

inside OAKLAND

News briefs for Oakland University colleagues



Herbert Wilf, professor, University of Pennsylvania, and co-winner of the American Mathematical Society's 1998 Leroy P. Steele Prize, was the after-dinner speaker.

Math Department hosts international conference

Oakland University became the international center for algebraic combinatorics May 1-3 as the best in the field gathered in Dodge Hall of Engineering to present their latest research, and exciting new applications for science, industry and society.

Michigan's automotive and manufacturing industries use combinatorics — sophisticated methods of counting structures and their arrangements — to maximize space, reduce operating costs and improve product design.

Speakers came to OU from Europe, Asia and North America. They included Professor Herbert Wilf (University of Pennsylvania), co-winner of the Leroy P. Steele Prize; Professor David Jackson (University of Waterloo), one of the founders of algebraic combinatorics; Ronald

Graham, chief scientist, AT&T Research; and Jennifer Tour Chayes, manager, Theory Group, Microsoft. The unique mix of minds from academia and industry drew more than 100 participants, including 10 minority and women mathematicians.

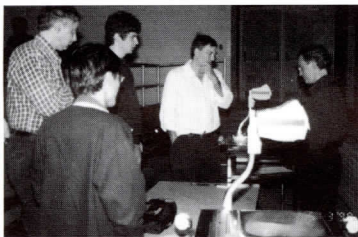
Corporate and government sponsors included General Motors Corporation Global Research and Development Operations, AT&T, Microsoft, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Waterloo Maple, Elsevier, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Security Agency. NSF provided special support for 15 graduate student participants.

On-campus sponsors included the OU Foundation, the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), the University Research

Committee, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and the Division of Academic Affairs. OU organizing committee members included Devadatta Kulkarni, conference director, Eddie Cheng, Jerry Grossman and Marc Lipman, Mathematics and Statistics.

"CAS was pleased to sponsor CALCA," Dean David Downing says. "It was a major academic and intellectual enterprise that is bound to boost Oakland's image as an international, research-oriented university with top-notch faculty and facilities."

"The theme of CALCA, great mathematics with genuine applications, not only shows off OU at its best, but matches the emphasis of our new doctoral program in applied mathematical sciences," says Marc Lipman, chair.



Anders Bjorner (far right), Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, inspires a post-presentation discussion on Subspace Arrangements Over Finite Fields.



CALCA attendees enjoy refreshments and conversation during a break.

Engineering faculty win research contract

The National Science Foundation awarded Oakland University Professors Sankar Sengupta, Ronald Srodawa and Robert Van Til, School of Engineering and Computer Science, a \$35,000 contract for their research on Remote Design/Manufacturing Laboratories.

Van Til also recently served as a proposal reviewer for the 1999 Idaho Specific Research Grant Program. Reviewers evaluated proposals that provide startup funds for faculty members from Idaho's public institutions.

Oakland appoints vice provost for Information Technology

A new vice provost will expand Oakland University's use of information technologies, including applications in the classroom to develop job skills students need for the 21st century.

Ronald Cigna starts his position July 1 as vice provost for Information Technology. He will work closely with administrators, deans, faculty, staff, students and the local technical community.

Cigna comes to OU from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW), a regional campus for Indiana University (IU) and Purdue University. He has held the position of director of Computing and Data Processing Services at IPFW since 1991.

Before that, he was assistant director of Administrative Information Services for more than two years at the University of Rochester in New York.

He worked with Xerox Corporation for several years before moving from the corporate world to the academic setting.

Cigna received his MBA in 1982 from the University of Rochester's Graduate School of Business.

Educator's Recruiting Day pays off for OU students, alumni

Twenty-four school districts and schools interviewed 130 Oakland University teaching candidates May 13 during Educator's Recruiting Day.

The third annual fair, open only to Oakland students and alumni, proves to be invaluable for OU students and alumni. Unlike at other job fairs, district representatives have better opportunities to learn about candidate skills. Oakland students and alumni say they value the event because they can interview with so many districts at once.

Districts end up hiring about 75 percent of the participants.

breaking NEWS

IO to return in September

Inside Oakland is taking a break. University Communications and Marketing will next publish the faculty/staff newsletter on September 1. Meanwhile, please e-mail article ideas and Of Distinction items to Ted Coutilish at coutilish@oakland.edu or call 3185 or fax 3182.

Get your ticket to Division 1 basketball

Season tickets for Oakland University's first year of Division 1 basketball will go on sale at 5 p.m. June 15 in the Fireside Lounge, Oakland Center.

Season tickets for faculty and staff will be \$72 per seat (covers all 12 men's games, including Michigan State University on November 17, plus 12 women's games).

Payroll deduction is available.

Single ticket sales will begin on October 17.

All season tickets are theatre-style, chairback seats.

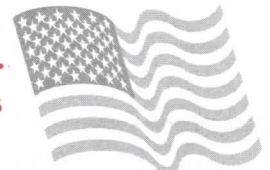
Call 4034 for more information.

ERI researcher wins first Oakland University March of Dimes grant

Barkur Shastry, associate professor, Biomedical Sciences, Eye Research Institute, won Oakland University's first grant from the prestigious March of Dimes.

The MOD, a national funding agency, awarded Shastry \$140,000 for a two-year period. Shastry and clinicians at Beaumont Hospital are researching whether genetics are a factor

in blindness among premature babies. Venkat Reddy, distinguished professor, Biomedical Sciences, ERI, says the grant is extraordinary because the MOD funds research for birth defects but does not fund eye research very often. The MOD, Reddy adds, typically awards lower sums of \$10,000-\$20,000 for one year.



Oakland professor testifies on flag desecration

Robert Goldstein, professor, Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences, testified March 25 before the US Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution about a proposed amendment that would outlaw flag desecration. He asserted that flag desecration must be protected or America's basic democratic integrity will be jeopardized.

"We do not live in a society in which the majority can silence dissent, but in one in which free expression is guaranteed to even the most unpopular among us," Goldstein says.

Amendment proponents argue that the flag is special and it deserves an exception to normal protections for freedom of expression.

OU lauds engineering professor's distinguished career

Oakland University honored Engineering Professor Joseph Hovanesian at the Third Annual Faculty Recognition Luncheon April 24 for his exemplary career and contributions to his profession. He earned

Oakland's 1997 Research Excellence Award.

Hovanesian, chair and professor, Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science, is an internationally renowned scholar. The pres-

tigious Society for Experimental Mechanics also honored Hovanesian in 1997 with the Max Frocht Award for outstanding achievement in experimental mechanics.