

Oakland University

Winter 1999

MAGAZINE

She Hits the High Notes

Along with a new CD, TV commercials and an exclusive deal to sing the national anthem at Red Wings home games, OU alumna Karen Newman is becoming one of Detroit's most recognized celebrities

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Education for Anyone, Anytime

Technology is changing how university students learn

Visionary Research

OU Professor Kenneth Hightower is convinced it can pay to delay the onset of cataracts



Letter from the president

Dear Alumni, Friends, Faculty and Staff:

We have made steady progress since celebrating the Creating the Future initiative eight months ago.

Working with the Board of Trustees, we are now prioritizing the hundreds of recommendations made by the 280 distinguished corporate and civic leaders and university faculty, staff and students on nine task forces. Task force members spent months on the complex and difficult task of intensive evaluation and planning regarding every aspect of our academic and administrative programs. Their mission was to decide how best to strengthen and improve Oakland University.

By tapping their creativity and expertise, we will generate a new agenda for Oakland and define the steps we must take to realize our strategic plan. Such collaborations with numerous partners leverage our resources and open our eyes to possibilities we would not otherwise see.

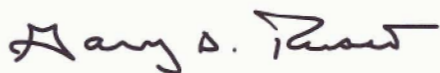
Partnerships formed through the work of these task forces give Oakland a distinct advantage as an institution of higher learning: they bridge the widening gaps between business, industry, government and education. These accords allow us to better prepare our students by providing exposure to leading-edge workplace practices and involvement with the constantly changing challenges of high technology.

Creating the Future is part of the OU tradition of collaboration. In 1958, the brightest academic, business and industrial minds from across the state, and even the nation, met at Meadow Brook Hall to help pioneer the curriculum and direction of our new institution.

During the past year of task force activity, the spirit of collaboration led to a variety of consultations among various university organizations, including the Deans Council, the college and school assemblies, University Senate and senate steering committees, and untold numbers of faculty and staff.

In the coming months, Oakland will continue to be aggressive and adaptive in seeking the opinions of members of the business and professional communities, alumni, faculty, students and friends. These discussions have already shaped OU's implementation of new degree and certificate programs, new services such as the Voyager computer information system in Kresge Library, new facilities such as the Recreation and Athletics Center, Science and Engineering Building and School of Business Administration and Applied Technology Institute (to open in fall 2000), new labs such as the Applied Technology in Business and Product Development and Manufacturing Center, as well as a move to Division I athletics and a new mascot/nickname — the Golden Grizzlies.

On behalf of the university, I express deep gratitude for the support from all of those who have contributed their time, energy and talent. I also invite each of you to continue to participate in the plans and life of the university as we advance our mission of higher education and community service.



President, Oakland University



A model university is a community partner

Oakland University

Winter 1999

MAGAZINE

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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE is published three times
per year by Oakland University, with support from the
Oakland University Alumni Association and the
Oakland University Foundation. Reproduction without
permission is prohibited. ISSN: 1054-6480. Issue No. 56.

Editorial and publishing offices are located at
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Oakland University is an equal opportunity and
affirmative action institution.

In Memory: This magazine is dedicated
to Anne Oliveira, former art director,
Oakland University. Anne, who designed
and managed hundreds of university
publications including this magazine,
died of nonHodgkins lymphoma
December 30, 1998. She was 31.



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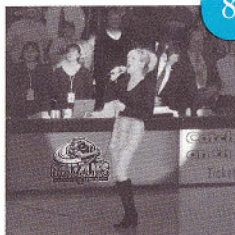
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Engineering students help automate spaghetti sauce-making process

Mary Ann Radke, a teacher at Bovenschen School, Warren, and her class of multiply-impaired students had received a \$5,000 grant to make and distribute spaghetti sauce.

Radke wanted her students to make the sauce themselves.

"But her students weren't capable of doing the work," says Gary Barber, associate professor, Mechanical Engineering. "Her idea was to find someone to engineer a mechanical process that would allow her students to become more involved."



Gary Barber

Accepting the challenge, Barber divided his manufacturing processes class into 10 groups, assigning each to work on a different part of the sauce-making process. The groups were asked to develop mechanisms that would help Radke's students accomplish each step — from stirring the sauce to affixing the label.

"Applying engineering principles and their own ingenuity, they used everything from a popcorn popper to a Ford Bronco window motor. And it worked," Barber says. "We had the process inspected by the health department and it passed. Her students were able to make the sauce, giving them something they

all could be proud of."

While some OU students are continuing to work on the project, Barber says they all learned the importance of using engineering skills to help the community, something he hopes to duplicate in the semesters to come.

"Who knows what we will cook up next," he says.

If you have a project idea, call Barber at (248) 370-2184.

Nursing program helps disadvantaged students earn degrees

Oakland University and Henry Ford Health System have launched a program to help disadvantaged, nonprofessional employees of HFHS pursue a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

The program, Professional Nurse Education for Disadvantaged Students, admitted 20 HFHS students last fall. Twenty more will be admitted in each of the next two years. The goal is to head off a potential nursing shortage in the Detroit area — a problem in major U.S. cities.

Open to office, skilled, unskilled and service workers, the program allows employees to continue working while attending classes at local community colleges and OU.

"Motivation and potential to succeed are a couple of the criteria used in selecting candidates," says Program Director Dorothy Fox, assistant dean, School of Nursing.

For more information, call Fox at (248) 370-4072.

School of Health Sciences moves to Hannah Hall

The School of Health Sciences dean is glad to have moved to Hannah Hall in November.

"We have twice as much space as we had in Vandenberg," SHS Dean Ronald E. Olson says. "Our new facility accommodates permanent classrooms, something we haven't had."

Olson says the new facility provides a better learning environment for students and an improved center of activity for the SHS.

Music, Theatre and Dance welcomes DSO musicians in residence

Oakland University welcomed four talented Detroit Symphony Orchestra musicians in residence last fall.

Sonnet Quartet members Kimberly Kaloyanides and Hai Xin Wu (violin), Glenn Mallow (viola) and Debra Fayroian (cello) will perform as a part of the department's Professional Artists Series. They will also assume positions as applied faculty, joining a number of other DSO musicians in teaching and coaching OU music students in solo and chamber music performances.

The Sonnet Quartet will appear in concert at 3 p.m. May 9.

For tickets, call (248) 370-3013 or visit the Meadow Brook Theatre or Varner Hall box offices. Tickets are also available from Ticketmaster, either at Ticket Centers, by phone at (248) 645-6666 or on-line: www.ticketmaster.com

Business Web site helps simplify the home-buying process

Kieran Mathieson, associate professor, Management Information Systems, School of Business Administration, has developed a Web site to help home buyers make decisions.

The prototype site was developed with Champion Enterprises of Auburn Hills,

the largest manufactured homes company in the United States. The site includes a home worksheet for buyers to figure out what they can afford — everything from a floor plan to decor. In the end, all selections can be printed out for an organized, convenient summary of the buyer's decision. The site even offers pictures and narrated slide show tours of homes.

"It's a very flexible system," Mathieson says. "The customer is in charge."

The site can be found at www.sba.oakland.edu/home_cdt

Education school adds 3 new doctoral programs and celebrates a 4th

Graduate students gained three new doctoral options in the School of Education and Human Services while the school's original Ph.D. program in reading and language arts celebrated its 20th birthday.

The newly added Ph.D. in education offers three distinct specialization tracks: counseling, early childhood education and educational leadership.

For enrollment information, call (248) 370-3050.

Honors College to host new Faculty Forum

The Honors College is hosting a Faculty Forum series this winter.

Speakers will address current issues in their disciplines.

The free series, open to OU alumni, faculty and staff, will take place in 112 Vandenberg Hall.

Times, dates and speakers:

- Noon March 10, Robert Eberwein, professor, Department of English
- 7 p.m. March 15, guest lecturer Sighle Bhreatnach-Lynch, Department of Art

History, University of Western Ontario (Oakland Center Gold Room C)

- Noon April 6, Mary Ann Samyn, special lecturer, Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism

Grants take Oakland engineering educators into the work force

The Oakland University School of Engineering and Computer Science has earned more than \$1 million in training dollars in two years, thanks to awards from the Michigan Jobs Commission Grants.

The SECS received three grants this year, the largest a \$480,000 award that will fund a training program with Fanuc Robotics, Auburn Hills.

Two other grants provide \$125,000 to work with Meritor Automotive and nearly \$44,000 for a training project with Compuware.

Education researchers offer preschoolers better learning tools

Two Oakland University professors are helping preschoolers better grasp science and math concepts.

Ambika Bhargava and Anna Kirova-Petrova, assistant professors, School of Education and Human Services, developed tools to help teachers assess and teach preschool children more effectively.

Teachers need to know each child's stage of development so that they can take them to the next level, the professors say.

"The role of the teacher is as important as that of the learning materials," Kirova-Petrova says. "There must be a sequential development of math and science concepts with the adult mediating the learning between the child and the environment."

Oakland to host Meeting of the Minds in May

The sixth annual Meeting of the Minds is slated for May 1999 in the Oakland Center.

Specific details are being finalized.

The meeting's purpose is to highlight — through oral presentations, posters and performances — the accomplishments of undergraduate students from represented universities and their interactions with faculty members. Participants will hail from Oakland University, University of Michigan-Dearborn and University of Michigan-Flint.

For more details, call the College of Arts and Sciences at (248) 370-2140.

Oakland students discover link between hormones and cancer

An Oakland University professor and his students have discovered that thyroid hormone in breast cancer



Virinder Moudgil

cells can raise the level of a tumor suppressor just as estrogen does.

The finding has potential implications in cancer treatment, says Virinder Moudgil, chair, Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences. Tumor suppressor proteins discourage cancer growth; their absence or deficiency puts humans at high risk.

"This research implies two conditions, thyroid function and breast cancer, could be

treated at once with one hormone," Moudgil says. "Or you could have side effects: Even though you are treating your thyroid condition, you could be raising estrogen activity and putting somebody at risk."

Hormones are chemicals made by the body that turn processes on or off. Thyroid hormone controls the body's energy level. Estrogen, a female sex hormone, controls development of the uterus, vagina and other sex organs.

Moudgil's students presented their findings this summer at The Endocrine Society's 80th Annual Meeting, the most prestigious conference on hormone research.

Education student teachers embark on first exchange program

The first group of Oakland University education students to spend one third of their student teaching experience in New Zealand classrooms left for their five-week adventure in late October, accompanied by Curriculum, Instruction and Leadership Department Chair Eric Follo.

Their departure came shortly after five of their New Zealand counterparts arrived in Oakland County for a taste of public education in the

Rochester public schools.

"We've never done it before, and so each and every day you find new challenges that you need to be

aware of and need to build into the program," says

Sherrill Karppinen, New Zealand student teacher exchange supervisor for winter 1999.

New services for the hearing and visually impaired at MBT

Oakland University's Meadow Brook Theatre will offer new services for the hearing and visually impaired during its 1998-99 season, with designated performances of each production providing special interpreting.

American Sign Language-interpreted performances will be offered on one Tuesday evening for each of the season's seven productions. Audio-described performances will be offered on one Wednesday evening, also for each of the seven productions.

Ticket reservations and more information are available from the MBT box office at (248) 370-3300.

Engineering program graduates third class

Eleven international students graduated in November from an innovative engineering management program offered by Oakland University and Vienna University of Technology.

The Engineering Management Executive Education Program meets a need in European engineering education for interdisciplinary academic training for midlevel technical managers.

"No other engineering management program combines the best of two competitive worlds — European quality standards with American business skills," says Naim Kheir, program director and professor and chair, Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering.

Graduates earn an OU master's degree in engineering management.



Bill Rogers

Rogers is all 'fore' a professional golf comeback

Bill Rogers, managing director, Katke-Cousins Golf Course, is looking forward to being a golf rookie again.

He rededicated himself to competitive golf 18 months ago after a decade of minimal competition. His goal: to qualify for the senior PGA tour by the time he turns 50. "I want to see if I can get back to a competitive level," says Rogers, now 47.

He is well on his way. He won the first two matches and lost a third in the \$50,000 Lincoln-Mercury PGA Classic golf championship September 15.

'Wellcome Visiting Professorship' comes to Oakland University

Oakland University played host November 2-3 to the Wellcome Visiting Professorship in Microbiology.

The American Society for Microbiology awarded the event to the Department of Biological Sciences for the 1998-99 academic year. The event, which was proposed and applied for by Associate Professor Jill Zeilstra-Ryalls, was sponsored by the Burrows Wellcome Fund. It provided a \$5,000 award and plaque to Thomas Silhavy, a Warner-Lambert-Parke-Davis professor of Molecular Biology at Princeton University.



Check this out

The Oakland University Branch of the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union is sporting new checks featuring the Golden Grizzlies logo. Call (248) 370-3545 for more information.



Oakland University hosted a golf course groundbreaking ceremony November 6 for the R & S Sharf Golf Course and took positive steps to address campus concerns regarding the course design.

The \$4.5-million, 18-hole championship course will open in fall 2000. The course, financed and constructed by the Oakland University Foundation, will be located adjacent to the existing Katke-Cousins Golf Course.

Several groups and individuals on campus protested the golf course construction at the December Board of Trustees meeting. Protests centered around potential loss of a biology research project on the property and concern over possible loss of natural recreational areas.

The university approved the final hole routing after adjustments were made to the original design to accommodate all aspects of university life.

"Holes 10 and 12 were moved and the course was reconfigured to accommodate biology research with wasps," says Bill Rogers, managing director, Katke-Cousins Golf Course. "Project construction is well under way, and several of the golf holes have been cleared and the new course is beginning to take shape with holes 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 17 cleared and grubbed, ready for springtime earthwork."

University staff members have been working with interested faculty, students and community members to add some 10,000 linear feet of hiking trails.

Golf Course Designer Rick

OU adjusts golf course plans to 'accommodate all aspects of university life'



Smith of Michigan Treetops Resort and PGA Tour teaching renown, spoke during the ceremony.

Stephan and Rita Sharf donated \$2 million to seed the project. Stephan is the retired executive vice president for Manufacturing for Chrysler Corporation and a current OU Foundation director. Sharf believes the new course will attract new donors to the President's Club (PClub).

Through the vehicle of the new course, PClub members are expected to double their total annual contributions to the university, which now total about \$1 million annually.

For details on giving opportunities, call the PClub at (248) 370-2244.

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

Getting ready to cut the ceremonial first hole for the new R & S Sharf Golf Course are (from left) David B. Lewis SBA '66, chair, Oakland University Foundation; Stephan and Rita Sharf, golf course benefactors and Stephan is the retired executive vice president, Manufacturing, Chrysler Corporation; Bill Rogers, managing director, Katke-Cousins Golf Course; Gary D. Russi, president, Oakland University; Rick Smith, golf course designer; Fran Englehardt, OU foundation director and manager of the new golf course project; and David Doyle, chair, OU Board of Trustees.

Academic Skills Center earns international tutor certification

The College Reading and Learning Association awarded certification to Oakland University's Academic Skills Center.

The ASC employs more than 75 tutors who obtain work experience while reinforcing their academic skills and developing their leadership abilities.

Professor gives students valuable experience

An Oakland University professor is studying blood diseases and helping to answer a fundamental question of biology while providing student researchers with valuable experience.

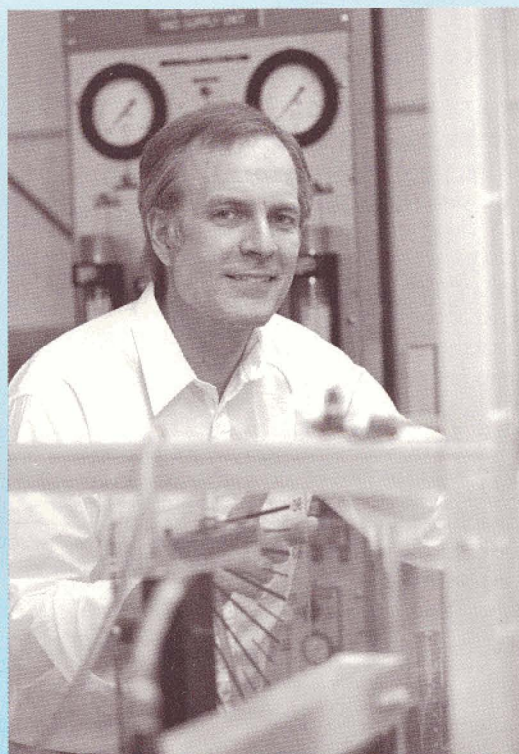


Jill Zeilstra-Ryalls

Jill Zeilstra-Ryalls, assistant professor, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, received a three-year National Science Foundation grant for \$224,992.

With the grant, she is studying at the molecular level how cells sense environmental signals such as light, oxygen and temperature, a key question in biology.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



THE WRIGHT STUFF: Project engineer helps others make inventions a reality

Forrest Wright BGS '84, MS '89, turns other people's ideas — and his own — into inventions.

As Oakland University manager of Mechanical Equipment and Instrumentation and researcher, School of Engineering and Computer Science, he works with faculty to design custom instruments and equipment for research and instruction. He also provides engineering support and consultation to students and faculty.

Wright's designs are usually assembled in OU's instrument and machine shop but sometimes he makes them.

"The equipment is obscure, but the behind-the-scenes people, especially those in the instrument shop, are really talented," he says.

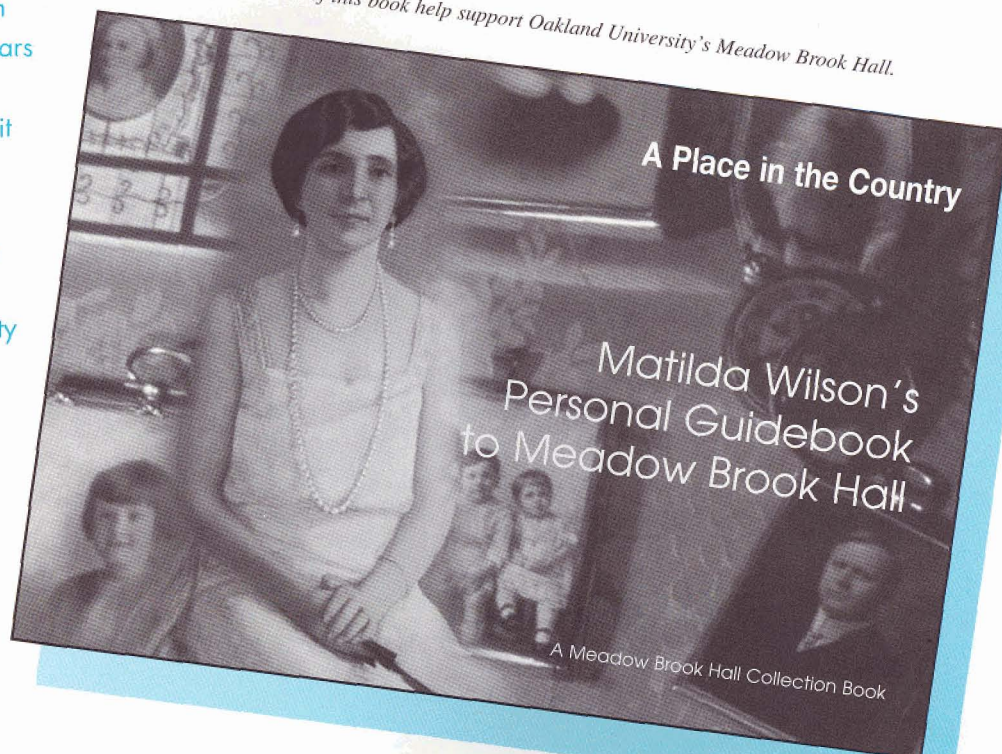
Wright is a lifelong inventor who holds 14 United States patents on everything from complex instruments to the consumer product "Space Weights," water-filled hand weights that once were sold at Sears and featured on *Good Morning America*.

Wright founded Binagraphics, Inc., a small company that focuses on a communication concept he invented called binagraphy, which uses symbolism as a way of expanding capabilities of keypads and expanding the versatility of virtual reality equipment.

A Place in the Country for only \$8.95

In January 1957, Alfred G. and Matilda Dodge Wilson announced the donation of their Meadow Brook estate and \$2 million to establish Oakland University. Forty-two years later, the hall remains a grand American castle that you can visit firsthand or experience through *A Place in the Country: Matilda Wilson's Personal Guidebook to Meadow Brook Hall*. This first offering of the Oakland University Press features a tour of the mansion and its collection of fine and decorative arts in the words of the woman who was the motivating force behind its design, construction and decoration — OU founder Matilda Dodge Wilson.

Proceeds from the sale of this book help support Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall.



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OAKLAND
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She Hits the High Notes

By Ted Montgomery

Five minutes before game time, Karen Newman looks up at the nearly 21,000 screaming Red Wings fans and tells herself to relax. Over the din of the leather-lunged faithful; she finds her note on her pitch pipe, takes a deep breath, raises the microphone to her mouth and starts to sing. "Oh, say, can you see . . ."

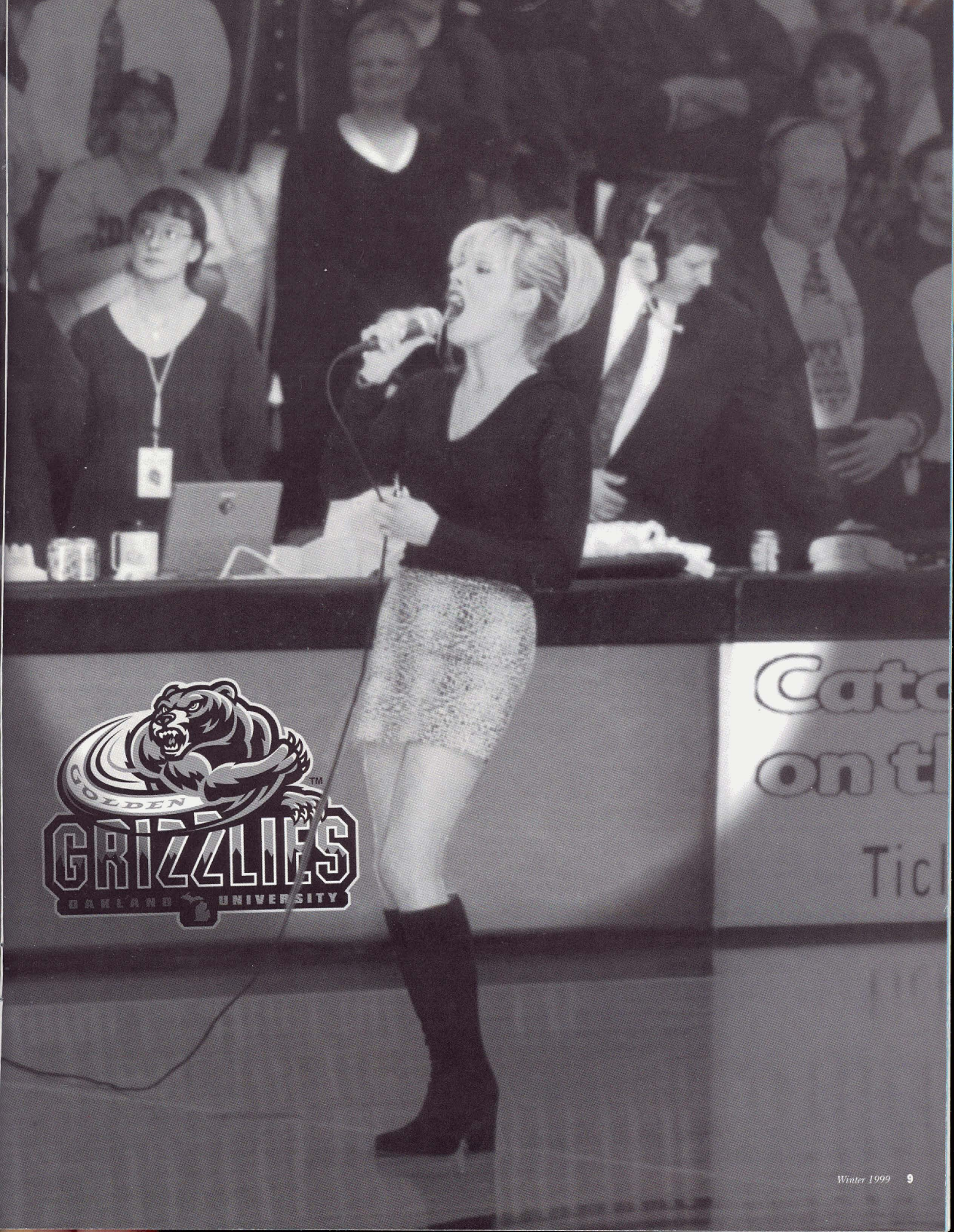
By the time Newman hits the last line of our national anthem — one of the most vocally challenging songs in musical annals — the crowd is right with her, screaming and applauding as she sustains the last word — "braaaaaave" — for many more seconds than Francis Scott Key had in mind. By the time she smiles, lowers the microphone and waves to the crowd, the Red Wings are skating around, lining up for the opening faceoff, already up for the game.

In some ways, Karen Newman is another weapon in their arsenal. It's only fitting that the Red Wings, winners of the last two Stanley Cups, have a champion national anthem singer.


That's heady stuff for the Oakland University graduate, who knew from a very young age that she wanted to be a singer.

Along with a new CD, TV commercials and an exclusive deal to sing the national anthem at Red Wings home games, Oakland University alumna Karen Newman is becoming one of Detroit's most recognized celebrities

Karen Newman sings the national anthem before OU's inaugural Division I home basketball game at the new Recreation and Athletics Center against the Michigan State Spartans November 17.



Cats
on the
Ticket



"I can't even remember singing in front of a crowd for the first time," Newman says. "As far back as I can remember, I was always singing, whether it was at home or in the choir at school. I have this vague memory of my first real performance at West Junior High in Rochester, Michigan, singing some songs from *Godspell*.

"I knew when I was 8 years old that I wanted singing to be my profession. I saw myself as a sort of Sarah Bernhardt, the kid with the mouth, always the dramatic one."

Newman grew up in Rochester, where her parents raised seven children, six of them, including Karen, twins. This unlikely phenomenon was duly noted in the local press. "We are sort of a legend in Rochester,"

Newman says. "We were on the front page of the *Rochester Clarion*, after my mom gave birth to her third set of twins."

Newman's twin sister is a fraternal twin. "She's six inches taller than me," she says.

Newman's dad worked for General Motors, so the family moved a lot. "I always say I'm from Rochester because that's where we spent the majority of my childhood, but I graduated from Grand Blanc High School because we lived there during my junior and senior years."

Immediately following Newman's graduation, she returned to Rochester, where she promptly enrolled at OU. Despite living so close to the university, she chose to live in the residence halls.

"I wanted to experience the full spectrum of college life. I lived in Vandenberg East all four years. My older brother lived on the fifth floor with all his friends. It was great. I had this huge extended family with me, all these big brothers watching over me.

"My twin sister and I shared a room, and a couple years later when the second set of twins were ready for college, they came to Oakland and we all shared a suite. It was really fun."

Newman studied music at OU, where she earned a full scholarship for her last three years. "It (commercial music) was a great program at the time. I traveled a lot, and learned so much. But the program became a victim of cuts in funding for artistic programs. But that program

made me who I am, and someday I'd like to do something to bring it back for future generations of Oakland University music students."

She also performed as a member of the Meadow Brook Estate, the Music, Theatre and Dance Department's premier show ensemble. "I remember seeing Karen in the Meadow Brook Estate shows," says Pat Nicosia, Oakland's director of Budget and Financial Planning. "Karen and her sister were stand-out performers."

Newman credits former music department chair Ray Allvin as one of her biggest inspirations. "We called him 'Doc,'" Newman says. "He was a legend at OU, and he inspired me to work hard and never give up. In fact, Doc's daughter, Kirsten, is my business partner to this day."

Perhaps no one knows Newman better than Jan Albright, a professor of music in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. Albright has been Newman's voice coach since her days at OU, and still meets with her once a week.

"Karen is an incredibly nice person," she says. "She has a wonderful sense about people, and can put people at their ease immediately. Yet she is also an absolute dynamo. Even back when she was here in school, she just had so much pizzazz and so much charisma. But most of all, she had lots of ambition. I'm so proud of her success, but I must say, I'm not at all surprised by it."

Newman says she worked hard at Oakland. "Sometimes I look back and think maybe I worked too hard. I took my education pretty seriously. Although I wasn't really a partier, I managed to have a good time. I loved it all, especially the program I was in and the fact that my campus life was interwoven with my family life."

Newman's singing career has received several boosts as a result of her regular gig as national anthem crooner for the Red Wings. One game night a few years ago, Bob Seger's saxophone player, Alto Reed, heard Newman sing the anthem and was enthralled. That resulted in an audition for a spot in Seger's band as a back-up singer for his *It's A Mystery* tour of North America in 1996. Newman was selected and went on the tour, which led to another serendipitous encounter, this time with Seger guitarist Tim Mitchell.

It was Mitchell who along with local musician Bob Stewart wrote and co-produced Newman's debut CD, *Moment In The Wind*, which was released in December 1997. Since then she has also recorded a Christmas CD, *What Christmas Means To Me*, released during the 1998 holidays.

"The CDs are the things I'm proudest of," Newman says. "I'm making a living at

Karen Newman sings the national anthem before a Detroit Red Wings game at Joe Louis Arena. Photo courtesy of the Detroit Red Wings.

what I love to do best. I'm not just occasionally singing in a club or doing other gigs, I'm actually making a living. I've created a business enterprise out of my musical endeavors. I don't know how long I'm going to be able to enjoy it, but while it's here I'm going to continue to work my tail off to take full advantage of my talent and good fortune."

Other high-profile commitments have come Newman's way during the past few years. She's now the official spokesperson for Capital Mortgage Funding, the *Detroit News* and album-rock station WRIF, which she has immortalized in sultry commercials that show Newman lip-synching to songs and disc jockey patter, culminating in that famous "Baby" growl. One can scarcely turn on the television without seeing Newman's visage.

She credits Fred, her husband, a Southfield hairdresser, with providing emotional grounding for her, from a professional and a domestic standpoint. "Freddy has the keenest street sense of anyone I've ever met. He can read a person and know exactly what they are about five minutes after meeting them. He's my biggest supporter and my biggest fan. He's the person I bounce everything off of, so in that sense he serves as sort of a personal manager, although not in an official capacity."

So, what would Newman say to an aspiring OU music student today? "The biggest thing, and I know it's such a cliché, is that you can never give up. There were many occasions early in my career when I thought I was just going to hang it up, have some children and become a stay-at-home mom. Not that there's anything wrong with that, but I stuck it out, and now things are really happening for me.

"You have to keep yourself open to every opportunity that presents itself. That doesn't mean you have to take everything that comes along, but you at least have to keep an open mind. Had I not had the guts to sing the national anthem at hockey games, I wouldn't have met the guys who led me to audition for the Seger band, which probably led to my getting spokesperson roles with Capital Mortgage and WRIF. It's true, everything in life is connected."

Ted Montgomery is Oakland University's Media Relations director.

A Day at the Rink

Karen Newman sees more hockey than just about anyone in the state.

As the Detroit Red Wings designated national anthem singer, she performs before a handful of preseason games, 41 regular season games, and potentially as many as 28 playoff games.

Oakland University Magazine asked her about her important role in Hockeytown.

Do you like hockey?

I love hockey.

Did you like it before you started singing at Red Wings games?

I did. My dad has always been a Red Wings fan, my brother was on the swim team at Oakland and I'm a sports fan in general. Hockey has always been one of my favorite sports because it's fast-paced and there is never a dull moment. The thing that I had to get used to was being down at the rink and seeing the fighting in person. I had never attended a game until the first time I sang the national anthem at Joe Louis Arena eight years ago.

How did you get started doing this?

I was singing for the Detroit Pistons before their basketball games, and the Red Wings liked what they heard. For a while I did both, then the Wings offered me the exclusive position.

So are the Red Wings your employer?

The Detroit Red Wings Hockey Club and I have an exclusive deal, which means I cannot sing any national anthem for any other professional sports team. I can do it at the amateur level. (Editor's note: Twice, Newman has sung the national anthem before Oakland University sporting events: first, last October 30 before the inaugural swim meet to open the new aquatics center; and most recently last November 17 in OU's inaugural Division I home basketball game at the new Recreation and Athletics Center against the Michigan State Spartans.)

Do you chat with the fans before you sing?

I try not to talk too much before I sing the anthem. I like to stay focused, go through my little routine of warming up.

Do you still get nervous before singing the anthem?

I'm shaking like a leaf every time I get out on that ice.

Do you usually stay for the whole game?

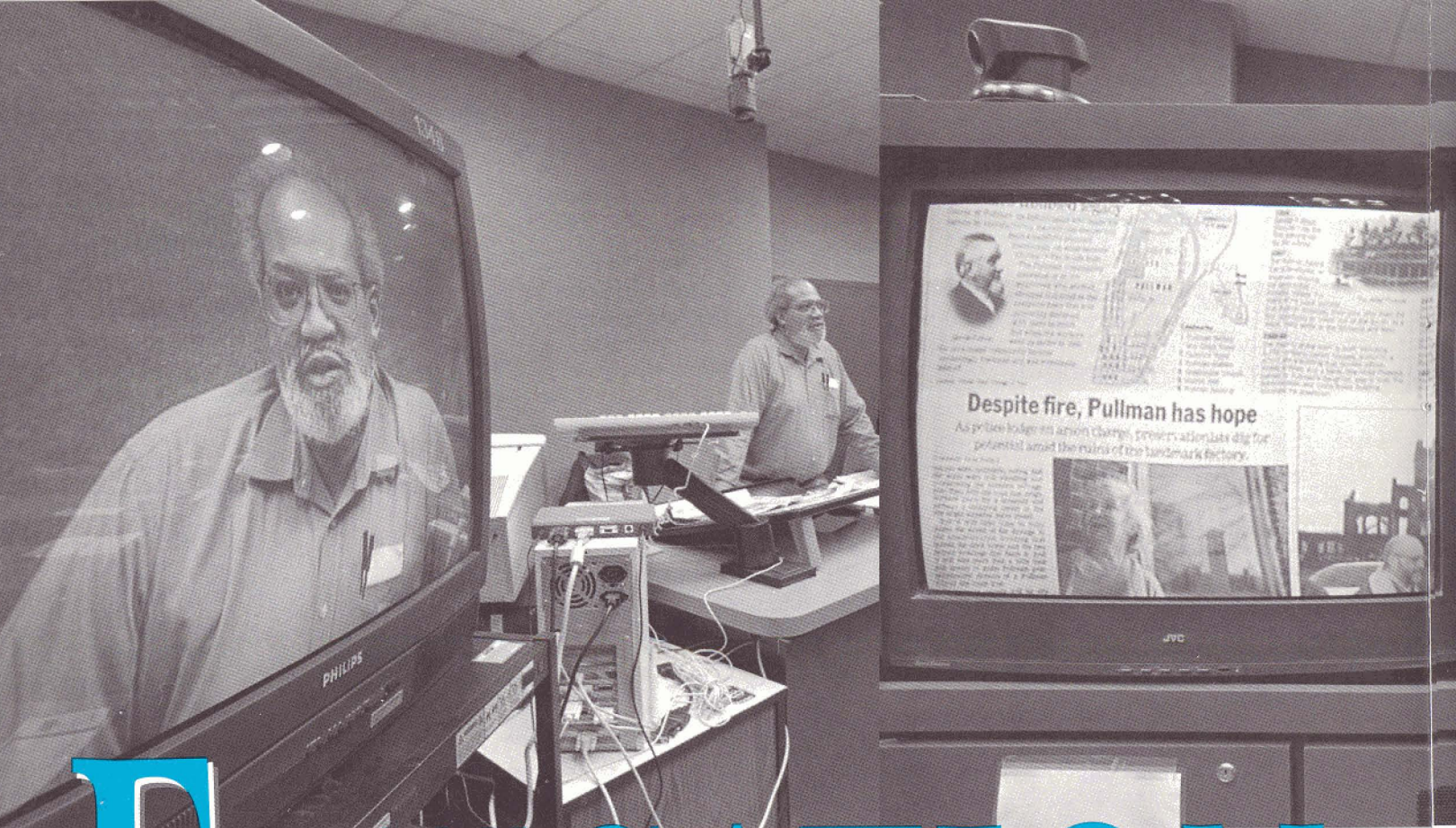
Usually we stay. My husband and I have seats in the upper bowl, so I've seen a lot of good hockey. In 1997, we even had our picture taken with the Stanley Cup in the locker room after the Wings won the championship and drank from the cup later at a party.

Do you know the Red Wings players?

I know them casually. They all seem like very nice guys, and my husband cuts hair for a couple of them.

Any favorites?

Kris Draper, who is an absolute sweetheart of a guy, and Mathieu Dandenault, who is a really good person. Both are a couple of speedskaters on the ice. They play with such passion. Now I have my eye on a new star in the wings — Stacy Roest.



EDUCATION

Technology is changing how university students learn, and Oakland is keeping up with the dizzying pace of change

By Jennifer Charney

Johannes Gutenberg's 15th-century printing press changed education by making more books available. Instead of having to read to the class, instructors could discuss books students had read on their own.

Today's technology is revolutionizing education, transcending the classroom confines of time and space.

Audiotapes, videotapes, CD-ROMs, Web sites and cable TV programs supplement or replace lectures that cover a discipline's basics.

Skeptics, however, argue that such devices can rob students of the chance to learn in traditional ways, such as through books, in-class lectures and discussions. Academia, they muse, must be careful to treat technological advances as tools and not as a replacement for the classroom.

Proponents say technology can free professors to focus more on classroom discussions that develop students' skills in analysis and communication. They argue such technology can cut the cost of higher education and make it available for more students

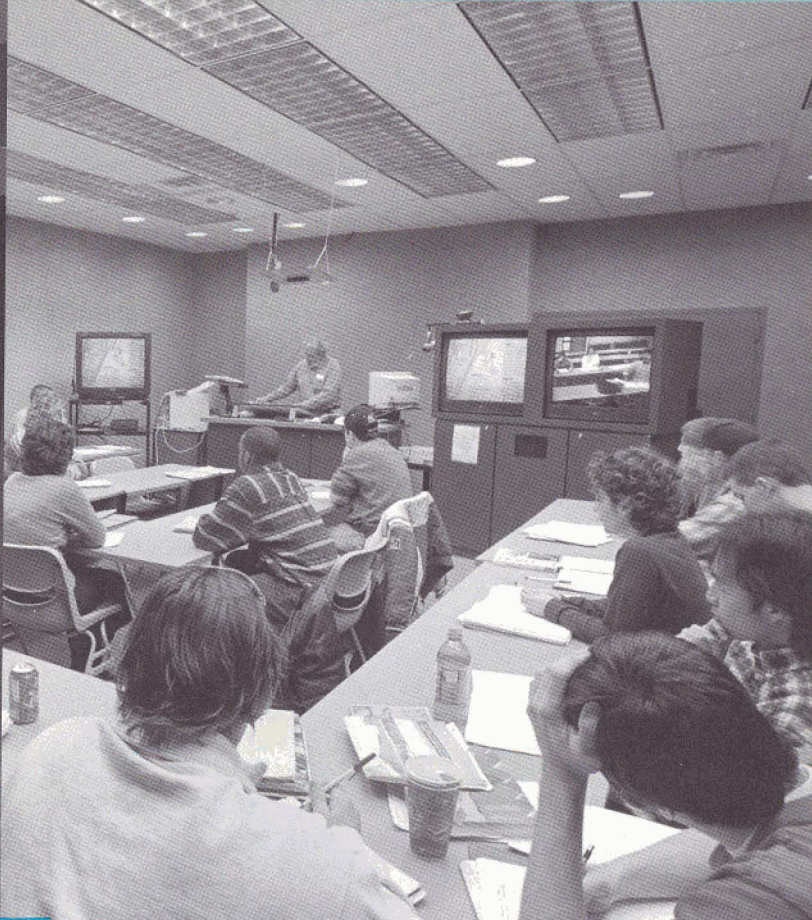
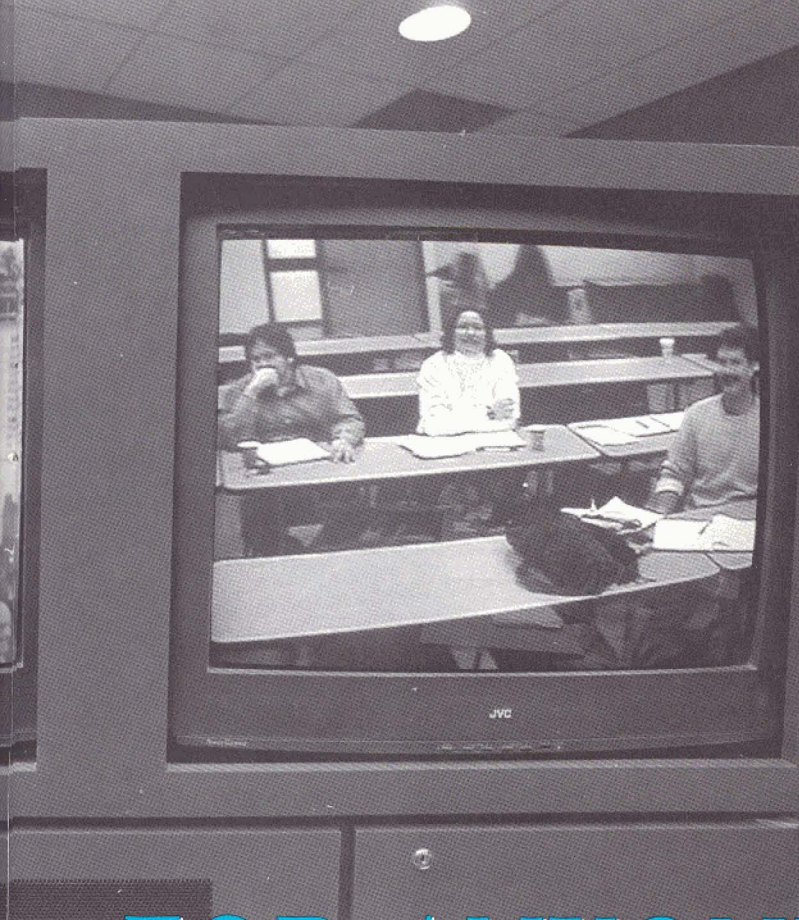
in more places. Diverse technology, they say, will enhance learning because different people learn in different ways.

The push is on to reach any student, anywhere, anytime.

"Our graduates are entering a world that is increasingly interactive and communications-intensive," Oakland University President Gary D. Russi says. "New teaching methods will develop in students important skills for the 21st-century workplace: the ability to access information, analyze it and make decisions that solve problems. We are preparing students for a future of rapid change."

From 1996-2001, OU is investing \$4.5 million in information technology, streamlining administrative operations and providing the infrastructure for new teaching methods, says Ron Cigna, Oakland's new vice provost for information technology.

A major improvement is SCT Banner 2000, a new administrative computer system. Banner will allow faster retrieval and use of more university data on enrollment and budgets. The system will enable administrators to make quicker decisions on



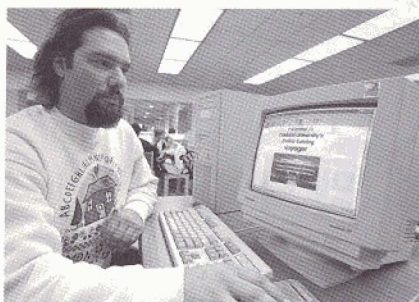
FOR ANYONE, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME

issues that affect students, such as course offerings. By 2001, Banner will allow students, their professors and advisers to check their accounts, grades and other records on the Web.

Other plans include:

- increasing the speed and capacity of the university's wiring system to improve student, faculty and staff access to Internet and campus data
- providing faster, more reliable Internet access to residence halls
- adding video capability to more classrooms; OU has 28 classrooms with video/data projection, TVs, VCRs and Internet displays

Recently completed projects include wiring 95 carrels in Kresge Library for students who own laptops; and launching Voyager, the new on-line computer management information system which replaces the LUIS catalog system. Voyager provides greater and far easier access to books, periodicals, the Web and library catalogs throughout the world.



Voyager provides greater and far easier access to electronic information from around the world.

OU has a history of embracing the latest learning methods. Currently, Oakland offers about 13 courses each semester using two-way videoconferencing, which unites students at remote locations using live audio and video. The university has whisked students "from" Traverse City's Northwestern Michigan College University Center "to" campus since 1995. "I love it," says Barbara Hamilton, associate professor, Rhetoric,

Communication and Journalism. She teaches a writing class in 400A Wilson Hall.

Hamilton uses computer-controlled cameras to show herself and the class members, while students up north run a similar system. Students can critique each other's papers through e-mail or fax and watch videos together.

David Jaymes, professor, French, and chair, Modern Languages and Literatures, uses the room so his students can participate in a lecture and discussion series with the University of Orleans in France.

OU also broadcasts one or two math or management information systems courses on TCI cable channel 74 each semester, says George Preisinger, manager, Instructional Technology Center. In the next several years, Oakland students can expect to choose many ways of taking a course, Cigna says.

continued on page 15

A high-tech showcase will open in 2000

Perhaps the most visible evidence of Oakland University's commitment to infusing education with technology will be a \$17.5-million School of Business Administration Building and Information Technology Institute (see architect's rendering below).

The 60,000-square-foot building will open in fall 2000.

Attached to Varner Hall, the institute side of the building will feature computer training labs, video conferencing areas, interactive media viewing rooms, a multimedia production center, a faculty/staff multimedia development lab, a video

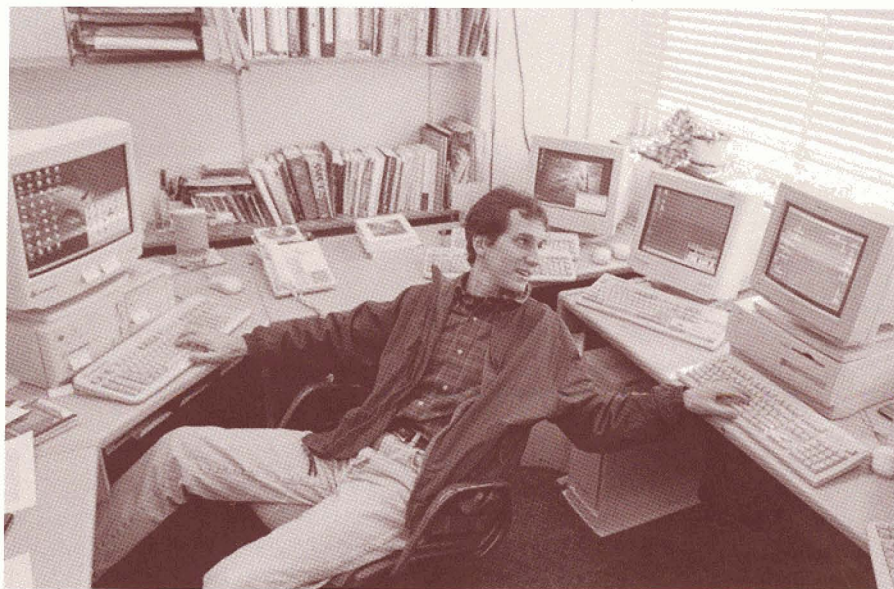
production facility and a 100-seat multimedia auditorium for staff training. With most endeavors today involving technology, the demand for training and service is skyrocketing, says Office of Trainer and User Support Manager Vicki Larabell CAS '86 and Instructional Technology Manager George Preisinger. They will manage a newly consolidated department that will train employees to use administrative and academic software and hardware tools. The department will also provide hands-on computer multimedia resources and help in developing computer-based instructional and

presentation media. Eight high-end PC workstations will be available for extended periods to faculty and staff who want to make a Web site or CD-ROM for a course. Other key institute features include the auditorium's distance learning technology for staff meetings and training sessions; and the advanced TV and video suite. A crew will use the suite to produce distance learning courses, promotional videos for OU schools and their programs and programming for Oakland's cable TV channel. The channel will show the external community what's happening at the university.



All hands on the Cybernet

John Coughlin CAS '92, a desktop computer analyst for OU's Office of Training and User Support (OTUS), was an English major who worked for OTUS as a student. After writing for a software supplier, he returned to Oakland and is writing technical material for staff training. Coughlin says as an English major, he didn't expect to work on the technical aspects of computing. Now he sees new opportunities on the Web for his creative-thinking skills. Curt Kendall CAS '93, not pictured, is another English major who worked for OTUS. He now buys media, researches Internet marketing and manages a small staff for General Motors Cyberworks. (See related story at right.)



Technology

continued from page 13

"The traditional classroom is still going to be around for a long time," he says. "Many people like it that way. But you'll also have people who can be self-learners doing all or part of their training on the Internet."

Still, technology does have its critics. Many professors question whether it improves learning. They say courses on CD, video or the Internet lack the spontaneity of live lectures because they're repackaged and don't involve as much human interaction.

Whether technology is effective depends on the discipline, says Douglas Short. Short is executive vice president at the COLLEGIS Research Institute in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, where he directs development of instructional technology projects for higher education.

Distance learning wouldn't be an effective alternative for courses such as one in a medical school anatomy class, in which hands-on experience is crucial, Short says. But the Internet is an excellent tool for developing valuable

abilities students will need in the workplace: skills in critical thinking and communication, he says. For example, instead of an English class meeting twice a week, students could discuss a topic in a weekly asynchronous (not real-time) forum. Short would grade students' forum responses according to their analytical skills and powers of persuasion. Such a forum is convenient for busy students and it allows them to reflect on the topic before they respond.

Most institutions of higher education agree it's important to upgrade technology so they can remain relevant, says Ron Cigna, vice provost for Information Technology, Oakland University.

Cigna says the customer will shape education by demanding cheaper, more convenient, more efficient service. And no single technology will be the best for all purposes.

One thing seems certain: Today's ever-changing technology is unlikely to have the staying power of Gutenberg's. His method of movable type endured for five centuries.

Jennifer Charney is a freelance writer from Ferndale, Michigan.

WANTED: English majors for high-paying jobs

The high-paying job market is wide open to English majors, thanks to technology.

Vicki Larabell CAS '86, manager of Oakland's Office of Training and User Support (OTUS), recruits English majors, among others, to work as student computer technicians and instructional designers.

Larabell prefers English majors for their ability to think critically and absorb information quickly. Her students go on to high-paying jobs.

Masie Center, a technology and learning think tank in Saratoga Springs, New York, reports that computer-literate English majors can command yearly salaries between \$53,750 to \$72,050. Jobs include classroom trainers, courseware developers, documentation specialists and managers of instructional design.

Call Larabell at (248) 370-4560 for more information.

Hot technology careers abound

Computing professional employment is expected to increase much faster than other careers on average as technology becomes more sophisticated and organizations continue to adopt and integrate these technologies, according to the 1998-99 *Occupational Outlook Handbook* by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some hot careers:

- Computer scientists, computer engineers, and systems analysts are expected to be the three fastest growing occupations through the year 2006.
- Computer programmers. The need for these professionals is expected to grow faster than the average through the year 2006.
- Technical trainers: Companies will need experts to train their staff to use new technologies.
- Digital security: Industry will need more sophisticated means of securing digital assets.
- Digital lawyers: Society will need law professionals who can sort out the newest technology issues such as control of the Internet.

Vision

RESEARCH

With the graying of America and nearly \$2 billion a year at stake, Professor Kenneth Hightower is convinced it can pay to delay the onset of cataracts

By Cindy Hampel

Kenneth Hightower wants to get something straight right off the bat: many fellow eye researchers don't believe in his hypothesis about cataracts and calcium levels. They are pursuing other factors in cataracts, he says, including genetics.

But that doesn't deter him.

Hightower, professor, Biomedical Sciences, Eye Research Institute, is convinced the key to understanding and alleviating cataracts is calcium.

Hightower's goal is to learn how to slow the growth of cataracts by studying the connection between calcium and the aging lens. Cataracts are the third leading cause of legal blindness in the United States, behind macular degeneration and glaucoma. Cataracts cloud the normally clear lens of the eye, causing light to scatter before it can hit the retina at the back of the eye. The result is a fuzzy image.

Hightower believes that those clouds are made of calcium, and that the older the lens, the more calcium it contains. With those insights, he is looking for ways to slow down the calcium build-up in lenses.

The ERI is one of only two labs in the world that's focused on studying the relationship between calcium-regulating molecules and cataracts. The other lab is at the University of East Anglia,

Norwich, England.

"We might not be able to prevent cataracts entirely," Hightower says. "But delaying their effects is a realistic goal. The National Eye Institute estimates that a 10-year delay in the need for a cataract operation would save nearly \$2 billion a year. A delay can help people and save money."

That delay could grow more important with the graying of America.

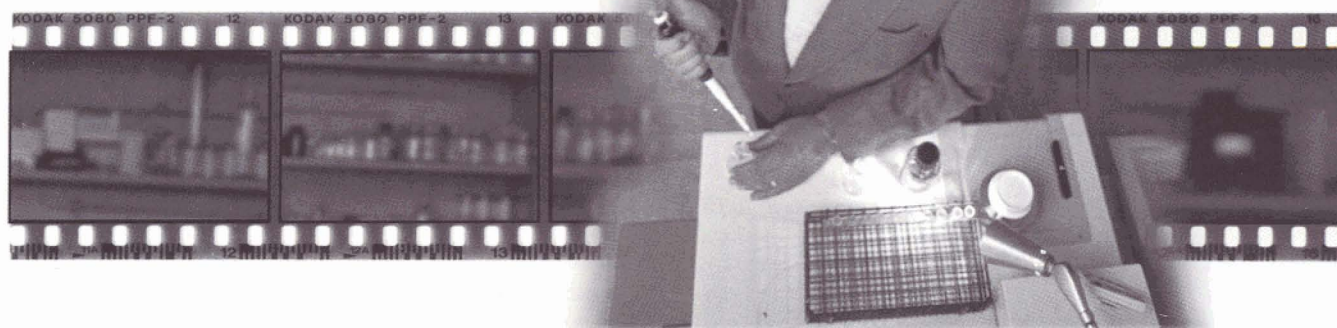
"The leading causes of blindness will double their impact in the coming years as the nation's 76 million baby boomers reach older adulthood," says Prevent Blindness America, a volunteer eye health and safety organization that sponsors vision research. "This dramatic increase in age-related eye disease threatens to overwhelm the nation's health care resources and diminish the quality of life for millions. In fact, by the year 2030, twice as many people will be blind as are today."

For age-related cataracts, extracting the cloudy lens is the only remedy. However, Hightower says that some 50 million people worldwide suffer a disabling loss of vision from cataracts because they can't get the surgery they need. In the United States, the procedure is common, safe and effective. It involves removing the cloudy lens and replacing it with either an artificial lens implant

NARY

"By age 45, most everyone has started developing cataracts. If you live long enough, you'll get a cataract."

— Kenneth Hightower
OU eye researcher



(called an "intraocular lens"), a special contact lens or special glasses. Usually, both lenses become cataract, but the one with the worst clouding is removed first. The other is removed in a separate operation after the first eye has healed.

In the past, eye surgeons waited to operate until the lens nucleus became hard, or "ripe." But today, cataract surgery is performed as soon as the patient feels that the clouding (or "opacification") has started to affect vision, reports the American Medical Association. Cataract surgery is common among those who are at least 75 years old.

Cataracts start forming slowly and painlessly, especially in people over the age of 40. According to the National Eye Institute, the most common symptoms are:

- cloudy or blurry vision
- lights that seem too bright, glaring from lamps or the sun, or a halo or haze around lights
- colors that appear faded
- double or multiple vision (a problem that disappears as the cataract grows)
- frequent changes in your eyeglasses or contact lenses

"By age 45, most everyone has started developing cataracts," Hightower says. "If you live long enough, you'll get a cataract."

But cataracts can start affecting vision long before surgery is warranted. According to the American Medical Association, the light-scattering effects of cataracts can affect night driving even at an early stage. For others, their only clue is that they're not seeing things quite as clearly as before.

Why do people get cataracts? Some are born with a congenital defect, Hightower says. Some develop cataracts early in life after an injury to the eye. Complications from diabetes or steroid medications also can affect the eye. Eye irritants, including secondary smoke and other air pollution, selenite, hydrogen peroxide, and radiation of almost every kind — from sunlight to microwaves — can speed the growth of cataracts. But most cataracts develop as a symptom of progressing age. The conclusion, he says, is that almost everyone will develop cataracts sooner or later.

Hightower joined the Eye Research Institute in 1974 as a graduate research associate. V. Everett Kinsey, the founder of the institute, interviewed and hired Hightower himself. One reason was Hightower's background in biophysics and electrophysiology.

"I saw an ad in *Science Magazine* asking for someone with an electrophysiology background," Hightower recalls. "So I called about the job and Dr. Kinsey invited me to come up for an

Biomedical Research Support Facility to aid in cataract research

Oakland University's new Biomedical Research Support Facility, slated to open in the summer, will be an important addition to the campus and community, says Kenneth Hightower, professor, Biomedical Sciences, Eye Research Institute.

As part of the new Science and Engineering Building, the 8,400-square-foot facility will provide a state-of-the-art environment for the housing, care and humane use of animal subjects required in the various scientific endeavors conducted by university researchers, their associates, and collaborators.

Some of Hightower's research involves using "cell lines" or tissues that can be cultured from existing organs and mass produced.

He uses cell lines in his research whenever possible. But sometimes, he says, he needs to test his research in animal models. He often uses rabbit lenses.

Sometimes human lenses, extracted post-mortem, are available for him to use.

But that's becoming rarer as human cataract surgery becomes more common.

"Animals are important for the research we do here," he says. "We can't use people for our work."

interview. I told him, 'I don't know anything about the eye.' He said, 'It doesn't matter. I'll teach you what I know and together we'll learn the rest.'"

Hightower learned how to apply his electrophysiology background to testing lens membranes with special microelectrodes. Then with the help of an undergraduate engineering student, he found a way to use a non-invasive laser beam to detect changes in lens transparency as small as one percent.

Calcium research at the ERI began in 1978.

"The scientific community knew that calcium played a role in many

diseases, including arteriosclerosis, Alzheimer's and sickle-cell anemia," he says. "But no one looked at the role of calcium in the lens until the late seventies. Several labs found that calcium could affect the lens but



"When you think about impaired vision, it's frightening. Why are we spending the money? Just walk around with patches on your eyes and see how it feels to be blind."

— Kenneth Hightower

no connection had been found with cataracts. Most other labs continued other lines of cataract research. We were the first lab to continue studying calcium. Because of those studies, the Eye Research Institute was the first to link cataracts with higher-than-normal levels of calcium in the lens and the first to show that UV radiation causes a mild cataract."

In his research, Hightower has found:

- Clear human lenses grow opaque when overexposed to calcium. First using extracted rabbit lenses and then post-mortem human lenses, he found that the lenses cultured in higher concentrations of calcium absorbed more calcium and grew more opaque than the lenses cultured in lower concentrations.
- Restricting calcium can prevent lenses from growing cloudy — even in the presence of a chemical known to cause cataracts. Using the findings of another lab that the chemical valinomycin caused cataracts, Hightower exposed clear lenses to the chemical both in a normal culture and in a culture with reduced levels of calcium. The lenses in the low-calcium culture stayed clear. The others grew opaque.
- A clear diabetic lens starts to cloud in small pockets where excess calcium builds up. Working with colleague Michael Riley, professor, Biomedical Sciences, ERI, Hightower used microelectrodes to discover the islands of clouds forming in an otherwise clear lens.



- Age alone will increase the calcium level inside the human lens. Working with researchers at the University of East Anglia, the two labs pooled their available post-mortem human lenses to compare calcium levels with age. They found that in clear lenses, calcium levels increased in almost direct relation to age. Then they compared the clear lenses with cataractous lenses of the same age. They found that the cloudy lenses contained more than twice the calcium of the clear lenses.
- Low levels of ultraviolet radiation can lead to cataracts over time. Hightower found that cultured rabbit lenses would increase in calcium levels and develop cataracts when exposed repeatedly to UV radiation — the same radiation we receive from sunlight.

It was his work on UV radiation that earned Hightower an invitation to participate in a scientific roundtable discussion in The Netherlands with 19 other world experts in 1994. The Dutch have a heightened interest in UV radiation, he says, because Northern Europe is in the center of an expanding ozone hole and they want to know how to deal with its effects.

In his career at OU, Hightower has been awarded \$1.5 million in research grants and awards, published more than 50 articles, and offered more than 50 presentations in America and abroad. His focus now is on special molecules called “calcium pumps.” They may be the key to keeping a normal level of calcium in the lens.

Known scientifically as “ATPase,” calcium pumps are in the membrane of each cell. They work to keep the calcium level inside the cell lower than the calcium level in the fluid surrounding the cell. “It’s like a bilge pump on a boat,” he says.

There are special pathways through a cell membrane to get inside the cell. Those pathways are called “ion channels,” and calcium pumps help to regulate the calcium that passes through those channels, he explains. If something affects the calcium pump, then the pump will allow excess calcium to leak into the cells of the lens.

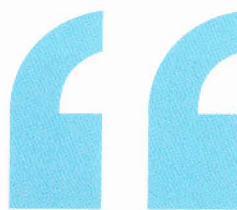
“We’re looking at ways to protect or modify the calcium pump,” he says.

That could include “calcium-channel blockers,” which are drugs known to restrict calcium from entering the cells. But he’s also pursuing other lines of research. With national field studies showing a connection between vitamins and reducing cataracts, Hightower is testing this finding in a more-controlled environment by using animal lenses in the laboratory. He also is testing to see if vitamin C, applied directly to the lens, might help prevent cataracts induced by ultraviolet light.

But his central research will remain on the calcium-cataract connection.

“No matter what we do to the lens, no matter what damage it sustains, the reagents affect the calcium pump and calcium goes up,” he says.

Helping Hightower with his research is Marc Wasser CAS ’99. A biology student, Wasser transferred from a larger university to OU in his sophomore year. “The classes there were bigger than I wanted and teaching assistants often taught them,” Wasser says. “At OU, the professors teach the classes and the class size is smaller. You can get to know the professors better.”



“The leading causes of blindness will double their impact in the coming years as the nation’s 76 million baby boomers reach older adulthood. This dramatic increase in age-related eye disease threatens to overwhelm the nation’s health care resources and diminish the quality of life for millions. In fact, by the year 2030, twice as many people will be blind as are today.”

— Prevent Blindness America

Wasser saw a flier posted on campus about ERI research opportunities.

He started working with Hightower in May 1998. At that time, he was paid. He enjoyed the work so much that four months later he started doing it for free. He’s using his experience at the Eye Research Institute to fulfill his requirement for Biology 490, an undergraduate research class.

His work involves rabbit lenses. He irradiates the epithelium, the thin layer of tissue covering the surface of the eye, with ultraviolet light and tests how the light affects calcium, magnesium and ATPase activity.

“I’ve found that UV does inhibit the calcium and magnesium pumps. I’m working now to get results I can reproduce. And I’m working to find the procedures that work best, what techniques to use, the number of samples to use per epithelium, and the amount of time to irradiate the lens that will give me the most data.”

Hightower estimates that it will take years before research might yield any non-surgical way to alleviate cataracts. But he believes it’s worth the time and expense.

“When you think about impaired vision, it’s frightening,” Hightower says. “Why are we spending the money? Just walk around with patches on your eyes and see how it feels to be blind.”

Cindy Hampel is a freelance writer from Royal Oak, Michigan.



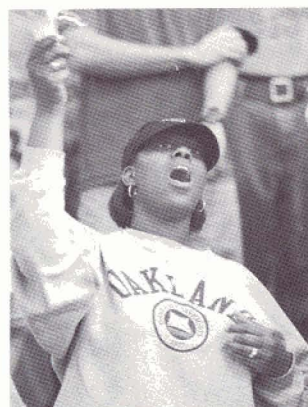
Coming Out

Ushering in a new era and mascot, Oakland University alumni, staff and students celebrate inaugural Division I home basketball game in the new Recreation and Athletics Center arena

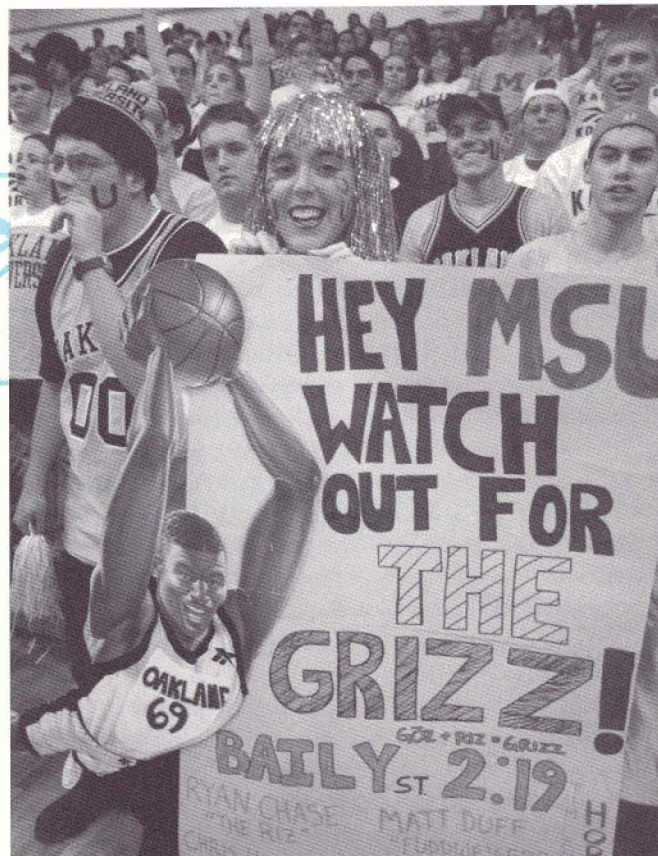
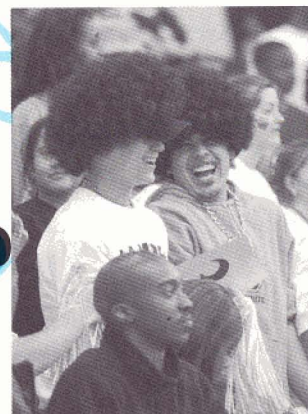
With a sparkling new arena and mascot in front of a sellout crowd, with a media frenzy, fans with painted midsections and a nationally ranked opponent, Oakland University became downright giddy about its first home men's basketball game November 17. Even Michigan State's 96-66 win couldn't spoil the euphoria from a packed crowd of 3,405, some of whom waited all night to buy tickets. In an atmosphere new to the program, OU got just about everything it wanted in a coming out party. And then some.



KAMPBELL



OU Special Lecturer Holly Gilbert and Garry Gilbert CAS '95 enjoy the festivities with son, Jackson, 5, a "lifelong OU basketball fan," says Garry.



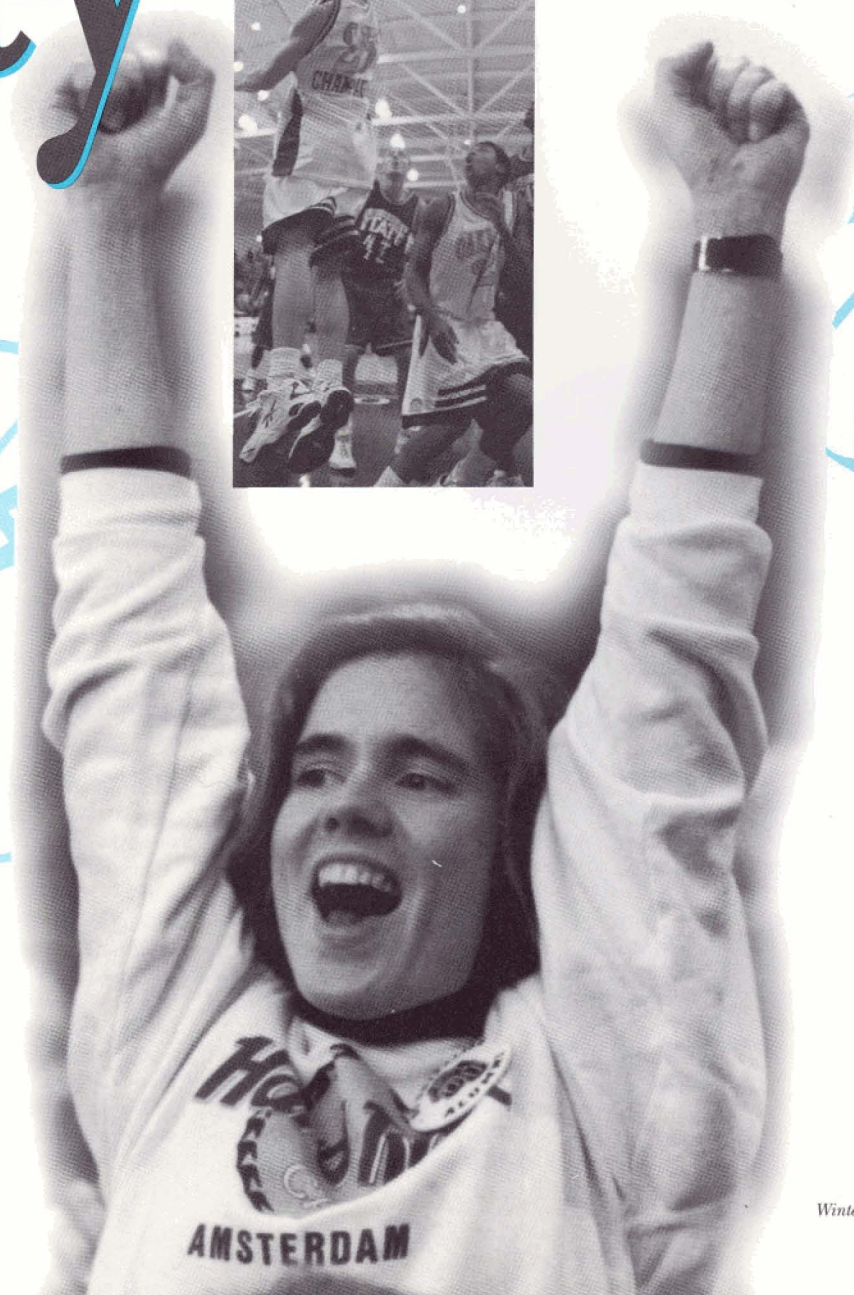
Top and below, OU alumni, staff and students cheer loudly for the Golden Grizzlies, donning colorful wigs, fashionable Viking horns and a special message for the Michigan State Spartans faithful.



Party



Clockwise from upper left, members of the OU women's volleyball team show their school spirit, an alumnus looks on; Golden Grizzly sophomore center Dan Champagne proves he can play at any level, getting 30 points and eight rebounds; Sally O'Meara SON '91 gives the "U" half of the "OU" cheer as OU ties MSU at 23 in the first half; and Oakland fans cheer in full force. "This was an absolute dream come true," says Greg Kampe, men's basketball coach. Says OU freshman guard Brad Buddenborg, "With the crowd, the excitement, playing against one of the top five teams in the nation and hanging with them — that's something we'll remember for the rest of our lives."



Art and Apples raffle nets 10 pounds of chocolate for 2 winners

An Oakland University raffle during last fall's Art and Apples Festival gave new meaning to the term "death by chocolate."

Two winners each earned 10 pounds of Morley's chocolate, courtesy of Stan Babiuk SECS '73 and ANR Pipeline Company, Detroit. Money from the raffle supported OU student scholarships.

The winners were:

- Erin Austerberry, sixth-grader, Roberts Elementary School, Shelby Township
- Maria Kupicki SEHS '89, MA '93, teacher, Avondale Middle School, Rochester Hills

To volunteer at the OU Alumni Association booth at Art and Apples or other university-sponsored events and activities, call Alumni Relations at (248) 370-2158.

Custom chairs return home to Meadow Brook Hall

Meadow Brook Hall received from Dan Fullmer two original armchairs made for the mansion's dining room.

Fullmer is a member of the OU charter class of 1963 and is a retired professor of linguistics at Oakland.

He bought the chairs in 1971, when many pieces of furniture and household goods from the hall were auctioned in the settlement of Matilda Dodge Wilson's estate. The chairs, made by Hampton Shops of New York, were from a set of 14 commissioned in 1929. Fullmer donated a mirror and his charter class ring.

"We're delighted to welcome these items home to Meadow Brook Hall," MBH Curator Ann Friedman says. "They help us appreciate even more the meticulous attention Mrs. Wilson paid to every detail of the furnishings and decoration of the hall. We thank Dr. Fullmer for making this possible."

OU alumni help students pursue careers

Oakland University alumni are helping students prepare for the world of work.

OU's Departments of Placement and Career Services (P&CS) and Alumni Relations this fall started the program *Career Coalition: An Alumni Student Partnership*.

"Our goal is to connect OU students with alumni working in the students' field of interest," P&CS Director Robert Thomas says. "We know that alumni have a wealth of information and insight to share with those who are in the early stages of career planning."

The program is facilitated by a Web page. Registered students use a password to access the alumni database. From the database, students choose alumni with whom they would like to communicate. Alumni choose activities in which to participate and specify how they want students to contact them. Activities include mock interviews; job shadowing, in which students learn about a typical workday by working with alumni for a couple hours or a full day; career exploration, in which alumni answer career and educational questions to help students with their goals; and informational interviewing, when students may interview alumni for 30-60 minutes about their fields.

Alumni can also inform students about job opportunities at their place of employment or elsewhere and help students create a list of networking contacts.

The program's Web site includes an on-line discussion forum, where students and

alumni can post comments and read responses, and a chat room for live discussion.

For more information, e-mail placement@oakland.edu; or visit the Web site phoenix.placement.oakland.edu/connect/career.htm, or call

(248) 370-3213.



Give us a hand

As Aretha Franklin may say, give us a little respect because RSVP means respond to me.

When you receive an Oakland University invitation in the mail, please RSVP promptly. Your response will help OU staffers save time and serve you better.

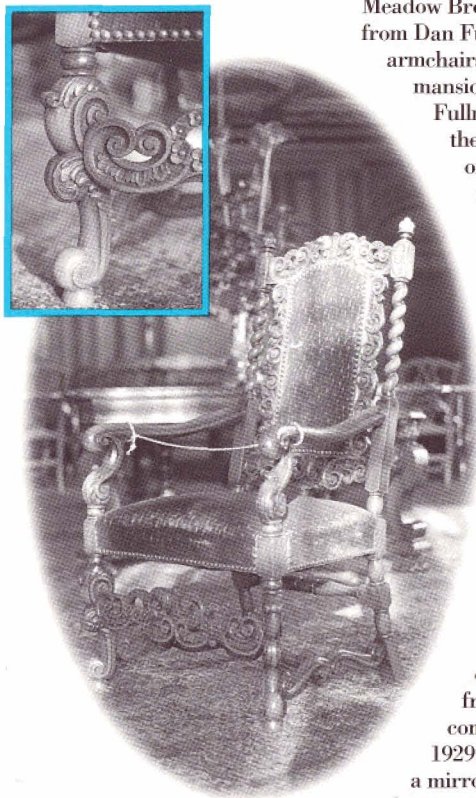
Event draws California alumni

A representation of about 50 alumni, spouses and other invited guests turned out last November in Northridge, California, to learn all about the big changes back in Rochester, says Adrienne Bass, assistant director, Alumni Relations. The crowd came to support the OU women's basketball team in their game vs. CSUN in Southern California.

"The alumni enjoyed learning about the new Science and Engineering Building, new degree programs, the Golden Grizzlies mascot, Recreation and Athletics Center, R & S Sharf Golf Course and all the other growth on campus," Bass says. "They also liked reminiscing about their days at Oakland."

"Everyone had a great time together as there were charter class members and young alums sharing stories of their fun times at Oakland University."

Contact Bass via e-mail at Bass@oakland.edu or call her at (248) 370-4687.



Recognition societies honor the many people who give to Oakland University

Oakland University has developed donor recognition societies honoring individuals, families, corporations, foundations and organizations. The gift levels honor benefactors for the total amount of cash, non-cash, matching gifts, active pledge balances and irrevocable planned gifts they have made to Oakland.

"OU benefactors have individual reasons for giving to the university," says David S. Disend, vice president for University Relations and executive director, Oakland University Foundation. "For that reason, the university has developed recognition levels that acknowledge commitments to OU in very personal ways.

"It all comes down to relationships. We enjoy developing long-term relationships with our donors, and take every opportunity to honor them for their cumulative lifetime giving."

Oakland's donor recognition societies are:

- Founders Society — \$1 million or higher
- Charter Society — \$500,000 to \$999,999
- Meadow Brook Society — \$250,000 to \$499,999
- President's Council — \$100,000 to \$249,999
- Matilda R. Wilson Society — \$50,000 to \$99,999
- Alfred G. Wilson Society — \$25,000 to \$49,999, with cumulative cash gifts totaling a minimum of \$15,000
- President's Club — For individual donors who have made cumulative cash gifts totaling a minimum of \$15,000
- Heritage Society — For individual donors who have created bequests, other irrevocable forms of gifts, and gifts of life insurance to the university

Other levels are collectively referred to as "annual fund donor recognition levels," which are renewable means of recognition. Recognition is not cumulative from year to year:

- University Club — \$10,000 to \$24,999
- Oakland Club — \$5,000 to \$9,999
- Pioneers' Club — \$2,500 to \$4,999
- Ambassadors Club — \$1,000 to \$2,499

The various recognition levels demonstrate the university's belief that every gift has an impact on Oakland's future, Disend says. The university also strives to induct new donors and recognize current benefactors at an annual gala. In June, the event was combined with the university's celebration of the Creating The Future initiative.

"Events like these give us an opportunity to grant our donors formal recognition," Disend says. "The university works hard at thanking people for their generosity."

Longtime Oakland benefactors to the university agree.

"The university's executives and faculty are quite appreciative," says George Seifert, former president of Ameritech Publishing Enterprises, foundation director and member of the SBA Board of Visitors and Creating the Future task force. "They really extend themselves to make their appreciation known."

Seifert believes an outward expression of appreciation is important to current donors and essential to the university's continuing development effort.

"There's value in recognition, certainly," he says. "It's a symbol of appreciation on behalf of the

university community, and that serves as a stimulus for other donors to participate."

Seifert and his wife support the School of Business Administration and the Meadow Brook Estate, a cabaret dance and vocal group within the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. They have established a named scholarship, the George and Elizabeth Pyle-Seifert Endowed Scholarship.

Maggie Allesee and Bob Allison, her husband, are longtime donors to Oakland University. Allesee, an avid volunteer, serves on the School of Nursing Board of Visitors and the Boards of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance and Meadow Brook Theatre.

"There are no better words than thank you," Allesee says. "There's a tremendous benefit that comes when you bring donors together at the recognition events. I'm always interested in meeting other people who are willing to give to further education.

"The university is commendable for its recognition efforts, treating benefactors well and soliciting ideas and opinions. The university listens to its donors, and values what they have to say.

"Their gifts propel the university in ways it might otherwise not grow. They allow us to serve constituencies we might not have had the opportunity to reach. It's wise to pause at times and thank those people who believed enough to help move the university forward."

For more details about the various giving levels at Oakland University, call (248) 370-4382.

CAREER/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1990s

Gretchen Altermatt (Noel) SON '97 is working on a master's and certification as a family nurse practitioner. She is employed as a registered nurse at Mt. Clemens General Hospital and married to Michael J. Altermatt who is an engineer at Gonzales Design. They were married on August 1, 1998, in Emmett, Michigan.

Lynn Bowden SON '91, cardiopulmonary manager for the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan, was named president-elect of the Michigan Society for Cardiovascular-Pulmonary Rehabilitation.

John Cohassey CAS '90 has been honored by the Michigan Historical Association for co-authoring *Toast of the Town: The Life and Times of Sunnie Wilson*.

Darrel Cole CAS '95 was hired as a political reporter

for the 30,000-circulation daily *Santa Cruz County (California) Sentinel*. Previously, his employment was at the daily *Gibson (California) Dispatch*, *The Clarkston News*, *Lake Orion Review* and *Spinal Column Newsweekly*.

Robert Copeland SECS '92 currently works for Perot Systems as a project manager, dealing with mid-sized companies to implement information systems. He is also working on his master's in management at Walsh College.

Sativa Eiben CAS '97 joined Bianchi Public Relations as an account executive. She previously worked in Ford Motor Company's Product Development Public Affairs Department.

Lynn Elliott CAS '96 has been promoted to manager, Events and Media Relations, from account executive at DMB&B advertising agency. She will be responsible for developing and formulating a value-added events and media

relations practice expertise for DMB&B Public Relations. She will also continue to service her accounts.

Mary Anne Faarup SHS '93 has been named manager of noninvasive cardiology for the Mat Gaberty Heart Center at Mt. Clemens General Hospital, Mt. Clemens.

Sonia Farwell CAS '92 co-owns Grafikas, a Troy-based graphics company that places advertising on transit buses, steps of sport stadiums and bars of chair lifts at ski resorts. Grafikas completed a \$300,000 contract with the Detroit Zoo to wrap the water tower in colorful animal graphics.

Ara Kachadourian CAS '97 interned last summer in the office of U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Hills. He also interned for Assembly Trustee Rita Balian at the Armenian-American Cultural Association which promotes Armenian cultural, educational and scientific endeavors, and sponsors health

Oakland Web site marks travels of freighters



Neil Schultheiss CAS '95 found a hobby to complement his interest in maritime history and in the lifestyles of people who work on ships in the Great Lakes.

Schultheiss created and maintains a Great Lakes shipping Web site on the Oakland University server. The site has become the newsletter, keeper of records, information research center and art gallery of anything and everything that has to do with the U.S. and Canadian fleets that travel the Great Lakes. Even a new coat of paint on one of the giant boats can be a major event among the site's enthusiasts.

"The site averages between 2,500 to 3,000 hits per month," says Schultheiss, conference center program coordinator, Michigan State University Management Center, Troy. "We had 1,200 hits on the anniversary of the Edmund Fitzgerald sinking on November 10."

Schultheiss, who taught himself Web-page coding and design, receives news items and information via e-mail from about 50 hobbyists, captains and second mates a month. He spends about 20 hours a week updating information and adding photos. There are so many pages now he has lost count.

"I've always been interested in maritime history and its effect on the way the area developed," he says. "This site is a great way for me to express that interest."

The Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping site can be found at www.oakland.edu/boatnerd

and humanitarian assistance for the people of Armenia.

Tim Melton CAS '95 (D) was elected Oakland County Commissioner for the Seventh District.

Deana Moffa CAS '93 joined Solomon Friedman Advertising, Bloomfield Hills, as a publicist in the entertainment division.

Rayissa Palmer (Slywka) CAS '96 left the ESPN Sales Planning Department in late August to take a position as a A&E Pricing and Inventory analyst in advertising sales.

Leslie Reinhart SBA '92 has been named an associate with Plante and Moran, Mt. Clemens.

Maria Richie CAS '97 is the new administrator of Luther Haven, a church-related nursing home in Detroit. Richie was first appointed interim administrator and then permanent administrator of the 139-bed nursing/assisted care facility. Before joining Luther Haven, she was an administrator-in-training at Northfield Place in Whitmore Lake. The Luther Home is owned and operated by Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, one of the largest nonprofits in the metro Detroit area.

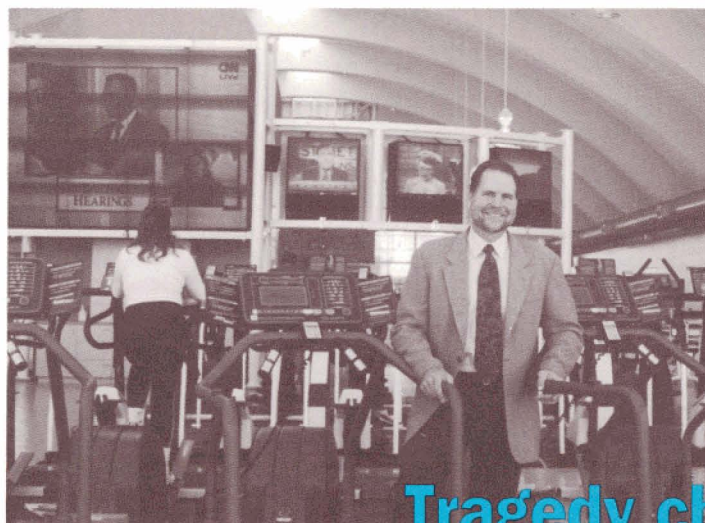
Katherine Russell SEHS '98 was one of 50 teachers from across the country selected to participate in the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Leadership Program at Rutgers University. Russell is a sixth-grade teacher at Avondale Meadows Upper Elementary.

Shannon Sawicki CAS '97 was named print traffic coordinator at PentaCom, Southfield.

Robert Scope SBA '93 was promoted to senior accountant from senior staff accountant at Follmer, Rudzewicz & Company.

Denise Sedman SBA '95 was named marketing coordinator for Oakland County Development and Planning. She is responsible

for public relations, advertising, brochures, Internet activity and other marketing-related projects that help economic growth



Tragedy changes life for the better

and development of business in Oakland County.

Barbara Smith MA '90 is a counselor at Holmes Middle School in Flint.

1980s

Spencer Adkins CAS '89 is the chief weathercaster for WOWK TV 13, a CBS affiliate in Huntington, West Virginia.

Karen Barcher-Farmer CAS '80, who is responsible for representing MichCon Gas Company's economic development and community and local government interests, has been named director of Corporate Relations.

David Boss SECS '82 has joined AAR Cargo Systems as director of sales and marketing for the cargo loading system manufacturing facility in Livonia. He was marketing manager for steam turbine generator maintenance hardware at Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

Ronald J. Bradford SEHS '81, a Navy chief petty officer, reenlisted for four years while serving with Commander, Sixth Fleet Detachment 802, Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Readiness Center Atlanta, Marietta, Georgia.

Andy "Boomer" Richters SBA '78 ran out of gas on a late October night in 1980 in Three Rivers, Michigan.

While walking to a gas station, he was run down accidentally by a passing car. Richters, then 25, crashed through the windshield head first. He suffered a severe broken leg and nose, and had 11 wires installed in his fractured jaw during an extended hospital visit.

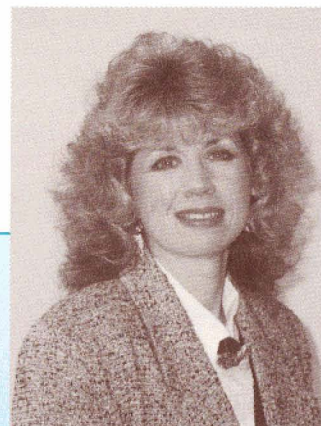
"I remember putting my nose against the hospital double doors to try to breath fresh air," says Richters, a Hall of Honor soccer star at OU and now vice president, National Accounts, Star Trac, Tustin, California, a treadmill manufacturer.

Every day he remembers the tragic crash through healing scars on his face and a slight limp in his walk. Still, he insists the crash may have been the best thing ever to happen to him.

"I didn't miss a party while I was attending Oakland," he says. "This was a spiritual awakening for me. I learned you can't take anything for granted. It taught me to take life more seriously."

Richters says when he started at Star Trac in 1988 the company's goal was to sell five treadmills a month. The company now sells an average of 1,800 units a month with yearly sales of \$65 million. Ironically, Richters says "life's been a fun ride for me. I cherish every day now."

For the love of the arts



Sally Mattson CAS '73 always knew she belonged in the arts.

After 15 years as a full-time mom, Mattson decided to join the Paint Center Creek for the Arts in Rochester as special events coordinator in January 1998.

"I really enjoy bringing the arts to the Rochester area," she says. "I love the arts."

Mattson's goal is to improve the annual Art and Apples Festival by adding more elements and improving on its national recognition.

This year's 34th festival is scheduled September 11-12. The festival is second in attendance to the Ann Arbor Art Fair in Michigan and draws artists and spectators from around the nation. And *Sunshine Artists Magazine* ranks it 11th in the nation in fine arts festivals.

"This is the single biggest thing that happens in Rochester," Mattson says. "I would like to make this a memorable and enjoyable time for all."

Mattson's advice for OU alumni is to stay connected.

"Keep your contacts within your field," she says. "You may need them someday."

Calendar of Events

Thursday, April 29

Lansing chapter formation

Monday, May 3

Deadline for receipt of alumni award nominations

Monday, August 9

Annual Alumni Golf Outing

September 11-12

Art and Apples Festival

Saturday, October 8

Annual Alumni Awards Banquet

For more information, call

(248) 370-2158 or e-mail

OUAA@oakland.edu

Thomas Buckingham SON

'77, MBA '81, is vice president of Operations, Michigan region, Intensiva Healthcare Corporation.

Daniel Felstow SBA '88

was promoted from manager to account executive at Follmer, Rudzewicz & Company.

Peter French SECS '81

was named president and CEO of the Brown Cooperation, a company he has served for 11 years.

Gene Grabowski, Jr. SBA

'89 has been named a forecasting and statistical consultant, General Motors Acceptance Corporation, Detroit.

Shella Howe CAS '86

recently joined C-E Communications as senior direct marketing specialist.

Charlene Huget CAS '82

was hired by the Brighton District Library as its director.

Cheryl S. Loubert CAS '86

was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy and is in private practice in internal medicine in Manistee,

Michigan. She and John, her husband, have two children: Eric, 4; and Ellen, 2.

David M. Robinson CAS '87

is president of North American Operations for Group Antolin.

Mary J. Sekelsky SEHS '83

was promoted to assistant vice chancellor for Student Services and Enrollment Management at the University of Michigan-Flint.

Mark E. Sikorski CAS '83

was made a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians at the ACOFP National Convention in New Orleans in October.

Robert Stocki SECS '87

has been named director of global sales for Ford Motor Company.

Marion Turowski SEHS '87,

MA '91, director, Somerset Counseling Center, Troy, was named president-elect of the American Mental Health Counselors Association. The AMHCA works closely with Congress in the development of mental health care policies.

Nancy J. Valuet SEHS '80

was named corporate director of senior services at St. John Health Systems, Detroit.

Cynthia Weeks-Kummer

SBA '82 was the recipient of Certified Professional Environmental Auditor certification in July 1998.

Anthony Wesley SECS '81

is a lead programmer for MedStat Corporation, Ann Arbor.

1970s

Nora Baars CAS '76

teaches kindergarten through eighth-grade Spanish for Cornerstone Schools Association, Detroit.

Diane Bolton (Tate) CAS

'79 joined MediaOne as regional education services manager. She is responsible for the marketing and promotion of educational cable services throughout MediaOne's region. Previously, she was the education coordinator for TCI Cablevision of Oakland County.

Cynthia Brody CAS '78

joined the law firm Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker after 13 years at NBD Bank.

Michael S. Earl CAS '74 has been appointed president and CEO by the Board of Directors of Oakland Family Services, a leading provider of behavioral health care treatment and family education and support programs in southeastern Michigan. Earl is also known for his outstanding contribution to SMILE, a program that helps in easing the pain of children whose parents are divorced.

James Fall CAS '71 was named president and CEO at Manufacturing Data Systems, Ann Arbor.

Sandra M. Griffin SEHS '79 is a 4-H youth agent with the Wayne County/ Michigan State University extension. She is recipient of the Michigan Distinguished Service Award

and the All University Award for Excellence in Diversity Programming at Michigan State University.

Steven King CAS '73

accepted an executive position at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak as vice president and chief managed care officer.

Lynn Lee CAS '70 is the academic counselor in academic advising at Eastern Michigan University.

Jack Lessenbery CAS '76

was elected to a two-year term on the board at Detroit Metropolitan Chapter Society of Professional Journalists.

Carol Petrea CAS '79

retired from the U.S. Navy as a commander.

James Sugarman CAS '73

was elected president of Leadership Palm Beach County, Florida, and appointed to Health and

Human Services of Palm Beach County.

1960s

Marshall Bishop CAS '64

was named president of Southwestern Michigan College.

David Hansen SECS '69

was promoted from category director of Engineering and Product Development for Chevrolet to general manager, Brand and Support Organization.

Donald C. O'Brien CAS '65

was elected as a member of the American Antiquarian Society at the society's annual meeting, October 21 in Worcester, Massachusetts. Since its founding in 1812, only 2,364 men and women have been elected, including 13 presidents of the United States and 60 Pulitzer Prize members.



'I want to make a difference'

Priscilla Hines MPA '91 has a shopping list of life mottos . . . each begins and ends with education.

"You own your education," she says. "No one can take it, steal it, borrow it or kill it; you have total possession of it forever. When you're educated, giving back to the community, helping your fellowman to become educated also, and

knowing that you've made a difference is what it's all about. The more you give, the more you will get back."

Hines served as career coordinator and currently buys kits for the Army's Bradley Fighting Vehicle Systems at TACOM, Warren. She teaches part time at Detroit College of Business, Dearborn. For her efforts, she was named DCB's 1998 Alumnus of the Year.

"This award shows our appreciation for her continuous commitment to the college after receiving a degree," DCB President James Mendola says.

Hines will complete her Ph.D. in Reading/Language-Arts and Instructional Systems Technology at OU next year. Her goal is to become a professor. She is a member of many civic and professional organizations, including Michigan College Personnel Association, American Business Women's Association, NAACP-Detroit Chapter, American Educational Research Association and National Reading Association.

ENGAGEMENTS/WEDDINGS

Elaine J. Michael CAS '95 is engaged to Phillip Urrutia. The wedding will take place in Hawaii on March 16, 1999. Michael is a production assistant at Business News Publishing Company, Troy. Urrutia is vice president of Star Theaters, Southfield.

David Scillion SBA '94 married Heather Schultz. He is employed by Kasper Machine Company. She is attending Northwood Institute and is employed by Farm Bureau Insurance.

Sherry A. Sullivan MA '98 married Steven A. Trepanier. She works in the Flint School District as a teacher. He owns his own business, Trepanier Construction.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Claudia McCrackin SBA '89 and Kevin, her husband, announce the birth of their second child, Gina Marie.

Debra Skowronski-Noonan SEHS '90 and Rick, her husband, are proud to announce the birth of their second son, Brandon, who was born June 27, 1998. He is welcomed by big brother Kyle, 2.

Kathleen M. Walton CAS '82 is proud to announce the birth of her son, John Daniel. She and Daniel Allen, her husband, also have a daughter named Patricia.

DEATHS

Patsy Banch SEHS '82, October 13, 1998

Beatrice Brown CAS '75, MA '77, November 13, 1998

Leonard C. Gambler CAS '67, August 19, 1998

Roslyn Kirk SEHS '95, November 13, 1998

Keith Knauss SEHS '75, October 28, 1998

David S. Renton CAS '77, October 17, 1998

Sue Williams (Perpich) SBA '82, April 1998

Paralyzed swimmer makes a comeback



Cheryl Angelelli CAS '93 was showing off her new swimming dive when her head crashed into the bottom of the pool.

The accident left her without the use of her legs.

Doctors told her she would never walk, live independently or swim again.

That was 16 years ago and today she's proving them all wrong.

Angelelli returned to competitive swimming in 1996, this time against swimmers with disabilities. She won two medals in a national competition in Minnesota and earned a spot on the U.S. World Team. She also represented the United States at the 1998 International Paralympic Committee's World Championships for Swimmers with Disabilities last October in New Zealand.

"I made the choice to make the most of my life," says Angelelli, now 30, media relations coordinator, Detroit Medical Center. "Giving up was not an option for me."

In her spare time, she works as a model and a freelance writer, currently contributing her inspirational story to a book.

"I have a greater appreciation for life," Angelelli says. "Life can change quickly so I do not take anything for granted."

Angelelli's positive attitude has taken her much further in life than if she had not been injured.

"I don't let ideas be pipe dreams for me," she says. "Now instead of dreaming to do something, I do it."

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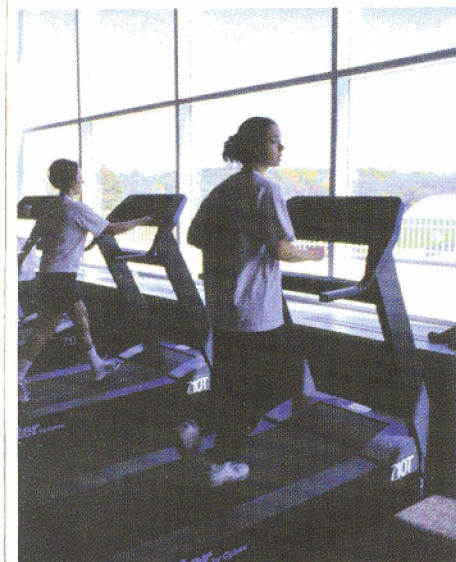
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Department of Campus Recreation
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