



# OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

## News

104 North Foundation Hall  
Rochester, MI 48309-4401

A publication for faculty and staff

May 1, 1992

## Variety the Mark of Summer Concerts at Meadow Brook

Concerts at Meadow Brook Music Festival this summer will range from country to rock, with heavy-hitters in line to get things started.

Popular comedian Jerry Seinfeld, who has his own show on NBC-TV, opens the revamped festival on June 12. He is followed by Dolly Parton on June 19 and Ray Charles on June 20.

This is the first year that programming at the festival, which can seat 7,500 in the pavilion and on the lawn, is entirely within the hands of an outside promoter. Olympia Arenas Inc. is operating the festival. The university will collect a fee in exchange based on ticket sales, with a minimum of \$200,000 guaranteed.

Also new this summer is a corporate sponsor for the festival's full season. AT&T provides underwriting.

A noticeable change is that for the first time in nearly three decades, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra will not perform a regular classical music series. Instead, the DSO has scheduled six concerts built on a theme, such as music from *Fantasia*.

The preliminary schedule, subject to change, includes the following concerts. All concerts begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are listed as pavilion/lawn.

- Jerry Seinfeld, June 12, \$30/\$17.50
- Dolly Parton, June 19, \$27.50/\$17.50
- Ray Charles, June 20, \$27.50/\$15
- Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, David Clayton Thomas and Blood, Sweat & Tears, June 21, \$25/\$15
- Crosby, Stills & Nash, June 26-27, \$27.50/\$17.50
- Drifters, Coasters, Platters, Shirelles, Cry-

tals (with fireworks show), July 3, \$22.50/\$15

- John Lee Hooker and Robert Cray with the Memphis Horns, July 5, \$27.50/\$15
- Arlo Guthrie and Pete Seeger, July 9, \$25/\$15
- Righteous Brothers, July 12, \$27.50/\$17.50
- Victor Borge, July 16, \$27.50/\$15
- Marky Mark & the Funky Bunch, July 18, \$25/\$15
- Laser spectacular with the DSO, July 24-25, \$22.50/\$12.50
- George Benson, July 29, \$25/\$15
- Santana, July 30, \$27.50/\$17.50
- Seals & Crofts and Little River Band, July 31, \$25/\$15
- Mitzi Gaynor, August 5, \$27.50/\$15

- Everly Brothers and Dion, August 6, \$22.50/\$15
- Kenny Rogers, August 7, \$32.50/\$17.50
- George Thorogood and the Destroyers, August 13, \$25/\$15
- Highwaymen: Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson and Waylon Jennings, August 18, \$27.50/\$17.50
- Michael Franks and the Yellowjackets, August 22, \$25/\$15
- Alabama, August 23, \$27.50/\$17.50
- B-52s, August 26, \$27.50/\$17.50

Tickets are available at the Fox Theatre, Joe Louis Arena and Cobo Arena in Detroit, and all TicketMaster locations or by phone through TicketMaster. Tickets will be sold at the Meadow Brook Music Festival box office beginning at noon the day of the concert.▼

## Economists: County Rebound from Recession Under Way

A forecast of the economic outlook of Oakland County shows some rays of sunshine amid the gloom.

The county is expected to gain approximately 6,000 jobs in 1992 and 17,000 jobs in 1993. This follows a loss of almost 12,000 private-sector jobs in 1991, the first annual decline in Oakland County since 1982.

George A. Fulton and Donald R. Grimes, researchers in the U-M Institute of Labor and

Industrial Relations, presented the forecast. This was the seventh annual U-M forecast prepared for the county's Department of Community and Economic Development.

The prognostication was delivered April 15 at a luncheon in the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion that was attended by more than 600 business, civic and government leaders. The luncheon was sponsored by the Department of Community and Economic Development,

NBD Bank, the Commercial Investment Division of the South Oakland Board of Realtors and OU.

Although the economic recovery is expected to be relatively mild, compared with the county's growth over the 1980s, "Oakland's position as the leading major economic area in the state, and as one of the leading counties nationwide, seems secure," the economists said.

Most of the employment gains will come in the service industry. Fulton and Grimes predict that 15,000 of the 23,000 new jobs will be in service-related fields, and half of this gain is due to a resurgence in demand for business and professional services. Health services and social services account for most of the remaining jobs.

Fulton and Grimes say that contrary to public opinion, service jobs are not necessarily "hamburger flippers." From 1979-89, per capita personal income in Oakland County almost doubled, growing by 97.8 percent. That rate was second to Ann Arbor.

Retailing will add approximately 4,000 jobs over the next two years, Fulton and Grimes predict. "Although these numbers are small by historical standards for this industry, they reverse the downward slide of the past two years," they said.

The economists predict a more mixed performance across manufacturing industries in Oakland County.

When the national economy began to slow in 1989, employment growth in Oakland County did as well. Between summer 1989 and summer 1990, county employment grew at a 1.4 percent rate, down from the average annual growth rate of 6.25 percent from 1982 to mid-1989. After the national econ-

omy went into recession in 1990, Oakland's employment declined at an annual rate of 6.7 percent.

"The local job market appears to have rebounded in the third quarter of 1991, growing at an annual rate of 1.5 percent," according to Fulton and Grimes. "Our forecast suggests that a recovery is developing, but slowly, over the first half of 1992, moving into a higher gear during the second half of the year, and picking up more steam during the first half of 1993."

The researchers predict Oakland's employment will grow at an annual rate of 1.5 percent during the first half of 1992, then rise to 2.5 percent in the second half. During the first six months of 1993, they say, the growth rate should be 3.7 percent, then slow to 3.1 percent in the last half of 1993.

The slight decline in late 1993 will reflect another slowing of the national economy, Fulton and Grimes say.

Statistically, Oakland County has been at the top among Michigan counties. During the 1980s, employment growth was higher in Oakland than in any other major economic area in Michigan. In per capita income, the county led the state, and ranked in the top 1 percent of all counties in the nation.

The economic clout of Oakland County is especially noteworthy when figures from other areas in Michigan are compared. In the 1980s and early 1990s, Detroit and Jackson lost one-third of their manufacturing jobs and Flint lost 40 percent. "Oakland County lost only 7.4 percent of its manufacturing jobs, and gained an impressive 57.4 percent in private nonmanufacturing jobs," the report said.▼



Paul D. Newman accepts a plaque from Brenda Hernandez (to his left) while surrounded by students on campus for a College Day program. Newman arranged funding to make it possible for students from five high schools to visit Oakland.

### GM a Big Wheel for College Day Programs

Students from five high schools can thank General Motors for being able to visit campus to find out about educational opportunities.

Paul D. Newman, director of the Urban Affairs Office in the Industry-Government Relations Staff at GM, provided \$1,000 to cover transportation costs. The students came for College Day programs sponsored by the Office of Admissions and Scholarships. The university thanked Newman for his help by providing him with a plaque at a College Day ceremony.

The funds were used to bring students from Detroit Western and Southwestern high schools, Pontiac Central and Northern

high schools, and Lansing Sexton High School. The students were selected based on their college prep curriculum. Counselors were asked to recruit a balanced representation of minorities to participate.

Newman is a member of the Flint Board of Education and a trustee of his *alma mater*, Tri-State University in Angola, Ind.

"Mr. Newman is indeed a staunch advocate and supporter of minorities in higher education," says Brenda Hernandez, an admissions adviser. "This is further evidenced by making his office available to noteworthy causes such as ours."▼

### Concert, Events Honor Moms

Performances by St. Michael's Choir School of Toronto May 9-10 will benefit two area nonprofit agencies and Oakland University.

The 130-voice male choir will be on the final leg of a two-week tour. The choir serves St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto. Its members range in age from 11-19.

The first concert will be at 7:30 p.m. May 9 in St. John Fisher Chapel. Proceeds from a free-will offering will benefit HAVEN, a domestic violence and sexual assault crisis center, and Lighthouse, an agency which helps the homeless and others in need of emergency services.

At 12:30 p.m. May 10, the choir will perform at Meadow Brook Music Festival to benefit the renovation of Meadow Brook Hall. The concert is part of a *Mother Nature Day* event sponsored by Hudson's

from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the hall. Tickets are available by calling 1-800-282-2450. They are \$10 for moms and \$7.50 for each friend-of-mom.

The *Mother Nature Day* will include tours of the hall, family games and boxed lunches under the tent on the Meadow Brook Hall grounds. In keeping with the Mother Nature theme, Hudson's will have all lunch containers and other waste recycled. All moms will receive a gift package that includes a limited edition T-shirt.

For the past 25 years, the choir has traveled across Canada, Europe and the United States. The local visit has been coordinated by the Consulate-General of Canada in Detroit, St. John Fisher Chapel and Hudson's.

For details, call 373-6457.▼



# Hate Letters Won't Deter Student Editor from Attending University

University police continue their investigation of four hate letters received by black students.

The letters were sent to the editor of *UMOJA*, a newsletter published by the African American Journalism Club, and two other students. Each was filled with racist comments. One recipient of the letters says they won't deter her from attending OU or producing her newsletter.

Alicia Cunningham-Sampson, *UMOJA* editor, said the first letter she received was disturbing, but she did not know whether to view it as anything more than someone's idea of sick humor. Her feelings changed when she received several more.

"I got a little nervous," Cunningham-Sampson said. "I didn't know if someone was

watching me. I felt very unprotected, and I didn't feel safe at all."

One letter writer claimed to have attended a rally by black students, faculty and staff on April 15. At the rally, students voiced their concerns about what they feel is a lack of progress toward improving race relations on campus.

The newsletter editor said that a misconception among some white students is that *UMOJA* is intended to promote separatism. Rather, Cunningham-Sampson said, it is a vehicle for black students to voice their concerns and feel united.

A concern black students perceive, Cunningham-Sampson said, is that white students and administrators expect them to give up their cultural identity. "We're different,

and no one wants to admit to that," she said. "There are different kinds of Americans: black Americans, white Americans .... We need support from Oakland University, but instead I get hate mail."

Eleanor Reynolds, director of housing, serves as chairperson of the Black Faculty and Staff Advocacy and Support Network. She said the group will probably discuss the letters and what can be done at its noon-1:30 p.m. May 7 meeting. It will be held in the Oakland Center.

Reynolds said she was surprised by the timing of the letters, since *UMOJA* had already been published several times. What encouraged Reynolds, she said, was that the incidents did not polarize the campus. Once

word of the letters became public, the Residence Halls Council distributed multicolored diversity ribbons to show support for black students.

The BFSASN that Reynolds heads was established in February 1991. It provides support and information sharing about staff issues.

Black students would like the university to establish an Office of Minority Affairs. The purpose, she said, would be to give the black community an official voice. Reynolds said a new student position has been created in the residence halls, a coordinator of diversity programs, to help unify students. A cultural resource room will also be opened in Hamlin Hall.

Cunningham-Sampson said she is not completely down on the university, and she and other black students have found sympathetic faculty and staff members. She said, however, that black students would like the university to consider a number of issues, including:

- Scholarship funds set aside for black students. "The number one reason more black students aren't here is financial. Black students have been oppressed and you can't overlook that fact," she said.
- An Office of Minority Affairs. "It has to be geared toward helping minorities," she said.
- A required 'Racism 101' class. The University Senate has approved adding course components dealing with ethnic issues, but a semester-long course is not required.
- A Department of Ethnic or Black Studies.
- Fulfilling Operation Graduation, which aims to improve retention rates among black students.▼

## Avoid a Parking Ticket

Consider this notice that you're officially out of the inner circle, so to speak.

If you enjoy parking in the circular driveway in front of Meadow Brook Hall — maybe because you like to step out of the car and yell, "I'm home!" — then you'd better make other plans.

As of May 1, parking is prohibited in the circle due to fire regulations. To avoid a ticket from campus police, use the main parking lot adjacent to the hall.▼

## Physicist Aids in Reducing Threat of Osteoporosis

Magnetic fields are attracting increasing attention as a means to combat the bone disease osteoporosis.

Professor Abraham R. Liboff, physics, has developed methods and an apparatus that show promise of stopping or even reversing the disease.

"This is a noninvasive, whole-body device making use of controls and a large coil apparatus to generate the magnetic field," Liboff says. A visual example might be one of the whole-body scanning devices used in hospitals, "but there could be adaptations to treat a specific limb," Liboff adds.

Liboff is internationally known for his work on the effects of low-level electromagnetic fields on human tissue and their applications in a variety of fields, including surgery to assist healing serious bone fractures.

Liboff's osteoporosis invention builds on the concept that the combination of an applied magnetic field interacting with the Earth's magnetic field can be tuned to influence cell and tissue behavior. In this case, it aids in the flow of important ions like calcium and magnesium.

Brian Goslin of the School of Health Sciences says a contribution like Liboff's inven-

tion could make a significant improvement in the treatment of osteoporosis.

Goslin says the disease afflicts fully one-third of women over age 60. While it is a problem for men as well, osteoporosis is more serious among women.

For unknown reasons, "the disease is more serious for white women than black women. Research has shown that black women and males have somewhat higher bone densities than whites at any age," Goslin says.

Liboff and Goslin say that osteoporosis is marked by a decrease in bone density and an increase in bone porosity resulting in a weakened bone structure.

Liboff says side effects, like the tendency to get serious fractures in even minor falls, can be as serious as the disease.

While associated with old age, signs of osteoporosis begin earlier in life, Goslin says, and Liboff notes that a form of the disease afflicts astronauts. Liboff says a form of osteoporosis sets in during weightlessness. He says the exercises done in the space capsule are designed to help fight bone problems heightened by disuse of muscles and loss of calcium through discharge of body fluids.

Pharmacologic treatments like calcium and

vitamin D have not been successful and there are some questions about the safety and efficiency of estrogen replacement therapy as an osteoporosis treatment, Liboff says.

There is no prototype device as Liboff and his fellow inventors license their work to others to build and market. Liboff says the current invention has been licensed to OrthoLogic Corporation of Phoenix, Arizona.

OrthoLogic has already received Food and Drug Administration approval to market another Liboff invention, a device to use magnetic fields to assist in repair of nonunion bone fractures," Liboff says. Partners with Liboff in the osteoporosis and bone-healing patents are Bruce R. McLeod of Bozeman, Mont., and Stephen D. Smith of Lexington, Ky.

Liboff has performed numerous laboratory experiments to support his thesis and has even bombarded fava beans with magnetic fields to increase their root size.

The OU scientist has been called as an expert witness in numerous public and government hearings on the effects of electromagnetic fields on human tissue. Liboff is credited with the development of the cyclotron resonance theory that provides an explanation of

## The Campus Register

### Faculty and Staff Notes

Items about professional activities or honors may be sent to the News Service, 104 NFH. They appear as space permits.

#### Presentations

PETER ECKEL, CIPO, presented *The Responses of White Male Students to Increased Multiculturalism* at the annual Michigan College Personnel Association Conference.

JOYCE ECKART, curriculum, instruction and leadership, coordinated the Michigan Association of Teacher Educators and Student Association for Teacher Educators annual student-teacher conference. The conference, whose theme was Polishing the Professional, was held at Oakland.

VIRGINIA ALLEN, provost's office, and academic services and general studies, and ANGELA BANKS RANKINS, academic services and general studies, presented *Advancing Retention at the NACADA Conference* in Peoria, Ill.

#### Publications

MICHAEL CHOPP, physics, wrote *1H NMR Imaging of Normal Brain Tissue Response to Photodynamic Therapy for Neurosurgery*, and *Dose-Dependent Thermal Response of Tumor pH and Energy Metabolism Evaluated by in vivo 31P NMR Spectroscopy and Microelectrodes for Radiation Research*.

A cartoon produced by LYNN METZKER, publications, and BARRY WINKLER, Eye Research Institute, appeared in the April 6 issue of *Current Contents*. The publication is a standard reference guide for scientists worldwide, listing developments in research. Their cartoon, *PI* (for principal investigator) has appeared in publications produced by the university for several years.

ROBERTA SCHWARTZ, rhetoric, communications and journalism, wrote an article for the spring 1993 issue of *Victorian Homes* magazine. The magazine will publish her feature and photos of Killarney, Ireland.

RICHARD TUCKER, history, is co-editor of the newly published, *Changing Tropical Forests: Historical Perspectives on Today's Challenges in Central and South America*. In the book, he also wrote a chapter, *Foreign Investors, Timber Extraction, and Forest Depletion in Central America Before 1941*. The book is published by the Duke University Press and the Forest History Society.

#### Honors

RONALD SUDOL, rhetoric, communications and journalism, has been elected to a third term

as chairperson of the Pontiac Cable Advisory Council. The council oversees the cable franchise and administers a grant fund in support of community television.

### Funding Opportunities

Sources of external funding are provided by the Office of Research and Academic Development. Stop by 370 SFH or call 370-3222.

#### Department of Education

Applicants are sought to improve the sequence of instruction from kindergarten through college in core academic subjects, such as English, history, foreign languages, geography, math and natural sciences. The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education coadministers the competition with the Fund for the Improvement and Reform of Schools and Teaching. Thirteen proposals will be awarded from \$50,000 to \$150,000.

#### National Institutes of Health

The Fogarty International Center invites applications for fellowships in the United Kingdom to promote collaborative biomedical and behavioral studies between British and American scientists. Stipends depend on experience. They begin at approximately \$25,000 and increase to \$42,000. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and have received a doctorate within the past 10 years in one of the medical, veterinary, clinical, behavioral or biomedical sciences. Support activities include collaboration in basic or clinical research and familiarization with or use of special techniques and equipment not otherwise available to the applicant. May 10 and September 10 deadline.

#### National Center for Nursing Research

The center will fund

training projects to integrate new biological theories, measurements and techniques with nursing research and practice. Training should advance the nursing and biology interface and advance the knowledge of beginning and midcareer nurse scientists in the content and techniques of physiology, pharmacology, anatomy, biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, pathology and/or immunology. Stipends are provided. May 10 and September 10 deadlines for individual predoctoral, postdoctoral and senior fellowships; June 1 and October 1 for career development and clinical investigator awards.

#### Air Force

The Air Force has opened competition for \$15 million available under its version of the University Research Initiative. Funds will support about 15 awards to U.S. colleges and universities for defense-related research. July 9 deadline.

#### National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Research on biologically rational hypotheses concerning exercise-induced fatigue

and/or chronic fatigue syndrome, including studies that could lead to biological markers. June 1, October 1 and February 1 deadlines.

#### National Cancer Institute

Applications for studies in a wide range of cancer-prevention areas that will help speed effective translation of research knowledge into prevention and control practice are invited. Chemoprevention, nutrition and diet, screening and early detection, community oncology, rehabilitation and pain management, cancer control applications, special populations and surveillance are all of interest. June 1, October 1 and February 1 deadlines.

### For Your Benefit

#### You Can See the Discount

Co/op Optical offers a 40 percent discount on the second pair of prescription glasses purchased until May 30, says Diana Decker, staff benefits manager.

#### The Sound of Money

*Sound Money*, a weekly personal finance program on public radio stations, will add TIAA/CREF as an underwriter as of May 2.

The program is a call-in investment information show, produced by Minnesota Public Radio. It is broadcast live every Saturday at 11 a.m.

### Jobs

Information about job openings is available from the Employee Relations Department, 140 NFH.

- Executive housekeeper, miscellaneous, Sunset Terrace.

### Reaching Us ...

The *Oakland University News* is published every other Friday during the fall and winter semesters and monthly from June-August. Editorial offices are at the News Service, 104 North Foundation Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, MI 48309-4401. Copy deadline is noon Friday of the week preceding the publication date.

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### A Quiet Dinner for Two

University Trustee Andrea Fischer and President George Bush dined together at a Republican Party event in Dearborn at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. They were joined by several hundred party stalwarts. Fischer has been active in political campaigns, and got the chance to bend the president's ear.



## Quote

"We have talked long enough in this country about equal rights. We have talked for a hundred years or more. It is time now to write the next chapter — and to write in the books of law."

— Lyndon B. Johnson

## Bits & Pieces

### Police Have TDD Capability

The Department of Public Safety and Police dispatch center has added a telecommunications device for the deaf to accommodate hearing-impaired callers.

Callers with a TDD may call 370-3337. Regular numbers remain in effect: 911 for emergencies and 370-3331 for business calls.

### Student Wins Grad School Funds

Senior and engineering major Tricia Olszewski has earned a full-tuition scholarship to the graduate school of her choice from Tau Beta Pi national honor society.

The society is the engineering equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa, says Howard Witt, dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science. This is the second consecutive year a student from Oakland has won a Tau Beta Pi graduate award. Last year, 35 scholarships were awarded.

The electrical engineering major says she hopes to parlay her natural interests in math, science and people into a career that could include both teaching and research. Olszewski is considering graduate opportunities at the University of Michigan, the University of Illinois and Oakland. She plans to continue her work in electrical engineering, perhaps with an emphasis on control systems.

### Splete Heads Association

Howard Splete of the School of Education and Human Services has been elected president of the National Career Development Association for 1993-94.

The professor of education is director of the Adult Career Counseling Center, which operates on campus and at an office in Pontiac. The program offers individual and computer-assisted counseling free to any adults who are seeking a career change.

The organization Splete will head was founded in 1913 as the National Vocational Guidance Association. Splete says the association played an important historical role in shaping the nation's agenda in personnel, counseling and guidance work.

Gerald Pine, SEHS dean, says Splete's election "is recognition of his teaching, scholarship and leadership in the field of career counseling and development. His selection reflects brightly on the school."

### Dissertation Cited as Best

Thirteen area teachers have combined their research efforts to win the Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

The teachers are enrolled in the education specialist program. They worked as a team on *A Vision of a Preferred Curriculum for the 21st Century*.

Oakland's winning team was cited April 5 at the ASCD national conference in New Orleans. Beverley Geltner and James Clatworthy supervised the team. Geltner is program coordinator and Clatworthy SEHS associate dean.

The research team identified five areas that should be mastered by students if they are to function well in the 21st century. The areas are change and adaptability, technology, cultural diversity and global interdependence, self actualization, and quality of life.

The education specialist degree is designed for teachers interested in school leadership and administrative positions, administrators who desire professional development beyond a master's degree, or others needing administrative certification.

Members of the award-winning team were Chris Abbott of Waterford, Susan Curry of Bloomfield Hills, Ray Hart of White Lake, Rosalie Jordan of Mt. Clemens, Diane McCord of Macomb Township, Louise Coatlier and Carol Wilson of Rochester Hills, Fran Dagbovie, Jim Hunter and Sharon Karpinski of Bloomfield Hills, Sheryl Cox of Union Lake, Lasenia Jones of Southfield, and Debbie Luczyn of Rochester.

# Reliving the Past

## Put Three 'Old Oaks' Together and History Comes Alive

Memory Lane is paved with golden nuggets. They're nuggets of information about the early days of Oakland, contained within the memories of the Old Oaks. Three of them gathered at Meadow Brook Hall for an Oakland University Resource Sharing program sponsored by the AP Assembly and the AP Association.

D.B. "Woody" Varner, Oakland's first chancellor, who attended with his wife Paula, quickly captured the audience's interest with his quick wit. The Varner's now live in Nebraska, where he is retired from the University of Nebraska. George T. Matthews, professor emeritus of history, and Lowell Eklund, dean emeritus of continuing education, also were featured speakers.

It was an afternoon of sometimes irreverent fun for the speakers, who joked about themselves as much as the personalities who helped shape the university 30 years ago.

The excerpts below present, in their own words, the comments by Varner, Matthews and Eklund.

### MSU, Oh?

*Matthews:* I noticed that it was spelled MSU with a hyphen 'O,' and that was a subject of some debate and contention on campus. Those who wanted to retain the hyphen liked the idea of affiliating with MSU to show that at least it was connected in some way or another. Others of us — myself included — had UCLA in mind. That does not have a hyphen, and somehow we thought it was more dignified.

### A Fellow Who Needs No ...

*Matthews:* The other day when we thought about my doing this, I said, "Why is it we always say it is my pleasure to introduce somebody who needs no introduction," and then proceed to spend 10-15 minutes introducing somebody who needs no introduction? Therefore, I will not play that particular game and simply introduce Woody Varner, and here he is.

*Varner:* George, that was introduction enough and I appreciate very much the brevity — which is not your normal style. You've done a lot for George since I left ... I can see that.

### Time Marches On

*Varner:* We do have time limits and, I'm very sensitive to those time limits. I don't pay any attention to them, but I'm sensitive to them.

### Varner's Role at MSU

(Before coming to Oakland, Varner was newly appointed at MSU as vice president for off-campus education and legislative relations. It was a time when MSU sought to change its name from Michigan State College, a move the University of Michigan and President Harlan Hatcher opposed. MSU President John Hannah told Varner, "You have one job, and that is to sell the Legislature on the name change.")

*Varner:* I remember so well when President Hatcher came into the legislative chambers for a big hearing about this name change, which struck me as a terribly inflated issue. He walked by me — and I had never said hello to Mr. Hatcher in my life, nor he to me. He walked by and nodded graciously and said, "And how is the vice president for name change today?" I didn't feel he was genuinely interested in my well-being at that moment, but this set the stage for what was to follow because we did have a major legislative confrontation in that name change situation.

### The Way to a Donor's Heart

*Varner:* I just want to confirm a suspicion some of my friends have had for some time. I saw a picture of me with my arm around Stanley Kresge at the groundbreaking for the Kresge Library. That was the first echelon. Someone said, "Were you really embracing him affectionately or what?" I said, "I really was trying to locate his wallet." I want to confirm it. I can confess it now since Kresge is gone. Bless him for what he did for us. He always endorsed the checks over to Michigan State University Oakland, and then put "in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord" — he was a religious man — and then he put a Scripture reference. I always hastened back home and got the Bible to see if those references led to any possible further gift. I could never find that there.

### Watching the Fords Go By

*Varner:* One day I had a very exciting telephone call from an alum. He said, "I want you to know I worked on the (MSU) name change and I agree with you 100 percent. I

work in the Public Relations Department at Ford Motor Co. and I've just had cross my desk for clearance a press release announcing that the Ford family and Ford Motor Co. are giving Fairlane — the Henry Ford Estate — \$6.5 million to the University of Michigan to establish a branch in Dearborn." He said,



George Matthews, D.B. "Woody" Varner and Lowell Eklund took a Meadow Brook Hall audience on a trip down Memory Lane for the final OURS Program of the season. Matthews dug out an old MSU-O sweatshirt for the occasion.

"We've got to stop that somehow." Well I was helpless to stop the Ford family in doing what they wanted to do with their money and their estate. But it was, nonetheless, a distressing bit of news given this context in which all of this was occurring.

### Matilda Hears of the Ford Plan

(Varner visited Matilda and Alfred Wilson at Sunset Terrace to tell them about what the Fords were doing. At the time, the Wilsons had not yet made their gift of land and money to MSU to establish Oakland.)

*Varner:* After a while, Mrs. Wilson served us a bowl of beans that day. We talked and I put the cards on the table. I said, "This is what's happening. I have word that the Ford family and the Ford Motor Co. are giving Fairlane to the University of Michigan and \$6 million to \$6.5 million to start a new campus; and we thought you should know it. It would be a great thing that if you do decide to give this to Michigan State that you do it now." I could see it sparked some interest. Mrs. Wilson said, "Well, that might be of some interest. Have you ever seen the hall?" I had not, so we took a tour — she and Mr. Wilson and I. She must have had 150 keys on that key ring that was always carried with her. ... I remember Mr. and Mrs. Wilson standing up there and pointing down to the ballroom and she noted somewhat casually that when her daughter, Frances, had her coming out party, or whatever party, they had a dinner group of about 30 in the dining room. "When it was over, we surprised her and had her favorite band, Tommy Dorsey's Orchestra, playing down in the ballroom." Now, that's the kind of living that I could grow accustomed to rather quickly.

### Closing the Deal

*Varner:* We went back up to the house, had a bowl of beans, and (Matilda Wilson) said, "Well, I'm interested in what you're saying. You saw that photograph of Frances' wedding and Henry Ford was there. Henry Ford never cared much for us. He thought he was a good deal higher up in the social order than we were and he snubbed us on many occasions. He just condescended to come to Frances' wedding." That was good news to my ears. I was happy to hear it, because it was setting the stage.

### Planting the Seed Money

*Varner:* We cruised over and we sat in Meadow Brook Hall up in Mr. Wilson's study — Mr. Hannah, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Wilson, and me. We sat there and Mr. Hannah reviewed what I told him and Mrs. Wilson said, "That's correct. We're prepared to do that." Then

(Hannah) played the next card. He said, "We don't have any money and the state doesn't have any money. It would be a pity to have this beautiful piece of land sit idle; but if you could see your way clear to give us \$2 million, we could build enough of a building to get this institution off the ground and running." She said as casually as though I was saying "pass the bread, please," "I think we can do that." I almost fell out of my chair. That's where I learned about fund raising. You've got to ask, and second, you've got to have it. That's two things I learned that day.

### Over Alfred's ...

*Varner:* Mr. Wilson was quite distressed by this. He said, "Dearie, do you think we can afford it?" She said, "Yes, Alfred, we can afford it." That was the end of that conversation. That's further reinforcement of who called the shots around the Wilson house. He was quiet the rest of the day.

### Lesson One: Read the Labels

*Varner:* We took a tour throughout the place and saw the wonders of Meadow Brook Hall, including the French Room which was a point of great pride for Mrs. Wilson. She liked to point out that she had this great designer who had insisted on authentic French furniture and tapestry — the whole business — and said they waited months and months to get the bed in; and when they got it and unpacked it, they noticed on the back a sticker that said, "Made in Grand Rapids, Michigan."

### Just Follow the Rules

*Varner:* I volunteered for this assignment. Mr. Hannah tried to talk me out of it. He said, "You're vice president of one of the major universities in America. You go over there and you're out in a cornfield and there's nothing. You're going to start from scratch. There's no money. You're going to have a tough time making that thing go. I don't know why you would want to leave here." He couldn't quite sense the fire in my belly from what I sensed could happen here, but he agreed. He said, "If that's what you want to do, it's fine with me. Do whatever you please down there, just don't embarrass us. Keep us informed and don't embarrass us." That seemed a reasonable set of ground rules for us to follow."

(Continued on page 4)





Virginia Allen, left, and Cassandra Phillips were two key officers of the Women of Oakland University this year.

## After 10 Years, WOU Going Strong

The Women of Oakland University support organization will celebrate its 10th anniversary May 1 at a Meadow Brook Hall luncheon.

The group was established to provide educational, cultural and social support activities for women affiliated with OU. Members need not be employees; spouses of faculty and staff members are welcome.

Virginia Allen, director of academic services and general studies and assistant provost, served as chairperson for 1991-92. She commented that the organization just completed a successful year. Along with the traditional monthly "brown-bag luncheons," which featured various social and educational programs, the group added to its Critical Difference Scholarship Fund. Cassandra Phillips, executive assistant to the president, served as scholarship fund chairperson.

The fund provides a scholarship to a single

head of household, male or female. In addition to receiving contributions to the fund from faculty and staff members, outside organizations at GM Truck & Bus and the campus chapter of ACE-NIP provide support. Last year \$3,000 came from the GM unit, allowing a total scholarship of \$3,500.

Allen said GM supporters have committed funds for this year, but the amount is to be determined. Nonetheless, the WOU will award a scholarship of at least \$500 to \$1,000.

The luncheon will recognize achievements of the past year, and also induct new officers for 1992-93. Carole Crum, assistant director of academic services and general studies, will become chairperson. Kathryn LeBlanc, program manager in the Division of Continuing Education, will become chairperson of the scholarship fund. For membership information, call 370-3229.▼



## The Good Times

Gene Barry-Hill and Julia Lema appear in 'Ain't Misbehavin' at Meadow Brook Theatre. The musical, now getting rave reviews from area papers, closes a four-week run on May 17. Arthur Faria, who directed the Broadway version, also directs the campus production. The show features 30 songs made famous by Fats Waller. Photo by Tim Fuller.

## Old Oaks

(Continued from page 3)  
**Did She Pay Cash?**

**Varnier:** Interestingly, Mrs. Wilson was one of the first students in a continuing education class. She was enrolled in a rapid reading class. Unfortunately, she flunked the class and never enrolled again. That's when Lowell showed no administrative skills whatsoever. We took him out of the loop.

### Why She Took Rapid Reading

**Eklund:** A newspaper reporter ... asked (Marilyn Wilson) how come she wanted to take rapid reading. She pointed out the new four-lane I-75, which was about to be built and leave Detroit about that time. She thought of what she heard about that kind of traffic and engineering and so on. She thought it would be helpful if she took rapid reading, because from what she knew about it, it was the only way she could get off the expressway in time.

### Searching for a Faculty

**Varnier:** We decided we would go to the top graduate institutions in America and ask them not for their brightest faculty members from whom we might pick, but rather who the brightest Ph.D.s of the past five years were and where we might find them. That was the process we used and I think it paid very well.

### Hiring Helen Kovach

**Varnier:** Russian language was a great field. Helen Kovach was a star member of that early faculty because she lived with those kids. It wasn't a student/teacher relationship, it was a mother/child relationship. She did a superb job. Helen came to see me. I remember one Sunday afternoon, and she

didn't apply for the job, she demanded it. I certainly was not one to stand up to Helen very long and I caved in.

### The Real Pioneers

**Varnier:** You talk about pioneers. We are out in Nebraska where the Oregon Trail would have crossed and there are still some ruts in the mud. I think they faked those, but they claim they are there. There are monuments built that tell the tales of how the families would all get in the covered wagon and take all their livestock and all their children and head out across the prairies and the plains and how they got sick and some died and the animals died and the Indians attacked. They had nothing compared to that first group of students that came to Oakland — the 550. They were seniors for four years. They were freshmen for four years. They were everything for four years. Remarkable job.

### The Original Library

**Matthews:** Audrey North was the one who presided over the original library which, those of you of archaeological interests know, was in the suite of offices that is now occupied by the majesty of the presidency.

### A Sleuth in Our Midst

**Matthews:** Gertrude White (professor emerita of English) ... has a secret which I'm not sure many of you or all of you perhaps know. She writes detective stories and they are published, but she has forbidden any of us who know the secret ever to reveal the pen name that she uses. Beyond that, she is a distinguished scholar in many, many areas.

### Myth of the Midwest

**Matthews:** Let me simply conclude by say-

ing that there are lots of myths and institutions create myths as they go along. I think they are necessary. They hold things together — the coherencies — and one of the myths that we have persisted in was that we were the Harvard of the Midwest. We weren't. It was ridiculous at the time. ... We didn't really believe it. I think if you are to scratch most of the faculty anyway and get them to admit, a great many of us were scared to death. We were apprehensive. In many of our cases, we were chosen to come to this unknown place rather than going to other and much more established institutions. And for whatever reasons, one reason or another, we came here.

### Putting Things in Proper Order

**Matthews:** What impresses me as I look back, though, is that in 1959 and through the years of the '60s, we had all the components of the claimed diversified curriculum that people are fighting about on campuses now. I put not mean by that we had the components put in the same order that they are now, but still we had it all. We had emphasis upon the West. We were also one of the first institutions to make a required study of non-Western cultures. I think that at one point or another we were graduating more students who had a required course in China than any other university in the country. Unhappily, some of these things slipped away.

### Just Spell the Name Right

**Eklund:** I remember a couple of other introductions I would like to remind you about that I've had. These all happened to me while I was at Oakland University in the early days. I remember one time as the moderator said, "Now we're going to hear the latest dope from Oakland University." I always would prefer to introduce myself, because it has been my experience that no one else really does me justice.

### But the Name Was Right

**Eklund:** I had been down to the Rotary Club and talked about the wonders of continuing education. The report that came out of the newspaper had a little headline on it, and it said, *Eklund Shows Need of Further Education.*

### This Explains Feathers in the Books

**Eklund:** Woody had us established in the chicken coops in the farmhouse down in the southeast corner of the university. My first assignment — as he said and I remember the words very clearly — he said, "Go get some action going down there. Get the flag flying, so those natives know something is going to happen." ... So we started by converting the chicken coops into classrooms. We were impressed to find that these were not ordinary chicken coops. As a matter of fact, we soon called them Poultry Parlors.▼

## Employee of the Month

Mary Isaacs, office assistant III in the Oakland Center Scheduling Office, has been awarded the Employee of the Month Award for May.

Isaacs has been an Oakland employee since 1973 when she started as a clerk-typist in the Admissions Office. She worked in the former Department of Education and Undergraduate Advising before transferring to her current position in 1983. She was selected based on the following comments:

- "Mary is not only one of the most helpful people on campus, but one of the most knowledgeable about many areas on campus."
- "Mary's area of specialty is the Oakland



Isaacs

Center. When our department has a program involving room set up and food service, we can count on Mary for our paperwork and any questions or concerns."

- "Mary gives great advice on how to maximize your space needs. She always has the customer's need in mind. She is very loyal and has a good sense of humor."
- "I look up to Mary as a role model. She takes her work seriously and does it well."
- "Mary is dedicated to students and staff at Oakland University. She has been at Oakland for approximately 18 years and continues to serve the community with a smile."

Employee Recognition Award nomination forms are available in all departments, ERD and CIPO. For information, call Victoria Junior or Gail Ryckman at 370-3480.

The Employee of the Month column is provided by the Employee Relations Department.

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