

Archives  
LD  
4142  
.O342  
A1  
2008  
Fall

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | Fall 2008

# DIVA *comes home*

## INSIDE

---

Forces of nature

Worldwide classroom

Curl up by the fire

---

Special OU-Macomb insert





## MAGAZINE STAFF

Executive Editor | **Geoff Upward**

Editor | **Lillian Lorenzi**

Art Director | **Debra Lashbrook**

Photographer | **Rick Smith**

Designer | **Eric Zurawski**

Editorial Assistant | **Sheila Carpenter**

Production Coordinator | **Bonnie Dragan**

Class Notes Coordinator | **Carol Carpenter, CAS '00**

Staff Writer | **Susan Thwing-McHale**

Oakland University Magazine is published twice per year. It is distributed free of charge to 76,000 alumni, staff and friends. See current and past issues on OU's News & Info Web site at [www.oakland.edu](http://www.oakland.edu).

Reproduction without permission is prohibited. ISSN: 1054-6480. Issue No. 79.

**Editorial offices** 433 Varner Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, MI 48309-4401.  
Phone (248) 370-3184 | Fax (248) 370-3182.

**Letters to the Editor** should be mailed to our editorial offices or e-mailed to **OUMag@oakland.edu**. Include your name, address, a phone number or e-mail address. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

**Address Changes** Call (248) 364-6133 or e-mail **ouaa@oakland.edu**

Oakland University is an equal opportunity and affirmative action institution.



## ON THE COVER

Soprano Jacquelyn Wagner, CAS '03, has performed in Europe's finest opera houses. She returned home this summer to perform with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Meadow Brook Music Festival.

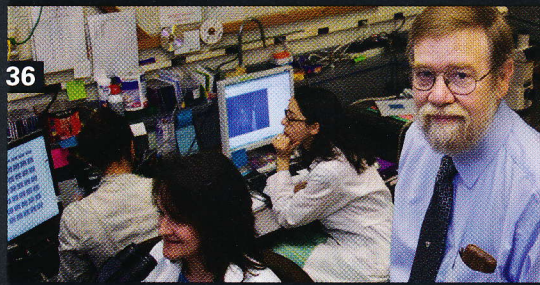
Archives  
LD  
4142  
0342  
A1  
2008  
Fall



## OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | Fall 2008



44



36

## FEATURES

### 16 What's your game?

*Clubs are trump for sports-minded students.*

### 20 Worldwide classroom

*OU programs take students way beyond campus borders.*

### 24 Up to Par

*Entrepreneur finds success in unusual places.*

### 26 Planted

*Alum helps her community 'go green.'*

### 28 Curl up by the fire

*A cold weather guide to healthy eats and good reads.*

### 34 A conversation with...

*New med school dean.*

### 36 Forces of nature

*Researcher calculates motion and movement.*

### 38 Life changes

*Nursing program trains local residents for new careers.*

### 42 Top dog

*Leader Dogs for the Blind gets new CEO.*

### Cover Story

### 44 Diva comes home

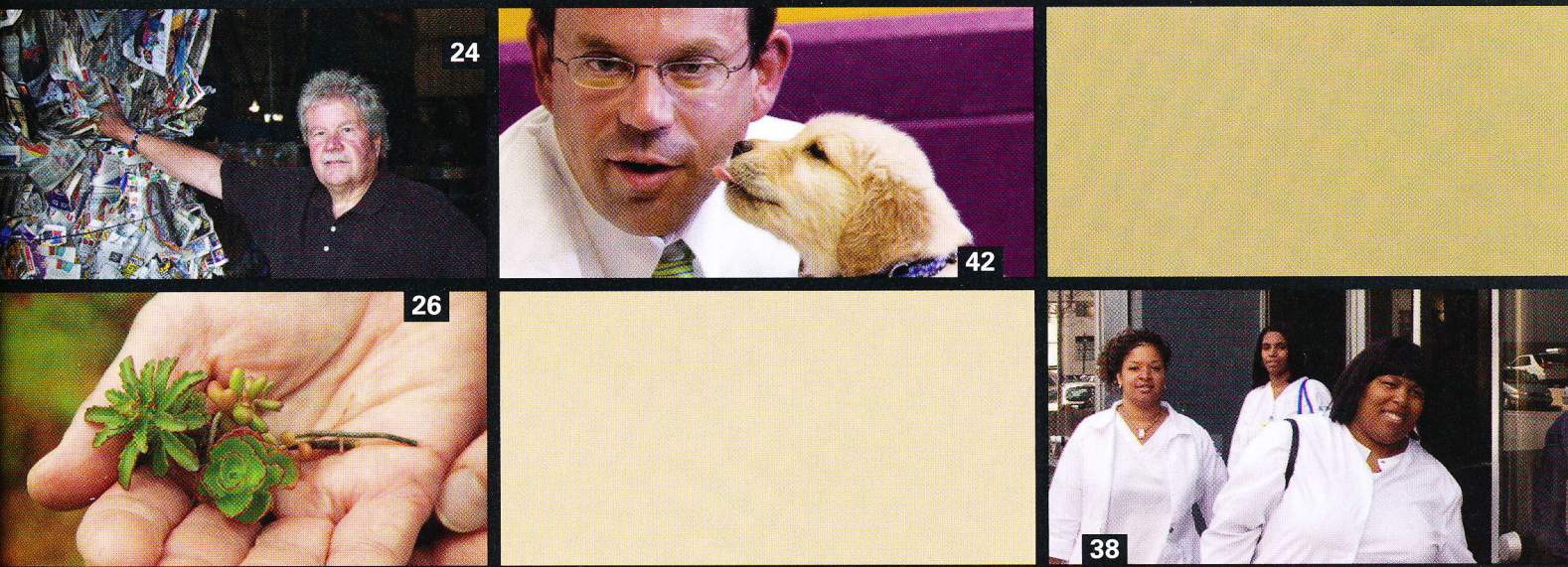
*Soprano returns stateside and hits the high notes.*

### 46 Know your way around?

*Oakland unveils new campus map.*

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
KRESGE LIBRARY  
ROCHESTER, MI 48309-4484





## DEPARTMENTS

- 3 Letters
- 4 News
- 12 Campaign for OU
- 14 Sports
- 19 Gold Minds
- 64 OU Moment

## ALUMNI

- 48 Alumni News
- 54 Schools & Colleges
- 56 Class Notes



## ALUMNI PROFILES

- 57 *Deborah Hejl, SEHS '73, in the House.*
- 58 *Harry Orr, CAS '71, unravels genetic mystery.*
- 61 *Jo Long, BGS '04, makes sweet dreamzzzz for local kids.*
- 62 *Linda Voss, MBA '86, SBA '82, works in big numbers.*





**C**raig Parr reached into an enormous bin, pulled out an oddly shaped piece of dark gray plastic and placed it in my hand. I turned it over and examined it. I looked at it very closely. "It's a piece of old plastic." That was my take on it. His was quite different: "I see profit and opportunity," he told me. And after spending a few hours with this OU alum from the 60s, I began to see it that way, too.

That "piece of old plastic" was actually a very expensive dashboard component from a recent model Cadillac. It, like hundreds of thousands of other automotive castoffs, had found its way to Parr's warehouse in Flint, Mich. From there, it would make its way to a recycling plant nearby, where he and his partner, Boyt Johnson (affectionately dubbed a 'garbologist' by Parr) recycle plastic, paper and just about anything else you can think of. Parr, who after retiring from GM pursued his lifelong dream of becoming an entrepreneur, has always been able to see opportunity in unlikely places.

He's not unlike many of the people you'll find in this issue of the magazine — creative individuals like Greg Grabowski, the new CEO at Leader Dogs for the Blind, who has built a career on uncovering such prospects and making the most of them. Jacquelyn Wagner, CAS '03, is another classic example: This young soprano, who has conquered the European opera stage, saw all the possibility in the world when she started her voice training at Oakland. She found voice coach Edie Diggory here and never looked back. And finally, we present the stories of seven students who pursued international studies to expand their education, their perspectives on the world and the opportunities that may be open to them when they enter the job market — on whichever continent they choose.

So here's to knowing when opportunity knocks at the door (even if it's too softly for others to hear), and having the guts to throw open the latch.

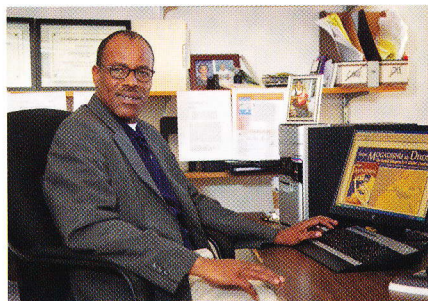
Lillian Lorenzi

*Lillian Lorenzi*



## Letters

Welcome to *OU Magazine's* Letters section. If you've read us in the past, you'll know that we like to hear from any and all of our readers. In a recent issue, we ran stories featuring two of our sociology professors that sparked a colleague to send us a quick note. We'd like to hear from you, too, on any of the stories in this issue. Drop us a line — LL.



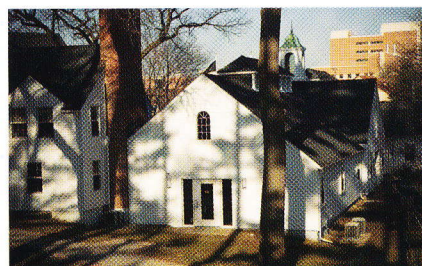
*Abdi Kusow*

### Mug shot

As always, great job on the latest issue of the magazine. I especially appreciated the story you ran on Abdi Kusow's research. Well done ... he deserves the recognition. I also want to mention that, in passing, several people have commented that it would have been nice if there was a picture of him, too. I hadn't noticed it at first, but also the article on Sherm Folland's research lacked a picture. Just curious about the lack of photos.

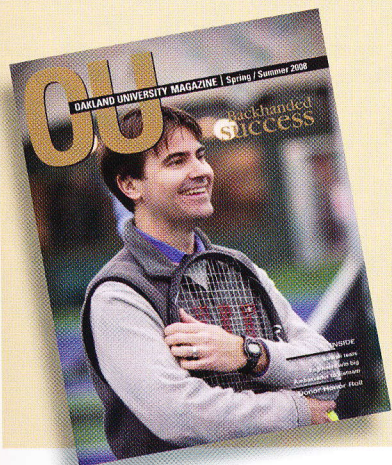
**A. Jay Meehan, professor and chair of Sociology**

*Editor's Note: It seems that professor Meehan has a good point and we are always glad when our audience reads the magazine so closely. We think we've corrected the problem with this issue (see pages 28 - 32).*



### Correction

In the last issue of the magazine, we stated that the Auburn Hills city manager's office on Squirrel Road was located on property that was once part of Meadow Brook Farms. The property was actually owned by John Dodge's daughter, Winifred, and her husband Wesson.



## PLAN YOUR NEXT EVENT AT THE OC



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

Recently renovated, the OC boasts 18 different meeting rooms of various sizes including banquet rooms and the cozy Fireside Lounge. We offer up to 7,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, and can accommodate groups as large as 600 or as small as 16. Full catering is available on-site and ample parking is provided.

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

*Oakland Center*





## OU receives federal funds for violence prevention initiatives

**ARE YOU  
READY?**

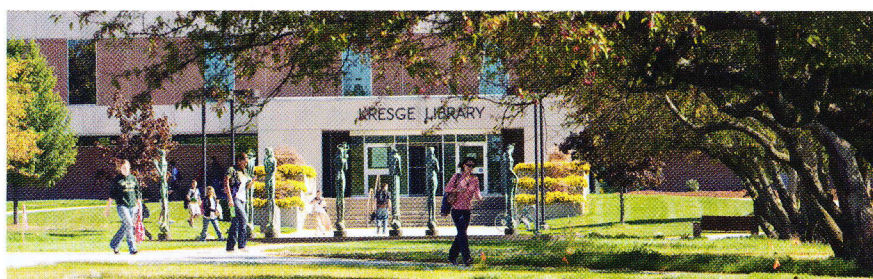
The Oakland University Police Department (OUPD) has earned a \$423,999 grant from the United States Department of Education for development and implementation of forthcoming violence prevention initiatives.

Oakland is one of only 13 U.S. colleges and universities — and the only school in the state of Michigan — to receive an Emergency Management for Higher Education (EMHE) grant. The 18-month grant will be used primarily for community safety education, along with some specialized equipment purchases.

The OUPD also recently launched a text message alert system, designed to provide an additional avenue for notifying students, faculty and staff in the event of a major emergency on campus. The OUPD's emergency dispatch center has also been upgraded to receive text messages, and is one of the only police departments nationwide with this capability.

"The text message system is designed to quickly alert community members who are not sitting in front of a computer or desk phone," said OU Police Chief Samuel Lucido. "We hope we never have to use the text message alert system, but it is reassuring to have the technology in place."

For details of OU's emergency preparedness plans and initiatives, visit [www.oakland.edu/ready](http://www.oakland.edu/ready). ■



### A library for the future

Kresge Library continues its transformation into a library of the future. The library offers more digital collections and online services, including instant message consultations with staff and wireless Internet access. The library also offers one-on-one research consultant services to OU students, faculty and staff.

Now Kresge Library is preparing to host OU's new Learning Technology Center. The center will be the result of a major restructuring effort by OU that will place the university's information and technology learning resources in one location: the library.

When it's completed, the Learning Technology Center will combine Kresge Library resources with university technology services, including a help desk and an e-Learning and Instructional Support area. The library tentatively plans to have an information commons for students operating on the second floor by the end of the winter 2009 semester, says Frank Lepkowski, interim associate dean for the library.

The e-Learning area will be set up on the fourth floor some time in the winter or spring semester, 2009, says Catheryn Cheal, assistant vice president, e-Learning and Instructional Support.

The Learning Technology Center is intended to help OU better serve the university and the surrounding community through enhanced opportunities for technology-based learning, teaching and research. The center also will help OU promote information literacy, technology literacy and media literacy.

In addition, Kresge Library continues to pursue its 2020 goals of strengthening research endeavors by teaching the information literacy skills students need to effectively identify, access, apply and evaluate information.

Ultimately, the library's information literacy program is expected to contribute to OU's reputation as a national university of distinction, help students become lifelong learners and promote academic success among students. ■

## Oakland, Wayne State University collaborate on admission program

A new partnership between Oakland University and Wayne State University's Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences will give OU students an opportunity to earn an undergraduate Health Sciences degree from OU and a graduate Physician Assistant Studies degree from WSU.

OU currently offers students a bachelor of science degree in Health Sciences with a pre-Health Professional concentration. The degree is designed to prepare students for application to medical, dental, optometric, physician assistant and other professional schools.

Through the new OU/WSU agreement, up to five incoming freshmen from OU's School of Health Sciences will have guaranteed admission into the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program at WSU. The students must meet Oakland's admission requirements and be accepted into OU's undergraduate Health Sciences program.

The program will begin inviting applications from incoming students for the fall 2009 semester. Graduates with a physician assistant degree can see patients, write prescriptions and perform minor surgeries under the supervision of a licensed physician.

For more information, call (248) 370-3563, or visit [www2.oakland.edu/shs](http://www2.oakland.edu/shs). ■



## New degree programs in Japanese, electrical and computer engineering

Oakland University now offers a bachelor of arts degree in Japanese and a doctoral degree in electrical and computer engineering.

The Japanese program is an expansion of the Japanese minor offered by the College of Arts and Sciences. It will allow students to study the Japanese culture, language and literature. Students also can study business focused Japanese, including translation.

The Ph.D. program in electrical and computer engineering, a program of the School of Engineering and Computer Science, used to be part of an umbrella degree. The new program will allow students to study this field with more focus. The degree program is expected to increase the visibility of Oakland University and give graduates a more competitive edge in the work force and research. ■

## A salute to nursing excellence



*Oakland University's School of Nursing (SON) hosted the 20th Annual Nightingale Awards for Nursing® this past May, honoring nine award recipients and nine runners up for their dedication to the field of nursing. The ceremony honors the contributions of nursing professionals while raising funds for student scholarships and other department needs.*

Oakland University's School of Nursing (SON) recognized excellence in the nursing community last May during its 20th annual Nightingale Awards for Nursing® ceremony. The program honored nine award recipients and nine runners up.

The evening was hosted by the SON and the Board of Visitors with the help of Henry Ford Health System, the presenting sponsor. The event also received the support of gold sponsors Oakwood Hospital and William Beaumont Hospitals, silver sponsor St. John Health and bronze sponsors Kelly Services, Crittenton Hospital

Medical Center, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, Detroit Medical Center and *Health Care Weekly Review*.

The nine award winners each received \$1,000 and a bronze statue of Florence Nightingale, who founded the nursing profession in the mid-1800s. Runners up received a plaque and a Nightingale pin.

Honorees represented the areas of administration, advanced nurse practice, research and education, long-term care and rehabilitation, community nursing, staff practice and OU distinguished alumni. ■

## Campus serves as starting, stopping point for Brooksie Way

Runners wove their way through the grounds of Oakland University Oct. 5 during the inaugural Brooksie Way Half Marathon and 5K Race/Walk. The races began on campus and concluded at Meadow Brook Hall.

The half marathon took runners through Rochester and Rochester Hills and included stretches of the Clinton River Trail and the Paint Creek Trail.

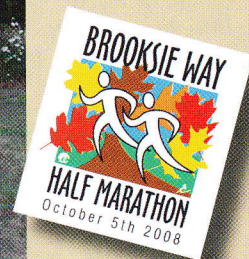
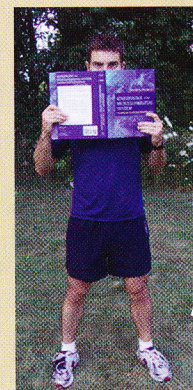
"The fact that we were able to include some picturesque neighborhoods, parts of our trail system and then finish at majestic Meadow Brook Hall makes this a truly special event," says Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, who launched the races to promote healthy, active lifestyles among Oakland County residents.

The Brooksie Way events were named in memory of Brooks Stuart Patterson, the county executive's late son who died as the result of a snowmobile accident in February 2007.

Patterson says the events are a fitting tribute to his son, who was married and the father of three children.

The county presented the races with Crim Fitness Foundation, which has hosted the Crim Festival of Races in Flint for more than 30 years.

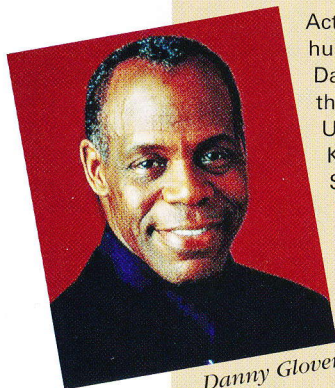
In addition to the half marathon and 5K Race/Walk, event organizers presented a Health & Wellness Expo at Oakland University's Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion. ■







## Glover to speak at 2009 Keeper of the Dream celebration



Danny Glover

Actor, producer and human-rights activist Danny Glover will speak this winter at Oakland University's 17th Annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration and Luncheon.

This year's program, set for 11:30 a.m. Jan. 19, will be held in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms.

The Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration honors the legacy of late civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The program, which falls on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, will honor Oakland students who exemplify King's vision by promoting interracial acceptance and understanding.

Glover, 62, has held a variety of film, stage and television roles during his career and served as executive producer of HBO's *American Dream series*. He has won the NAACP Image Award five times.

In 1994, he helped create the Robey Theatre Company of Los Angeles in hopes of bringing the black experience to the stage. In 1998, President Bill Clinton appointed Glover as an ambassador for the United National Development Program.

Today, Glover chairs the board of the TransAfrica Forum, an African American human rights and social justice advocacy organization, and he is a board member of the Brooklyn-based Something Positive Dance Group. ■

## New department focuses on written communication skills

In recognition of the increasing importance of written communication in the workplace and the community, Oakland University has introduced a new writing and rhetoric department in its College of Arts and Sciences.

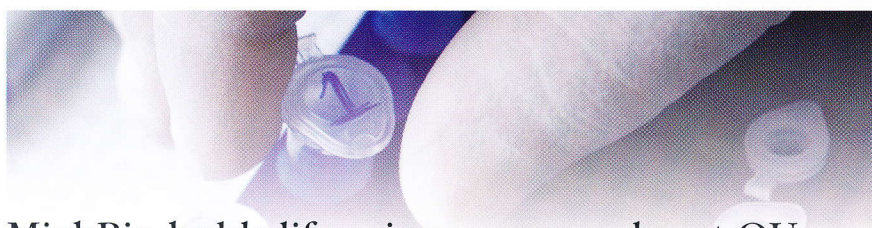
The department, which was launched this fall semester, is part of an effort to strengthen the writing skills of OU graduates in all disciplines, says Writing and Rhetoric Department Chair Marshall Kitchens.

"It is highlighting writing as an integral part of the university and the College of Arts and Sciences," Kitchens says.

OU students can pursue a major or a minor in Writing and Rhetoric. Undergraduate and graduate students across disciplines can take advantage of a full range of courses as well, and the department handles all freshman composition requirements. Courses will emphasize critical thinking and ethical communication in diverse communities. The degree programs are designed to prepare students to communicate successfully, whether they write professionally in business, industry or nonprofit organizations; handle production work in new media; or pursue other writing-related professions. The major also serves as a strong foundation for those who want to pursue a more specialized master's degree.

In addition to the new Writing and Rhetoric Department, OU helps students hone their writing skills through its Writing Center, which is based in Kresge Library. The center's services are free to all OU students, faculty and staff.

OU's newly restructured Communications and Journalism department, which was previously joined with Rhetoric, will continue to function as it did in the past. ■



## MichBio holds life science career day at OU

MichBio, a nonprofit trade association for Michigan's bioscience industry, held a life science career day for high school students this November at Oakland University.

The program was held in conjunction with MichBio's 2008 Expo and Conference at the Rock Financial ShowPlace in Novi, Mich. Oakland University served as an event sponsor.

The day included sessions spotlighting specific fields in the life science industry and students had an opportunity to visit

the labs on campus and participate in a number of interactive, hands-on activities.

MichBio's Expo and Conference included a Michigan Emerging Life Sciences Showcase, highlighting the next wave in regional bioscience companies. The conference also included the Michigan Life Sciences Summit, a gathering of leaders from the state's research institutions, scientists, entrepreneurs, bioscience executives, economic development organizations, investors and policymakers to develop a roadmap for the future of Michigan's biosciences.

Additional activities included a dinner for MichBio member CEOs and a breakfast forum for the CEOs of Michigan health

systems. New this year was a session focused on manufacturing companies looking to build a presence in the medical device industry. Other tracks included research and development, medical affairs and markets and emerging business. ■





## Students honored for academic excellence, service

Recent graduates Nicole Piggott, SHS '07, and Christopher Fecek, CAS '08, made academic excellence, athletic achievement and community service their priorities while attending OU.

Now Piggott and Fecek are the 2008 winners of one of Oakland's most prestigious honors: the Matilda R. and Alfred G. Wilson Awards.

The Wilson Awards are presented annually to an OU senior man and woman who have excelled in academics and made significant contributions to campus life, the community and society in general.

Piggott, who earned a degree in clinical laboratory science, was on the dean's list four consecutive years and maintained a 3.96 grade-point average. She earned the French student and Health Science student awards and conducted stem cell research. She also received the 2007 Undergraduate Distinguished Achievement Award.

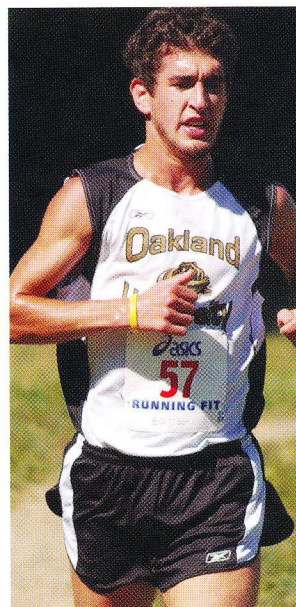
As team captain for women's basketball, Piggott led her team to a NCAA tournament in 2005-2006 and a Mid-Continent Conference championship in 2006-07. Piggott served as president of

the Student Athlete Advisory Council and has received several scholar-athlete awards.

In addition, Piggott has volunteered at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, participated in toy and food drives and cancer walks and supported the Special Olympics.

Fecek, a biology major, had a 3.81 GPA and remained on the dean's list for 10 consecutive semesters. He wrote and received the Provost's Undergraduate Research Grant and the Undergraduate Travel Grant, researched and presented on stem cell biology, served as first author of a journal manuscript on the topic and co-wrote three journal abstracts. He was a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society and received three Golden Grizzlies Excellence in Academics Awards.

Fecek, who has been team captain for the men's cross-country and track teams, led the cross-country team to the 2005 Mid-Con title championship and was secretary of the Student Athlete Advisory Council. A resident of the Rochester Hills community, Fecek read to children, volunteered for home-building projects, tutored biology students and volunteered at Providence Hospital. ■



*Christopher Fecek, CAS '08, and Nicole Piggott, SHS '07, were winners of the prestigious Matilda R. and Alfred G. Wilson Awards. Piggott was on the dean's list four consecutive years and maintained a 3.96 grade-point average. Fecek had a 3.81 GPA and remained on the dean's list for 10 consecutive semesters.*

*Mary Otto,  
vice president  
for Outreach.*



## Otto named vice president for Outreach

After more than 13 years as dean of the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS), Mary Otto has left the school to lead Oakland University in its expansion into Macomb County and other areas as Vice President for Outreach.

William Keane began serving as the school's interim dean June 1.

Virinder Moudgil, senior vice president for Academic Affairs and provost, described Otto as "the dean's dean."

"She mentors new deans, and she's been a very successful dean herself," he says. "Hers is a name synonymous with success." ■

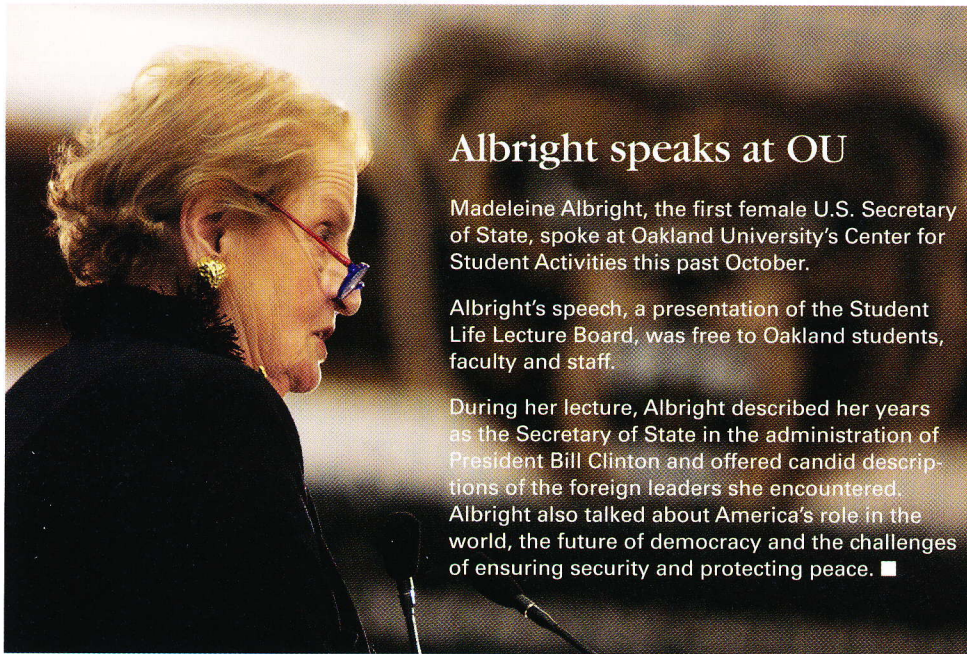
Otto transformed the SEHS into an outstanding school of education, says Dyanne Tracy, teacher development and education studies development chair and professor. "Mary has a talent for identifying human potential," Tracy says. "She also knows how to encourage people to work to their fullest potential." ■

Prior to taking the role of interim dean, Keane was the chairperson of the school's Department of Educational Leadership. He has served as superintendent of Berkley Public Schools and the Oakland Intermediate School District and has written three books on personnel policy and educational administration. ■



*William Keane,  
interim dean  
of the School  
of Education  
and Human  
Services.*



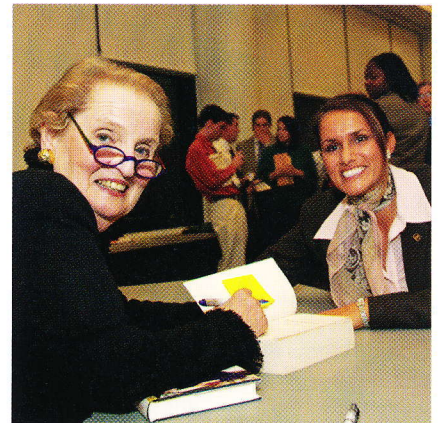


## Albright speaks at OU

Madeleine Albright, the first female U.S. Secretary of State, spoke at Oakland University's Center for Student Activities this past October.

Albright's speech, a presentation of the Student Life Lecture Board, was free to Oakland students, faculty and staff.

During her lecture, Albright described her years as the Secretary of State in the administration of President Bill Clinton and offered candid descriptions of the foreign leaders she encountered. Albright also talked about America's role in the world, the future of democracy and the challenges of ensuring security and protecting peace. ■



*Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State, talked of the challenges facing the next U.S. president and shared insights about many foreign affairs issues across the globe. She also signed a few books.*

## Widespread campus improvements in the works

Oakland University is investing in an enhanced learning environment for OU students.

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously last spring to direct most of its \$4.8 million delayed state appropriations payment into upgrades, renovations and technological improvements for OUs classrooms, laboratories and common areas.

OU's administration identified a list of capital improvement projects in cooperation with OU's student leaders. The improvements will include mechanical, electrical and architectural improvements to the university's chemistry, biology and physics laboratories.

Career Services, which has been operating from a residence hall for the last 15 years, will move into North Foundation Hall. The move will make Career Services more accessible, and will consolidate most of the major student services in NFH.

The art studios in Wilson Hall will undergo mechanical, technical and architectural improvements, along with improvements to air circulation and storage.

Three remaining lecture halls have undergone improvements as well. These include 205 and 206 Varner Hall and 156 NFH. The improvement project brings them up to current standards and provides enhanced instructional technology capabilities. In addition, the university will make aesthetic and technological improvements to 159 NFH, one of the first classrooms to be seen by prospective students and parents.

Another area targeted for improvements is the Center for Student Activities (CSA), which houses more than 170 student organizations. CSA offices will receive increased storage capacity, furnishings, technology, workstations and common areas. Student Congress and the Division of Student Affairs will supplement the budget with \$150,000.



*OU is investing in upgrades and renovations to classrooms, labs and common areas across campus. Here, John Klemanski, professor of Political Science, lectures in a newly renovated classroom in Varner Hall.*

OU also plans to improve the Dodge Hall commons areas by adding four new public spaces near the classrooms, including a lobby, two study wings and an outdoor space. The common areas also will receive new furniture, an LCD television and a whiteboard. ■



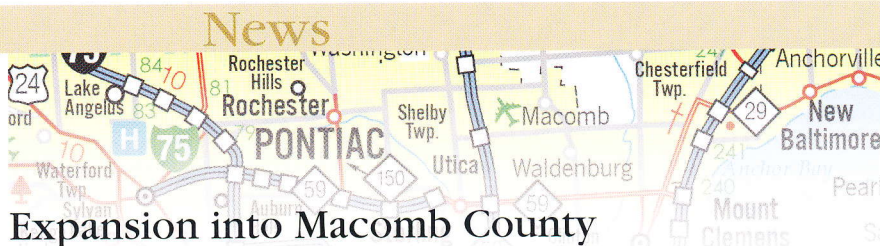
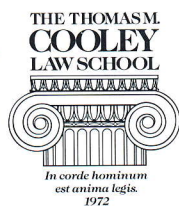
## Cooley partnership enhanced

Building on an already successful partnership, OU officials announced this September that the Thomas M. Cooley Law School-Auburn Hills campus has become the exclusive educational law school of Oakland, and that Oakland University is now the exclusive education partner university of Cooley Law School's Auburn Hills campus.

Several significant additions to the institutions' existing partnership were launched:

- Students graduating from OU who meet Cooley's admission requirements will be given priority in selection of both campus and entering term.
- Cooley will reserve a minimum of 15 seats per section for OU students at their Auburn Hills campus.
- OU Honors College students earning a minimum GPA of 3.5 and a minimum LSAT score of 149 will be eligible for early admission to Cooley Law School during or after the second semester of their junior year. These students may also receive a 35 percent tuition scholarship.
- OU Honors College students who meet the criteria for the early admission program and are admitted to Cooley Law School can begin their law school education early by taking two introductory courses at Cooley's Auburn Hills campus while enrolled at OU during their last or next to last semester.

"When we first entered into this partnership, one of our key goals was to make law school more accessible to students from southeastern Michigan, and to bring needed graduate programs to law students," says OU President Gary Russi. "Working together, we have accomplished that goal." ■



## Expansion into Macomb County

Oakland University officials recently announced a major expansion of the university's presence in Macomb County that includes the intent to create an innovative satellite campus, and significant outreach and community engagement efforts.

This initiative builds on the strong foundation of partnerships in the region with Macomb Community College, the Macomb University Center and the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD).

Vice President for Outreach Mary Otto says, "With a new satellite campus (Oakland University-Macomb), we intend to approach educational outreach in a new way, one that is designed for life and work in the 21st century. Our No. 1 goal is to provide more educational opportunities to respond to the aspirations of future students and the economic development needs of our communities."

Otto adds that the planned Oakland-Macomb satellite is expected to offer new programs in health care, education and human resources, technology and

international business, engineering and communications arts. The campus will operate out of a headquarters facility in Macomb County, and classes will be offered throughout the region.

"Our goal is to serve the people in Macomb County by offering a student-centered curriculum, rich with student support services, including academic advising," Otto stresses. "We target an enrollment goal of 2,000 students by 2010 and 5,000 students by 2020."

OU already offers more than 15 degree programs in Macomb County that serve 1,600 students. The number of Oakland students at the University Center and the MISD has increased by 345 percent since 1999. OU officials also announced that former Macomb Community College President Al Lorenzo joined Oakland University as an executive in residence beginning on Oct. 1. Lorenzo has a national reputation for pioneering work in uniting community college and higher education in collaborative efforts to serve the educational and outreach needs of the community. ■

## Human health building receives funding

Oakland University will be receiving state funding for a new Human Health Building, thanks to the capital outlay bill passed by the Michigan legislature and recently signed into law by Governor Jennifer Granholm. The measure, part of an initiative to address funding projects for state university and community college campuses, will provide \$40 million of the \$61 million total cost of the building.

The proposed 157,300-square-foot Human Health Building will house the School of Health Sciences (SHS) and the School of Nursing (SON) as part of a broad effort to address the looming shortages in the health care industry and widen the university's economic impact on the region. The facility will significantly enhance education and research opportunities by providing state-of-the-art resources, including simulation labs, an interactive media center, a public health clinic for pre-symptom treatments and a distance learning classroom.

"Consolidating our SON and SHS activity under one roof will bring together the multi-disciplinary talent and expertise of our academic and clinical faculty," says Oakland University President Gary Russi. "This will in turn foster collaboration in scholarly research endeavors and provide team learning opportunities for students."

Along with the planned opening of the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine in 2010, pending LCME and NCA approval, the Human Health Building will help cement OU's reputation as one of the leading public universities in the state and foster efforts to position the region as a premier destination for health education. Such efforts support the recently announced Oakland Medical Initiative led by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. ■



## Distinguished Volunteers receive philanthropy award

Susan Davies Goepp, vice president for University Relations and executive director of the OU Foundation, was honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals as the 2008 recipient of the Outstanding Fundraising Executive award at the 23rd annual National Philanthropy Day banquet on Nov. 13.

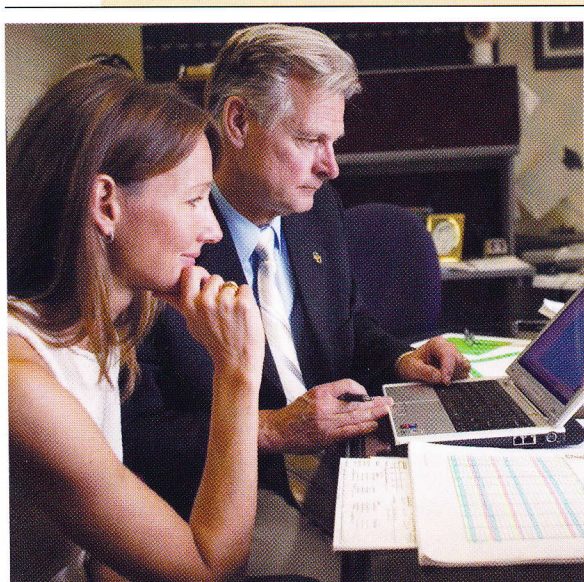
The award recognizes her 20-year career in fundraising and her service on the board of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Greater Detroit Chapter, and as vice chair and incoming chair for 2009-10 of the international Certified Fundraising Executive Certification board (CRFE). Goepp joined Oakland University in 2001 and has spearheaded the university's first comprehensive capital campaign, kicked off in 2005. She and her staff have already helped the university raise more than \$100 million toward the campaign goal of \$110 million by 2010. She is described by her staff as a manager who "leads by example."

Each year, attending non-profit organizations have the opportunity to recognize a volunteer at the event. OU honored Patrick and Mercy Nicosia as "Distinguished Volunteers." The couple's contributions to OU span 33 years and have supported scholarships, arts and culture programs and athletics. Patrick retired from OU after a 31-year career, serving most recently as director of Budget and Financial Planning.

A total of eight awards were presented at the banquet. Other honors included the Suburban Collection, owned by former OU trustee David Fischer and his wife, Jennifer, which was named Outstanding Corporation, and the Derrick Coleman Foundation. ■



*Patrick and Mercy Nicosia, OU Distinguished Volunteers*



## For Their Future

### CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND SECURITY FOR YOU

Charitable gift annuities are among the oldest, simplest and most popular plans for a charitable life gift. When you make a gift to OU — in cash, stocks or other marketable securities — the university will pay you a guaranteed income for life at rates significantly higher than savings, CDs and many other investments can offer.

#### Charitable gift annuities provide:

- Support for students
- Secure, fixed payments
- Partially tax-free income
- Tax deduction at time of gift
- Easy set up with no legal fees

INNOVATION AND  
OPPORTUNITY

The Campaign for Oakland University

*For more information on  
charitable gift annuities and other  
life-income plans, contact the office for  
Planned Giving at (248) 364-6129.*



# Oakland University will hold its first **HOME COMING**

**Oakland University is inviting alumni and supporters to "Come Home to OU" this winter.**

The university will hold its first-ever homecoming celebration **Friday and Saturday, Feb. 6-7, 2009.**

The weekend will be packed with activities, including a tailgate party, pep rally, OU men's and women's basketball, casino night, a family festival, contests and musical entertainment.

A summary of activities can be found below:

## Friday, February 6, 2009

### **OU HOME COMING PEP RALLY**

Where: Oakland Center Food Court  
When: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Admission: Free  
Sponsors: Athletics, Center for Student Activities, Student Congress

The entire OU community and friends are invited to this kick-off event for homecoming weekend, which will feature appearances from coaches and players from the men's and women's basketball teams. The Images Dance team, cheerleading team and Golden Grizzlies Band will perform. The event also will feature games and prizes for Golden Grizzlies fans.

### **CENTER FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY**

Where: Oakland Center-lower level  
When: 1-2 p.m.  
Admission: Free  
Sponsors: Division of Student Affairs, Student Congress

Everyone is invited to celebrate the new look of the Center for Student Activities after recent renovations. This ceremony will feature remarks by Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder, along with Student Congress representatives. The afternoon will feature a tour of the center and light desserts.

## Saturday, February 7, 2009

### **OUAA FAMILY FESTIVAL**

Where: Campus Recreation Center  
When: 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Admission: Free  
Sponsors: Alumni Relations, Campus Recreations

Festival guests will find activities throughout the recreation center, including contests, face painting, inflatable stations and arts and crafts. The day also will feature photo opportunities with OU's mascot, The Grizz.

### **OU TAILGATE PARTY**

Where: P-16 parking lot  
When: 1-3:30 p.m.  
Admission: Free  
Sponsors: President, Special Events

Alumni and the current OU community campus will celebrate the Golden Grizzlies spirit in anticipation of the homecoming basketball games. This event will be held in the P-16 parking lot in heated tents loaded with tailgate foods.

### **HOME COMING WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL GAMES**

Where: Athletic Center O'rena  
When: 3:30-8 p.m.  
Admission: To be determined  
Sponsors: Athletics, Student Congress

Alumni and current students are invited to the first annual Homecoming Basketball Games as the women's and men's teams host Centenary College. Both games will feature a salute to former basketball players. The women's game will begin at 3:30 p.m., followed by the men's game at 6 p.m.

### **CASINO NIGHT 2009**

Where: Oakland Center  
When: 9 p.m.-2 a.m.  
Admission: Free  
Sponsors: Housing, Student Program Board

Casino Night features gambling for fun to win big-ticket prizes at the end of the evening. (No exchange of money.) In addition, there will be food, music, and other novelty acts all night long.



**The Excellence in Coaching** Dinner will take place from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Feb. 6, 2009 at the Royal Park Hotel. Past and current Oakland community members, athletes and alumni are invited to this celebration of the 25+ year careers of OU's swimming and diving coach Pete Hovland, men's basketball coach Greg Kampe and men's soccer coach Gary Parsons. A roast in honor of Kampe will take place immediately following the dinner and program.

**For complete details, visit [www4.oakland.edu/comehome](http://www4.oakland.edu/comehome)**



# INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY



## With a little help from our friends

### *Capital Campaign reaches \$100 million milestone*

*"We change lives here."*

Those four simple words from Susan Davies Goepp, vice president for University Relations and executive director of the OU Foundation, sum up the impetus, purpose and vision behind Oakland University's first comprehensive capital campaign.

Launched in April 2005 with an ambitious goal of raising \$110 million by the year 2010, "Innovation and Opportunity — The Campaign for OU," has reached just over \$100 million to date. That impressive milestone is the result of the generosity of individuals, foundations and corporations in supporting Oakland's vision for its future and the future of the state of Michigan. This campaign has seen generosity in many forms: new graduates establishing funds commemorating their

parents; alumni and friends creating many new endowed funds for programs, student scholarships and faculty chairs; corporations and organizations supporting educational programs, capital improvements and the local historical treasure that is Meadow Brook Hall — to name just a few.

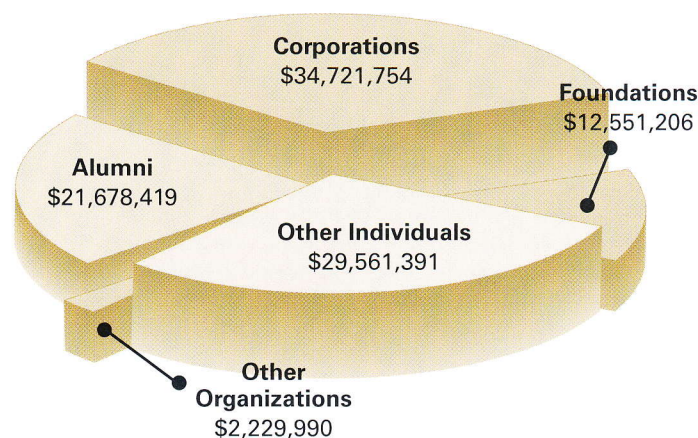
"All of our gifts — from someone who has given \$25 to a much larger gift — have been critical to the success of this campaign," adds Goepp. "People have been inspired to give because of their passion for Oakland. They see the potential impact their support can have on the future and on future generations of students."

Here's a quick look at how that \$100 million milestone breaks down. ■

### **Campaign Dollars by Constituency**

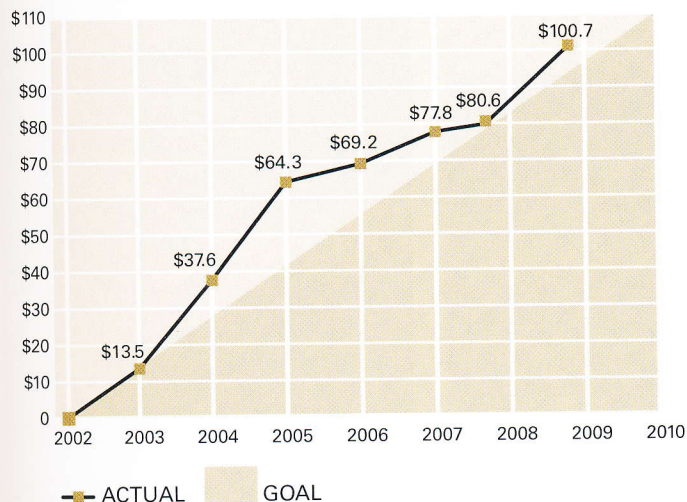
*Through Oct. 31, 2008*

**Total \$100,742,760**





## Oakland University Eight-Year \$110 Million Comprehensive Capital Campaign



*\$110 million*

### Capital Campaign Dollars to Units

Through Oct. 31, 2008

|                                            |                      |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| College of Arts and Sciences               | \$8,696,116          |
| School of Business Administration          | 5,721,709            |
| School of Education and Human Services     | 7,147,157            |
| School of Engineering and Computer Science | 26,120,629           |
| School of Health Sciences                  | 339,620              |
| School of Medicine                         | 2,000,000            |
| School of Nursing                          | 6,027,083            |
| Academic Affairs – other                   | 11,351,094           |
| Athletics                                  | 1,471,463            |
| Student Affairs                            | 910,616              |
| Office of the President                    | 1,772,555            |
| Meadow Brook Hall                          | 8,980,749            |
| Other                                      | 20,203,969           |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$100,742,760</b> |

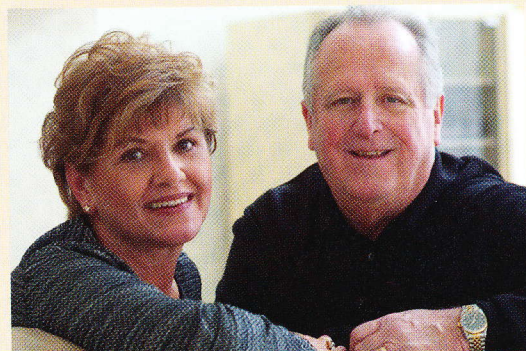
## A call to fellow alumni



R. Hugh and Nancy Elliott Ann and Craig Stinson

### Elliott-Stinson Challenge Gift

R. Hugh and Nancy Elliott, honorary SBA alumni, and Craig, SBA '84, and Ann, SBA '83, Stinson are challenging alumni and friends of the School of Business Administration (SBA) to come forward on behalf of the SBA to support the school and its many initiatives and programs with a philanthropic gift. Collectively, the couples will match gifts and pledges made to the SBA as part of the "Campaign for OU" between Nov. 1, 2008, and Oct. 31, 2009, up to \$500,000. Both couples are longtime Oakland supporters. The Elliotts' generosity to the SBA led to the naming of the R. Hugh and Nancy Elliott Hall of Business and Information Technology in 2002, where the school is housed. Craig Stinson has been an avid ATiB (Applied Technology in Business) supporter as well as an SBA Board of Visitors member for the past several years and currently serves as chairman. ■



Carlotta and Dennis Pawley

### The Pawley Alumni Leadership Challenge

Dennis, SEHS '82, and Carlotta Pawley, longtime supporters of OU, are encouraging Oakland alumni to support a program, initiative or scholarship opportunity that they feel especially passionate about. Alumni are learning of the Pawleys' challenge in several ways, including through this fall's Telefund campaign. The Pawleys have made collective gift commitments of \$600,000 to the School of Education and Human Services. Their gifts fund three endowments for undergraduates, graduate students or faculty to pursue and promote learning in lean studies, a business philosophy close to Dennis Pawley's heart. In 2002, Pawley created the OU Lean Learning Institute. ■



## Sports wrap up

**New associate director of Athletics**

Stacy Mosely was named associate director of Athletics in charge of internal operations at Oakland University in May. Along with direct oversight of several programs at OU, Mosely will also serve as the senior woman administrator for the Golden Grizzlies.

Prior to her efforts at University of Miami, Fla., where she spent one year as the associate director of Alumni Programs, Mosely worked 12 years at Northern Illinois University in various positions. She was most recently an assistant athletic director in charge of marketing and promotions and worked four years as the assistant AD in charge of internal operations where she supervised baseball, men's soccer, women's gymnastics and golf. Mosely also served as the tournament director for the men's golf championship in 2003 and women's gymnastics championship in 2005 for the Mid-American Conference.

"Stacy is another tremendous addition to our athletic department," says Tracy Huth, OU athletics director. "Adding someone of her caliber and with her understanding of collegiate athletics will greatly benefit Oakland University as we continue to raise both the profile and prestige of our athletic programs."

**Images gets a new coach**

Oakland University has brought back a familiar face with the naming of Sara Porzondek as head coach of Images, the university dance team. She had been a member of Images from 1997-2001. As a senior, she served as team captain and helped the squad to a runner-up finish at the UDA Nationals.

**New face for soccer roster**

Dave Morgan has been promoted to assistant coach with the Oakland University women's soccer program. Morgan has spent the past two seasons as a volunteer assistant on Head Coach Nick O'Shea's staff.

"Dave is a great addition to the program," says O'Shea. "He's been helping us out for the last two years as a volunteer assistant and has done an awesome job. He has a great working relationship with the players, and he and I have a good understanding of how to get things done. I'm looking forward to working with him on a full-time basis."

**Young named assistant baseball coach**

Former Eastern Michigan assistant coach Del Young has joined the Golden Grizzlies staff as an assistant coach. Young's primary responsibilities will be with the infielders and catchers, as well as recruiting.

"We are very fortunate to have Del join the Oakland baseball family," says John Musachio, head baseball coach. "He has done a great job the past several years as an assistant coach at Eastern Michigan. Del is a proven recruiting coach, a good teacher on the field and has a firm grasp on all facets of running a college program." ■

*Compiled by Samantha Franz,  
OU Athletics Media Relations*

*Sports photography provided by the  
Department of Athletics, Jose Juarez*

## THE SCOREBOARD



*Junior Amanda Scheer earned all-league honors.*

**Tennis makes OU history**

The women's tennis team made history this season when junior **Amanda Scheer** became the first OU tennis player to earn all-league honors since 2000 after her 5-2 record in the conference earned her a spot on the All-Summit League Second Team. The Golden Grizzlies defeated conference opponents UMKC, IUPUI, Centenary and South Dakota State and freshman **Jackie Dinicu** posted an 8-6 record with a 4-1 mark in league play.



Check out the Golden Grizzlies online store on the Web at  
**[www.ougrizzlies.com](http://www.ougrizzlies.com)**





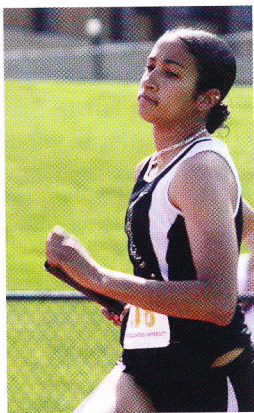
*Sophomore Mike Craze became the first OU athlete to qualify for the NCAA Regionals.*

### Men's track season breaks 13 records

In only its third year of Summit League competition, the OU men's track team smashed 13 school records and made 58 additions to the all-time top 10 list en route to tying for sixth place in the conference meet with 38 points. To add to the ground-breaking year, sophomore Mike Craze claimed victory in the 3,000-Steeplechase to become the first OU athlete to qualify for NCAA Regionals. Craze was selected to the Outdoor All-Summit League Team, along with junior **Joe Goike**, and 21 Golden Grizzlies made the Academic All-Summit League Team.

### Women's track program continues to grow

The Oakland University women's track team, like its male counterpart, is only in its third year, but that didn't stop them from putting their best effort



*Junior Melissa Martinez*

forward. Though they finished with nine points for a eighth place finish at The Summit League Championship, the Golden Grizzlies tallied nine school records, three of which came at the conference meet. They also clocked 32 times that ranked inside the all-time top

10 list and 20 athletes earned a spot on the Academic All-Summit League Team.

**Melissa Martinez** was a part of the record-setting 4x200 meter and 4x400 meter relays in the indoor season and set the school record in the 400 meter dash during the outdoor season. She was also part of the record-setting 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams.



*Greg Welke captured Summit League Pitcher of the Week honors this past season.*

### A tough season for baseball

Amidst 13 play date cancellations, including a four-game series against North Dakota State University, the Golden Grizzlies had a hard time finding a rhythm this season and finished seventh in The Summit League with a 15-30 overall record and 7-14 in the conference. Despite the rough season, there were some high notes. OU tied a Division I record with 11 consecutive hits in a victory over conference rival Southern Utah University and had two pitchers, sophomore **Andrew Estes** and freshman **Greg Welke**, bestowed with Summit League Pitcher of the Week honors. Juniors **Andrew Stafford** and **Taylor Traub** represented the Golden Grizzlies on the All-Summit League Second Team, junior **Rob Merkle** made the Academic All-District First Team, and 21 players made the Academic All-Summit League Team.

### Strong finish for men's golf

After tallying five top-five finishes throughout the season, the men's golf team rounded out their 2007-08 campaign with a sixth place finish in The Summit League Championship after firing a season-low 293 on the final day

to move up two positions. Junior **Frank McAuliffe** earned a spot on the All-Summit League First Team and along with teammate, senior **Nate Hendriks**, was one of the two Golden Grizzlies to shoot sub-par rounds this season.



*Junior Nikki Swan*

### Women's golf makes consistent home in top tier

The women's golf team capped off a successful 2007-08 season with a third place finish in The Summit League Championship. The Golden Grizzlies won a pair of tournaments in the fall and recorded top-10 finishes in all eight tournaments this year, including five top-five finishes. Sophomore **Austin McDermaid** made the All-Summit League Second Team and sophomore **Lauren Gardner**, junior **Kelly Wilke** and junior **Nikki Swan** were recognized as All-American Scholar Athletes. ■



*OU men's and women's basketball players volunteered their time this past August to help out at the Maccabi Games in Detroit, Mich., which were held at the Metropolitan Jewish Community Center. Maccabi athletes also participated in efforts to help fight hunger and demonstrated against the atrocities in Darfur. The games bring Jewish teens together for an Olympic-style sporting competition each summer at multiple sites across the U.S.*





Patrice Chapman

# What's *your* game?

**Clubs are trump for sports-minded students** By Tom Schram



**Want to stay in shape, have some fun and engage in a competitive sport?** If you're a student at Oakland University, it's as simple as joining the club.

There are 19 active club sports at Oakland University, according to Dan Bettmann, coordinator of Intramural and Club Sports. Many of them are student-only, but a number welcome alumni and community members. There are plenty of benefits to participating, including improved health, connecting with others and learning teamwork and leadership skills, Bettmann said.

All of the sports can apply for university financial backing of up to \$7,000 per year. That fully finances many clubs. Others require membership fees and engage in fundraising.

Here is a quick peek at a few of the sports clubs active at OU:

## **A dueling life**

The fencing club attracts a lot of interest from outside of the university. But it has been able to maintain the

necessary 60 percent student membership by creating a branch of the club — aimed primarily at youths — off campus.

"It's great that there is a lot of community interest," says Jamie Shorek, an incoming senior who is club president. "We have a lot of equipment that was donated by members and a lot of the stuff is in good shape."

Practice is twice a week, there are no dues and Shorek adds that once misconceptions of the sport are overcome, members are enthusiastic. "Some people think the very nature of fencing is the swashbuckling action you see in a pirate film; that's not what it is," she explains. "It's a refined sport and there is discipline involved."

## **Sticks and ice**

Few would call a whistling slapshot refined, but no one would doubt enthusiasm for the men's ice hockey club — or the talent. There certainly is enough local talent available to compete on any level, says Club President John Parrish.

"This region is a huge area for hockey," he adds. "There are so many good players around, we think of it as a hotbed of hockey talent."

But anyone who's ever taken to the ice with a hockey



stick in their hand knows that it's an expensive sport. Ice time needs to be rented at least twice a week. An ambitious travel schedule requires financing. So in addition to the \$7,000 from OU, each member must pay \$2,000 in annual dues. In addition, fundraising events are as much a part of the program as line changes. But if you measure the investment in terms of success, it has been money well spent. Oakland won national titles at the Club Division II level and in its first year competing at the Division I level.

Parrish said that he will stay connected to the program, even when his eligibility ends next year. "It's been so exciting to win championships," he says. "I've made some lifelong friends."

## Saddle up

Equestrian sports have a reputation of being for the rich, but it's not necessarily so, says Equestrian Club President Christine DuBay. While the club charges fees for joining, individual shows and competing in a league, and members share travel expenses, you don't need to own a horse and it is no more expensive than ice hockey, for example. And applicants are welcome.

"We really want to get more students involved," DuBay says. "There are all levels of competition, so you can ride in the most basic."

The Equestrian Club competes in a league with such schools as Western Michigan University, Grand Valley, U-M and Michigan State. Last year the club (which has about 10 members) finished fourth in the 12-team circuit.

Equestrian begins in the fall and practices weekly at the State Fair Grounds. Volunteer coach Christopher Ewing runs the practices and travels with the team.

And don't be put off if your riding experience has been confined to the front seat of a Chevrolet. "Even if you've only been on a horse a couple of times, we'll take you," DuBay says with a smile.

## Cricket world

Most of the members of the cricket club were raised on the Indian subcontinent, including club president and grad student Vikram Chilukoti, who is from Hyderabad, India. International matches can take three to five days and while

the club plays abbreviated matches that generally take one day, game length presents a problem.

"The total game takes seven hours, but there are breaks," Chilukoti says. "The first thing new players say is, 'Wow, it's long.'"

Still Chilukoti said he has been able to recruit some locals and some have turned into good players. A recent practice pitch has been created on campus on the upper fields. "They constructed it in the corner, so we asked them to build a cage around it," Chilukoti says.

The club gets \$4,000 annually from the university, which takes care of its expenses. And the club has had success on the cricket grounds. In 2004, it went to the semifinals of the Michigan Cricket Association and it made the finals the next year.

## Lax power

Like the cricket club, the men's lacrosse club is charged with promoting a non-traditional, but growing sport.

"Lacrosse has been building up and it's pretty well known now. It's on TV and there's a major league," says Club President Matthew Kassa who says that there is "absolutely" room for novices.

"We actually picked up a couple of students who had never picked up the equipment or played the sport," he adds. "They just wanted to have fun and they played three years with us."

The team has had fun and success: They were the 2004 and 2006 Central Collegiate Lacrosse Association champions, and have made three out of the last six national championships.

Unlike cricket, lacrosse is an expensive sport. To cover expenses like practice fields and travel, members pay an annual \$2,000 fee to supplement the \$6,000 the club receives from the university. Additionally, the club raises money through a golf outing, regular fundraisers at a Pontiac club, a Texas hold 'em tournament and by working a food booth at The Palace during sports events. ■

*Tom Schram is a freelance writer from Huntington Woods, Mich.*



## In the club

Here's a list of all the club sports currently active at Oakland.

|                   |            |                               |                |                      |
|-------------------|------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Aiki Kai (Aikido) | Dodgeball  | Men's Ice Hockey Division I   | Men's Lacrosse | Synchronized Skating |
| Basketball        | Equestrian | Men's Ice Hockey Division III | Men's Soccer   | Tennis               |
| Cricket           | Fencing    |                               | Rock Climbing  | Women's Soccer       |
| Cycling           | Judo       |                               | Rugby          |                      |

For more information on club sports at Oakland University, contact Dan Bettmann at (248) 370-4885 or [bettmann@oakland.edu](mailto:bettmann@oakland.edu).





# Check out the **Technology Training Center at Oakland University** for all your training and meeting needs

## **A convenient, affordable technology-based facility**

Take advantage of superb training and meeting facilities at a competitive rate at OU's Technology Training Center (TTC) — the ideal venue for private technology training sessions, technology-based meetings, seminars and other similar events.

### **Venue**

Centrally located in the heart of Oakland County and Automation Alley, just off I-75 and M-59 in Rochester, the TTC offers a sophisticated, comfortable center with configurable space, a superior sound system, fully integrated software and much more.

### **Service and Support**

From wireless Internet connection to on-site set-up and certified technical support, you'll discover the support and services found at large meeting facilities, with the personal attention and service of a small venue.

### **Software and Equipment**

Offering PC workstations loaded with the latest software titles down to the details of color laser printing, CD/DVD burning, and trainer PC with HDTV and touch-screen technology, you'll find everything you need to run a successful event.

### **Check it out**

For the best value and location, budget-minded meeting planners should check out the OU Technology Training Center — located in the Oakland Center on OU's campus.

**Call today for more information**  
**(248) 370-4832**  
**[www.oakland.edu/ttc](http://www.oakland.edu/ttc)**

**Oakland University**  
**Technology Training Center**

44 Oakland Center  
2200 North Squirrel Road  
Rochester, MI 48309-4401



## New connections in the Old World



Michelle Piskulich

It is funny how people view risk. Some of the activities we engage in every day bear more risk than say flying in a plane or, as in my case, flying in a plane and traveling to

Israel. My friends and family evaluated my trip as high risk — going to Israel was both exotic and dangerous. The fact that the trip was work related helped to justify the risk I was taking but the subtext that I was leaving my husband and son behind, perhaps forever, was effectively communicated.

Despite the concerns others expressed, I felt lucky to be included in the OU delegation that was led by President Russi and included Senior Vice President Virinder Moudgil, Vice President Sue Goepf, head women's basketball coach Beckie Frances and OU alumnus Robert Schostak and his wife and OU friend, Nancy Schostak. I had never thought of visiting Israel until the opportunity presented itself and then I simply couldn't imagine not going. Travel, whether for work or pleasure, for me is always an opportunity to experience a place and its people. This trip was jam-packed with trips to universities and colleges, a signing ceremony, lectures, meetings, working dinners, and, yes, some tourism. I took almost 300 pictures and intended to keep a travelogue but fell into bed exhausted each night.

Space precludes me from sharing all the details of my experience so instead I'll focus on a few major themes.

Israel is white against blue, beautiful, and, for anyone interested

in all things old, this is a place for you. The cities and villages we passed on our way to the north from Tel Aviv were white with red roofs against a gorgeous blue sky and sometimes sported the backdrop of the blue Mediterranean. The landscape was dotted with bright yellow flowers, olive trees, and terraces built over 2000 years ago. The ancient city of Tzippori, an archeological treasure of white stone streets complete with ruts carved by Roman chariots, was one of several ancient sites on our itinerary. The intricate mosaics on the temple and Roman floors are in and of themselves worth the long flight. I could imagine the streets filled with chariots bearing roman soldiers flanked by merchants and farmers selling goods.

Israel is a more casual culture than ours. We were told not to bring suits — not even for the signing ceremony at Max Stern Academic College at Emek Yezreel (MSAC). The contrast of a signing ceremony in Israel and a signing ceremony at Oakland University was stark. Here at OU there are speeches, commemorative pens, banners, and ceremony; in Israel there was food, talk, and no formality whatsoever. We were welcomed warmly at MSAC by College President and former ambassador Eliza Shenhar and Professor Matt Silver who was my counterpart in Israel in charge of working with me on the agreements we would sign that day. We were joined by a number of faculty who discussed their interest in a collaboration with OU. About an hour into our visit someone said, "well maybe we should sign the agreements," and that was that.

Israel is a culinary delight. I expected Middle Eastern fare and was not disappointed. But Israel is a Mediterranean country and pasta was



During the OU delegation's visit to the Max Stern College of Emek Yezreel in Israel, Virinder Moudgil, senior vice president for Academic Affairs and provost, found a little time to take a camel ride.

not uncommon as a menu selection. I came home wanting to find a good cookbook that featured Israeli cuisine in the Mediterranean context. Every meal was colorful and featured small amounts of many different dishes so the range of food sampled was large. One of my favorite meals was also the simplest. We stopped at a falafel stand in Jerusalem for sandwiches. The portions were huge and several of us said we couldn't possibly eat what we had in front of us — but we did.

Never once did I feel at risk in Israel. Not in the hotel. Not in the street. Not in the universities. Not in the markets. Not in the tourist sites. I would go back and I would take my family with me. I will encourage students and colleagues to take advantage of the agreements we signed because I would love for others to share my experience. And, I will be looking for my next adventure. Maybe I'll go to Machu Pichu to see the Inca ruins or to Egypt to see the pyramids or perhaps to India to see the Taj Majal.

Wherever it is, I will make it an adventure and will be exhausted when I return, but it will be worth it. ■

*Michelle Piskulich, associate professor of Political Science and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences*

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you've got thoughts on life, learning and fun that you'd like to share, send us your essay. Gold Minds is open to alumni, faculty and staff. For submission guidelines, visit [www.oakland.edu/goldminds](http://www.oakland.edu/goldminds).



# Worldwide classroom

**OU study abroad programs expand horizons**

**By Susan Thwing-McHale**



*Nicole Swan*



Nicole Swan looks at her future and sees endless possibilities and, no borders. The Oakland University mechanical engineering student says she expects to spend at least part of her career employed in another country. That's why participating in a study abroad course in China, coordinated through Oakland's School of Engineering and Computer Science, made perfect sense.

"The engineering field is global," Swan says. "It is important for me to widen my horizons and see how other people live and think because these are the people I will be working with someday."

Swan is one of 200 Oakland University students who took their educational experiences abroad in the 2007-08 academic year. Oakland's study abroad programs take students to more than 24 countries across the globe in disciplines ranging from theatre to nursing to engineering. The students travel all over the world including Ireland, England, India, China, Japan, Australia, Italy and more. For some study abroad opportunities, such as the British Studies at Oxford program, students receive course credit. Scholarships are available for many of the programs. Trips can be coordinated through Oakland's International Education department, The Honor's College or through individual colleges and schools.

Virinder Moudgil, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, says "Oakland's vision is to provide students with cultural and social experiences that prepare them to be effective contributors and leaders in tomorrow's global community."

"Studying abroad is a life changing experience that helps students understand the world better," Moudgil adds. "It also makes them more marketable to employers because they have this global experience."





*David Carmany*



### **Asian influences**

For Swan, whose trip was partially funded by an Oakland University Alumni Association grant, the experience was “an unsurpassable opportunity” to learn about the world. Swan traveled with 12 other engineering students for a 20-day study abroad opportunity in Beijing and Shanghai. They met with students from Beijing Jiaotong University as well as visited the Beijing Jeep facility, GM Shanghai and a manufacturing plant outside of Beijing. While there, the students worked in teams with the Chinese students on an engineering project. She says communicating was not an issue. “Some of the Chinese students spoke English, but when they didn’t we pointed, looked at books and equations. We understood each other.”

Matt Shea, an East Asian Studies student who graduated from Oakland in December 2007, completed a 12-week language studies program coordinated through OU and the Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU). He visited Hikone, Japan. It is one of the many study abroad opportunities open to College of Arts and Sciences students. The language courses were taught by native Japanese instructors and provided Shea with an immersion into the culture.

“There is nothing better than living in the community to understand what the culture is like,” he says. “This was first-hand knowledge and experience using the language.”

Such global experiences are critical to developing future business leaders according to David Carmany,

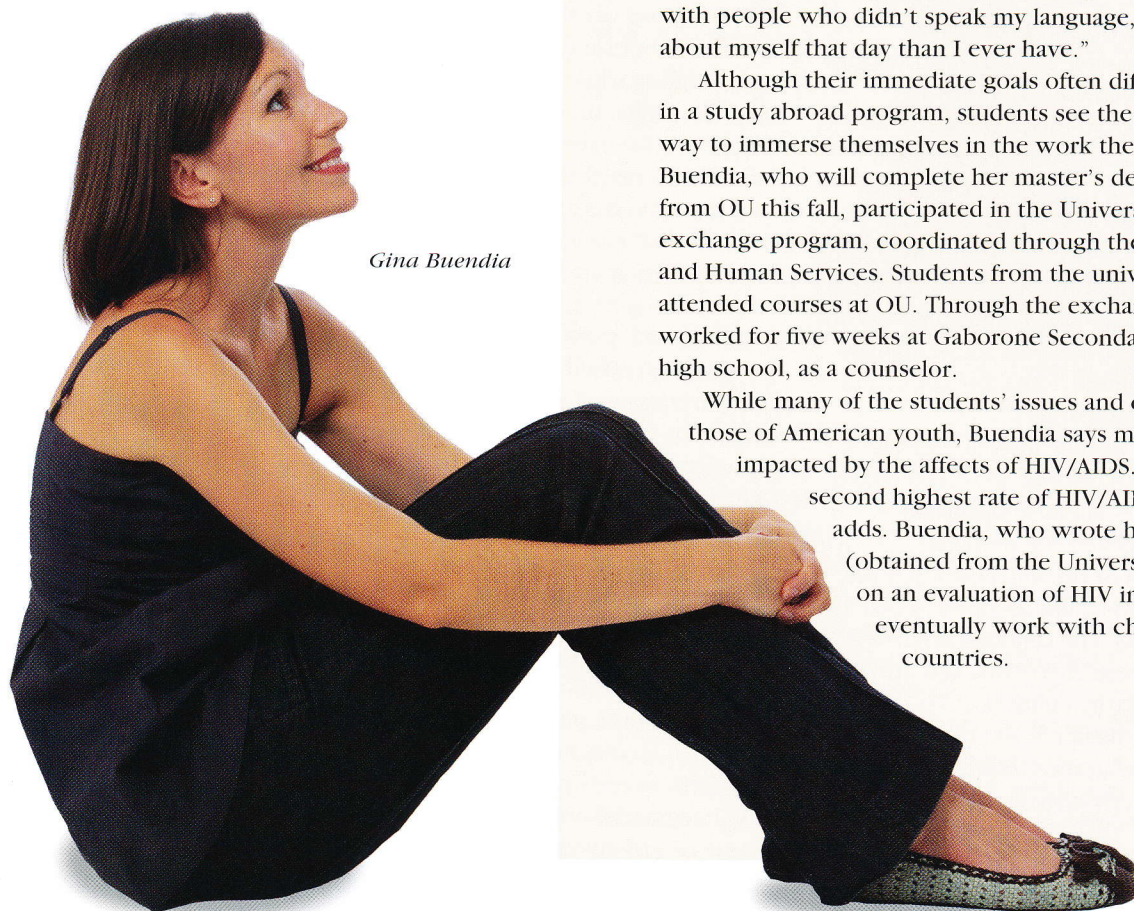
who completed an internship in Bangalore, India, via one of the many opportunities available through the School of Business Administration (SBA). SBA students have the opportunity to learn from global business leaders during trips that have included Germany, France, Australia, China, India and South Korea. In addition, visiting scholars from these countries enrich courses by sharing their insights on the global business perspective. Carmany, who has a Master of Business Administration in operational management and entrepreneurship from OU, first participated in an internship at a cigarette manufacturing plant in India. Carmany served as a consultant on operations management.

“It was an invaluable experience that was important for my professional and my cultural experience,” he says. “I chose India because it is a growing economy and exposure to the attitudes and business practices there were very important to me.”

Carmany worked on projects to improve efficiency in several areas of the plant, but his biggest lessons stemmed from experiencing a different culture in work and community settings. “There was almost a parental relationship in the organization. The employees were provided transportation to and from work, lunches, health care at the plant, and there was a very noticeable deferential treatment for people in higher up positions.

“It was an eye-opening experience to see how other people live and work,” he adds. “It was my first time outside of a traditional Judeo-Christian community... what we’re used to here is not what the world is.”





*Gina Buendia*

## Unexpected life lessons

Oakland School of Nursing students often travel to other countries — such as Northern Ireland, Italy, and Korea — to experience a diversity of health care practices. Susan Leegstra, a graduate nursing student, participated in a 13-day research trip to Seoul, South Korea, as part of an OU Nursing 687 course. The purpose of the trip was to conduct hands-on research and then compare experiences, Leegstra explains. She traveled with four other nursing students and associate professor of nursing Barbara Harrison. They went to a number of hospitals and nursing homes, speaking to administrators and caregivers. The focus was geriatric care.

“I saw a way of providing care that was much more holistic than our traditional care here,” she says. “The caregivers are interactive with their patients and they make sure the whole family is cared for...not just the individual.”

Leegstra also shed preconceived notions while there — “I had ideas about the culture, specifically that we were more advanced medically. We’re not. They had 3,000 bed hospitals and extensive equipment monitoring. Here we think 300 beds is a big facility.”

What most impressed Leegstra, however, was her own ability to adapt. “The last day there I was alone. Everyone had headed back to the U.S. I took the subways, explored, communicated with people who didn’t speak my language, and learned more about myself that day than I ever have.”

Although their immediate goals often differ when participating in a study abroad program, students see the global experience as a way to immerse themselves in the work they hope to do. Gina Buendia, who will complete her master’s degree in counseling from OU this fall, participated in the University of Botswana exchange program, coordinated through the School of Education and Human Services. Students from the university have also attended courses at OU. Through the exchange program Buendia worked for five weeks at Gaborone Secondary School, a public high school, as a counselor.

While many of the students’ issues and concerns mirrored those of American youth, Buendia says most youth are deeply impacted by the affects of HIV/AIDS. “Botswana has the second highest rate of HIV/AIDS in the world,” she adds. Buendia, who wrote her first master’s thesis (obtained from the University of York, England) on an evaluation of HIV in Botswana, hopes to eventually work with children in developing countries.





### It takes a village

Christopher Tidimane, originally from Botswana, is pursuing a doctorate in career counseling at OU. He helped connect OU representatives with their University of Botswana counterparts in order to coordinate the partnership. The partnership includes student and faculty exchanges, video conferences, and partnerships in research, scholarship, teaching and service.

"One of the things we need to realize is that the world has become one entity. We share knowledge as a global village," he says. "So we need to work together to teach counseling to reach all humankind."

This global knowledge also can be beneficial at home. Orsola Curcuru will receive her English and Secondary Education degrees in spring 2009. Last fall she visited Macerata, Italy and plans to use her experiences to add life to her student teaching at Seneca Middle School in Macomb County this fall.

"It was very rewarding to learn about and immerse myself in another culture," Curcuru says. "I studied Italian painting, history and culture — and I eventually felt like a native, not a tourist. I will use these experiences when teaching European history in class."

Students are not the only ones learning from travel abroad. Among the many opportunities for faculty at OU, each year a partnership between the Guizhou (China) Education Bureau and Oakland University offers the Summer English Language Institute, The MAT Joint-Masters Program, the Oakland-China Education Consortium for School Districts, the Leadership Training Project and the Visitors Exchange Programs — all focusing on international educational exchange.

For more information on Oakland University study abroad opportunities, visit [www.oakland.edu/ie](http://www.oakland.edu/ie) or contact individual schools or The Honors College. ■



Orsola  
Curcuru



Christopher Tidimane

## Crossing oceans, building new connections

Oakland University has a strong tradition of building global ties. From nursing students traveling to Northern Ireland, Italy and Korea to counseling students exchanging educational opportunities with the University of Botswana, the university is reaching out in many ways to create a community.

One of the most recent partnerships, between Oakland and the Max Stern Academic College of Emek Yezreel, will provide far-reaching educational and research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students at both institutions. The partnership was cemented in April 2008, when representatives from Oakland visited Israel and toured the Max Stern Academic College, Kiryat Ono College and the Weizmann Institute. This new joint venture will include student and faculty exchanges as well as facilitate research opportunities. Several exchanges are already underway.

The trip came about through the efforts of alumni and donor Bob Schostack, Board of Trustees member Henry Baskin and the Jewish Foundation of Metropolitan Detroit. Both Schostack and Baskin have been instrumental in supporting the creation and funding of OU's Judaic Studies program.

Michelle Piskulich, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, says the partnership enriches both institutions and provides opportunities for growing Oakland's new Judaic Studies program. (For Piskulich's personal take on the trip, see page 19). Judaic Studies is part of the Religious Studies program at Oakland, which includes minors in Judaic and Islamic Studies. Financial support for student enrichment travel will be available through the Bernard and Nina Kent Judaic Studies Endowed Israel Travel Fund. ■





# *Up to* Parr

**Entrepreneur does business on his own terms**

**By Alice Rhein**

*Craig Parr, SBA '65, has been a success at just about everything he's tried (except for retirement), often seeing opportunities in unusual places.*

**Craig Parr, SBA'65, has always been a forward thinker when it comes to business.** After all, he was involved with recycling and biodiesel fuel plants long before they became the eco-catch words of the decade. But these days, the 65-year-old lifetime Flint resident is thinking about his own future.

"I tell my kids when I'm 95 and in a rocking chair on the front porch, I'll want a shawl when it's 100 degrees out. I might not be able to talk, but they'll be able to tell by the smile or smirk on my face that I'm thinking about something in the past," says Parr, who has two daughters, four grandchildren, and has been married to his wife, Judy, since 1995. "Just be happy I'm smirking and get me the shawl."

Certainly a few smiles will surface when he recalls riding his Harley, a passion recently surrendered because he felt he just didn't have the reflexes despite being in better physical shape than most men his age.





And a smirk might penetrate his moustache when he remembers quotes from some of his heroes, including humorists Will Rogers, Mark Twain and Ambrose Bierce, author of *The Devil's Dictionary*. And he'll easily summon a grin recalling his drives to Oakland University in his red and white Pontiac convertible where he took the business courses that would shape his next half century.

"It was the best decision I ever made to go to Oakland. When I was there, Robin Hough, who died a couple of years ago, was a professor of mine in economics and people either thought he was a wack job or a genius. We became fast friends. He showed me by his very actions to keep your eyes open and listen," says Parr, a member of the SBA's Board of Visitors and visiting lecturer.

### Railroads and recycling

Armed with that advice and his degree, Parr took a job with General Motors and spent much of his career managing plants and plant closings. In 1992, he retired from GM, and went to work for Greg Smith, who brought the New Center Stamping, Inc. to Detroit's Empowerment Zone. As president of New Center for three years, he saw it turn a profit, and then left for new challenges. These have included Chippewa Capital in Grand Blanc, Parr's capital leasing company that leases trucks, rail cars and other equipment, and Evergreen Commodities, a recycling company.

"Three of us old-timers got together a few years ago and formed this company when we saw that recycling was going to be bigger and bigger," says Parr, who notes that one of the partners has been in the recycling business since 1959. "It takes a lot of different skill sets to be a recycler because nothing in the way of recycling works unless there is a profitability associated with it. That is the motivating force. You can't do this with your heart, you have to do it with your head."

With the biodiesel fuel company, Parr admits that the clean-burning alternative fuel business has almost gotten "too big for its britches."

### Running on algae

Essentially, he and several partners have a company in Iowa that turns pond-grown or plant-grown algae into biodiesel glycerin and distiller's grains, which is a leftover mash that can be used in the ethanol industry or as livestock feed. "Biodiesel is the perfect replacement for conventional diesel," says Parr.

And beyond that there are many commercial applications for the process, such as linking to power plants where carbon dioxide and hot water, two ingredients needed to produce algae, are prevalent. "We don't make a lot of racket. We're not a high profile group of guys," he adds. "We learned a long time ago that them that stick their head out too far get it knocked off."

Yet Parr is a quintessential risk-taker in every sense of the word, noting that he might get hit by a bus three days in a row, figuratively speaking, of course, but on the fourth day, he gets picked up by a limo and taken somewhere special. Playing in Traffic, is what he'd like to title a book someday, in which he'll dole out the same kind of advice he offers OU entrepreneurial students. "Get up early, get out there and network," he stresses. "Never turn down an opportunity to meet someone. I'm a big believer that things happen for a reason, but they're not going to happen to you if you're not right out there in the intersection." ■

*Alice Rhein is a freelance writer from Huntington Woods, Mich.*



*Craig Parr got into the recycling business long before it was fashionable.*





# PLANTED

## Battle Creek Police Department sees green — up on the roof

By Mary Gunderson-Switzer

**Battle Creek's men and women in blue are now covered in green.** The police

department's Public Service Building is home to Southwest Michigan's first "green roof."

Christine Kosmowski, SHS '80, Battle Creek's environmental programs coordinator, secured the state grant that garnered nearly \$330,000 to help fund the city's eco-friendly roof. Completed in fall 2005, the end result is a beautiful, energy efficient, 18,000-square-foot vegetated roof cover.

"The roof project began as a lucky coincidence," Kosmowski says. "On the environmental services end, our concern was that rainwater run-off was trickling into the Battle Creek River. At the same time, the city manager was concerned that the roof was in poor shape."

Not long after discussions began, the idea of a green roof took root.

Chosen by the American Public Works Association for a 2006 Public Works Project of the Year award, Kosmowski says the roof project was a rewarding joint effort.

While the Battle Creek Public Works Department oversaw the project, the police department funded a portion of it. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality also partnered up to provide vital conceptual and financial support. Rounding out the "clean team" was Soil and Materials Engineers, Inc., which helped with roof choice and design, and ChristenDETROIT, which installed the roof.

The combination of talents was a good fit for a great roof.

Layered with a four-inch thick lightweight soil mixture, native perennials border the roof's perimeter. The rest of the roof is host to a dozen species of sedum plants, which are known for storing a lot of water in their leaves.

"It's working beautifully," Kosmowski says. "About 65 percent of rainfall is retained on the roof — and about 98 percent with lighter rains."

While the plants block UV rays (increasing the roof's lifespan), the aesthetically pleasing roof efficiently filters rainwater pollutants, evaporating water run-off through the plants. The new roof also insulates the building, lowering energy costs.

Green roofs are popping up more these days.

"Germany has had green roofs for about 40 years, and it's encouraging that the concept is catching on in the U.S.," adds Kosmowski.

### Kermit knows

When it comes to personal responsibility, the popular Muppet had a point: "It's not easy being green" — but it's worth it. Throughout her 27 years working for the City of Battle Creek, Kosmowski has continued to plug away on environmental issues.

Once a Camp Fire Girl, Kosmowski's fondness for the outdoors has grown into community-wide environmental projects and programs that educate and inspire. Every spring, Kosmowski facilitates the Greater Battle Creek Area

## Every drop counts

The Great Lakes hold much of the earth's fresh water supply. The City of Battle Creek Environmental Programs Coordinator Christine Kosmowski emphasizes that we can reduce water pollutants with these everyday practices:

**Properly dispose of household hazardous waste.** Never dump items like motor oil/ fuel/ paint/ cleaner/pesticide down the drain or on the ground — they contaminate ground and surface water.

**Keep septic systems working properly.** Have septic systems checked every two to three years.

**Check fuel storage tanks regularly for leaks.** Leaking (above and underground) storage tanks are a major source of contamination.

**Properly close abandoned wells.** Close any abandoned wells on your property;

they carry contaminants directly to groundwater.

**Wash cars away from storm drains.** When washing cars, direct the dirty water residue away from streets and storm drains; position cars so that the dirty water run-off can be absorbed by lawns.

**Dispose of pet waste.** Pet waste can be high in bacteria and nutrients — it should be disposed of in a toilet or trash can.

**Compost grass clippings and leaves.** Never allow clippings or leaves to wash into roadways.

**Don't guess — test soil.** Have your lawn soil analyzed for nutrient information. Over-application of fertilizers and pesticides can lead to these products making their way into surface and groundwater.

**Landscape naturally.** Landscape with native plants well-suited to the climate; they're also pest-resistant and can reduce the need for irrigation and fertilizers.

**Properly dispose of swimming pool waste water.** Pool water can be hazardous to local streams and lakes; contact your local public works department for advice.





*Christine Kosmowski, SHS '80, works to keep things "green" as environmental programs coordinator for the City of Battle Creek.*

Children's Water Festival, a fun-filled educational program (including entertainer "Billy B" and a water slogan contest); in the fall, she helps organize the Global Citizens River Conservation Day, when hundreds of volunteers pitch in with river cleanups and conservation projects.

One of Kosmowski's recent grant projects was the 2007 porous asphalt pavement for the park at Willard Beach. The porous asphalt prevents water run-off, allowing storm water to infiltrate the pavement. "The idea is to make improvements that disturb nature as little as possible," she explains.

Kosmowski also helps coordinate the city's recycling incentives program and free lawn soil testing days, helping locals determine the right amount of lawn fertilizer — an important component in reducing surface and groundwater contamination [See "Every drop counts"].

Besides appreciating a cleaner, greener world around her, Kosmowski's hard work sometimes brings other bonuses — like receiving the 2007 Watershed Management Professional of the Year award from the Michigan Water

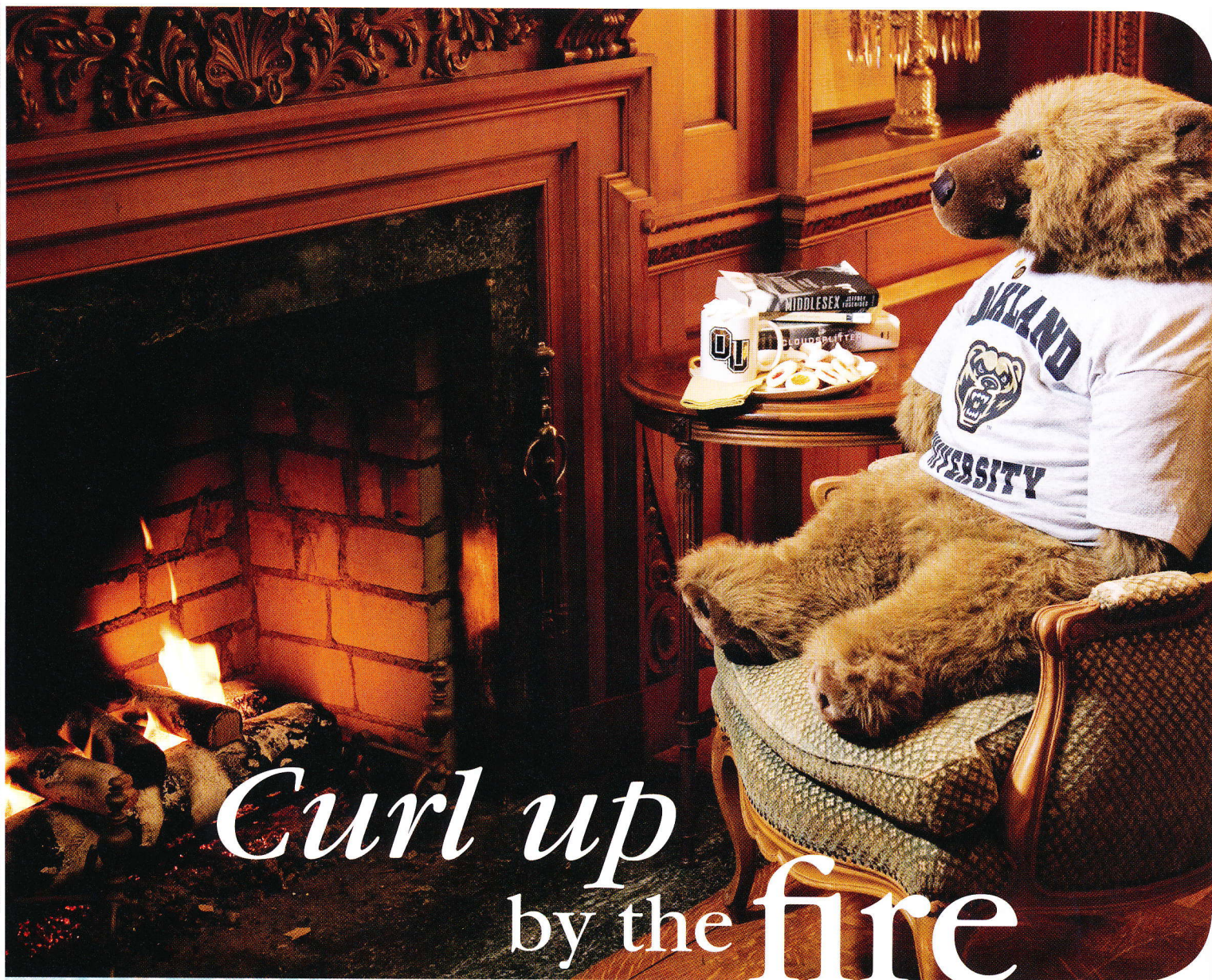
Environmental Association. Kosmowski is currently excited about an ongoing rain garden development project in downtown Battle Creek.

One of the most heavily used parking lots in Battle Creek is getting a welcome facelift. Expected to be completed by fall 2009, the city is installing two rain gardens in the parking lot area. Rain gardens are depressions planted with native species designed to let storm water infiltrate. The city will also use the space to exhibit art intended to educate the public about the water cycle and storm water.

"The personal choices we make every day make a difference and can contribute to larger problems," she says. "All water is connected in our environment...the cycle of water impacts the quality of our drinking water — and that's something that affects us all." ■

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





# Curl up by the fire

**Great reads and tasty treats for the long, cold season ahead**

The winter months are upon us and the holidays are right around the corner. It's a great time of year to curl up with a good book, a steaming cup of coffee, your favorite sweet treat and while away those cold winter evenings. We thought we might lend a little assistance to this cozy picture.

Check out our version of a winter survival guide with great books for adults, great reads for the kids, a sweet treat from our Meadow Brook Hall chef and some smart tips for keeping those festive holiday dishes and comfort food we all crave during the cold months a little healthier and skinnier this year.





## 'Must-read' novels

### **Blindness** by Jose Saramago

A brilliant and disturbing novel about a plague of blindness in an unnamed European city. Saramago's prose renders some of the most harrowing images in any novel beautiful and moving. An adaptation of the novel opened in theatres this past September.

### **Middlesex** by Jeffrey Eugenides

The narrator announces on the first page his double birth: born as a girl and, later, in an emergency room in Petoskey, Mich., as a teenage boy. The novel traces the epic story of his family, from a village near Mount Olympus to Detroit and its suburbs. In addition to an energetically told story of the narrator's coming of age, the novel offers the complicated story of an immigrant family's assimilation to American culture and the history of Detroit.

### **The Known World** by Edward P. Jones

Jones imagines the world of a close-knit community of slave-owning blacks. The story centers around one man who dies in the opening pages and spans backward and forward in time to weave a compelling story along with a powerfully complex portrait of a world almost lost to history.

### **A Change of Climate** by Hilary Mantel

Mantel is not well-known in America, but is celebrated in Britain. The novel begins with a Jane Austen-like examination of a small community but then blows that out of the water when a couple bent on doing good travels to southern Africa where tragedy hits, and hits hard. This is a compelling examination of the possibilities of being and doing good in the world and a beautiful portrait of a family driven by tragedy and secrets.

### **Runaway** by Alice Munro

Munro may be the best writer of short stories ever. This collection includes a series of stories which are beautifully self-contained and interrelated. The prose is occasionally obscure, but the stories, which tend to focus on women in small rural communities, are invariably captivating.

### **Cloudsplitter** by Russell Banks

This is a big historical novel about the abolitionist hero/terrorist John Brown.

### **Being Dead** by Jim Crace

The novel begins with a couple's murder on a beach and then moves forward in time, tracing the aftermath (decomposition, their alienated daughter's discovery of their absence) and, in regressive steps backward, the events which led up to their death. Crace accomplishes the impossible here: he writes exuberant — and lively — prose about the fate of all bodies.

### **The Inheritance of Loss** by Kiran Desai

This prize-winning novel takes place at both the foot of the Himalayas and in New York; it is a powerful exploration of the consequences of a global world. Marauding political

thugs rob houses as if they were following the script of a Hollywood movie and a son of an Indian cook-servant struggles to stay afloat in the migrant shadow class in Manhattan, sending home stories of his financial success while sleeping in the basements of restaurants where he works — all the while a Nepalese insurgency brews on the street revealing further divisions and connections.

### **Interpreter of Maladies** by Jhumpa Lahiri

Lahiri won the Pulitzer Prize for this collection of short stories about life torn between India, Boston, and London. Each story is beautifully crafted and emotionally powerful. The collection experiments with different narrative techniques without feeling showy or artificial. An exquisitely beautiful collection of stories.

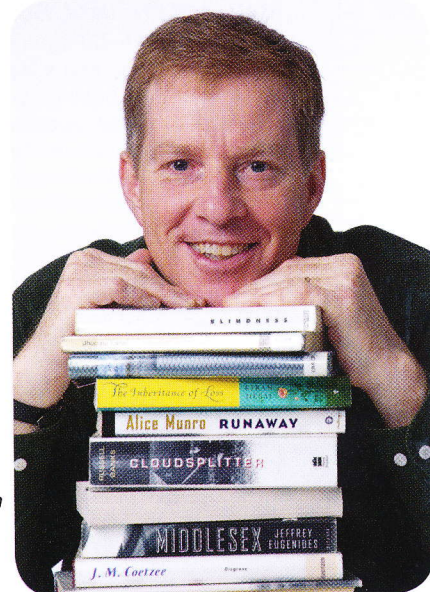
### **Housekeeping** by Marilyn Robinson

A heart-wrenching story about two sisters who, after losing their mother, end up being raised by their vagrant aunt in a hardscrabble Idaho town called "Fingerbone." The novel tracks the divergent road each of the sisters takes: one takes the conventional road toward respectability and popularity; the other follows the aunt's (and Thoreau's and Emerson's) more eccentric path.

### **Disgrace** by J.M. Coetzee

Coetzee's spare and simply written novel is devastating. It follows a South African literature professor teaching in a university recently transformed into a kind of professional school who is caught having an affair with a student. He admits guilt, but refuses to "repent." When he goes off to spend time with his daughter in the countryside, he is forced to confront the brutal circumstances of post-Apartheid South Africa — including violently troubled race relations and a population of dogs which has spun out of control.

*List compiled by Robert Anderson, associate professor of English, whose area of specialty is British Romantic literature (Blake, Wordsworth, Mary and Percy Shelley). He currently works with several local book clubs. "As for my tastes, I like ambitious and unsettling novels. I think Blindness is my favorite novel of the last century. I also love contemporary fiction which strikes up conversations with the British Romantic writers and texts I study professionally. Dan Simmons' Hyperion Canticles — a science fiction work based on three John Keats' poems that I did not include on this list — captured my attention and affection."*





**EMERGENT READERS (BIRTH-4 OR 5)  
GENDER DOESN'T MATTER YET**

**The Neighborhood Mother Goose** by Nina Crews  
If you want to raise a reader, *Mother Goose* is the most important book to share with infants, toddlers, preschool, or kindergarten children. Nina Crews takes a fresh look at the old rhymes, using photographs of real kids in their Brooklyn neighborhood.

**Bunny Cakes** by Rosemary Wells  
Max and his older sister Ruby are preparing for Grandma's birthday — but Max can't do anything right. His writing is unintelligible to the neighborhood grocer until he realizes that not all writing looks like Ruby's. This book affirms the emergent writing skills of all the little brothers and sisters who want to be grown-up.

**EARLY READERS (GRADES K-1-2)  
GENDER STILL DOESN'T MATTER**

**Mercy Watson to the Rescue** by Kate DiCamillo  
Early chapter books have become quite popular, but Junie B. Jones is not your only choice. Mercy Watson's exploits will have your first- and second-grade readers begging for more. Fortunately, this porcine prankster's escapades now extend over five volumes.

**Will's Mammoth** by Rafe Martin  
Just because a book is newly released, it is not automatically "the best." *Will's Mammoth* is as old as the current OU freshmen, but this almost-wordless book about imagination and adventure will still enthrall readers. Stephen Gammell's watercolor illustrations render Will's rainbow-hued fantasies into magical expeditions with Saber tooth tigers and wooly mammoths.

**INDEPENDENT READERS (GRADES 3-5)  
GENDER STARTS TO MATTER  
(BUT THESE BOOKS CAN WORK FOR EITHER)**

**GIRLS: The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread** by Kate DiCamillo  
The Tale of Despereaux is the 2004 Newbery Award winner for the best-written book for young people. It is also a marvelous read aloud or read together for adults to share with their children. DiCamillo's writing will remind you of the classics — think *The Three Musketeers*, *Jane Austen*, and *Walt Disney* — all rolled into one. Sword fights, unrequited love, orphans, dastardly villains — absolutely lovely!

**BOYS: The Invention of Hugo Cabret: A Novel in Words and Pictures** by Brian Selznick  
Hugo Cabret is an orphan who lives behind the clock in the Paris train station during the 1930s. His dream is to reconstruct the automaton that his father revealed to him before he died. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* is infused with mysterious characters and settings that you view much like an early movie. It is a whopping 550 pages, but it won the 2008 Caldecott Award for best-illustrated book for children — an award that usually honors a 32-page picture storybook.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL OR A BIT OLDER**

**GIRLS: Bronx Masquerade** by Nikki Grimes  
*Bronx Masquerade* invites readers to observe as a dispirited student performs his Langston Hughes-style poem and transforms a normal class into a weekly festival of the written and spoken word. This book combines poetry, narration, and character sketches to reveal more than just the raw talent of burgeoning poets. Grimes' 2003 Coretta Scott King Award winner will captivate all readers — regardless of gender.

**BOYS: Feed** by M. T. Anderson  
Imagine today's adolescents as parents — thinking, talking, and acting the way they do now. Add wireless-technology that is one part I-Pod, one part cell phone, and two parts advertising, surgically implanted into almost everyone's brain at birth. Prepare to read a science fiction book like you've never imagined in your worst nightmares. Warning: as one reviewer wrote, the dialog depends heavily on the "second most common English obscenity."

**HIGH SCHOOL**

**GIRLS: The First Part Last** by Angela Johnson  
The cover says it all: teen father, tiny baby. Where's the mother? Angela Johnson's narrative unfolds through a series of flashbacks punctuating 16-year-old Bobby's daily life. Johnson is the recipient of the MacArthur Genius Award; *The First Part Last* was awarded the 2004 Coretta Scott King Author Award and the 2004 Michael Printz Young Adult Literature Award.

**BOYS: Sunrise Over Fallujah** by Walter Dean Myers  
In Myers' sequel to *Fallen Angels*, "Birdy" Perry honestly narrates his unit's experiences in Iraq, but sanitizes and minimizes them in letters and e-mails to his family. "Birdy" slowly and painfully perceives that war is not a video game, much as his Uncle Richie discovered in Vietnam.

List compiled by Linda M. Pavonetti, associate professor of Reading and Language Arts, who teaches children and young adult literature, serves on book award committees and writes reviews of new books. "What are your favorite books for kids?" is one of the most difficult questions anyone can ask me, so I did shudder a bit before developing this list, but it was an enjoyable task. I hope my 10 choices will encourage young readers to explore their local library or bookstore for these and other great books."





# Tasty tips for healthy eating

## One more fat-reducing idea

Experiment with deleting or reducing by half the amount of a high fat ingredient (such as cheese, nuts or olives) in a recipe or use for the garnish. Instead of a heavy frosting on a cake, try a 'dusting' of powdered sugar.

## Beverages count, too!

A 12-ounce can of sugar-sweetened soda or beer contain about 140 calories. Watch out for fruit punches or coffee beverages made with sugar sweetened syrups or whole milk. They can easily contain more than 200 calories in 12 ounces. Try a spicy or sweet cup of herbal tea instead of hot chocolate with whipped cream and marshmallows.



This guide was provided by Barbara Main, part-time OU instructor and manager of education and standards for Beaumont Hospitals Department of Nutrition Services.

Sources: Adapted from "Ingredient Substitutions: Make the Switch for Healthier Recipes", MayoClinic.com Accessed August 2008. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Nutrition for Everyone: Rethink Your Drink." Accessed August 2008. Available at Healthy Weight: Healthy Eating for a Healthy Weight: Rethink Your Drink | DNPAO | CDC.

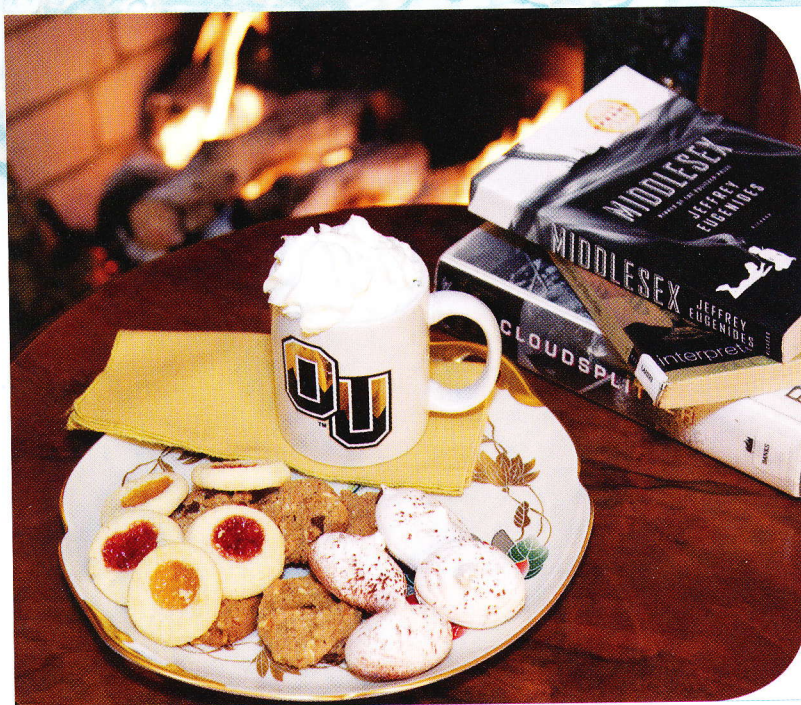
## To reduce fat and cholesterol

### If your recipe calls for:

### Try substituting:

|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| bacon                                               | canadian bacon, turkey bacon or smoked turkey                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| butter, margarine, shortening or oil in baked goods | applesauce, mashed banana, pureed pumpkin, prune puree or plain yogurt for half (or more) of the called for butter, margarine, shortening or oil. Don't substitute diet, whipped or tub-style margarine for regular margarine or butter — the water content is too high. |
| butter, margarine, shortening or oil to grease pans | cooking spray or non stick pans                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| creamed soups                                       | fat-free milk-based soups, mashed potato flakes, or pureed carrots, potatoes or tofu for thickening agents                                                                                                                                                               |
| eggs                                                | 2 egg whites or ¼ cup of egg substitute for each whole egg                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| evaporated milk                                     | evaporated skim milk                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| full-fat cream cheese                               | fat-free or low-fat cream cheese, Neufchatel or low-fat cottage cheese pureed until smooth                                                                                                                                                                               |
| full-fat sour cream                                 | fat-free plain yogurt, fat-free or low-fat sour cream or Silken tofu                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| hamburger (ground beef)                             | extra lean or lean ground beef (ground round or sirloin), ground chicken or turkey breast                                                                                                                                                                                |
| mayonnaise                                          | reduced-calorie mayonnaise-type salad dressing or reduced-calorie, reduced-fat mayonnaise                                                                                                                                                                                |
| oil-based marinades                                 | wine, balsamic vinegar, fruit juice or fat-free broth                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| salad dressing                                      | fat-free or reduced-calorie dressing or flavored vinegars                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| whole milk                                          | reduced-fat (2% or 1%) or fat-free milk (skim)                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| meat drippings (for gravy or basting)               | fat-free drippings or broth, fruit or vegetable juices                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| fruit canned in heavy syrup                         | fruit canned in its own juices or in water, or fresh fruit                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| fruit-flavored yogurt                               | plain yogurt with fresh fruit added                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| syrups                                              | pureed fruit or low-calorie, sugar-free syrups                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| sugar in baked goods                                | artificial sweeteners made for baking (follow the directions on the package for amount to use)                                                                                                                                                                           |





## Final thoughts

Keep up with your exercise program — even if you can't get to the gym, park a distance from the mall entrance, bundle up and take a walk after dinner or build a snowman in the snow. Drink water! Not only will you keep yourself hydrated, but you will also have less room for food.

**Curling up with a good book? Try these lower fat snacks:**

- Pretzels rather than chips or crackers
- Cut vegetables with low-fat dip
- Fresh fruit or fruit kabobs
- Boiled shrimp or crab with lemon juice or cocktail sauce rather than deep fried chicken fingers or wings.
- Use smaller plates or bowls. It really does make a difference! Controlling your portion size still allows you to eat most any food.
- Frozen yogurt, sorbet or reduced-fat ice cream are available in an increasing number of flavors and varieties in the market and can be a reasonable alternative to the full-fat versions.

## White Chocolate Cranberry Bread Pudding

### One gooey recipe

We had to include one sinful recipe here or our surviving the winter feature just wouldn't be complete. The following was provided courtesy of Meadow Brook Hall's pastry chef, Brandon Ugolini. (Hey, he's a pastry chef — we can't be responsible for the fat and sugar content!)

|                             |                                            |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>2 cups half and half</b> | <b>4 eggs</b>                              |
| <b>2 cups heavy cream</b>   | <b>4 egg yolks</b>                         |
| <b>¾ cup sugar</b>          | <b>12-ounce package of white chocolate</b> |
| <b>1 tsp. vanilla</b>       | <b>1 cup fresh cranberries</b>             |
|                             | <b>Dry bread/rolls</b>                     |

Pre-heat oven to 325°

Bring half and half, heavy cream, sugar and vanilla to a simmer.

In a separate bowl, temper the eggs and egg yolks by slowly adding the hot cream mixture to the eggs while whisking rapidly.

Pour the egg/cream mixture back into the pot and heat over low flame until the mixture reaches 180°, stirring constantly.

When mixture is ready, turn off the flame and add the white chocolate and stir until fully melted and combined.

Grease a 9 x 13 x 2 pan with butter and fill ¾ to the top with dry diced bread. (You could also use old doughnuts, rolls, etc.) Spread the cranberries through the pan and on top of the bread.

Evenly pour custard over the bread and let soak for 1 minute. Push down any bread into the pan that sticks out.

Place in pre-heated oven for 25-30 minutes or until the top is a deep golden brown.

Let pudding cool slightly before serving. Serve with whipped cream or a scoop of vanilla ice cream.





*Your university in your neighborhood*  
**OU-Macomb**



*Building on 20 years of Partnership in Macomb County*



# World-class education without boundaries

## OU-Macomb brings an Oakland University education to Macomb County

A nationally recognized academic institution, Oakland University believes in helping as many students as possible earn a four-year degree — and take their educational aspirations even higher, if that's where their dreams lead them.

That's why OU has created partnerships that enable students to earn an OU degree in Macomb County, a unique educational offering known as OU-Macomb. Available in one of two convenient locations — the Macomb University Center (MUC) or the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) — OU-Macomb allows students to participate in OU academic programs to complete instruction for their bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree right in the county where they live or work.

Oakland University-Macomb was one of the three original partners in the Macomb University Center, established by Macomb Community College in 1991. OU-Macomb enrolls more than twice as many students as any of the nine partners in the MUC. OU-Macomb offers more than 15 degree programs serving more than 1,200 students. These include degrees in high-demand areas of study including health sciences, education, human resources and engineering (see pages 4-5 for details).

For more than eight years, OU has also offered graduate, post-graduate, certificate and endorsement programs at MISD, to support the professional development needs of teachers, administrators, counselors and staff.

In 2006, OU and MCC expanded their partnership by launching the state's first concurrent enrollment program, Macomb 2 Oakland (M2O). With one application, students apply to both institutions and can take advantage of the resources offered by both schools. Some students choose M2O to complete their bachelor's degree more quickly at a more affordable cost. Others enroll in the program to earn their associate's degree so they can apply for more attractive employment opportunities while completing their bachelor's degree.

M2O is quickly gaining momentum, enrolling 309 students in its second year — an increase of more than 75 percent over

the previous year's enrollment figures. Plus, M2O was named the 2007 Outstanding Transfer Program by the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

OU is also uniquely equipped to partner with corporations, educational institutions, hospitals and governments throughout Macomb County and the Detroit metropolitan area by providing on-site degrees and customized training programs. For example, OU has partnered with Center Line Public Schools to develop a culture audit and diversity awareness training program. OU is also committed to the economic development of the region and is involved in the development of the Smart Zone/Business Incubator in Sterling Heights.

Prompted by the Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth in Macomb County, OU appointed a vice president for Outreach to further develop and implement a variety of programs in Macomb County (see related story on page 3). These include additional degree programs, educational support services, community services and adult education — initiatives designed to truly meet the higher education needs of Macomb County and the surrounding communities. ■

### KEY FACTS *Macomb 2 Oakland Program*

The Macomb 2 Oakland (M2O) option offers numerous benefits for freshmen and select transfer students, including:

- Joint admission to Macomb Community College (MCC) and Oakland University (OU) is accomplished through one application.
- Concurrent enrollment at OU and MCC, offering the flexibility to take courses at one or both institutions at the same time.
- Coordinated financial aid at both institutions, which combines credit for concurrently enrolled students.
- Coordinated academic advising and course planning, with advisers available at both institutions.
- Access to the on-campus resources at both schools, including OU housing, student services and more.
- Available financial aid based on the combined full-time enrollment at OU and/or MCC. Plus, students in M2O are eligible to receive OU general fund scholarship and grant awards.
- Students accepted into the program are eligible to register at both schools. Before registering, all students must attend one orientation session and are notified of upcoming orientation dates when they are admitted to the program. Students can register for classes online or in person.

*"For more than two decades, the partnership with Oakland University has brought numerous benefits to Macomb County residents and businesses. From the coursework offered at the Macomb University Center, to the award-winning Macomb 2 Oakland joint admission, dual-degree program, OU-Macomb has brought countless opportunities to students in Macomb County that didn't previously exist."*

— Al Lorenzo  
President Emeritus, Macomb Community College



**A conversation with  
Mary Otto, Ed.D.,**  
vice president for Outreach

*Mary Otto joined Oakland University in 1973 as an assistant professor of Education in the Department of Counseling. Over the years, she served in a number of faculty and administrative capacities and was named dean of the School of Education and Human Services in 1995. She began in her new position as*

*vice president for Outreach on June 1, 2008, which includes overseeing OU-Macomb and identifying other outreach opportunities for Oakland University.*

**Q What is your vision for OU-Macomb?**

**A** Oakland University has been offering programs in Macomb County for 20 years, and we will continue expanding our academic programs. We're going to focus on some very specific educational areas in response to the economic needs of the community and the Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth in Macomb County, which challenged Oakland University to increase involvement in the community.

**Q Can you tell us more about those areas of focus?**

**A** Health care is at the top of the list of opportunities for employment, and Oakland University is working with Macomb Community College to further develop Health Sciences programs designed to help students obtain a four-year degree related to health care.

Another area we're working on is the field of business, and technology. In particular, to develop Business programs that will carry graduates into the future. People don't tend to work in the same job for their entire career anymore, so we want to offer flexible degrees that can allow people to easily transition from one job to another. Information technology, homeland security and defense are three examples of the areas we're looking at — the kinds of fields people will need to have skills in if they're going to move in and out of a variety of jobs.

We're also in the process of evaluating our Engineering offerings to make sure the program is truly responsive to the employment needs of the community.

**Q Will OU-Macomb continue to grow in other ways, too?**

**A** Absolutely. Because of the number of Education programs we already offer, we're uniquely positioned to broaden our offerings in education and human services, which is the second largest area of job opportunity. We also plan to expand our undergraduate offerings and strategically offer additional graduate programs — to possibly include Health Sciences, Engineering and Business — to help people further develop their careers.

**Q Are other kinds of changes in the works, too?**

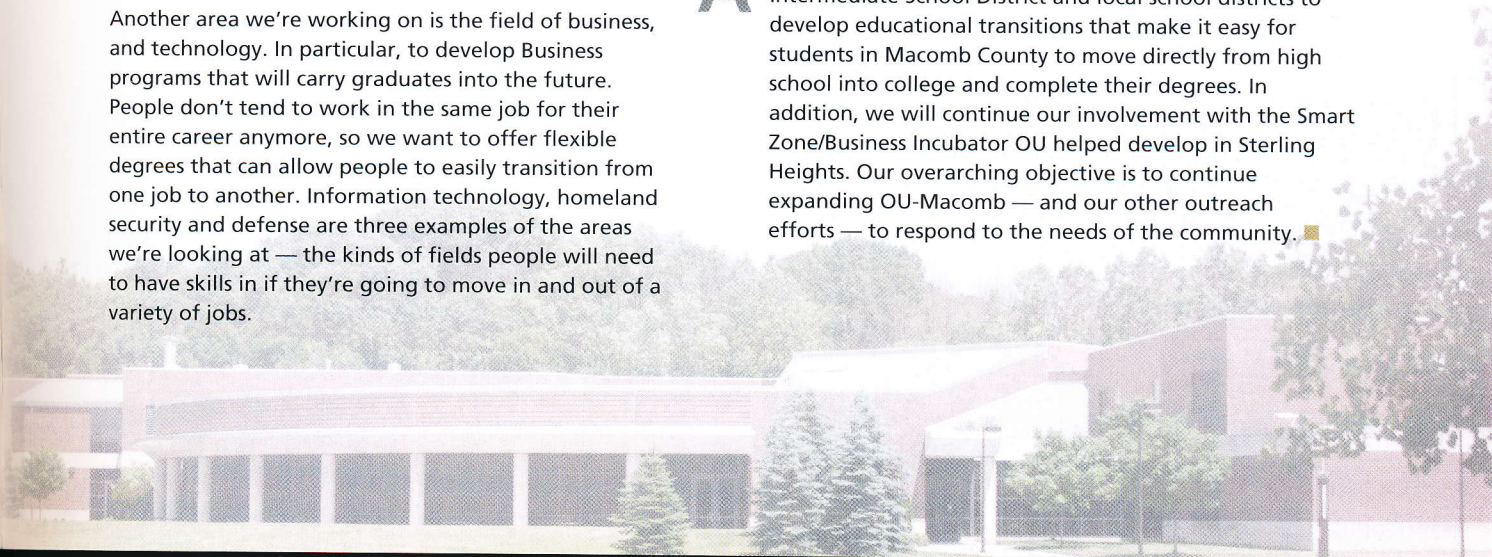
**A** Yes. We're going to develop online courses and different modes of delivery, such as weekend courses, to accommodate the needs of the working student. We want to make it possible for students to complete all of their coursework in Macomb County. And an important aspect of my vision is to make the Macomb campus a very student-centered environment, where there's a sense of a student community.

**Q How is the evolution of OU-Macomb being developed?**

**A** I will be contacting alumni who live in Macomb County for their input and suggestions about how we can best serve the community. Oakland University President Gary Russi and I will be putting together an Advisory Board for OU-Macomb. In addition, Albert Lorenzo, who just retired after many years as president of Macomb Community College, has agreed to join us as an executive in residence. He has a very strong sense of the needs of the community.

**Q In what other ways does Oakland University plan to reach out to Macomb County and the surrounding communities?**

**A** We are going to work even more closely with the Macomb Intermediate School District and local school districts to develop educational transitions that make it easy for students in Macomb County to move directly from high school into college and complete their degrees. In addition, we will continue our involvement with the Smart Zone/Business Incubator OU helped develop in Sterling Heights. Our overarching objective is to continue expanding OU-Macomb — and our other outreach efforts — to respond to the needs of the community. ■





# OU-Macomb facts and services

## Degree Programs

OU-Macomb courses are offered at two locations in Clinton Township: the Macomb University Center (MUC) and the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD).

### Undergraduate Degree Programs

Bachelor of Arts in Communication  
Bachelor of Arts in Journalism  
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science  
Bachelor of Science in Computer,  
Electrical or Mechanical Engineering  
Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education  
Bachelor of Science in General Management  
Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Development  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
(accelerated second degree program)  
Bachelor of Science in Occupational Safety and Health

### Graduate Degree Programs

Doctor of Philosophy in Education,  
Educational Leadership Concentration  
Education Specialist Degree (EdS)  
in Educational Leadership  
Master of Arts in Counseling (MA)  
(two-track option: school or community/agency)  
Master of Arts in Teaching, Reading and Language Arts  
Master of Arts in Training and Development (MTD)  
Master of Business Administration  
(MBA Weekend Courses)  
RN to MSN  
Master of Arts in Teaching with  
Elementary Certification (K-8)  
Master of Arts in Teaching with  
Secondary Certification (7-12)  
Master of Education in Early Childhood Education  
with Early Childhood Endorsement  
Master of Education in Educational Studies (MEd)  
Master of Education in Special Education with Autism  
Spectrum Disorder Endorsement  
Master of Education in Teacher Leadership  
Master of Training and Development

### KEY FACTS *OU-Macomb*

OU-Macomb offers several benefits including:

- Courses are taught by OU instructors.
- Expanded course selection, including both day and evening classes — and even some online courses.
- A cohort format for select programs unites students working toward the same degree at the same time creating a sense of camaraderie as they follow the same degree path.
- Students who complete a four-year degree program earn their degree from Oakland University — even if all their coursework is completed at one of the two Macomb locations.
- On-site student advising services available.
- Application criteria and deadlines are program-specific. For details, visit [www.oakland.edu/macomb](http://www.oakland.edu/macomb).





## Certificate Programs

Brain Based Teaching and Learning  
Career Development Facilitator Training  
Post-master's School Counseling Specialization

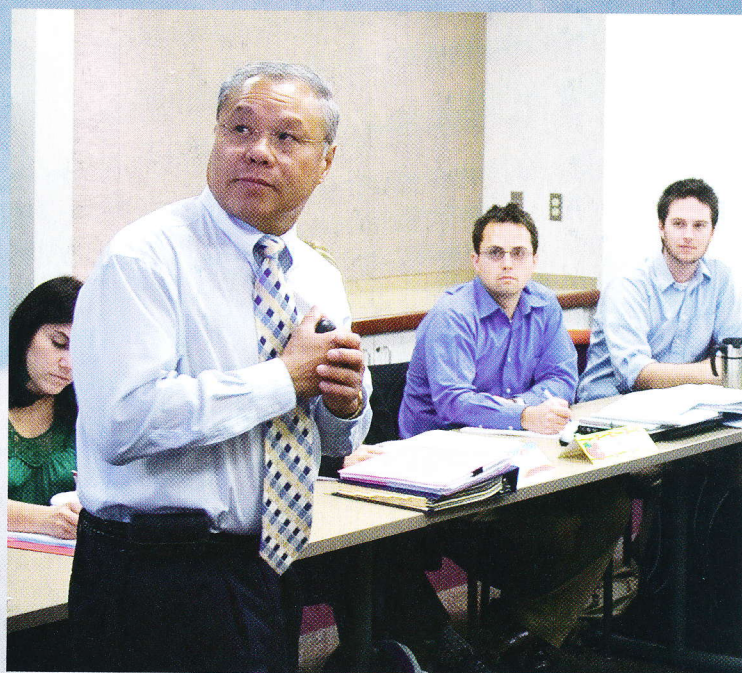
## Student Services

Other services for OU-Macomb students include:

- access to the online OU bookstore
- campus police
- counseling and advising
- handicapped assistance
- comprehensive free job placement services
- access to the OU library on the Oakland campus or online, plus access to MISD Beal Library and MCC Center Campus library

To give students the complete college experience, plenty of extracurricular activities are available. In addition to activities on the OU campus — including a variety of student organizations, sports and cultural events — students in Macomb are offered numerous activities including first-run movies, live bands and poetry readings through the MCC Center Campus. OU-Macomb students are also eligible for discounts at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, which brings a variety of entertainment and cultural programming to the area.

For more information about OU-Macomb, visit [www.oakland.edu/macomb](http://www.oakland.edu/macomb).

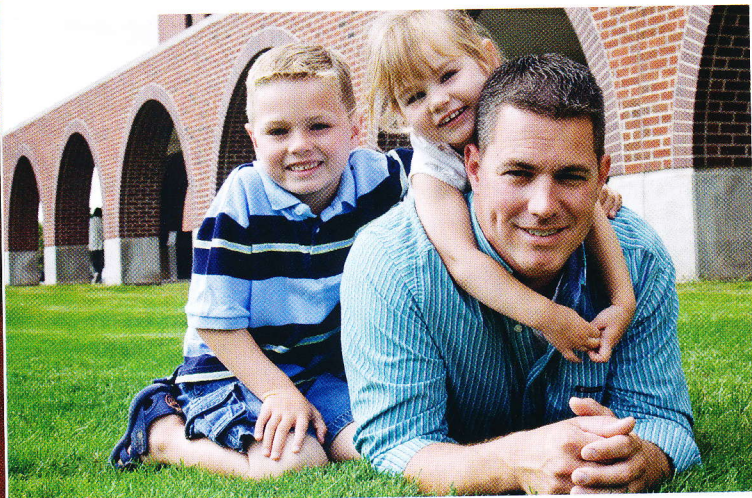


*"We are very pleased to be able to partner with Oakland University at the Macomb Intermediate School District, as they assist the district in researching and collecting important demographic and perception data related to the diverse population found in our school district. Additionally, the Oakland University staff will analyze the data and then facilitate a process for us to create and implement programs and strategies so we are meeting the needs of all students served by Center Line Public Schools."*

—Judith P. Pritchett, Ph.D. '02  
Superintendent, Center Line Public Schools



## OU-Macomb stories



*Scott Keen, father of two, is making a career change by pursuing a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.*

### Learning to give back

For Scott Keen, making a career change and returning to school was motivated by a desire to give back to the community. "I wanted to look at my life and know I made a difference," he says.

When the former machine repairman left his job at Ford Motor Company to pursue a bachelor of science degree in

Elementary Education through OU-Macomb, he wondered if he was ready to work with young students — a concern also voiced by some of his fellow students, who weren't sure what the emotional impact of working in an urban school environment might be.

Any doubts disappeared during Keen's two recent teaching internships. He was placed in local urban school districts and says, "You could see the need for devoted teachers in those students' eyes. If those kids are going to make it, they need a good education. And to do that, we need to start with caring teachers. That's when I realized this was something I really wanted to do and could do — and should do."

Keen adds that his professors at OU-Macomb set an excellent example for him as an aspiring educator. "The professors take their responsibility to teach future teachers very seriously. Their passion for education has been a great source of inspiration to me," he explains.

Plus, Keen appreciates his program's cohort format, which keeps students in the same discipline on similar schedules throughout their coursework and ensures them spots in their required courses. "My cohort helped me build significant friendships as well as a healthy competitiveness," says Keen. "Knowing your fellow students makes group projects easier and far more productive."

Upon graduating in the winter of 2009, Keen hopes to begin teaching at the elementary level in an urban school district. ■

### Leading from the classroom

When June Teisan, a science teacher at the Harper Woods Secondary School, began pursuing her postgraduate Education Specialist Degree (EdS) in Educational Leadership through OU-Macomb, she knew her goal was not to move into an administrative role, but to continue teaching in the classroom.

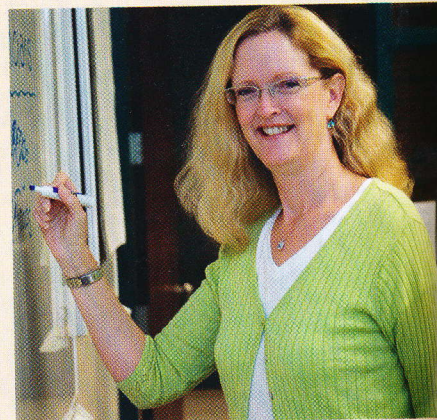
Teisan feels strongly that by "staying in the classroom, you can still impact the climate in the district. It allows you to be both a teacher and a leader at the same time." Plus, she believes that many school districts are looking for teachers who are committed to their own personal growth to improve the skill level they bring to their students.

In an effort to balance her full-time work while pursuing her educational goals, Teisan discovered several key benefits of OU-Macomb. Living on Detroit's East Side, she found taking classes at the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) cut her commute time in half compared to taking classes on the OU campus. She was also able to take advantage of the program's convenient online library.

"As a working educator, I was impressed to discover that the staff at the MISD not only included world-class

educators, but also was small enough to show concern and respect for each student's individual needs," says Teisan. "Plus, they all had real-world education experience — they had actually been in the school districts as teachers themselves, which provided a perspective that was extremely valuable to my educational aspirations."

Now working on her doctoral thesis to earn a Ph.D. in Education with a concentration in Educational Leadership through OU-Macomb, Teisan was named the 2007-08 Michigan Teacher of the Year and was one of four finalists nominated for 2008 National Teacher of the Year. ■



*June Teisan is working on her Ph.D. in Education through OU-Macomb.*



## Best of both worlds

When Clinton Township resident Nicole Hinchman attended her Oakland University freshmen orientation, she planned to take all her classes at OU's Rochester campus. That was until she heard about the Macomb 2 Oakland (M2O) program. M2O is a joint program developed by OU and Macomb Community College (MCC) that enables students to earn credits toward their OU degree by taking classes at MCC in Macomb County. Through its concurrent enrollment program, M2O allows students to be accepted to both institutions with a single application.

One of the many advantages M2O offers students is the opportunity to utilize the resources of both schools. "It gives me double the choice of professors and classes," says Hinchman, "and double the friends as well."

A Communication major now in her junior year, Hinchman adds that "at first I thought it was too good to be true. By taking M2O classes, I actually saved enough money to help me afford some of my classes over the next two years."

Hinchman praises the M2O program for its ease, convenience and savings. "If you're putting yourself through school as I am," she says, "those advantages can make all the difference in your success." ■



*Nicole Hinchman found out about the Macomb 2 Oakland (M2O) program during her OU freshmen orientation. She decided that the M2O route was for her.*



Lisa Hartman



Stephanie Sulkowski

## Exceeding expectations

Although each college student's experience is unique, recent Oakland University graduates Lisa Hartman (bachelor of arts in Communication, May 2008) and Stephanie Sulkowski (bachelor of arts in Communication, May 2008) were both surprised to discover that convenience was only the beginning of what they found in OU-Macomb.

Hartman and Sulkowski took the majority of their classes at the Macomb University Center (MUC). Located in Clinton Township, the MUC offers area residents increased access to advanced education and an alternative to going away to college.

Hartman was initially attracted to taking classes at the MUC because she felt it would be more geographically convenient than taking them on the OU campus. But she quickly discovered another advantage. "The MUC class sizes were much smaller and the personal attention I got was better than in my larger classes," says Hartman. At that point, she decided to take as many of her courses as possible at the MUC.

Sulkowski had similar feelings about the proximity of the MUC — and its other benefits. "The atmosphere and professors at the MUC had the most significant impact on my

college experience," she says. "Even though Oakland is not that big of a campus, I found that the smaller size of the MUC made it possible to actually become friends with people in my classes and provided an overall better experience. It was an opportunity to learn in a very unique and comfortable way."

From Hartman's perspective, the MUC felt like a "private college" just for her. "The staff and faculty took a lot of extra time and dedication to get to know me on a first-name basis and contribute to my success," she explains, "not only in the classroom but outside as well."

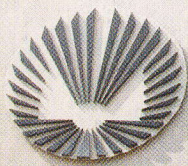
For example, Hartman needed to write a 20-page annotated bibliography in a very specific format, something she had no experience in. Her professor was accessible and responsive, providing the support she needed to accomplish the task. "I think I have an advantage because I was able to spend that extra time with my professors," she says.

Since graduating, Hartman is pursuing a career in event planning and promotion, and Sulkowski now works in sales and business development. ■

*"The Macomb Intermediate School District's main mission is to provide service and support for the county's 21 public school districts. Oakland University's presence helps us complete the continuum, and the relationship between the MISD and OU has spun into additional opportunities for us to work together to provide learning experiences for students of all ages."*

—Michael DeVault  
Superintendent, Macomb Intermediate School District





**University  
Center**  
MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*“Oakland University has really helped to fill our need for a four-year university in Macomb County. Students can stay close to home, maybe even working part-time jobs, and get an Oakland University education in their backyard. Plus, research shows that the number-one reason industries locate where they do is proximity to a trained and educated workforce. Providing students in Macomb with access to the opportunity for a four-year degree — and being able to offer industries a skilled and educated work force — is paramount to Macomb County's success.”*

— Stephen Cassin, MPA '81  
Executive Director  
Macomb County Department of Planning  
& Economic Development

# OU-Macomb

[www.oakland.edu/macomb](http://www.oakland.edu/macomb)



## Where To Learn More

### Macomb University Center

44575 Garfield Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48038  
(586) 263-6242

### Macomb Intermediate School District

44001 Garfield Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48038  
(586) 226-8462

You can afford college [www.oakland.edu/afford](http://www.oakland.edu/afford)



PLATINUM MORTGAGE LOAN

\$400

DISCOUNT | ON PLATINUM MORTGAGE  
CLOSING COSTS

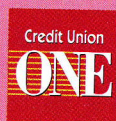


WE'RE NOT JUST  
BLOWING SMOKE

DON'T APPLY FOR A MORTGAGE  
UNTIL YOU'VE TALKED TO US!

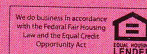
Introducing Credit Union ONE's Platinum Mortgage. It is a completely hassle-free, high quality mortgage. Unlike other lenders, Credit Union ONE's Platinum Mortgage does not have hidden rate premiums based on loan to value or loan purpose. When you apply online we'll take **\$300 off closing costs** plus receive an additional **\$100 off processing fees**. Exclusively at Credit Union ONE.

It's easy to apply. Visit us online at [cuone.org](http://cuone.org) or call us at **1.800.544.5567**.



[cuone.org](http://cuone.org)

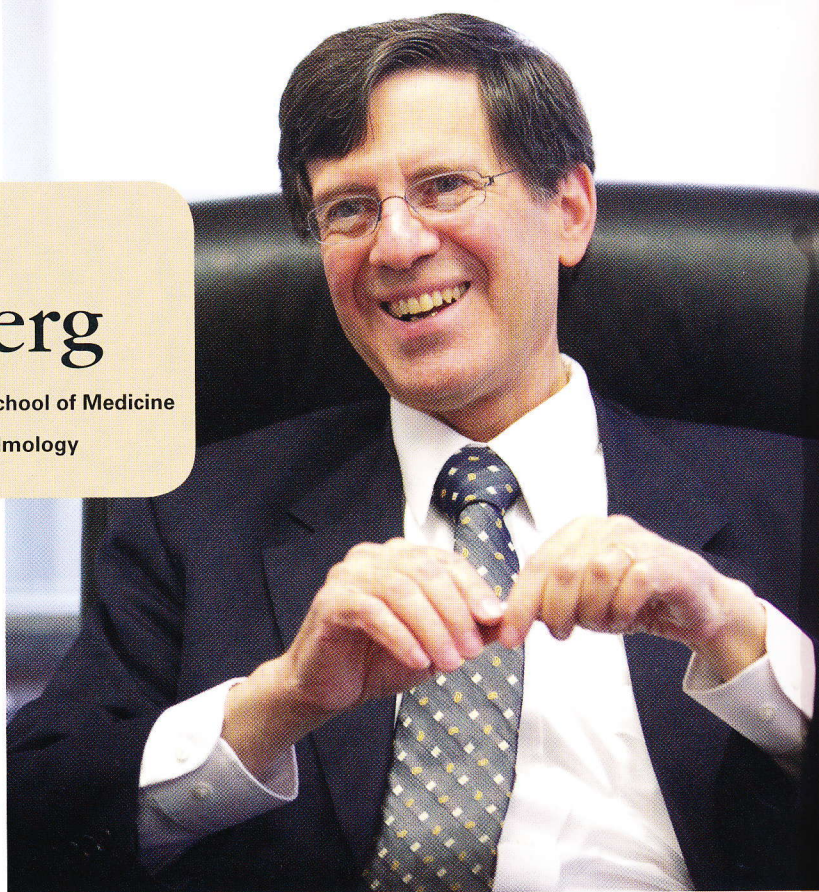
NCUA





## *A conversation with* **Dr. Robert Folberg**

Founding Dean, Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine  
Professor of Biomedical Sciences, Pathology and Ophthalmology



**Q** You've been a medical educator for more than 30 years. Now you have the opportunity to shape a new medical school. What do you see as the potential impact of this new school?

**A** If we are successful in creating an academic environment — an affirmative culture — where people want to teach and conduct research and students want to learn, then how many lives could you influence? You could certainly influence the lives of all the students ... you've then affected the lives of every patient of every medical student, and if that affirmative culture is sustained beyond the first few years of the medical school, you've influenced the lives of patients for generations to come. Now, how awesome could that be?

**Q** Was there a moment when you knew this endeavor was right for you?

**A** Here's a great story to answer that question. Early on, I was meeting with some members of the Beaumont leadership group and we were talking about the curriculum and what we should teach ... jurisprudence, business ... what about all the technologies? We were batting around all this stuff. One Beaumont doctor stopped the conversation, leaned on the table, looked me in the eye and said, "Bob, how do you teach a medical student to be kind?" That was it.

I said to myself, "OK. I've learned about OU, its great academic philosophy, and I knew about Beaumont and its excellence in medicine, but when you hear a question like that from someone in the executive leadership then this is the right soil for a fabulous medical school."

**Q** How would you describe the overall philosophy of this new school?

**A** The idea is not to create just another medical school. We're building a unique curriculum to create something exceptional here. And what we mean by exceptional is that you prepare an exceptional student who goes on to be the exceptional physician or scientist.

We're using the words "translational" and "transdisciplinary." Instead of the traditional structure of having individually based science departments (physiology, anatomy, etc.), we're going to organize research faculty members not by discipline, but by programs. So if a scientist is recruited into a specific research program, like Multiple

Sclerosis, for example, you'll have many specialties like neurology, immunology, epidemiology all working together in teams. It's translational in the sense that we have one of the country's premier medical trial engines at Beaumont. So, if we can generate research that feeds into that engine, you would have something that almost immediately benefits the community.

**Q** Can you give a few specifics on how the curriculum will differ from other medical schools?

**A** There are many examples, but here are two that I'm most excited about. We're incorporating some of the best innovations in general education, which are the pride of OU. One of those aspects is looking at competencies students are expected to acquire for graduation rather than just knowledge acquisition. This will be a competency-based medical school ... because that's what society expects. It expects a physician to be knowledgeable, of



course, but we must produce the kind of physician who knows how to listen, how to communicate effectively and how to be kind and compassionate.

We're also taking a different approach to the basic sciences. Our curriculum deals with "threads" and "weights." What that means is instead of traditional medical training where the basic sciences are taught in years one and two and dropped, our school will thread that instruction through all four years and clinical experiences will begin in years one and two.

**Q** Both institutions have said they want this school to train a patient-focused physician with a broad perspective, not the traditional discipline-specific doctor. How do you achieve that?

**A** The integrated curriculum is certainly a big part of that. We're also building in "capstone projects," which will be required in place of a thesis. Here's the neat thing about these: They will encourage students to find a mentor — and they need not be from the School of Medicine. Students can choose a traditional route and work in one of Oakland or Beaumont's many research labs, but they may want to head over to Beaumont Hospital and learn about risk management or patient safety, or they may want to get involved with the school of education and look at how you educate children with handicaps. The possibilities are endless.

This medical school will be a citizen of the university. These students and the faculty will interact throughout the university. What we want are physicians who are fully engaged in everything it is to be a doctor, more than just medical knowledge — experience and knowledge outside of medicine, as well.

**Q** Why does this area need a new medical school?

**A** Well, we know about the impending physician shortage and the potential economic impact the school will have on the area's economy, but more than that, we will be preparing a new kind of physician. This school will not be built on a theme. It's not a medical school where all the graduates will go into research, or rural health care or whatever. We're going to present a banquet of opportunities — let the students go in and have a great educational feast.

**Q** What are you most excited about professionally?

**A** There are many exciting ventures here, but the one that is perhaps the most exciting is what we're calling a "Medical Learning Community." This is something we've set up with our partners at Beaumont. We will be adapting the first two years of undergrad medical basic sciences for continuing education opportunities for the Beaumont practicing physician. So, the Beaumont doctors will be studying the medical student curriculum with the students they are teaching. It's a fabulous way for practicing doctors who teach in the medical school to maintain certification and become role models for life-long learning for their students.

**Q** What are you most excited about personally?

**A** I'm excited about all the different roles that I play because I still teach, and I still practice medicine — I'm a Beaumont doctor in anatomic pathology. ... And of course, the opportunity for building teams ... At UIC (University of Illinois, Chicago) I discovered that I really like team building.

The quality of life here in southeast Michigan is wonderful and I have to say I feel so grateful for the level of community support that I am seeing for this medical school. I've seldom seen anything like it. I feel truly blessed to have this opportunity to work for — not to lead — but to work for OU and Beaumont Hospitals. I always say, "People don't work for me, I work for the faculty and the medical students." ■

*By Lillian Lorenzi*

## Robert Folberg, M.D.

### A little bit about our new dean

Robert Folberg, M.D., has spent more than 30 years educating medical students and practicing medicine. His research on ocular cancer has received National Institutes of Health funding for the past 20 years, and he is nationally and internationally recognized for his work in the field of ophthalmic pathology, administration, education and research. He has been an innovator in online medical education and his many experiences include teaching Beaumont ophthalmology students in a long-distance learning program for the past seven years.

**Personal:** Robert Folberg is 58 years old and is originally from Philadelphia, Pa. He lives in Birmingham, Mich., with his wife Amy, who has a Ph.D. in mathematics and is employed as a business analyst at Beaumont Hospitals. They have two children, a daughter in graduate school in Chicago, Ill., and a son studying at Michigan State University. Folberg's interest in medicine started at the bedside — his to be exact. He underwent a corneal transplant at age 19, after losing functional vision in his left eye.

**Education:** BA in Biology from LaSalle College (now LaSalle University) in Philadelphia, Pa.; M.D. from Temple University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, Pa.

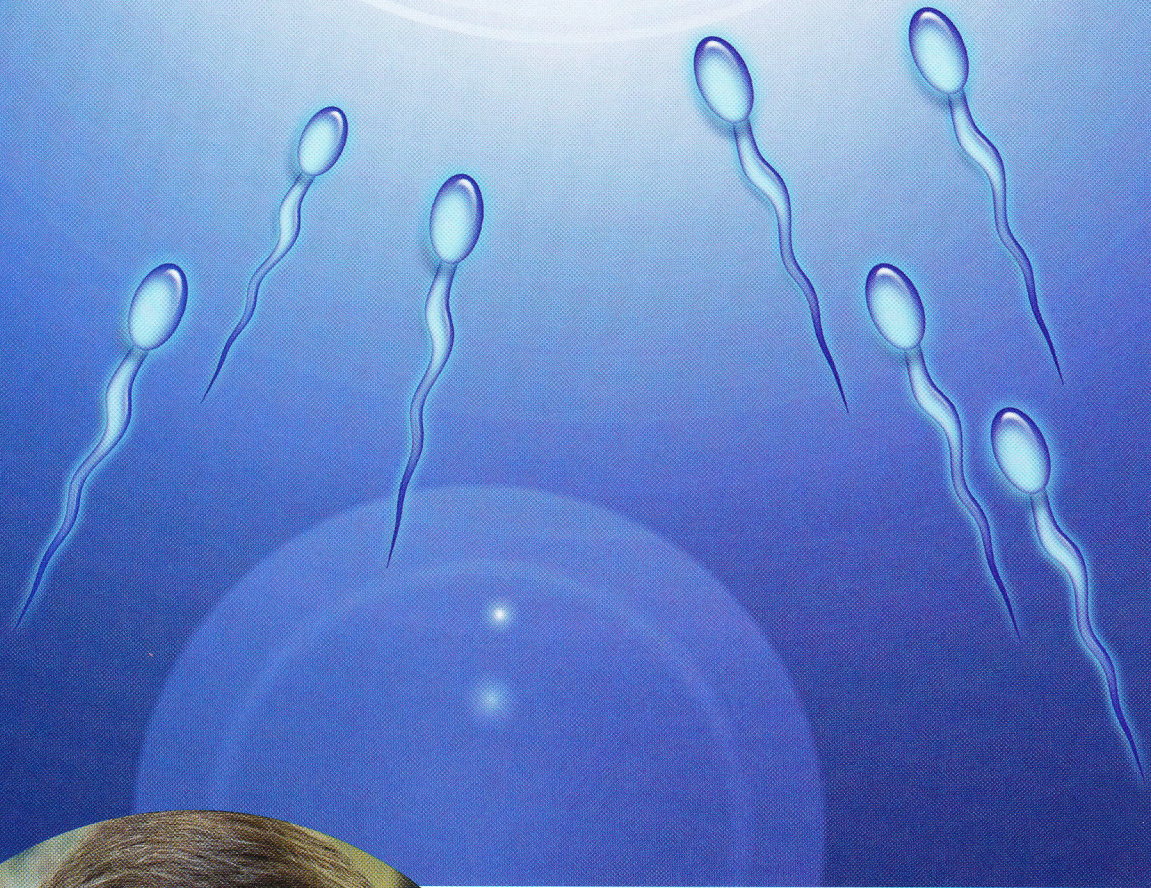
**Experience:** Folberg has served as the head of Pathology, the Frances B. Geever Professor of Pathology and professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Science at the University of Illinois, Chicago since 2000. He has held academic appointments at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pa., and the University of Iowa. ■



# Forces of nature

Measuring motion and movement

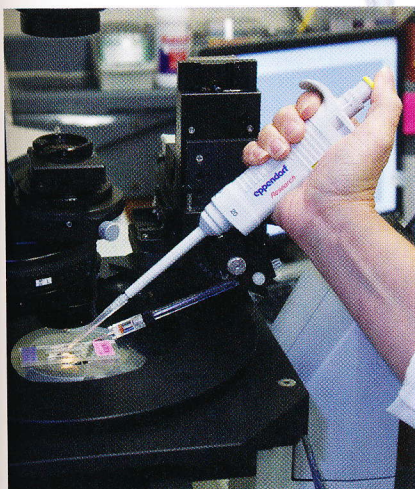
By Amy Lynn Smith



**Professor of Biological Sciences**  
**Charles Lindemann considers himself extraordinarily fortunate** to be able to spend his life studying the natural world. And his students at Oakland University are equally lucky because they are unlikely to find a more devoted or enthusiastic scientist to teach them about what he describes as the “wonder in the discovery of nature.”

Lindemann has spent the last 40 years researching the mechanisms of sperm motility — in the simplest of terms, the mechanics that give sperm the power to swim. For 24 of these years and counting, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has sponsored his research, with approximately \$2.6 million, which studies a fundamental structure of biology found in humans, animals and plant life.





*To understand the mechanics of mammalian sperm motility, bull sperm samples are demembranated and then reactivated under specific conditions to observe the responses and changes in behavior.*



*Charles Lindemann, professor of Biological Sciences and nationally recognized pioneer in mammalian sperm motility research, works with longtime colleague Kathleen Lesich, laboratory research technician, at a Nikon inverted microscope. Student researchers in background are: Lyndsay Okragleski and Courtney Kelsch (r).*

The emphasis of Lindemann's research involves cilia and flagella, which are whip-like appendages of many living cells that are used to move fluid or to propel the cells.

"One of the functions of cilia and flagella is to beat and move rapidly back and forth to generate motions, such as propelling sperm through the uterus to allow fertilization of the egg," he explains. "We would like to understand the basic mechanical structure and how it works to generate motion."

The mechanical structure shared by cilia and flagella can be optimally observed in sperm, because each sperm has a mobile flagellum that beats like a tiny motor. Lindemann's laboratory is set up to measure the forces of these beats and record the motions of sperm cells. He also uses micro-probes to study the design of flagella, how they function and how much force they generate.

"Cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) is a messenger or signaling molecule present in virtually all living cells," adds Lindemann. "And we were the first to show that the cAMP can turn on the motors and get the motility started in sperm when they're first activated."

Lindemann's greatest contribution to flagellar research is a hypothesis of how he conceives cilia and flagella working internally, along with a corresponding computer model. The model and hypothesis are known as the "Geometric Clutch," named for his theory that cilia and flagella work much like the clutch in a car, which engages and disengages the engine to the wheels.

Similarly, a flagellum is a self-regulating unit that gathers force from individual motors and then uses that force to regulate the turning on and turning off of the motors.

Armed with this hypothesis of how the internal structure of cilia and flagella work, Lindemann and his colleagues and students can compare real cells with the computed version, performing a variety of experiments designed to test the hypothesis.

"We have the power of the theoretical framework and an experimental laboratory in the same facility," explains Lindemann, "so we can constantly go back and forth to test our theories using real cells, which is really rather exciting."

In the laboratory, Lindemann is assisted by Laboratory Research Technician Kathleen Lesich, who has worked with him for more than 11 years. "I give her total credit for coming up with a lot of our ability to record events and store huge volumes of recorded image data," says Lindemann.

Undergraduate students are also involved in the research, giving them a unique opportunity to learn from a dedicated, working scientist.

"I enjoy my teaching, but a scientist's research is really his life's work — that's what I do," says Lindemann. "And if I'm really, really lucky, my Geometric Clutch hypothesis will turn out to be the answer to how the little motors are coordinated."

Ultimately, he adds, when scientists study processes of tiny mechanisms like cilia and flagella, they learn more about the big picture, too. "Understanding the basic fundamentals of how flagella work leads to understanding many of the processes that depend on flagella," says Lindemann. "And who knows what kinds of things that knowledge could allow us to do in the future?" ■





# Life *Changes*

School of Nursing fosters  
healthy shift in community's  
job satisfaction

By Mary Gunderson-Switzer

Oakland's School of Nursing, Detroit Medical Center and Detroit Workforce Development Department are offering a "one-stop health care training shop," with everything an aspiring health care worker needs in one place — all the way down to the nursing shoes.

The health care allies have opened doors of opportunity with a new Health Care Career Center in downtown Detroit.

Opening last fall, the center is designed to promote health care jobs for Detroit's unemployed or underemployed, by transitioning residents into health care careers of their choice. The center offers certified instruction and training for four high-demand health care careers: certified nurse assistant; patient care attendant; certified medical administrative assistant; and licensed practical nurse (LPN).





*Far left: Cheryl Capers (at computer) is studying to be an LPN after spending 14 years in the automotive industry. At right: Students Ashaka Mosley (l) and Kimberly Leonard spend time in class.*

Another added benefit of the center is that it promotes nursing careers during a national shortage. About 200 Detroit residents have enrolled in the center's programs.

"What's been really exciting is how well the participants have responded to the program," says Tom Schumann, executive director for OU's Institute for the Advancement of Nursing and Healthcare. "They realize we are making an investment in them, and they are taking it seriously and showing up to perform — even on weekends and optional days."

Housed in a 20,000-square-foot suite in a building near Cobo Hall, the center's services are comprehensive.

### Community well-being

"Through the years, people have gone through the city's system, from program to program ... remaining unemployed," says Schumann. "What we've done is remove the barriers to employment."

While covering tuition and course material costs, the center offers additional student support — career coaches, computer labs (for educational purposes and resume-building skills), on-site child care, free work attire and bus passes to the center, and a weekly stipend for other expenses.

The center is equipped with advanced technology that further prepares students for the real world. While one room in the center replicates a doctor's waiting room, another is set up like a hospital room (equipped with mannequins and high-tech simulators for practical experience).

"The simulators are a great tool to reinforce nursing skills that prepare students for the actual jobs," Schumann says.

In addition to qualified instruction through OU's SON, participants also benefit from valuable on-the-job clinical training in Detroit Medical Center hospitals and long-term health facilities.

Cheryl Capers is one of those participants.

After a 14-year career in the automotive industry, Capers switched gears — accepting a buyout from American Axle and enrolling in the center's LPN program. "I wanted to make a good living and help people out at the same time," she says. "The career center offers a new beginning for people."

Currently a nursing assistant at an adult care facility, Capers hopes to eventually become a registered nurse (RN)

caring for children requiring kidney dialysis.

After completing clinical requirements at the Children's Hospital of Michigan, Capers will participate in a labor/delivery clinic at Hutzel Women's Hospital.

The Health Care Career Center's staff demonstrates dedication that participants appreciate. "They go way out of their way to help," says student Demetria Boyd, attending the center's LPN classes after years spent raising her daughter. "It's really a blessing that a program like this exists in the city."

Along with tutoring services and access to the center's computer lab after hours, the center's students can phone their instructors for help — which can make all the difference.

"The biggest obstacle was just getting back in school, learning how to study, and how to recall information when needed," Boyd says.

After finishing her LPN training, Boyd plans to apply to the RN program at OU and wants to specialize in surgery.

### Suite deal

The center's suite of services continues to grow. Plans include new programs for insurance coding and Emergency Medical Services.

While expanding, the staff has been proactive in anticipating needs for additional help in reading, writing and arithmetic. Goodwill Industries has moved into the building's second floor to provide any necessary remedial instruction for the participants.

"We're excited about becoming a model within the state," says Linda Thompson Adams, dean, OU's School of Nursing. "Others see what we're doing ... and we want to do all we can to help others replicate it elsewhere."

The center is so popular that there's a waiting list.

"We have a backlog," Schumann says. "Every room [in the center] is being used, so we're asking ourselves: 'how do we squeeze more in?'"

The center's administrators and Workforce Development staff are already discussing developing another health care career center for Oakland County. ■

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





*Valentine's Day*  
DINNER

THE HALL  
LECTURE  
SERIES

*Mother's Day*  
DINNER

Jazz  
in the  
garden

WILD GAME  
DINNER

DINNER  
AND A  
MOVIE

The  
MYSTERY  
DINNER

## Meadow Brook Hall & Gardens

### An eventful year awaits you...

#### FEBRUARY

*Valentine's Day Dinner* Saturday, February 14.

A perfect evening for romance. The evening will include a champagne reception, four-course dinner with wine and dancing in the ballroom.

#### MARCH

*The Hall Lecture Series* Two Mondays in March.

Join history storyteller Maureen Esther for insightful and interesting discussions on some of history's most fascinating people and times.

March 9 *Abe Lincoln*

March 16 *Civil War*

#### MAY

*Mother's Day Dinner* Sunday, May 10.

Treat your mother to an elegant four-course dinner with wine in the Christopher Wren Dining Room.

#### JUNE

*Jazz in the Garden* Thursday, June 18.

Summer sizzles at Meadow Brook Hall with live cool jazz in the garden. A monthly summer concert series featuring local jazz greats!

#### JULY

*Jazz in the Garden* Thursday, July 23.

Summer sizzles at Meadow Brook Hall with live cool jazz in the garden. A monthly summer concert series featuring local jazz greats!

#### AUGUST

*Concours d'Elegance* Sunday, August 2.

An exciting week of activities include a classic car auction, art auction, motoring tour, automotive seminars and more! For more information visit: [www.mbhconcours.org](http://www.mbhconcours.org) or call (248) 269-7672.

#### AUGUST CONTINUED

*Jazz in the Garden* Thursday, August 27.

Summer sizzles at Meadow Brook Hall with live cool jazz in the garden. A monthly summer concert series featuring local jazz greats!

#### SEPTEMBER

*Dinner and a Movie* Thursdays, September 10, 17, 24.

Meadow Brook Hall presents: Hitchcock at the Hall. Guests will enjoy a casual three-course dinner while watching Hitchcock classics on the big screen in the ballroom.

*Wild Game Dinner* Friday, September 25.

An evening of culinary adventure! Guests will experience a delicious four-course wild game dinner prepared by our chef, a silent auction and much more.

#### OCTOBER

*The Mystery Dinner* Friday, October 16.

Join us for an evening of martinis, murder and mayhem. Guests will help solve the mystery while enjoying a strolling dinner.

MEADOW  
BROOK  
&  
HALL  
GARDENS  
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

[www.meadowbrookhall.org](http://www.meadowbrookhall.org)  
(248) 364-6200





FREE ATM, FREE Totally Green Checking,  
FREE Online Access,  
**Join the Oakland University  
Branch of the  
MSU Federal Credit Union!**



## Great Minds Think Alike

- Prime Advantage Home Equity Loans
- Mortgages
- Low Cost Auto Loans
- Savings Options
- Free Totally Green Checking
- ATM Access
- ComputerLine (Internet Transactions)

**Join online today  
or visit the OU branch.**

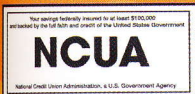
**3265 Five Points Drive  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326**

**(248) 370-3545 • 800-766-OUCU**

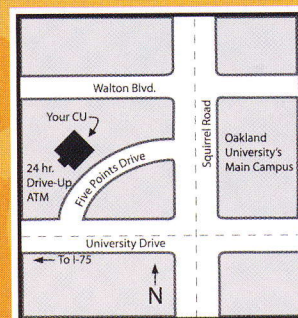
**[www.msufcu.org](http://www.msufcu.org)**



*Serving the OU community  
since 1957.*



Federally insured  
by the NCUA





# TOP DOG



## Leader Dogs for the Blind gets new CEO By Alice Rhein

Greg Grabowski knows what it's like to be the new dog in the neighborhood. When Grabowski, BGS '91, took over as president and CEO of Rochester Hills-based Leader Dogs for the Blind (LDB), he succeeded William Hensen, who had held the position for nearly 20 years.

It was a very friendly transition, but when the retiring Hensen was introducing Grabowski to many sponsors, donors and community organizers, there were always a few "big shoes to fill" comments.

"When Bill heard someone say that he would run over and say, 'He has his own shoes. He has his own style. I had my shoes, and I filled them okay. He can't wear mine, I can't wear his,'" says Grabowski. "I give Bill a lot of credit. He's been very supportive and is not one of those CEOs who hangs on by their fingernails."

Since Jan. 2, 2008, when Grabowski became the head of what is essentially the General Motors and Ford combined of guide dog programs, he's been as excited as a puppy.

### Right at home

"It's a perfect fit for me. It has the feel and passion of a grass-roots organization, but we are larger and more sophisticated than people realize. It's very lean, so there's not a lot of bureaucracy," says Grabowski, 41, who was previously the vice



*Since moving into top spot at Leader Dogs for the Blind this past January, Greg Grabowski, BGS '91, is proving that he's a canine's best friend.*



CEO Greg Grabowski with his own best friend Flint.



president of development at the National Hospice Foundation in Alexandria, Va., and prior to that was the vice president of communication and development for Hospice of Michigan. He also served as the vice president for advancement and alumni relations for Catholic Central High School in Redford, Mich., and as director of partnerships for Cornerstone Schools in Detroit.

While he advanced the mission of his former employers, even getting to “hang out” with Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu for several days while raising funds and awareness for the National Hospice Foundation Diana Legacy Fund, there are immediate results at Leader Dogs that Grabowski finds extremely rewarding.

“I can walk down the halls and see 26 people from all over the world and know that in 26 days, we are going to give them the ability to travel with a high degree of confidence and safety. It’s a big change from hospice where people were dying. Here, they are not only living, they are really living.”

Grabowski’s preparation for this role began at OU where, as a tennis scholarship recipient, he learned the importance of schedule management. As a General Studies major, he studied accounting, finance, statistics, communication and organizational behavior — all necessary ingredients for a non-profit CEO. “I had a lot of different experiences, from academic to social to student congress. I dabbled in many activities, and it turned out great,” says Grabowski, who joined the OU Alumni Association Board of Directors this year to serve a three-year term.

He met his wife, Christina, now the director of graduate marketing and recruitment at OU, through student congress, where she was president and he helped with public relations. Married 17 years, they have three sons, Matt, 16, Ryan, 13, Alex, 10, and, of course, a dog.

### A CEO’s best friend

“I have a black lab named Flint. He was a career change dog. Dogs don’t get rejected here at Leader Dogs for the Blind. They get counseling and go through a career change,” says Grabowski, who considers Flint a P.R. dog since he is so highly trained and is typically at his feet in the office everyday.

Leader Dogs for the Blind, founded in 1939, provides services to individuals who are blind, visually impaired or blind and deaf. (Those with knowledge of American Sign Language interpretation are always needed at LDB). The cost of each student/dog team is nearly \$38,000, yet all services are provided to the student free of charge. The school also offers classes for orientation and mobility (white cane travel), computer training and audible GPS.

“We are in the process of trying to offer these programs together so that a person could come here and get a dog and training on the GPS at the same time since they do work together,” says Grabowski, who notes that there are nearly 400 puppies a year on the grounds, all raised by volunteers.

While agencies that serve the blind and visually impaired are generally very small, Grabowski has a goal: Bring 1,000 volunteers on campus and make an immediate investment of more than \$1 million in capital improvements. He’s also worked on making his team feel empowered to make decisions and challenge the norm.

“People here are very mission-driven, very passionate about their work,” says Grabowski. That makes his role as top dog, at least in leader dog circles, a whole lot easier. And anybody who can bring home a \$10.8 million budget that is completely funded through the support of businesses and donors in the community can put any full-blooded retriever to shame. ■

*Alice Rhein is a freelance writer from Huntington Woods, Mich.*

## On the board

Gregory Grabowski is one of five new members to the Oakland University Alumni Association Board of Directors. His colleagues are:

**Teresa Stayer, SHS ’84**, owner and vice president of Spectra Med Incorporated in West Bloomfield, Mich.

**Aman Awan, SBA ’01**, account executive at Hartford Life in Farmington Hills, Mich.

**Joseph Davidson, CAS ’71**, assistant city editor, *Washington Post*. (Davidson was featured in the Spring 2007 issue of *OU Magazine*.)

**The Honorable Michael Michalak, CAS ’68**, U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam. (Michalak was featured in the Spring 2008 issue of *OU Magazine*.)

The OUAA Board of Directors is a volunteer, 24-member body that offers advice and collaboration on matters relating to Oakland University alumni. The board governs the OUAA and provides counsel to the alumni relations office, president of Oakland University, the division of university relations and the Oakland University Board of Trustees. ■





# DIVA

## *comes home*

**Songbird flies home  
for extraordinary  
night at the opera**

**By Mary Gunderson-Switzer**

Jacquelyn Wagner is a class-act opera star who sings in some of Europe's finest opera houses — but she's no temperamental prima donna. Uncomfortable in the spotlight offstage, Wagner is humble about her musical success: "My parents have been the most influential on me," Wagner says. "My career has only been possible because of them."

Now performing regularly in Berlin, it wasn't long ago when Wagner, CAS '03, completed her bachelor's degree in voice performance at OU, followed by a master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music. Since then, the soprano has sung in the fast lane — in Switzerland, France and Germany. It's exciting, but she's also happy to be back visiting hometown U.S.A.

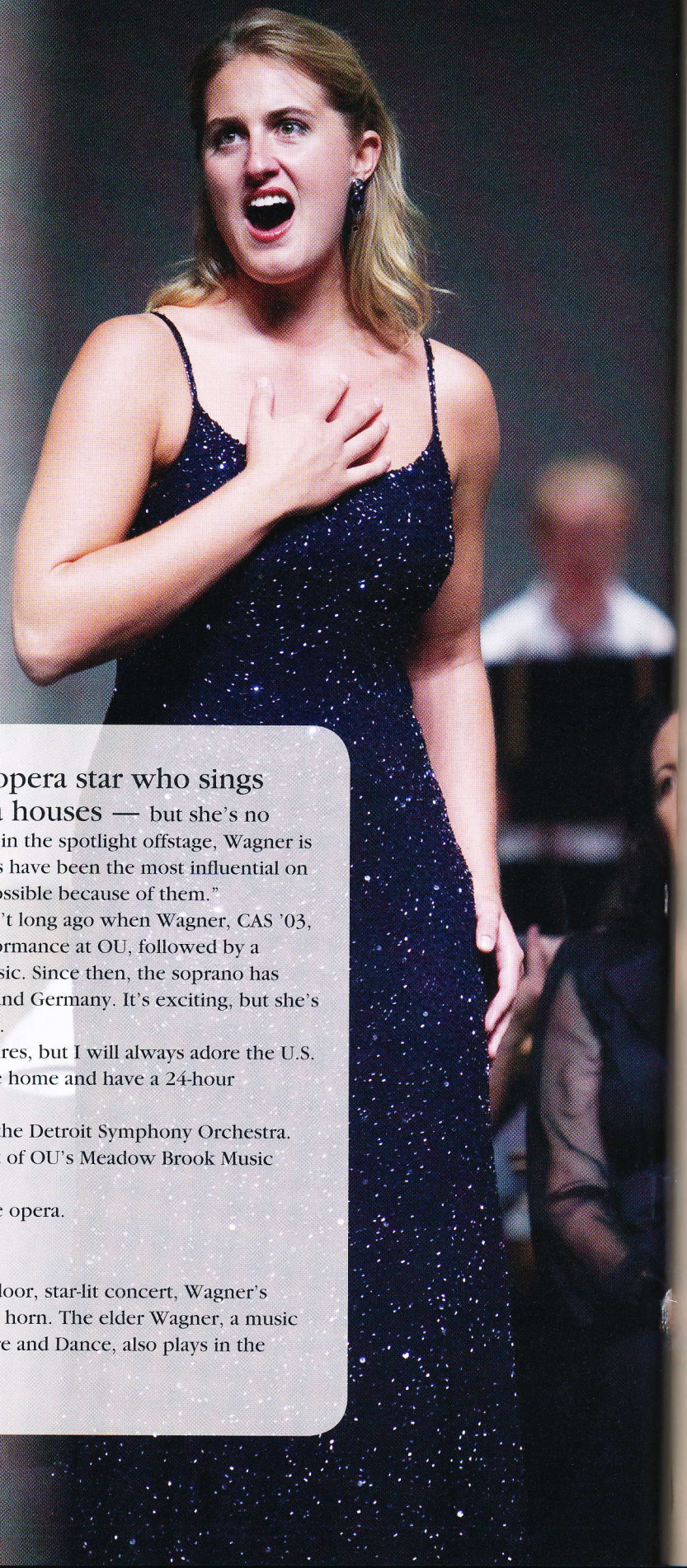
"It's wonderful experiencing different cultures, but I will always adore the U.S. most," Wagner says, adding, "and it's nice to be home and have a 24-hour supermarket again!"

Wagner was here to solo in a concert with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Wagner's end-of-summer performance was part of OU's Meadow Brook Music Festival "Opera Night."

For Wagner, this wasn't just any night at the opera.

### **Finding her voice**

During Meadow Brook Music Festival's outdoor, star-lit concert, Wagner's father, Corbin, accompanied her on the French horn. The elder Wagner, a music instructor in OU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, also plays in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.





"I could have gotten very emotional because it's the first time I got to share this with my Dad," Wagner says.

Talent runs on both sides of the family. Wagner is equally proud of her mother, Wendy, an OU alumna and actress in regional theatre. Wagner's mother isn't a bit surprised at her daughter's career choice.

"My mom tells me that from the age of four, I was saying I wanted to be an opera singer," Wagner says.

Wagner's parents supported her dream on her timetable. Wagner began singing church choir solos at age 11. By high school, she was eager to begin voice lessons.

"Enter stage left" — Edith Diggory, voice instructor extraordinaire.

### Starry night

"I knew Jacquelyn had what it takes," says Diggory, OU applied music instructor. "She has the incredible voice, intelligence, musical soul and great work ethic. My task was to help her take care of her voice while developing her talent."

Diggory was careful in choosing Wagner's musical selections — a delicate balancing act of keeping Wagner musically challenged without being pushy.

"The teenage voice is growing, and you have to be careful," Diggory says. "If you aren't responsible in developing the voice, damage can be done."

Wagner sings the praises of her first voice coach.

"When you make a decision on a [vocal] coach, you take a chance on the person," Wagner says. "Rarely do you find someone who is so compatible with you, not only on a

technical but personal level. With Edith, I had it all. She has been so supportive, all the way through."

The mentor and pupil made a winning team.

"Sometimes I came to her saying, 'Maybe this is too difficult...I'm not sure I can do it,' and she would encourage me and help me improve, but in a gentle way," Wagner says. "We developed a real friendship."

Diggory's approach and Wagner's determination were the ticket to the opera.

### Best seat in the house

After graduating, Wagner auditioned through the New York International Opera Auditions program. Winning the role of lead soprano in the Switzerland-produced, worldwide-released film *Così fan tutte* by Mozart, Wagner then landed her first opera contract with the Marseilles opera house in France. Since then, Wagner, a Fulbright Scholar, studied in Germany and began a contract with Deutsche Oper, Berlin's opera house.

To date, Wagner's favorite opera to sing is Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. She's also enjoyed singing pieces from a myriad of famous composers, including Strauss, Verdi, Wagner, Puccini and Dvorak.

Wagner's quite at home in Berlin's opera house, where she feels the orchestra is in tune with her.

"I'm used to my Dad working in an orchestra, so that's familiar to me... I've gotten to know [Berlin's] orchestra members and think of them as friends who look out for me when I sing."

As comfortable as Wagner is in her surroundings, opera is a tough taskmaster, requiring physical, mental and emotional strength. Wagner knows what it takes.

"Opera is a beautiful and interesting medium but requires discipline and a lot of skill and education," Wagner admits. "It's also complex, because it's musically challenging, very physical and involves acting. But it's wonderful. I can't believe that performing in an evening opera is my work."

Tremendously self-disciplined, Wagner studies German, French, Italian and Spanish, which helps her master operatic music.

Wagner does find some time for fun. "I've seen some interesting places," she says. "Two of my favorite spots are Grenada and Estonia...but I have a lot left to discover."

Her mentor has no doubt that she'll do just that — and that the world will line up to hear her.

"I've always believed that Jacquelyn feels that she's been given a gift she should share," Diggory reflects. "She's not yet reached the peak of her potential. She has a lot more to give." ■

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



Jacquelyn Wagner, CAS '03, returned to her alma mater in August to perform with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Meadow Brook Music Festival. Her father, Corbin Wagner, a music instructor in OU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, accompanied her on the French horn.

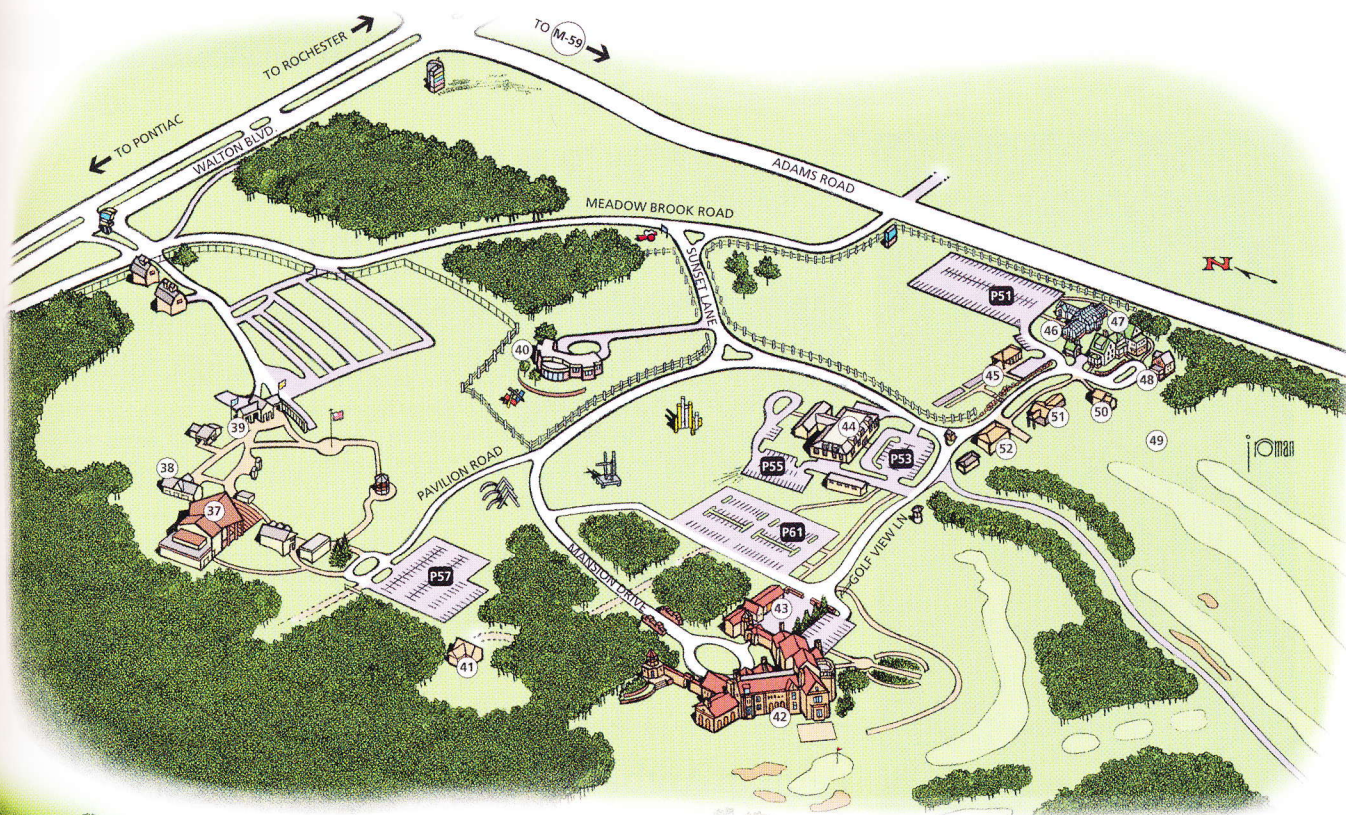


## West Campus

1. Pawley Hall  
Lowry Early Childhood Center
2. Varner Hall  
Recital Hall  
Studio Theatre
3. Elliott Hall
4. Kresge Library
5. Dodge Hall of Engineering
6. Science and Engineering Building
7. Hannah Hall of Science
8. Facilities Management
9. Belgian Barn
10. Police and Support Services Building
11. South Foundation Hall
12. North Foundation Hall
13. Oakland Center
14. Wilson Hall
15. Meadow Brook Theatre  
Oakland University Art Gallery
16. Graham Health Center
17. Vandenberg Hall
18. Hamlin Hall
19. George T. Matthews Apartments
20. Hill House
21. Van Wagoner House
22. Fitzgerald House
23. Anibal House
24. Pryale House
25. Central Heating Plant
26. Recreation and Athletics Center
27. O'Dowd Hall
28. Pioneer Field (lower)
29. Pioneer Field (upper)
30. University Student Apartments
31. Sports Bubble
32. Buildings and Grounds Maintenance\*
33. Storage Facility\*
34. Electrical Substation\*
35. Kettering Magnetics Lab\*\*
36. Observatory\*\*







## East Campus

- 37. Baldwin Pavilion
- 38. Trumbull Terrace
- 39. Meadow Brook Music Festival Ticket Office
- 40. Sunset Terrace
- 41. Knole Cottage
- 42. Meadow Brook Hall & Gardens
- 43. Carriage House
- 44. Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion
- 45. Dr. Berton London Practice Area
- 46. Meadow Brook Greenhouse

- 47. John Dodge House
- 48. Golf Course Clubhouse and Pro Shop
- 49. Katke-Cousins and R&S Sharf Golf Courses
- 50. Starter Shack
- 51. Danny's Cabin
- 52. Golf Car Storage Building
- 53. Varner House\*\*

\*Not always shown on printed maps

\*\* Off map

# Oakland University Campus

*We thought our readers would be interested to see the new campus map. If you haven't visited OU for while, you'll probably notice some pretty big changes. Can you find your old dorm? How about the OC?*



## OUAA Board of Directors

*Board Chair:* Gregory Garrett, SECS '97

Kimberly Adams, CAS '93

Joseph Angileri, SBA '80

Aman Awan, SBA '01

Stanley Babiuk, SECS '73

Beth Benson, SBA '81

Joseph Davidson, CAS '71

Mary Jo Dawson, SEHS '92

Lisa Flynn, CAS '89

John Ganfield, SBA '81

Joseph Gardella Jr., CAS '77

James Getchell, SECS '67

Garry Gilbert, MA '02, CAS '95

Johnna Goodwin, SBA '85

Gregory Grabowski, BGS '91

Julie Granthen, MBA '87, CAS '81

Lynn Gross, SBA '87

John Hruska Jr., MBA '89, BGS '86

Adam Kochenderfer, CAS '02

Phyllis Meadows, SON '80

Michael Michalak, CAS '68

Teresa Stayer, SHS '84

Cynthia Thieme, SBA '94

Anthony Thornton, CAS '76

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



# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## GRIZZLINK

### Join OU's online alumni community

Stay connected! The GrizzLink online community is growing. Oakland University has nearly 80,000 graduates with more than 4,350 GrizzLink members in all class years from 1963-2008! GrizzLink members live in 46 states and 17 foreign countries. Through GrizzLink, members can take advantage of career services, network with fellow alumni, sign up for events, exchange business cards and reconnect with friends. To register and receive your username and password, visit [www.oualumni.com](http://www.oualumni.com). You will find your PIDM (GrizzLink ID) above this *OU Magazine's* mailing label. ■

Your Grizzlink ID Number

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXERCLOTXXC-037  
0123456 PLT 12  
MR. GOLDEN GRIZZLY  
2200 N. SQUIRREL RD.  
ROCHESTER, MI 48309-4401

### Alumni Ambassadors share career, life experiences

Jonathan Crawford, SEHS '76, was 39 years old and working at an A & P grocery store, when a co-worker learned of his love of teaching and working with children. Crawford had spent many years as a youth camp coordinator and mentor at his church. His coworker urged Crawford to go back to school and become a teacher.

"At first I thought I didn't have the time — I had four kids, a full-time job, and I was buying a house. I couldn't go back to school," he says. But eventually the idea became a reality. Crawford commuted to OU from Detroit, raised his kids and at times worked three jobs — all while earning a bachelor of arts degree in Elementary Education. He went on to a successful teaching and administrative career with Detroit Public Schools.

Crawford is now able to share his experiences, and inspire others who are just beginning their education, as an Alumni Admissions Ambassador. The Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program (AAP) engages alumni as ambassadors for OU locally, regionally and nationally in the recruitment of

prospective students. By sharing collegiate and professional successes, AAP members illustrate the benefits of an OU education. A joint program between Undergraduate Admissions and Alumni Relations, the program began in September 2007 and already has more than 100 ambassadors.

Crawford recently met with prospective students and their parents at the Northwest Activities Center in Detroit.

"Becoming an ambassador was something I knew I wanted to do as soon as I heard about the program. And my first meeting with students was a very rewarding experience," Crawford says. "I enjoyed sharing my story with them, and talking to them about what they can accomplish if they just set their minds to it."

For more information about the AAP, contact Luke Fleer, program coordinator, at [fleer@oakland.edu](mailto:fleer@oakland.edu) or call (248) 370-GRIZ (4749). ■



## Attention sweethearts...

Looking for a night out with your sweetheart on Valentine's Day? The OUAA-sponsored Sweethearts Dinner will take place on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Royal Park Hotel in downtown Rochester, Mich. While this event is open to anyone, the OUAA is especially excited to welcome couples who met while at OU. So whether your romance began in O'Dowd Hall or Kresge Library, join us for a special evening at the Royal Park Hotel in downtown Rochester. Cost is \$100 per couple and includes a multi-course dinner, exquisite chocolate dessert table and champagne toast. Wine will also be available for purchase.

Please visit [www.oualumni.com](http://www.oualumni.com) for more information, or call the OUAA office at (248) 364-6140. ■

## Grizzly getaways

### Rome and Florence

March 6 – 14, 2009

**\$1,699 plus airfare per person** (double occupancy)

See Rome's timeless monuments, including the Colosseum, the Roman Forum and the Trevi Fountain. Florence, the beautiful city known as "the Cradle of the Renaissance," has architectural treasures around virtually every corner. Famous landmarks include the Duomo and the Ponte Vecchio Bridge. Discover the scenic Tuscan countryside as you travel to medieval Lucca and the classic Italian city of Pisa.

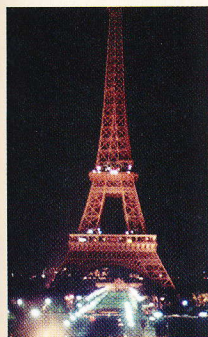


### Paris and the French Riviera

April 4 – 12, 2009

**\$1,899 plus airfare per person** (double occupancy)

Discover France's beauty, culture, and glamour when visiting the stunning cities of Paris and Cannes. In the "City of Lights," find yourself amid historical riches such as the Louvre Museum, the extravagant Palace of Versailles and the legendary Eiffel Tower. Experience the rich atmosphere and Mediterranean landscapes of the French Riviera in cosmopolitan Cannes. From here, follow the scenic coast to dazzling Monte Carlo and the sun-kissed towns of Nice, St-Paul-de-Vence, and Eze.



### Italy's Lake Garda and the French Alps

Sept. 23 – Oct. 1, 2009

**\$1,349 plus airfare per person** (double occupancy)

The legendary beauty of the Italian lakes is combined with the glorious landscapes of the French Alps on this remarkable holiday. Be enchanted by the magnificent natural beauty of Italy's Lake Garda, with its deep blue waters fringed with emerald green Mediterranean flora, and stylish Chamonix at the foot of spectacular Mount Blanc in France. From these delightful locations visit romantic Venice, beautiful Montreaux and the 13th century Château de Chillon, and charming Zermatt, a classic mountain village nestled at the foot of the majestic Matterhorn.



### The Best of the Italian Riviera

Oct. 3 – 11, 2009

**\$1,349 plus airfare per person** (double occupancy)

The best known of all Italian spa towns, delightful Montecatini is located in the heart of Tuscany. Experience the exquisite beauty of the surrounding Tuscan landscapes with visits to charming Siena and beautiful Florence. The seaside resort town of San Remo basks in the wonderful climate of the sun-drenched Italian Riviera and is ideally situated for visiting the glamorous cities of Monte Carlo and Nice. ■



For more information on all OUAA trips, visit [www.oualumni.com](http://www.oualumni.com) and click on the travel section.

## Alumni needed for Power Networking Dinner

OU alumni can share career success tips, connections and know-how with current students at the second annual Student-to-Alumni Power Networking Dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, from 5-7 p.m. in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms. The Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA), OU Student Congress and Future Alumni Network (FANs) annually host the event which provides students the opportunity to learn more about prospective career fields from alumni who are in those fields. More than 100 students and alumni attended last year's event.

Participating students indicate the career fields they are interested in when registering for the event. The students will be seated with alumni guests who most closely fit their areas of interest. Students will move tables at least once during the event.

Volunteers are needed to provide information about their career fields, challenges, successes and networking information. Alumni will also have an opportunity to network with each other.

If you would like to volunteer for the event, please visit [www.oualumni.com](http://www.oualumni.com) or call (248) 364-6140. ■



## We want to hear from you **ALUMNI**

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

My News \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_

Degree \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here if this is a new address

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP +4 \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Home # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Alumni Association, Oakland University  
 2200 North Squirrel Road, Rochester, MI 48309-4401



**ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION**

## OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

### MEMBERSHIP

An Oakland University Alumni Association membership offers many benefits — on campus and off. Campus benefits include opportunities for service and leadership, borrowing privileges at Kresge Library, a reduced rate for Recreation Center membership, discounts around campus and invitations to special alumni events. Community benefits include discounts at Stevens Worldwide Van Lines, Hertz and participating Choice Hotels. For details, check [www.oualumni.com](http://www.oualumni.com).

#### Alumni Membership

For those who have received a degree from OU.

\_\_\_ \$35 Regular Alumni Membership

\_\_\_ \$60 Two-year Alumni Membership

*both OU graduates*

\_\_\_ \$60 Married Alumni Membership

\_\_\_ \$100 Two-year Married Membership

#### Friends of OUAA

For those who wish to be connected to OU but did not receive a degree from the university.

\_\_\_ \$50 Friends of the OUAA Membership

\_\_\_ \$90 Two-year Friends Membership

I/We would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 to the Oakland University Alumni Association  
 Scholarship Endowment Fund.

☐ Enclosed is a check payable to  
 Oakland University.

☐ Please charge my ☐ VISA or ☐ MasterCard

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Print name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am interested in volunteer opportunities,  
 please add me to your list.

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

☐ I am interested in other giving  
 opportunities at OU.



## SAVE THE DATE



Patrice Chapman

### Alumni Hockey Night Oakland vs. Eastern Michigan

Friday, Jan. 23

Pre-game event 7 p.m.

Game starts 8:20 p.m.

For more information, contact  
Bris Villanueva, program and event  
specialist for Alumni Relations  
at (248) 364-6137 or  
villanu2@oakland.edu

## OUAA fans cheer for Tigers

More than 500 alumni, family and friends gathered to cheer on the Detroit Tigers in August at the annual OU Night at Comerica Park. Among the fans were Richard Schaeffer, CAS '74, and his family who traveled from all parts of the state to unite at the game. Pictured from left to right are (back row): Alan Schaeffer, from Roscommon; Richard Schaeffer, also from Roscommon; and Mike Schaeffer from Cedarville; (front row) Richard's father, Dick, from Cedarville, and sister, Roberta, from Waterford. ■



## Like father, like son

Great minds think alike ... at least in the Woods family. William Woods, SEHS '63, is a charter member of Oakland University, with his photo included in the 50th year celebration display at Meadow Brook Hall. A staunch supporter of OU, Woods' accolades for his education prompted his son Ashley Woods, to choose OU as well. Ashley Woods will graduate in December with a degree in management information systems.

"Dad was always talking about the great education he received and the quality of the school," Woods says. "I'm definitely glad that I followed in his footsteps."

William's wife, Carol, who volunteers with the Meadow Brook Garden Club, says she's very proud of Ashley's choices. "This school means so much to William. He is extremely proud that his son is also graduating from Oakland." ■

## Alumni reconnect at OUAA events

### It's like old times at Fitzgerald House

About 25 mid-1980s residents of Fitzgerald House reunited this summer to talk about old times and reconnect. Harold A. Fitzgerald was the publisher of *The Pontiac Press* and served as the first head of the Michigan State University — Oakland Foundation. His gift of \$45,000 furnished Fitzgerald and Anibal residence houses. Pictured are (back

row): Graeme Dobbs, Sarah Ryan (Wysocki), Lori Miles, Joan Curry (Kelly), Dan Watza, Rob Redmer, Dave Benedict, Pat O'Dwyer, Chris Rohlman, Ann Schejbal (front row): Marilee Morrison (Roth), Marshall Copeman, Karen Rohlman (Wampenguin), Pam Walch, Tammy Kastelic. ■



### Charter Class reunites

Nearly 50 members of OU's 1963-64 charter class celebrated at the 45th Charter Class Reunion in June at Meadow Brook Hall. They were joined by emeriti faculty and retired staff. The festive brunch included time for socializing in the Christopher Wren Dining Room, a charter class memorabilia display and tours of the hall. ■



Engage future students, connect with your community and stay involved  
with your alma mater by becoming an

# Alumni Admissions Ambassador for OU

By participating in events like college fairs and on-campus visit programs, you can share your OU experience with prospective students and their families. Your enthusiasm for Oakland, and your personal success story, can make a difference for students exploring their college options.

The AAAP invites you to join the team of ambassadors who are connecting prospective students and their families with Oakland University.

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

**E-mail** [aaap@oakland.edu](mailto:aaap@oakland.edu) with your name and graduation year, and any questions you may have about the AAAP program

**Log on to** [www.oakland.edu/aaap](http://www.oakland.edu/aaap) to view a list of upcoming events for Alumni Admissions Ambassadors, sample training materials, recent news stories on our volunteers, and pictures from recent events

## AAAP STATS

**203** ambassador hours of service

**3,891** points of contact from ambassadors to future students and parents at recruitment events

**100** recruitment event ambassadors

**195** interested AAAP ambassadors

**20** states represented in the AAAP

**14** months since the program has been launched

**2,350** enrolled students in fall 2008 freshman class

**1,674** enrolled transfer students in fall 2008 class

**79,031** Oakland University alumni



## OU Rec Center celebrates 10 years

Oakland University's Recreation and Athletics Center is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

The campus community recognized the center's milestone with a tailgate celebration in September before the annual flag football game between Campus Recreation and University Housing.

The center opened in 1998, with new construction around the university's Lepley Sports Center, creating a state-of-the-art fitness and athletics facility.

In the athletic center side of the building, the 3,000 seat O'rena was built, and a new Aquatics Center was installed. The O'rena locker rooms were enhanced, along with office space and training facilities.

The Rec Center offers a weight room with more than 100 pieces of exercise equipment, a 50-meter pool, diving well, spa, wooden-floor gym with three courts for basketball, volleyball and

badminton, three racquetball courts, one squash court, a four-lane indoor track, table tennis facilities, activity center, multipurpose rooms, social lounge, conference and meeting room space, locker rooms, fitness classes, certified personal trainers, massage therapy and intramural sports.

Today, more than 350,000 people use the Rec Center annually, including OU alumni, who receive a special discount. ■



## Grizzzzz-ball: Grizzly Gathering promises top opponents, b-ball excitement at The Palace

Calling all Grizzlies basketball fans! It's time once again to gather with your fellow alumni for two exciting Oakland University basketball events at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Coming this December, the OU men's basketball team will take on both the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. The televised games are set for Saturday, Dec. 20 (OU Grizzlies vs. the University of Michigan) and Saturday, Dec. 27 (OU Grizzlies vs. Michigan State University.)

Prior to the Dec. 27 game against Michigan State University, a special Grizzly Gathering pre-game reception will be held exclusively for OU fans in the Ameriprise Room in The Palace of Auburn Hills.

"The Grizzly Gathering at The Palace is a fantastic event and this year we're especially excited about the program," says Tracy Huth, OU

athletic director. "We have a highly recognized opponent, a quality venue with delicious food, and a great opportunity for alumni to gather with their former classmates and friends."

Huth said the Grizzly Gathering event is also a perfect opportunity to show off the university to the community.

"Our alumni take pride in the school and this is a great time to show off the university in this highly visible venue," he says.

Cost is \$50 per adult and \$40 per child 12 and younger. This price includes the game ticket to the OU vs. MSU game and admission to the Dec. 27 pre-game reception in the Ameriprise Room. Call the OUAA event hotline at (248) 364-6140 for more information and to register. Please note the Grizzly Gathering pre-game reception will take place only on Dec. 27. ■

## Golf outing raises more than \$28,000 for scholarships

The OU Alumni Association Golf Challenge raised more than \$28,000 for student scholarships. The outing took place on the R & S Sharf Course at Oakland University, with 128 golfers participating.

The funds help support the Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) Scholarship Program. To date, the OUAA has awarded about \$800,000 in scholarships to students. The money for these scholarships is provided through the generous donations of OUAA members and raised through events and programs. In 2008, 35 scholarships were awarded. The association offers 15 named scholarships with funding for tuition, student travel and study abroad opportunities, working students, and returning alumni.

"We are very grateful for the support of our OUAA members and other participants in the golf outing," says Adrienne Bass, director of Alumni Relations. "The funds raised at events like this go a long way in supporting our students, and helping them achieve their professional and educational goals."

2008 scholarship recipients were honored at the Scholarship Recognition Breakfast on Sept. 20 at Meadow Brook Hall. ■





## CAS

### A world of opportunities

College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) students have more opportunity than ever to study and work abroad. CAS now offers several international education and travel awards funded by donor endowments.

"We want very much to support students traveling abroad," says Professor Peter Bertocci, director of the CAS Center for International Programs. "It is expensive. Any financial support makes a positive difference."

The Gretchen J. Adler Study Abroad Award is for CAS students studying the humanities or social services. Applicants must have at least eight foreign language credits relevant to the country they want to visit, maintain at least a 2.5 grade-point average and commit to spending at least one semester studying abroad.

The William Goldenberg and Enid Bienstock International Student Education Award is for juniors in any CAS program or major with at least a 3.0 GPA. Applicants must submit a study or work plan for approval by a faculty member, along with two faculty recommendations. Students are not required to remain abroad for a full semester.

Bill Goldenberg, CAS '70, says he and his wife, Enid Bienstock, are hoping the endowment they created will give Oakland students the same kinds of life-changing experiences studying abroad provided their children during college.

"I really see a difference in their career paths, their educations, compared to students who have not had that experience," says Goldenberg, who is chairman of the CAS Advisory Board.

Other donor funds supporting

international travel and educational experiences include the Bernard and Nina Kent Judaic Studies Endowed Israel Travel Fund, the Marion Adams Bunt Endowed Fund, the Brad M. Glass Endowed Fund and the John B. Cameron Endowment in Art History.

For more information about the travel awards, call the Center for International Programs at (248) 370-2156.

## SBA

### Delegation to China

The School of Business Administration (SBA) sent several representatives to China last May to develop university partnerships supporting research, student education and program development.

The travelers included Dean Mohan Tanniru, Professor Xiaodong Deng and Professor Joy Jiang. During their stay in China, they visited business and management schools at universities in Beijing, Guangzhou, Nanjing, Shanghai and Wuhan.

Jiang, an assistant professor of management, tries to visit China once a year. "Every time I go I find myself trying to catch up," she says. "The pace of change is so fast."

Jiang accompanied Tanniru on the visits to Hohai University in Nanjing and the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade. "I think these trips were very fruitful,"

Jiang says.

Business school representatives at Hohai University talked to Tanniru about the possibility of sending a faculty member to Oakland for a semester. During their visit to Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade, Tanniru presented a lecture that was very well received by the students. "They are very eager to cooperate with OU there," Jiang says.



Also this year, SBA representatives joined a delegation led by the OU International Office on a visit to Washington, D.C., where they visited the embassies for China, Korea, India, Spain, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Taiwan, among others. The visitors made the trip to explore program options for students and faculty.

## SECS

### Robot competition

A robot created by Oakland University students made a respectable showing at the Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition held at OU last spring. Approximately 48 universities competed in the international competition, which required robots to move independently along an increasingly difficult course near Walton and Adams roads.

OU's Team X-man transformed a converted wheelchair into an unmanned vehicle for the event. The robot placed 14th in the competition's Autonomous Challenge after traveling 78 feet in one minute and 18 seconds. The OU robot also won a \$500 prize in the competition's JAUS (Joint Architecture for Unmanned Systems) Challenge, Level II category; it placed fourth in the Design Challenge for its group; and earned 10th place in the Grand Award competition.

Team X-man comprised graduate and undergraduate computer science, electrical engineering and systems engineering students. The group inherited the frame it used from last year's OU competitors, but this year's team members created a new drive control system. "It doesn't look like a wheelchair," Oakland Robotics Association President Micho Radovnikov says.

While they are on the competition course, robots must be able to look for intensity differences while using range finders and other programs to navigate the path. Preparing for this competition has been a worthwhile experience, Radovnikov says. "The knowledge we learn can be applied in a lot of places, in robotics, in military applications and many other areas."



## SEHS

### Training teachers

The Department of Educational Leadership and the Department of Teacher Development and Educational Studies this fall began a new collaborative master's program in Teacher Leadership. Traditionally students seeking a master's degree from SEHS had to choose either a master's in teaching or administration. The former degree did little to prepare a teacher who might one day aspire to a leadership position; the latter was heavy on leadership and management theory that was often beyond the experience level of young teachers in their first years of teaching.

The new degree attempts to combine curriculum that will be useful to teachers seeking to improve their current classroom practice and offer concepts that will encourage young teachers to seek to be leaders in their schools through whatever opportunities present themselves. Classes will be taught by a team of two teachers, one from each department, and will consist of both on-ground and on-line components.

## SHS

### Exploring fatigue in cancer patients

Associate Professor of Physical Therapy Jackie Drouin, MS '88, SHS '85, is in the midst of a study that measures the energy expenditure and fatigue levels of breast cancer patients undergoing radiation therapy at Beaumont Hospital in Troy, Mich.

Drouin, an associate professor in physical therapy, is utilizing an Oakland University William Beaumont Institute Multidisciplinary Award to conduct the study, which got under way last July and will continue through January. Drouin frequently researches the impact of exercise on special populations. More recently, she has been focusing her attention on populations with cancer. "People receiving radiation therapy experience profound fatigue, but the causes are unclear, and may be in part due to de-conditioning from remaining sedentary during treatment." During her study, approximately 40 women with breast cancer are being asked to wear a device that measures their calorie

expenditure, and these measures will be compared to reports of fatigue and hemoglobin levels.

"Most studies to date on cancer-related fatigue used surveys to ask patients to rate their fatigue, but none of the studies actually measured how much energy these individuals are using and compared the results to patient reports of fatigue," Drouin says. "My feeling is that much of the fatigue is from deconditioning, and this initial effort will allow further studies on this topic."

An Oakland doctoral PT student has been working with participating nurses on data analysis and will develop a paper on their findings. "The fun part for me is not only collaborating at Beaumont, but working with students on this," Drouin adds.

## SON

### Nursing summer camp

Oakland University's School of Nursing (SON) introduced area youths to the field of nursing last summer during its Camp RN@OU program.

This hands-on experience for youths in grades seven through nine is designed to educate campers about the opportunities available to them in nursing. The SON presented two 2-week sessions last July.

"We have had such a high demand for this camp each year," Dean Linda Thompson Adams says. "It's so encouraging to see young people use their summer break to study the different aspects of health and health care."

This year's campers explored nursing forensics, pharmacology, clinical calculations, nutrition, health and wellness. They also had a chance to obtain CPR and First Aid certification. Additional activities included a tour of Oakland's campus, shadowing nurses in a hospital setting and an opportunity to learn about the human body in the new physical assessment laboratory.

The idea of the camp is to get students excited about the nursing profession and the variety of career choices available today. "Nursing is more than just working at the bedside, and this camp focuses on the endless possibilities of the profession," says Kristina White, academic adviser in the SON.

## HC

### Skills for success

Incoming Honors College students may think of their First Year Colloquium as the first of many required classes to come, but the new course is designed to be much more than that. For college newcomers, this course will be a critical resource, a team-building tool intended to help students develop the necessary skills for an effective and rewarding university experience.

"The purpose is to introduce incoming students to what The Honors College is all about, to what the university is all about," says Professor Jude Nixon, director of The Honors College.

The course, which got under way this semester, devotes one session a week to a lecture tied to a required reading. Each lecture will be presented by a different instructor. The first session, for instance, was based on *To Read or Not to Read: A Question of National Consequence*. This report by the National Endowment for the Arts helped inspire Nixon's approach to shaping this course. "I'm concerned that high school seniors and even college students are not reading as much," Nixon says.

Students also can expect some non-academic presentations. One session will be devoted to career options. Another will be a presentation about Oakland by the university president.

In addition to the general sessions, students break into weekly cell groups to discuss the lecture topics further. The groups, led by upperclassmen, each have their own motto and T-shirts. Their discussions are complemented by online exercises, along with several written and group assignments.

The groups, which can meet on or off campus, also will be responsible for scheduling their own field trips and a community service project. "It's a way of building community," Nixon says. "A group of students will immediately get to know at least 15 to 20 students in their group." ■

*Compiled by Flori Meeks, CAS '88, a freelance writer from Tomball, Texas.*



## CAREER/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## 1960s

**Pat Darzi, SEHS '67**, took early retirement from teaching in Georgia in 2006. She recently moved to Alabama to be near her three granddaughters and grandson. They are the sunshine of her life!

**J. Michael Newlight, CAS '69**, writing as Myron Night, recently published his third novel, *Perfect Fingers*, a story of 70s America, in hardcover. Information at [www.greenlightbooks.com](http://www.greenlightbooks.com).

## 1970s

**Dian Beaubien, CAS '75**, is the VP of Sales and Business Development and has built and developed the sales team at BioArray Solutions, a molecular beadchip multiplex platform for diagnostic testing in bloodbank. On rare occasion, when home in Tucson, Ariz., she participates in the local bands playing bass clarinet.

**Patricia Eriksson, CAS '73**, has returned to Michigan after 28 years abroad in international education including International Baccalaureate Administration and Fulbright Commission member in Europe and the Middle East.

**Phil Foley, CAS '78**, transferred in May from the weekly *County Line Reminder* in Ortonville, Mich., to the tri-weekly *County Press* in Lapeer, Mich., where he is a staff reporter. His work can now be seen in both papers, as well as occasionally in the *Oakland Press*, which is also a Journal Register Company.

**Robert Gibbs, CAS '77**, is principal behind the Gibbs Planning Group, and will be a featured speaker and program instructor for the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. He will participate in a graduate session titled, "New Urban and Smart Growth Retail Planning and Design Principles."

**William Hammers, MA '79**, married Mariana on February 14, 2008, and graduated from Berklee School of Music with a master's in Arranging in April 2008 — his fifth degree program. Others are B.S. in Mathematics from Eastern Michigan University in 1972, a Master of Music in Jazz Studies from Arizona State University in 2002, and near Ph.D. in Instructional Technology 1988-93.

**William Hunt, CAS '75**, has been appointed head of Diagnostics for the State of New Mexico; Youth Development and Diagnostics Center.

**Steve Luzkow, CAS '76**, joined Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber as senior environmental manager. He brings more than 29 years of environmental expertise to FTC&H and will be working in the environmental due diligence service area. He is also president of the Michigan Association of Environmental Professionals.

**Kenneth McMillan, CAS '72**, pursued his career goal as a general surgeon (WSU) and "flying doctor" in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He was joined by his wife, Ginny, and together they ran a rural hospital for 15 years under CrossWorld. Presently, he is a safety net physician for homeless Native Americans in Minneapolis, Minn.

**JoAnn Pugh-Cowens, CAS '76**, is running for Calhoun County District Court. She has worked for Legal Services and for seven years at the W. K. Kellogg Foundation in African programming. As a lawyer, she handles criminal defense, family law, civil cases and probate work.



**Stephen O. Schultz, CAS '73**, and fellow OU alumnus **Stephen J. Rhodes, CAS '83**, announced recently the founding of Fahey, Schultz, Burzych, Rhodes, PLC located in Okemos, Mich. The law firm was established earlier this year and represents a focus on private and public sector clientele centered on the use of "green technology."

**Kathy Sgambati, CAS '71**, is the recipient of the 2008 Dr. Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service as a state legislator. The award is the highest honor for a public official from the nation's largest physician organization. She was selected for her role in designing and implementing the

Children's Health Insurance Program and the Kid's Cabinet; managing the Citizen's Health Initiative and securing over \$1 billion in federal aid; and, as a state senator, by successfully sponsoring legislation to create a volunteer outreach program, to reduce costs, to expand access to health insurance and to fully fund services for people with developmental disabilities.

**Leslie Stein, CAS '76**, of the Southfield, Mich., law firm of Seyburn, Kahn, Ginn, Bess and Serlin PC has been selected as a Super Lawyer by *Law and Politics Magazine* in the area of bankruptcy and creditor/debtor rights. Stein heads the firm's Creditors' Rights Practice Group.

## 1980s

**Roger Bick, SBA '81**, is a management consultant for Kenneth J. Dalto & Associates in Farmington Hills, Mich.

**Arline Bittker, SEHS '88**, is the recipient of the B'nai B'rith International Guardian of the Menorah Award as part of a community-wide celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary. The annual award recognizes individuals who exemplify outstanding community service, dedicated leadership and philanthropic involvement. She serves on the executive board of B'nai B'rith International and co-chairs with her son, Alan, the Stem Cell Foundation International. She also serves on the National Board of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, the Board of Hillel of Metropolitan Detroit and is active with the Hillels at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. She is a member of the board of directors of the American Technion Society of Detroit Chapter.

**Mark Frankel, SBA '83**, is a candidate for the Oakland County Probate Court. He was elected to the State Bar Representative Assembly and is a member of the Probate Alliance. He is a partner with Couzens, Lansky, Fealk, Roeder & Lazar PC in Farmington Hills, Mich.

**Daniel Gustafson, CAS '81**, is senior vice president for Government Affairs at Scofes & Associates in Lansing, Mich.

**Mary Haezebrouck, MA '81**, is the new principal at Barnard Elementary in the Troy School District.



## In the House

### High school teacher is schooled in Washington politics

Last summer, **Debbie Hejl, SEHS '73**, stood with fellow history teachers on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. As the U.S. House of Representatives photographer got ready to snap the group picture, Hejl heard a voice calling out: "Mrs. Hejl, is that you?"

The worlds of education and politics had collided.

The voice belonged to one of Hejl's high school students, also visiting Washington, D.C. Surprised to see his teacher, his "shout out" was a perfect reminder of why Hejl was at the Capitol in the first place — for her students.

Hejl, a social studies teacher and department chair at Fishers High School in Indiana, was one of 10 American history/government teachers chosen nationwide for the new U.S. House of Representatives Fellows Program. Under the direction of the Historian of the House, the Fellows Program provides educators with a first-hand experience of the House's inner workings.

### In session

The five-day Fellows Program includes attending legislative sessions and also briefings from the National Archives, Smithsonian Institution, Office of the House Historian and Library of Congress.

Deputy House Historian Fred Beuttler was a perfect guide.

"He pointed out such interesting things inside the Capitol, like who painted the pictures or why a particular statue was moved to a different location," Hejl says.

She also saw noteworthy congressional documents, including George Washington's farewell address and a Pearl Harbor radar report. There were moments she'll never forget, including shaking hands with Rep. John Lewis, a Civil Rights champion.

"I stood where the Dred Scott Decision was made," Hejl says. "I'd forgotten the Supreme Court was once housed in the Capitol's basement."

### History lessons

This wasn't Hejl's first trip to D.C. As an OU teaching assistant for a history seminar in 1973, Hejl's class read the book *Apartheid AXIS*. Incensed by apartheid's injustice, the class took action.

Baking and selling 200 dozen cookies, the students purchased copies of the book and road-tripped to hand-deliver them to every House and Senate member.

Hejl left a little piece of history behind on this visit, too. Fellows Program participants developed classroom lesson plans to be filed on the Office of the House Historian Web site.

"Our names were even written into the Congressional Record," Hejl says. "I love showing that to my students." ■

*By Mary Gunderson-Switzer, a freelance writer from Warner Robins, Ga.*



*Debbie Hejl, SEHS '73, was chosen to participate in the U.S. House of Representative Fellows Program.*







*Harry Orr, CAS '71, has been at the forefront of research into spinocerebellar ataxia type 1 (SCA 1), a neuromuscular disease.*

### Unraveling the code of a genetic mystery

When the phone rang early one morning in 1993, **Harry Orr, CAS' 71**, heard a cousin telling him that a line drawing of his face was on the front page of *The Wall Street Journal*.

After that, phone calls from television producers starting coming in, and Orr knew that the world was recognizing that his groundbreaking research into spinocerebellar ataxia type 1 (SCA 1) was of major importance.

Until then, it had been mostly confined between the walls of his lab at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, where he is professor of laboratory medicine and pathology; director of the Institute for Translational Neuroscience, and director of the Institute for Human Genetics.

This all started when Orr, along with Dr. Huda Zoghbi (Baylor College of Medicine), discovered the gene that causes SCA 1, a fatal hereditary neurological disease that eventually leaves those affected unable to walk, talk or swallow.

Orr, who completed his Ph.D. at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., and a post-doctorate at Harvard, had then been able to clone the gene and insert it into mice models for purposes of determining potential treatments.

"The lab is about to go through another transition into translational research, or taking what we have learned on the basic science and using that to develop a strategy for getting a therapy. I'm in the later stage of my career," says Orr, 59, "So I see this as a final capstone — to be able to develop something that will be of therapeutic benefit."

Orr, who grew up in Birmingham, Mich., began his college career at the University of Miami studying marine biology, but quickly found the academic environment not conducive to his career goals. He transferred to OU and began an undergraduate research fellowship with Professor Emeritus of Biology Mike Riley in OU's Eye Research Institute.

"That experience was invaluable. I wouldn't be in research today if it weren't for the exposure I got at OU as an undergraduate," says Orr, who is married and has two daughters. "I got bit by the research bug and realized that's where I wanted to be. It was a platform to develop my career, and for me, OU was the perfect place to do that." ■

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



**Anna Hamzey, CAS '84**, earned a Master of Science degree in Human Resources Administration in 1994 from Central Michigan University. She is the manager of Employee and Labor Relations for a division of Trinity Health known as Trinity Senior Living Communities based in Novi, Mich.

**Daniel Kwit, SECS '84**, was recently promoted to the position of Director of Business Intelligence at P.F. Chang's China Bistro, Inc.

**Mark Lewakowski, SBA '81**, retired from the United States Air Force as Lieutenant Colonel and after a 30-year respite, accepted a Federal Position at Beale AFB near Yuba City, Calif., with the Global Hawk Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Program. He and his wife, Cathy, have been married for 24 years. Their son, John, turned 21 and is a college student in California studying business management. Mark enjoys wine making in his spare time.

**Sandra Murphree, SBA '80**, is vice president, Human Resources for Faurecia Interiors North America and Group HR.

## 1990s

**Diane Adair, SEHS '97**, is the recipient of a MEEMIC Insurance Pino Agency Excellence in Education Award. She is an art teacher at Meadow Brook Elementary in the Rochester Community School District.

**Kurt Brauer, CAS '91**, has joined Warner, Norcross & Judd as a partner. Brauer concentrates his practice in environmental law and litigation, with an emphasis on environmental compliance and regulatory matters, brownfield and other economic development and complex real estate matters.

**Kathellen Delaney, SHS '92**, completed her master's degree in Industrial Hygiene from the University of Michigan School of Public Health and is a Certified Industrial Hygienist currently working as the Industrial Hygiene program coordinator at Colorado Springs Utilities in Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Ann Edgerton, MED '97**, recently moved from Monterey Bay/Carmel, Calif., and accepted a position as the director of the University of Minnesota Childcare Center.

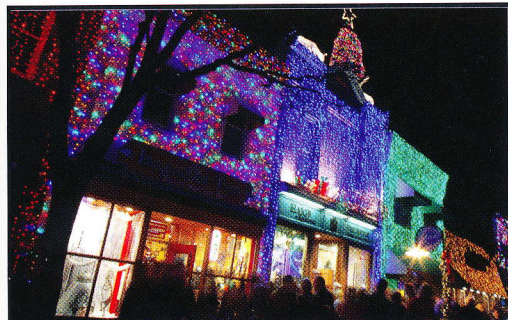
**Kevin Finn, SEHS '93**, has been named Dean of Students at Lawrence Technological University. In this role, he will oversee student activities outside of the classroom, including housing and dining services, career services and international programs, and sports and recreation.

**Rachel Hahnefeld, CAS '95**, has been promoted to director of purchasing at Pontiac Coil Inc. She has been with the company since 2000.

**Cheryl Ogonowski, MM '98**, is the recipient of a MEEMIC Insurance Pino Agency Excellence in Education Award. She is a music teacher at Meadow Brook Elementary in the Rochester Community School District.

**Audrey Olmstead, BGS '93**, joined Walsh College as vice president, chief development officer.

**Rayissa Palmer, CAS '96**, moved to Newport Beach, Calif., and accepted a position as director, Marketing and Communications with the Annuities & Mutual Funds Division of Pacific Life Insurance Company as of May 1, 2008. She will oversee all of the marketing and advertising for the company's annuity and mutual fund products.



## There's always something to do in Downtown Rochester!

### The Big, Bright Light Show

Monday, December 1 through Sunday, January 4  
6 p.m. – Midnight

### Rochester Fire & Ice Fest

Friday, January 23 and Saturday, January 24

Call the DDA at (248) 656-0060 or visit [www.DowntownRochesterMI.com](http://www.DowntownRochesterMI.com)

Oakland University is a proud partner of the City of Rochester



## 2000s

**Deana Pankotai, SEHS '92**, was selected as Teacher of the Year for 2008 at Mt. Clemens Middle School. She is currently teaching sixth grade science and has supervised many OU pre-service teachers and one student teacher.

**Nick Schillace, CAS '97**, Detroit guitar virtuoso, recently released his second album titled "Landscape and People" under the Burly Times Records label.

**Michael Simon, CAS '96**, joined the staff of Mott Community College in Flint, Mich., as manager of the Office of the President and Board of Trustees.

**John Smail, MBA '93**, has been appointed vice president of the North America Commercial Group of International Automotive Components Group North America (IAC). He will oversee all sales and program management functions with foreign and domestic manufacturers in IAC's North American commercial group portfolio.

**Karen Stahl, CAS '99**, is a reference librarian working for the government at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Rockville, Md. She is also on the Student/Young Professionals group Committee of the Special Libraries Association, Washington, D.C., Chapter for 2007 and 2008.

**Tom Tanghe, MPA '90**, is one of 35 people selected to participate in the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia in July 2008.

**Michael Tomaszewski, MBA '98**, joined Butzel Long as an associate attorney based in the firm's Bloomfield Hills, Mich., office. He concentrates his practice in the area of intellectual property law.

**Sharon Valenti, SON '93**, has been selected to sit on the President's Advisory Council for HIV/AIDS (PACHA). She devotes a large part of her time to promoting HIV research and obtaining Expanded Access Programs (EAP) for antiretroviral medications in Phase III clinical trials. She is involved in various organizations promoting HIV care including serving as the president of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care of Southeast Michigan. She is certified in HIV care through the American Academy of HIV Medicine and through the National Association of ANAC.

**Kimberly Boyd, SBA '07**, is a financial analyst at General Dynamics Land Systems. She is engaged to James Joseph and is looking forward to their wedding on May 16, 2009.

**William Coale, Ph.D. '05**, was appointed superintendent of Schools for the Western School District (Parma/Spring Arbor) in January 2006. He is currently an active Rotarian and a member of the board of directors of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, as well as vice chairman of the board for the South Central Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross. He is involved in the First United Methodist Church of Jackson where he is a member of the Mission Committee and Fellowship Choir.

**Brian A. Craft, SECS '02**, has graduated from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. He earned silver wings with an aeronautical rating of pilot in the Air Force.

**Cameron Duncan, CAS '07**, recently published a second book titled *Just Because*. It is available at Barnes and Noble and [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)

**Navy Seaman Recruit Jennifer S. Kraft, CAS '06**, completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

**Tiffany Mack, CAS '02**, teaches English, American Literature and Advanced Placement English at Andover High School in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

**Jill MacKellar, SEHS '01**, and her husband Cameron are owners of New Bride USA, a social networking service for wedding professionals and brides to be. The business is based on the Internet at [www.newbrideusa.com](http://www.newbrideusa.com), but magazines are planned across the country and eventually internationally with launches in both Australia and Europe during 2008.

**Jennifer (Juszkiewicz) Mahar, CAS '03**, received her Master of Science in Management from Walsh College.

**Krista Menzies, SBA '04**, has been promoted to credit officer for PrivateBancorp, Inc.

**Jessica (Taft) Miller, SEHS '05, CAS '03**, is now working as a professional counselor for Delta College in University Center, Mich.

**Barbara Pote, BGS '07**, has taken on additional duties as Co-Director of Baldwin Center Youth Program. She designed and staffed an education-based summer enrichment program for Pontiac Youth.

**Erica Rossell, SEHS '01**, is the recipient of a MEEMIC Insurance Pino Agency Excellence in Education Award. She is a science teacher at Reuther Middle School in the Rochester Community School District.

**Suzanne Elizabeth Schoenrock, SON '06**, moved to Florida in December 2006 and is now employed as the perioperative manager at Palm West Hospital.

**Laurie Shano, MAC '07, CAS '01**, earned a master's in Counseling from OU in 2007 and is now employed as an academic adviser within OU's School of Business Administration.

**Kelsey Smalley, CAS '07**, teaches Algebra I, geometry and numeracy lab at Lahser High School in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

**Nanette Watson, DNP '07**, received her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Oakland University in December 2007. Watson works as the inpatient clinical nurse manager and as a provider for inpatient and outpatient clientele at Carson City Hospital.

**Vanessa Williams, MPA '07, CAS '03**, is a project analyst at Portland's largest Intellectual Property law firm, Klarquist Sparkman. She has relocated to Beaverton, Ore., with her fiancé, Ken, and their dog, Ike. The couple is planning to return to Michigan for their wedding in January 2009.

## We'd like to hear from you!

Drop us a quick note on your recent accomplishments, plans, milestones. Use the form on page 50 or send an e-mail to: [ouaa@oakland.edu](mailto:ouaa@oakland.edu). Please include a print or high resolution photo.



## (Not) Sleepless in Detroit

Area organization gives wake-up call on importance of sleep

School children in Detroit are resting easier, thanks to Sweet Dreamzzz, a non-profit organization that presents a one-of-a-kind sleep education program for at-risk youngsters.

Research shows many children — especially from economically challenged households — don't get enough sleep, affecting health, behavior and academic and athletic performance.

A small but mighty organization, staff and volunteers from Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit don flannel pajamas and robes to present their elementary school program. Winning the Detroit 2003 "National Sleep Capital of the Nation" award from the National Sleep Foundation, the organization has reached more than 21,000 children living in poverty in Detroit and Pontiac.

The program is needed.

"One principal told about two children with behavioral problems, and she knew it was related to lack of sleep," says Jo Long, BGS '02, program director for Sweet Dreamzzz. "Every morning she'd bring the kids into her office for an extra hour of sleep before class. It made a big difference."

### Losing sleep

Sweet Dreamzzz's very existence demonstrates that one person *can* make a world of difference.

Inspired by a 1996 *Detroit Free Press* article about an inner-city boy living in a burned-out house and sleeping under his coat, a number of concerned women in the community took action. They helped provide a furnished apartment to the boy and his mother, including beds, linens and blankets. The women went on to found Sweet Dreamzzz.

The organization's concern is for children going to sleep at night with little to keep them warm and comfortable — and who are unaware of proper sleep hygiene habits.

With assistance from OU's School of Education and Human Services, the National Health, Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and others, Sweet Dreamzzz developed the "Rest/ Educate/ Motivate" (REM) Program — a 30-minute presentation for children on the benefits of good sleep habits. Students receive classroom instruction, a REM activity book and crayons and sleep kit containing: sleeping bag, nightshirt, socks, toothbrush/ toothpaste, Beanie Baby, and other bedtime assists.



"The children are really appreciative," Long reflects. "One boy was so excited about receiving his new toothbrush that he kept asking if it really was just for him."

Sweet Dreamzzz reaches kids where they live. While discussing good nighttime routines, the children are also taught how important sleep is for their well-being. The best part of Long's job is the impact.

"One principal adopted a 6-year-old girl who'd been taken away from her mother," Long says. "She said the sleeping bag the little girl received at our program meant so much during that transition — it made her feel secure."

Long believes in the staying power of Sweet Dreamzzz. "Sleeping bags come and go," she says, "but the kids seem to remember what they learn through the program. We plant the seeds of knowledge early and hope and believe that as the child develops, the information will make a difference.

And what became of the boy who inspired Sweet Dreamzzz?

"He's completed three years of college," Long proudly says, and quietly adds, "He says we saved his life." She goes on to say, "We're gratified that we were able to make a difference." ■

*By Mary Gunderson-Switzer, a freelance writer from Warner Robins, Ga.*



*Jo Long, BGS '02, spends her days helping kids in Detroit and Pontiac schools understand the importance of a good night's sleep.*





### Rising to the top of the financial field

When **Linda Voss, SBA '82**, needed to pare down expenses and improve business results over the past year and a half, she worked with her team to reduce operating costs by \$25 million, sold \$1.4 billion of undesirable and non-core assets at a profit, and acquired \$2.6 billion in assets with higher returns.

As chief financial officer and chief operating officer of GMAC Commercial Finance, Voss is accustomed to large numbers, particularly those with dollar signs in front. Yet the Bay Port, Mich., valedictorian was not fond of mass quantities at the onset of her college career.

"I transferred to OU after two years at MSU because classes were very large and impersonal," says Voss, whose transfer to OU resulted in a better learning environment. "Oakland University offered class sizes that provided an opportunity for involvement, a chance to get to know professors, and practical education that could easily be translated into the real world."

Voss credits former Associate Dean John Tower for teaching her how to use VisiCalc, the first spreadsheet program for personal computers, and professor David Doane's statistics and econometrics classes for increasing her interest in analytics. Her OU education also influenced her to build an environment where engaging and influencing others is a matter of trust, teamwork and good people skills, particularly when decisions must continually be re-evaluated in light of changing circumstances, as is the case with the current financial service industry.

"The most interesting aspects of my career have been putting deals together, acquisitions of companies or assets,

new funding facilities and divestitures of companies and assets," says Voss, who received her MBA from the University of Michigan under the GM Fellowship Program and has held 18 different positions in five cities, including managing director for National Auto Finance Company, a division of Nuvel Credit Corporation, in Little Rock and Jacksonville.

Her move to New York City in 2006 with Tim, her husband of 28 years who has an MBA from OU, means that Voss's commute is a mere five-minute walk, yet her responsibilities have increased as demands to improve her company's viability and profitability rest squarely on her shoulders.

When Voss does relax, she likes to travel, golf, take in a Broadway show, and visit with Jason, her 27-year-old son who lives near Ann Arbor, Mich. ■

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

*Linda Voss, SBA '82, spends her days crunching the big numbers as chief financial officer and chief operating officer of GMAC Commercial Finance in New York City, N.Y.*





## BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

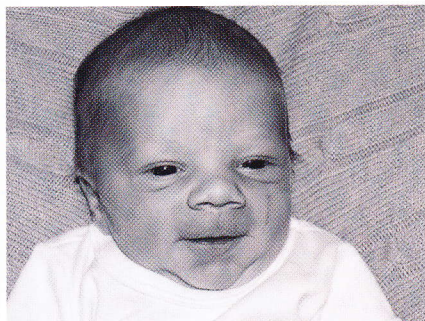
**Steven Britt, SBA '07, SBA '03, CAS '03,** and wife Stella are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Lincoln Alexander on Feb. 24, 2008.

**Amy (Wylín) Butkovich, CAS '00,** married Marty Butkovich Nov. 23, 2007. The couple is expecting their first child in January 2009.

**Scott Collins, SEHS '97,** and his wife Tricia are proud to announce the birth of their son Nolan Ryan on April 7, 2008. He joins big brother Liam.

**Trina (Montalto) Fox, SEHS '96** and **Jeff Fox, SEHS '93,** are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Marina Carmen on March 19, 2008.

**Joana Kinney, CAS '07,** gave birth to a baby girl named Arianna Maria Kinney.



*Caleb Kenneth Garrett*

**Amy (Block) Garrett, CAS '97, SHS '00,** and her husband **Gregg Garrett, SECS '97,** are delighted to announce the birth of their second son, Caleb Kenneth on June 16, 2008. He joins big brother Spencer.

**Joan (Wells) Kiser, CAS '05,** and her husband Jordan announce the birth of their first child, Logan Garnet Kiser, born July 5, 2008.

**Darren O'Brien, CAS '96,** and his wife Christy are proud to announce the birth of their fifth child, Claire Magdalene on April 10, 2008. She joins 6-year-old big sister Trinity; 4-year-old big brother Aiden; 3-year-old big sister Felicity; and 2-year-old big brother Liam.



*Grace Hayden Pagett*

**Amy (Mackela) Pagett, CAS '01,** and her husband Chris are proud to announce the July 3rd birth of their first child, Grace Hayden. Grace arrived at 3:58 p.m. weighing in at 6 lbs. 6 oz. and measuring 17 inches. Proud grandparents are Susan Hayden and Tom Smith of Rochester Hills, Mich., Bill and Norma Mackela of Sterling Heights, Mich., Shirley Kubinec of Howell, Mich., and Tom and Diane Pagett of Westland, Mich. Proud great grandparents are Lionel and Elaine Mackela of East Jordan, Mich.



*Mia Kate Porterfield*

**Nanette Porterfield, CAS '96,** and her husband Mark are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Mia Kate, on Jan. 30, 2008.

## DEATHS

**Deborah Abood, SON '98,** died April 6, 2008.

**Cipriana Adkins, CAS '73,** died May 13, 2008.

**Richard Bringard, SECS '84,** died March 16, 2008.

**Lola Camille, CAS '83,** died June 21, 2008.

**Ouida Cash, CAS '74,** died in February 2008.

**Dr. George Cavin, CAS '84,** died May 17, 2008.

**Janice Kay Dunlap, CAS '77,** died June 27, 2008.

**Raymond Edgar, CAS '82,** died May 18, 2008.

**Dorothy Ann Herzberg, SEHS '71,** died April 15, 2008.

**Gary Holtz, SEHS '77,** died Feb. 17, 2008.

**Georgia Hruby, CAS '02,** died April 2, 2008.

**Jan B. Jensen, CAS '77,** died June 15, 2008.

**Ronald Marks, SBA '75,** died April 2, 2008.

**Ann Perinjian, SEHS '78,** died March 24, 2008.

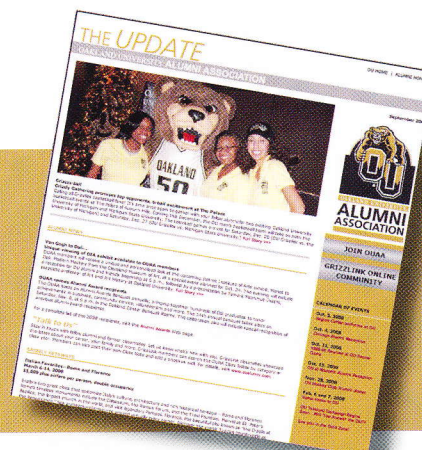
**David Randall, CAS '73,** died May 1, 2008.

**Howard Sawicke, SEHS '83,** died Feb. 2, 2008.

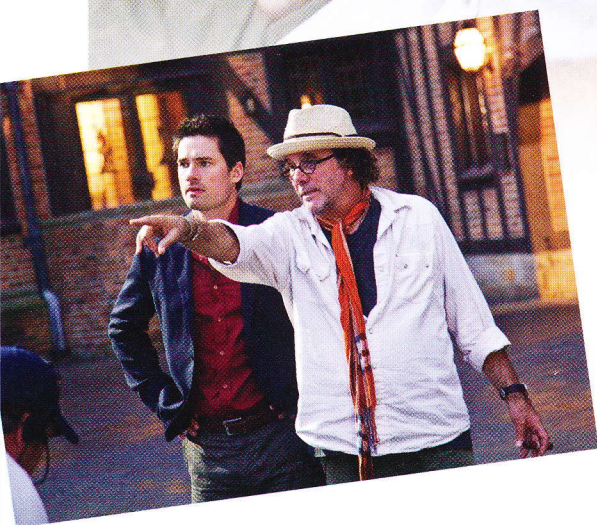
**Thomas Trbovich, SBA '73,** died April 19, 2008.

## Get the Update.

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







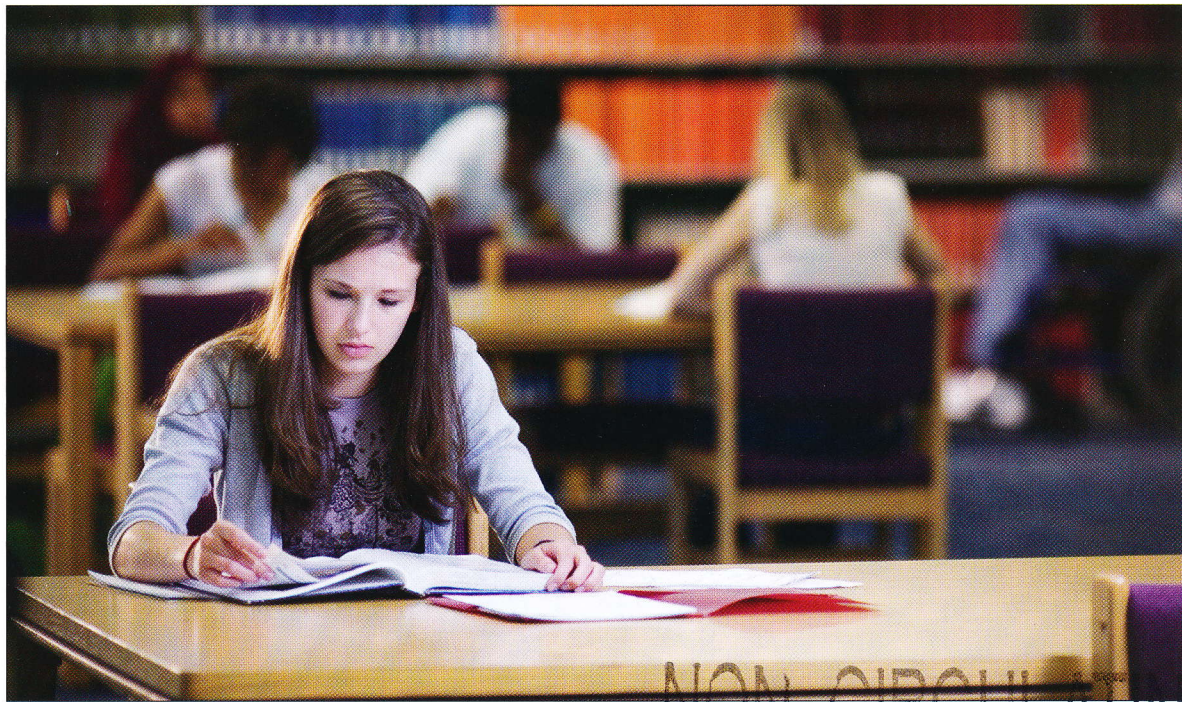
## It's Hollywood stars at Meadow Brook Hall these days.

The Michigan tax initiative has brought a flurry of big and small film projects to the state and the beauty and grand scale of this Tudor Revival historic house museum has not escaped the notice of talent scouts. The hall was the chosen setting for the upcoming movie, *Youth in Revolt*, and the ABC TV pilot, *The Prince of the Motor City*. Above, *Prince* director Jack Bender (*Lost*, *The Sopranos*) directs Warren Christie (*October Road*) in a scene for the pilot, which was shot at the hall in July. Other well known members of the cast included Andie McDowell (*Groundhog Day*), Sharon Lawrence (*NYPD Blue*), Piper Perabo (*Coyote Ugly*) and Aiden Quinn (*Legends of the Fall*). The pilot is a modern-day Hamlet story set entirely in Detroit, Mich. Release dates for *Prince* and *Youth in Revolt* have not been set. ■



OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
3 1816 00758800 9

# Create Futures, Change Lives...



## YOUR GIFT HELPS MAKE DREAMS A REALITY

You may already know an annual gift to Oakland University helps in so many ways. Your generosity funds student scholarships, provides technology in the classroom and assists in recruiting the best faculty.

What better gift is there than providing eager minds with the highest quality learning possible? In addition, your gift reaps its own rewards — like tax advantages, corporate matches and donor recognition.

### How to give

There are several ways to make a gift to OU — personal check, credit card, or stock/securities.

Use the enclosed envelope or make your gift online at [www.oakland.edu](http://www.oakland.edu) by clicking "Give to OU."

Have questions? Please call (248) 364-6160 to talk with an annual giving staff member.

*Make a gift for the future ... today!*

INNOVATION AND  
OPPORTUNITY

The Campaign for Oakland University







Oakland University Magazine  
Rochester, Michigan 48309-4401

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Rochester, MI  
Permit No. 17

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**Shirley Paquette**  
**Library**

**ALUMNI — save this mailing label.**  
*See page 48 to find out why.*

[www.oakland.edu](http://www.oakland.edu)

**YOU CAN AFFORD THIS.**

[oakland.edu/affordable](http://oakland.edu/affordable)

**Renowned. Respected.**  
And really making an **impact.**

Nationally recognized. Expert faculty. Groundbreaking research. Oakland University is committed to graduate education. We offer nearly 100 prestigious graduate degrees and certificates, plus countless opportunities for research and industry experience. And our hometown Rochester was named one of the top 100 places to live by RelocateAmerica in 2008.

Get more information or apply online at  
[www.oakland.edu/gograd](http://www.oakland.edu/gograd) or call (248) 370-3167.

*"The professors were always willing to share their personal perspectives with the students. They helped us understand the many ways we would be able to put the skills we were learning into practice and the types of careers we would be able to pursue after graduation."*

Michelle Serafino  
Human Performance  
Specialist, Accenture  
Master of Training and  
Development program

► **Distinguish yourself. Oakland University.**

