

inside OAKLAND

A newsletter for Oakland University colleagues

Celebrating 40 and looking to the future

Packed with activities, Founders' Day marks an 'important day' in Oakland history

Oakland University will celebrate its first Founders' Day April 18 in style.

Consider what's planned: a faculty recognition luncheon, a building opening ceremony and a presidential investiture — all marking OU's first 40 years.

"This is an important day in Oakland University history,"

OU President Gary D. Russi says. "I am proud to be a part of this celebration of our founders and all the people who have made great contributions during the past 40 years."

Founders' Day will begin with the Second Annual Faculty Recognition Luncheon at noon in the Gold Rooms, Oakland Center. Andrew Rusek, Teaching Excellence Award winner, and Virinder Moudgil, Research Excellence Award winner, will deliver brief remarks and Russi will introduce faculty members recommended by the deans for special recognition.

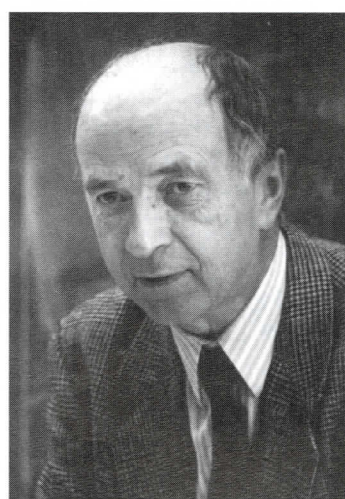
tion. This event is by invitation.

The opening of the Science and Engineering Building will begin at 3 p.m. in a tent on the grounds facing the new building. Russi, David Downing, dean, College of Arts and Sciences; and Michael Polis, dean, Engineering and Computer Science, will speak. Rex Schlaybaugh, Jr., chair, OU Board of Trustees, will introduce Governor John Engler. After the governor's speech, Russi will lead a ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by a reception. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Russi's investiture ceremony will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the same tent area with an academic procession and will include a chorale performance and greetings from representatives of various university groups. Schlaybaugh will present Russi with the President's Medal and Russi will deliver an address. This event is also open to the community.

Russi views the April 18 celebration as only the beginning.

"In five years, I would like our graduates to be identified as the best liberally educated and prepared in the state, if not in the region, for immediate employment or advancement in business,

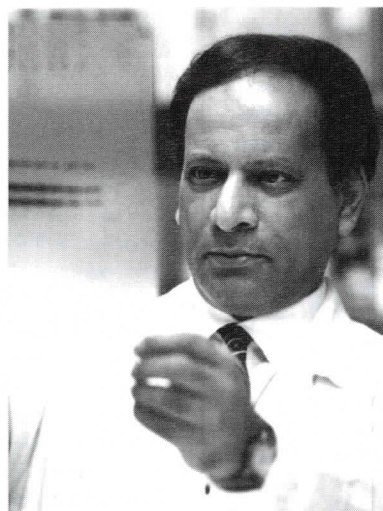


Andrew Rusek will receive the Teaching Excellence Award during the Faculty Recognition Luncheon April 18.

industry, government, education, the arts or service sector," he says. "We want to become a model university for the 21st century."

To honor OU's history, Inside Oakland is publishing a

special edition. Watch for these stories (date to come): the original Meadow Brook Seminars and how they set the course for the university's curriculum development; the OU chronicles, Paul and Alice Tomboulis's fascinating oral history on videotape; OU firsts; OU trivia and more.



Virinder Moudgil will receive the Research Excellence Award.



An investiture ceremony will honor Gary D. Russi as Oakland's fifth president.

did you KNOW?

- When Michigan State University-Oakland (MSU-O) opened, one year's expenses at MSU or University of Michigan cost about \$1,600. MSU-O students could live at home and attend classes for about one-quarter of that cost.
- There were non-traditional students at OU even in its earliest years. Vera Ashare, Mary B. Schultz and Jean Parks had all been out of high school for more than 20 years when they enrolled in 1959 with a group of 18-year-olds.
- The first languages offered at OU were Russian and French.
- The charter class at OU included one student from Turkey, Vietnam and Lebanon and two students from Alaska.
- Twenty three out of the first 25 OU faculty members had doctoral degrees.
- There were five women among the original 25 OU faculty members: June Collins, assistant professor, Sociology and Anthropology; Mary Ann Cusack, instructor, English; Helen Kovach, instructor, Foreign Language; Nadine Popluiko, instructor, Foreign Language; Gertrude White, assistant professor, English.
- Helene Desparmet, one of the original lecturers in the Foreign Language Department, was the wife of the French Consul General in Detroit.
- Matilda and Alfred Wilson were joined by others who gave land to found Oakland University. Sarah Van Hoosen Jones also gave 320 acres in Oakland County to Michigan State University for the purpose of higher education. That acreage was combined with the Wilson's gift and another 200 acres of purchased land to start the original campus.
- There were more than 250 applicants for the first 25 faculty positions when the university opened.
- The first sports activities offered at the university were archery, golf, bowling, casting and marksmanship.

Look for more OU trivia and history in a special upcoming issue of *Inside Oakland!*

bits and PIECES



Sharon Abraham

Abraham holds contest record

Sharon Abraham, director, University Diversity and Compliance, is happy about holding a record lead in *Crain's Investment Challenge* contest. She

only wishes her stock picks were for real.

The value of Abraham's hypothetical portfolio, as of March 5, increased 31.27 percent since November 1, 1996. She picked five out of 50 Michigan stocks she thought would perform best between that date and April 30, 1997.

Her top two performers: Arbor Drugs and Borders books. She chose them after learning of their expansions.

Abraham has held the lead since early February, longer than anyone in contest history.

If Abraham wins the \$20,000 bond prize, she says she'll probably invest it when it matures to pay for college tuition for her daughter, now 4 years old.

"I enter a lot of contests," she says. "I always had an interest in the stock market and it didn't cost me anything to enter, so why not?"

Athletics programs receive another gift

Oakland University athletics programs have been given another big boost — this time by the generosity of Albert and Lois Serra.

The Serra's gift of \$100,000 over a five-year period will support the women's basketball

program and Oakland's new Recreation and Athletic Center. Ann Serra CAS '90, the couple's daughter, was an All-American basketball player at OU and served as team captain and assistant coach. She now coaches at Clarkston High School.

OU supporters for 10 years, Albert and Lois Serra are members of Oakland University's President's Club.

Lance L. Metzger, senior vice president and CEO of J & L Manufacturing Company, Warren, in January committed \$100,000 over a 10-year period to support the men's swimming and the women's basketball programs.

"The Serras and Mr. Metzger's faith in our teams is deeply appreciated," Athletic Director Jack Mehl says. "With their support and with OU's new Recreation and Athletic Center to showcase our athletes, I know that these teams will grow in spirit, ability and achievement."

Know the code: 248 starts May 10

Oakland University community members, brace yourselves.

Soon it will be time to remember Oakland County's new area code, 248. On May 10, 810 and 248 may be dialed to reach a number in the county. That transition period ends September 13 when the new code becomes mandatory.

"It may be an inconvenience for some," Telecommunications Manager Judy Wharry says. "Business cards and letterhead will have to be changed, people will have to learn all over again

what's local, what's long distance."

Fax machines, modems, communications software packages and phone speed buttons will need reprogramming.

Those on campus who have Com Manager will need to reprogram their dialer, Wharry says. Ameritech Corporation last year announced plans for the change to provide more numbers for burgeoning fax and

Telecommunications at 4590.

For letterhead and business card changes, call the Print Shop at 2284.

Get fit for spring

Thinking about eating healthier and getting in shape for spring? Don't miss the first Michigan Health and Fitness Expo April 12-13.

Sponsored by Oakland University's Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute, *The*

Oakland Press and WJR Radio, the expo features a week-end of free lectures by health and fitness professionals, a 5K fun run at the beginning of the event and OU's 20,000-square-foot exposition hall.

More than 80 health and fitness vendors will be on hand for product demonstrations and sampling.

Hours are 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday and noon

to 5 p.m. Sunday in the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and younger at the door.



Cool signing

OU's Rick Perhai and Paul Bissonnette (top right and bottom) sign an agreement with Viron Energy Services' Kenneth Hedrick and John W. Mahoney on an \$8.6-million energy services agreement for air conditioning systems.

cellular phone users. Some companies may have to upgrade phone systems to handle the new code.

Questions may be directed to

REGISTER

INSIDE OAKLAND is published each month September through May for the faculty and staff of Oakland University by the University Communications and Marketing Department (C&M). C&M also publishes a condensed mid-month **Inside Oakland** edition to update faculty and staff on university news and information.

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of distinction

Beverly Berger, Physics, presented a paper, titled *On the nature of the generic cosmological singularity*, at the 18th Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics.

Baruch Cahlon, Mathematical Sciences, presented a paper, titled *Uniform stability for neutral delay differential equations*, at the Thirteenth Annual Conference on Applied Mathematics, University of Central Oklahoma.

Kevin E. Early, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, has written a book, *Drug Treatment Behind Bars: Prison-Based Strategies for Change*. He was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Black United Fund of Michigan and co-presented a paper with University of Georgia Professor Michael Hodge, titled *Affirmative Action and the Well-being of African-American Entrepreneurship*, at the National Economic Association meeting in New Orleans. He was also invited to be the keynote speaker at Dillard University's Honors Day convocation.

Isaac Eliezer, Chemistry, has been elected to a four-year term as a member of the Steering Committee of the Consortium for International Programs of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This is a broad-based multidisciplinary network of scientific and engineering societies active in the international dimension of its disciplines.

Sean Farrell Moran, History, gave an invited lecture, titled *Contemplating the Sacral Nature of the Material World*, at the University of Western Ontario, and a talk,

Irish History and Terrorism, at a meeting of the Oakland County Medical Society. He is the author of a review of the film *Michael Collins* in the February issue of *American Historical Review*.

Jane Goodman, Counseling, received the Distinguished Service to the Profession Award at the 1996 Michigan Counseling Association Conference. The MCA Conference was held November 10-12 in Detroit. The award is the highest given by the Michigan Counseling Association, and recognizes her 25 years of service to the profession.

Dale Nesbary, Political Science, recently completed a book, titled *Allyn & Bacon Quick Guide to the Internet for Criminology and Criminal Justice*. The book is scheduled to be released this spring. He also completed a Website for Allyn and Bacon, titled *The Allyn & Bacon Interactive Criminal Justice Website*. The Website is located at <www.concentric.net/~nesbary/aba-concj.html>.

Andrew Rusek, Engineering, has received \$1,500 from Adronics Elrob Manufacturing Corporation to support his work through the purchase of additional antenna measurement equipment.

Brian Sangeorzan, Engineering, received the 1997 Society of Automotive Engineers Faculty Advisor Award at the SAE International Congress & Exposition, Detroit, February 25-28.

Karen Sheridan, Theatre, was awarded a Certificate of Merit from the Region III American College Theatre Festival for her direction of *Hay Fever* at the University of Michigan-Flint.

employee of the MONTH

April

Employee: Helen Woodman

Title: Coordinator

Department: Academic Services Center

Length of Service: 8 years

Comments: "Helen's dedication to helping students is demonstrated by her willingness to take on additional assignments. Her creativity and suggestions have helped the department establish new procedures that simplify processes and allow us to spend more time addressing the demands of the students."

"Helen has a very positive working relationship with peers. She willingly volunteers for the King/Chavez/Parks programs. Helen's attitude is always upbeat and pleasant with the visiting students, even on Saturdays. She is well prepared and gives an exceptional performance."



new faces

- Deanne Cavanaugh, marketing assistant, Graduate Study
- Tony Anderson, coordinator, Academic Skills Center
- Mary Alice Bankert, director, Annual Giving
- Theawiana English, clerk III, Kresge Library
- Susan C. Hanson, accounting clerk III, Accounts Payable
- Mary Mastromattei, accounting clerk III, Accounts Payable
- John Riekels, clerk III, Library
- Susan Serra, secretary II, Nursing
- Glen Wasik, senior programmer Analyst, Administrative Information Services

getting it CORRECT

In the March issue of *Inside Oakland*:

- Associate Professor's Ronald Srodawa's name was spelled incorrectly.
- The mentor of Janet Savoyard should have been listed as George Gamboa.
- Larry Johnson should have been referred to as a police officer.

DEADLINES

Submit items for publication no later than the 10th of the month before publication

NEXT DEADLINE

April 10

Note: May will be the last published issue of *Inside Oakland* until September.

Boldly going into the future

Fax, e-mail, video conferencing available in new distance learning classroom in Wilson Hall

Call it Oakland University's version of the Star Trek transporter.

Added technology in a new distance learning classroom virtually whisks students from Traverse City to 400A Wilson Hall.

Writing students at OU and Northwestern Michigan College University Center can critique each other's papers, watch video tapes and look over the instructor's shoulder as she revises work on her laptop. A fax machine and e-mail are added conveniences in the two-way video conferencing room, which opened in January.

Barbara Hamilton, associate professor, Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism (RCJ), College of Arts and Sciences, uses computer-controlled cameras to show the class, herself or a student posing a question. She can play a video on one television while students see and hear each other on the other TV. Students in Traverse City can e-mail their assignments or fax manuscripts during class.

Hamilton can broadcast her writing on a dry-erase board or laptop computer.

"I love it," says Hamilton says, crediting RCJ Associate

Professor Walli Anderson for designing the room. "We are completely outfitted so we can run a class very much like the class that we would have on campus. It's the wave of the future because people often can't make it to the main campus. The technology creates a sense of a group."

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

The room is one of OU's two portable distance learning units; the university has three distance learning systems.

Oakland offered 12 distance learning courses during the fall 1996 semester; 11 courses for winter 1997; and two courses are scheduled for the spring 1997 term.



Teaching from a distance, Associate Professor Barbara Hamilton directs students in 400A Wilson Hall.

Hovanesian wins Frocht Award

Joseph Hovanesian, professor and chairman, Mechanical Engineering Department, has won the 1997 M.M. Frocht Award of the Society for Experimental Mechanics.

The national award honors an educator demonstrating outstanding achievement in the field of experimental mechanics. Hovanesian is nationally known for his work in the field of applied optics and stress analysis. He will receive the award in a ceremony at the SEM spring conference.

"I am very proud of the award," Hovanesian says. "Oakland has been the center of my work on the use of optics in stress analysis."

Hovanesian, who started his research at Wayne State University, brought his lab and ideas to Oakland in 1970.

The award is named after the late Max Mark Frocht, a pioneer in photoelasticity research on stress concentration factors and 3-D techniques.

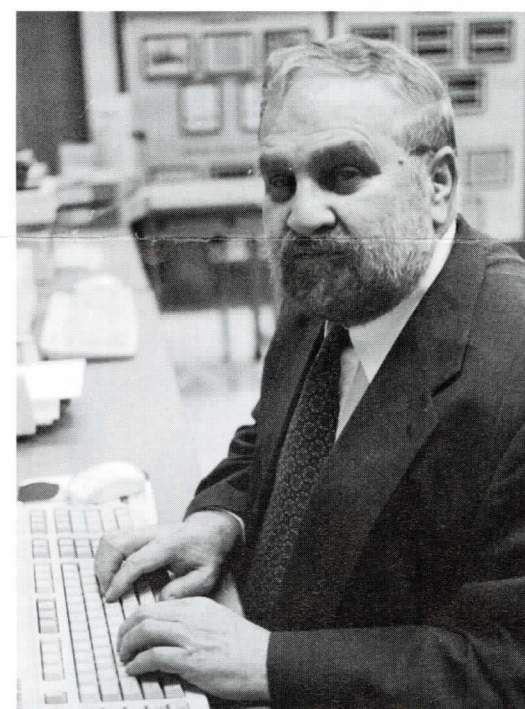
Hovanesian well remembers the first time he met Frocht. As a young assistant professor starting his own research, Hovanesian and his wife went to Chicago on vacation. On a whim, they looked up Frocht and ended up meeting him.

"Of course, I saw him at meetings after that, but that was the first time I met him. I was an admirer," Hovanesian remembers. "When he was phasing out, I was just getting started."

Now, Hovanesian himself has inspired many younger researchers. He was instrumental in starting many of the mechanical engineering courses

that now are routinely offered at Oakland. He was a teacher and mentor to Engineering Professor Mike Hung.

Hovanesian is a Fellow in the Society for Experimental Mechanics. He was elected as Fellow 10 years ago, one of the highest honors possible from SEM. He also teaches short courses for college educators with funding from the National Science Foundation.



Joseph Hovanesian: "I am very proud of the award."

Caught up in the Web

Oakland colleagues' opinions vary on OU's redesigned Web site

The redesigned Oakland University Web site is drawing mixed reviews. But it's a work in progress, like all Web sites.

The revamped site, unveiled January 21, features a new campus Web site search engine and a Web page template.

Kieran Mathieson, associate professor, Management Information Systems, School of Business Administration, says the new look is an improve-

ment. "No matter what browser someone has, they probably can get a good look at it," Mathieson says.

Ronald Srodawa, associate professor, Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science, says, "I have trouble finding things," Srodawa says. "I find it to be a little bit on the slow side, but it's not unacceptable."

John Tower, associate professor, Management Information Systems, School of Business Administration, said users' major complaint is about the site's content.

"A goal of the site should be to attract students to the university," Tower says. "There's nothing on that site that does that. The Admissions piece does not encourage students to come."

He also thinks the site should have a more cohesive look and feel. "As a school that's trying

to project a high-tech image, I don't think we do that," Tower says.

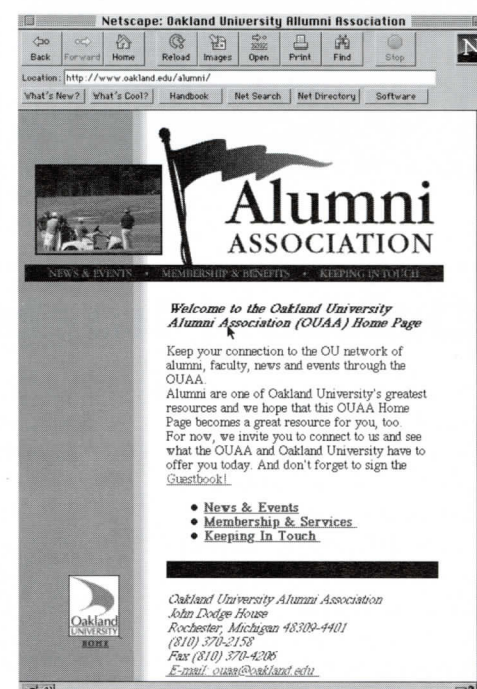
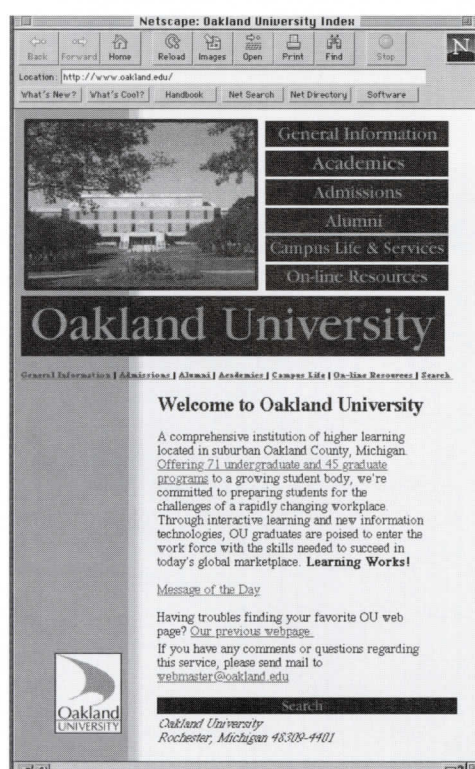
OU's Communications & Marketing (C&M) Department continues to update the Website.

"We know we have a lot of work to do on building up content," C&M Director Geoff Upward says, "but the new design offers a good start. The Alumni Association page is brand new and a good example of what Network and Information Services and C&M team can do working with a client department. Major faculty and unit users continue to pitch in with valuable suggestions."

Tower, who teaches a Web development class, says it is the

nature of Web sites to always be changing — it is a way to keep visitors coming back to the site.

The home page is at <http://www.oakland.edu/>. The template is at <http://www.oakland.edu/~oliveira/template.html>.



get to **KNOW**
NEWER EMPLOYEES
A feature highlighting specific groups of university colleagues.



LYNETTA MOSBY
Assistant Professor of Sociology/Anthropology



DEANNE BRADY
Special Events Assistant



GREG JORDAN
Director of Campus Recreation



ROCHELLE BLACK
Director of Government Relations

What attracted you to Oakland?

The intimacy of OU attracted me more than a larger university.

It was an accident. I applied for a position in constituent research, but ended up getting a job in special events.

The opportunity to be involved in the construction of the new Recreation and Athletic Center.

Potential for growth and strong leadership.

How does Oakland's workplace environment differ from your recent job?

My first time in academics. My previous job was in social work, in protective services. It's similar in a way, but now I'm teaching.

My last job was working for a political campaign. Oakland is more stable.

I came from a rural campus, Bowling Green, to a suburban campus in a metro area.

The university is very similar to the Lansing political environment.

What insight can you share with your co-workers to help them do their jobs better?

Students appear passive, but they're not. They are very good, and we should never underestimate their potential.

Be thankful for the stable employment they have and stay there.

Take the opportunity to rejuvenate yourself — to keep a positive attitude because we're all on the same team.

Keep doing whatever works.

What would you like to know most about OU?

I haven't had time to get to know the campus. I want to take a walk around and get to know the campus.

I have been to school here so I know most everything.

I've been intrigued with MBH, but I haven't had a chance to explore it or Oakland's history.

Learn more about programs at the various schools and colleges.

What do you feel are the main opportunities at Oakland?

Teaching and research.

I get to meet a lot of people in the surrounding community.

I've been blessed with a chance to have an impact on quality of campus life for students by building the Recreation and Athletic Center.

Direct involvement with the legislative process and better understanding of higher education issues and concerns.

Office's name change reflects strategic plan; promotes diversity

Oakland University's Office of Equal Opportunity has changed its name to better reflect its efforts to promote a diverse student body and work force, in accordance with the university's strategic plan.

After researching the names of similar offices in other universities, reviewing the office's goals and consulting with OU leaders, Director Sharon Abraham recently named her unit The Office of University Diversity and Compliance.

Promoting diversity is important because pro-

jections for the year 2000 say most entrants into the work force will be minorities and women, Abraham says.

"Growth in higher education will be fueled by students of color and older students," she says.

The office has asked OU vice presidents and deans to promote diversity in their areas.

Administrators, for example, this fall plan to start mentoring programs in which diverse employees pair up. The more experienced employee helps the other become familiar with the university.

The office's other staffers are Assistant Director Tammy Seals and Executive Secretary Esther Martinez.

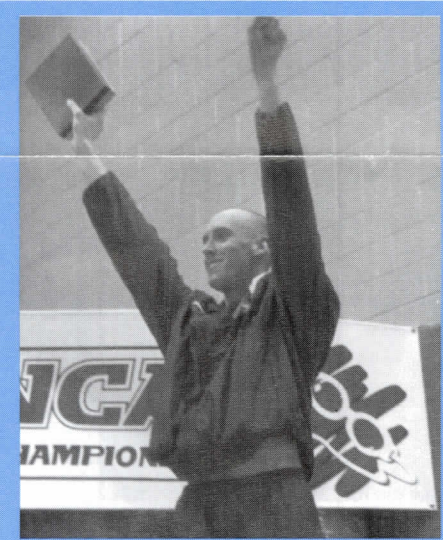
calendar of EVENTS

People with disabilities who need special assistance to attend any of the events listed may call the sponsoring unit or the Office of Disability Support Services at 370-3366.

Meadow Brook Hall tours, 1:30 p.m. daily and from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sundays (last tour begins at 3:45 p.m.). Admission. Gift Shoppe also open. Call 370-3140.

APRIL

- 1** Fool Contest, OC Gold Rooms, 7 p.m.
- 1** Comedienne Renee Hicks, OC Gold Rooms, 8 p.m.
- 2** Concerts and Music in Food Court, Food Court, noon
- 2** Alma College Men's Baseball, LSC, 4 p.m.
- 2-6** *One Acts of Song & Laughter*, Varner Recital Hall, 8 p.m.
- 2-4** Photo Contest, OC Fireside Lounge
- 2** Poetry Reading by Linda Nemec Foster, 128-130 OC, 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.
- 3** Cake Decorating, 126-127 OC
- 3** Board of Trustees meeting, Gold Rooms, 3 p.m.
- 3** Computer-Assisted Legal Research, 265 SFH, 7 p.m.
- 4** *101 Dalmations*, 201 Dodge Hall, 7 p.m.
- 4** Jazz Formal, MBH, 7 p.m.
- 4-6** Oakland Dance Theatre Concert *Journey Into Dance*, Varner Studio Theatre, 8 p.m.
- 5** Computer Lab Training Workshop, 265 SFH, 1:30 p.m.
- 5** Employee Benefits, 265 SFH, 9:30 a.m.
- 13** Meadow Brook Estate-Spring Spectacular, VAR, 3 p.m.
- 15** Michigan Christian Men's Baseball, LSC 2 p.m.
- 16** Concerts and Music in Food Court, noon
- 16** Concert Band Performance, Season Finale, Graduation Day VAR Recital Hall 8 p.m.
- 17** Oakland Chorale/University Chorus, VAR Recital Hall, 8 p.m.
- 19** Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), 8 p.m.
- 19** Saginaw Valley State Men's Baseball, LSC, 1 p.m.
- 20** Saginaw Valley State Men's Baseball, LSC, 1 p.m.
- 23** Concerts and Music in Food Court, OC Food Court, noon
- 26** Project Upward/Forward Bound Program, SFH, all day
- 26** Mercyhurst Men's Baseball, LSC, 1 p.m.



OU wins 4th straight national swim title

Jay Judson celebrates the Oakland University men's swimming and diving team's fourth straight NCAA Division II championship March 16, San Antonio, Texas. The women's swimming and diving team took second to Drury College at the national championships. Photo by Jeannee Kirkaldy.

Arcadia at Meadow Brook

Raul E. Esparza and Dana Powers Acheson are featured in Meadow Brook Theatre's production of Tom Stoppard's comedy/mystery *Arcadia* through April 13. Acheson is the daughter of Pam Acheson, director, Planned Giving, University Relations.



Oakland hosts educational opportunity celebration

For the first time, Oakland University from February 21-22 hosted Michigan's annual celebration of federal programs that promote educational opportunity for all Americans.

TRIO Day, observed nationally, is sponsored in the state by the Michigan Chapter of the Mid America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel.

TRIO is synonymous with the set of programs created by the Higher Education Act of 1965 designed to identify qualified individuals from disadvantaged

backgrounds to prepare them for postsecondary education, support their pursuit of postsecondary education, and prepare them for doctoral programs. The term TRIO was coined because there were originally three programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education — Upward Bound, Student Support Services and Educational Talent Search. Later added were Educational Opportunity Centers and the Ronald McNair Post-baccalaureate Program.

OU's two TRIO Programs

are Project Upward Bound and Student Success Services, both in the Division of Student Affairs, Department of Learning Resources.

During the TRIO Day Legislative Summit, 70 professionals and 30 student leaders from throughout the state discussed the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act with U.S. Representative Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Hills, and Joe Cella of U.S. Senator Spencer Abraham's office.

Following a morning of educational workshops, Vice Presi-

dent for Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder greeted the professionals and student delegates at the awards banquet.

OU's Project Upward Bound serves 110 students annually from Pontiac and Royal Oak Township who attend Pontiac, Ferndale and Oak Park public high schools.

In the summer, participants live on campus for six weeks, attending enrichment classes in mathematics, science, English, reading, Japanese, performing arts, and guidance and counseling. Summer field trips help to

provide cultural and social enrichment.

In fall and winter, academic enrichment continues with twice monthly Saturday classes and after-school tutoring at each high school.

"One hundred percent of our students have graduated from high school, and that tremendously outstretches public high school graduation rates," Project Director Geri Graham, says. "Last year, 100 percent of our graduates enrolled in postsecondary education, five at OU."