

# Oakland University

Summer 2001

MAGAZINE

## **John-Paul White at Carnegie Hall**

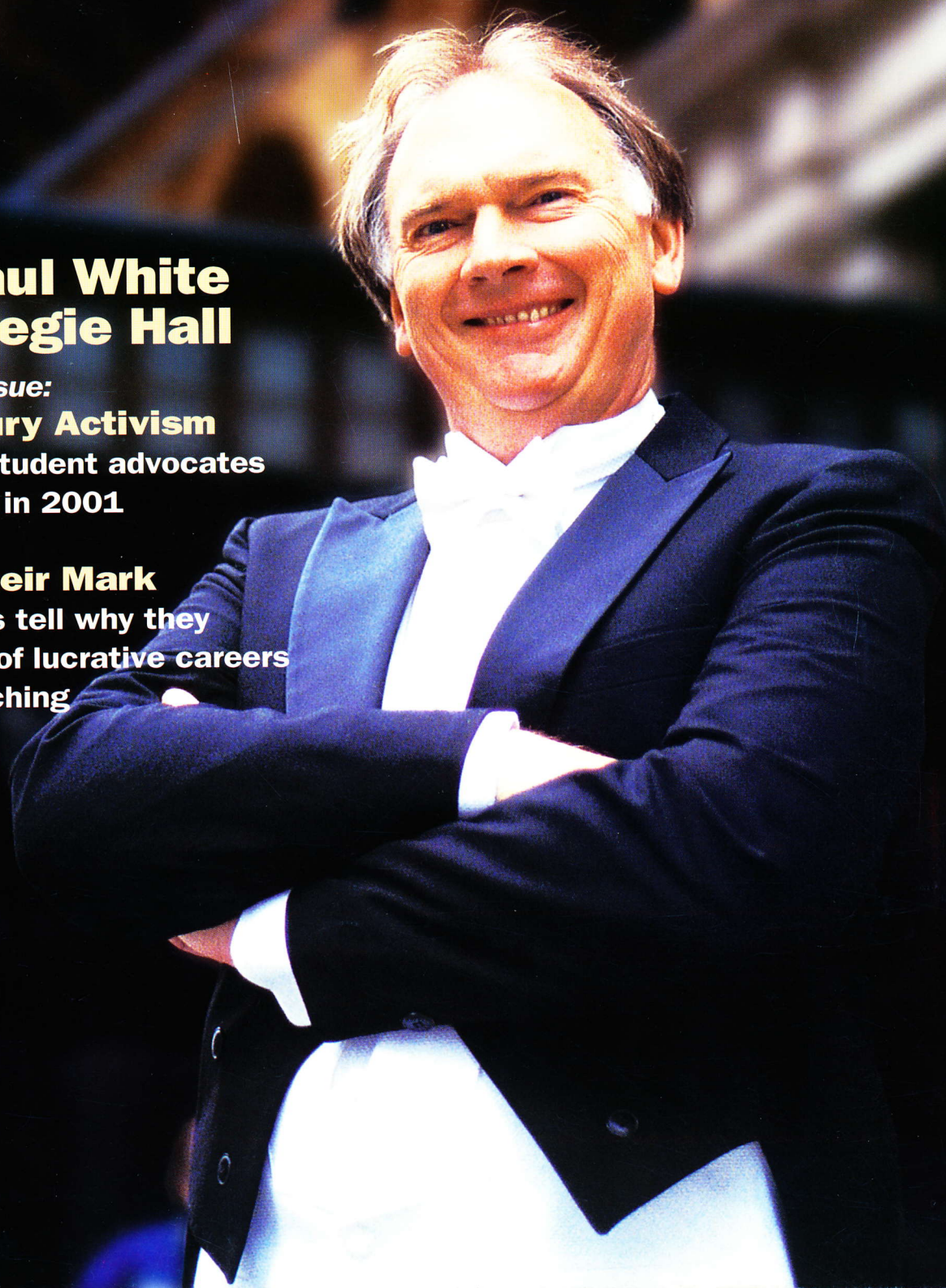
*Also in this issue:*

### **New Century Activism**

Alumni and student advocates  
take a stand in 2001

### **Leaving Their Mark**

Professionals tell why they  
dropped out of lucrative careers  
and into teaching





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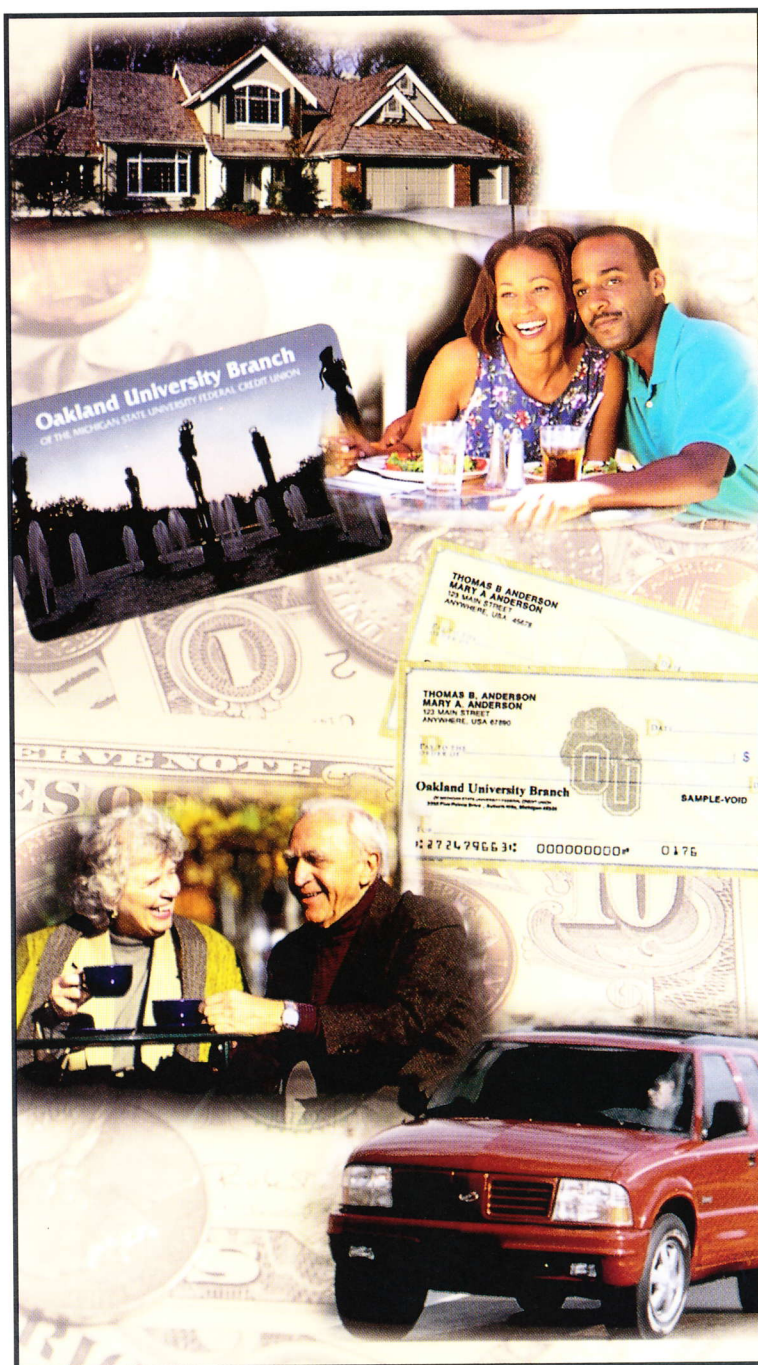
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Oakland University Professor  
John-Paul White outside  
Carnegie Hall in New York.



Photo by Al Pereira

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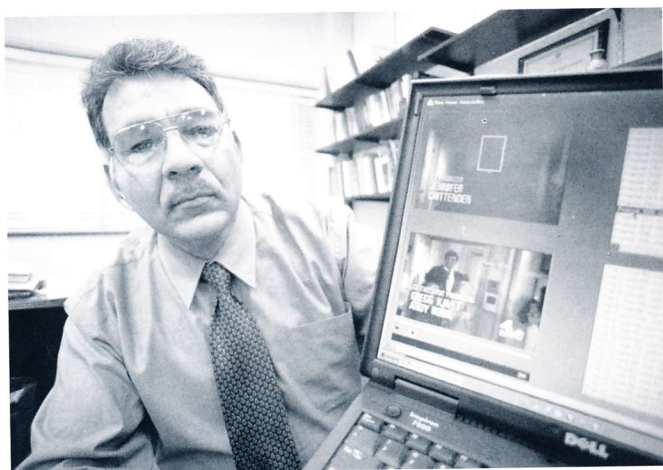
## 26th Annual Alumni Golf Outing

The Oakland University Alumni Association invites alumni and friends of OU to the 26th annual Alumni Golf Outing on Monday, August 13, 2001, at the Katke-Cousins Golf Course. The day begins at 8 a.m. Lunch will be available at Meadow Brook Hall. For more information on participation and prize sponsorship, please call (877) 445-ALUM (2586).

## Professor named IEEE fellow

Ishwar Sethi, professor and chair, Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science, was elected a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) last December "for contributions in statistical pattern recognition and neural networks." He is the first SECS faculty member to attain this status.

Fellows are selected based on outstanding and extraordinary qualifications, their experience in IEEE designated fields, and for important individual contributions made to one or more of these fields.



Ishwar Sethi



2001 Travis professors (from left): Janice Schimmelman, professor and chair, Art and Art History; Michael Gillespie, associate professor of theatre, MTD; and John-Paul White, professor of music-voice, MTD, with Doris Travis and Carol Halsted, chair, MTD, representing Laurie Eisenhower.

The IEEE's goal is to help advance global prosperity by promoting the engineering process of creating, developing, integrating, sharing, and applying knowledge about electrical and information technologies and sciences for the benefit of humanity and the profession.

## First Travis Professors named

Four faculty members were named Travis Professors at Oakland University's Sixth Annual Faculty Recognition program on Founders' Day, April 18 – the very first to receive the honor. They were: Janice Schimmelman, Michael Gillespie, John-Paul White and Laurie Eisenhower.

The Doris and Paul Travis Professor Program, established in the College of Arts and Sciences with a \$538,000 endowment from benefactors Doris and Paul Travis, provides a \$5,000 salary supplement and a \$1,725 development fund annually to support the creative endeavor and scholarship of four faculty members – one each from the areas of music, theatre, dance, and art/art history. The endowment represents one of the largest single private gifts to the College of Arts and Sciences in its history.

Doris Travis and the late Paul Travis were Michigan residents who relocated to Oklahoma. Their love of the arts led to this generous donation, with the encouragement and support of OU President Gary D. Russi.

## OU receives its first Emerging Technology Challenge Grant

Oakland University recently received its first Emerging Technology Challenge Fund grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for its new Center for Entrepreneurship in Information Technology (CEIT). Oakland was awarded \$150,000 over the next three years to initiate and support activities at the CEIT.

"The MEDC's decision to fund Oakland University's Center for Entrepreneurship in Information Technology will help OU faculty, students and alumni explore their entrepreneurial talents by transforming their ideas into a viable product," says Mohan Tanniru, co-director of CEIT. "These funds will also help support the development of a physical facility and the organization of workshops and forums, which will bring future entrepreneurs and



experts from the community to discuss various issues of interest. Ultimately, we hope to see this center's efforts develop a pool of innovative talent that will enhance the economic and technical vitality of southeastern Michigan."

The center will provide grants of \$4,000 to \$8,000 to support development of information technology products and business expertise.

Tanniru is developing the center with co-directors Ranald Hansen, interim vice provost, Office of Research and Graduate Study, and Ishwar Sethi, chair, Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science.

## Oakland Journal II

The second issue of the *Oakland Journal* is now available. The journal contains "an eclectic collection of articles, reviews, poems and other writings by members of the Oakland University community, including faculty, staff, students and alumni," says Geoff Brieger, editor and professor, Department of Chemistry. "Its aim is to provide interesting, intellectually stimulating reading," he says. Contact Brieger at (248) 370-2325 or gbrieger@oakland.edu for a copy.

## Lecture Board hosts NAACP CEO

Kweisi Mfume, president and chief executive officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), spoke to a crowd of nearly 400 students, faculty and staff in January – the first OU Student Life Lecture Board (SLLB) event of the new year. Addressing the organization's mission in the new century, Mfume said: "We recognize the revisitation



**Kweisi Mfume, president and CEO, NAACP, delivered the first Student Life Lecture Board address of 2001.**

of an old plague – a national scourge of insensitivity and intolerance. We note the destruction of black churches, the mistreatment of immigrants and the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City. Although we have crossed many bridges, there is still a river to cross."

Mfume also discussed the controversial result of the vote in Florida that determined the outcome of the 2000 presidential election.

The SLLB had invited him to speak on the topic, "The Challenges Ahead for George W. Bush."

"He has challenges, but real opportunities," Mfume said. "And his success or failure could determine ours."

## Calendar

### Dodge Brothers Motor Cars Exhibition

Through Sept. 30; Meadow Brook Hall

### Hispanic Celebration 2001

Sept. 17 – Oct. 5

### 2001 Alumni Awards Banquet

Friday, Sept. 21; Meadow Brook Hall

### American Heart Walk 2001

Saturday, Sept. 22

OU hosts the American Heart Association event for the third consecutive year.

### Weekend of Champions at Oakland University (WOCOU)

Oct. 8-12

### Lech Walesa

Oct. 22

The former president of Poland, *Time* magazine Man of the Year, and 1983 Nobel Peace Prize winner speaks at a Student Life Lecture Board presentation.



**Lech Walesa**



# What it takes to be a leader

**New SBA program**  
meets industry's  
**need for applied**  
technology experts  
**with leadership skills**

**By Jennifer Charney**

Vision. Motivation. Communication. Understanding. Discipline. Courage. These skills, says **Tone Ivanovic SBA '99**, a project manager for Electronic Data Systems in Troy, Mich., are what it takes to be a leader. Ivanovic learned these skills in Oakland University's unique Applied Technology in Business (ATiB) program – the first of its kind in Michigan.

A minor of the School of Business Administration (SBA), ATiB combines a rigorous business education with hands-on training in the use of information technology to resolve the real-world business problems of its corporate sponsors. More than 30 corporations have sponsored the program, which was founded in 1997.

OU developed ATiB in response to rapid changes occurring in information technology and the way it is used to solve business problems, according to SBA Dean John Gardner.

"Employers need managers and employees trained not only in a functional area of business but also in the application and management of information technology," Gardner says.

Ivanovic, who majored in management information systems (MIS), gained broad experience through her ATiB sponsors. She developed a program to extract data from an Oracle database for RGIS Inventory Specialists, wrote a program to calculate home insulation levels for Champion Enterprises and found professional employment with EDS.

For further information on ATiB, call (248) 370-3284 or (248) 370-4649, e-mail [atib@oakland.edu](mailto:atib@oakland.edu), or go to <http://atib.sba.oakland.edu>.



**Ivanovic '99**



**Rzonca '00**



**Banfill '99**





Paul Holland, EDS deployment manager, Car Division, says ATiB allows students and the company to gain a deeper understanding of what each has to offer. He says ATiB students have played key roles in several successful EDS development projects.

ATiB students work in teams to solve at least four business problems in three semesters, says Program Director Mohan Tanniru.

"They learn to use information technology in a variety of business settings, and they learn how the applications play a part in the entire organization."

Students also practice many other professional skills, including making oral presentations, preparing executive summaries and status reports, managing time and resolving conflicts, allocating human resources, documenting and prototyping, and gathering and analyzing data.

The two-year program for juniors and seniors has admitted 18 juniors each year since 1997. Candidates must have an overall GPA of at least 3.0 and must complete two pre-requisite MIS courses. Students usually major in business fields such as accounting, finance, economics, management, marketing or management information systems. A panel of faculty selects the participants.

ATiB students work in a specially equipped on-campus computer lab under the direction of Tanniru and several faculty coordinators. There, they learn to use many technologies, including Web page and database applications, Visual Basic programming, and specific software used to support decision making and data analysis. Students then work on significant projects with corporate sponsors and faculty. Sponsors financially support the program for a minimum of two years. ATiB also holds yearly conferences, weekly workshops and executive forums to expose students to experts and the latest industry research.

For their efforts, students are granted two-year scholarships and opportunities to work for sponsors as summer interns or permanent employees.

**Tim Banfill SBA '99**, an MIS major, says ATiB changed his life. After being drawn to the program by its uniqueness and scholarship opportunities, Banfill switched his double major from French and economics to MIS. Now he works for his former sponsor, DaimlerChrysler Corporation in Auburn Hills, on an enterprise resource planning application using SAP software.

DaimlerChrysler's Dan Cowan,



**ATiB Program Director Mohan Tanniru**

senior manager, Finance Training and Education, says ATiB is a good opportunity to build relationships with potential employees.

"By supporting ATiB," Cowan says, "we stay apprised of cutting-edge technology, also."

**Carrie Rzonca SBA '00** entered ATiB because she thought it would complement her accounting major. Her projects included evaluating a help desk application for Meritor Automotive Inc., competitor research for MSX International, Web page analysis for Durakon Industries, and a process analysis for an Oxford Automotive computer system. Now, Rzonca is happy as a general accountant for SequoiaNET.com, an Auburn Hills computer services company.

"I think ATiB is a wonderful opportunity for students to compete in the marketplace," Rzonca says. "My OU education prepared me well."

Average annual starting salaries for ATiB graduates are around \$46,000. Employers get solutions to significant business problems and access to candidates with the skills they need. And their employees learn the latest

### **Corporate sponsors of the ATiB program, founded in 1997:**

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*Bold indicates 2000-2002 corporate sponsors*

technology from OU students at a "price" much lower than that of a private consultant.

"ATiB," Gardner says, "is an example of how universities and business can work together to benefit society by educating the leaders of tomorrow while enhancing productivity in the workplace today." ■





"We lose 10 children a day to gun violence, most of it preventable. We lose over 30,000 Americans every year. If guns are what make us safe, we'd be the safest country in the world, and we're not."

— Lori Mizzi-Spillane

# New Century Activism

OU alumnae and students work to end gun violence, create better role models and give children what they need to succeed

By Jennifer Charney  
and Jeff Samoray

Like other colleges and universities, Oakland University has been the site of student protest over the years – a place where serious-minded men and women have brought the issues of their times to campus for discussion and debate. It also has been the site of student activism – a place where young people can get involved in programs and projects with the power to change communities in meaningful ways. While the challenges



of the new century may be different, OU students and alumni continue to commit themselves to making a difference.

Today at OU, student organizations promote multicultural understanding, increase awareness about alcohol abuse and work to protect the environment for future generations, among many other pursuits. For some, student activism is an experience that endures long after graduation; it is an experience that shapes them as people for the rest of their lives.

In the following article, three alumnae and two students talk about the issues that move them and shed light on the developing course of new century activism.

## One in a million

When Lori Mizzi-Spillane SBA '83 heard about the April 1999 shootings at Littleton, Colorado's Columbine High School, she knew something needed to be done about gun violence in America. But she didn't know what to do. In December of that year, she saw two women on national TV supporting a new organization and its event, the May 2000 Million Mom March (MMM) in Washington, DC. MMM has become a national grassroots organization dedicated to preventing injury and death caused by guns.

"I saw these women on TV who had children and jobs, who were just as busy as I was, and they had taken the time to look at the big picture," Mizzi-Spillane says. "There was just some connection for me."

Mizzi-Spillane, 41, was one of the

The goal of the **Million Mom March** is to establish a system of licensing and registration for all handguns and to support laws that restrict the carrying of concealed weapons. For further information on the Million Mom March, Western Metro Detroit Area, e-mail [wmdammm@yahoo.com](mailto:wmdammm@yahoo.com) or [lori4mmm@yahoo.com](mailto:lori4mmm@yahoo.com), visit [www.msu.edu/~hulenpet/mmm](http://www.msu.edu/~hulenpet/mmm), or call (248) 366-1792.

first Michigan women to call the MMM hot line shown on that TV segment. Meanwhile, another Michigan mom, Barb Case, had responded to the call for organizers. An MMM volunteer asked both to organize marchers for southeastern Michigan.

Mizzi-Spillane had no experience with activism, public speaking, talking to the media or fund raising. But everything fell into place.

She wrote letters to newspaper reporters about her efforts and area media covered her story. Meanwhile, the national hot line was referring many would-be marchers to both her and Case.

Two thousand Michiganders ended up marching in Washington. After that, Mizzi-Spillane and Case decided to back gun control supporters running for election in November 2000. Then, Mizzi-Spillane began to work on the chapter's charter. The MMM granted the charter in February 2001, after she assembled the stack of required paperwork: a report on gun victim resources in her area and Michigan gun laws. Chapter membership grew from eight in August 2000 to 160 eight months later.

Ask Mizzi-Spillane what drives her commitment to the MMM and she pulls out a magazine article about the weapons young people have used in major school shootings.

"Most of the weapons came from their dad's or grandfather's homes," she says. "So their parents are making their hobby the rest of society's problem. That's not fair. We are not asking that guns be taken away from people. All we're asking is that if you have to have a gun, would you please lock it up so it can't be stolen and your children can't get it?"

All her talk against gun violence raises some eyebrows when people hear that Mizzi-Spillane is a logistics manager for the United States Army. How does she explain working for the military if she abhors violence? She says national defense is a separate issue. Military weapons are issued to trained users to provide national security, she explains. But citizens do not have to undergo training to own guns. And handguns often lack the safety features of military weapons.

Mizzi-Spillane's family supports her activism. She and Brian Spillane, her husband, and their two daughters, who are 3 and 5, live in Troy. Brian minds the children when Lori is working on MMM efforts. Sometimes the girls join her. Her sister, Linda (Mizzi) Pruss SBA '85 accompanied her to the 2000 march and helps out in other ways.

Now, Mizzi-Spillane's goal for her chapter is to support pro-gun control candidates in the next election and to work on repealing the law that allows more Michigan residents to carry concealed weapons.

Her efforts won the admiration of MMM founder Donna Dees-Thomases. Dees-Thomases says a journalist recently asked her about the exact moment she knew the march had taken off.

"Was it when we were asked to be on *Oprah*? No," Dees-Thomases says. "Was it when the National Park Police told us we needed portable toilets for more than a half million people? No. It was when I read about a woman named Lori Spillane in the *Detroit Free Press*, who, according to the article, stood outside of a restroom during her lunch hour, making phone calls from a pay phone on behalf of MMM."

— J.C.

## Trekking across the Tundra

While all of Michigan awaited the warmth of spring, Susan Martin CAS '80 delved into deepest winter.

Martin began training last October to participate in WomenQuest Polar Trek 2001, an attempt by a group of 12 women to become the first all-female team to ski to the North Pole from Russia. In early April, the group traveled to Khatanga, Siberia, for five final days of training before flying to a station at the 88th parallel. From there, they began their 150-mile trip to the pole.

But WomenQuest is about more than establishing firsts. Its main purpose is to provide a positive influence for middle school-aged girls to encourage their interest in math and science and show them that ordinary women can do extraordinary things.





Susan Martin

## Pole Star

The cold was intense, visibility was poor, and continuous daylight played havoc with their sleep cycles, but WomenQuest arrived safely at the North Pole on April 24.

Travel was slow due to the numerous leads (areas of open water) and ice pressure ridges that had to be crossed. The group skied continuously for two days on just four hours of sleep to offset the westward ice drift that took them off course toward Greenland. It was fortuitous that they did — a three-person crew from Norway could not compensate for the drift and had to be airlifted out.

Martin frequently had trouble keeping warm and suffered hypothermia on the trip's fifth day. Crew members quickly erected a tent and covered her to keep her warm until she was able to continue.

Throughout the trip, the group remained in contact with the outside world via satellite phones provided by the U.S. Navy. The women celebrated their arrival with a bottle of Vodka given to them by the Russian helicopter pilots that flew them back to ice station Borneo.

Information on WomenQuest and Polar Trek 2001 can be found at [www.womenquest.org](http://www.womenquest.org). — J.S.

## At the "corps" of community service

Carol Anne Ketelsen BGS '92 grew up in a family of community activists. When she was little, she helped her father and grandfather with their Lions Clubs International community service projects, packing food boxes for the hungry and coordinating food drives at school as a Girl Scout. As an adult, she went on to serve as a Girl Scout leader. It was only natural for her to find a job running a community service program. Ketelsen is director of AmeriCorps Oakland, a federally

PHOTO BY ANNE SHERWOOD

Martin, 44, is a perfect representative of WomenQuest's ideals. A mother of a teenage son and daughter, Martin is a former biologist and medical research assistant who now teaches eighth-grade science in Boyne City, Mich. And she believes in WomenQuest firmly enough to set aside her avowed hatred of cold weather to ski for three weeks in -30°F temperatures.

"A lot of research has validated that girls become less interested in science and math when they enter high school," Martin says. "Kids get restricted in their career choices and there are a lot of social pressures. Our group wants to keep options open for girls. We're about proving that it's cool to be involved with science and math. Unfortunately for young girls today, many of the role models they see come from MTV. It really belittles the women's movement, which my generation in part tried very hard to establish. I don't want to see that happen."

To heighten students' interest in science and math during the expedition, the women of Polar Trek 2001 gathered meteorological data, answered students' questions via satellite transmissions over the Internet and videotaped a documentary. Martin's own project was to collect air samples to measure the ozone layer over the polar cap. But even before departing for the pole, she incorporated lessons on the arctic

environment into her classes.

"At first, my students expressed some disbelief that I would actually do this," Martin says. "Then it became a real learning opportunity. They became all excited about it and asked me questions like, 'How will you go to the bathroom?'"

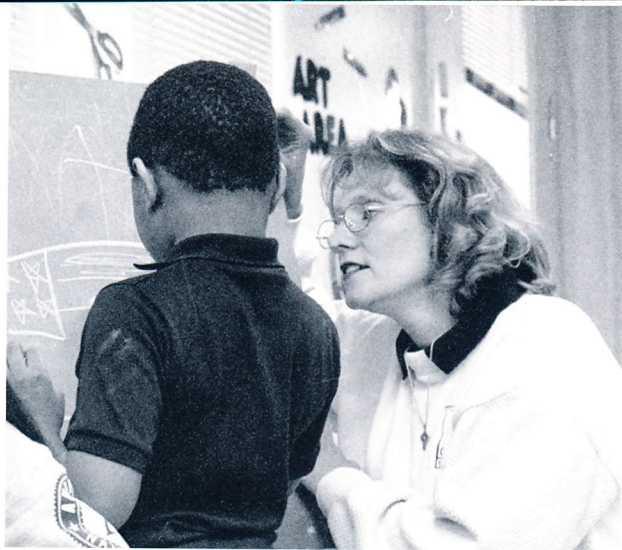
"From my own standpoint, just being an ordinary teacher from a small community, I hope I will really have an impact."

WomenQuest's members come from various regions of the U.S. and Canada and include teachers, businesswomen and journalists ranging in age from 27-51. Each of the women hauled 60-80 pounds of gear by sled and carried 40-pound backpacks. They traveled eight to 10 miles per day — a great distance considering the arduous conditions. Perpetual sunlight at that time of the year, made sleep difficult under two nylon tents held up by skis and poles. Russian helicopters transported the group back upon their arrival at the North Pole.

To prepare for the physically demanding expedition, Martin lifted weights four days a week and cross-country skied about two hours every other weekday and four hours a day on the weekends.

"This was the hardest thing I've ever done in terms of a personal challenge," says Martin, who is also an experienced skydiver and rock climber. "But it was exhilarating."





**Carol Anne Ketelsen**

funded program in which OU students go into Pontiac schools, churches and community organizations to tutor and mentor young people. They also help with recreation, sports, character building and career exploration.

Even after a 50- to 70-hour work week, Ketelsen chooses to help out with community service projects through her church and Pontiac organizations. Her enthusiasm creates synergy with like-minded AmeriCorps students such as Lenny Compton and Crystal Wilkerson. Compton, a junior, and Wilkerson, a sophomore, are majoring in elementary education. Their AmeriCorps assignment is to tutor and mentor children ages 7 to 12 at Lighthouse PATH (Pontiac Area Transitional Housing), which provides homeless clients with transitional housing and programs to develop self-sufficiency. In return for 900 hours of service, AmeriCorps Oakland students from all majors receive a living wage stipend, an annual education award of \$2,363 and the chance to hone career skills.

The opportunity is perfect for Compton and Wilkerson.

"I love working with kids and I've always been a really busy person," Wilkerson says. "For me, community service is a way to keep purposefully busy. I just like helping people – I think it's fun."



**Lenny Compton**

Wilkerson is carrying on a tradition of community service that she started in her hometown of Ortonville, Mich., where, through high school, she helped in a highway cleanup program and visited nursing home residents.

She joined AmeriCorps after

Ketelsen spoke in one of her classes about how Pontiac children have some of the lowest Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) scores in the state. The MEAP Web site shows that in winter 1999, for example, 37 percent of fourth-graders from the Pontiac School District scored what is considered "low" in reading compared to 25 percent of fourth-graders in the Detroit Public Schools and 31 percent in the Flint Community School District. And parents, Ketelsen told the class, often are unable to help their children with homework because they work afternoons or evenings.

"I was saddened by that," Wilkerson says. "I want to use my skills and my resources to help children build their skills and resources, so that we have an able society in which everyone can participate."

Compton, of Pontiac, loves working with youngsters, too. He joined AmeriCorps to give back to his community and to make an impact in people's lives. The greatest reward for him thus far, he says, has been helping to develop character in

children. He recounts the turnaround he witnessed in one boy, who was labeled a problem child at school.

"A lot of kids just want somebody to talk to," Compton says. So he listened.

And the boy's behavior began to improve. The school social worker was delighted and credits Compton's compassion and gift for listening with motivating the boy.

"Kids want to be informed about what's out there, too," Compton says. "They don't see what's in life beyond PATH." That's why he helps students read about different places and cultures.

Wilkerson has learned that making an impact takes time and trust. Now, when she sits down with the children, they're ready to learn about anything she presents. She's on her way to realizing her goal of making a difference.



**Crystal Wilkerson**

"I've always had these dreams of doing something important – establishing an organization that really helps people. That's what I want to do besides teach," Wilkerson says.

PATH personnel praise Wilkerson and Compton as excellent, enthusiastic role models. Both students are active in other AmeriCorps community service projects as well. Last fall, Wilkerson helped clean up a park before a Halloween festival for 5,000 children. She also helped set up and run a Valentine's Day Daddy-Daughter Dance. She and Compton have packaged food for the hungry in other cities.

"I love my work," Ketelsen says. "I really feel at the end of the day like we're making a difference." — J.C.

*Jeff Samoray is a Web writer in the OU Communications and Marketing Department.*



# How do you get to Carnegie Hall?

*Just ask MTD Professor John-Paul White*

By Debbie Patrick

The punchline to the old joke – How do you get to Carnegie Hall? – was practice. The reality for John-Paul White, a voice instructor in Oakland University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, has been patience.

Late last year, White was in New York City, where his agent often sent him to audition. He thought he sang well. But when the call came that Mid-America Productions had chosen him to sing Mozart's *Requiem* and Beethoven's *Mass in C* on the stage of the world-renowned Carnegie Hall, White was astonished.

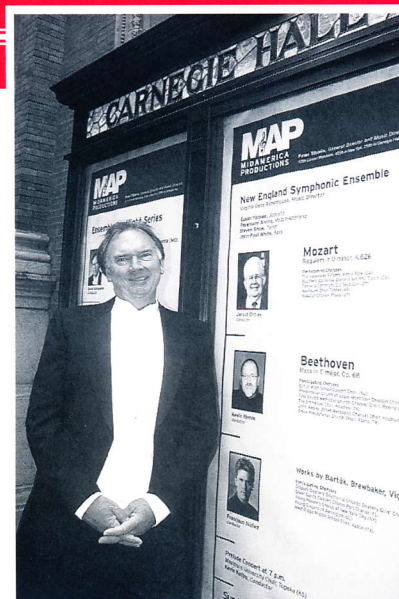
"When you look at the timeline of your career," White says, "Carnegie Hall was something I dreamed about achieving at 25. And the Met [Metropolitan Opera] perhaps a little later. Looking back from my 50s, I can tell you this was a very pleasant surprise. If it doesn't happen at a certain point you think it isn't going to happen."

When it didn't happen for him early on, White says, "I decided that I would seek other satisfying career venues." He found those venues

singing bass in challenging roles for many well respected and recognized companies, including the San Francisco Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Cleveland Opera Company, the Grand Rapids Opera Company and Michigan Opera Theatre. And for 17 years, he has taught voice at Oakland.

A native of St. Joseph, Mo., White had studied at Indiana University and at the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. He made his singing debut in New Orleans in *Carmen* in a cast that included Plácido Domingo and went on to fill concert halls across the country, and in Europe, with the sound of his voice. The decision to teach came in 1984 when he decided to move back to the U.S. from Europe where he had advanced his career in German and Swiss opera houses for six years.

What White finds most rewarding about teaching, he says, is "seeing the light go on." There's nothing like it, he explains, when a student matches intellectual understanding with the ability to put that knowledge into



practice.

"You can see it in their eyes," White says, "and hear it in their voices. I am drawn to all the incredible things I

hear in the human voice, including the speaking voice. To see the light go on and hear the change in the quality of the voice – that's something special."

Although White teaches basses like himself, he also trains other types of voices.

"Sometimes it's easier for students to identify with a teacher who sings what they sing," White says, "but a great voice teacher can teach any voice type."

In fact, White's primary teacher was Margaret Harshaw, the famous Wagnerian soprano.

"She had the best ears of anyone I have ever known," White says. "I learned from her the ability to really listen. And to listen, using a sense of empathy, feeling how what I



heard could be right or wrong.”

White’s students praise him with the same intensity.

“He has an absolutely beautiful bass voice,” says former graduate student Barbara Bland. “And he is extremely expressive both vocally and physically. He really demands a response from the audience,” she says. “I was not surprised to hear that he would be making his debut.”

Bland, who studied with White for 10 years, calls him a master teacher.

“He knows exactly what a student needs when she needs it – a push or shove, or a little bit of encouragement,” Bland says. “I never thought I would be an opera singer. If it hadn’t been for John-Paul,” she confesses, “I might not have pursued it at all.”

For the last three years, Bland also has been an applied voice instructor/lecturer at Oakland, employing much of what she learned from White, with whom she continues to study.

“He is an excellent model as far as performing,” she continues. “The example he has shown in his performance abilities has been inspiring. But his greatest influence,” she says, “was that he taught me how to learn so that I could continue to build on what we had already learned together.”

Now that he has fulfilled the Carnegie dream, is the Met far behind? White thinks his odds would be better if he sang tenor.

“There are some famous basses but the typical person is not going to know their names,” White explains. “The people who sing high notes are on a tightrope. There’s an excitement created by the higher voices that brings them more attention.”

Still, he’s confident. A poster on the wall of his office reads: “All the ladies swoon when the tenor sings...but the bass takes them home.”

There have, of course, been other stellar moments in White’s career. He sang *Aida*, for example, in Upper Grand Rapids in 1997 in what was then the new sports arena.

**John-Paul White (center) as the king of Egypt in a Grand Rapids Opera Company production of *Aida*.**

“There were 11-12,000 people in the audience,” White remembers. “Carnegie seats 2,800. The whole thing was on an enormous scale. Imagine dozens of camels and elephants, 50 horses and 300 people in the chorus – everything projected onto a huge TV screen, including me in the role of the King of Egypt. It was exciting.”

And in April, White was named one of the first Travis Professors at OU. The Doris and Paul Travis Professor Program in the College of Arts and Sciences honors four faculty members — one each from Music, Theatre, Dance and the Department of Art and Art History — for outstanding accomplishments in teaching, research or professional service. Honorees receive an annual salary supplement and an annual faculty development fund for three years.

“John-Paul is a thoughtful leader, a patient listener, an inspiring teacher, a valued colleague and an outstanding performer and musician,” comments Carol Halsted, department chair. “I feel he embodies the essence of the Travis professorship.”

White says one of the most memorable experiences of his career occurred when he was a soloist in an oratorio – Beethoven’s *Missa Solemnis* – led by Robert Shaw, one of the world’s great choral conductors.

“He was having trouble getting the huge cast to work together,” White

recalls. “But in a magical moment he had everyone close their eyes so they couldn’t see him at all. And then he told everyone to feel the pulse that was there in the music, that was bigger than all of us. We all found the same pulse and came together as one. It was a wonderful musical moment. Blending my vocal instrument with all the other instruments.”

And Carnegie Hall? When he stepped onto the stage on May 27 to sing, White says he felt like he was standing in the shadows of giants.

“Caruso, Callas, Rubenstein, Horowitz... their photos and playbills line the walls of the dressing rooms and hallways,” White says. “All of the great artists of this generation and those past. In those shadows I felt so small and inadequate. But those same giants also seem to inspire you to go beyond what you thought you could do. I was able to sing with ease and confidence, and experienced that what I had heard about Carnegie Hall is really true...that it seems to caress and energize the voice, and makes it feel easy to sing.

“I was also particularly inspired as I looked out into the audience of 2500 or so, and among the 80 plus friends and family who had come from all over the country, were my colleagues and administrators from Oakland and a host of OU alumni. That kind of support means more than I can express.” ■





# HEARTS & LETTERS

ALUMNI WHO MET AT OU  
AND MARRIED SAY  
CAMPUS CLIMATE OF  
RESPECT, OPENNESS AND  
DEBATE CAME TO BE  
REFLECTED IN  
THEIR MARRIAGES

BY CATHLEEN HAGAN

*The best places to meet a future partner have long been a matter of debate. If Oakland University alumni are an indication, a college campus ranks as a contender. The alumni office generated a list two and a half pages long of students who became husband and wife; five of those couples, spanning five decades at OU, are represented here. Although they came to the university for different reasons, OU not only brought them together, their shared experiences and education have served as an important touchstone in their marriages and their lives. Here are their stories, their memories and their reflections on OU.*



Evelyn and Ed Gehres

## THE 1960s: "A RARE ATMOSPHERE"

Opportunities for weekend entertainment were scarce for the charter class of Oakland University. The Grill closed at 10 p.m.; it was a mile walk to the campus entrance – if you wanted to reach one of the two gas stations on the corner. To compensate, a professor and his wife hosted a social gathering at their home once a month. Any student living in the two dorms on campus (Fitzgerald and Anibal houses) was invited. The only rule was that you had to have a brownie and a cup of coffee before leaving.

At one of these gatherings Evelyn Adams asked her roommate to toss her a cigarette. Ed Gehres handed her his cigarette case.

"Have one of mine," he offered.

"Our son doesn't like to hear that we met over a pack of cigarettes," says Ev. "I knew who Ed was, but I didn't know his name. When I first saw him on campus, he had on a blue OU sweatshirt, and I noticed his eyes were the same color as the sweatshirt."

Ed had begun attending OU in the fall of 1959 – his student number was 000417 – "because I couldn't afford to go away, and Oakland University was opening." Ev, a Native American then living in

Lake Orion, had transferred from Wayne State to OU, as a matter of "logistics, and Father winning the battle."

"At that moment in history, attending OU was so special," Ev says. "The faculty was very friendly and open. The diversity on campus was wonderful, with students from many economic and ethnic



Evelyn and Ed Gehres today.





Joyce and Ken Payne

backgrounds. It was an incredibly unique, extraordinary liberal arts education that helped us grow into wonderful human beings, we hope. We have always been social justice-oriented individuals willing to ask hard questions. That came from the education we had."

In February 1963, Ed told Ev she was "the one," and they became engaged. Ev, an English major, graduated with the charter class that same year; in January 1964 they married.

Ed earned a psychology degree in 1966. For the past 31 years he has been a Presbyterian minister and is currently chief administrative officer for the governing body of Presbyterian Church USA. Ev taught for a number of years, then worked as a writer and in financial service before entering the nonprofit arena. Today, she is the senior development officer for the Presbyterian Church Foundation. After living and working many years in the metro Detroit area, the Gehreses moved to Pennsylvania in 1999.

"It was a rare atmosphere at OU," says Ed. "You were expected to challenge, and you were expected to have an adequate defense. There have been some creative arguments in this marriage. Our rule is, say what you will, but you'd better be able to back it up. We learned to do that in the classroom at OU and in our lives."

## THE 1970s: "NO REGRETS"

On a fall day in 1976, Ken Payne steered his car onto campus, excited to be starting classes at Oakland University. Except there were no

classes that day — the professors were on strike.

"It was disheartening," says Ken. "I just got back into my car and listened to the news."

Luckily, Ken's first day on campus was not an indicator of things to come for him at OU, which included earning a degree in Health and Safety and meeting Joyce Skrocki, his future wife.

"The School of Nursing brought me to OU," says Joyce, who earned her degree in 1983 and is currently an RN with the St. John Health System. "I didn't want to go away to college and liked OU."

They met at Dodge Hall. Their science-related degrees required some of the same classes. A friendship developed through chats after class and racquetball games. They had their first "official" date on Halloween 1981.

Challenging course loads and work schedules meant dates were often spent studying on the third floor of Kresge Library.

"The School of Nursing kept me busy," Joyce recalls. "The program was still developing, and we were required to do a lot of reading and projects."

"I paid my own way," says Ken, who now coordinates engineering activities for General Dynamics. "When I wasn't studying or seeing Joyce, I had a part-time position over at the mansion (Meadow Brook Hall) bartending. It was a great job."

The Paynes also enjoyed attending plays at Meadow Brook Theatre and Student Enterprise Theatre productions at The Barn, a small, alternative theatre that was once part of the Meadow Brook Farms dairy complex. Ken remembers watching the Detroit Lions practice on campus, "absconding trays from The Abstention and sledding down hills."

The Abstention, located in the basement of the Oakland Center, was a favorite destination for OU students.

"There were bands in the afternoon," says Joyce, "and

Ken used to play his guitar in the coffee shop."

"Now it's like a library down there," Ken says of the renovated lower level.

The Paynes waited until they had saved enough money to buy a house before marrying in 1985. About their mutual decision to become man and wife, Ken says: "It just seemed like the right thing to do."

"It's worked because we try to do things together and communicate," says Joyce. "Sometimes you're best friends, and sometimes you're enemies, but being together, that's important."

The Paynes have three children; their oldest daughter, Jaclyn, a seventh-grader, would like to become a teacher and earn her degree at OU.

"I liked it at OU," says Joyce. "I have no regrets at all about not going away for college."

## THE 1980s: "THAT'S THE MAN I'M GOING TO MARRY"

When Dennis Washington and Christine McCray signed up for Drama 300, little did they know they would be embarking on a little drama of their own.

"Dennis walked in late at the first class, and I said to myself, 'That's the man I'm going to marry,'" Christine recalls, even though she'd only seen him once in her freshman year.

After the first assignment, Christine suggested they study together. By Halloween she was leaving Hershey's



Dennis and Christine Washington





David Martin proposing to Anne at graduation.

kisses in Dennis' mailbox in Vandenberg Hall.

Both English majors, Christine was commuting to OU the year she met Dennis. She had chosen OU because of its intimate setting, uncomfortable with the thought of attending a large university. Dennis lived on campus, even though his home was only 45 minutes away. He decided to attend OU the summer before his senior year of high school, when he worked at the university under Professor Khapoya doing research.

"It was such a wonderful experience, I wanted to continue my education as an undergraduate there," says Dennis. "I stayed in the dorm because I felt to really get the full college experience, you had to live on campus and get involved."

Which explains why Dennis was late to class that day. While a student at OU, Dennis was vice president and then president of the Association of Black Students (ABS), a recipient of a Wilson Award and a Sidney Fink award, a resident assistant, a member of the forensics team, the University Congress and the Honors College, and on the board of *The Sail*, the student newspaper. He also remembers joining in student rallies during faculty strikes in 1985 and 1986.

"You could be part of the leaders of the status quo, or part of those who shook things up," says Dennis. "The point was, we (the students) needed to be heard. We were a very interested

third party."

Students willing to challenge and question weren't the only legacy of the charter class; according to the Washingtons, diversity also was alive and well.

"There were a fair number of African Americans attending (in the 1980s)," says Dennis. "It was a very supportive climate, with people in administration you

could go to if you had a problem."

"There wasn't any tension at all on campus," Christine remembers. "It was an open forum and we hung out with confidence."

Christmas of 1987, Christine opened a large box from Dennis, and was somewhat disappointed to find an OU track suit inside.

"I thought you were going to ask me

to marry you," she said to him, and then found the ring inside the box. They were married in August 1988.

"It was like an OU reunion," says Dennis, because so many alumni attended.

Today, Dennis is a senior consultant at Public Sector Consultants, Inc. Christine, who

graduated in 1988 with a degree in English, most recently worked as a representative for a

pharmaceutical company.

"As we look back on those early years of marriage now, they were relaxed and fun," says Christine.

"We've grown and learned together," adds Dennis, "through good communication and respecting one another's views."

## THE 1990s: "BETTER TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS LATER"

Unlike the other couples in this article, David and Anne Martin had already been dating for two years when they began attending OU in 1990. But David's marriage proposal to Anne made them part of campus history.

David Martin and Anne Morin came to OU in a roundabout way, via their native Maryland, the University of Florida, and at last Michigan.

"My family moved to Michigan," David explains. "When we heard about Oakland, we [checked it out], liked it and we stayed."

"And stayed," adds Anne. "Coming from Florida, a big school, we liked the openness of OU. The professors were accessible and you could ask anybody questions about anything."

Noting that student organizations were in need of "any warm body," David joined Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society, and served as treasurer and president. Anne became active in the Golden

Key National Honor Society and held several different positions, including



David and Anne Martin



one that gave her the chance to be among the first students to meet OU President Gary D. Russi. David's goal was to get married after he finished graduate school, but Anne felt differently.

"I got numerous clues that she'd like to get married sooner," says David.

Anne suspected he'd propose before their relatives arrived for their graduation – not in the middle of commencement.

"I've always tried to do things in a big way," says David. "Because of my grade point, I knew by March that I was a good candidate to give the salutatorian address, and they notified me in May. I didn't really seek permission (to propose to Anne). I thought it was easier to beg forgiveness later."

Although he had worried about "stealing the spotlight" for his own "selfish endeavor," luckily, the administration reacted favorably, as did the students. After announcing his intentions to more than a thousand people, David walked over to Anne, got down on one knee, presented a ring and asked her to marry him. The wedding was held at Meadow Brook Hall in May 1996.

In addition to getting engaged, David earned a degree in engineering and computer science that day, and went on to earn a Master of Science degree in engineering from OU in 1996. He's a software engineer for Kuka Development Labs, and still takes classes at OU when something strikes his fancy.

Anne earned a BA in history in 1994, and a BS in biology in 1997. She works at home caring for their 17-month-old daughter.

"Oakland treated us very well," says David. "We became much better people because of opportunities we

might not have had elsewhere."

## THE CLASS OF 2000: A PIONEER MARRIES A GRIZZLY

What a difference a few months make. If Aaron Carpenter had started attending OU on a baseball scholarship a semester earlier, he wouldn't have been sitting in the food court of the Oakland Center in October 1997 on his birthday, and sophomore Carolyn Brown wouldn't have seen him and thought, "That's the man I'm going to marry."



Carol and Aaron Carpenter

Carol had just joined the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority, and that week her sisters had been introducing her to members of the Theta Chi fraternity.

"OU is a great academic school," says Carol, "but I only had one close friend on campus. I tried to get involved but still didn't feel like I was getting the college experience. One day I was in the Oakland Center with my friend and the sorority had tables set up. Someone grabbed us and said, 'You two have to do this.'"

With a little encouragement, Carol introduced herself to Aaron and wished him a happy birthday. Three weeks later, at a fraternity house party, Carol persuaded a friend to go to Aaron and ask, "If Carol asked you to the semi-formal, would you go?"

"I thought it would be a cool time," says Aaron. "I had been engaged to a girl in a different sorority in February, but the relationship went sour. Everyone knew about it. I wasn't thinking about dating another sorority girl. I was getting ready to graduate and I didn't want to be a pity case, but Carol was new."

By the end of November, Carol recalls, "we knew where we were going. By the time Aaron graduated, people said we'd get married."

And they did, in August last year. They proposed to each other in April 1999 at a sorority formal. Carol

estimates three-quarters of the wedding party and guests were friends from OU.

Aaron earned his degree in business administration in 1997 and currently works as a manager and team leader in material handling for Ford Motor Company. After serving as president of the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority in her senior year, Carol graduated with a degree in

communications in May 2000. She works in the OU Alumni Relations Department.

Aaron's only regret about OU is that he never got a chance to enjoy the new sports facility built since his graduation, and to identify with the new mascot introduced in fall 1998.

"We have our diplomas hanging up side by side," says Aaron. "Someday we'll have to explain to our kids why I never got to be a Grizzly."

Just tell them, Aaron, you did the next best thing: you met and married one at OU. ■

*Cathleen Sinclair Hagan is a freelance writer residing in Ortonville, Mich.*



# Construction of new student apartment complex and education building begins on Founders' Day

## Apartment Life

Not since the George T. Matthews Apartments were built back in 1981, when enrollment was 11,644, had ground been turned for the construction of new student housing at Oakland University — until Founders' Day on April 18. That's when the university community gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony for the Student Housing Apartment Complex (SHAC). The early morning event included the planting of an oak tree in honor of the Old Oaks, the pioneering faculty, staff and students of Oakland's formative years; as a symbol of the ongoing growth the university has achieved since its founding 44 years ago; and as a living recognition that the best is yet to come.

The apartment complex addresses the demand for on-campus housing, which has grown tremendously in the

last five years and exceeded availability for the last two. And it speaks to enrollment projections, which estimate 20,000 students by 2010 — 2,500 of them on-campus residents. Fall 2000 enrollment topped 15,000 for the first time in OU history. The SHAC also is part of Oakland's commitment to providing a vibrant student life.

"We all know that on-campus students add a sense of vitality to an academic community that spills over to every corner of the campus," said Mary Beth Snyder, vice president, Student Affairs. "We'll soon have more students here on week nights and weekends, at extracurricular activities, at performances and the like. With more students around, it becomes easier for all of our students to make friends and find outlets for their interests. These are key ingredients to a satisfying



# From the ground up





**SHAC groundbreaking.** From left: Eleanor Reynolds, director, University Housing; Trustee Penny Crissman; OU President Gary D. Russi; Mary Beth Snyder, vice president, Student Affairs; and Jennifer Wegner, vice president, University Student Congress.

wood furniture and modern appliances, including microwave ovens, and washers and dryers. A community house with a deck overlooking a sports court for volleyball and basketball will be centrally located.

Capstone Development Corp. and Demarest and Associates Architects partnered with OU in this design/build project.

undergraduate career and a strong allegiance to Oakland University as alumni."

The \$21-million, 176,000-square-foot complex will provide six, three-story, Tudor-style brick and stucco apartment buildings – housing for 459 additional campus residents. Each student will have a private bedroom equipped with cable and Internet access. And every apartment unit will be fully furnished with contemporary

## Good-Bye O'Dowd, Hello EHS

In fall 2002, the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS) will say good-bye to O'Dowd Hall, where it has shared space with other academic units and educated educators for nearly 20 years, and enter a spacious, elegant new home of its own.

"Today, the new century really begins for the School of Education and Human Services – a new era of

discovery and innovation in what soon will be a new, contemporary home," said Dean Mary Otto. "This exciting, \$31-million, 130,000-square-foot-facility – planned with input from students, staff and faculty in conjunction with the architectural firm of Duce Simmons Associates, and the construction firm, J.M. Olson Corporation – will help us create and deliver innovative education to Oakland University students."

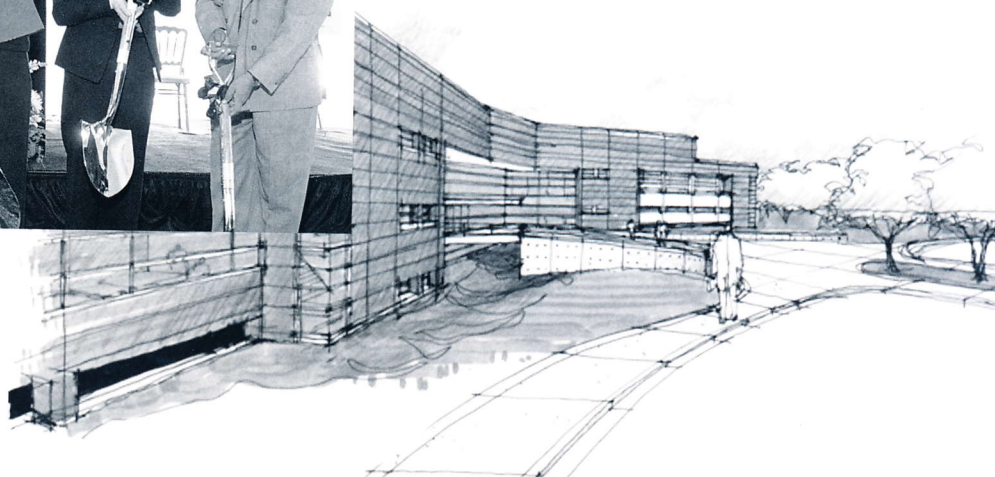
Walter Burt, superintendent of the Pontiac School District; student Vicki Pollmann; OU President Gary D. Russi; and Ann V. Nicholson, chair of the Oakland University Board of Trustees, also delivered celebratory remarks. Nicholson extended thanks to private donors and to the state for its support.

"On behalf of the Oakland University Board of Trustees, I would like to thank Gov. John Engler, and the Michigan State Legislature, which generously appropriated 75 percent of the cost of the construction of the Education and Human Services Building," Nicholson said. The SEHS seeks to raise \$8 million to match the state's capital outlay of \$23 million.

"This growth in programs and infrastructure follows a strategic plan for Oakland designed to reposition the university for a future marked by regional and national eminence, and true distinction," Russi said. ■



**Right: architect's rendering of the Education and Human Services Building.** Above: (from left) OU President Gary D. Russi, Trustee Ann Nicholson, Dean Mary Otto, student Vicki Pollman and Pontiac School District Superintendent Walter Burt.







Ola Glezen

**Professionals  
abandon  
lucrative careers  
to pursue their  
true calling –  
and the SEHS is  
preparing them  
to do it**

**By Jennifer Charney**

# Leaving their mark

**A**fter earning undergraduate and graduate degrees, you wouldn't think that attorneys or psychologists would want to abandon their more lucrative, often decades-long careers to start at the bottom in another profession — especially if the new career offers less prestige and lower pay. Yet students in a new Oakland University program have made this choice to pursue a career they feel they were meant for – teaching. They have grown disillusioned by the lack of fulfillment in their first careers and yearn for the less tangible rewards that come from making a difference in young people's lives.



The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says that overall employment of kindergarten, elementary and secondary school teachers is expected to increase 10 to 20 percent — about as fast as the average for all occupations — through 2008. The expected retirement of a large number of teachers in their 40s and 50s should open up many additional jobs as well. Because of these predictions and to accommodate career changers, the School of Education and Human Services started Post-Baccalaureate Elementary Teacher Certification Programs in September 2000 and January 2001. The courses, designed for working adults, meet in the evenings and on alternate Saturdays. About 35 students complete the program as a group or “cohort.” Students can complete the program in 20 to 24 months, depending on when they begin their student teaching.

Attorney Edward Bogden had been reading about the trend of recruiting career changers, especially older men, to teach in elementary schools. He discovered that the Oakland program is just right for him. Bogden, of Rochester Hills, wanted to be a teacher when he was in college 30 years ago. But the market for teachers

was too tight then, so he pursued his second career choice, law. He went on to practice general trial work for 24 years.

“I’m moved by underdogs — people who have rights that are being ignored,”

Bogden says. “I thought I could make a difference.”

For the last few years, he specialized in juvenile law — cases involving delinquency, neglect and abuse. Over and over, he saw kids coming through the juvenile justice system, too many without a father figure.

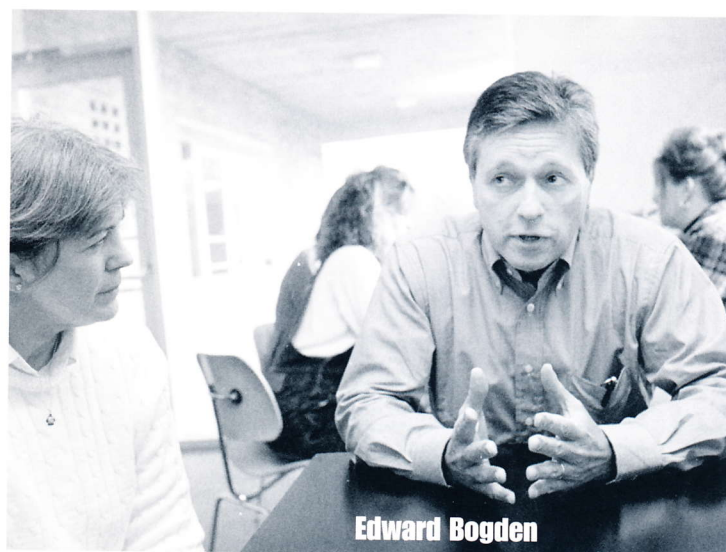
Bogden related to those kids. He, too, grew up without a father and knows what a struggle it is. Eventually, he decided to intervene before youngsters end up in the juvenile justice system, by becoming a role model in the classroom. Bogden wants to teach fourth- and fifth-graders.

“I think it’s a really crucial time in their development,” he says. “I would like to try to help these kids establish their self-confidence so they can make choices when they’re subjected to peer pressure.”

Bogden faces making a salary that will equal one-third of what he earned as an attorney. He isn’t worried.

“I’ll just have to change my style of living a little bit. I think it will afford me a comfortable enough existence,” he says. His wife, a stay-at-home mom, is supportive. Their seven-year-old son thinks it’s pretty cool.

Another attorney in the teacher certification program, Ola Glezen, also expects her teaching income to equal about one-third of what she made practicing law. Like Bogden’s



**Edward Bogden**

wife, Glezen’s spouse supports her career change, too. But other relatives have questioned her decision.

“I’ve felt a little uncomfortable at times because family members have asked me, ‘Why do you want to leave law? You’re not going to make much money and there’s not much prestige.’ But I’m so much happier,” Glezen says.

Glezen, of West Bloomfield, practiced with firms for four years as a litigator in employment discrimination law. Then she worked as an attorney recruiter.

“I became very disillusioned with the practice of law, particularly litigation,” she says. “I felt that the rewards I was receiving weren’t equal to the effort that I was putting into it. It’s a lot of work and there’s a lot of pressure. I found that it wasn’t fulfilling.”

Glezen became interested in education after watching her sister work with kids as a student teacher.

“I found that when you achieve a goal with a particular student, it’s worth a lot more than winning a trial or successfully placing someone,” Glezen says.

“Litigation these days is pretty much a situation where I think that there are no clear winners and losers. Most of our cases are settled. You’d find that the plaintiffs weren’t always happy — they felt that they deserved more than what they got — and that

### **What they earn**

Median annual earnings of kindergarten, elementary and secondary school teachers ranged from \$33,590 to \$37,890 in 1998; the lowest 10 percent, \$19,710 to \$24,390; the top 10 percent, \$53,720 to \$70,030. According to the American Federation of Teachers, beginning teachers with bachelor’s degrees earned an average of \$25,700 in the 1997-98 school year. The estimated average salary of all public elementary and secondary school teachers in the 1997-98 school year was \$39,300. Private school teachers generally earn less than public school teachers.

*Source: Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2000-01 Edition, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*





SEHS class, "Educating Children in Art," meets at Cranbrook.

our clients, the people we defended, felt that they shouldn't have to pay anything because the claims were groundless. No one's really satisfied. You're dealing with people who are unhappy about the situation."

Glezen chose Oakland's program because it does not require her to earn a degree in addition to her bachelor's in business and law degree. She also found that Oakland is flexible in applying past academic work toward her teacher certification.

Glezen thinks it's a good idea for college education programs to recruit career changers. "I think that the people I've encountered in this class are going to bring a lot to the table as teachers because they have the maturity and discipline," she says. "I think teaching means more to them at this point in their lives than it does to someone fresh out of college because they know what else is out there and they made a decision to pursue this career."

Anna Mulawka MA '83 ended up in the teacher certification program after she took a sabbatical three years ago from her position as a clinical psychologist for St. Clair County Community Mental Health. After 18 years of working with children and adolescents, she was unchallenged and

**"At my age, it's really important to leave a mark – and that's how I see teaching. I don't think there's anything else that's as important as being a teacher."**

**— Anna Mulawka**

working with children, Mulawka helps in a K-8 program before and after school in the Warren Consolidated School District. She left her full-time job last April in order to concentrate more on her studies; the teacher certification program, she says, is tough.

"It's fun though. I'm learning so much. The challenge is there again. I feel revitalized," Mulawka says. "At this point in my life – I'm 42 years old – money really doesn't matter to me anymore. I have a husband. He works full time, and that's great. At my age, it's really important to leave a mark – and that's how I see teaching. I don't think there's anything else that's as important as being a teacher."

Such enthusiasm is typical among Mulawka's classmates, to the delight of their instructor, Cindy Todd. Todd holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in art education and earned a 2000 education specialist degree from OU. She teaches *Educating Children in Art*, which is

bored. She still liked helping kids, so during her sabbatical, she tried substitute teaching.

"I had a blast. I loved being with the kids. I never had a bad experience in a two-year period," Mulawka says. "When I saw Oakland had this program, I thought, that's it, I'm going to try."

After entering the program, Mulawka, a mother of two children aged 15 and 8, started working part time. Since the program requires her to gain experience

held at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

"There's not an assignment I give that they do not just throw themselves into," Todd says. As part of the course, she requires students to use art to present lessons on various subjects, including history, geography, culture and religion. For a social studies lesson, one team of students fashioned a life-size Egyptian coffin out of white plastic trash bag material. Another team's lesson required their students to make crafts to demonstrate their understanding of patterns.

Mary Barry-Cybulski, PhD, assistant superintendent for instruction and special projects, Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD), believes that such career changers will be valuable in the classroom. The MISD worked with OU to host the program's courses in its Clinton Township training facility.

"I think they bring a wealth of experience that can only be gained from living," Barry-Cybulski says. "They also understand what's needed for students to be successful [in the workplace]."

Todd says she is amazed by the diverse pasts of her students, who are leaving careers in fields such as nursing, accounting and law enforcement. She understands their motivation.

"There are so few teachers I know who have gone into the profession for anything other than wanting to impress a child and change the world," she says. "Teaching is all I ever wanted to do." ■

Oakland's newest Post-Baccalaureate Elementary Teacher Certification Program is held at the Macomb Intermediate School District Building on Garfield Road, just south of M-59 in Clinton Township. The other cohort will meet next fall in Oakland County near OU. For further information on the programs, call (248) 370-3033, visit [www.oakland.edu/profdev](http://www.oakland.edu/profdev) or e-mail [pro-development@oakland.edu](mailto:pro-development@oakland.edu).



# Secret of the Great Lakes



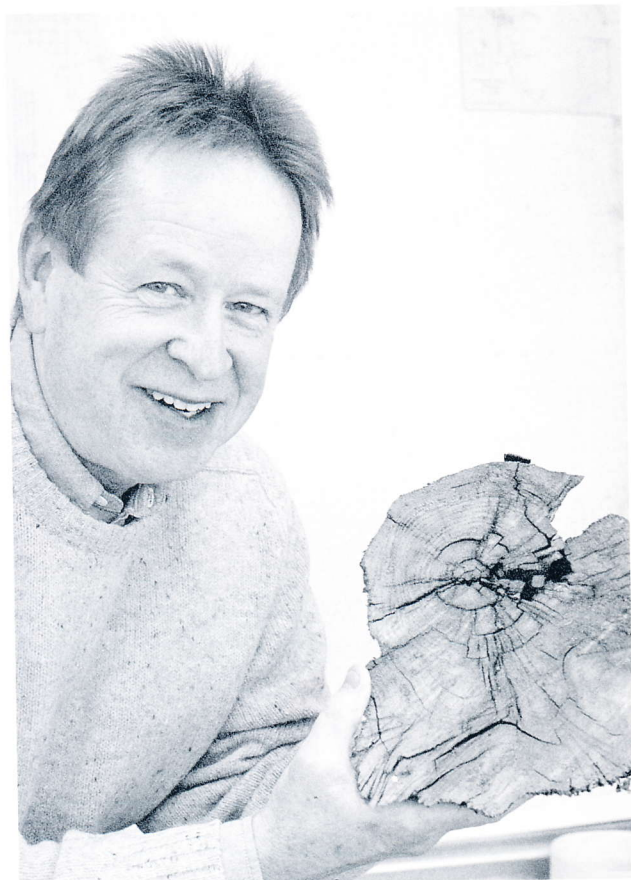
OU Professor Doug Hunter measures a stump in the drowned forest.

## OU researcher digs up Lake Huron's past in an ancient drowned forest

BY JENNIFER CHARNEY  
PHOTOS BY KATHY TRAX

To those who have been fretting about Great Lakes water levels fluctuating a few feet over the last several years – relax. The changes are mere drops in the bucket, part of a variable natural cycle. In fact, research shows that Lake Huron was as much as 300 feet lower 10,000 to 8,000 years ago, after glaciers receded from the area. OU Professor Doug Hunter is researching evidence of these lower lake levels – an ancient forest recently discovered in about 40 feet of water off Lexington, Mich., in southern Lake Huron. There, a well-preserved stand of trees is partially exposed on the sandy





Doug Hunter

bottom. A few stumps are still upright and rooted, confirming that trees once grew there. And people once walked beneath their branches.

The area contains an unusually large amount of wood compared to other areas of drowned trees in the Great Lakes. The Huron site includes wood ranging from branches a few inches in diameter to trunks 20 to 30 inches across. Some stumps look like they could be five feet in diameter, Hunter says. A spruce stump raised by Hunter's team was determined to be about 6,805 years old; a larch log was dated at about 6,980 years. The find is important to understanding the history of the Great Lakes.

"It is yet another bit of evidence that tells us just how much the Great Lakes have changed," says Hunter, of the Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences. "That's a good point for anyone to ponder — how changeable the natural world is — if they don't already appreciate that."

Glacial encroachment and recession

are responsible for dramatic changes in Great Lakes levels. Lake levels were changed not only by the addition of glacial meltwater, but also by the rebounding of the land when it was freed of the receding glacier's weight.

The forest discovery also could lend insight into Paleoindian history, Hunter says. He is researching the Straits of Mackinac, where he thinks he's found more wood. Contour maps show a drowned river valley 200 feet deep in the straits. Hunter hypothesizes that small groups of hunters and gatherers may have camped along the shore of this drowned river. Researchers would have a better chance of

finding evidence of these people by looking at the old shorelines that are now about 100 feet underwater. He realizes this hope is a long shot. Such evidence would be hard to find because those ancient people didn't build permanent structures. Hunter's team will have to look for fire rings or piles of animal bones, which are relatively small and could have been easily scattered. The researchers will return to the Huron and Mackinac sites this summer.

The Lake Huron site was discovered in 1997 by Gary Biniecki, a dive instructor who was exploring an old shipwreck. He told his friend, Luke Clyburn; Clyburn told his friend, Hunter.

Hunter dove on the site with the help of Clyburn and his certified Sea Cadet divers.

Clyburn is the commanding officer of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC), Great Lakes Division, a nonprofit organization for American teenagers who have an interest in maritime careers. Based in Mount Clemens, the organization offers participants hands-on experience as crew members of the training ship *Pride of Michigan*.

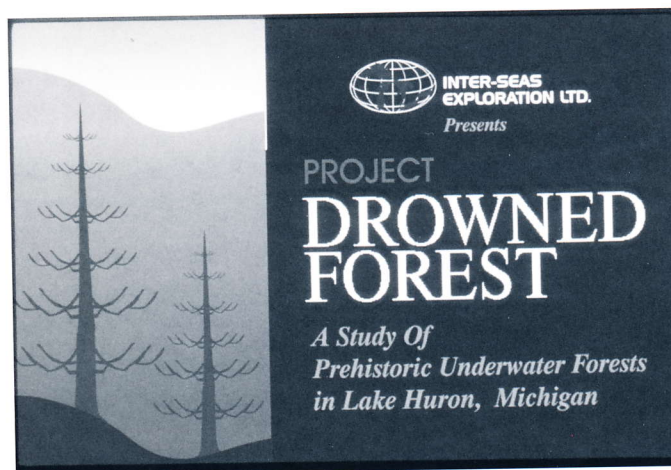
Cadets help with projects such as the drowned forest study. Since 1999, the cadets on the *Pride* have made several dives and retrieved wood samples, which were later analyzed. The team hopes to lease side-scan sonar equipment to help find tree remnants. With such a device, the ship would tow a torpedo-like sensor, that produces high-energy sound. Returning sound signals are processed by a computer to provide information about the shape and size of the object.

"One difficulty is that the side-scan image will show objects, but it won't tell you what the object is — a mound of mud, a rock or a piece of wood," Hunter says. "You have to dive to verify the nature of the object."

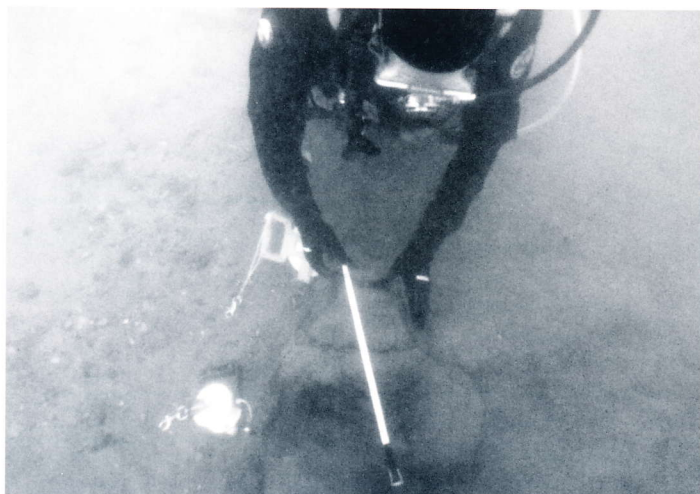
Hunter's team also uses a remote operated vehicle (ROV), a miniature submarine that contains a video camera. They work the ROV from the surface to see images of what's below.

Wood collected during the summer 2000 exploration is under analysis at a tree-ring research lab at the University of Arizona. Researchers look at the relative thickness of tree rings to make inferences about the growing season and climate 9,000 to 6,000 years ago.

"In years with good growth







conditions, a fairly wide growth ring is produced," Hunter says. "The tree-ring analysis will show you more precisely whether any given year was good or bad in rainfall and temperature for that particular species."

This summer, the team is mapping the forest site, which is at least 200 square feet. Divers will set up a grid with ropes attached to stakes. Then they will number each square and record the contents of each with video and sketches made on underwater slates.

Hunter suspects the Huron forest is much larger than what they've found and that many more lie in the Great Lakes, in addition to those known near Tobermory, Ontario, the Straits of Mackinac and Green Bay. One of his goals is to rent sediment-penetrating sonar instruments to find buried trees. Lake currents in recent years uncovered the tree remnants they have found. The wood wouldn't have remained in such good condition if it were exposed to the water, where bacteria and fungi would cause it to decompose, Hunter says.

Oakland University in 2000 provided a small grant to help start the project. This year, OU will match a \$17,000 grant that Hunter won from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The funds will help pay for expanded tests to determine the age of the wood and the kinds of tree species found on the site.

For those working on the project, the experience is moving. Clyburn says it's an exciting project in his own

backyard. Joe Tabone, a former Sea Cadet who dove on the site, liked the adventure.

"We were exploring things that nobody else had explored before," he says. Tabone, 21, of Fraser, Mich., was a cadet for seven years. Now he attends Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City, where he is studying to be an engineering officer on a merchant ship.

The magnitude of the lake level fluctuations is what impresses Hunter.

"Whenever we are out at the Lake Huron site, I am struck with the realization that here I am more than two miles from land, and this was where the shore of the lake was once located, 40 feet below the ship," Hunter says. "It was once a wooded area supporting an evergreen forest and a host of animals and plant life that was typical of post-glacial forests."

Not much has been published on the submerged forests in other parts

## Cadets dive into naval life

As many as 16 U.S. Naval Sea Cadets per trip help with researching the drowned forest as they earn their sea legs aboard the 80-foot *Pride of Michigan*. Most of their work is during the summer, when the water is warmer. Still, the temperature at 40 feet is in the 50s.

"It's pretty cold for wet suit diving," says OU Biology Professor Doug Hunter. "If you're used to the Caribbean, it's a real shock."

In 1998, the cadets helped Hunter document the density of zebra mussels on shipwrecks in Green Bay, the Straits of Mackinac and northern Lake Huron. The objectives of the Sea Cadet program are to introduce youth to naval life, to develop in them a sense of pride, patriotism, courage, and self-reliance, and to help them learn to work in groups. Cadets learn in the classroom and through applied instruction in subjects such as basic seamanship, military drills and leadership. They also participate in community service projects such as fairs and food drives. For more information on the Great Lakes Division, call Commanding Officer Luke Clyburn at (248) 666-9359 or go to <http://www.prideofmichigan.org>.



of the Great Lakes, Hunter says. He plans to share his findings in a non-technical report for the public, produce some educational materials for Michigan teachers with the help of colleagues from Oakland Schools, and eventually publish the results in a scientific journal.

It's sure to be pretty deep stuff. ■



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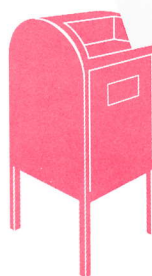
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# Tiger Tales

Though it's been more than a year since the Detroit Tigers moved from the corner of Michigan and Trumbull, there are still tales to be told about Tiger Stadium.

**Tom Stanton CAS '82**, founder and former owner of *The Voice* Newspapers, has written a memoir about the ballpark based on fan reminiscences during the 1999

season, the Tigers' final year at the old stadium.

Stanton's book, *The Final Season: Fathers, Sons and One Last Season in a Classic American Ballpark*, published in June by Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press of New York, is about how the ballpark connects generations of people, Stanton says.

"The initial idea was to tell the history of the park through the fans," he says. "As I got more into it, a more personal, deeper meaning emerged. It had to do with the four generations of my family that had shared a bond through this sport for over 90 years going back to my Polish immigrant grandfather. Tiger Stadium was one of the few places where I could share the past with my family. The whole father-son theme presented itself and resonates throughout the book."

To collect material for the book, Stanton obtained credentials allowing him access to batting practice and the press box, and he attended all 81 home games that season. The resulting work of literary nonfiction is presented in a game-by-game

format with anecdotes culled from Stanton's interviews with hundreds of fans, players and media members.



Among the more memorable fans Stanton met who demonstrated the stadium's drawing power was an elderly man visiting the ballpark for the final time. When asked to recall the last time he had been to the stadium, the man said his most

recent visit had occurred some 80 years earlier – when he went to see Ty Cobb play when the ballpark was known as Navin Field in 1916.

But Stanton says his most valuable experience was reuniting his father and uncle at the stadium. The two of them had not seen each other or spoken in 27 years.

"It was neat all those many years later to be able to resurrect their relationship at that place during that final season," Stanton says. "I realized throughout the season that many of my memories are set in places that no longer exist, like my grandfather's home in Detroit. Tiger Stadium was a place where you could connect with family and reminisce. And that helped me gain a deeper appreciation for my own family. That's part of what you lose when you lose a place like Tiger Stadium."

Stanton said his next book will be based on his research of New Baltimore, Mich., where he now resides, and how the city is coping with change.

— Jeff Samoray

**Patricia D. Jones CAS '84** co-authored a book titled, *Learning Outcomes and the Educational Value of Cooperative Education*, published by the Cooperative Education Association. She also was given the Educator of the Year Award last year by the Midwest Cooperative Education Association.

**Steven Lehto CAS '89**

recently published a book titled, *Lemon Law Bible* and was appointed an adjunct faculty member at the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law where he teaches consumer protection.

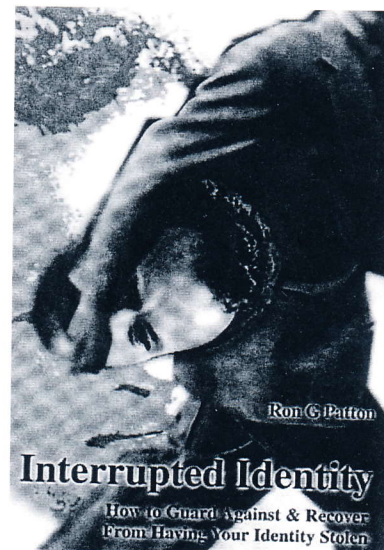


**Amy J. Parrent CAS '78** recently published *The Detroit Zoo Guidebook: Celebrating and Saving Wildlife* and



was previously in charge of publications, marketing and public relations for the Detroit Institute of Arts.

**Ronald Patton CAS '73** had his book, *Interrupted Identity*, published by Writers Club Press. The book offers ways to guard against and recover from the crime of identity theft. It is distributed by Ingram Book Company and available online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.borders.com](http://www.borders.com) or [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com). Patton is president of Twintwo Communications, Inc.





## CAREER/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 1960s

**Karl Berakovich CAS '69** recently sold his four Kilwin's Chocolates confectionery shops on Mackinac Island and has opened a new Kilwin's in Birmingham, Mich.

**Larry L. Carey CAS '64** teaches "American Thought and Language" at Michigan State University and has no plans to retire soon.

**Sandra J. Egan CAS '66** has taken an early retirement and is furthering her education by working toward an advanced degree in applied mathematics.

**Brian McCarthy SECS '67** received an MBA from Harvard University in 1972 and, in 1996, retired from the United States Navy at the rank of rear admiral. He is currently a managing director for Moonstruck LLC and resides in Camino, Calif., with his wife, Valerie, and four children.

**Ivy M. Mitchell SEHS '68** retired from Lake Orion Community Schools in June, 1999, after 29 years of service but continues to substitute teach in the system.

**Estela Moreno-Mazzoli CAS '69** is an associate professor in the Modern Languages and Literatures department at Oakland University and recently had two Spanish pieces published.

**Peter Smokler CAS '68** resides in Pacific Palisades, Calif., with his two sons and works as director of photography for *The Drew Carey Show* on ABC. He won an Emmy for outstanding direction of photography for the ABC show, *Sportsnight*, at the 2000 Emmy Awards Presentation.

**Elizabeth (McKenney) Titus CAS '66** received her PhD in political science from Northern Illinois University in December, 1998, and recently became dean of the New Mexico State University library.



### 1970s

**Faleh A. Althani CAS '76** is the owner of a company in Doha, Qatar, and currently resides in

Umslah, Qatar, with his wife and five children.

**Cameron Brunet-Koch CAS '78** has been selected the next president of North Central Michigan College in Petoskey, Mich. She also received the Petoskey community's female leader award at the last Chamber Breakfast.



**Mark A. Burstein CAS '73** earned his Juris Doctor cum laude in 1976 from the Detroit College of Law and

has recently joined Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP as a partner in its Real Estate Tax Appeals Department. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Institute of Professionals in Taxation, and the International Association of Assessing Officers and currently resides in Farmington Hills, Mich.

**Charles O. Burton CAS '74** retired from his position as captain of the Tulsa, Okla., Sheriff's office in July 1999 and is presently employed by Correction Corporation of America as a court administrator.

**Thomas E. Christo CAS '77** has relocated from Bloomfield Hills, Mich., to Indialantic, Fla., where he is a real estate practitioner and a state certified Florida real estate broker.

**Mark Dershwitz CAS '74** was presented with the Oakland University Chemistry Department's Distinguished Alumnus Award in March for his continuous research on

intravenous anesthetics. His results have been published more than 25 times and he has written two books and co-authored one. After attending Oakland University, Dershwitz went on to receive a master's degree and a PhD in pharmacology from Northwestern University.

**Priscilla R. (Namenye) Fisher CAS '71** recently researched and introduced a plan involving prisoner rehabilitation, which was accepted by the Michigan Department of Corrections and is being used statewide. She resides in Ann Arbor.

**Robert M. Hack CAS '74** received his master's degree in psychology from the University of Detroit-Mercy in 1995 and was recently re-elected president of the Michigan Association of Professional Psychologists. Hack also has accepted a position on the State of Michigan Certification Board for Addiction Professionals. He is a member of Psi Chi and the head of the Department of Psychology for St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake. His practice is located in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

**Laura (Gergell) Hall CAS '74** has been named senior graphic designer at Ford & Earl Associates.

**Jan B. Jensen CAS '77** is the owner and managing principal at Dressler Jensen & Associates, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. She recently celebrated 15 years with the firm after taking full responsibility for it in January, 1989.

**Jeffrey G. Johnson CAS '76** wrote an article titled, "The Association Between Cigarette Smoking and Anxiety Disorders During Adolescence and Early Adulthood," which was published in the November 8, 2000, issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

**Steven Kaplan CAS '75** was elected to serve a four-year term as a township trustee for West Bloomfield Township in November 2000. He is employed as an assistant



# Savoring the sweet sounds of African American history

In her entire academic career, **Nancy-Elizabeth Fitch CAS '69** had only one instructor who was a person of color — the late OU professor, Saghir Ahmad. It was Ahmad, she says, who inspired her to become a college professor. Now Fitch is an authority on African American history. Earlier this year, she visited Oakland to talk about the anthology she edited, *How Sweet the Sound: The Spirit of African American History*. The book includes essays, articles and oratory by eminent scholars, thinkers and laypeople that tell the story of how African Americans survived and thrived in a largely hostile environment. This college text is unique because it is based on the oral rather than the written tradition. It invites readers not only to hear African American community life and activities in the various forms of that tradition, but also to visualize them.

Fitch is chairperson, Department of English, and a member of the Division of Social Sciences, College of New Rochelle, in New Rochelle, New York. She has also taught in the history and African American studies departments at Lynchburg College, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Temple University and the University of North Carolina at Asheville. Fitch earned her PhD and MA in history at the University of Michigan.

Her main message in *How Sweet the Sound* is that readers should not think of African Americans as victims, but rather as people who have triumphed over adversity. The book covers aspects of African American history that are often neglected in traditional American history texts.



"A lot of people don't realize that black people took a lot of initiative in gaining their own freedom; they were abolitionists," Fitch says. "They also don't realize that blacks had a cultural heritage that started in Africa and was adopted in different ways in the Western Hemisphere. That culture is what helped people survive. That culture seeps into American culture — it becomes part of every American's heritage, no matter what our backgrounds are."

The text is primarily for history courses, but is also used for African American, American, cultural, women's and ethnic studies. Social service organizations such as the Urban League and other community groups use the book as well.

Fitch grew up in Mount Vernon, New York. Her high school adviser recommended that she attend Oakland because it was hailed as an innovative institution. So she came to OU, sight unseen, and was a resident adviser in Anibal House. A double major in political science and English, Fitch also specialized in modern India; Asian studies was part of the university's core curriculum.

She says one of her favorite experiences at Oakland was independent study with

Economics Professor John Hurd.

"We rebuilt India to make it more economically sound," Fitch says. "It was such a fun course. It really forced me to think hard about things and be analytical."

In addition to her writing and editing, Fitch is known for her photographs of the South, especially landscapes, architecture and artifacts.

"I've never found a region I like better in terms of beauty," she says. "I took pictures of Jefferson's Monticello — parts of buildings, parts of statues. I took a picture of a flower that was growing over a site where Stonewall Jackson had a camp during the Civil War. It's a beautiful place, but there's a lot of blood on the ground. That kind of dichotomy was something that interested me."

In 1998, Fitch participated in the Alden B. Dow Creativity Summer Fellowship in Midland, Mich. She worked with a photographer-mentor on many of these photographs, ending the experience with an exhibit. This summer she hopes to visit new places to photograph.

*How Sweet the Sound*, ISBN 0-15-501302-5, is available from Amazon.com and Harcourt Brace College Publishers — (800) 782-4479.

— Jennifer Charney



prosecutor for Macomb County, as well as an adjunct law professor at Michigan State University-Detroit College of Law.

**Laurel G. Nelson SEHS '73, MAT '79** retired from the Crestwood School District last January.

**Andrew Quinn MAT '74** presented and facilitated a peer mediation workshop on the campus of Oakland University on January 30, 2001.

**Rachel A. Scott MA '70** is currently a senior systems engineer for Bank of America, Transaction Services Network and Architecture. She also is an avid sailor and diver.

**Janice M. (Selahowski) Smolinski SEHS '78, MAT '84** retired last July from her position as principal of Schofield Elementary in the Fitzgerald Public Schools district.

**Bruce B. Tepper MAT '70** was recently part of the Detroit Teacher Internship Program.

**Robert Thornton CAS '77** was promoted to program manager of The Skillman Foundation in Detroit.

**Raymond Tonchen Jr. CAS '78** wrote a piece of music titled *Relief of Bastogne* while he was in the U.S. Army in 1982 that is being made part of a display on Gen. George Patton at the Patton Museum in Ft. Knox, Ky.

## 1980s

**Frances (Kamachos) Amos SBA '80** has been reappointed to the membership committee of the National Association of Counties and is currently the Oakland County commissioner for Waterford and West Bloomfield townships.

**Allan L. Benedict CAS '80** recently celebrated the first anniversary of his privately owned research consulting company, A&K Research.

**Vernal T. Blakley SON '82** has been promoted to vice president of medical management at United American Healthcare.

**Kate (Cryderman) Cole MAT '85** is currently employed as an early childhood coordinator at Macomb Community College.

**Ann M. Deering CAS '80** was promoted from vice president to senior vice president, Bank of Bloomfield Hills.

**Robert J. DeWitte SBA '85** was recently promoted to tax manager in the corporate tax department at Masco Corporation.

**Carol D. Harrison CAS '85, MA '88** is employed at the Royal Oak/Southfield campus of Oakland Community College as an adjunct instructor in the English department. She also runs the library's learning lab.

**Franz Hoffer SBA '84** was promoted to director of purchasing for Collins & Aikman Corporation.

**David Irvine CAS '87** recently presented "Broadcast Television on a Corporate TV Budget" at the Bio-Communicators Association Conference in July 2000. His work won the Michigan Healthcare Communicators Association's Apollo Award of Excellence in the Special Projects category. Irvine received his master's degree in Telecommunication Production from Michigan State University in 1990.

**Rob R. James CAS '83** accepted a position as chair of music at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Ky., where he also is coordinator of percussion.

**Ronald F. Kasper SBA '87** was recently promoted to business strategy and development manager for Volkswagen of America's North American region.

**Sheryl (Clark) Klemanski SEHS '82, MPA '91** was recently appointed assistant vice president for Academic Affairs/Resource Management at Oakland University. She is married to John S. Klemanski, a professor of Political Science at OU.

**Gary P. Lewis CAS '88** works as a graphic artist at Grace & Wild

Digital Studios in Farmington Hills, Mich.

**Robert Martin SBA '80** was promoted to senior vice president for Standard Federal Bank in Troy, Mich.

**Thomas McGee SHS '84, MS '88** has accepted a position with Siemens Information and Communication Networks as a computer and local area network support specialist.

**John McMillan SECS '85, MS '87** was recently featured in a *Detroit Free Press* article on the company he co-founded, Wise Solutions, and its software installers.

**Norma (Myers) Mullin MA '89** has joined Oakland Psychological Clinic where she practices mental health counseling and psychotherapy.

**Michael Osterhage CAS '83** currently works at KSAT-TV in San Antonio, Texas, as a weathercaster and reporter.



**John W. Rees SECS '87** was elected a member of the Dykema Gossett PLLC law firm.\* He is a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of

Michigan, the Michigan Patent Law Association and the American Intellectual Property Law Association. (\*In January 1994, Dykema Gossett PLLC became a professional limited liability company and, at that time, their "partners" became designated as "members."



**James Romzek SBA '81** has accepted a position with Howard & Howard law firm. He is licensed to practice in the state courts of Michigan, the U.S. District

Court for Michigan and the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. He serves as an



advisory member on the board of directors for several businesses, as a member of the State Bar of Michigan, and on the State Bar Committee. He resides in Shelby Township with his wife and two children.

**Martin H. Rosol BGS '89** is enrolled in the Executive Master's Program at Rensselaer Poly-Tech-Hartford, Conn.

**Dominick Salfia SECS '84** is the 2001 winner of the Army Developmental Test Command's Edward H. Gamble Award for most outstanding technical paper by a single author. His article is titled, "Visualization of Wear in Large Caliber Weapons."

**Michael G. Taylor CAS '80** announces that his private practice has relocated from Roseville, Mich., to St. Clair Shores. He specializes in general surgery.

## 1990s

**Patrice A. Alexander CAS '99** is currently at the Center for Creative Studies working on an additional BEA in interior design.

**Michael E. Austerman SBA '96** is currently employed at Pulte Homes in Troy, Mich., as a senior network analyst and has been the proud husband of Janet for the past seven years and father of Everett, born last April.

**Tamika A. Bates SON '99** works as a Labor and Delivery nurse at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich., and also coaches the varsity girl's basketball team at Centerline St. Clement High School.

**Theresa (Delaney) Beamon CAS '94** received an Ebony Award recognizing her work in the field of education as an avid community volunteer, tutor and teacher. She also is an OU Project Upward Bound (PUB) alumna who continues to serve as a PUB mentor.

**M. B. Boeson MSN, CRNA '99** had an article titled "Peripheral Nerve Injury from Intravenous Cannulation: A Case Report"

published in the *American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Journal* in February 2000.

**Shannon (Taylor) Brewer CAS '93** recently accepted a position as a psychologist at the Alcohol Treatment Center in Raleigh, Mich.

**Michael Desoff MBA '99** is employed as the MIS manager of Bing-Lear Manufacturing.



**Sheryl A. Ferlito MAT '96** is employed with Utica Community Schools as a special education intervention consultant and is currently preparing to

become an area trainer for Jane Fell Greene's Language curriculum. In 1996, she received the Macomb County Teacher of the Year Award.

**Dan Garr MPT '96** accepted a position with Health Quest Physical Therapy and Wellness Center in Rochester Hills. He and his wife, Lisa, have two children, Haley and Ryan.

**Dana (Connolly) Garwood CAS '95** just completed her MBA at Wayne State University and is an accountant for Deloitte & Touche.

**William Gibbons Jr. SBA '93** was recently promoted to partner at Gofrank & Mattina P.C.

**Jeffery L. Gougeon CAS '94** is working toward a master's degree in Material Culture and Museum Studies at Michigan State University.

**Christopher Grabowski SEHS '98** graduated from Michigan State University with a master's degree in educational technologies. He is currently working for General Motors.

**Christopher Griffen SECS '96** was appointed senior director of Acoustics Technology for the Collins & Aikman Global Product Development Division.

**M. J. Hardy MSN, CRNA '99** co-authored an article titled

"Bilateral Tension Pneumothorax During Jet Ventilation" in the *American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Journal* in June 2000.

**Brent E. Lilly SBA '95** joined the U.S. Marine Corps after college as a supply/fiscal officer for almost five years and is currently employed with Merrill Lynch in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

**Adriann McCall CAS '94** is a marketing and community relations representative for AC Transit and is the first African American planning commissioner in the city of San Leandro, Calif.. McCall is the chair of the San Leandro Chamber's African American business council and, in 1996, received an executive management certificate in public relations. She is currently working toward her master's degree at the University of San Francisco.

**Gary J. McCarrick CAS '97** is currently working as a leasing manager at General Motors Acceptance Corporation in Troy, Mich.

**Christina Mikiczenko SON '99** works in the Emergency Room at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and received the Spirit of Detroit award for volunteer work dealing with HIV/AIDS awareness.

**Barbara (Grim) Oakley MS '95, PhD '98** was featured in OU's *Inside Oakland* newsletter for her assistance in research on Electromagnetic Compatibility in the School of Engineering and Computer Science at Oakland University.

**Michael Oblizajek SBA '96** is an attorney with the firm of Sumner & Sumner in Rochester Hills, Mich.

**Nicole (Snyder) Payne CAS '94** is a marketing director at Climax Research Services.

**Kimberlee (Florka) Pope SBA '93** received her MSF from Walsh College in April 2000 and was promoted to vice president in middle market commercial lending at TCF National Bank.



**Jyothi (Rayalacheruvu) Puli MS '97** launched a new Web site, GoToSweepstakes.com, a guide to online sweeps, lotto contests and results, and opportunities for free merchandise.

**Tom Rhodes SECS '91** was promoted to engineering manager for ABB Automation Powertrain Assembly division, located in Auburn Hills, Mich.

**Susan (Schoonfield) Robinson CAS '92, '98** accepted a position as assistant managing editor with *The Tribune* in Seymour, Ind.

**Laura Rodgers MSN, CRNA '99** co-authored an article titled "Acute Circulatory and Respiratory Collapse in Obstetrical Patients: A Case Report and Review of the Literature," published in the *American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Journal* in October 2000.

**Denise A. Sedman CAS '95** has joined Manning Selvage & Lee Public Relations in Troy, Mich., as an account supervisor.

**Janet (Weicheo) Seidell SHS '93, MPT '95** was promoted to physical therapy supervisor over the acute care and outpatient areas at William Beaumont Hospital in Troy, Mich., and taught a physical therapy class last fall as a guest lecturer.

**Terry P. Singer MBA '93** is an accountant for the Harper Moderating, Incorporated marketing firm and is married to Michelle Jones-Singer, M.D. They have three sons: Kellen, Aaron and Iann.

**Karen Stahl CAS '99** is working toward her master's degree at the University of Maryland with a specialty in archives, records and information management. She currently works at the National Archives Library in College Park, Md.

**Philip Stayhue CAS '97** has been named an account executive at G-2 Communications.

**Susan M. Steele CAS '94** was promoted to project manager, experience design, at Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village last October.

**Michele (Leppek) Stawowy MBA '96** was promoted to general manager of the Taylor Manufacturing Division at FabriSteel Products Incorporated.

**Jeff R. Sturgeon SEHS '98** is currently working as a recruiter for Porsche Engineering Services.

**Kathleen A. Tricomo MED '98** was one of five Michigan teachers to receive a Milken National Educator Award in 1999 from the Milken Family Foundation for excellence in education. She is a teacher at Millside Elementary School in the Algonac Community School District, and a member of her district's curriculum council and many school committees.

**Michael Wadsworth CAS '93** was recently named assistant director of the Old Dominion University Office of Residence Life. He earned his master's degree from Kent State University and is a member of numerous housing officer associations.

**Amy (Rickstad) Wilczynski CAS '95, MA '00** was recently promoted to account supervisor from senior account executive at John Bailey & Associates Public Relations Inc. She is a member of the Public Relations Society of America and the Women's Economic Club.

## 2000s

**M. Corazza MSN, CRNA '00** had an article titled "Massive Blood Transfusion" published in the *American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Journal* in August 2000.

**Jaulanda M. Davenport SBA '00** is attending the University of Phoenix, pursuing graduate education in business administration and technology management.

**Michelle D. Guy CAS '00** is currently attending Central Michigan University pursuing her master's degree in Human Resource Administration.

**Aleksandar Zafirovski SHS '00** accepted a position as a radiation therapist at Northwestern University Hospital.

## ENGAGEMENTS/WEDDINGS

**John Alt SECS '95** and **Michele Jozefowicz SEHS '96, MED '00** were married on February 11, 2000. He works as an account manager at Mark IV Automotive and she is a fourth-grade teacher at Way Elementary in the Bloomfield Hills, Mich., school district.

**Colleen Damm, CAS '96** married Joe Sangster on October 7, 2000. She currently works at Thomas Group, Incorporated in Troy, Mich.

**Carrie Dobrzelewski SEHS '96** married Ed Weber on July 7, 1999, and is currently working toward her master's degree at Marygrove College.

**Greggory R. Garrett SECS '97** and **Amy N. Block CAS '97, SHS '99, MPT '00** were married on October 21, 2000.

**Mary Hovanec SEHS '85** married Todd Grant on June 17, 2000. She has worked as the senior citizen/program director for the City of Eastpointe, Mich., for the past 14 years.

**Gerald D. Luzynski SBA '95** and **Lisa M. Bielenda BGS '95, MS '97** were married on July 17, 1999, and currently reside in Chesterfield Township. Gerald recently received a promotion to technical architect at E.Piphany.

**Henry K. Myles CAS '78** married Priscilla Graham on February 10, 2001. He is employed at KLOL-FM in Houston, Texas, and is a registered massage therapist.

**Karen Newman CAS '82** married Freddy Cohen, formerly of Oak Park, in 1994.

**Seymoure Pritikin CAS '96** was married in June of 1999 to Kimberly Ann.

**Patricia Schuck MPT '96** was married to Sean Elliott, a traveling therapist from Australia, in 1998. She is a licensed physiologist at





Glengary Hospital, where she works with elderly patients and organized a "Pet Therapy for the Elderly" program. They will be opening a therapy clinic together soon.

**Curt Sobieski SBA '96** and **Carolyn Perry CAS '91** married on October 23, 1999. They both work for Plante & Moran, LLP in Southfield, Mich.

**Carrie L. Szatkiewski CAS '97** married Troy Fortune on May 20, 2000. She graduated from the Wayne State University Law School in May 2000 and passed the bar exam in July 2000. She is now working as a public benefits attorney at Lakeshore Legal Aid.

## BIRTHS

**Jacqueline Nelson SON '86** and **Richard L. Briggs SON '86** are proud to announce the birth of their fourth child, Kaitlyn Michelle, born July 15, 1999. Richard graduated from the University of Detroit-Mercy nurse anesthesia program in December 2000. This is his second master's degree.

**Mark DiMaggio SBA '83** and his wife, Stephanie, announce the birth of their son, Adam Casey, born May 30, 2000.

**Anita (Schamante) Irons CAS '87** and her husband, Peter, announce the birth of their second child, Christina Rose, born June 26, 2000. She joins her brother, Andrew.

**Shawn Fryzel CAS '93** and **Jodi Bottorff Fryzel CAS '98** announce the birth of their son, Aaron Chester, born on August 17, 2000.

**Kelly O'Brien CAS '92** and her husband, Tony, proudly announce the birth of their third son, Liam Gabriel, born November 23, 2000. Liam joins his brothers Evan and Connor.

**Kurt Penrose SECS '95** and **Kimberly (Dimartino) Penrose SEHS '97** proudly announce the birth of their second child, Adam, born August 28, 2000.

**Jacqueline Smith-Davis CAS '84** and her husband, Laurence, recently became the proud parents of Le'Elle Elizabeth Davis, born October 8, 1999.

**Timothy Tsiang SBA '91** and **Cynthia (Hill) Tsiang CAS '96** announce the birth of their first child, Nathan Ren-Liang, born January 18, 2001.

## DEATHS

**Jeffrey M. Boss CAS '82, MA '85** died on March 3, 2001, at age 40. He resided in Ferndale.

**Sandra K. Bunce SEHS '63** died at 59 years of age on February 27, 2001. She retired from the Waterford School District in 1998 and spent her retirement in Cheboygan and Texas where she enjoyed golfing.

**Nancy (Holowka) Grenier MA '75** died on December 29, 2000, at age 51. She was a former counselor at Henry Ford High School for 22 years where she was named the 1984 counselor of the year. She resided in Rochester.

**Gregory A. Gwisdalla CAS '70** died at the age of 53 on March 6, 2001. He was an avid golfer.

**Terrence Hefferan SBA '65** died on January 28, 2001, at the age of 60. He was a resident of Grand Rapids.

**William A. Heider CAS '68, MAT '89** died on December 9, 2000, at age 58. He was a dedicated science and social studies teacher in the Pontiac School District for 30 years.

**Patricia Kaschalk-Knecht CAS '89** died on February 15, 2001, of cancer at age 34. She resided in Macomb with her husband, John, and two children, Alex and Alyssa.

**Kathleen H. Klement CAS '79, MA '84** died at age 54 on January 28, 2001. She was a loving wife to Donald Klement, sister to three and aunt to six.

**Sharyl M. Lubbers SEHS '79** died on January 26, 2001, at age 63. She was an accomplished artist and a former member of the North Oakland Builders Association. She was named Woman of the Year in 1975 by the Keego Harbor Business and

Professional Women's Club and was presented with highest commendations in honor of her nomination to receive the Governor's Award for Outstanding Community Service. Sharyl was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and sister.

**William Aloysius Petrick CAS '99** of Rochester Hills died on February 23, 2001, at the age of 25. He had served in the U.S. Army and was the son of William and Mary Jane.

**Melissa J. Sherman CAS '92** died on March 21, 2001, at age 37. She was very active in community service for the disabled in the Rochester area and was a devoted wife, daughter and sister.

**Donald A. Sippel SBA '82** died on March 23, 2001, at age 40. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, son and friend to many.

**Stanley Gordon Spindler CAS '75** of Rochester Hills died on January 1, 2001, at the age of 58. He was employed at Century 21 and was a member of the Board of Realtors, K of C, Astronomical Society of Oakland County and ASCAP. Spindler wrote and performed music for the Dream Cruise.

**Fred K. Waits SBA '74** died on December 10, 2000, at age 53. He was employed with Workplace Integrators of Bingham Farms, and coached basketball at Schoolcraft Elementary and AAU - Waterford Wave for the past five years. He also was a member of the Lions Club, Waterford Sportsman's Club, and the Detroit Sportsman's Club, and was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, who served in Vietnam.

**Clifton R. Wharton III CAS '75** died on April 11, 2000, of a pulmonary embolism.





Announcing...

## The 2001 Alumni Awards Recipients

The Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2001 Alumni Awards. A formal presentation of these awards will be made at the annual Alumni Awards Banquet on Sept. 21. Make your reservations now.

### Distinguished Alumni Service Award

**Oakland University's highest alumni honor, recognizing outstanding alumni leadership and service**

**James Wilbert SBA '73**

*Managing Partner,  
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP*

James Wilbert has been a member of the OUAA Board of Directors since 1995; he is a founding member of the OU Accounting Department Advisory Board; a member of the SBA Board of Visitors; a charter member of the SBA Alumni Affiliate Board; a President's Club member; a former trustee of the Business Education Alliance and Junior Achievement in Michigan; and a member of the New York City Corporate Advisory Council to the Children's Aid Society.

### Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

**Recognizing outstanding professional achievement or contributions to the community**

**Robert McGowan  
CAS '67, MA '74**

*Senior Vice President and Partner,  
Smith-Winchester*

Robert McGowan has spent more than 10 years supplying the Food Bank of Oakland County with fresh, organically grown vegetables. He is a member of the Oakland County Food Bank Board of Directors; a recipient of the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award; won the MSU-Extension Oakland County Master Gardener of the Year 2000 award; and produces the Capabilities brochure for the Hunger Action Coalition Detroit.

### The Odyssey Award Recognizing alumni whose lives exemplify OU's motto "to seek virtue and knowledge"

**Patricia Book CAS '72**

*Associate Vice President for  
Outreach and Executive Director,  
Division of Continuing Education,  
Pennsylvania State University*

Patricia Book is a member of the University Continuing Education Association, International Committee, the International Council for Distance Education World Conference Planning Committee, the National University Continuing Education Association Board of Directors, chair of the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, and has published numerous conference and technical reports. Book also is a former director for Applied Demographic and Socio-economic Research at the Community Research Center at Fairbanks North Star Borough.

### The Spirit Award Recognizing exemplary volunteer service to the university

**Stanley Babiuk SECS '73**

*Senior Vice President for Project  
Development, ANR Pipeline  
Company*

Stanley Babiuk is a member of the Oakland University Alumni Association Board of Directors, chair of the Nominating and Bylaws Committee, a President's Club member, and a member of the Foundation Board of Directors at the State University of New York - Oswego. Babiuk also is actively involved with the School of Engineering and Computer Science and supported a Graduate Fellowship and Engineering Scholarship program in cooperation with ANR Pipeline Company, which provided scholarship funds to students and supported several alumni programs.

**Chris Catallo CAS '90**

*Vice President, Founder,  
Sv3 Media Group*

Chris Catallo worked with Oakland University on contract to develop the university's Web site and participated in the Applied Technology in Business Program for which he contributed two, two-year student scholarships through Sv3 Media Group. Catallo also has served as a Corporate Associate, and has hired many Oakland University students and alumni into his company.

### Honorary Alumnus/a Award Recognizing non-OU alumni/ae who have given outstanding service to the university

**Margaret Allesee**

*Retired Teacher/Journalist*

Maggie Allesee is a member of the School of Nursing (SON) Board of Visitors, an OU Foundation Director, and sits on the boards of Meadow Brook Theatre and the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. Allesee also has 34 external board memberships, including the Karmanos Cancer Institute, Cranbrook, the Women's Survival Center, Michigan Opera Theatre, Common Ground Sanctuary, and Lighthouse in Pontiac. She is a major contributor to the SON where she endowed a chair in geriatric rehabilitation.

**John Savio**

*Vice President, Oakland University  
Branch of the MSU Federal Credit  
Union*

John Savio has made an Enduring Legacy for Kresge Library Pledge. He is a WOCO sponsor, and sits on the OU Senate Athletic Advisory Committee, OU Athletic Mascot Committee, OU Presidential Task Force-Creating the Future, and the SBA Board of Visitors. Savio also has participated in Oakland's Project Upward Bound, and the President's Club. He is a past president of the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce.

**George Seifert**

George Seifert is a member of the OU Foundation Board and a Rochester Foundation Director. He serves as an adviser to the dean for the School of Business and has provided scholarship funds to students in the College of Arts and Sciences. Seifert has been a member of the Investment and Gift Policy Committee, the SBA Board of Visitors, has participated in Technology Planning, and has been an Oakland University staff training presenter.



# Save the date!

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Date: Friday, Sept. 21, 2001

Time: 6 p.m. Cocktails

7 p.m. Dinner

Place: Meadow Brook Hall

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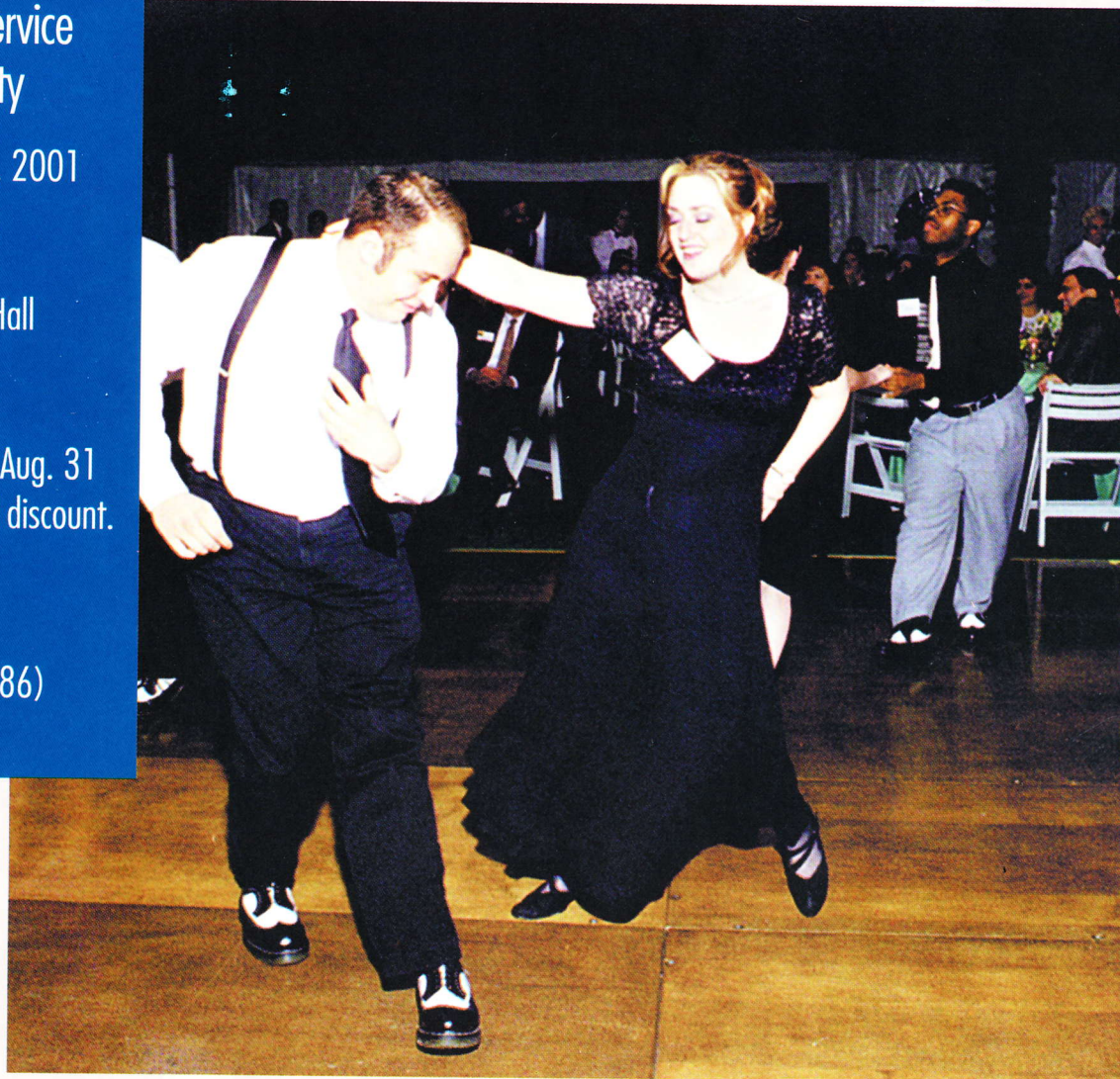
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