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Olympic doctor
Parenting 101
A moment in time

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | Spring / Summer 2010

Word weaver

*Prize-winning
poet finds inspiration
from unlikely source*

2009 Donor Honor Roll

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ON THE COVER

Molly Brodak, CAS '05, won the prestigious 2009 Iowa Poetry Prize for A Little Middle of the Night.

Photo by Sibley Studios, Augusta, Ga.



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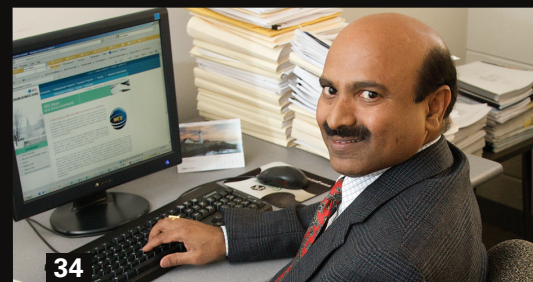
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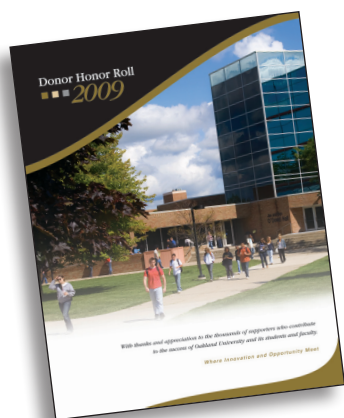
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We are pleased to share our Donor Honor Roll with you. It is the thousands of donors who make all our achievements and efforts — from research to artistic performances to student scholarships — possible. This special section showcases the profound impact of giving to Oakland University.



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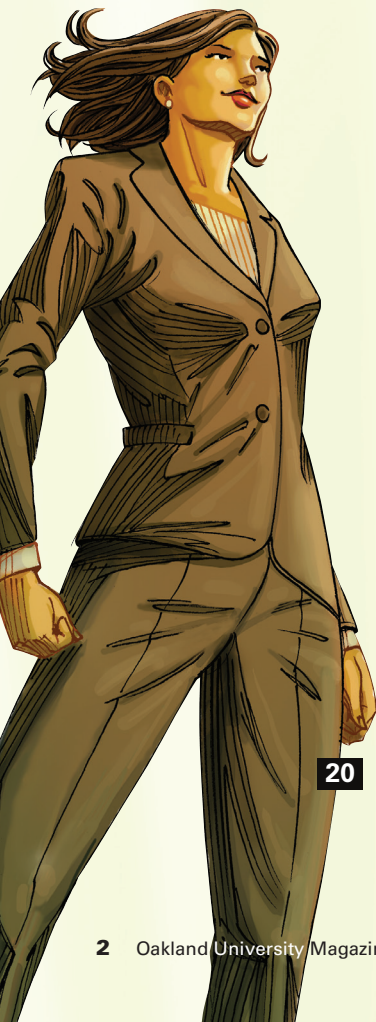


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Behind the stories



Between here and there, being and becoming, and up and down, there are details. For Molly Brodak, details are the stuff one finds along the way and, if you let them, in the way. Brodak, who won the prestigious 2009 Iowa Poetry Prize with her collection, *A Little Middle of the Night*, is someone who gives details a good look and moves past them. She says she lets details work themselves out so she can stay focused on her vision.

It occurred to me that many of the people in this issue have taken that same position when confronted with obstacles that distract from the overall purpose. Rebecca Smith, who spent 25 years in the banking industry and recently entered the job market again, finds herself moving on to new opportunities with an optimistic view to tomorrow and a steadfast refusal to cast a gloomy eye on the economy.

Likewise, the not-so-small detail of trying a number of careers before finding his niche didn't phase Omar George. After a short and not-very-profitable stint as a TV news reporter and an attempt at law that he described as "awful," this 32-year-old alum discovered what he really wanted — entrepreneurship. He built a multimillion-dollar business in just 24 months and found himself among *Crain Detroit Business*' "Top 40 under 40" last year.

And Edith Killins, as the director of Wayne County's Department of Health and Human Services, faces down a mountain of devilish details every day but doesn't let them distract from her mission. Killins' *raison d'être* is improving the quality of life for citizens in her county. She gets up every morning knowing that not always — but very, very often — her long work day results in just that.

As the saying goes, the devil is in the details. However, as I've learned frequently in life and certainly read in these stories, that's only if you're looking for him.

Lillian Lorenzi

Lillian Lorenzi
Executive Editor

Welcome to *OU Magazine's* Letters section. If you've read us in the past, you know we like to hear from our readers. Sometimes they comment on stories, sometimes they just drop us a line to share experiences they've had at OU. In this issue, we're happy to share some fond memories of past OU instructors. Drop us a note. We'd like to hear from you, too.
oumag@oakland.edu

—LL

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This current issue, along with past issues, can be found at **oakland.edu/oumag**



Fond memories

For the first time in many, many years, I had the occasion to be on OU's campus in September 2009. It had been 40 years since I had walked those hallowed grounds as a young freshman. Clearly, much has changed since that time, but the walk brought back many vivid memories.

In writing to you, I wanted to mention two professors that especially stood out as inspirational during my four years of undergraduate study at OU from 1969-1973. They were:

Cornell Black — A young, enthusiastic and totally delightful French professor. I learned much from him my two semesters of French and remember well when his briefcase was stolen along with his notes for his dissertation. It was a most distressing time for him and yet he kept focused on his teaching, leading us through subjunctive mood as well as some French drinking songs.

Jackie Wurtenberg — If it wasn't for Jackie's total commitment to making us into great teachers, I never would have survived the eight years of public school teaching. In my most challenging moments, I would always fall back to the methods and ideas she taught and gave us. I remember vividly the day she came into class reading chapters from *The Phantom Tollbooth*. I read that book to my classes for all of the years I taught and still have my rather worn copy!

I don't know how long each of these professors taught at OU, but I feel strongly that each of them (and actually many others) deserve the honor and recognition of distinguished professor. Their commitment to their profession and their art were unequalled.

Alida Franco, CAS '73
Denver, Colo.

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Oakland University forges partnerships with OCC and SC4

Oakland University has announced joint admission, concurrent enrollment programs with Oakland Community College (OCC) and St. Clair County Community College (SC4) to help provide seamless higher education options to area students. The partnerships, respectively called Oakland2Oakland, or O2O, and St. Clair2Oakland, or SC2O, were officially announced this past spring.

The partnerships are the second and third of their kind in Michigan. The first partnership was between OU and Macomb Community College (Macomb2Oakland or M2O).

These innovative endeavors offer:

- joint admission through one free application available online at oakland.edu/o2o or oakland.edu/sc2o
- concurrent enrollment at the university and community college, allowing students to take courses at one or both institutions at the same time
- coordinated financial aid
- expanded course selection
- coordinated advising and course planning
- timely completion of associate and bachelor's degrees
- access to the on-campus resources of both institutions, including housing at OU

"A four-year degree is critical for students in today's job market," OU President Gary Russi says. "Given the dramatic changes we've seen to the state's economic base — as well as the increasingly competitive nature of the global marketplace — I think it's clear that a high-quality education is more indispensable now than it has ever been."

First-year and transfer students may begin applying to O2O for winter 2011 and to SC2O for fall 2010. ●

Pre-college programs target minority students, girls

Oakland University's Department of Pre-College Programs offered a pair of sessions this winter and spring aimed at building skills in computers, technology, science, math and engineering. The Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program (DAPCEP) held three courses on Saturdays from February 27 to April 3.

Rockets, Rainbows & Motors explored physics experiments and projects relating to motion, light and electricity. Learn Math the Fun Way taught basic math concepts in an interactive way, targeting numbers and operations, algebraic equations, geometry, measurements and data analysis. Electrical and Computer Engineering provided an introduction to the field of analog and digital electronic circuits through lectures and hands-on laboratory experimentation.

The DAPCEP program also works to increase the number of historically underrepresented minority students such as African-Americans, Latinos and Native Americans. More than 4,200 students in grades K-12 participate in the DAPCEP program through Oakland and other partner universities.

In addition, the Promoting Underrepresented Girls Involvement in Research, Science and Energy (PURSE) program welcomed 60 high school girls in grades 9 through 11 to participate in project-based, out-of-school science and engineering activities that taught concepts related to the production and storage of energy.

The course, Fossil Fuels and Petroleum, investigated the scientific principles that enable combustion and explored the chemical properties of fossil fuels that make them such an important part of the scientific world. For more information about the Oakland's pre-college programs, visit oakland.edu/precollege. ●



Pre-College programs staff and mentors gather.



OU Homecoming bigger, better than ever

A huge success was the consensus of opinion heard by members of Oakland University's Homecoming planning committee, reported at a post-event evaluation session. OU's Homecoming, held in early February, was expanded this year to four days, and brought together students, alumni, current and former employees, university supporters, families and friends.

"I was very pleased by the collaborative community effort to produce a wide variety of events and welcome our alumni back to campus," says Glenn McIntosh, OU dean of students and assistant vice president for Student Affairs. "And I see the significant increase in the turnout for the weekend, particularly by alumni, to be quite encouraging for future homecomings."

Homecoming's Thursday events included a pep rally and hip-hop dance competition. Both were well attended, and the dance competition, new in the Homecoming schedule, was termed a big success. Friday's schedule included an ice skating party, bonfire, and the OU Hall of Honor Ceremony, hosted by Fox Sports announcer Mario Impemba. Six former student athletes and a recently retired head coach comprised the 2010 induction class.

Another big hit was the Friday Night Live Comedy Show. This annual event attracted a huge turnout. Rounding out the evening were the Guard the Grizz and Snow Bowl events. Saturday's afternoon events centered around the OU Alumni Association Family Festival, Alumni Hospitality Tent, Fraternity and Sorority Alumni event and Center for Multicultural Initiatives and Black Alumni Social.

OU's women's and men's basketball games were played before the largest crowds of the season. Against Oral Roberts University, the men's team was victorious, while the women's team lost a close game. Wrapping up the evening on Saturday was Casino Night, which drew a packed house.

The final event of the weekend was Sunday's inaugural Golden Grizzlies Homecoming 5K Run/Walk. About 150 participants braved fairly nasty weather to compete for various age-group awards, which were presented at the O'rena following the race.

For more information on alumni events during Homecoming, see page 37. ●

Provost Moudgil honored for academic leadership

Virinder Moudgil, Ph.D., Oakland University's senior vice president for Academic Affairs and provost, was awarded the 2009 Academic Leadership Award from the Michigan International Chamber of Commerce (MICC).



Virinder Moudgil

"Dr. Moudgil was selected because he has impressive credentials, and is very involved in creating awareness about his Indian heritage within the local community, while also demonstrating exemplary work as the provost of Oakland University," said Nipa Shah, founder of the MICC.

Of particular note was Dr. Moudgil's help in securing a visit last fall by Abdul Kalam, former president of India. Kalam spoke to a standing-room-only crowd of more than 1,000 people at OU's O'rena in September 2009. His message was that international cooperation can solve global problems.

Kalam stressed that youth and education are the most important factors in creating borderless cooperation between nations. International collaboration is the key to solving issues with climate change, energy, disease, economic turbulence and war, he said.

"Dr. Moudgil, through his provost position at Oakland has promoted cultural awareness of international affairs," Shah said. "His invitation to Dr. Kalam, one of India's most noted presidents, was recognized as a wonderful achievement."

The chamber made a total of 12 awards recognizing exceptional examples of leadership, community service, cultural awareness, support of diversity and support of the mission of the chamber, according to Shah.

This was the first year for the awards, but they will now become an annual recognition. Originally titled the Michigan India Chamber of Commerce in 2007, MICC was rebranded in its current form to draw a wider audience. ●

Scholarship winners promote cultural diversity, unity



Keeper of the Dream (KOD) scholarship winners celebrate with KOD keynote speaker (third from left) Susan L. Taylor, editor emerita of Essence magazine. Scholarship recipients are (l-r) Chelsea Grimmer, Melissa DeGrandis and Juquatta Brewer.



Three outstanding undergraduate students received the prestigious Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards for their contributions and promotion of interracial understanding and tolerance. At the 18th annual awards celebration, the \$5,000 scholarships were presented to English major Chelsea Grimmer, psychology major Juquatta Brewer and communications major Melissa DeGrandis.

Grimmer is a member of The Honors College, Alpha Lambda Delta and two college ministries — QuarterLife and Inter-Varsity. She has served as a cultural ambassador in mission trips to Venezuela, Germany and Amsterdam, and regularly volunteers at home through a variety of organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Greening of Detroit, Helping Hands Food Pantry and a project that hosts barbecues for the homeless in Detroit's Cass Corridor.

As a resident assistant, Brewer addresses student concerns and helps educate students about multicultural understanding. With a focus on women's and gender studies, she co-founded the student organization Encouraging Ladies by Inspiring Them to be Empowered, or E.L.I.T.E. Brewer is an active member of The Honors College and was Oakland's 2009 representative to the Association of College and University Housing Officers' STARS College in Maryland.

Strong beliefs in cultural understanding inspired DeGrandis to create a permanent mural on Oakland's campus to promote diversity after vandals spray painted racial slurs on campus sidewalks. A senior resident assistant, peer mentor, and Orientation Group Leader, she also volunteers on the Academic Conduct Committee and as a Jump Start Leader.

Keynote speaker for the Keeper of the Dream celebration event was Susan L. Taylor, editor emerita of *Essence* magazine, who for nearly three decades served as its fashion and beauty editor, editor-in-chief and editorial director. For more information about the Keeper of the Dream event, please visit oakland.edu/kod. ●

New Early Alert program assists students

OU has implemented a valuable new program to help keep students on the path to graduation. The Early Alert program aims to identify students who are experiencing academic difficulties or who need help identifying resources on campus.

Sponsored by Oakland's Division of Academic Affairs, the program is a proactive way to assist students early in the semester, while there is ample time to resolve issues and overcome challenges. Plans for the program began two years ago when a committee was formed to explore different methods of intervention to help struggling students, says Christy Lee, Early Alert's student retention assistant.

Faculty members can submit a referral form online, which initiates the Early Alert process. Lee can respond in collaboration with other departments to address student challenges, which may include poor class attendance, incomplete or missing assignments, poor quiz and test scores, lack of course materials, not being at course level and inappropriate behavior.

"One of our first recommendations is for students to talk with their professors to help fill in the gaps they may have," she

says. "We want students to know that someone is looking out for them and that faculty and staff do care about their overall success."

Lee said that one of Early Alert's goals is to acquaint students with the wealth of campus resources available, including the Academic Skills Center, Writing Center, Advising Resource Center Disability Support Services and Center for Multicultural Initiatives. The program's core mission is to help students stay in class, avoid academic probation and focus on the finish line of graduation, Lee said.

For more information, visit oakland.edu/asc, then click on "Early Alert." ●



Teamwork approach to assisting veterans in any way possible

Military service is all about teamwork. And after serving in the military, veterans at Oakland University know there's a team in place to serve them, composed of members from the university's Office of the Registrar and Veterans Support Services.

Mike Brennan of Veterans Support Services may be the first person a veteran (or veteran's dependent) will see. "About half my job is answering questions," he says. "How to apply, where to go. Then I steer them to Ann."

Ann Besaw of the university's Office of the Registrar is one of the experts in veterans' certifications. She sets up files, connects veterans with advisers and ensures they have a plan of study to qualify for benefits. Veterans are encouraged to research benefit programs to choose one that is right for them.

The Veteran's Certification Office helps veterans and dependents negotiate the complexities in many ways: assisting with applying to the university and for Veterans Administration benefits; certifying school enrollment and any enrollment changes; providing grant and scholarship information; and helping veterans work with other university departments. They also assist citizen-soldiers who are deployed in the middle of a semester and veterans who change their classes or who transfer into or out of OU.

Brennan helps students in their transition from the military or from deployment to campus life. "We can refer vets to Graham Counseling Center, to Disability Support Services, to the Academic Skills Center — even to the Pontiac Vet Center. We work with as many organizations as we can to offer help."

The efforts of the entire veterans support team have been noticed: OU was recognized as a "military friendly school" for 2010 by *GI Jobs* magazine, which awards the honor to only the top 15 percent of all universities, colleges and trade schools in the United States. For more information, visit the Veterans Support Services Web site at oakland.edu/veterans. ●



OU's VP for Student Affairs honored with national award

Mary Beth Snyder, vice president for Student Affairs, received the prestigious Pillar of the Profession Award from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Foundation.

Every year, NASPA recognizes distinguished individuals who have served as leaders, teachers and scholars in student affairs and higher education. This year's winners were honored at the 2010 NASPA Conference in Chicago, Illinois. Snyder was selected for embracing and emulating NASPA's core values of diversity, learning, integrity, collaboration, access, service, fellowship and the spirit of inquiry.

"Mary Beth is very deserving of this award," says Glenn McIntosh, assistant vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life. "She is a person who has dedicated herself to the profession. She is truly a pillar of this community."

The Pillar of the Profession awards recognize individuals of professional distinction who have served in leadership roles in NASPA, either regionally or nationally and are recognized or remembered by colleagues, friends, students or student organizations for extraordinary service and contributions. Award recipients are nominated and supported for designation by their colleagues, students, friends or others. A gift of \$2,000 is made to the foundation to further research and scholarship in student affairs in the nominee's name.

Since joining OU in 1994, Snyder's work across campus has been far-reaching. She has consistently expanded and developed programs and services from assistance for students with disabilities to creating new student organizations to affairs in housing.

With more than 11,000 members that represent 29 countries, NASPA is the premier professional association for student affairs administrators, faculty, graduate and undergraduate students.



Mary Beth Snyder, vice president for Student Affairs, receives Pillar of the Profession Award.

Snyder's involvement in a variety of professional organizations such as NASPA has enabled her to bring new and innovative ideas and information to OU, according to McIntosh. ●

Longtime Oakland friends lend support to School of Medicine

Stephan Sharf and Ann Nicholson, both longtime friends and visionary supporters of Oakland University, have stepped up to take leading roles in the development of the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine with two generous and forward-looking gifts.

Sharf has designated an estate gift of \$4 million to support the School of Medicine deanship, which is currently held by Founding Dean Robert Folberg, M.D. The generous funding of a deanship for the School of Medicine has allowed OU to recruit a nationally recognized scholar and medical doctor to lead and launch the medical school. His visionary leadership oversees development of academic programs, hiring faculty, applying for and receiving accreditation, and recruitment and admission of the charter class of students. To hold a deanship (or a fellowship or professorship) is a significant honor and is generally awarded to a world-class scholar. Donor support for these positions allows Oakland to elevate the caliber of its programs.

Nicholson has established the Ann V. Nicholson Endowed Scholarship to provide support for medical students who have demonstrated an interest in community service. Her \$500,000 gift will support student capstone projects, a hallmark feature of the School of Medicine curriculum. Capstone projects provide a distinctive learning experience for students, allowing them



to address societal needs by working on health care related projects beyond the classroom and clinical settings. Students completing capstone projects each year are eligible for full scholarships in year four.

The School of Medicine will begin instruction in August 2011. For more information, log on to oakland.edu/medicine. ●

Fulbright Scholar travels from Africa to OU

Fulbright scholar and political science professor Keith Gottschalk is not accustomed to the cold. Hailing from Cape Town, South Africa, his first trip to the United States included his first snowy winter.

Gottschalk's long journey to Oakland University began three years ago when Vincent Khapoya, Ph.D., professor of Political Science, visited the University of the Western Cape (UWC). Impressed with the intellectual caliber of its political science department, Dr. Khapoya and Paul Kubicek, Ph.D., professor and chair of Political Science, applied for a coveted Fulbright Scholar in Residence grant to bring Gottschalk to Rochester.



Fulbright Scholar Keith Gottschalk, Ph.D., traveled from Cape Town, South Africa to teach at OU.

Arriving in mid-August 2009, Gottschalk taught several courses during the academic year. His current research involves the African Union and South African party politics, but his new passion is to create a permanent link between Oakland and his South African university. "I have been very impressed with OU's resources and its efficient use of them," he says. "At home, our political science department has four tenured faculty members, but Oakland has 14. It makes a big impression on someone from a Third World country like South Africa."

"The best outcome would be to have OU students see UWC as the optimal choice for a semester abroad in their graduate and undergraduate studies, and create the same reciprocity for our students," Gottschalk says. ●

Mathematical major

A new Bachelor of Science major in Actuarial Science will be offered starting with the fall 2010 semester.

The degree will be offered by the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), although the School of Business Administration (SBA) will help administer the program. CAS and SBA each will provide about half the courses to complete the major.

Actuarial science is the discipline that applies mathematical and statistical methods to assess risk in the insurance and finance industries. Actuaries analyze data to estimate the probability and likely cost to a company of an event such as death, sickness, injury, disability or loss of property.

Several Michigan public universities offer programs in actuarial science, but OU's will be the only one offered in the metro Detroit area — where most firms in the state that employ actuaries are located. OU's program is more interdisciplinary than traditional programs at some other schools, which could give OU graduates another advantage in the actuarial field. ●



Student Life Corner

Disc golf course getting year-round use

Oakland University's disc golf course, unveiled in September 2009, didn't get a winter break — disc golf enthusiasts have been using it almost nonstop since it opened.

"As I've driven by, I've seen people out on the course, for sure. People play year round," says Greg Jordan, director of Campus Recreation. "I think they played with orange discs when there was snow."

The 18-hole course, located near the upper fields, was funded by the Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) and the Department of Campus Recreation. It was constructed by students in the Summer Student Campus Corps and was built with minimal disruption to the natural landscape. Trees, bushes and rocks occasionally dot the fairways. Stretching more than a mile, the course was dubbed Grizzly Oaks, and was approved last year by the Professional Disc Golf Association.

OU student Jarrett Schlaff designed the course and sponsored the appropriations bill in the OUSC to fund

it. The course has been popular ever since its grand opening. "It's been widely enjoyed by OU students and members of the community," says Schlaff. "In the first week alone, we went through 500 score cards. We had to replenish the cards daily."

There is no cost to play the course, although for the time being, players must furnish their own discs. "I equate it with regular golf," says Jordan. "Just like having a bag of clubs, in disc golf there are several different kinds of discs to use, from driving to short-range accuracy."

Schlaff said a disc golf club is being organized at OU. Jordan noted that more than half of all the universities and colleges in Michigan now host a club. A charity tournament at OU also is planned. "Our course is just a venue to host a tournament," adds Jordan.

For more information on disc golf at OU, contact Schlaff at jschlaff@oakland.edu or Jordan at jordan@oakland.edu. ●



Architectural rendering of the south view of the building.



Architectural rendering of the east view of the building.



The first shovels bit the dirt at the Human Health Building groundbreaking ceremony. Pictured are (l-r): Saman Waquid, Student Congress vice president; OU President Gary Russi, Ph.D.; Tawnee Milk, Presidential Scholar and Board of Trustees liaison; and Kristin Dayag, Student Congress president.



Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil, Ph.D.; Moon Jae Pak, M.D., Ph.D., founder of the School of Health Sciences (SHS) and current chair of the SHS Advisory Board; and Dean of the School of Health Sciences Kenneth Hightower, Ph.D., participated in the festivities.

OU awarded \$2.7M grant to improve Human Health Building efficiency

Oakland University has received a welcome and generous boost to its efforts to develop a state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly academic building that upon completion in 2012 will house both the School of Nursing and the School of Health Sciences. A groundbreaking for the construction was held on April 12.

The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded the university a \$2,752,163 grant to install a geothermal heat pump system for the Human Health Building, which is planned for construction on the northwest corner of OU's 1,441-acre campus. The heat pump system will include a roof-mounted solar thermal hot water array designed to provide the 160,000-square-foot facility with summer dehumidification of ventilation air, cooling, heating, and domestic hot water.

The Department of Energy grant is part of \$338 million in Recovery Act funding that will support a total of 123 geothermal field development and research projects in 39 states. Oakland's grant is one of 37 projects classified as ground source heat pump demonstrations.

Jim Leidel, energy manager for OU facilities management, said the geothermal system installed in the Human Health Building will reduce energy related carbon emissions and will likely cut the building's energy costs in half.

"This is the first green building we'll have as a new construction project, and we were originally planning on going for a gold rating," he says, referring to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. "This grant will take us from the partial, hybrid geothermal system we originally had planned to a full geothermal system assisted by a solar thermal dehumidification component. We think that will most likely push us up to the platinum level, which would make this the first educational facility with this designation in the state of Michigan."

OU has also received a \$75,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation to help cover the costs of designing a green building. In awarding the grant, foundation administrators complimented the university for its commitment to developing an environmentally sustainable facility.

In addition to its green features, the \$62 million Human Health building will feature state-of-the-art classrooms, seminar rooms, an interactive media center, physical therapy clinics and clinical, computer, simulation and distance learning labs. It is being financed with \$40 million in Michigan Capital Outlay Budget funds, as well as funding to be generated through university general revenue bonds. ●

Compiled by Daniel Bodene

The Gold Standard

Andrei Slavin, Ph.D., professor and chair of Physics, has been elected a fellow of the American Physical Society (APS), one of the world's preeminent organizations in the field of physics. Each year, no more than one half of 1 percent of society members become fellows. According to the citation, Dr. Slavin was elected a fellow for "contributions to the understanding of linear and nonlinear spin wave dynamics in magnetic films and nanostructures, microwave magnetic envelope solitons and magnetization dynamics induced by spin momentum transfer." The program was created to recognize members who have made significant contributions to physics through original research and publication, or made innovative contributions to the application of physics to science and technology. Dr. Slavin is the third member in the physics department to become an APS Fellow, joining colleagues Bradley Roth, Ph.D., and David Garfinkle, Ph.D. Dr. Slavin was also named an OU Distinguished Professor this spring.

Kim Holka, visiting nursing instructor, is working on an innovative project to accumulate vital information about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) while raising community awareness of the growing concerns of FASD. She is working with Shelly Bania, a FASD Prevention Specialist from Community Assessment Referral and Education (CARE) of Macomb, and OU nursing students. Holka and Bania are working with the students through a series of presentations and off-campus fieldwork that places them in participating OB/GYN offices. The students can perform the dual function of gathering crucial information while raising awareness of FASD. This gives them the added benefit of valuable real-world experience with expectant mothers in a clinical setting. Holka will be giving a presentation this June at the Michigan Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition Conference.

Mary Stein, Ph.D., professor of Teacher Development and Educational Studies, has been named the 2010 College Science Teacher of the Year by the Board of Michigan Science Teachers Association. Dr. Stein was chosen for using and modeling excellent teaching practices, inspiring her students, being an excellent role model for students and other teachers, demonstrating innovative teaching strategies and leadership, and exhibiting a passion for science and teaching.

OU's Wellness, Health Promotion and Injury Prevention program has received gold status accreditation from the National Wellness Institute (NWI). **Stafford Rorke**, D.Phil., associate professor and program director, reports that OU's program was ranked by the NWI among the top 10 in the country. The accreditation, which runs from 2010-17, means that graduates attaining an overall GPA of 2.75 can now register as

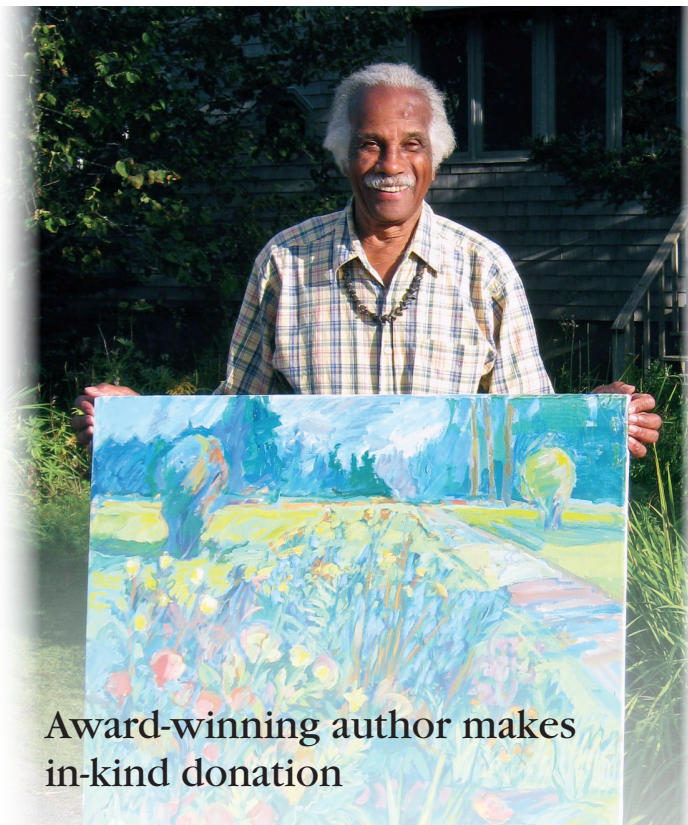
Certified Wellness Practitioners (CWP) with the NWI. OU's program is also identified as one of only three in the country to receive the National Wellness Institutes' Distinguished Program Award in July 2010. In the School of Health Sciences two other programs have received national accreditation: Occupational Safety and Health directed by Charles McGlothlin, Ph.D., special instructor; and Physical Therapy directed by Kristine Thompson, Ph.D., special instructor.

Kieran Mathieson, Ph.D., associate professor of Management Information Systems, took 17 Honors College students through an innovative course on people's beliefs. The course examined issues such as women's belief in their bodies; if people are biologically disposed to prejudice; free will from a mind science perspective; how people make moral decisions, and the neuroscience and psychology behind religious beliefs. Each student wrote a personal reflection on what they learned and how they would apply those lessons, which are posted at <http://believingtoday.org>.

Xia Wang, Ph.D., assistant professor of Mechanical Engineering, has been selected to receive the New Investigator Research Excellence Award for 2010. Her research focuses on transport phenomena and scaling laws in fuel cells and turbulent boundary layers. This award acknowledges the genuine admiration of her students and colleagues for her superior level of professionalism in research.

Todd Estes, Ph.D., associate professor of History, gave his first lecture as a Distinguished Lecturer of the prestigious Organization of American Historians (OAH) at Central Michigan University last year. The talk, entitled "James Madison's Reluctant Paternity of the Constitution," was presented as a public lecture preceded by a smaller seminar for faculty and graduate students. The OAH is the largest professional society dedicated to the teaching and study of American history and Distinguished Lecturers serve at the invitation of the OAH president for a three-year term. Dr. Estes is currently researching a book on the ratification debate, tentatively entitled *The Campaign for the Constitution: Political Culture and the Ratification Contest*.

Lakshmi Raman, Ph.D., has received a three-year \$222,000 National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to support her research project entitled "Beliefs about the Role of Nutrition on Mind-Body Interactions." Her research examines children and adults' understanding of healthy and unhealthy nutrition on biological processes such as growth and illnesses and psychological processes such as mood states. Her overall research focus is children's understanding of biological processes. ●



Award-winning author makes in-kind donation

Acclaimed children's book author and illustrator Ashley Bryan has given the gift of imagination — and inspiration — to Oakland University's School of Education and Human Services (SEHS). Bryan made an in-kind donation of paintings, sketches, manuscripts and illustrations to SEHS, a generous gift that is laying the foundation for a future Center for Children's Art and Literature that will be housed in Pawley Hall.

"It's really become the backbone of our collection of children's literature art," says Jim Cipielewski, Reading and Language Arts department chair. "We have everything from pencil sketches to final art, so it's possible to trace the creation of a book from beginning to end."

In addition, Bryan's work has been incorporated into the SEHS curriculum, providing discussion points for art education courses and creating opportunities for outreach programs at local schools. "Children's literature is something that people have come to see as a viable, important subject, especially for young people," Cipielewski adds.

One of the country's most highly regarded children's literature authors and illustrators, Bryan began painting as a child. After a tour of duty in World War II, he studied at the Cooper Union Art School in New York. He has been honored with many awards, including the Coretta Scott King Book Award and the 2009 Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal from the American Library Association.

After coming to OU many times as a guest lecturer and visiting author, Bryan was awarded an honorary doctorate by SEHS in 2003, the first award of its kind given by the school. The award recognized the extraordinary nature of Bryan's stories, poems, illustrations and interpretive readings that have "enriched the African American experience and added new dimensions to American culture." ●

Celebrating scholarships



Thomas Varner (center) with scholarship recipients Amanda McKee and Zack Jones. Both received the D.B. Woody Varner scholarship, which was named in honor of OU's first chancellor and funded by donations from his son, Thomas.



Danielle Ager, recipient of the David and Marion Handleman Scholarship.



Stephan Sharf with Tricia Sawdon, who received the Stephan Sharf Scholarship.



Irene Connors



Jim August

Irene Connors, longtime volunteer and Meadow Brook Hall donor, and Jim August, donor for the College of Arts and Sciences Judaic Studies program, were honored as Distinguished Volunteers at the 2009 Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Detroit Chapter National Philanthropy Day this past winter.



Members of the OUAA Board of Directors, including Grizzly Gala Committee Chair Lynn Gross, SBA '87, (pictured third from right) attend the first Grizzly Gala, a strolling dinner and auction to benefit student scholarships at Oakland University.

OU hosts first Grizzly Gala to benefit student scholarships



Oakland University alumni and friends turned out to show their support for student scholarships by attending the first Grizzly Gala, chaired by OU alumna Lynn Gross, SBA '87. Held at the Royal Park Hotel in downtown Rochester, Mich., attendees enjoyed a live auction that included tickets to the

Ellen DeGeneres show, a getaway to the Rocky Mountains, an upper level suite at The Palace of Auburn Hills to see the Detroit Pistons play, and a diamond necklace courtesy of Lucido Fine Jewelry.

Proceeds from the event raised \$23,000 for the Oakland University Alumni Association scholarship fund and OU students. "The OUAA Scholarship program allows students to achieve their dream of pursuing an OU degree," Gross said. "Our scholarship endowment fund totals more than \$1.2 million, allowing us to provide nearly 40 scholarships each year to high achieving students who deserve an Oakland education."

Oakland University student Rachael Schulske, a senior in the School of Nursing who graduates in May agrees, "This [Nursing Alumni Scholarship] made it possible for me to maintain my grades, be as active as I wanted, and work at my dream job. I am grateful every day to those who made this possible for me. This scholarship made a difference in my life, so that I can go out and make a difference in the lives of others."

Schulske will begin working at Children's Hospital of Michigan in the pediatric intensive care unit after graduation. ●



Scholarship bequest will allow English majors to focus on studies, not finances

In life, words matter. That's one of the reasons Toby Stein, CAS'74, and husband Neal Alpin have made a bequest in support of scholarship funding for Oakland University English majors.

"The less a student has to focus on money, the better their experience will be," Stein says. "And if they have more assistance, they can focus more on their studies."

The retired executive vice president and chief human resources officer for the Ontario, Calif.-based CO-OP Network and Service Centers Corporation, knows how difficult it can be to cover the cost of higher education. As an Oakland student, she paid her own way, and more than once, almost had to quit when finances grew tight. "I'd seen people who said, 'I'll just take a semester off to work and then come back,'" Stein says. "That's actually very hard for most people to do."

Focusing the bequest on English majors allowed Stein to share her enthusiasm for the humanities, an interest that began at OU. Before choosing English as a sophomore, Stein tested out a number of majors, from music to political science to history. Her interest in so many subjects paid off in the long run. "Over the course of my working life, I realized having a broad spectrum of knowledge was important," she said.

For Stein, perhaps the most valuable gift she gained at OU was an ability to write. "It's helped in every job I've ever had," she says. Throughout her career, Stein mentored young employees, helping them improve their own writing skills. She shared those teaching skills with OU, when she returned to teach courses in business and human resources.

For Stein and her husband, giving back to OU offers a way for them to leave a legacy that will impact future generations. "We're hoping that students who need the money and who are academically committed will benefit from this," she says. There's little doubt recipients of these scholarships will be grateful. And thanks to Stein's passion for English, they'll have the words to express it. ●

Sports Wrap-Up

Academic all-stars

Oakland University placed 62 student-athletes on the Academic All-Summit League team for the fall 2009 season. A total of 511 Summit League student-athletes from men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer and women's volleyball were honored for their academic excellence. Western Illinois led the way with a league-best 63 selections to the Academic All-Summit League squad, edging out Oakland and IUPUI by one and two honorees, respectively. Of the 511 student-athletes that were honored, 70 posted perfect 4.0 grade-point averages during the fall semester.

"I believe this is a testament to the commitment our student-athletes have to their primary goal of attaining a degree from Oakland University," said Director of Athletics Tracy Huth. "The results can be directly attributed to the time and energy that our student-athletes, staff and coaches put forth in the pursuit of academic excellence. Anyone that follows Oakland Athletics will recognize the consistency of academic achievement that our student-athletes attain every semester."

To be selected to the Academic All-Summit League Team, a student-athlete must have a 3.0 or better grade-point average in the semester in which they compete and must use a year of eligibility.

Coaches vs. Cancer fundraiser a success

Several members of the Oakland University basketball team, including head coaches Greg Kampe and Beckie Francis, took time to grill it up for charity when they helped cook meals at bd's Mongolian Barbeque to raise money for Coaches vs. Cancer. The January event raised more than \$1,200.

Joining Kampe and Francis behind the grill were men's assistant coaches

Darren Sorenson and Saddi Washington, women's Associate Head Coach Eric Stephan and women's assistant coaches Anne Noja and Katie Wolf.

Coaches vs. Cancer is a program founded by the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches. It empowers schools and communities to join the fight against cancer by participating in national and local events. Through the program, basketball coaches lead fundraising and advocacy efforts that provide individuals with a chance to give something back by rallying around an important cause.

Softball coach retires

Softball coach Glenn MacDonald retired from coaching this past March. MacDonald finished his career as the all-time winningest coach in the program's history with a record of 92-134 in four-plus seasons.

"We thank Glenn for all his hard work and dedication over the last nine years here at Oakland University," says Huth. "We wish him well in the future."

MacDonald was the 2006 Mid-Con Coach of the Year and led his teams to two straight league tournaments, falling in the championship game in 2007. He posted winning records in 3-of-4 seasons inside league play and finished with an overall record of 40-44 in Summit League play. He was also part of back-to-back conference titles in 2002 and '03 as the top assistant coach, making NCAA tournaments in both those seasons.

"I really enjoyed my time at Oakland University," says MacDonald. "I want to thank Tracy Huth for the opportunity to coach collegiate softball. I have forged many great relationships during my time here and know that the girls will be successful on and off the diamond as they move forward."

Assistant Coach Jane Zimmerman served as the interim coach for the remainder of the season.

2010 Hollie L. Lepley Athletic Hall of Honor class announced

Seven former OU Athletics standouts took their place in history this past February when they were named to the Hollie L. Lepley Athletic Hall of Honor: two 21-time All-America swimmers, an all-conference men's soccer player at both the Division I and II levels, the captain of the 1996 national runner-up men's soccer team, a two-time all-region volleyball player, a women's basketball player who led Oakland University to its first NCAA Tournament of the Division I era, and a coaching legend who served as Oakland's head men's soccer coach for 28 seasons comprise the 2010 class of honorees.

They are:

Morgan Bailey

(men's swimming, 1994-97)

James Collins

(men's swimming, 1994-97)

Mike Dodd

(men's soccer, 1996-99)

Paul Doroh

(men's soccer, 1993-96)

Holly Hatcher Conley

(volleyball, 1987-90)

Sarah Judd

(women's basketball, 1998-2002)

Gary Parsons

(head men's soccer coach, 1981-2008)

Go to ougrizzlies.com for more information on the honorees. ●

Compiled by Samantha Franz, OU Athletics Communications



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THE SCOREBOARD

Men's soccer

The Golden Grizzlies once again had a banner year when they clinched the regular season championship with an undefeated 5-0-1 record in league play and an overall mark of 9-5-3. Although the Golden Grizzlies fell short of winning The Summit League Tournament and advancing to the NCAA College Cup, Oakland found themselves among the nation's best in several categories. This

Mitch Hildebrandt

marked the second time in three seasons that Oakland hadn't dropped a match in league play, earning the No. 1 seed in The Summit League Tournament on their home field. First-year head coach Eric Pogue was named Summit League Coach of the Year and sophomore goalkeeper **Mitch Hildebrandt** was named Defensive Player of the Year. In all, nine Golden Grizzlies received all-league honors. ●



Deanna Colarossi

Women's soccer

The Oakland University soccer team was involved in a tight race for a spot in The Summit League Tournament, but lost the final game of the regular season to Western Illinois, marking the first time in 10 seasons that the Black and Gold has missed out on the postseason with a 7-9-1 record. The Golden Grizzlies did hit a few highlights this season. On Oct. 2, OU tied a school record, scoring eight goals in an 8-0 shutout of league foe UMKC. Sophomore **Deanna Colarossi** was named to the All-Summit League second team and freshman **Alyssa Fulton** was honored as a member of the All-Freshman team. ●



Adrienne Leone

first-ever berth in The Summit League championship tournament, but set new records in both overall wins and league wins. Despite an injury-shortened season, senior **Adrienne Leone** became OU's first-ever All-League first team selection after setting school records in kills, kills per set, attacks, and attacks per set. **Meghan Bray** and **Brittany Holbrook** were named to the Newcomer team. ●

Cross country

Once again, the Golden Grizzlies proved their success on and off the course. In the competition field, the men's team finished in third place at The Summit League Championship with senior **Zack Jones** earning first team honors and freshman **Mario Palomino** and sophomore **Pat Cassidy** collecting second team accolades. Senior **Sara Lieblen** paced the women at the league championship with her second team placement. Jones, along with his sister, **Lia Jones**, both powered their way to strong finishes at the NCAA regional meet, with Lia earning All-Region and the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic team with a 3.85 GPA. Both teams were also named USTFCCCA NCAA Division I All-Academic. ●

Sara Lieblen



Volleyball

Oakland made history during the 2009 campaign, putting together the finest season of the Division I era with a 17-10 overall record and a 10-8 mark in league play. The Golden Grizzlies narrowly missed the program's

Swimming and diving

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams continue to show their dominance in The Summit League, as both recently captured their 11th straight league titles at The Summit League Championship. This was the 32nd consecutive league championship for the men and 19th for the women. The Golden Grizzlies swept the Swimmers of the Meet awards, with sophomore **Anders Jensen** and senior **Agnes Solan** winning the honors. OU also swept the Diver of the Year awards, thanks to the performances of junior **Chelsea Oates** and senior **Adam Ralph**. The women's team also earned Newcomer of the Year and Coach of the Year honors with freshman **Julianne Stears** and Pete Hovland picking up the awards. In all, 28 Golden Grizzlies earned all-league honors.



Julianne Stears

On the heels of its 11th straight Summit League Championship swimming and diving title, Oakland University's women's swim team also has been recognized for its scholarship. The team has won All-American Team honors from the College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA). CSCAA selects Scholar All-American Teams after each semester among swimming teams that have a minimum 3.0 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale. The women's swim team earned the honor for the fall 2009 semester with a cumulative grade point average of 3.14. The team joins 112 other NCAA Division I women's swim teams in earning the All-American Team honor. ●



Keith Benson



Johnathon Jones



Jose Juarez, The Oakland Press

Men's Basketball

It's been quite the season for men's basketball. The Golden Grizzlies won both the regular season and Summit League Championship titles, earning an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, where they were the No. 14 seed in the West Regional against No. 3 Pitt. Though OU fell 89-66 in the first round game, the Golden Grizzlies stuffed the trophy case in the 2009-10 campaign. Junior **Keith Benson** was named The Summit League Player of the Year, and he, along with senior **Johnathon Jones**, was named to the All-Summit League first team. Senior **Derick Nelson** was named to the All-Summit League second team and junior transfer **Larry Wright** was named to the All-Newcomer team. Head coach Greg Kampe was named The Summit League Coach of the Year after leading his team to a Division I era-best 26 wins. The accolades continue to roll in for Oakland with Jones and Benson being named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches Division 12 first team, Nelson earning Mid-Major Defensive All-America team honors and Benson earning both Lefty Driesell Defensive All-America team accolades by CollegeInsider.com earned a spot on the Associated Press (AP) All-America honorable mention team. ●

Compiled by Samantha Franz, OU Athletics Communications

Women's Basketball

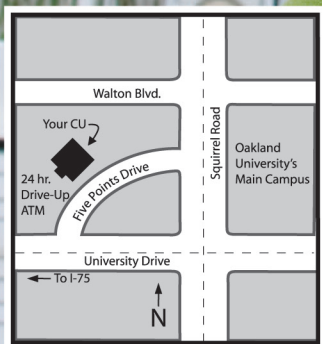
The Golden Grizzlies overcame injuries and a tough non-league schedule with the help of strong senior leadership and a promising crop of young faces to end the 2009-10 run with a 17-13 overall mark and a 14-4 record in league play, finishing second in The Summit League. The Black and Gold was riding a six-game winning streak entering The Summit League Tournament, where they were poised as the No. 2 seed to take on No. 7 seed Western Illinois, whom the Golden Grizzlies had defeated by double-digit margins on both occasions during the regular season. But OU had a rare off night of shooting from the floor and fell to the Fighting Leathernecks 68-57 in the tournament quarterfinals. Senior **Melissa Jeltema** earned an All-Summit League first team selection, as well as being named to the ESPN the Magazine All-District second team. Freshman **Bethany Watterworth** earned spots on both the All-League second team and All-Newcomer team, while senior **Hanna Reising** rounded out the postseason accolades by being named The Summit League's Sixth Woman of the Year and became the 23rd member of the 1,000-point club this season. ●

Hanna Reising

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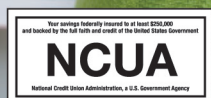
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Toy story

Globe-trotting grad takes the helm of the State Bar of Michigan *By Rene Wisely*



From the very bottom of the ocean to the top of the class, Charles R. Toy's intellectual voyage has followed a path that is long and often curious — but not dull.

Toy, CAS '72, was sworn in as the 75th president of the State Bar of Michigan last fall. In doing so, he accepted one of his most challenging roles yet, leading an organization of more than 40,000 members that works to improve the administration of justice, promote the legal profession in the state and build public understanding of the legal system.

"Lawyers are people of influence in their communities and in their neighborhoods," says Toy, a Lansing native. "My part will be to shine some light on the important work they're doing to help people get a fair shake in the justice system."

He is also the associate dean of Career and Professional Development at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Mich., where he helps recent law graduates find jobs — no easy task in today's economy.

"It's a tough market, so graduates have to be more resourceful, more persistent and look harder than ever before," he says. "You must absolutely have something that sticks out on your resume," he says.

That's a trick, Toy explains, that he learned firsthand during his OU days.

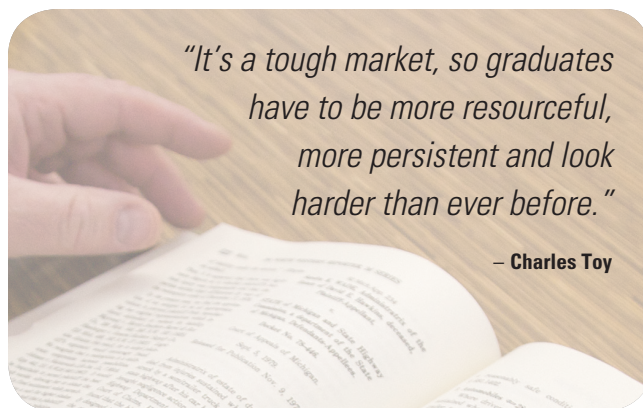
Ocean researcher

While finishing up his bachelor's degree in biological sciences with minors in both chemistry and physics, he worked for the university's motor pool. On a run to the airport one day, he picked up the founder of the biology department, Chairman Clifford Harding, Ph.D., who was returning from Woods Hole, Mass., the site of several famous marine science institutions. In the small talk that ensued, Toy asked Dr. Harding if there were any jobs in Woods Hole.

"Yes, there are jobs there," said Dr. Harding, who owned a home there. Toy took that as an invitation and showed up on Dr. Harding's doorstep in Woods Hole two weeks later. Within hours, Toy went to the oceanographic institution, filled out an application and got his first job offer. In short order, he was conducting research on subsurface ocean circulation on ships that took him to ports in exotic destinations, including the Arctic Circle, the Canary Islands, New Zealand, South Africa, Tahiti and Wales.

Over three years, Toy traveled around the world twice as a shipboard oceanographer for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

"He was always very enthusiastic in whatever he was doing," recalls a now retired Harding.



The adventure was fun but also had the effect of being an eye-catching feature on his résumé, notes Toy. "It was an experience of a lifetime and I attribute those opportunities given to me directly to Oakland University." He cites Dr. Harding and John Cowlshaw, Ph.D., associate professor of Biological Sciences, as two of his most influential professors at OU.

"Charlie was liked by everybody," recalls Dr. Cowlshaw. "He had a way of cocking his head, with a full-faced grin, that people found very appealing."

Training new lawyers

Oakland will soon see more of that appealing grin, as Toy collaborates with the School of Education and Human Services in a partnership with Cooley to write a grant for a mentorship program for new lawyers, a program similar to a residency in the medical field.

"There needs to be some kind of on-the-job training for new attorneys," Toy explains.

Teaching, it would seem, is his passion. Following his ocean voyages, Toy enrolled at Michigan State University in the master's program for park and recreation resources with an eye on teaching. Following that, he enrolled at Cooley Law School with the hope of becoming an environmental law professor. He graduated first in his class.

Realizing that practical experience is always valued in the classroom, he started his legal career as a clerk at the Michigan Court of Appeals in 1981. A year later, he was assistant prosecuting attorney in the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office. In 1984, he joined East Lansing's Farhat & Story, concentrating on environmental, property, and gas and oil law. He took the dean's post at Cooley in 2008.

"I suppose I sound a bit like an overachiever," jokes the married father of four. "But I just feel so energized on every level when I'm learning something new." ■

Rene Wisely is a freelance writer from West Bloomfield, Mich.

Banking on integrity

Former bank executive stands on principle *By Mary Gunderson-Switzer*



Rebecca Smith believes in applying the gold standard to everyone.

"It all comes down to the Golden Rule," says Rebecca Smith, SBA '81. "I was raised to always treat others with honesty and respect. It's important to maintain your personal standards — whether on top of the world or down in the dumps."

Smith is in the midst of one of the downs.

With an impressive 30-year career in banking, Smith was employed at Huntington National Bank as president of Michigan's eastern division. After three years of service there, a new direction at the bank meant a parting of ways. Like thousands of Michiganders, Smith is now on the job hunt.

"I know this will result in another great opportunity, but it's not a situation I would choose for myself — Who wants to be out of a job?" she laughs. "But life has its twists and turns. It's another chance for me to grow."

Lasting investments

Referencing Stephen Covey's book *The Emotional Bank Account*, Smith relates to Covey's banker-friendly metaphor of "emotional deposits" — goodwill that builds from positive daily conduct and interactions.

"If you focus on integrity in your home and work relationships, it's not only the right thing to do," Smith says, "but when adversity hits, people are there for you. I've received an abundance of goodwill."

While regrouping, Smith has time to reflect. There's one person who has come to mind often — a mentor whose high standards Smith has worked to emulate. Smith met Floyd Griffith in 1977, when he was a retail banker at National Bank of Detroit (NBD) Bancorp. He recruited Smith into the bank's management training program shortly after she graduated with an economics/political science degree from Ohio Wesleyan University.

Griffith has since passed away, but his influence has not. "He was in many high-pressure situations, but I never saw him lose his temper or become defensive," Smith says. "His moral compass was strong and steady."

Under Griffith's tutelage, Smith was exposed early on to exemplary work principles and supervisory skills. At 23, she was managing a number of NBD tellers and had enrolled in OU's School of Business Administration. With branch manager training completed and an MBA in hand, Smith was accepted into NBD's loan officer training in 1982.

She was on NBD's board for 22 years, eventually serving as integration director during NBD's merger with Bank One

A portrait of Rebecca Smith, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a black blazer over a black turtleneck, a pearl necklace, a pearl earring, and a pearl bracelet. Her hands are clasped in front of her. The background is a brick wall.

"I was raised to always treat others with honesty and respect. It's important to maintain your personal standards — whether on top of the world or down in the dumps."

– Rebecca Smith



and First Chicago. Smith came to Huntington Bank in 2006. She took courageous stances for the community, such as her decision that Huntington be the first investor in Detroit Renaissance Inc.'s venture capital fund — a fund that, in turn, invests in emerging local businesses.

Through the years, Smith has been lauded for her ethics, fiscal responsibility and leadership skills. She's held 13 jobs within the banking industry. Ironically, it's a field she never planned to pursue.

Growing up in Birmingham, Mich., teaching was the family business. Her father, Roderic Righter, was an education professor at OU. Her grandmothers, mother and several siblings all went into teaching. "I thought that's the route I would go too," Smith says. "But what began at NBD as an opportunity for some work experience turned into a profession I love."

Unfortunately, Americans don't currently share that love. A recent Rasmussen poll indicates that 53 percent of the public continues to lack confidence in the U.S. banking system.

Checks and balances

With 8,430 FDIC banks operating in the United States today, an array of recent business decisions have strained the bond between customer and banker. The 2009 collapse of the markets and bank fallout has left a tangled web. "Decisions were made at the highest levels of government and industry. Some thought those decisions were right at the time, but we see the fallout," she says.

Although there are no easy answers, Smith is certain of one thing: for the banking industry to operate at maximum efficiency, a vital partnership must remain in balance. "It's always been about the two-way street of responsibility between the bank and customer," she adds.

Smith says it's more vital than ever to keep the lines of communication open. "Good bank leadership means continuous, effective communication inside and outside the organization. We need a broad range of information and divergent opinions to be wise and innovative. Frankly, we need to be better listeners."

"Good bank leadership means continuous, effective communication inside and outside the organization. We need a broad range of information and divergent opinions to be wise and innovative. Frankly, we need to be better listeners."

Above all, the banks must maintain impeccable standards. That means not only recruiting high-integrity people but also investing the time in training and coaching them, she says.

"The question always should be: 'Where is the customer in this?' We need diversity of thought, age, gender, race, socio and economic backgrounds. The entire spectrum must be well represented. That's good business."

Future outlook

Where will the banks be in two to three years? "Work remains to rebuild trust, earnings and ratings, but bad times won't last forever," Smith says.

Still interested in the industry, Smith is widening her job options to include education, health care and nonprofit organizations. She wants to stay in Michigan. Despite the state's economic challenges, she values its many plusses, citing some of the finest healthcare and higher education in the country.

"We also have that 'pull yourself up by the bootstraps' Midwest attitude that should get us through," she says.

She's counting on it. While pursuing a new job niche, Smith is busy with extra volunteer work and serving on professional boards. She's also enjoyed extra time with her husband and three children.

A recent family ski trip refreshed her — but it wasn't without incident. "I hit a patch of powdery snow and performed a big belly flop right in front of everyone," she laughingly admits.

In quick order, Rebecca Smith was back on her feet and ready for another run. It's that invaluable spirit of perseverance that Smith can take all the way to the bank — or anywhere else, for that matter. ■

Mary Gunderson-Switzer is a freelance writer living in Warner Robins, Ga.

Bank notes

Years in the banking industry have brought life lessons for Smith. Among the golden nuggets she's learned along the way:

Welcome feedback

Input is good and necessary — don't shy away from it. "Being out of touch with the truth means being unaware of how to make positive changes. Welcome feedback from everyone."

Stay trusting

Life is not fair — it's how you react that matters. In an increasingly "get them before they get you" world, Smith acknowledges that some believe it's foolish to be trusting. "I trust people until I have a good reason not to. And even then, I try to re-establish the relationship for greater good. In the end, you come out ahead."

Accentuate the positive

Is the glass half-empty or half-full? What you tell yourself may have the biggest effect on overcoming obstacles. "I read that it takes about 10,000 times of practicing something before you completely master it, and we must first believe."

Go with the flow

Having been through three bank shake-ups, Smith knows the value of being adaptable. "Life often means changing course. You have only two choices: give up or make something good out of it. At any point, any of us can be on the cusp of a great, new adventure." ▲



Going for the Gold

OU's head team physician is an Olympic-caliber sports medicine specialist *By Amy Lynn Smith*



Olympic dreams typically are a lifetime in the making. But these aspirations are sometimes shared by more than just the world-class athletes who are the stars of the global games.

That's certainly true for Jim Moeller, M.D., the team doctor for Oakland University's sports programs. He was selected to serve as the chief medical officer for the U.S. Olympic team in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada — a dream come true for the Troy, Mich.-based sports medicine specialist.

Dr. Moeller spent a month in Vancouver, overseeing a staff of about 60 medical professionals and working with more than 200 athletes from various U.S. teams, with the aim of keeping them healthy to compete at the highest levels.

"It was a great honor to be selected by my country to be in charge of the medical care for one of the ultimate sporting events in the world," Dr. Moeller says. "As a medical team, we were able to support our athletes in the best Winter Olympics that an American team has ever had."

Much like the Olympic athletes, Dr. Moeller had years of preparation, fueled by his enthusiasm as an Olympic Games spectator when he was a teenager.

Later on, after graduating from the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, he volunteered to work with the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) in 1996.

After moving up on the waiting list, he was invited in 2002 to serve in various capacities, such as working as the in-house physician at one of the Olympic training centers for several weeks.

Raising the bar

Through the years, Dr. Moeller was invited to multi-sport events at increasingly higher levels of competition, which led to an opportunity to serve at the 2006 Olympic Games in Torino, Italy.

Then he grabbed for the gold — and was rewarded, being chosen as the chief medical officer for the U.S. Olympic team in the Vancouver winter games.

To earn this coveted spot, Dr. Moeller was evaluated by members of the USOC at various events in which he volunteered, much as the way athletes are judged in competition.

“They want to see what kind of care you provide and how well you work in a pressure-cooker situation such as an international sporting event,” Dr. Moeller explains. “They decide whether you’re the type of person they’d like to have with them at the Olympic Games.”

After receiving the committee’s approval, Dr. Moeller began weeks of administrative preparation before decamping to Vancouver. There, his most visible role was serving as media spokesperson regarding athletic injuries.

Yet what the public *didn’t* see was perhaps the more important task.

Dr. Moeller explains that athletes often come to the games with nagging aches and pains or may be recovering from significant injuries. In that case, the goal is to perform maintenance medical care so the athletes can train and compete at the highest possible level.

“We do our best to stay out of the spotlight and keep the athletes out there doing their thing,” Dr. Moeller says.

Back on the home front

With the conclusion of the games and his return home to Michigan, Dr. Moeller has remained extremely busy. This year, he took over as the head team physician for Oakland University, having served as a volunteer physician assisting his predecessor and professional partner, Sami Rifat, M.D.

Drs. Moeller and Rifat operate Sports Medicine Associates in Auburn Hills, Mich., where they treat every aspect of sports-related conditions. During his extended stay in Vancouver, Dr. Moeller says that Dr. Rifat covered not only their private practice but also the care of the OU athletic teams (a position for which he continues to volunteer).

Dr. Moeller, who is also on staff at Beaumont Hospitals, says the field of sports medicine encompasses not just



Jim Moeller, M.D., served as chief medical officer for the U.S. Olympic team this past winter in Vancouver, British Columbia.

obvious injuries, such as sprains, strains and dislocations, but issues including exercise-induced asthma and cardiac conditions.

“There’s a great diversity of things that can happen to an athlete that makes this an interesting field of medicine,” he says.

As for his adventure at the Olympic Games, Dr. Moeller says he is grateful to his wife, Marlo, and three daughters, Lindsay, Hannah and Kelsey, for their support in helping him achieve his dream.

“It was a thrilling opportunity to be part of something that means so much to me personally, for my nation and my love of sport and the Olympic Games, in particular,” he says. ■

Amy Lynn Smith is a freelance writer from Birmingham, Mich.

Capturing history in the making By Alice Rhein



If it hadn't been for the San Francisco earthquake of 1989, Colin Campbell, CAS '00, may never have ended up as one of the first Western photographers to capture the breach of the Berlin Wall.

As a construction photographer who moved to the Bay area in the 1970s, Campbell was used to fairly steady work. Yet new construction business was at a standstill after the earthquake, which measured a huge 6.9 on the Richter scale.

The temporary lull gave the Detroit-born son of a General Motors engineer the opportunity to visit his mother, a lampshade maker and quilter in Paris, and explore Europe. He booked an overnight train from Paris to Berlin, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Campbell arrived at the Brandenburg Gate early November 9, 1989, to find a group of young men sharing a single sledgehammer, beating on the concrete wall. Instinctively, he grabbed his camera and captured two rolls of images that one critic has called "iconic."

"I walked into this unbelievable photo op," says Campbell. "At one point they threw a rope around a piece of wall that said 'Hilflos' (German for 'helpless') and pulled until all that was left standing was the word 'help.'"

On the 20th anniversary of the collapse of the Berlin Wall, Campbell displayed his images in a solo gallery exhibit, one that will continue at UC-Berkeley later this year. Campbell's photography career began at OU in 1967, where he worked for the *Oakland Observer*, a student newspaper. "This was a political activist era, and I used my camera to become involved in the issues of the day," says Campbell.

The end of the Vietnam War and the start of a family left Campbell, now 64 and a grandfather of two, just a few credits short of graduation. Ten years ago, he finally finished them to earn his OU degree.

"It was a feeling of accomplishment, 30 years later," he says.

Campbell never practiced photojournalism again after that morning in Berlin, and has instead continued to photograph construction and urban projects. "All photographers dream of capturing a moment of importance," he says. "I felt this was it." ■

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





Right place, right time
 A stroke of luck took Colin Campbell through Berlin in November 1989, where he captured these enduring images of the fall of the Berlin Wall. As Campbell loaded his camera, crowds of West Germans began to dismantle the notorious concrete curtain that had divided Germany, heralding the end of the bitter polemics of the Cold War. "I knew I was documenting the end of an era," he says. Campbell recently exhibited his photography at a gallery in San Francisco, Calif.



"All photographers dream of capturing a moment of importance." – Colin Campbell



Word weaver

Prize-winning poet finds inspiration from an unlikely source *By Amy Lynn Smith*



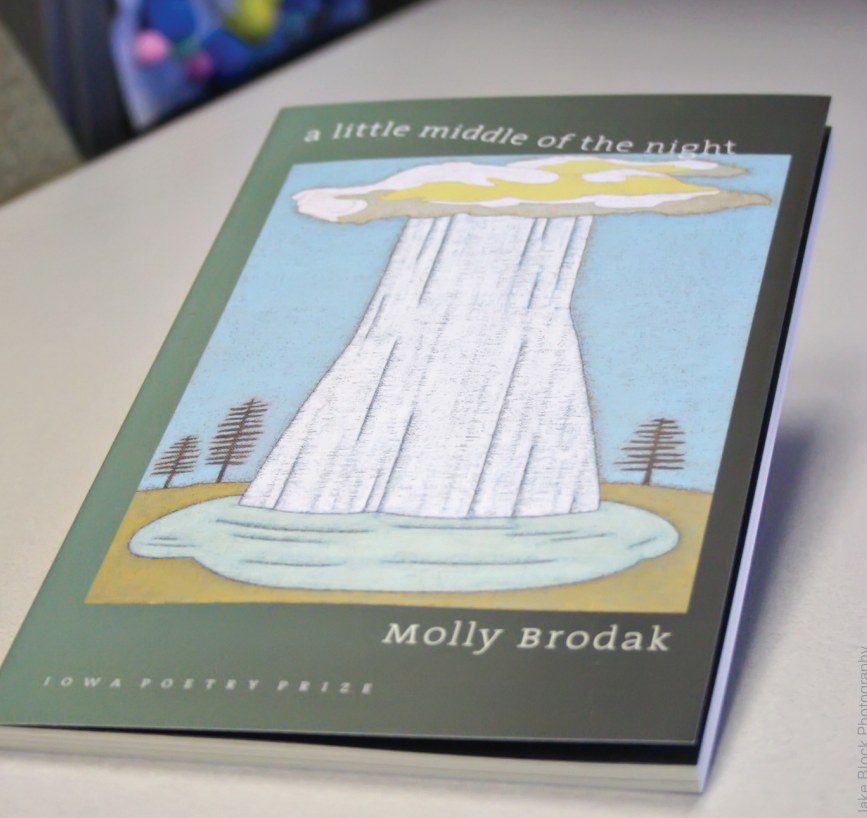
Sibley Studios, Augusta, Ga.

Molly Brodak is a woman who follows her heart. And, when it came to the creation of her award-winning poetry collection, she followed her head, too.

Much of her collection, *A Little Middle of the Night*, which won the prestigious 2009 Iowa Poetry Prize and was published through the Iowa University Press this March, was written while Brodak, CAS '05, was recovering from surgery to remove a brain tumor.

Fortunately, the surgery and recovery were both successful — as were the poems inspired in part by her experience. The book's title, in fact, refers to the coma Brodak slipped into for a couple of days, at a time when she should have been coming out of anesthesia after surgery.

"It was really interesting to me because, of course, I don't remember any of it, so there was just this blankness and it came and went, and you can never



understand it, but it happened,” she explains. “It was just this momentary lapse ... and then it was over.”

No easy answers

A Little Middle of the Night is organized into three sections. One deals with the conflicted emotions she has about her childhood with a father who was sometimes absent from her life.

The second section grapples with the experience of her brain tumor. “So much of what turned into the book came out of those intense fears and feelings I had,” she explains. “If I hadn’t gone through that, I don’t know if I could have written that way.”

The third section of *A Little Middle of the Night* is devoted to the subject of art, a discipline of great interest to Brodak, who initially studied painting and drawing before deciding she wanted to write.

“I didn’t want to just put a big pink bow on the book and write some trite happy ending,” Brodak explains. “After all, art doesn’t have the easy answers, just like life doesn’t, but it gives you the place to go ponder it, at least.”

Not settling for easy answers seems fitting for Brodak, who hasn’t chosen an easy life path. After all, when she was studying at OU she thought being a poet “sounded like being a cobbler or some old-fashioned thing that doesn’t exist anymore,” she admits.

A passion for language

However, Professor of English Ed Haworth Hoepfner, Ph.D., encouraged Brodak to pursue poetry after seeing just two of her poems. Brodak gives him an enormous

amount of credit for urging her to pursue what she admits has been a lifelong love of words.

Brodak says she couldn’t deny the passion that began when she was a little girl, stapling together pieces of paper to make books about what she’d done that day. And she didn’t let the fact that poetry is rarely anyone’s sole means of support stop her from pursuing her heart’s desire.

Even now, having won one of the most important prizes in the world of poetry, Brodak still gets rejection letters — which she actually thinks is good. “People are judging you on the poems themselves,” she says, “and I respect that.”

After receiving a bachelor’s degree in English from OU, Brodak went on to earn a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from West Virginia University. She now works as a lecturer in English and Humanities at Augusta State University in Georgia. “A good day job for a poet,” she says.

“One of the things that inspires me is working with students who are at the age I was when I was really getting excited about writing,” Brodak explains. “That state of energy keeps me disciplined about my own writing.”

Having pursued what she describes as an “obscure” vocation with her eyes wide open, Brodak remains true to the attitude that motivated her to submit her work to the Iowa Press in the first place.

“All I care about is my vision,” she says. “Every successful poet I’ve ever met has the same story of letting all the details work themselves out. And if you’re sticking to what you’re trying to do, I guess it really does happen that way.” ■

Amy Lynn Smith is a freelance writer from Birmingham, Mich.

Parenting 101

OU alum provides expert advice on raising kids without losing your mind *By Cara Catallo*



Good news: Your child might be more normal than you think.

Just ask James Windell, MA '72. He reassures parents all the time by e-mail, in his weekly columns and even in books.

"I get questions and concerns from parents literally daily," says Windell, a psychotherapist, writer and parenting expert. "An Australian mother e-mailed me Sunday: 'My daughter who is four insists that I call her Thomas the Tank Engine. Is it normal?'"

Don't take the little things so seriously, says Windell, adding that it could be as simple as a four-year-old's desire to play make believe, as in the Australian's case. Parents look at child development books or charts and worry that their child isn't toilet-trained, or doesn't share with friends or throws temper tantrums, says Windell.

"I don't think parents understand kids, and I think that's become a bigger problem," says Windell, who attributes that in part to families being smaller and girls not babysitting. "You become a parent and you have no clue as to what a

toddler is supposed to do, or a four- or five-year-old. I'm reminded of this every day, and I have examples from around the world."

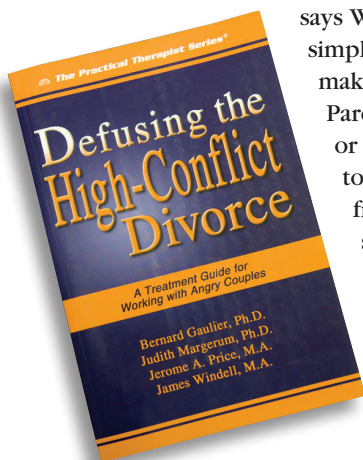
Don't worry just yet: "Almost anything they bring up is normal or within the normal range," Windell says.

Tempering emotions

As a clinical psychologist for the Oakland County Circuit Court, Windell knows all too well when to be concerned. There he conducts anger group therapy with delinquent adolescents. He also leads ADEPT — After Divorce Effective Parenting Together — an eight-week high-conflict post-divorce group program Windell designed with a former coworker.

"I think anybody working with people in a high-conflict divorce relationship would acknowledge that it's extremely difficult," Windell says. "It's intense, but also rewarding ... people do change."

Tempering emotions is par for the course in psychotherapy, a field that enthralled Windell from his first undergraduate psychology course. Now a teacher himself at Wayne State University, Windell is also the author of about a dozen books — he says he doesn't keep track — on topics ranging from ADHD postpartum depression and child discipline strategies. He has a book about surviving high-conflict divorce due out this fall,





Take Control of Your Divorce: Strategies to Stop Fighting and Start Co-parenting, and several others in the works.

Juggling act

Windell's professional writing career started with a parenting column in the *Clarkston News* in 1975. Before long he added music reviewer to his resume, all while maintaining a private practice. Windell went on to work at the *Observer & Eccentric* newspapers and eventually became jazz critic at the *Oakland Press*, which also ran his "Coping with Kids" parenting column for 23 years. The column still appears weekly in the *Staten Island Advance*.

"I've always seemed to need to have several things going on at the same time," Windell says. "I was working with people with problems in the daytime. At night in the newspaper work I was typically interviewing and working with and reviewing people at the top of their game."

It also helped Windell become versatile. From leading families through an uncomfortable court-ordered relationship, to writing books and answering parenting questions at allexperts.com, Windell gets things done, something he attributes in part to his time at OU.

"Those instructors were tough and taught well. It helped prepare me for everything I've done ever since," says Windell. "After I graduated I was working with the psychological clinic at the Oakland County Circuit Court, and I got to be with people from all over the country who were in Ph.D. programs. I had a chance to compare what I learned at OU with what they were learning, and we were on equal footing."

Windell's many years in the field allow him to approach the trials of parenthood with the proper perspective.

"So many parents think their kids are so dysfunctional and nothing good will ever happen and that they'll end up very dysfunctional people," he says. "It's good to see that these children survive and most of them, no matter how awful they seemed, get through that and become OK adults who become loving parents," Windell says.

"I guess that's the advantage of getting on in years; you can look back and maintain a sense of humor because most children turn out just fine." ■

Cara Catallo is a freelance writer from Clarkston, Mich., and the mother of an 8-year-old. So far, she has managed to keep her mind.

James Windell's 10 worst discipline mistakes parents make

- 1. Yelling.** Most children of "yellers" soon learn to tune it out. Most children respond better to a calm, reasonable request or command.
- 2. Demanding immediate compliance.** Most people don't respond well to demands to "do it now." A respectful or firm request — with praise or reward for good behavior — is a better approach.
- 3. Nagging.** Parents who try to be lenient or permissive often resort to nagging — until they explode. Better to make a firm, consistent request with a clear limit and consequences if the task is not completed.
- 4. Lecturing and advice-giving.** Lecturing, like yelling, is often tuned out, while advice given under the wrong circumstances can be useless. Instead, let them be the "experts" by asking them questions related to the issue.
- 5. Taking anger out on kids.** Angry responses by parents can lead to actions or language that can stick with kids for a long time. If you overreact, apologize — and admit that you're only human, too.
- 6. Shaming and belittling.** Sometimes casual remarks ("Why are you acting like a baby?") can cause children to feel smaller, inadequate, less intelligent or more insecure. Remember that words can carry more weight than you intend, so keep it positive.
- 7. Setting traps.** Some parents who tend to be authoritarian try to catch their children in a lie to prove a point. It's better to address an issue straightforward.
- 8. Imposing excessive guilt.** Making children feel responsible for the circumstances of their parents' lives is symptomatic of those raised in dysfunctional families. A therapist, group counselor or support group can be helpful in finding the root of the problem.
- 9. Physical punishment.** Parents who hit or physically punish children often instill hostility and resentment instead of respect. Using self-discipline and the hand — instead of the head — is a more effective approach.
- 10. Coercion.** Dragging a frightened child into the doctor's office, for instance, shows a parent asserting a need for control rather than empathizing with a child's fears. Offering them choices ("Do you want me to hold your hand?") allows for some measure of control but leaves no question that they're going into the office. ▲

Source: www.theologic.com

Shaping the future of medicine





The Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine will be the first new medical school to open in Michigan in more than a generation, and with its arrival, comes a new model for medical education that will impact health care for generations to come.

The innovative curriculum will prepare physicians who practice patient-centered care and who are uniquely trained to meet — and embrace — the demands of 21st century medicine.

The School of Medicine, a groundbreaking partnership between Oakland University and Beaumont Hospitals, promises to significantly advance medical education, accelerate Michigan's transition to a knowledge-based economy and attract medical, academic and business leaders from across the nation and around the world.

The school will begin instruction in August 2011. Watch our progress. oakland.edu/medicine ■

OU
WB | *School of*
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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY WILLIAM BEAUMONT

Engineering for tomorrow

In Korea, business professor helps develop a new field of study *By Sandra Beckwith*

In a competitive global economy, businesses today are looking for every advantage to become faster, leaner and more efficient. Now, a new academic discipline — led by an OU professor — is being created at a university in South Korea, where students will learn to integrate business principles, physics, and computer and engineering disciplines as a means of serving management in a more scientific way.

Vijayan Sugumaran, Ph.D., professor of Management Information Systems in the School of Business Administration, was selected to help establish an academic major in service systems management and engineering (SSME) at Sogang University in Seoul, South Korea.

SSME is an emerging field that aims to apply science, management, and engineering disciplines to help companies establish systems that improve the delivery of services or the manufacture of products.

Backed by a \$10 million, three-year grant from the Korean government (Korea Research Foundation), Sugumaran and 11 other professors — six from Sogang and six from other universities — will shape and teach the new curriculum. This multidisciplinary approach focuses on business processes, emphasizing the roles of business leaders and employees in achieving objectives while considering how their actions may impact other people or services. Service systems are complex systems that attempt to create value by integrating people, technology, internal and external systems, and shared information or knowledge.

“In the auto industry, engineers in a conventional work environment might focus on designing a component with a single criterion — maybe the part needs to be lightweight,” Dr. Sugumaran says. “With a service systems engineering approach, those engineers might also take into account how a mechanic will get to the part to repair or replace it, too. This adds more value to the process. In the SSME approach, the focus shifts from the product to service; the product is treated simply as a mechanism to provide service to customers and maintain a long term relationship.”

The concept extends beyond the manufacturer to suppliers, as well, he says. “In SSME, we also look to improve communication between suppliers,” Dr. Sugumaran says. “When all the vendors involved start talking to each other, they have a better understanding of how their components are interrelated and can make relevant improvements or adjustments.”

Another example he cites comes from information technology, his area of expertise. “There is increasing global concern about how we can dispose of technology products so that they don’t harm the environment,” he says. “With the conventional approach, safe disposal is secondary. But in the service science environment, concerns around ‘green’ practices and issues are elevated.”

Preparing service scientists

The new SSME major at Sogang will combine knowledge from business management, physics, and computer engineering for an initial enrollment of 40 students. A co-principal investigator, Sugumaran is teaching a course in service systems analysis and design.



Dr. Sugumaran is spending the 2010 calendar year at Sogang University. During the subsequent two years, he will spend one academic semester teaching and conducting research at Sogang, returning to OU for the alternate semesters. He previously has collaborated with a Sogang computer science professor on research on a number of topics, generating several journal and conference papers and, recently, a book entitled, *Applied Software Product Line Engineering*.

“Our goal in Korea is to prepare students to be service scientists,” Dr. Sugumaran explains. “During the grant period, we will determine how to train them so that when they graduate, they meet the expectations and needs of companies looking for employees who understand and embrace SSME.”

Bringing it back home

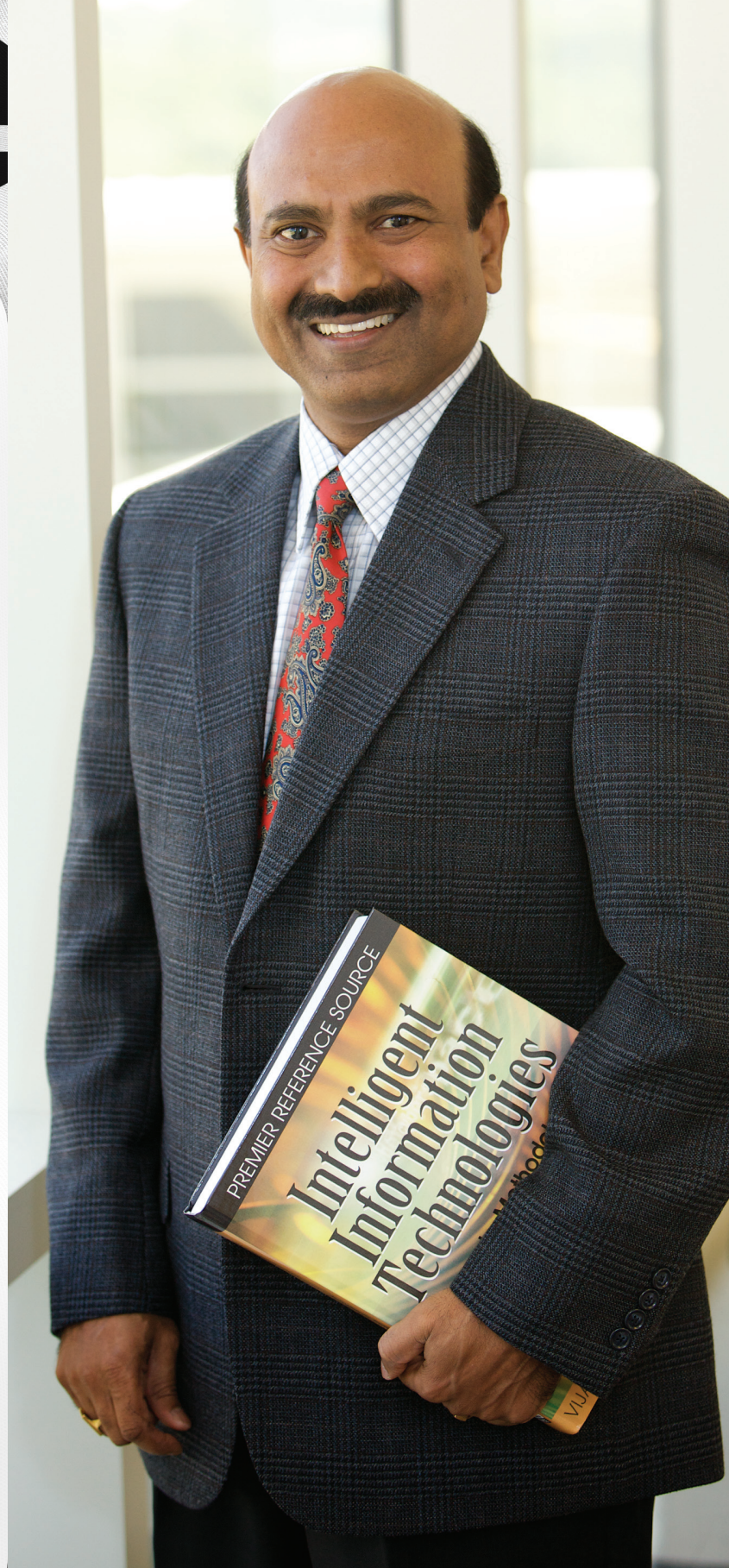
One of his challenges is generating classroom discussion — something that is not as common in Korea as it is in American universities. “Korean students are very obedient,” he says. “It will take a little while to get them comfortable talking in class because that’s counter to their culture.”

Much of what Dr. Sugumaran learns in his experience at Sogang will find its way back to OU, he says, perhaps applied to an SSME certificate program or a master’s program. Offering an SSME curriculum would place OU in elite company, he points out, as only a handful of U.S. colleges or universities currently offer SSME instruction. Students graduating from those schools are in demand from employers such as IBM and Cisco Systems, Inc.

“More and more service companies worldwide are looking for graduates with this broader knowledge base,” he says. “They want them to be more than engineers — they must wear many hats.”

While Dr. Sugumaran’s mission to help launch Sogang’s SSME curriculum means traveling halfway around the world, it’s a transition that he says he and his wife welcome. “I am very excited about having an opportunity to do something new and different in a very different environment.” ■

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



Vijayan Sugumaran, Ph.D., professor of Management Information Systems, is spending this year working with colleagues at Sogang University in Seoul, South Korea, to establish a new major there in the highly specialized field of service systems management and engineering.

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We would like to extend our appreciation to our board members for their hard work, dedication and generous giving of their time and talent to our Alumni programs.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Check out what we've been up to!

OU at the Joe

The OCAA hosted two alumni events at Joe Louis Arena in January and March. On Jan. 14, alumni and guests gathered to watch the Detroit Red Wings triumph over the Carolina Hurricanes 3-1, with a pre-game dinner in the Manhattan Room at the Joe. Alumni and friends got together on March 24 to enjoy a pre-game dinner at Hockeytown followed by exciting action on the ice as the Detroit Red Wings beat the St. Louis Blues with a score of 4-2. ●



This is an OU family! From left to right, it's Howard Kuisell; current OU student and Student Alumni Association e-board member Rachel Butler; her mom, Nancy Butler, MAT '85, CAS '79; and dad John Butler, CAS '79.

Grizzlies gather at the Breslin

Nearly 90 alumni and friends made the trek to East Lansing to cheer on the Golden Grizzlies as they battled the Spartans on December 10. The Golden Grizzlies may not have won the game, but it was still a winning event for the attendees. ●



Alumnus Jonathan Crawford, SEHS '76, (second from left) attended the Grizzly Gathering at the Breslin with his family to cheer on OU.

Friendly holiday cheer

The Black Alumni Chapter hosted its annual Just Friends Holiday Celebration on December 13 in the Oakland Center. It was a huge success, with 200 alumni and friends enjoying food, music and dancing well into the night. ●

Alumni



Alumni and students gathered for OU Day at the Capitol this March.

Grizzlies get a glimpse of Michigan government

More than 30 OU alumni and students participated in OU Day at the Capitol on March 9. Attendees visited with alumni legislators and toured the Michigan Capitol, Michigan Historical Center and the Michigan Hall of Justice/State Supreme Court. ●

Outstanding alumni celebrated

In recognition of their contributions to the community and the university, nine outstanding alumni and friends were honored at the annual Alumni Awards Banquet on November 7, 2009. ●



(back row, left to right) Beth Gottbelf, CAS '80; Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson; Kenneth McMillan, M.D., CAS '72; Jonathan Crawford, SEHS '76; and Jackie Long, SON '70; (front row, left to right) Oakland University President Gary Russi, Ph.D.; Cindy Thieme, SBA '94; Kevin Grazier, Ph.D., CAS '87; Paul McGhee, Ph.D., CAS '63; and Ron May.



Alumni came home to OU

Oakland University's second annual homecoming weekend — four days of fun that began Feb. 4 — was a smashing success and included some special OUAA-sponsored events.

The Alumni Hospitality Tent, a new addition to this year's festivities, was a great opportunity for alumni, fans and friends to gather before the game. OUAA partnered with Buffalo Wild Wings to provide a tailgate-like atmosphere in a tent outside the O'rena, where a good time was had by all.

There was also the OUAA Family Festival, now in its sixth year and part of homecoming weekend for two consecutive years. Nearly 400 alumni and family members attended the festival, which was held in the lower level of the Rec Center and featured inflatable toys and games including the bungee run, a Velcro wall and a giant slide. Other activities such as an arts and crafts area and gymnastics camp, along with tailgate snacks, meant food and fun for everyone. ●



We want to hear from you ALUMNI



Send us the latest information about you or your accomplishments for future publication in Class Notes. You may include a photo, either a print or high resolution (300 dpi) digital file if you have one. Class Notes are printed on a space-available basis. Return this form to the address below.

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2200 North Squirrel Road, Rochester, MI 48309-4401

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 OU Recreation Center membership, discounts around campus and invitations to special alumni events. Community benefits include reduced rates with Liberty Mutual Group Savings Plan, GradMed short-term health insurance and discounted memberships in the Detroit Institute of Arts. For details, check oualumni.com.

Alumni Membership

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

Friends of OUAA

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

I/We would like to contribute

\$ _____

to the Oakland University Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment Fund.

☐ Enclosed is a check payable to
Oakland University.

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Print name as it appears on card _____

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please add me to your list.

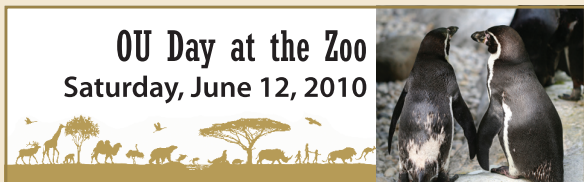
☐ Please send me information on how to
include OU in my estate plan.

☐ I am interested in other giving
opportunities at OU.

Save these dates: UPCOMING OUAA events

Plan some summer fun with the OUAA. To register for these events, visit grizzlink.oualumni.com/events or call (248) 364-6140.

OU Day at the Zoo Saturday, June 12, 2010



OU Day at the Zoo Saturday, June 12 | 11 a.m.

Join your fellow alumni and friends to discover the latest attractions at the Detroit Zoo. Listen to a special zookeeper talk, gather for delicious picnic fare and tour the grounds. OUAA members and their guests will receive a free commemorative gift. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Ticket price includes zoo admission, lunch and zookeeper talk.

OUAA Golf Challenge Monday, July 19

11:30 a.m. registration | 1 p.m. shotgun start
R&S Sharf Golf Course, Oakland University

Register now for the OUAA Golf Challenge. Gather with fellow alumni and friends for this annual golf outing that benefits the OUAA Scholarship Program. OUAA members and their guests are invited to take advantage of a special rate of \$150. For non-members, the early bird ticket price is \$175 until June 14. After June 14, the cost for non-members is \$200. Cost includes 18 holes of golf, boxed lunch, afterglow reception and player gift. Registration deadline is July 2, 2010. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Bris Roberts at (248) 364-6140 or villanu2@oakland.edu for sponsorship details.



OU Day at Comerica Park Wednesday, Aug. 4 5:30 p.m. pre-game reception | 7:05 p.m. game

Don't miss the OUAA's sixth annual OU Night at Comerica Park as the Tigers take on the Chicago White Sox. Seats are located in the mezzanine level, section 216. Tickets are limited to the first 200 people so register today! Tickets are \$25 for OUAA members and guests and \$30 for non-members and guests and include pre-game dinner at the park and game ticket. ●

OUAA introduces the Student Alumni Association

Launched in January 2010, the Student Alumni Association (SAA) is an on-campus student organization intended to bring students together to promote OU pride, tradition and spirit.

Sponsored by the Oakland University Alumni Association, the SAA is designed to help students establish valuable alumni connections that will enhance their professional network long after graduation and provide opportunities that strengthen lifelong loyalty to OU. After all, it's not just what you know, but who you know: SAA connects students with nearly 3,000 OUAA members and more than 80,000 OU alumni worldwide.

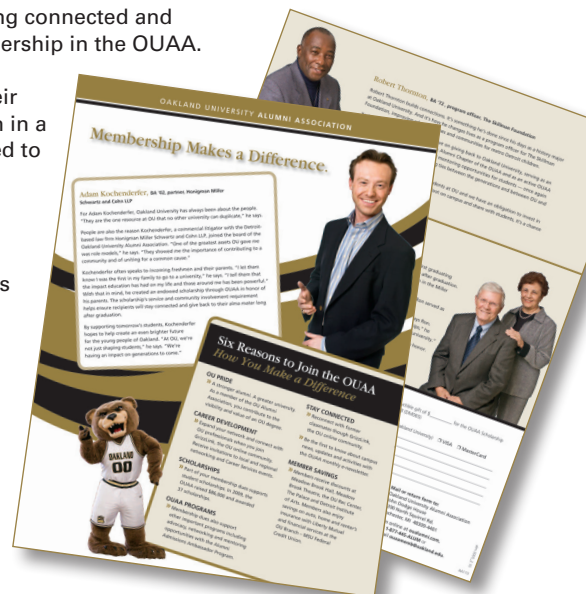


SAA membership dues are \$10 per year or \$30 for a life membership (up to four years). Students who join SAA receive a membership package that includes an official SAA T-shirt, water bottle and membership card. Throughout the year, SAA members will be kept informed of upcoming events, programs, promotions and even scholarship opportunities through a members-only monthly e-newsletter. Members also receive priority registration for professional and leadership development opportunities and events such as Dinner with a Dozen Grizzlies and the Student-to-Alumni Power Networking Dinner.

Currently, there are more than 100 SAA members. Do you know a student who would be interested? For more information on SAA, visit oualumni.com/saa or e-mail saa@oakland.edu. ●

Membership makes a difference

OU alumni and OUAA members share their passion for OU by staying connected and involved through membership in the OUAA. Several notable alumni volunteered to share their stories and their passion in a promotional piece mailed to nearly 34,000 alumni in March. The alumni featured described how OU made a difference in their careers and how, as an OUAA member, you can make an impact on future and current OU students. Visit us online at oualumni.com and see how you can make a difference, too. ●



Show your pride

Become an Alumni Admissions Ambassador for OU

As an alumnus of Oakland University, you remember what it was like to cheer for the black and gold at sporting events, to participate in student organizations and programs, to show your school spirit in everything you did.

Remain connected to your alma mater and share your experiences with future generations of Golden Grizzlies by joining our growing team of Alumni Admissions Ambassadors.

By volunteering as an ambassador at events such as regional and national college fairs and on-campus visit programs, you can share your enthusiasm for Oakland with prospective students and their families, providing them with a valuable, genuine connection as they explore their college options. Through your own collegiate and professional successes, you will illustrate the benefits of the OU experience.

The Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program (AAAP) invites you to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

Call (248) 370-GRIZ and speak with the program coordinator about how to get involved with the AAAP.

E-mail aaap@oakland.edu with your name and graduation year, and any questions you may have about the AAAP program.

Log on to oakland.edu/aaap to view a list of upcoming events for Alumni Admissions Ambassadors, sample training materials, news stories on our volunteers and pictures from recent events.



"The presence of alumni at admissions events conveys the pride and commitment OU alumni have for the university. It sends a message to future students and families that they are about to become part of something bigger than simply getting an education."

Tom Schramski, SECS '78

FAST FACTS

- Ambassadors have served the university at more than 100 undergraduate recruitment events
- Just a few hours per year from each ambassador makes a big difference in our recruitment efforts
- Everyone can participate — OU graduates from 1967 to 2010 are actively engaged in the AAAP

For a great getaway, go with the Grizzlies

OCAA members and their travel companions can take advantage of great packages and prices through the OCAA Grizzlies Getaway travel program.

Best of the Aegean and Greek Isles Luxury Cruise

Sept. 21 – Oct. 4, 2010

*Cost depends on stateroom choice **

Experience the legendary lands of the Eastern Mediterranean, where the past comes to life, aboard the beautifully appointed 684-passenger *Oceania Nautica*. Be swept away in the ship's intimate atmosphere while enjoying upscale amenities and the finest cuisine at sea. The voyage visits Istanbul, Kusadasi, Delos, Mykonos, Santorini, Rhodes, Crete, Monemvasia, Katakolon, Corfu, Zakynthos, Nauplion and Athens. Explore ancient ruins and superb sights at ports of call along the way.



Rockies Highlights by Train

Oct. 2 – 10, 2010

*\$3,099 per person, double occupancy**

Savor the grandeur of the Canadian Rockies with an overnight rail journey from Vancouver to Jasper aboard VIA Rail's *The Canadian*. Relax in the Dome car and experience panoramic views of the Albrecht Icefields and, on a clear day, Mt. Robson — the highest peak in the Rockies. Arrive in Jasper where you'll see the dramatic Maligne Canyon and its picture-perfect lake. Other destinations include Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary.

For more information on these and other available trips, visit oalumni.com/travel. ●

**All prices subject to change.*

Historical Reflections – Oceania Cruises Barcelona to Athens (Piraeus)

April 2 – 13, 2011

*From \$3,499 per person, double occupancy (including airfare)**



Uncover the cultural and historical riches of the Mediterranean while cruising on the elegant Oceania Cruises' *Insignia*. Lose

yourself at sea in the comfort and luxuries of fine cuisine, upscale amenities, a staff devoted to your every need, and lavishly-appointed staterooms. Depart from Barcelona on this extraordinary cruise and traverse the deep blue sea to some of Europe's most enthralling ports. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of France, Monaco, Italy, Greece, and Turkey, each destination with something distinctive to experience. A true Mediterranean odyssey!

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WITH FREE AIRFARE
IF BOOKED BY JULY 7, 2010

OCAA surveys alumni to improve future efforts

In September 2009, the OCAA conducted an electronic survey asking alumni to evaluate its performance and provide feedback on how it can improve. More than 2,000 alumni (11 percent) responded, sharing their opinions, experiences and interest in their alma mater. This valuable feedback will guide the OCAA in evaluating future alumni programs, communications and benefits to better serve OU alumni.

Here's a summary of the key findings:

- 92 percent of respondents rated their decision to attend Oakland University as "good" or "great"
- 43 percent rated their student experience as excellent
- 42 percent indicated that they had participated in "professional or career-related" activities during their tenure as students (compared to about 41 percent for most schools)
- 32 percent said they intend to financially participate with the university and plan to continue (vs. 58 percent on average for all institutions in the study)

- Among the 46 percent who identified themselves as "non-contributors," 30 percent indicated that they still promote OU to others either "regularly" or "all the time"
- There is a linear relationship between era of graduation and the perceived effectiveness of communications between OU and alumni; younger alumni seem more concerned about being in the communications loop
- Respondents identified the following life-preparatory activities as the most important:
 - 1) Academics and classes
 - 2) Skills and training for careers
 - 3) Relationship with faculty



- Alumni want to know that the equity of their degree is improving and will continue to improve over time
- Time constraints, family/job commitments and not knowing anyone at an event are the three largest barriers to participation in alumni activities

Thank you to those who participated in this survey. More detailed information is available at oalumni.com. Watch for future updates as the OCAA makes every effort to better serve you. ●

CAREER/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1960s

Andrew W. Hogarth, CAS '69, retired July 1, 2009, after 40 years with the State of Michigan Departments of Conservation, Natural Resources, and Environmental Quality. His last position was with the Department of Environmental Quality as chief of the Remediation and Redevelopment Division. On December 2, 2009, he received the Michigan Association of Environmental Professionals 2009 Outstanding Environmental Professional Award for lifetime achievement.



Judy Lehman, SEHS '67, is an illustrator for the Walnut Grove series of children's books, which are authored by Lehman's daughter-in-law, Dana Lehman. The second book in the series, *I DOUBLE Dare You!* won the 2009 Mom's Choice Awards silver award for developing social skills.

She is a retired schoolteacher and has been an artist for 38 years, illustrating the Walnut Grove book series using watercolors.

Joan (Raisin) Peven Smith, SEHS '69, taught in the Oakland County public and private schools until 1986 when she moved to Miami, Fla. She is board of director emeritus of Florida International University and has been assisting with the new medical school. Smith has a keen interest in preventative medicine through healthy nutrition. She is one of the founders of the Food Studies Institute where she certifies teachers to teach courses on healthy nutrition in more than 340 classrooms nationally. She is also a real estate agent for Cervera Real Estate, Inc., specializing in condominium sales. Her background as a reading specialist from the OU School of Education has been most helpful in her career as a volunteer and a professional. She credits Dr. Dorsey Hammond and (Distinguished Professor of Education) Dr. Ron Cramer. She is married to Harry Smith, and the couple has five children and eight grandchildren.

1970s

Arthur Atkinson, SBA '76, retired from Ford Motor Company body engineering in 2007. He is now employed as manager of Bloomfield Village, Mich.

Kitty Dubin, SEHS '75, is a veteran playwright who authored *The Blank Page*, a tale of creative crisis that played during the 2009-10 season at the Jewish Ensemble Theatre in West Bloomfield, Mich.

Scott Nelson, SBA '77, was recently appointed as president of Burkland, Inc., a manufacturer of precision metal products to the automotive and industrial markets. He was previously employed at Acument Global Technologies for 15 years in various leadership positions.

Ronald Reed, SBA '75, is president and CEO of Michigan Community Bancorp Ltd., in Sterling Heights.

Dennis Rozema, SEHS '76, is a crisis counselor for Birmingham Public Schools who has been suffering from polycystic kidney disease since his 30s. He recently had a lifesaving kidney transplant in Wisconsin and is on the road to recovery.

John R. Schmidt, SEHS '79, has been promoted to administrative coordinator of Safe Schools, Lake County Schools in Tavares, Fla. He has served the district as a teacher and assistant principal during the past 30 years.



Leslie Stein, CAS '76, a banking law attorney in private and corporate in-house practice for more than 29 years, recently joined Plunkett Cooney, one of the Midwest's oldest and largest law

firms, as a partner in the firm's Bloomfield Hills, Mich., office.

Douglas Talley, Ph.D., SECS '76, was formally appointed by AIAA President David W. Thompson on November 13, 2009 as editor-in-chief of AIAA's *Journal of Propulsion and Power* (JPP). Dr. Talley is senior research physical scientist with the Air Force Research Laboratory's Propulsion Directorate Aerophysics Branch, Edwards AFB, Calif. He has served the past four years as an associate editor of JPP and has sat on the editorial board of *Atomization and Sprays* since 2003. In addition to being a senior member of AIAA, he is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and serves as treasurer of the Institute for Liquid Atomization and Spray Systems (Americas).

Diane Tate-Bolton, CAS '79, is communications director for Spectrum Human Services, Inc. & Affiliated Companies, and a part-time teacher at Wayne County Community College. She was previously a program associate for the Youth Development Commission.

1980s

Robert Beckett, SBA '85, is proud to announce that his daughter Brittney is planning to attend Oakland University beginning in fall 2010 to study health sciences.

Allan Benedict, CAS '80, announced the 10-year anniversary of his company, A & K Research, Inc., a national marketing research and consulting firm located in Dearborn, Mich. The success and longevity of the company would not have been possible without the support of his wife, Kathleen, and his two sons, Allan and Ryan.

Linda (Greer) Clark, CAS '79, MA '80, obtained a Ph.D. in educational psychology from Wayne State University in 1997. She is a fully licensed psychologist currently working for the Warren Woods Public Schools. She also has a small private practice in Troy, Mich., and is presently writing a book on successfully living with chronic illnesses in which she describes her own journey with chronic Lyme disease.



George Quesnelle

Thank him for not smoking

You may recognize the product names from visits to the local pharmacy: Nicorette, NicoDerm, CQ and Commit. All are household names in smoking cessation, but at one time they were all prescription drugs.

Thanks to **George Quesnelle, SEHS '78**, these products made the move to over-the-counter sales, making them available to many more people. During his tenure with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), the Detroit native helped move nearly a dozen products from prescription-only status to over-the-counter (OTC) sales.

Over an 18-year span, his work for the pharmaceutical company took him around the world. Now working as a consultant for GSK and Pinney Associates, the 61-year-old Pittsburgh-area resident continues to work on helping make the "Rx to OTC switch."

Quesnelle entered pharmaceutical sales in the late 1970s — not with an MBA or marketing degree, but with a Master of Arts in the teaching of English from OU and an undergraduate degree in English and Speech from Eastern Michigan University.

He had taught high school English in Royal Oak for eight years, but when the baby boomers began graduating and the student population dropped, Quesnelle, by then a father of two, found himself facing a probable lay-off.

"It was a pretty big leap from being an English teacher to pharmaceutical sales, but I tried to do my best at every job I had," says Quesnelle.

In fact, he credits much of his success in the business world with his ability to write and to teach. "I do think there is a real place in business for a solid liberal arts degree," he says.

From sales to sales manager to marketing and eventually to general management, Quesnelle worked his way to the top of the OTC market, where he learned the process of applying for FDA approval. He says Nicorette was a particularly exciting product to switch.

"Most people will not go to their doctor to quit because they know the chances for failure are high and don't want to fail publicly," says Quesnelle. "That we were able to get the product out to help people make a solid attempt at quitting was very satisfying. Over the years, more than seven million people have quit smoking, using these products. I feel good about that." ■

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





©ERIC LARRAYADIEU, 2006

It's sweet songs for this alum who began his academic career studying the lute but soon discovered his voice.

Sweet songs for OU alum

The career of **Joel Frederiksen, CAS '90**, is playing out like a song. The busy bass operatic and oratorio soloist zigzags across the globe performing early music, and he was featured as the November 2009 cover story in the industry magazine *Classical Singer*.

"I was totally surprised," says Frederiksen. "The whole magazine was dedicated to early music, and I felt honored to be on the cover."

Frederiksen wasn't the only one surprised.

"I got the magazine in the mail and I thought, 'that's a familiar face' and sure enough it was Joel," laughs Professor John-Paul White, who describes his former student as self-motivated and exceptional.

"It's interesting the way things turned out for Joel," White says. "He came to Oakland to be a lute major, an early music major, and decided to start studying voice. Turns out he had this phenomenal voice — and it kept improving."

White's guidance helped shape Frederiksen's career focus. "When I was at OU it got more decided that I'm a singer, first, and secondly a lute player," he says, adding that he and White have similar vocal ranges. "That was a real privilege to study with a great bass. He understood my voice a lot and gave me a lot of encouragement to hang in there."

And he did: Frederiksen went on to sing with the renowned Waverly Consort, among other impressive career feats and accolades, including OU's Distinguished Musicianship Award in 1990 and Alumni of the Year in Music in 2003.

The Munich, Germany-based Frederiksen travels to Cologne later this year for a CD recording, then heads to Venice, Italy, to sing Monteverdi in St. Mark's Cathedral. In addition to his work as a freelance bass singer, Frederiksen leads his own group, Ensemble Phoenix Munich, which will record its third CD of early American music for harmonia mundi of France in May.

"As a bass, there really is nobody else quite as good as he is," observes White, who taught Frederiksen that his voice would continue to develop.

Frederiksen says it's a mindset he still embraces: "I always feel like my best years are ahead of me."

For more about Joel Frederiksen and his music, visit joelfrederiksen.com. ■

By Cara Catallo, a freelance writer from Clarkston, Mich.

1980s *continue*

Rick Corry, CAS '86, has been named vice president of sales at AZEK Building Products. His responsibilities include planning and directing sales strategies and continuing to build the AZEK brand.

David Graebner, CAS '89, owns a residential/commercial painting business called Regal Painting of Michigan LLC, serving the Detroit metro area.

Curtis Hunt, MD, CAS '80, has two children, Christopher, 21, and Julia, 18. He is enjoying private practice in internal medicine in Troy, Mich.

M.L. Liebler, CAS '76, MAT '80, has won the prestigious Barnes & Noble/Poets and Writers 2010 Writers for Writers Award. The award recognizes established writers who have worked extensively on behalf of local and national writers to bring literature to the community.

Sister Maria Gemma Martek, OP, CAS '89, made her final vows in the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in July 2008. She is spending the year at Our New Covenant in Austin, Texas, where she is helping to plan for the community's future expansion into the diocese. She is also working on a master's degree in educational leadership and administration through the University of Southern Mississippi.

Denise McNeil, SECS '84, was appointed vice president of academic services at St. Clair County Community College in Port Huron, Mich., effective January 7, 2010.

Dr. Tibet Mimaroglu, SECS '81, has joined Imagine Communications as vice president of engineering. He is a leading innovator in video processing solutions with 29 years of solid experience in product development and engineering management.

Eva Packard, CAS '80, was elected to the League of Women Voters of Michigan board as director of Voter Service. She is the immediate past-president of the Oakland area local League.

Elizabeth Pilibosian, SECS '82, is currently the vehicle chief engineer of the Cadillac SRX at General Motors.

John Rees, SECS '87, was appointed practice group leader of Dykema IP transactional practice area on January 28, 2010. Dykema is a leading national law firm in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.



David Wieme, CAS '89, was named executive vice president, creative director and partner for The DeVilling Group (TDG), a public relations and marketing



communications agency specializing in automotive, high technology, professional services and sports and entertainment public relations. Wieme will head the agency's sports and entertainment practice and its social media service for clients whose communications objectives include leveraging powerful platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Kimberly A. Ziomek, SBA '84, has been appointed director of market intelligence service for RDA Group.

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1990s

Meredith Bezak, CAS '99, launched a charity called Cancer Rockstar on February 15, 2010, for cancer fighters and survivors. The mission is to unite people who have battled cancer with their favorite bands through anything from free CDs to concert tickets to autographed merchandise. More information can be found at www.cancerrockstar.org.

Michelle Borst, SEHS '98, struggling as a single parent, earned her degree in HR/T&D and continued on to earn a Global Career Development Facilitator certificate. Borst has worked at a Michigan Works! affiliate with special populations, helping them achieve their career goals. After 10 years, she is now following a career dream with the publication of her debut novel. As of September 2009, Borst worked at a Michigan Works! One Stop with No Worker Left Behind.

Nancy J. Campbell, SEHS '70, MAT '86, EDS '91, was recently appointed superintendent of Romeo Community Schools.

Scott Dendler, SBA '90, has been appointed chief financial officer of the Houston-based company Architectural Building Components, premier manufacturer of innovative metal roofing solutions like the 238T roof system and Archzilla™ jobsite manufacturing truck used in low-/steep-slope and complex roofing applications. Dendler will oversee Architectural Building Components' company expenditures during a time of rapid growth of the company's products in the metal roofing and siding industry.

Omar George, CAS '98, founder of Waste One Management Inc., Clinton Township, Mich., was featured in the Crain's 40 under 40 class of 2009. George's biggest achievement was starting a waste management company that has parlayed support from the Middle Eastern community into revenue of \$1.5 million in its second year of operations. While his company's growth is impressive, George is committed to remaining small enough to provide personal service to his clients, the majority of whom are immigrants who are entrepreneurs. (See story, opposite page.)

Christina (Landry) Grabowski, BGS '93, joined the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine in September 2009 as the assistant dean for medical school admissions.

Sean Harris, CAS '95, was promoted on January 21, 2010, to serve as vice president of global sales, at Passlogix, Inc., headquartered in New York City, NY. He will be responsible for Passlogix sales in all global regions, oversee the company's large global VAR network, and develop methodologies to continue driving sales growth around the world.

Zina Haywood, CAS '93, MPA, is executive vice president and provost for academic and campus affairs at Gateway Technical College in Kenosha, Wis. She was one of three women leaders who spoke at the Wisconsin Women in Higher Education Leadership conference in October 2009. An article about Haywood appeared in *Women in Higher Education* magazine in January 2010.

Susan Koss, SBA '94, of O'Keefe and Associates was named chairwoman of the Michigan Network of International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation. Koss is a director who specializes in litigation support, business valuation and forensic accounting.

Katherine (Frontiera) Martin, SEHS '05, is a staff counselor at Samaritan Counseling Center of Southeastern Michigan and co-author of *Fill a Bucket: A Daily Guide to Happiness for Young Children*.

Charles Peck, CAS '90, is a certified Master Blackbelt at Bose Corporation in Boston, Mass. He is currently deploying design for Six Sigma.

Ollie Phlegm, BGS '97, is retired, but sends words of wisdom to students. "Choose the goal you love most and don't become discouraged if your grade drops. Sit up late nights and you'll remember what it takes to accomplish a goal."

David Rost, SEHS '95, has been employed by the State of Michigan as an eligibility specialist for 12 years.

Tom Schmitt, SBA '91, is founder and president of Rochester Hills-based Lean Process Solutions L.L.C., which offers consulting and training services to companies hoping to improve efficiency.

Toni Simonetti, CAS '79 and SBA '90, was appointed to the newly created position of senior vice president of Public Affairs, for Centene Corporation effective January 4, 2010. Simonetti, an experienced corporate communications professional, with particular emphasis in finance, strategy, media relations, reputation management and public policy, will lead Centene's newly aligned Corporate Marketing and Communications Department, as well as develop an integrated public relations program for the company and its subsidiaries.

Jennifer Thompson, SEHS '97, is a multi-time world and national bench press champion.

Marie Urquhart, BGS '93, received a master's degree in business information technology from Walsh College.

Ann (Kotula) Wagner, SBA '88, MBA '94, is senior manager at Chrysler LLC.

Get the Update.

If you'd like to keep up with all the news, cool alumni association benefits and fun events from OU's Alumni Relations department, sign up for our quarterly e-newsletter. Just send your e-mail address to: ouaa@oakland.edu





His business is picking up

Other people's trash is his cash. While some may turn their noses up at the thought, **Omar George, CAS '98**, has gotten deep into the garbage business, building a multimillion-dollar waste management company in just 24 months.

Named as one of the "Top 40 under 40" by *Crain's Detroit Business* last year, George, 32, graduated from OU with a degree in philosophy and a minor in journalism — an unlikely background for a waste management business owner.

"Journalism and philosophy are both about everyday subjects," George says. "When you're in sales, it's nice to be able to talk about anything. All basic things that you learn — the fundamentals — were all there at Oakland University."

Born in England, he lived in Baghdad, Iraq, until assassination threats against his father, a nuclear scientist, forced his family to flee in 1980. The Clawson resident settled in Michigan with his family after stops in England, Scotland and Oklahoma.

Upon graduating from OU, George began his career as a news writer at WDIV-TV in Detroit. But his parents weren't impressed by his prospects as a cub reporter: an aspiring automotive writer working the graveyard shift for \$10 an hour.

"My parents were saying, 'You're never going to work for Motor Trend. Go be a lawyer,'" he explained. "Well, I tried that — and it was awful."

After one agonizing year in law school, a dejected George took on a job at a garbage company owned by a family friend. It was supposed to be a temporary position. Instead, George realized he had found his niche.

In 2008, he started his own company, Waste One Management Inc., which now nets \$1.5 million annually in the competitive Detroit trash-hauling market. His primary customers are the region's Chaldeans, or Iraqi Catholics, who comprise 75 percent of his clientele.

"It's a game of numbers and relationships," he says of his business, and credits the strong relationships he formed at Oakland as contributing to his success. In fact, his brother and sister have since earned degrees in biology and social work, respectively, at OU.

"After my experience, my parents really encouraged my brother and sister to go to Oakland University," he said. "It was great for me." ■

By Tammy Stables Battaglia, a freelance writer from Oakland Township, Mich.



Protecting Wayne County's health

As director of Wayne County's Department of Health and Human Services (WCDHHS), **Edith Killins, SBA '07**, oversees a \$700 million operation that includes areas as diverse as public and mental health, jail health services, the Wayne County Library, Medical Examiner's office, emergency preparedness and Wayne County Head Start.

It would be hard to find a citizen of Michigan's most populated county whose daily life Killins doesn't impact in some way. A few might even see her as a lifesaver. Indeed that's the case for one gentleman who participated in the annual health care expo at Cobo Hall last spring. The WCDHHS event drew more than 5,000 mostly uninsured participants, for whom this is likely their only annual exam.

As Killins tells it, the elderly gentleman attended because his wife encouraged him, there was free parking and he had exhausted his excuses not to. A nurse took his blood pressure, noticed a problem, and recommended he get to the hospital. He did, and found that he was nearly having a stroke. "He let us know that the expo saved his life," says Killins. "You know when someone comes back and says 'thank you' that makes working nine to 12 hours a day worth it because you know you are saving lives."

Killins says that her inspiration comes from Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous quote: "Of all the forms of inequity, injustice in health care is the most shocking and

inhumane." One of 13 siblings, Killins was raised in Detroit and graduated from Wayne State University with a psychology degree. After working for the State of Michigan in Corrections, Community Health and the Unemployment Agency, she joined the WCDHHS as deputy director, then director, a position she has held for almost five years.

While working full-time, Killins completed her SBA in 2007, and last year she was one of a select group of women to receive the 2009 Women of Excellence honor sponsored by the *Michigan Chronicle*. That it happened to coincide with her 50th birthday year was truly icing on the cake.

Yet Killins won't be happy until she sees that the citizens of Wayne County have what she considers three basic rights: healthy food, clean air and clean water. For that, she must continually focus on ensuring that the public and politicians understand the impact of human services.

"Serving people is the most important part of my day, being accessible and assuring that our services are quality and visible," she says. "It is a huge task to have so many divisions under this department, so it helps to remain focused." ■

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

2000s

Jocelyn Baldwin, Jr., CAS '04, is the teen services librarian for the Dearborn Heights City Libraries. She plans programs and purchases materials for teens in grades 6-12 at the Caroline Kennedy Library, and the John F. Kennedy, Jr. Library in Dearborn Heights, Mich. Baldwin received a master's degree in library and information science from Wayne State University in 2006.

Julie Borkin, Ph.D., CAS '00, has accepted a position with Oakland University's Bachelor of Integrative Studies program as program coordinator. She also teaches the integrative studies capstone course. Her research considers individual and group identity production and changes and has been published as book chapters in two academic press books.

Erica Demers, SHS '04, helped lead the Grand Valley State University women's soccer team to a national title.

A former St. Catharine's Jets player and a Welland, Ont., native, Demers was an assistant coach with the GVSU women's soccer team that capped an undefeated season by defeating California State 1-0 in the NCAA Division 2 national championship game. It was the school's first national crown. Demers' impressive soccer resume includes: winning gold with Team Ontario at the Canada Games; being a member of the player pool for Canada's national under-21 team; being named the Division 1 Mid-Continent player of the year 2002; captaining Oakland University to four consecutive NCAA Division 1 playoff berths; and, playing in the women's pro league with Detroit and Scottsdale, Ariz. Demers is semi-retired as a player and has spent the last four years training and teaching at Grand Valley State in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Ryan Falcheck, CAS '08, wrote the film *Crawl Space*, which is one of 19 films featured at the Blue Water Film Festival put on by the Thespis Group in Port Huron, Mich.

Justin Howland, CAS '07, plans to graduate from the Syracuse University College of Law in 2011. He is seeking certification from the Institute for the Study of the Judiciary, Politics and Media at Syracuse and serves as adviser to Theta Chi Fraternity both at Oakland and Syracuse.

Alexis Jamian, CAS '05, was appointed as a coordination officer for Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy, acting as a liaison between various business units for change management functions and organizational culture change. She has a master's degree in International Public Management from SDA Bocconi School of Management in Milan, Italy.

Ashley (Dahms) Kirksey, BGS '07, has been named activity coordinator at Adult Day Services at Oakland Centre, a business of Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan.

Angela Modica, SEHS '00, was promoted to director of human resources at AZ Automotive in Centerline, Mich. Modica guides and manages the administration of company human relations programs, policies, procedures and employee relations.

Corey Oliver, SBA '09 has been the management assistant for the City of Auburn Hills since September 2008 and is a member of the International City/Council Managers Association. Among other responsibilities, he successfully completed the redesign and development of a new Web site for the City of Auburn Hills that launched in August 2009. Oliver graduated from OU with a bachelor of science degree in business economics and is continuing at Oakland in the master's program for public administration.

Karen Pinkos, MPA '01, CAS '98, was recently elected vice president of the International City/County Management Association executive board representing the West Coast Region. She is currently serving as the assistant city manager in El Cerrito, Calif.



Robert Ray

Robert Ray, SBA '05, was featured in former *Detroit Free Press* columnist Desiree Cooper's blog on January 23, 2010. Ray, a financial advisor at UBS in Farmington Hills, Mich., was caught committing random acts of kindness at a local Starbucks. Customers attempting to pay for their morning coffee, found that all of the morning coffee sales had been paid for by Ray. He has started a nonprofit organization called the Social Philanthropists Foundation to link resources and energy of young professionals to the volunteer needs of small, grassroots organizations.

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BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Andrea (Muehlhoff) Forsythe, CAS '04, and her husband, Todd, gave birth to their first child, Ashlynn Paige, on November 19, 2009.

Diana (Pletz) Hatcher, CAS '98, and her husband, Chris, announce the birth of her daughter, Kara Elizabeth Hatcher, on February 12, 2009. She joins proud big brother Aiden.

Christopher Hunger, SECS '01, and his wife, Holly, welcomed their first child, Ayva Nicole, on July 19, 2009. Christopher's sister, **Sarah Ballach, SON '07**, is also an OU alum.

Jamie Moon Merrill, SBA '99, and her husband, Ben, announce the birth of their first child, Dylan James, born September 23rd in Charleston, S.C.



Darren O'Brien, CAS '96, and his wife, Christy, are proud to announce the birth of their sixth child, Sean Malachi, on September 6, 2009. He joins 7-year-old big sister Trinity Anne; 6-year-old big brother Aidan John; 5-year-old big sister Felicity Claire; 3-year-old big brother Liam Gabriel; and 22-month-old big sister Claire Magdalene.



Rebecca Wyatt Thomas, CAS '03, and her husband, Jacob Thomas, announce the birth of their daughter, Madison Lorraine, on July 20, 2009. Madison was also welcomed by big sister Ashlynn Lola.

ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS

Mary Bonds, SEHS '98, daughter of William and Joanne Bonds, married **Gregory Hancock, CAS '83**, on October 10, 2009 at the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, followed by a reception at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. They met at Common Ground in Pontiac, Mich., where they are both employed as psychiatric counselors.

Kelly Ann Farrand, SEHS '03, and Richard Arnold Beagle II were married June 26, 2009 at Fellowship Church in Grapevine, Texas. The bride is employed in the human resources recruiting division of Dyncorp International. The groom is a graduate of Solvay High School and SUNY Brockport. He is a senior credit analyst for Mercedes-Benz Financial.

Sharina Finley, SBA '03, married Grover Jones III on May 1.

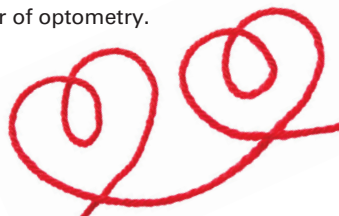
Dennis Gisting, SBA '86, senior vice president at Bank of Birmingham, married Maria (Bolen) Ph.D., assistant superintendent of Brighton Schools. The couple has four children, Bryan, a sophomore at Ferris State; Morgan, a freshman at Michigan State; DJ, a junior at Stoney Creek High School; and Paige, a junior at Tawas High School.

Christina George, SEHS '98, married Michael Sullivan of Waterford, Mich., a graduate of Waterford Kettering High School, on October 21, 2006, at White Lake Presbyterian Church in Highland, Mich. George works as a receptionist for an accounting firm and Sullivan is a self-employed contractor. They live in Clarkston, Mich.

Aniesha K. Mitchell, CAS, '01, is engaged to Jeffery D. Holmes.



Dr. Aaron Scheinker, CAS '05, and **Erica Khinchuk, SBA '07**, were married in the fall of 2009 at Congregation B'nai Moshe in West Bloomfield, Mich. Khinchuk graduated with a degree in business administration, majoring in finance and Scheinker is a doctor of optometry.



Sommer L. (Starck) Smith, CAS '03, MPA '06, married Robert Smith on August 20, 2009. Both are from Livonia, Mich.

Melanee Statfield, BGS '05, and Justin Johnson were married at Castle Farms in Charlevoix, Mich., in late 2009. Statfield completed a paralegal program and is employed as a paralegal at TRW Automotive.

Melissa (Sheroski) Zapinski, CAS '06, and **Jeff Zapinski, SECS '05**, were married on June 6, 2009. Their bridal party included many OU graduates, and the group enjoyed coming back to campus to take special wedding day photos.

We'd like to hear from you!

Drop us a quick note on your recent accomplishments, plans or milestones. Use the form on page 38 or send an e-mail to: ouaa@oakland.edu. You may also include a print or high resolution photo (300 dpi at 100% size placement).

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DEATHS

Diane L. "LD" Allen, SEHS '86,
died August 11, 2009.

Sally (O'Hearn) Bayer, SEHS '90,
died November 20, 2009

Bethany R. Broadwell, CAS '97,
died September 16, 2009.

Marion Adams Bunt, CAS '82,
died January 1, 2010

John (Jack) Daniel Cashman, SBA '80,
died November 10, 2009

Paula Degeneffe, SECS '88,
died December 18, 2009.

Patricia (Korneffel) Eaves, SEHS '77,
died January 27, 2010.

Donald Edmonds, BGS '97,
died December 18, 2009

Sharon Louise Fiems, SON '87,
died November 27, 2009.

**Ellen Marie (Saucie) Gormley,
SEHS '76, '78,** died July 21, 2009.

Thomas G. Gotshall, CAS '71,
died August 14, 2009.

Siobhan Laura Graham, CAS '00,
died January 10, 2010.

Terry Dean Green, SECS '79,
died December 31, 2009.

Shirley Harris, BGS '05,
died November 2, 2009.

Genevieve A. Hartz, SEHS '76,
died October 26, 2009.

Barbara (Broome) Hedberg, CAS '78,
died September 20, 2009.

Pauline Holbrook, CAS '95,
died November 29, 2009.

Anita Kahn, SEHS '75,
died July 14, 2009.

Robert F. Katakowski, SEHS '79,
died August 21, 2009.

Darryl H. Knoblauch, SECS '90,
died July 30, 2009.

Marc Maddrie, CAS '98,
died February 19, 2010.

Rebecca J. Martin, SEHS '74,
died October 1, 2009.

Manon Meilgaard, CAS '80,
died January 10, 2008.

Ebony L. Mitchell, CAS '07,
died on October 12, 2009.

Nancy Jo Norman, BGS '95,
died January 20, 2010.

Kathleen (Maslanka) Peabody, CAS '73,
died February 2, 2010.

Marie R. Pehur, CAS '72,
died October 17, 2009.

Keith A. Retich, SECS '74,
died October 3, 2009.

**Judith Joan (Manning) Scavone,
BGS '83,** died October 30, 2009.

John "Jack" Schoenbeck, CAS '78,
died September 26, 2009.

Joann F. Schubert, SEHS '80,
died October 6, 2009.

Neeru Sharma, SBA '99,
died January 18, 2010.

Kenneth E. Smith, CAS '70,
died December 6, 2009.

Michael Spagnuolo, SBA '80,
died January 10, 2010.

Frank S. Storer, BGS '85,
died August 4, 2009.

Peggy Faye Hadden Willis, SEHS '72,
died January 28, 2010.

PLAN YOUR NEXT EVENT **AT THE OC**



If you're looking for the perfect location for your next business party, corporate conference, wedding reception or any special event, look no further than Oakland University's Oakland Center.

Recently renovated, the OC boasts 18 different meeting rooms of various sizes including banquet rooms and the cozy Fireside Lounge. We offer up to 7,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, and can accommodate groups as large as 600 or as small as 16.

Full catering is available on-site and ample parking is provided.

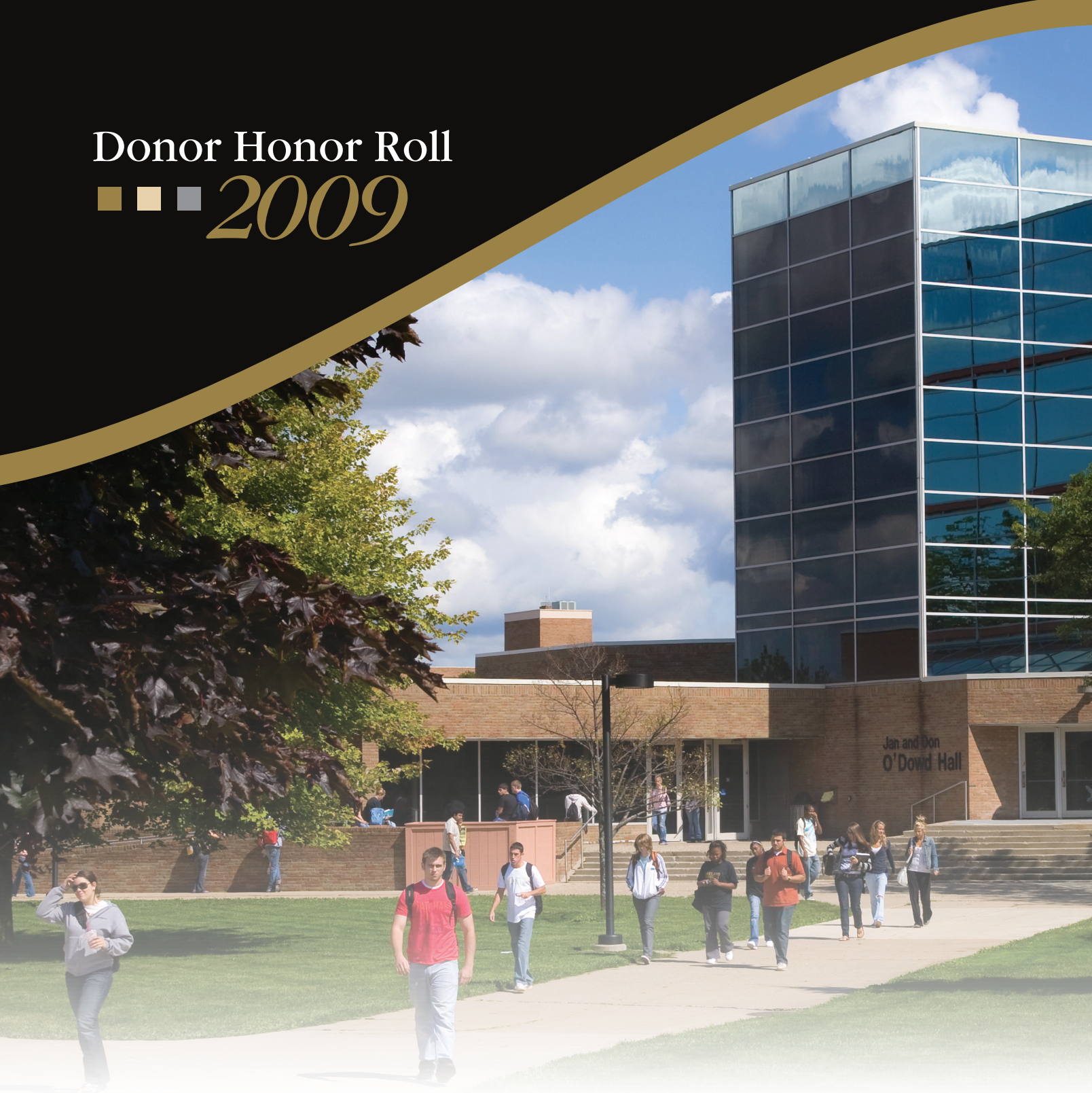
For more information, call us at (248) 370-3230 or visit our Web site at oakland.edu/oc.

Oakland Center



Donor Honor Roll

■ ■ ■ 2009



*With thanks and appreciation to the thousands of supporters who contribute
to the success of Oakland University and its students and faculty.*

Where Innovation and Opportunity Meet



Dear Friends,

Oakland University prides itself on the solid spirit of philanthropy that exists among our alumni, donors and friends. Even in the midst of difficult economic conditions, you continue to give gifts for Oakland, our students and faculty.

More than ever, scholarship support is critically important. At Oakland, we strive to keep costs down and financial aid investment up. More than 60 percent of our nearly 19,000 students rely on some form of financial assistance. Scholarships play an irreplaceable role in that support, giving students the breathing room and peace of mind they need to focus on their studies and pursue their goals.

In this issue of our donor honor roll, you'll find many inspiring stories, including a gift named for OU charter faculty member James McKay, former chair and professor of Mathematics, made by his wife, Marilyn Williamson, who recently passed away after a valiant fight with brain cancer.

You'll also read about the results of the challenge match in the School of Business Administration led by Hugh Elliott and Craig Stinson, SBA '84, two staunch supporters of Oakland University.

Thank you for your unwavering support of Oakland University and the lives we touch.

Gary D. Russi
President

Lifetime Gift Societies

Matilda Wilson Founders Society

The Matilda Wilson Founders Society recognizes donors who contribute cumulative gifts of \$10 million or more or a planned gift of \$20 million. This society honors Oakland University benefactor Matilda R. Wilson and pays homage to her commitment as a university founder.

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The Varner Society recognizes donors who contribute cumulative gifts of \$5 million or more or a planned gift of \$10 million. The Varner Society recognizes Oakland's founding chancellor Woody Varner and his leadership and vision for Oakland University.

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The Golden Oaks Society recognizes donors who give cumulative gifts of \$1 million or more or a planned gift of \$2 million. This society is named in honor of Oakland's charter faculty members, who often referred to themselves as "The Old Oaks."

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>> William Beaumont Hospital

* deceased > first-time society donation >> increased society level

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The Meadow Brook Society recognizes donors who contribute \$500,000 or more in cumulative gifts or a planned gift of \$1 million.

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Howard Hughes Medical Institute	>Toby S. Stein and Neal E. Alpiner
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	Mr. and Mrs. Paul H.* Travis

Endowment honors educator's legacy, creates new opportunities

Former English Professor Marilyn Williamson found a way to honor the memory of her husband, James H. McKay, while offering mathematics students a source of support. Although she lost her battle with cancer in early 2010, her vision continues on.

The James H. McKay Endowed Fellowship was established to further the legacy of Dr. McKay, a charter OU faculty member who taught at the university from 1959 to 1995. A former professor and chair of Mathematical Sciences, he was instrumental in developing the doctorate program in Applied Mathematics, the first Ph.D. program created for the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

In addition, Dr. McKay founded the university's Summer Mathematics Institute, which allows gifted high school students to explore advanced undergraduate mathematical concepts for college credit.

Williamson, who served as chair of Oakland's English Department during the university's early years, encouraged friends and acquaintances to augment the endowed fund she created.

Dr. Williamson had wonderful memories of the early years she and her husband spent at OU, which seemed "more like a smaller college" when she taught there. "We felt that we were doing something special and a little risky," she recalled. "No one was doing anything like what we were doing."

During her years at Oakland, Dr. Williamson was chairwoman of the committee that created "exploratories" classes for the CAS. Those interdisciplinary courses were the

Pioneer Society

The Pioneer Society recognizes donors who contribute \$250,000 or more in cumulative gifts or a \$500,000 planned gift.

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Ronald Sudol with Marilyn Williamson

nucleus of The OU Honors College.

CAS Dean Ron Sudol describes Dr. McKay as a pioneer who set a high standard for math education at Oakland. "We are indebted to him for his contributions to countless students and faculty members, and to Marilyn for her foresight and generosity in establishing this award that will continue to provide support for students," he says.

For information about contributing to the James H. McKay Endowed Fellowship in Applied Mathematics, please contact Pat Zawadzki, director of Planned Giving, at (248) 364-6129. ■





Alumni pledges donation to thank past OU supporters

Oakland University was there for David Sokol, SBA '00, when he needed help building his future. That fact makes it all the more meaningful for Sokol to know he's now playing a role in boosting Oakland's future.

Sokol has pledged a \$25,000 life insurance bequest to Oakland as a way of saying thank you to the generous donors who have given before him and to support the programs that helped him as a graduate student in the late 1990s.

"To me, Oakland University exists not just because of the tuition that people pay, but because of the many people who have supported OU so that it was there for me and other students when we needed it," Sokol says.

Sokol began his MBA studies at OU in 1997, after earning an engineering degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and working in human resources for several years on the East Coast. It was his degree from Oakland that made his current position as vice president with Humana possible, Sokol says. "If I'd just had my engineering degree and not the MBA from OU, I never would have been considered for my current role."

Supporting Oakland would have been difficult, he says, without the option of making his gift as a bequest. This approach gives him the satisfaction of committing to a gift now while retaining the ability to meet his financial responsibilities. "I'm a single dad with three kids, trying to save for my kids' future right now, but through planned giving, whether it's a life insurance policy or investments, it's a sign of commitment to the organization," says Sokol, who serves as vice president of OU's School of Education and Human Services Human Resources development board.

"Hopefully, my gift will grow as we get past these family milestones." ■

President's Council Society

The President's Council Society recognizes donors who contribute cumulative gifts of \$100,000 or more or a planned gift of \$250,000.

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* deceased > first-time society donation >> increased society level

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The Matilda R. Wilson Society recognizes donors who contribute \$50,000 or more in cumulative gifts or a planned gift of \$100,000.

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Roger and Barbara Calam	



Support provides funding for new Human Health Building

The Kresge Foundation is helping Oakland University realize its vision of better serving health care students through the creation of an innovative partnership between the schools of Health Sciences and Nursing.

The foundation recently approved \$75,000 in funding through its "Green Building Initiative" to support the construction of a 157,300-square-foot Human Health Building on the northwest corner of Oakland's campus.

The new building will house the schools of Health Sciences and Nursing, allowing them to double undergraduate and graduate enrollment. This arrangement will address severe shortages in nursing and significant demand for health science professionals.

The university broke ground this spring on the \$62-million building, which will feature state-of-the-art classrooms, seminar rooms, an interactive media center, physical therapy clinics and clinical, computer, simulation and distance learning labs.

The construction process calls for careful attention to site work, water conservation, construction materials and indoor air quality, along with energy use and efficiency.

"This grant will allow OU to push the envelope into higher levels of green certification, namely the U.S. Green Building Council platinum certification," Jim Leidel, OU energy manager, says. "Capital costs may accompany this push and may or may not be manageable within the established budget, but this grant will allow OU to review additional options and features, and provide additional green building design, over and above the base project."

Oakland also has received a \$2.7-million Department of Energy grant for an estimated projected cost over five years of \$9.8 million. The remaining \$7 million in project costs will be funded by Oakland through state appropriations, bond issuances and donations. ■

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The Alfred G. Wilson Society recognizes individuals who contribute \$25,000 or more in cumulative gifts or a planned gift of \$50,000.

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Israeli trips help students broaden their perspectives

Two organizations have joined forces to give Oakland University students opportunities to broaden their global, cultural and academic experiences. Oakland's College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) has received a \$24,000 gift from The Jewish Federation of Metro Detroit and \$59,415 from the Nora and Guy Barron Millennium Fund to support the college's Israel Study Abroad Program.

Last July, the program sent six OU students to Israel, where they completed a four-credit course, "Israel and the Middle East," at Max Stern Academic College of Emek Yezreel.

Students also had an opportunity to teach English as a Second Language to sixth-grade students and take day trips to historical and culturally significant sites.

"It helped me see a very complicated part of the world for myself," OU student Julia Hunko says. "I got to see both sides of a very difficult conflict, and that has helped me as a person and as a student."

Funding for the July 2009 trip came from the Nora and Guy Barron Millennium Fund. The Jewish Federation of Metro Detroit developed the trip as part of its Partnership 2000 program. The partnership has created a 15-year cultural exchange among three Michigan communities, Detroit, Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids, and three communities in Israel's Central Galilee area, Jezreel Valley, Migdal HaEmek and Nazareth Illit.

"We believe Central Galilee is our home in Israel," says Lori Davidson Mertz, Partnership 2000 coordinator for the federation. "We partnered with OU because of its commitment to Judaic studies."

OU's student participants represent the CAS's Judaic Studies program, a minor emphasizing Jewish history and culture within the context of global society.

"The Judaic Studies program and our involvement in the Partnership 2000 program with the Jewish Federation is an example of how Oakland University strives to educate future leaders with a broad world view," says Virinder Moudgil, Ph.D., senior vice president for Academic Affairs and provost. "The need for increased understanding of religious influences and cultural differences in the modern world has never been more important than now." ■



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Emily Tissot received several scholarships.

Students and scholarship supporters seek to change the world

People across OU are working hard to make the world a better place.

Much of this effort ties into scholarships, in one way or another. There's the All for One program, for example, a student-led initiative that asked OU students to donate food items to Gleaners Community Food Bank and give \$1 to the OU Scholarship Fund. In just three weeks, the program gathered 900 pounds of food and \$229 in scholarship donations.

There's also the All-University Fund Drive (AUFDD), which raised more than \$226,000 in support of Oakland University, the United Way and the Black United Fund, thanks to the involvement of 514 current and retired faculty and staff. This same spirit of giving was front and center at the Oakland University Alumni Association's inaugural Grizzly Gala scholarship fundraiser on April 16, held at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester, Mich.

Scholarships help students like OU sophomore Emily Tissot, who is working toward bachelor's degrees in both anthropology and Spanish, and hopes to work in emergency public health someday.

She chose OU largely because of the numerous scholarships she received, including an OUAA Honors College Scholar award, an Honors College Scholarship and a Talented Scholar Award.

Tissot is grateful for the support — and the OU experience as a whole. "It's really an incredible place," she says. "As a freshman, I walked in and people said, 'We think you have potential. Let us give you opportunities.'"

She adds that her friends at other colleges are jealous of the personal attention OU provides. "I'm going to change the world," Tissot asserts, "and it's incredible that there are people here who see that desire and want to support students like me." ■

* deceased > first-time society donation >> increased society level

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Nightingales honor nurses' heroic role

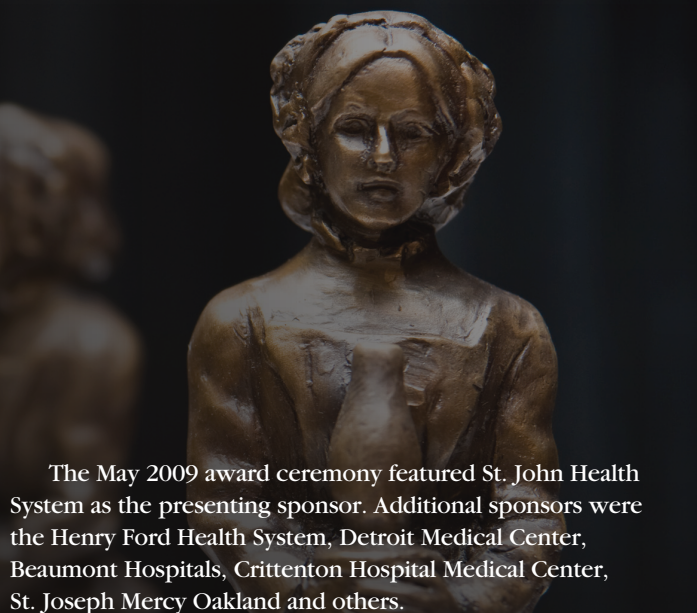
The film industry has the Oscars; the recording industry has the Grammys; and in Michigan, the nursing profession has the Nightingale for Nursing Excellence Awards. For the last 22 years, this award ceremony has recognized the critical contributions nurses make in health care, while raising scholarships to help others enter the field.

Oakland University's School of Nursing (SON) and the SON Board of Visitors presented its 2010 Nightingale award ceremony at the San Marino Club in Troy, Mich. on May 6.

This year's ceremony, "The Art and Science of Caring," marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Florence Nightingale, who is credited with establishing the foundations of modern professional nursing.

"We're thrilled to have Oakwood Healthcare System serving as our sponsor this year, along with Beaumont Hospitals, Henry Ford Health System, St. John Health System, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, Detroit Medical Center, and others," says Colette O'Connor, OU development officer.

Two faithful guests at these ceremonies have been Maggie Allesee, who has served on the board that created the Nightingale award since its inception, and her husband, Bob Allesee, who plays piano during the silent auction.



The May 2009 award ceremony featured St. John Health System as the presenting sponsor. Additional sponsors were the Henry Ford Health System, Detroit Medical Center, Beaumont Hospitals, Crittenton Hospital Medical Center, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland and others.

Award categories include administration, advanced nurse practice, education and research, long-term care and rehabilitation, nursing in the community, Oakland University distinguished alumni, staff nurse practice (with two recipients) and people's choice. ■



Professors complete nuclear power internship

When Chris Kobus, Ph.D., and Brian Sangeorzan, Ph.D., teach their students about the nuclear power industry, the associate professors of mechanical engineering will be speaking from experience.

The OU faculty members recently completed a three-month internship at the FERMI II nuclear power plant in Monroe, Mich., to prepare them to develop and execute curriculum for the School of Engineering and Computer Science's (SECS) new nuclear power program. The internship was funded by a \$40,000 gift from DTE Energy.

"We rotated through a number of different departments," Dr. Sangeorzan says. "We did the basic nuclear training that's done for anyone who works in a nuclear power plant. We got a feel for the environment, what's important for the staff, what they focus on every day. It's a hugely complicated system."

The professors also spent three weeks at DTE Energy's Detroit office, where they learned about other aspects of energy production. The first-hand knowledge Drs. Kobus and Sangeorzan gained will give OU engineering students an edge academically and in the job market.

Ron May, chairman of the SECS Advisory Board and senior vice president for DTE Energy, helped arrange the faculty internship. The SECS's new nuclear power engineering component, an option within the undergraduate mechanical engineering program, will offer courses ranging from the fundamentals of nuclear reactors and power plants to a nuclear physics lab.

"Today, there is a critical need for developing operational expertise in the nuclear power industry in the United States. By sponsoring professors Kobus and Sangeorzan for the Fermi internship, DTE wanted to help keep Oakland University at the forefront of developing leaders who will take us effectively into the future," says May. ■

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Couple's gift provides career-building opportunities

Patrick and Mercedes Nicosia have taken steps to continue their legacy of supporting musical theatre students at Oakland University. The couple recently donated \$100,000 for the Patrick C. and Mercedes M. Nicosia Endowed Fund within the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

Their gift will be used to create valuable learning and career opportunities for students in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance (MTD).

A portion of the funds will support the Pat and Mercedes Nicosia Meadow Brook Estate Award for a musical theatre performance, one of the MaTilDa Awards presented by the MTD department each year to honor talented students. The name of the award program honors OU founder, Matilda

Dodge Wilson, and the letters "M," "T" and "D" emphasize music, theatre and dance.

"They have a great enthusiasm for what these students do," says Manjit Gill, manager of budget and special projects, MTD.

The Pat and Mercedes Nicosia Meadow Brook Estate Award is named for the Meadow Brook Estate ensemble, which got its start as an OU show choir. Since then, Meadow Brook Estate has evolved into a course that allows seniors to perfect an audition piece and present it in New York City.

The Nicosias regularly channel endowment money to Meadow Brook Estate's efforts. They also single out individual members of Meadow Brook Estate for a cash award. ■

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CIBRE

CIBRE creates unique partnerships among students, business community

Three community leaders have made contributions to support the Experiential Learning and Innovation (ELI) program offered through the School of Business Administration's Center for Integrated Business Research and Education (CIBRE).

Beaumont Hospitals provided \$21,040; Physician Healthcare Network gave \$10,520; and St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital supplied \$10,520 in sponsorship of the ELI program.

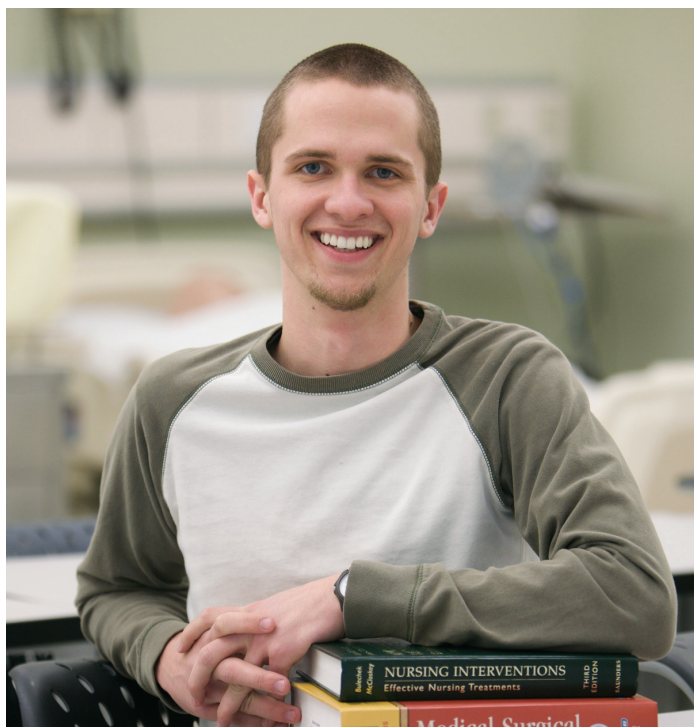
The ELI program gives area businesses and corporations opportunities to work directly with exceptional graduate students interested in sharing their skills and ideas in real-world settings. Participating students build relationships with their sponsoring businesses and with the faculty members who guide them.

Businesses that serve as sponsors receive 300 to 600 hours of project support from student partners and gain

direct access to the innovative ideas of students eager to make their mark in a corporate setting.

"In many instances, our students bring in a technology or idea that is outside the box of what the company is thinking," says Balaji Rajagopalan, associate professor of management information systems and faculty director of graduate programs and CIBRE research. "To bring in someone from the outside means bringing in a perspective that may not have existed before for that company."

President and CEO of St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital Jack Weiner says that he sees real value in integrating the students into the work force. "Two of the key aspects that I feel make OU students exceptional are a strong work ethic and applied critical thinking skills. These are the qualities that employers are looking for in students and employees." ■



Chris Jozwick is pursuing a nursing degree.

Scholarships help student who aspires to help others

Chris Jozwick plans to spend his future helping others. So it's appropriate that a number of OU scholarships are helping him get the education he needs.

A sophomore in the School of Nursing (SON) and an Honors College student, Jozwick has received the OU Presidential Scholarship, a Handleman Scholarship, and two SON scholarships: the Dorothy Price Endowed Nursing Scholarship and the William Beaumont Hospital Scholarship.

This assistance could not have come at a better time for Jozwick, whose father has been out of work since 2008, following an illness. "I went for as many scholarships as possible so I could pay for school and my parents wouldn't have to worry about it," he says.

After he earns his Bachelor of Science degree in nursing, Jozwick intends to pursue higher education to become a nurse practitioner. He hasn't made a firm decision about his future yet, but is considering the Peace Corps and Mercy Ships, which sends ship-based hospitals to areas in need worldwide. This summer, Jozwick will be a leader on a mission trip to Peru.

In the meantime, he's grateful for the scholarship support that enables him to fully experience college life. Jozwick lives on campus, is a member of the Honors College Council and also works as a SON research assistant.

"I'm really fortunate to have these opportunities," he says. "And if I can achieve my goals, I hope I'll be able to donate money to help support an OU scholarship myself someday." ■

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DTE grant makes power electronics lab possible

A grant for the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) will help electrical engineering students put the concepts they're learning in the lecture hall into action. The \$45,000 grant from the DTE Energy Foundation has made it possible for the SECS electrical engineering program to move forward with plans to create a Power Systems and Power Electronics Lab.

"Equipped with hands-on experience, our students will be better prepared for jobs related to power systems and the emerging job markets in design and manufacturing of electric and hybrid vehicles, and a wide

variety of electromechanical devices and systems," says Professor of Engineering Manohar Das, Ph.D.

The new lab will comprise three stations equipped with motor sets, a DSP board kit, a drives board, oscilloscope, computer and power-pole board. The grant also will cover the cost of employing a graduate student part-time to install the devices and manage the lab.

The new lab is scheduled to be completed this spring. ■

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Giving challenge inspires generosity

School of Business Administration (SBA) alumni responded positively to the 2008-09 Elliott-Stinson Challenge, a call to alumni to support the school and its programs.

The challenge resulted in more than \$400,000 raised. In addition to alumni, donors included other individuals, corporations, foundations and other organizations.

The impetus behind these financial gifts came from two couples. Hugh and Nancy Elliott, honorary SBA alumni, and Craig, SBA '84, and Ann, SBA '83, Stinson challenged alumni and friends of the SBA to come forward to support the school and its programs.

Collectively, the couples committed to matching gifts and pledges — up to \$500,000 — made to the SBA as part of the Campaign for OU from November 2008 through October 2009.

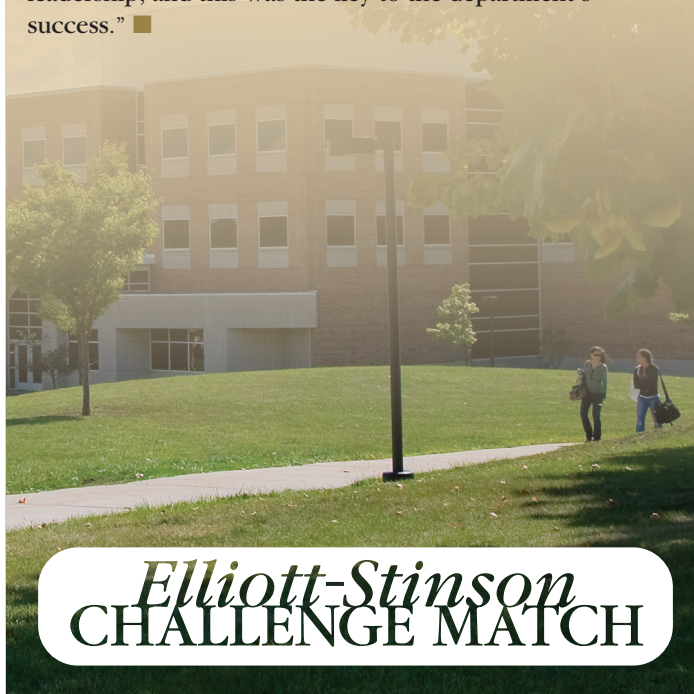
"I believe in Dean (Mohan) Tanniru's vision for the School of Business Administration and want others to step forward in helping us create a new understanding of business student education," Hugh Elliott says.

Alumni were receptive to supporting their individual schools, says Dr. Tanniru. "The school is where they have their affiliation on campus," he says. "They remember certain faculty, and they're grateful for the education they received from the faculty."

This effort was especially well supported by the SBA's Accounting and Finance Department. Its advisory board members, friends and alumni raised \$180,000.

"The board members recognized the Elliott-Stinson Challenge as an opportunity to help the department, so they spread the word within their places of employment to fellow OU-SBA graduates to participate in the challenge," Dr. Tanniru says. "The board exemplifies collaborative leadership, and this was the key to the department's success." ■

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One-day online challenge leads to nearly \$35,000 in donations

The generosity of 29 donors led to nearly \$35,000 in contributions to Meadow Brook Hall recently during a one-day matching gift challenge sponsored by the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan and the Cultural Alliance of Southeast Michigan.

The 50 cents-on-the-dollar match was meant to help cultural organizations raise awareness of operating needs and to encourage online giving.

With the matching funds, Meadow Brook Hall received \$52,316 for the preservation and interpretation of the building.

Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan has a history of supporting Oakland University programs.

Its recent gifts include a \$500,000 donation to the School of Nursing for its Riverview Institute of Oakland University. The institute, formerly St. John's Riverview Hospital, provides accelerated second degree (ASD) programs in nursing.

And by providing \$91,100 in funding for an Adams Entrepreneurial Fellow at OU's business INCubator, the foundation played an important role in supporting entrepreneurial businesses in this region. The OU INCubator supports existing and grows new technology-based and life science businesses with university resources, decision support system sessions, business counseling services and financial/capital acquisition assistance. ■

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Alumnus gives back to support Honors College's scholarships

Richard Deary, CAS '85, attributes a great deal of his success in life to his experience in the OU Honors College. And to help give students an opportunity like the one he had, Deary and his wife, Tricia, recently made a generous donation to support Honors College scholarships.

Deary, who graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in communications, says The Honors College is what made him choose OU in the first place.

"It was the best experience anyone could ever have," Deary says. "The nice thing about going to The Honors College was that instead of being taught what to think, as is the case at many universities, I was taught how to think, and how to think critically. This, in practice, taught me how to work in a manner to help me achieve my goals."

Deary says being surrounded by such gifted and talented students encouraged him to work harder at his studies and helped him develop new and better ways to learn. Something

else that motivated him was the support of The Honors College director at the time, Robert Howes, professor of history.

"He really believed in me," Deary says, "and I believed in the program."

Today, he works as director of business development for LM Capital Group, an investment advisory firm in San Diego, Calif. Deary is a member of The Honors College Advisory Board and has made donations in the past to support various endeavors. This year, he and his wife made a contribution to The Honors College to help fund scholarships.

"Pursuing an education through The Honors College is going to give students the best opportunity to build a foundation from which they can truly grow their mind, body and spirit," Deary says. "And that will position them for success in whatever career path they choose." ■

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Area business leader believes in Oakland's work, its approach

For J. B. Smith, supporting Oakland University has become a meaningful way for him to help people improve their lives. "I feel blessed in my life; now I am focused on helping others," says Smith, who recently donated \$34,200 to support Oakland's Athletics Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Smith serves as managing partner of Equity 11, an independent private equity firm, and as chairman of ISEKURITY, an identity theft protection company. Both operations are based in Auburn Hills.

"I want to support OU because I believe in what they are doing and where the university is going," Smith says. "OU does the right thing in the right way, and it is on its way to becoming an elite academic institution."

In addition to supporting the Athletics Endowed Scholarship Fund, Smith funds the athletic photos on the O'rena entrance doors and sponsors the President's Invitational Golf Outing. ISEKURITY was the presenting sponsor for the 25 Years of Coaching Excellence dinner featuring a roast of Head Basketball Coach Greg Kampe. ■



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National City Bank helps Spanish-to-English language program expand reach

Since it was founded in 1998, the College of Arts and Sciences' (CAS) Hispanic Outreach Program has been providing specialized Spanish-to-English language instruction for Hispanic immigrants in southeast Michigan.

Through a \$25,000 gift from National City Bank, now part of PNC, the outreach will soon be able to further these efforts. "It's so important for people to focus on education," says Michael Bickers, SBA '86, PNC's executive vice president for Consumer and Small Business Banking.

The gift is intended to help the program do things it hasn't been able to accomplish in the past, Bickers adds. "We wanted to plug gaps and help reach families that can experience direct, positive impact."

Classes are organized by the Linguistics Department in cooperation with Hispanic Services of Pontiac — now a division of Catholic Social Services. Undergraduate and graduate students in the department's English as a Second Language program conduct the teaching. Currently, approximately 250 men and women participate.

In addition to the instruction itself, the program provides transportation to those who need it, on-site day care and work- and school-friendly schedules. ■



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Walt and Donna Young

Donors help OU students gain global perspective

When Donna and Walt Young decided to reach out to Oakland University students, they chose a path that not only will open new doors for students, but also new worlds.

The couple's \$25,000 gift to the Young Study Abroad Endowment will provide scholarship support for students hoping to spend a semester overseas. "In our small way, we hope to further add to OU students' education so that they can be even more successful in business and in their own lives," Walt says.

This gift represents the Youngs' second contribution toward Honors College study abroad opportunities. More than 50 Honors College students have studied in Europe, South America and Asia through such programs.

Among those to receive an endowment scholarship is OU student Amy Ring, who will be studying in Segovia, Spain. "As a Spanish major for secondary education, I know I will be able to better serve my future students as a result of studying abroad," Ring says. "I will speak the language better and understand so much more about the world." ■

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OU supporter hopes his actions will inspire others

As an engineer, it would have been logical for John Maurer to direct his recent \$100,000 bequest for Oakland University to an engineering program. Instead, Maurer made his gift unrestricted.

Maurer is hoping his actions will inspire others to support Oakland. "It feels right to make this gift to the university," says Maurer, who designated OU as the beneficiary of his life insurance policy. "I encourage others to do what feels right to them, too."

This gift isn't Maurer's first effort to give back to the community. He has tutored local high school students over the years, and when he sold his business, he donated machinery to OU's School of Engineering and Computer Sciences (SECS).

Maurer is well acquainted with the quality of instruction offered by Oakland. He was enrolled in an SECS doctoral program before illness forced him to put his studies on hold. He says he likes the idea of his gift being in place to meet a need as it arises. "We may not know what's going to be needed 30 or 40 years from now, but I have every confidence Oakland will spend it well." ■



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Suichi (1971-), Bamboo Album, 2009; ink on paper, 26 album leaves, 11 x 7 3/4 inches each; courtesy of Shuisban Yu

Gift will help endowment support arts, cultural activities

Randy Judd, CAS '72, is committing \$25,000 from his family foundation to support the efforts of the Judd Family Endowed Fund, an endowment devoted to supporting humanities projects in OU's College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

The Lyon Foundation gift will be channeled into the distribution fund for the endowment, so it can continue funding projects in the face of the economic downturn and decreased giving.

"Just look at that word 'humanities,'" says Judd. "The word 'human' is right there. Every book, every film or play or story that I've ever taken to heart has dealt with that

hard-to-define idea of the humanities and what it means to be human."

During the 2009-10 academic year, the fund provided support for four artistic endeavors, including an Oakland University Art Gallery exhibition, a drumming workshop and two video exhibitions.

"I would hope that Oakland could become a center for the arts," says Judd, adding that the arts sometimes take a backseat to other pursuits in today's society. "It means something to go to plays, to read books and to talk with others who share these interests." ■

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Susan Davies Goepp
Vice President for University Relations and
Executive Director of the OU Foundation



OU Moment

It was an evening of brilliant colors, diverse musical performances and traditional folk dances at the Oakland Center this past winter when the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) celebrated Chinese New Year. Here, Michelle Gu from the American Chinese School of Greater Detroit performs a traditional ribbon dance for the more than 400 staff, faculty, students and community members in attendance. The event was part of the ISSO's monthly Coffee Hour series, held to enrich and introduce students, faculty and staff to the wide variety of cultures found on OU's campus. ●

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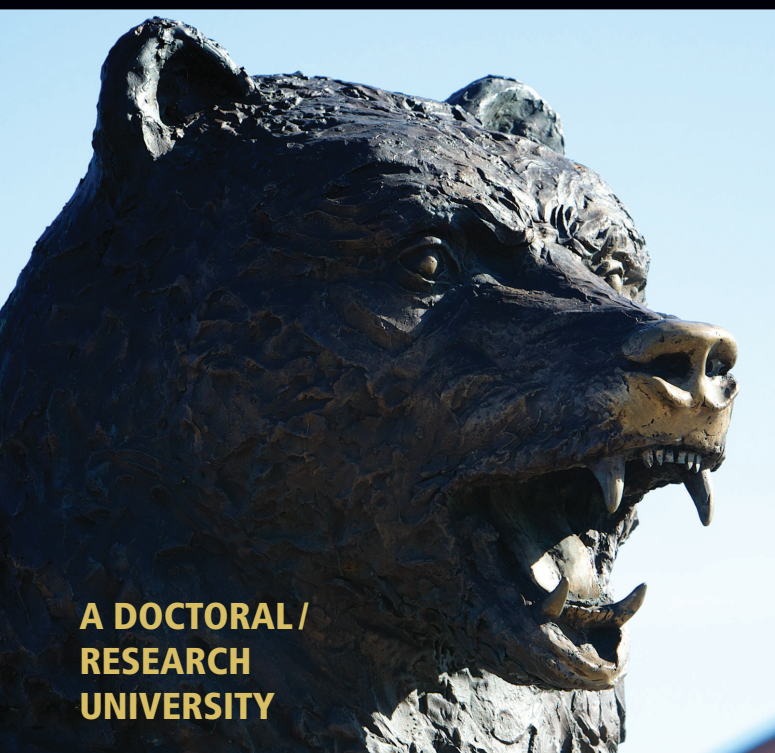
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