game event in Los Angeles, Calif., should contact Erin Sudrovech, assistant director of Alumni Relations, at (248) 364-6136 or sudrovec@oakland.edu. The cost is \$30 and will include a ticket to the game and all food and drinks at the reception.

Also, mark your calendars for **February 24, 2007** for a special 50th anniversary edition of Alumni Night at the O'Rena. While the Golden Grizzlies womens' and mens' teams will host Oral Roberts at 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. respectively, the OUAA will host a gathering of alumni and friends to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Oakland University! Tickets are just \$10! Be on the lookout for more information online at www.oualumni.com. ●



More than 1,100 OU alumni turned out to cheer on the boys at Comerica Park on August 23.

Let's go Tigers!

More than 1,100 OU alumni clad in their best Grizzly gold and black gathered at Comerica Park on August 23 to cheer on the Detroit Tigers when they faced their division rivals, the Chicago White Sox. Alumni, friends and family arrived early for a special pre-game reception in the Upper Deck Lounge and took part in a raffle drawing to benefit the Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) Student Scholarship Program. Winner Patrick Fuelling received a \$2,000 travel package from Go Next Travel while the second place winner, Tim Broderick, CAS '82, earned a \$1,000 VISA gift card from sponsor Liberty Mutual and third place, Karen Gitter, MA '94, won a \$500 certificate courtesy of sponsor Stevens

Worldwide Van Lines. Kids of all ages also enjoyed a chance to get their photo taken with Tigers mascot, Paws, and OU's Grizz courtesy of a special online photo system provided by the Michigan Education Savings Program. The Detroit Tigers showed their appreciation for OU fans by flashing a special welcome to alumni on the scoreboard in centerfield. Grizzlies fans also took home an OU t-shirt to commemorate the event, courtesy of the Oakland University Bookstore, as well as an orange glow necklace from the OU Branch of the MSU Federal Credit Union. This annual alumni event has proven especially popular, so watch your mailboxes for information on next year's trip to Comerica Park! ●

You like us, you really like us!

The Oakland University Alumni Association recently conducted an alumni survey to better understand alumni perceptions about the university and the alumni association itself. The results are key in helping OUAA improve alumni services and build a lifelong connection between graduates and the university.

The vast majority of respondents indicated that they were proud of the education they received at Oakland and pleased that the university has continued its commitment to quality education.

More than 650 alumni participated in the survey, and in June 2006 the results

were presented to the university administration, OUAA board of directors, alumni relations staff, and other campus community members. With the results in hand, staff are already planning improvements and new initiatives to better meet the needs of graduates, including increased networking and mentoring programs, more frequent updates on OUAA member benefits and more communication via e-mail.

If you wish to review an abbreviated version of the results of the survey, visit <http://pegltid.com/presentations/aas/OUalumnisurveyresults/>. ●

A great shot

It was the shot of a lifetime for Greg Dobson. This past June, Dobson hit a hole-in-one at the Second Annual Challenge for the Cup golf outing, sponsored by the Oakland University School of Business Administration, the School of Engineering and Computer Science and the OU Alumni Association.

"At first I couldn't believe what I saw," says Dobson, who made the shot on the 14th hole of the R & S Sharf Course. "The shot was dead-on from the beginning, and my first thought was, 'Wow, I could get a birdie on this hole.' When it hit the green about two and a half feet in front of the pin, I just stood there wondering when it would stop rolling. Next thing I know, it disappeared into the hole."

The team of Craig Stinson, Kelly Sweeney, Doug Calloway and Darren Audia took home top honors as tournament champs while dozens of other participants took home door prizes throughout the event. The biggest winners of the day, however, were OU students with nearly \$11,000 raised for scholarships and financial aid. Sponsors included Chevron Energy Solution, FEV Engine Technology and Barton Malow. ●



Hole-in-one prize winner, Greg Dobson (center), is congratulated by Adrienne Bass, director for Alumni Relations, and John Savio, vice president of the OU Branch of the MSU Federal Credit Union and sponsor of the hole prize.

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Alumni

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OU Alumni Association Membership

An Oakland University Alumni Association membership offers many benefits — on campus and off. Campus benefits include opportunities for service and leadership, borrowing privileges at Kresge Library, a reduced rate for Recreation Center membership, discounts around campus and invitations to special alumni events. Community benefits include discounts at DOC Optics Corp., Stevens Worldwide Van Lines, Hertz and participating Choice Hotels. For details, check www.oualumni.com.

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For those who have received a degree from OU.

☐ \$35 Regular Alumni Membership

☐ \$60 Two-year Alumni Membership

(both OU graduates)

☐ \$60 Married Alumni Membership

☐ \$100 Two-year Married Membership

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For those who wish to be connected to OU but did not receive a degree from the university.

☐ \$50 Friends of the OUAA Membership

☐ \$90 Two-year Friends Membership

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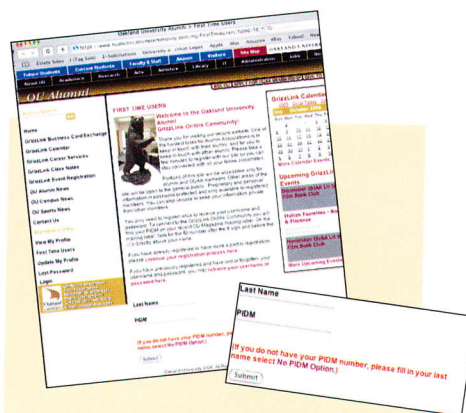
photo by: Josh Silverstein

The 2006 award recipients are, from left: Robert Deneweth, CAS '63; Philip Willis, Jr.; Anne Cairns Federlein, MAT '74; Leo Bowman, CAS '76; William Goldenberg, CAS '70; and Nino DiCosmo, CAS '90.

ALUMNI EARN TOP HONORS

The winners of this year's Oakland University Alumni Awards have been announced. The well-deserving recipients were honored at a special reception and dinner on November 4 at the Oakland Center. This year's honorees include The Honorable Leo Bowman, chief judge for the 50th District Court of Michigan. The 1976 College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) graduate was recognized with the Distinguished Alumni Service Award. The 2006 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award went to Anne Cairns Federlein, MAT '74, who serves as president and chief executive officer of

Kentucky Wesleyan College. CAS class of 1963 graduate Robert Deneweth, retired manager of the Macomb Division of United Way for Southeastern Michigan, was recognized with The Odyssey Award. The Spirit Awards went to Nino DiCosmo, CAS '90, who currently serves as chairman, president and CEO of AutoWeb, Inc., and William Goldenberg, CAS '70, who serves as first vice president of Raymond James and Associates Inc. This year's Honorary Alumnus is Philip Willis Jr. of the Michigan Army National Guard. ●



Stay in touch through GrizzLink

The new GrizzLink online community will keep OU graduates from across the country and around the world in close contact, enabling long lost classmates and old friends to reconnect with one another. GrizzLink, which will launch this fall, offers a searchable alumni directory and "blind e-mail" for people to make those first steps toward reconnecting. Alumni also will be able to network by posting their business cards, resumes or employment opportunities. The site also offers online class notes and photos.

The GrizzLink moniker came about through a naming contest. To join the GrizzLink community, just send an e-mail with your name and e-mail address to ouaa@oakland.edu. You'll also need an ID number, which you'll find on the mailing label on the back of this magazine, directly above your name, after the # sign and before the ///s. This ID number and your last name will allow you to securely login as a "First Time User". Call Alumni Relations at (248) 364-6138 or e-mail oliver@oakland.edu if you have any questions. ●

Hundreds turn out for fall family festival

More than 800 people participated in the second annual OUAA Alumni & Friends Family Festival on October 14 on campus — four times the number who attended last year's initial event. This year's event, which was sponsored by the OUAA, Oakland County Parks and Recreation, the Center for Student Activities, and Westview Orchards and Cider Mill of Romeo, Mich., capped the Week of Champions at OU, Oakland's version of homecoming.

All Oakland University community members were invited to attend the festival for food, inflatable games, face painting, coloring contests, pumpkin painting and other attractions. There was also live music from OU student and singer-songwriter, Tom Butwin, as well as OU faculty member Mark Stone and his steel drum trio. All of the games, attractions and entertainment were free.

"We hope to continue this tradition that brings our alumni and the surrounding community to campus to experience what Oakland University is all about," says Erin Sudroveh, assistant director of Alumni Relations.

If you are interested in future alumni events, watch the OUAA Web site for announcements at www.oualumni.com or call (248) 364-6140. ●



Oakland's Golden Grizzly turned out for the festivities at the second annual OUAA Alumni & Friends Family Festival on October 14. More than 800 people participated in the event, which featured games, face painting, pumpkin painting and a host of other fun fall activities.



CAS

As part of its Celebrating Liberal Arts program, students in the College of Arts and Sciences are exploring the topic of global citizenship during the 2006-2007 academic year. The OU community will examine how the world is becoming more connected and discuss the sociological, cultural and economic impact of that connectivity. Part of the program is OU's community book for first-year rhetoric students, *The World is Flat* by Thomas L. Friedman, which discusses globalization during the 21st century. A panel discussion was also held in September focusing on the U.S. constitution and immigration.

Students who participated in the democracy movements in Ukraine, Georgia and Estonia will be speaking on their views of citizenship and their role in these movements. OU also will welcome Lisa Ling, new host of *National Geographic Ultimate Explorer*, on March 3, 2007, to speak to the campus community.

This focus on global citizenship emphasizes multidisciplinary knowledge, with the aim of better preparing Oakland students to succeed in today's workplace and society. For more details about events, visit the CAS Web site (www.oakland.edu/cas) and click on Global Citizenship.

SBA

The School of Business Administration launched its first Executive in Residence (EIR) program this fall, bringing in Rande Somma, former corporate officer and executive at Johnson Controls, Inc. as its first resident program expert.

Students will learn how Somma advanced from a Johnson Controls sales executive to president of the Automotive Systems Group Worldwide responsible for 280 manufacturing facilities, five regional technical centers and approximately 75,000 employees. He helped elevate Johnson Controls' annual revenue from \$800 million to \$17 billion during a career that spanned from 1988 to 2003.

Somma will interact with the students in open forum classroom discussions and one-on-one career development sessions. He also will share current business practices and conduct mock interviews with students to prepare them for professional employment.

SECS

Assistant Professor of Engineering Huirong Fu is helping establish Oakland University as a leader in Michigan in the area of information assurance. Fu obtained sponsorship from George Washington University for a Portable Educational Network (PEN) and a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) toward the enhancement of OU's cyber security and networking courses. George Washington University developed the portable network with the U.S. Defense Department and Cisco Systems and sponsored three universities, including OU, to conduct research with the network. The network includes servers, firewalls, routers and hubs to provide real-life scenarios for students to learn about network security. Students can launch attacks and research the clues left by attackers within the self-contained network. The experience will help students learn how to prevent network attacks.

Fu is also the recipient of a NSF grant to establish more rigorous information security courses. With aid from the grant, OU hopes to become a Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education as designated by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security.

SEHS

Student teachers recently had an opportunity to create portfolios that will set them apart from others in their search for teaching positions. Ledong Li, assistant professor of education, and Pamela Morehead, visiting assistant professor of education, designed and led a six-week workshop, in digital storytelling. In the workshop 20 student teachers created storyboards, flow charts and conceptual maps — complete with images, graphics and music — to inform future employers of their skills. Videos were posted to a Web site for sharing. Upon completion of the workshop, Li and Morehead held a public presentation displaying the students' work. They plan to follow the students who participated and study the results of the digital storytelling portfolio. They would also like to integrate digital storytelling into some classes to provide all students the opportunity to try it. The workshop was made possible by a grant from the SEHS.

SHS

The School of Health Sciences Bridge the Gap program is in its third year and continues in its mission to help functionally impaired patients. The program provides personalized treatment to those with neurological disorders whose insurance-based rehabilitation services have ended. Each year 14 patients are treated by second- and third-year OU graduate students in physical therapy. Approximately 35 students treat patients under the direction of local physical therapists or faculty members. In addition to providing patients with help in regaining functions lost to neurological disorders, the Bridge the Gap program offers OU students important hands-on learning opportunities. Students gain experience in non-academic areas, such as learning how to manage patients in a clinic or hospital setting. They also gain confidence in treating individuals with neurological injuries and benefit from working with the experienced physical therapists who oversee their work. The program began in 2004 and was made possible by gifts from SHS Dean Ken Hightower and board of visitors member Vanett Vereeke, who each pledged \$25,000 to spearhead the program.

SON

School of Nursing students had unique opportunities to learn from international experiences this past June. Two groups of students traveled to Europe to learn about health care as it is delivered in different cultures and how the U.S. health system compares to its global counterparts. Students visited the University of Padua, Italy, as part of a research study group led by Associate Professor Gary Moore. While there, students learned about the Italian health care system, examining care for chronic diseases and the response of the health care system.

Professor Ann Whall, who holds the Allesee Endowed Chair in Gerontology, accompanied a group of students to Londonderry, Northern Ireland, to learn about the nursing care of older adults in the United Kingdom. The group was based at the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, where Whall also serves as a visiting professor. Students visited nursing homes and rehabilitation centers throughout the Royal Hospital System.



Nursing students, (left to right) Laura Dlouhy, Julie Scochin, Kalle Dardas and Doni Hoffa visited the University of Padua in Italy this summer to learn about how the U.S. health care system compares to its global counterparts.

— Compiled by Amy Barker



This July The Honors College celebrated the 25th reunion of its inaugural graduating class. Attendees included (left to right) Brian Murphy, professor emeritus of English and past director of the HC; Mel Chernob, first HC director; and current director Jude Nixon.

HC

The Honors College celebrated the 25th reunion of its inaugural graduating class on July 15. Alumnus Dr. James Szocik presided over the festivities, which included a luncheon, reflections of alumni and staff on their experiences, and remarks on the future of The Honors College by Director Jude Nixon. Mel Chernob, director emeritus, who was instrumental in creating The Honors College, also gave a memorial tribute to history professor Robert Howes, who succeeded him as director. The event was organized by Julie Granthen, an alumna from the 1981 class.

In its early years, The Honors College had 36 students and offered one class in both fall and winter semesters. It also introduced the first colloquium, a capstone course on futurism. During its history, more than 5,000 students have enrolled in The Honors College. Currently, approximately 350 students are enrolled. Director Jude Nixon sees a strong future for The Honors College and plans to expand its curriculum, increase the rigor of the program and continue to build its endowment. The 2007 graduating class will be the largest class ever to graduate from The Honors College. ●

Alumni



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CAREER / ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1960s

Joseph Grinnan, SEHS '66, has been named secretary of the board at Sommers Schwartz in Southfield.

John Van Camp, CAS '64, is president of Southwest Solutions, parent nonprofit to Southwest Housing Solutions.

1970s

Jan Chess, CAS '72, traveled to Cambridge, Mass., and earned a master's degree in expressive art therapies. She went on to complete her Ph.D. in counseling psychology in San Francisco, Calif. With two daughters, two dogs and two cats, she is living a full and blessed life.

Ralph D. Crew, DO, CAS '75, was elected president of the American Osteopathic Board of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology (AOBOO). He is a board-certified ophthalmologist practicing in Big Rapids, Mich.

Linda A. Dewey, CAS '71, former Clarkston-area teacher and author, has written a book titled *Aaron's Crossing: A True Ghost Story* published by Northern Spirit Books. The book details her 1995 real-life encounter with a ghost in a northern Michigan graveyard. For more information visit her Web site at www.lindaalicedewey.com.

Ken Frenkel, CAS '70, was awarded Teacher of the Year by the Waterford Foundation for Public Education. He has worked in the Waterford School District for more than 20 years.

Mattie McKinney Hatchett, SEHS '70, is the District 10 representative on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. She is currently running for re-election.

Janine Kravetz, CAS '78, has become nationally certified as a Tobacco Addictions Specialist by the NAADAC Certification Commission. She lives in Bay City, Mich., and works as a prevention coordinator in the substance abuse field.

Mike Mansour, MAT '72, is a naturalist at the Hawk Woods Nature Center in Pontiac.

Tempa (Jones) Pagel, CAS '73, is happy to announce that her first novel *Here's the Church, Here's the Steeple* was published in March 2006 by Five Star/Gale. It is a cozy historical mystery set in two time frames (present day and 1811) in Newburyport, Mass.

John Sugarman, CAS '73, has been appointed chief development officer for FoundCare and CAP in West Palm Beach, Fla.



Kim Walsh, CAS '77, received the 2006 Headliner Award from the Detroit Chapter of Women in Communications. This award recognizes her lifelong achievements as a communicator. She is currently the director of the Detroit Radio Information Service and was recently re-elected to a second two-year term as first vice president of the International Association of Audio Information Services.

Beverly Benson Wolf, CAS '73, is an award winning digital photographer and master gardener with the Michigan State University Extension.

1980s

Brad Audet, CAS '88, is the new senior partner and group account director for JWT Detroit's Ford SUV account.

Becky Bozek, SBA '89, is the new director of people at Clear!Blue, the fast-growing strategic communications firm specializing in experiential marketing, public relations, branding and online communications. She will oversee the areas of compensation, benefits, employee data reporting and communications management. Prior to joining Clear!Blue, she was a senior project manager at Carlson Marketing Group where she worked for 15 years.

Jeffrey Davidson, MBA '85, was recently promoted to president and CEO of Oxford Bank Corporation from president and CEO of Oxford Bank in Oxford.

Lisa (Buczko) Hook, CAS '89, is Rochester community editor for *Suburban Lifestyles Newspaper*.

Randall J. Pilkenton, SECS '83, was recently appointed to senior vice president, Strategy for Check Free Corporation.

Robert Plescow, CAS '85, joined Pella Window Corporation as process coatings engineer in the Murray, Ky., facility. He is responsible for project engineering and production support in the powder paint department. Previously, he worked as paint manager for Trek Bicycles in Waterloo, Wis., Dunlop Sporting Goods in Westminster, S.C., and as a paint engineer with Toyota Motor Manufacturing in Georgetown, Ky.

Ray Thibodeau, SBA '80, was named senior vice president of Debt Capital Markets with Cantor Fitzgerald in San Francisco, Calif.

Jennifer (Arvo) Walsh, SBA '80, recently moved to Springfield, Mo., to join JPMorgan Chase in a senior level human resource position working as HR business partner.

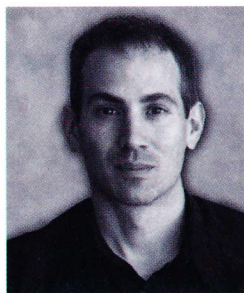
Mary Wermuth, MA '81, MA '69, CAS '65, recently retired from the International Academy where she was Dean of Humanities. Tour directing is now her hobby and she enjoys working and traveling with bands, orchestras and choirs throughout the world.

Bryan Wolf, SBA '88, has been an accountant for 26 years and is currently working as a CPA at a firm in Farmington Hills. He and his wife and two daughters reside in Oak Park, Mich.

Dr. Michael Zielinski, CAS '80, is medical director of the Waterford Ambulatory Care Center, a division of North Oakland Medical Centers. He also is writer of *Doctor on Call*, a biweekly column in *The Oakland Press* that addresses commonly asked questions about health and wellness.

1990s

Matthew Ball, CAS '94, is a musician turned attorney who recently left the practice of law to return again to music. He is distinguishing himself as a boogie-woogie and blues jazz pianist. He joined boogie hall of famers and iconic piano blues artists at the 2005 Cincinnati Blues Fest. Find more at his Web site, www.boogiewoogiekid.com.



Andrew Barger, SECS '90, recently published the *Entire Tales & Poems of Edgar Allan Poe: Photographic & Annotated Edition*. It contains a

foreword by Andrew and his annotations, foreign language translations and background information. Photographs of literary figures Poe satired are included, along with poems sent to Poe by his romantic interests and his poems in response. Barger received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1994. For more information, visit www.AndrewBarger.com.

Bryan Barnett, SBA '98, has been appointed to serve as the mayor of Rochester Hills, Mich., completing the term of Pat Somerville who recently resigned. He will serve in this new role until 2007.

Stacie (Seitz) Behler, CAS '95, is vice president of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs at the Meijer, Inc., headquarters in Grand Rapids, Mich. She is responsible for all communication, philanthropic efforts and government relations. She was previously in private law practice and senior counsel in the legal department at Meijer.

Safe at home

DaimlerChrysler's John Felice stays in place and on point

There is a saying in baseball that sometimes the best trades are the ones you don't make. And in business, sometimes the best career moves are also the ones you don't make.

During his 30-year stint at DaimlerChrysler, **John Felice, SECS '76**, has had opportunities to leave and try his hand at other companies. Instead, each time his current job was a more attractive alternative. As a result, the Rochester native has steadily moved through the management ranks in a wide variety of positions and is now vice president for manufacturing and global enterprise for the Auburn Hills-based automaker.

"Some of the reasons that you jump to new companies is that you look for new challenges and new positions," he says. "For me, all that happened internally."

Felice's multi-varied resume at DaimlerChrysler has left him uniquely positioned for his present job, which combines emerging technology and travel around the globe.

In the development of advanced manufacturing technologies, Felice

works in collaboration with several universities, including Oakland. One of the fruits of the partnership with OU's Fastening and Joining Research Institute (FAJRI) was a patented conveyor monitoring system with radio frequency that is now being placed on production lines throughout DaimlerChrysler.

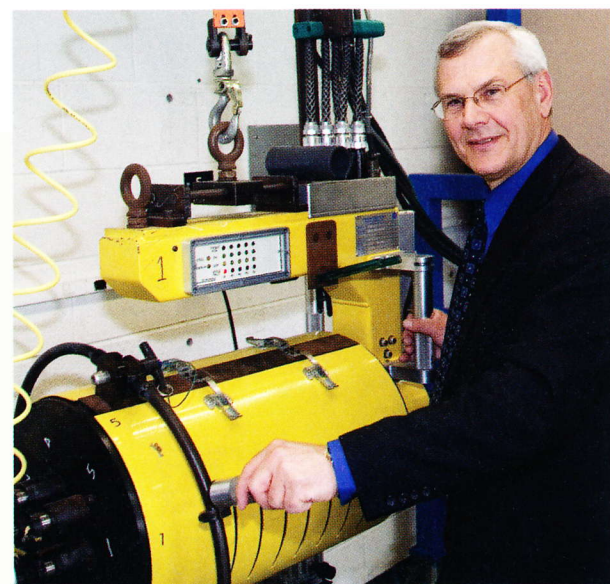
"There's always research for research's sake," Felice says. "The difference with the (FAJRI) program is that we have actually created tools that we use in production."

The Global Enterprise part of his job keeps Felice hopping to such far-flung destinations as China, Egypt and Venezuela.

"I spend a lot of time not here," he says succinctly.

When he is here at his Rochester home, he spends his time with his wife of 30 years and keeps tabs on his two married daughters and new grandson. He also serves on OU's School of Engineering and Computer Science Advisory Board.

"I think it's just a great opportunity to give back what you've learned and help guide the process," he says of the board. "It's pretty important to me."



John Felice, SECS '76, has steadily moved through the management ranks at Chrysler Corporation over a 30-year career with the automaker.

It also gives him a chance to revisit a campus where he lived a less hectic part of his life. "I have lots of good memories of Oakland," he adds. "Memories of classmates and professors who helped guide me."

Perhaps, as well-known author Thomas Wolfe said, you can't go home again. But, as John Felice has learned both personally and professionally, if you don't leave, that never becomes an issue. ■

By Tom Schram, a freelance writer from Huntington Woods, Mich.

A heritage of helping others



Joseph Gardella, CAS '77, was one of only 10 educators to receive a 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. He says that he came to appreciate the profound impact of mentoring while at OU.

Ask **Joseph Gardella, CAS '77**, what receiving the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring meant to him and he'll tell you it's all about recognizing the mentors who shaped his career and helped him along the way. Those very important people include his parents and mentors at OU who showed him at critical points in his career what mentoring is all about.

Gardella took those examples and let them be his guideposts in a career of mentoring and helping others that has spanned nearly 30 years.

"The things I am recognized for are things that seem obvious that I should do," says Gardella, a professor of chemistry and biomaterials and the associate dean for external affairs at the University of Buffalo. "Becoming a professor has given me the freedom to push the envelope in advocating for people, and thinking about mentoring

more broadly than students and graduate students, but also folks in the community and other faculty."

Gardella says that OU chemistry professors Paul Tomboulis, Bob Stern, Mike Sevilla and Joel Russell helped teach him the value and profound impact of mentoring.

"These professors were accessible, successful researchers who cared about me as a human being and professionally, and it made a huge difference in my education and development. I count them all as friends still," he adds.

Gardella was one of 10 educators presented with the award by President George W. Bush in a November 2005 ceremony. Each recipient received a \$10,000 grant, which is supported and administered by the National Science Foundation.

"The award gives me a platform to push for reform in the university and in New York State," he says.

As part of the award, Gardella and the other recipients are charged with developing a white paper and presenting it as a presidential report.

"The paper will relate to extending ideas of mentorship to other areas, and the use of mentoring concepts to deal with the shortage and underrepresentation of minorities in science, math and engineering," he says.

At the university, Gardella mentors undergraduates and graduate students, as well as supports junior faculty and female professors. In the community, he recruits Native American high-schoolers and works within the Buffalo Public School System's Native American Magnet School tutoring and performing science demonstrations.

"My commitment to minority advancement comes from my parents and my upbringing," Gardella says of his parents, who served as school teachers in Detroit, with 80 years of combined teaching. "Getting the award is great, but I'm just doing my job." ■

By Ann Ruppenthal, a freelance writer from Berkley, Mich.

1990s *continue*

Eileen T. Bradley, SBA '93, joined RubinBrown LLP as a manager in its Tax Consulting and Compliance Group based in Kansas City, Mo. She is responsible for tax compliance, providing consultation on federal as well as state and local tax matters, and state and local tax dispute resolution.



Cathy (Workman) Clendennin, CAS '94, is currently living and working in the Sunshine State with her husband of nearly eight years and three children. Alby IV is 6, Olivia is 4, and Owen is almost 3. She has been teaching high school English for 10 years, and has taken her collegiate volleyball experience to the high school as head coach at Niceville High. She spends most of her time playing with her kids, and enjoying the sunny weather either by the pool or at the beach.

Susan DeMeulenaere, RN, FNP-C, MSN '99, SON '95, has been selected as a question writer for the American Nurses Credentialing Center Family Nurse Practitioner Board Certification exam. DeMeulenaere will travel to the American Nurses Association headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., for the training workshop. She is practicing as a nurse practitioner at Mount Clemens General Hospital with the Internal Medicine Department and also teaches online for the University of Phoenix in the RN to BSN program.

Franklin Dohanyos, CAS '91, is vice president of the St. Andrews Society of Detroit, the group that this year put on its 157th annual Highland Games at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia. Proud of his Scottish ancestry, he learned to play the bagpipes five years ago and performs as part of the festival's musical element.

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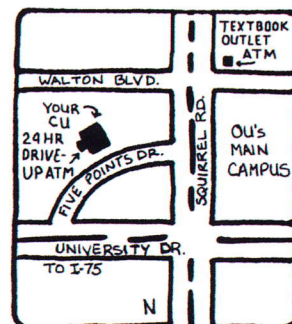


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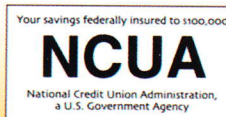
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Upward Bound director leads by example

Geraldine Graham, SBA '86, who heads up Oakland's Upward Bound program, has made a career of helping young people pursue a college education.

Geraldine Graham, SBA '86, who received recognition from the Council of Opportunity in Education (COE) and was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2004 for her work as director of Project Upward Bound (PUB), has been there, done that, and is all about now let's try this.

Through her office at PUB, a federally funded organization that works to support and transition low-income and first-generation college students into post-secondary education, Graham has made a career of building one-on-one relationships with kids who often lack self-confidence, self-esteem or career focus. The connections she makes come from the heart and from experience.

"Although academics were never a big issue for me, I was extremely shy and unaware of my personal value," says Graham.

The daughter of a Pontiac Motors factory worker and a mom who worked in food service at Oakland University, Graham worked her way through college as an administrative assistant. After earning her degree, she left OU for Ford Motor Company in Dearborn. Preferring the academic world, she returned to OU in 1990 as PUB assistant director, and now heads the program.

Graham, who got where she is through drive and determination, insists that her students go after their goals with the same intensity.

"It has been said on occasion that I 'work people to death!' "she says with a grin. "I do have a very strong work ethic instilled by my parents. This foundation of working hard, self and community responsibility, and being tenacious until the task is finished has helped me achieve my personal and professional goals and allowed me to accumulate some wisdom that I can share with others along the way."

Upward Bound is the perfect place to put that philosophy into practice. "It is the only educational program that is comprehensively addressing all aspects of a high school student's need for growth and development," says Graham. "Being in TRIO (the umbrella organization of PUB) has provided me opportunities to have impact on the lives of low-income and first-generation students. With the support of a good staff, I get a chance to see my vision come into reality, and to view the moments when understanding dawns for the students."

For Graham, leading by example also means following with care. ■

By Alice Rhein, a freelance writer from Huntington Woods, Mich.

1990s *continue*

John Emerick, CAS '94, has published 18 books since 1994 including *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Understanding Islam* and *Critical Lives: The Life and Work of Muhammad* by Alpha Publishers, writing under the pen name of Yahiya Emerick. He recently completed an American English translation and commentary of the Qur'an that will be released in 2007. He is set to receive his master's degree in secondary education and history from Queens College in the fall of 2006. He has been published in numerous magazines including *The Journal of Religion and Education*. He was also inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi Education Honors Society and has worked as assistant principal of a school in Hempstead, N.Y., for the past four years.

Dr. Tressa Gardner, CAS '90, is director of the Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital Trauma Center. She was recently presented with an award by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson for her work to support the hospital's mission.

Joanne Gerstner, CAS '93, was recently named Chair of the Board of Directors for the Association for Women in Sports Media (AWSM). She was president of the group from 2004-2006 during which time the organization transitioned to a tax-deductible nonprofit, expanded their scholarship program, and grew by 180 members. AWSM has 550 members, covering women in sports print, TV, public relations, SID, and internet media. She continues her role as sports writer at the *Detroit News*, helping cover the Detroit Pistons.

Jennifer Gray, BGS '95, is a fitness trainer and founder of Body Beautiful Boot Camps. She recently began to market her own line of Body Beautiful-approved meals at the Market Square of Bloomfield.

Adreana Harley, SON '92, was honored by the Anti-Defamation League at the 10th Annual Women of Achievement Awards. She is director of the department of education at William Beaumont Hospital.

Joseph Joyce, BSE '94, recently accepted a position as a national sales manager for Cri-Tech Inc., a specialty elastomer manufacturing company based in Hanover, Mass.

Heidi Kast, MED '99, is principal of Waldon Middle School in Lake Orion, Mich. The school was awarded the Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Award in 2006.

Kenneth Kaszubinski, SBA '90, has a dual concentration MBA in global enterprise management and finance from Jones International University. He is employed with Atlas Copco Tools in Stockholm, Sweden, as the general manager, Global Business Line Service.

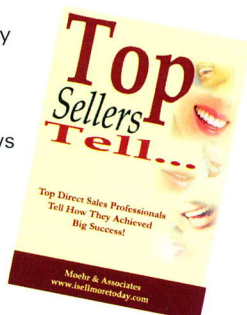
Michael J. Kautz, SBA '93, is single and employed as an associate supervisor of an insurance agency/investment brokerage firm in Southfield, Mich.

Jeff Kingzett, MPA '94, joined Merrill Lynch as a financial advisor. He has also been an adjunct faculty member at Oakland University, Siena Heights University and Baker College of Auburn Hills, Mich.

Gary A Larson, SEHS '99, his wife **Aimee, SEHS '99**, and their three children relocated from Michigan to North Carolina in 2005. Gary is vice president, performance improvement consultant for the Curriculum Design and Operations division of Bank of America in Charlotte, N.C. Aimee is the human resources manager at Textron Fastening Systems in Stanfield, N.C. The couple is the daughter and son-in-law of proud parents and fellow OU alumni Phillip, SECS '64, and Barbara Williams, MAT '80, SEHS, '66.

Danni Lentine, CAS '95, lives in Atlanta, Ga., with her life-partner Anita, and their two daughters Marley (5) and Sophie (3). She is employed with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in HIV/AIDS prevention.

Karen Moehr, CAS '91, recently published *Topsellers Tell*, a collection of candid interviews with top sellers in the U.S. direct sales industry from powerhouse companies including Mary Kay, Jafrá, AtHome America and Celebrations by Lillian Vernon.



John Karl Radke Sr., BGS '99, received the National Lamb Award upon nomination by the National Offices of Lutheran Church Bodies (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod) and Clinton Valley and Detroit Area Councils — Boys Scouts of America. He is being recognized for his more than 10 years of distinguished service to youth in both church and Boy Scout Leadership. He currently serves as the Clinton Valley Council's Council Head Coach for the Friends of Scouting Program.

Joe Sabatini, SBA '99, was promoted to director of finance at Re/Max First in Clinton Township, Mich.

Stephen Strunk, SBA '92, is attending his first year of doctoral classes toward his DBA at the University of Phoenix.

Alan Terlep, CAS '94, has accepted a call to serve as pastor of the First Christian Church in Princeton, Ill. He was ordained by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in September.

Cheryl Zielinski, BGS '95, is one of four Oakland County School Board Association workers to be awarded the 2006 Betty Campion Award for distinguished support services. She is employed at the Bloomfield Hills School District Administration building.

2000s

Carolyn Aluia, SEHS '02, is completing her second year as an employee of Utica Community Schools. She has taught both third and sixth grades.

Zacharie J. Azzam, SBA '01, was recently promoted to branch manager for the One Detroit Center branch of Comerica Bank.

Brian Babcock, SBA '03, has been promoted to technology administrator at Telemus Capital Partners, LLC.

Lucinda Bellairs, CAS '03, earned her Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School in May 2006.

Christopher Brown, SBA '05, is working as a tax analyst for George P. Johnson.

Kaniqua Daniel, CAS '04, and fellow alumna **Ann Zaniewski, CAS '03**, are part of a team of *The Oakland Press* newsroom reporters who won first place at a regional journalism awards banquet for their investigative reporting in a package of stories about the challenges facing the City of Pontiac.

Susumu Hayashi, MBA '02, retired in March 2006. He and his wife are enjoying retirement back home in Yokohama, Japan.

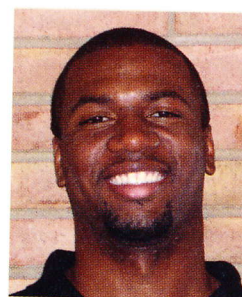
Sherikia Humes, CAS '04, earned a MA in political science in May 2006.

Shawn D. Lavetter, MBA '03, joined Republic Bank as community bank manager in Troy, Mich.

Brittany Maxey, SEHS '05, recently completed her first year as a fifth grade teacher in Brighton, Mich.

Lana Olson, SON '04, is currently living in Seoul, South Korea, with her husband, Shane, and sons Ian and Eric.

Tara Ouellette, MAT '02, is a fifth grade teacher at Scotch Elementary in West Bloomfield Township, Mich., and a four-time participant in the Wish-A-Mile 300 Bicycle Tour. She and a group of her female friends dubbed the "biker babes" ride to raise money so that children afflicted with life-threatening illnesses can experience their biggest wishes.



Jonathan Parks, CAS '05, has been appointed campaign associate for the Washtenaw United Way.

Dr. Cheryl L. (Eschbach) Peters, CAS '00, received her doctorate degree from Oregon State University in human development and family sciences with a specialty in family gerontology in February 2006.

Patricia Small, MS '03, joined Troy-based Handleman Co. as a statistician in the marketing department.

Julie Swidwinski, CAS '06, joined *Suburban Lifestyles* as a staff writer.

ENGAGEMENTS / WEDDINGS

Angelia (Roberson) Bayram, SEHS '03, was married in November 2005.

Donald Bernhard, CAS '95, is engaged to Chere Sanborn. He is employed with Analysts International.

Lori Bossardet, SBA '00, married Justin Ballard in August.

Wesley A. Brown, CAS '00, married Alisha L. Pagel of Trout Creek on April 28, 2006. He recently enrolled at the Naval Post Graduate School master's program in National Security Affairs.

Julie Caleo, CAS '04, is engaged to Aaron Longstreet, an engineering student at Michigan Tech. Caleo is currently pursuing her master's degree in social work at Loyola University in Chicago, Ill. A July 5, 2008, wedding is planned in Kona, Hawaii.

Susan (Peters) Corria, SECS '00, married Larry Corria of Sioux Falls, S.D., on April 29, 2006. The couple will be moving to Brandon Township, Mich., this summer.

Jennifer Dybowski, SBA '01, married Nicholas Dougherty in October.

Joan (Wells) Kiser, CAS '05, married Jordan Kiser of Kissimmee, Fla., on May 28, 2006 in Oxford, Mich.

Adam Ossipove, BGS '04, married **Julie Marks, SECS '04**, in August.

Matthew Paulsen, SBA '05, married Rebecca Moilanen on August 18, 2006.

Michele Spisz, SON '03, is engaged to Brett McMahon. She is currently employed at St. John's Hospital.

James Tedder, MBA '00, married **Nancy A. (Splete), CAS '93**, on April 15, 2006, in Seagrave Beach, Fla.

Carolynn (Noyes) Wegesser, CAS '64, married Larry Wegesser on June 11, 2005. The couple bought a home in the northeast Georgia mountains where they plan to retire in a few years. She recently accepted a position with the Longstreet Clinic as a Hospitalist Coordinator with the doctors at NEGA Medical Center in Gainesville, Ga.



Jane Houdyshell, who attended OU's Academy of the Dramatic Arts in the 1970s, earned her first Tony award nomination this year for her role in the Broadway play Well.

Alum shines on Broadway, earns Tony nomination

For most days this spring, actress **Jayne Houdyshell, Academy of the Dramatic Arts, '74**, started her work day by sitting in a La-Z-Boy chair on the Longacre Theatre stage, pretending to be asleep. The curtain was up, putting her in full view of the audience as they looked for their seats.

This was not how the scene was originally written by the play's creator, Lansing, Mich., native, Lisa Kron. Houdyshell suggested this introduction for her role as the infirmed mother in the Broadway production of *Well* and it worked. According to Houdyshell, this unorthodox beginning helped create the impression that her character was an inactive woman suffering all her life from chronic illness.

Houdyshell's 32 years in theatre speaks volumes to directors who respect her opinions and listen to her recommendations. She has appeared in more than 150 theatre productions across the country and her TV and film credits include *Law and Order*, *Trinity*, *Third Watch* and the movie *Changing Lanes*. Her dedication to a profession she pursued even as a young girl living in Topeka, Kan., paid off big this year: She received her first Tony award nomination for Best Featured Actress in a Play for *Well*.

On June 11, she walked the red carpet for the first time with three others connected to *Well* including Kron,

who played Houdyshell's daughter in the production and was also nominated. Houdyshell says that after her category was announced she settled in and enjoyed the lavish production of the 60th annual Tony Awards.

"It was mind-numbing," says Houdyshell of the emotions she felt when the cameraman knelt next to her, ready to capture her reaction. "I felt a curious mix of terror and joy. I was relieved that my category was presented second so that I could relax and watch the rest of the show."

Houdyshell did not win the Tony that night but that hasn't slowed her down. She is currently preparing for another complex mother role in *The Pain and the Itch*, an off-Broadway production.

Although she has lived in New York City for 26 years, she has a soft spot for OU and especially Meadow Brook Theatre. She performed in the theatre's first three plays when it opened in 1974 and continued to appear in productions throughout the 1980s and early 1990s.

"It was a very influential time in my life, and I treasure those experiences," says Houdyshell, who advises OU theatre students to take every opportunity auditioning for as many roles as possible. ■

By Michele Jasukaitis, a freelance writer from Shelby Township, Mich.

BIRTH/ADOPTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mandy (Cribar) Battaglia, CAS '95, and her husband Nick are proud to announce the birth of their second son, Samuel Antonio on June 16, 2005. He joins big brother Gino.



Gregory Garrett, BSE '97, and his wife **Amy (Block), CAS '97**, welcomed Spencer Russell into the world on March 24, 2006.



Joanna (Bryen) Giglio, CAS '99, and her husband, Joe, welcomed the birth of their second child, Joseph Michael Giglio, Jr., on May 3, 2006. He joins two-year-old big sister, Justina.

Christopher Grabowski, SEHS '98, and his wife **Nicole Grabowski, SEHS '98**, announce the birth of their first children, identical twin girls named Angelina Aliza and Brianna Ewa. They were born September 21, 2005.

Gene Grabowski, SBA '89, and his wife **Laura, SEHS '92**, are happy to announce the adoption of their second son, Nikolai, from Samara, Russia, in December of 2005. He joins big brother Andrei, adopted from Samara in July 2003.

Kelly (Walton) Jones, CAS '94, and her husband, Tim, welcomed baby Ian Andrew on April 7, 2006. He joins his two-year-old big sister Kylie Reese.

Jodi (Priestley) Mayo, CAS '03, and her husband, Justin, are proud to announce the birth of their son, David Donald on January 16, 2006.

Zelia (Lucchesi) Orlikowski, SBA '96, and her husband, Jason, announce the birth of their second child, Ava Lynn, born December 23, 2005.

Cheryl M. Sparks, CAS '92, and her husband, Michael, are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Hope Noelle on April 10, 2006. She joins big brother Noah, who will be 3 in July.



Melissa (Spurrier) Stewart, SEHS '02, and her husband, Mark, are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, daughter Maryn Ann, on October 12, 2004.

DEATHS

Jason P. Allen, SBA '00, died June 15, 2006.

Duane Beauchemin, CAS '74, died in September 2005.

Beatrice (Nee Krippene) Conklin, MA '89, died May 14, 2006.

Marilyn Fellows, CAS '69, died May 13, 2006.

Nancy Finzel, CAS '82, died July 27, 2006.

Michael A. Gerus, SBA '02, died November 28, 2005.

Carolyn King, SEHS '00, died December 15, 2005.

Raymond Kizer Jr., CAS '65, died May 15, 2006.

Rosa Linda (Aleman) Lerman, SEHS '94, died May 20, 2006.

Irene Merrill, MAT '91, died June 4, 2005.

Annie Moore, MAT '93, died July 18, 2006.

Dorothy Rose, CAS '64, died July 19, 2006.

Gail Thomassini, MAT '01, died July 17, 2006.

Valerie Thurston, CAS '03, died June 16, 2006.

Richard (Dr. Dick) Trombley, CAS '63, died July 12, 2006.

Paul Valko, BGS '90, died April 22, 2006.

Norman Wachler, CAS '73, died August 25, 2005.

Richard Welsbacher, SBA '76, died June 28, 2006.

Timothy Wright, CAS '76, died in July 2006.

CORRECTION

In the last issue of *OU Magazine*, **Liam Patrick Collins'** name was misspelled in his birth announcement. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Class Notes Submit by e-mail to ouaa@oakland.edu or take advantage of the form on page 36. Help make the Class Notes section more interesting by submitting a recent photo of yourself (color or black and white print or negative), or high resolution digital picture.



GRRRR! The bear arrives on campus and hundreds of student-athletes joined faculty and coaches and OU Athletics staff to welcome him to his home near the Athletics Center on September 6. OU students began the hunt for a Grizzly bear mascot five years ago. They found it in "The Grizz," a bronze sculpture that weighs in at nearly a ton and stands eight feet tall. The statue was created by world-renowned sculptors Istva'n Ma'te and Gyorgyi Lantos, parents of former OU swimmer Hunor Ma'te. The university, students and OU Student Congress raised more than \$35,000 to bring the sculpture to campus. The event also marked the opening of the Grizzly Center for Graduates and Champions which offers academic counseling, individual and group tutoring, study sessions, a computer lab and reading area. ♦

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