

inside OAKLAND

A newsletter for Oakland University colleagues

March 2001

Rethinking Undergraduate Education

OUE zeroes in on quality

The new Office of Undergraduate Education (OUE) at Oakland is charged with realizing the first, and perhaps most important component of the university's 10-year Strategic Plan. Viewing undergraduate education as central to its mission, Oakland University, through the OUE, will "ensure an environment of learning excellence to educate a diverse body of students so they can be productive, contributing members of society."

Initiated by Lou Esposito, vice president for Academic Affairs and provost, the OUE is staffed by Susan Awbrey, vice provost for Undergraduate Education; Irene Graham, assistant to the vice provost; and Sheila Murdock, secretary. It was created, Esposito says, to ensure that Oakland undergraduate students receive the best possible education, given the resources available.

"For this to happen," we need to, as an institution, encourage, nurture and support curriculum and pedagogical innovation," Esposito says. "Having a senior academic administrator, with this as her primary function, is essential to achieving this goal."

More than 11,000 undergraduate students comprise the bulk of Oakland's enrollment, which exceeded 15,000 for the first time last fall. Oakland's focus on undergraduate academic success not only serves the university's central mission, it also works to attract higher-achieving students and to further distinguish OU graduates.

"Each OU student is a unique individual whose contributions are an important part of Oakland's community and whose potential will help shape the future of our society," Awbrey says. "Oakland's students deserve an environment rich in diversity that fosters academic excellence and personal growth."

The OUE works closely with the College of Arts and Sciences and Oakland's pro-

fessional schools to accomplish its goals. It has responsibility for several university task forces that are reviewing and enhancing the undergraduate experience at Oakland. These include:

- **The International Students and Scholars (ISS) Task Force**, a joint effort of the divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. A completed task force report has been under review by the Oakland University Senate since February. With Senate endorsement, a phased implementation of the recommendations will begin this fall. According to the report, OU strives to create a greater presence in the global education arena through such efforts as outreach and exchange programs, adding areas of study and sponsoring international seminars.
- **The General Education Task Force**, which has spent the past year developing specific learning outcomes for general education. This task force has completed its report and scheduled open forums with the OU community for March 19 from 10 a.m. to noon and March 22 from 2-4 p.m. in the Oakland Center.
- **The Undergraduate Advising Review Task Force**, appointed in February. It will review and assess current advising practices and make recommendations to strengthen undergraduate advising in the academic units.
- **The Assessment Task Force**, which is responsible for reviewing current departmental assessment processes and preparing recommendations in preparation for the focused visit by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA)* in 2004. The task force report is due to be completed soon.
- **The Institute for Teaching and Learning Task Force**, which is planning a center to enhance teaching and recognize excellent instruction. The task force surveyed faculty to find out which services they would

like the center to provide. Popular requests include offering part-time faculty opportunities for professional development, and providing workshops on effective teaching for all faculty. The final report is due at the end of the winter 2001 term.

It is also the OUE's job to review academic programs mandated by the OU Senate. At least every 10 years, each academic program comes under review with the goal of enhancing the program's effectiveness and maintaining academic excellence at Oakland.

Additional OUE responsibilities include:

- The Honors College, Oakland University at the Northwestern Michigan College University Center and the Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) program, which is developing a major enhancement plan in response to a recent review.
- An annual orientation for new faculty to acquaint them with Oakland University and to help ensure a productive classroom experience.
- The undergraduate catalog, beginning with the 2001-2002 edition.
- Implementation of the university's diversity requirement and promoting diversity in the curriculum.
- Encouraging faculty to engage undergraduate students in research projects and to mentor undergraduate scholarship. The OUE helps to support Meeting of the Minds, an event sponsored by CAS and other institutions to showcase student achievements.
- Enhancing the undergraduate teaching and learning environment in collaboration with the Teaching and Learning Committee.

The Office of Undergraduate Education is located at 520 O'Dowd Hall. Contact the OUE at extension 4955 or via fax at extension 4114. You may also send e-mail to Awbrey@oakland.edu.

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Irene Graham (l); Sheila Murdock (c); and Susan Awbrey.

Show her the money

New VP seeks to build broad base of support for OU

Susan Davies Goepp is getting to know OU faculty, staff, friends, donors and alumni to better understand the kind of support it will take to facilitate their needs and goals. As the new vice president for University Relations and executive director of the Oakland University Foundation, Goepp is responsible for overseeing university fund raising, alumni outreach, communications and marketing activities and the administration of Meadow Brook Hall. Since February 1, her first day on the job, Goepp has been reaching out to the OU community and exploring new ways to leverage development efforts.

"I'm excited about this position because it includes public relations and marketing, alumni activities and fund raising," Goepp says. "The more closely they can work together to get the message across and get the broad base of support, the better the fund-raising results will be. It's a model in which everyone is working as a team."

Goepp says she sees University Relations as a service provider, helping the various units achieve their financial goals.

"Our faculty have a passion for what they do," she explains. "The people in this unit can help them cultivate

the alumni and donors they need to meet their goals. The focus can be on providing the activities that bring alumni back to campus. The more we can involve alumni in Oakland University, the more likely they are to give their financial support and time to the university."

Before joining Oakland,
continued on page 3



Get to Know Susan Davies Goepp

Where she grew up: Plymouth, Michigan
Family: Son, Robert, a high school sophomore; daughter, Michelle, an aerospace engineer in Ann Arbor
Hobbies: Golfing, bicycling, reading and walking. She walks about three miles daily.
Immediate plans: To move from Lansing to the Rochester area

Contact information

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Warming up to Oakland



Kim Adams

Meteorologist helps Admissions woo the admitted but undecided

Kim Adams CAS '93, a meteorologist for WXYZ-TV Channel 7, spoke to admitted students January 30 at an admissions reception. Her topic, "My Oakland University Experience," served to help admitted students decide that Oakland has what they're looking for in a university.

"It was wonderful to come back and to encourage potential students," Adams says. "Oakland was my favorite university. The classes were small enough to get to know the professors on a one-to-one basis. They encouraged me to go into television. I graduated summa cum laude, second in CAS; it mattered later on. It made me stand out from other applicants for my first job in television. I wanted the students to know that – the value of a smaller university."

Adams also was on the debate team at Oakland and in the Golden Key National Honor Society. She gained valuable experience as the news and weather person for WXOU.

"It was a great experience," Adams says. "Anything that Oakland ever wanted me to do to recruit students, I would do."

The admissions reception also featured welcoming remarks from Robert

Johnson, vice provost of enrollment management, a panel of student ambassadors who answered a wide range of questions, and an academic fair in which about 15 units were represented. The Office of Admissions hosts five receptions off campus each year for admitted students – two in both Oakland and Macomb counties and one in Wayne County, which is co-sponsored by the Detroit Urban League. Advisers meet with participants one-on-one to make their contact with Oakland more personal. They follow up on any questions or concerns expressed and keep in touch with students.

Admissions statistics show that 78 percent of students who attend these receptions go on to enroll at Oakland. More than 100 students attended the January event with parents, advisers and others at Petruzzello's Banquet Hall in Troy.

Helping the admitted decide on Oakland is just one strategy Admissions employs to boost enrollment, says Brenda Brendel, events planning assistant. The office also hosts "Go for the Gold," an event for high school juniors designed to pique their interest in OU, and Fall Previews for high school seniors.

"We try to get alumni involved as well as important people on campus," Brendel says. "It really makes a difference to students that alumni, top administrators and faculty take the time to meet with and talk to them."

Race, Gender and Marital Stability in America



Terri L. Orbuch

What factors keep a marriage together and what factors break it apart? In the next president's colloquium on March 20, Associate Professor Terri L. Orbuch, Sociology and Anthropology, College of Arts and Sciences, takes a look at the various interactive styles and structural characteristics that can be considered risk

factors portending divorce or low marital quality, and a number which can be considered sources of resilience for a marriage. In addition, Orbuch will share insights

about the differential meanings of marriage for husbands and wives, among African Americans and whites, from data she has collected and analyzed as part of a longitudinal study conducted for the last 15 years.

The primary objective of Orbuch's study is to get a better understanding of the marital processes and determinants of marital quality and stability among African American couples and white couples. Her findings indicate that marital relationships are embedded within the context of race and gender, consisting of norms and expectations that determine the meanings of various interpersonal or marital processes such as conflict, parenthood or decisions regarding the division of household labor.

The rise of women's studies

New major continues a long tradition of study at OU

The 1970s saw lots of changes at Oakland University, including the introduction of women's studies courses in the College of Arts and Sciences. Since 1977, OU has offered courses and, since 1988, a concentration in the discipline. Now, the college has introduced a new major in women's studies.

"All Big Ten schools have women's studies majors," says Mary Papazian, associate dean, CAS, and associate professor, English. "With this new program, Oakland joins the ranks of the nation's universities that value women's studies as an academic discipline. Women comprise more than half our student body, many of them nontraditional students, so this program is sure to become popular quickly."

Women's studies is an interdisciplinary field focused on the description and analysis of women's experiences in historical and contemporary societies; the representation of women in literature, art and the media; and the role of women in the sciences. The major requires a minimum of 40 credits in women's studies – 20 credits each of core and elective courses. The introduction of the major at Oakland addresses not only the composition of the student body (65 percent women), but also two growing national trends in higher education: 1) the growing diversity of student populations ("increasingly older, female, racially and economically diverse, first generation college and differently abled," as noted in the proposal for the major); and 2) the move to provide a more inclusive curriculum.

While many faculty, staff, students and community



Mary Papazian

members supported the program's development, the college notes that the major would not exist without the efforts of the executive committee for the women's studies concentration. Members include associate professors, Natalie Cole, English; Martha Zingo, Political Science; Susan Hawkins, English; Barbara Hamilton, Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism; and Phyllis Rooney, Philosophy; professors, Shea (Sharon) Howell, Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism; and Gary Shepherd, Sociology and Anthropology; Barbara Mabee, associate professor and chair, Modern Languages and Literatures; and Michelle Piskulich, director, MPA program.

"The approval of a new major is a lengthy process that involves approvals by several faculty groups and eventually the OU Board of Trustees," notes Papazian. "The nice thing about the amount of time it took to make this a reality is that we've been able to examine closely other competing programs. We know that we've created a program of which we can all be proud. Oakland's program is intellectually invigorating and increases the diversity of academic offerings."

For more information about the women's studies program, call extension 2420.

Orbuch holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has been the principal investigator of several funded research projects. She is the editor of the book, *Close Relationship Loss: Theoretical Approaches* (Springer-Verlag, 1992); co-editor of *Attributions, Accounts and Close Relationships* (Springer-Verlag, 1992), and co-author of *Interpersonal Accounts: A Social Psychological Perspective* (Basil

Blackwell, 1990) and *Introduction to Sociology*, a college review textbook (McGraw-Hill, 1990). Orbuch also has been extensively published in scholarly journals. She received the Oakland University New Investigator Research Excellence Award in 1999.

The president's colloquium will take place in the Gold Rooms, Oakland Center – reception at 11 a.m., followed by the presentation at noon. Call extension 4909 to RSVP.

bits and PIECES

AmeriCorps Oakland receives United Way grant

The Oakland University AmeriCorps program recently received a one-time grant of \$20,000 from the United Way of Oakland County Community Investment Steering Committee. This is in addition to the local match of \$5,000, which was recently awarded by the United Way's Community Response Committee.

AmeriCorps is a federally funded program created in 1993 when former President Bill Clinton signed into law the National and Community Service Trust Act. AmeriCorps Oakland began in November 1995 and recruits 40 individuals to serve 900 hours in one year.

This year, OU students are working with first- through eighth-graders in Pontiac schools, says Program Director Carol Anne Ketelsen BGS '90. They are helping children improve their reading, math and science skills, and will provide after-school and summer enrichment programs that build character, and teach conflict prevention, nutrition, computers, and more.

Family Free Day @ the Rec

All OU faculty, staff and their families are invited to the next Family Free Day, Sunday, March 18, from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Enjoy family activities such as open basketball, open swimming, racquetball and table tennis. You can even discover the world of scuba diving. For the first time, the event will feature an indoor carnival. Every child will receive a prize. For more information, contact Felecia Bumpus at extension 4732.

Mentoring grant to help curb drinking on campus

The Michigan Department of Community Health awarded Oakland University a \$21,000 grant to fund a comprehensive social mentoring program for freshmen that will provide positive alternatives to alcohol use.

"With a third year of funding from the State of Michigan, Oakland University will be able to continue its efforts to reduce underage and abusive drinking, and create many more positive social outlets on campus for our students," says Mary Beth Snyder, vice president for Student Affairs. Led by Nancy Schmitz, director, and Pamela Warner, psychologist and substance abuse prevention coordinator, University Health and Counseling Center, the mentoring program has given new students the opportunity to take part in numerous programs and events that help them understand the dangers of using alcohol and drugs.

The Far Field Retreat for Writers

Oakland University will host The Far Field Retreat for Writers May 17-20. Sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of English, *The Oakland Press*, and The Writer's Voice Project of the Detroit YMCA, the retreat offers writers the opportunity to study fiction or poetry writing with faculty recognized regionally and nationally for their work. Participants attend workshop sessions, readings by faculty and students, craft lectures and other activities, have access to university resources such as the Recreation Center and library, and can earn three continuing education credits. Faculty include David St. John, Reginald McKnight, Gladys Cardiff, Mary Ann Samyn, Maureen Dunphy, Gerry LaFemina and Annette Gilson. Contact the English department for more information. The deadline for deposits and registration is April 1.

Annual piano benefit

The Department of Music, Theatre and Dance holds its Annual Piano Benefit April 14 to raise funds toward the purchase of a new Steinway piano for Varner Recital Hall. Led by Flavio Varani, professor, Music, this annual benefit is your chance to help MTD make beautiful music.

Oakland Journal available

The second issue of the *Oakland Journal* is now available. The new issue features works by Vincent Khapoya (Political Science), Louisa Ngote (Art & Art History), Mary Kharash (History), James Ozinga (Political Science emeritus), Michael Sevilla (Chemistry), Chaunda Scott (SEHS), Richard Burke (Philosophy), Shelly Appleton (Political Science), Carl Barnes (Art and Art History), Kim Johnson (undergraduate) and Jim Hoyle (English, emeritus). Anyone who wishes to receive a copy, may contact Geoff Brieger at extension 2325, or via e-mail at gbrieger@oakland.edu.

Free tax assistance

The Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA) is holding its annual Ask-A-CPA Call-In Day on Saturday, March 24. Taxpayers who are puzzled by the effects of tax laws can get the answers to state and federal tax questions free of charge by dialing, toll free, (877) 420-4CPA. Volunteer CPAs will be available to assist taxpayers from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participants may call as often as they wish, but are limited to two questions per call so that volunteers may assist as many callers as possible. The information given to callers is not intended to be all-inclusive and has not been approved or disapproved by the MACPA.

The MACPA is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The organization serves more than 15,000 CPAs in Michigan and maintains an office in Troy. For more information, visit www.michcpa.org on the Web.



OU 4EVR

Are you licensed to roar?

Walk around the Oakland Center and you'll see Oakland T-shirts and sweat-shirts galore. There's a mug on virtually every office desk and sail pins on countless staff lapels. Nearly 54,000 alumni demand their copy of *OU Magazine* three times a year and certain Grizzlies home games have been known to sell out. It's about school spirit. Alumni pride. The black and gold forever. Ohhh to be, to be a grizzly bear! Members of the OU community are true to their school, right? Not if you ask *The Detroit News*.

Columnist Tom Greenwood got the lowdown on how many of the new university-themed license plates being offered at Michigan Secretary of State offices were sold between their unveiling last October through January 16, 2001.

OU and 14 other state uni-

versities provide their alumni, students, faculty and staff the opportunity to support the schools they graduated from, attend or work for, by purchasing a license plate bearing the school name and logo. Proceeds from the sale of OU license plates benefit the Oakland University Alumni Scholarship Fund. So, how many OU plates have been sold? Check out the statistics below. Then, go out and register your school spirit.

Michigan State	4,794
U-M Ann Arbor	4,071
Western	787
Central	677
Michigan Tech	437
Ferris State	424
Eastern	398
Wayne State	273
Oakland University	241
Grand Valley	238
Northern	225
Lake Superior	173
U-M Dearborn	132
Saginaw Valley	114
U-M Flint	97

C'mon, let's compete!

Show her the money continued from page 1

Goepp was director of external relations for Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, one of the university's top fund-raising units. In that position, she increased private support from an annual average of \$5 million to more than \$8 million. Her team raised more than \$10 million in private support during fiscal year 1999-2000.

Goepp oversaw alumni relations, special events and fund-raising activities for the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and MSU Extension. Before that, she was director of development for MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine. In that role, she increased contributions by more than 20 percent annually, and cultivated and solicited a \$1.5-million gift to establish a chair in equine sports medicine.

Goepp also has served as executive director for the Bedding Plants Foundation in Lansing and coordinator of fund raising and public rela-

tions for St. John Student Parish in East Lansing. She sits on the national board for the Association of Fund Raising Professionals and has served as a speaker and author on fund-raising topics. A Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), Goepp holds a bachelor of science degree in sociology with a minor in psychology from Central Michigan University.

Goepp's appointment follows a six-month search during which OU President Gary D. Russi sought input from the university community and Geoff Upward, director, Communications and Marketing, served as acting vice president.

"This is an exciting time for Oakland with the growth in enrollment, programs and buildings," Goepp says. "Because of this and the university's reputation for excellence, I'm extremely proud and honored to be part of the Oakland University family."

calendar of **EVENTS**

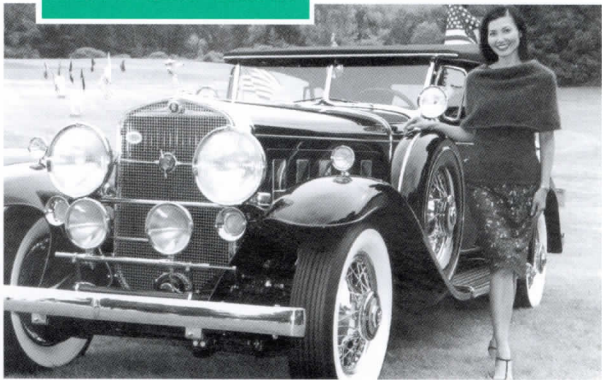


Emily Wilson and Joey Bybee in a scene from *Cabaret*.

March

- 9 *The Art of the Cathartic Circle*. Meadow Brook Art Gallery exhibition featuring Detroit artists. Opening reception on Friday, March 16, 4:30-9 p.m. Through April 8.
- 18 Family Free Day @ the Rec. 1-6 p.m.
- 21 *The Ride Down Mt. Morgan* by Arthur Miller. Meadow Brook Theatre. Through April 15. Softball vs. Western Michigan. 1 p.m.
- 23 Oakland Dance Theatre. Concert featuring choreography by MTD students and faculty, and a work by Washington, D.C., guest choreographer, Helanius J. Wilkins of hjw/Dimensions Dance Company. Varner. 8 p.m. Through March 24. Softball vs. Valparaiso. 2 p.m. and March 24 at noon.
- 22 *Cabaret*. MTD Musical. Adult themes and language. Studio Theatre. \$10. Through April 1.
- 25 Professional Artist Series. Sonnet Quartet. DSO string musicians in residence. Varner Recital Hall. \$10. 7 p.m.
- 26 Softball vs. Grand Valley. 3 p.m.
- 31 "How to Survive as an Artist: Success, Excellence and Artistic Survival in Detroit." Symposium at Meadow Brook Art Gallery. 2 p.m.
- April**
- 2 OU Spring Blood Drive. Gold Rooms, Oakland Center. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Through April 4.
- 5 SLLB presents Jennifer Granholm. Meadow Brook Theatre. 3 p.m.
- 6 International Night. Pioneer Food Court. 7 p.m.
- 9 Winner's Circle. Wilson, KOD and other award recipients honored. Fireside Lounge, Oakland Center. Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Save the date!



The 23rd Annual Meadow Brook Hall Concours d'Elegance will take place Sunday, August 5, 2001. This year, the classic automobile show salutes the Streamliners.

employee of the MONTH

February 2001



EMPLOYEE: June Fisher
TITLE: Administrative Secretary
DEPARTMENT: English
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 20 years

COMMENTS:

"Since I arrived at Oakland and began working for the Department of English, in 1988, June Fisher has been a happy constant in the department's life. Though we have had five chairs or interim chairs in the department from then until now, congeniality, a spirit of cooperation and friendliness have remained the norm. In no small way this is due to June and springs from her readiness to help, her eye for detail, her commitment to work well done, and her amiable attitude toward students and faculty alike."

"June Fisher is an exceptionally capable person, able to handle a wide variety of tasks simultaneously with accuracy and good humor. Her skill in organizing dossiers for faculty review is so well known in the College of Arts and Sciences that she is often consulted for advice by secretaries in other departments."

"June's attitude is exemplary. She is loyal to her department colleagues and helps us out in whatever ways she can - whether by getting class materials ready on preposterously short notice, finding a way to box and ship some bulky book manuscript or figuring out what office on campus can help us resolve a problem for a student."

campus REGISTRY of distinction

Lizabeth A. Barclay, professor, and **Kenneth M. York**, associate professor, Management, recently published an article titled, "Space at Work: Exercises in the Art of Understanding Physical Indicators of Culture," in the *Journal of Management Education*.

Eddie Cheng, assistant professor, and **Marc J. Lipman**, professor and chair, Mathematics and Statistics, co-authored a paper titled, "Orienting the Arrangement Graphs," which has been accepted for publication in *Congressus Numerantium*.

Robert Justin Goldstein, professor, Political Science, spoke recently on "Nineteenth-Century Russian Censorship in Comparative Perspective," at the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Michigan. He will be speaking in June at a conference on "Repression and Mobilization" at the University of Maryland and in September in San Francisco at the convention of the American Political Science Association on a panel on the "Politics of Labor Policy in the United States." Goldstein also will be participating in a Chautauqua course on "Globalization, Institutions and Politics" in New York City in May.

Kevin T. Grimm, associate professor, English, recently had an article published titled,

"Wynkyn de Worde and the Creation of Malory's *Morte Darthur*. It appeared in a collection of essays titled, *Social and Literary Contexts of Malory's Morte Darthur*, which came out in October, 2000, from Boydell and Brewer Press.

Margo King has been named senior development director for Kresge Library, the School of Health Sciences and the School of Nursing.

Jude V. Nixon, associate professor, English, had his essay, "Death Blots Black Out": Apocalyptic Anxiety in Gerard Manley Hopkins," accepted for publication by the journal, *Victorian Poetry*. The essay will appear in the Summer 2002 issue. The journal also has invited Nixon to be a member of its editorial board. Nixon presented the paper at the Modern Language Association conference in Washington, DC, December 27-30, 2000, as part of a session on Postmillennial Letdown I: Nineteenth Century.

Barbara A. Theisen, associate professor, Accounting, co-authored an article titled, "The Business of Charity: Nonprofit Organizations Must Structure Corporate Sponsorship Payments Carefully," which appeared in the December 2000 *Journal of Accountancy*.

Flavio Varani, professor, Music, will serve as artistic director and faculty member for the 6th International Chamber Music Academy at the Ars Musica House in Aub, Germany, in July. The academy provides private lessons and coaching as well as master classes with renowned faculty for

a select group of accomplished students, professionals and proficient amateurs.

Barry S. Winkler, professor, Biomedical Sciences and Eye Research Institute, and associate director, Honors College, has been appointed an adjunct professor in the Department of Cell Biology/Anatomy in the School of Medicine at Wayne State University. This honor is for his continuing collaboration and consultation with faculty on research projects related to the retina of the eye. Winkler is in the second year of a \$1.5-million, five-year grant awarded by the National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health, for studies on the energy metabolism and function of the mammalian retina.



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