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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | Spring / Summer 2009

A bright tomorrow

Comprehensive Campaign hits \$110 million goal

INSIDE

Urban legend
Physician has healing heart
Professional pioneers

DONOR HONOR ROLL

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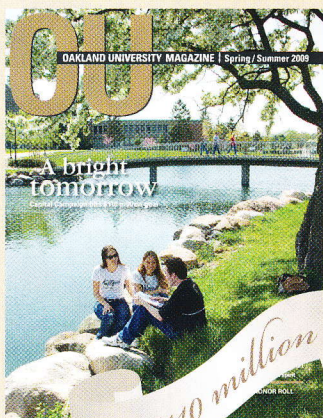
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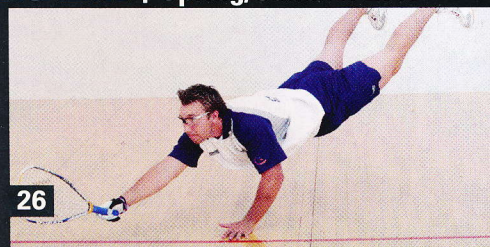


ON THE COVER

Oakland University marked a major milestone this spring with the successful completion of the first-ever Comprehensive Campaign for Oakland. The university reached its \$110 million goal nearly a year early.



OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | Spring/Summer 2009



FEATURES

16 Same planet, different world

Nick Dubin has built a career aiding 'Aspies'.

20 Urban legend

A new perspective on city planning.

22 Helping paws

Program brings wagging tails to patient therapy.

24 Healing heart

Physician cares for those most in need.

26 On the ball

Rochester native vies for No. 1 on the racquetball court.

28 Change of station

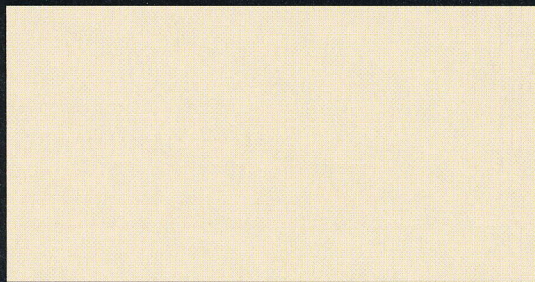
A conversation with Troy's first female police captain.

30 Professional pioneers

Four stories of what it's like to be your own boss.

51 Donor Honor Roll

We are so pleased to showcase this Donor Honor Roll, which brings to a close our first-ever Comprehensive Campaign. Thanks to you, we reached our goal ahead of schedule. In these pages, you'll read stories of the thousands of donors who make all our achievements and efforts — from artistic expression to student scholarships to ground-breaking research — possible. This special section showcases the profound impact of giving to Oakland University.



DEPARTMENTS'S

3 Letters

4 News

Cover Story

10 Campaign for OU

14 Sports

88 OU Moment

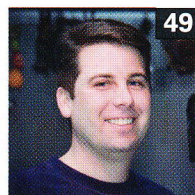
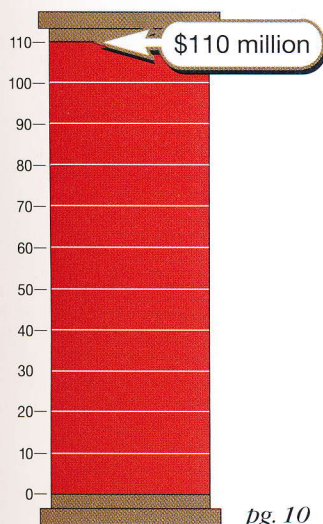
ALUMNI

36 Alumni News

42 Schools & Colleges

44 Class Notes

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ALUMNI PROFILES

45 *Leanne Bowen, BGS '97, on site.*

46 *Asmaa "Annette" Jamil, MIS '00, SBA '95, crossing oceans.*

49 *Dave Kugler, CAS '95, is big on bats.*

50 *Rob McCabe, CAS '81, spins yarns.*

It's spring. The chill has finally gone out of the air and our thoughts begin to turn to notions of summer vacations, family picnics and a welcome end to a very long winter. No matter where you are, the very idea of this season and the word itself inevitably invokes the notion of hope. As I look at our stories in this issue, I see many examples of people who embody that idea – and the human capacity for holding out hope against odds that may seem overwhelming.

One of the first stories to come our way while planning this issue was Kenneth McMillan. He went from his OU undergraduate degree to medical school and onto a rural hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where he and his wife, Ginny, battled malaria, cholera, meningitis and plague for 13 years. They brought healing – and hope – to 300,000 villagers, overcoming daunting odds against the devastation of disease with practical solutions like mosquito netting to prevent malaria and better hygiene to stem the spread of infection.

Hope can come in many forms and be found in many places. Here at home, we discovered other stories of beating the odds: a nursing program that brings abused or neglected dogs together with at-risk kids for the benefit of both; a visionary city planner who believes – and has proven – that we can find alternatives to the negative aspects of urban sprawl; a young man who, upon discovering that he had Asperger Syndrome, decided to turn that social handicap into a strength to help fellow “Aspies” overcome fear and anxieties; and an Iraqi woman who immigrated to this country more than 30 years ago and today helps others make that same trans-Atlantic transition.

So here's to spring and all the hopeful ideas that go with it.

Lillian Lorenzi

Lillian Lorenzi
Executive Editor

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 our readers. Sometimes they react to our stories; sometimes they just have something to say about their experience with the university. We like to hear it all. In this issue, we have some great photos and interesting comments to share. We'd like to hear from you, too. Drop us a line. - LL



Terry, BGS '89, and Katie Brooks.

My husband, (Terry Brooks, BGS '89), is an OU alum and we get your magazine at home ever since he graduated. It's an awesome magazine. But, it is especially awesome now with our daughter, Katie, who has been accepted to OU and is seriously considering attending in the fall. It's great for her to "take a peak" at what happening and to see her excitement. I'm thrilled for her to be attending your school and I look forward to many more wonderful magazines.

Linda Brooks

Troy, Mich.



The Grizzlies are number 1! Athena Tedder is a young fan. She is the daughter of James Tedder, MBA '00, and Nancy (Splete) Tedder, MA '06, BA '93. OU grandparents are Marlene, MAT '83, and Howard Splete, retired OU professor.

Editor's Note: This picture of one of our youngest fans was dropped off to our office by proud grandpa Howard. Thanks for being such a great OU family!

A little clearer

In the last issue of *OU Magazine*, we did not list the Office of Academic Affairs as the co-sponsor of the Madeleine Albright lecture through its Varner Vitality Series. Sorry for the omission!



2009 Downtown Rochester Event Schedule

FARMERS' MARKET
May 2 - October 31

SIDEWALK SALES
July 16 - 18

ART & APPLES FESTIVAL
September 11 - 13

LAGNIAPPE
November 30

LATE NITE THURSDAYS
May 14 - August 27

DANCIN' IN THE STREET
August 7 - 8

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT
October 1

BIG, BRIGHT LIGHT SHOW
November 30 -
January 3, 2010

HERITAGE FESTIVAL
May 23 - 24

**ROCKIN' RODS 'N
ROCHESTER**
August 9

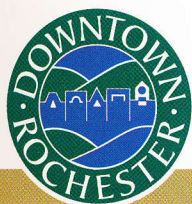
**TRICK-OR-TREAT/
COSTUME PARADE**
October 24

CHRISTMAS PARADE
December 6

**MOVIES IN THE
MOONLIGHT**
July 11, 18, 25

SPOTLIGHTS ART SHOW
September 11 - 13

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
November 7



Call the DDA at (248) 656-0060 or visit www.DowntownRochesterMI.com

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Nanotech Institute established



Nanotechnology is seen by many as a herald of the world's third industrial revolution, and Oakland University has moved boldly to position itself on the cusp of this emerging science.

With the recent establishment of the NanoTech R&D Institute, administrators, faculty and students are expanding efforts to explore a science with an immense array of potential applications. The pursuit is seen as a virtually boundless frontier of discovery, innovation and advancement.

"That's the excitement we have in this field – that it's brand new," says T.C. Yih, vice provost for research and executive director of the institute. "Almost anything you find in your research now, no one has found it before."

Embedded in the NanoTech R&D Institute's mission is a commitment to advance knowledge and support education in nanoscale science. Functioning at the level of the atom, the

conceived machines and materials of nanotechnology hold the promise of remarkable breakthroughs in a wide array of scientific disciplines.

The institute has received nearly \$730,000 in grants and sponsorship from Octillion Corp., a Washington, D.C.-based company focusing on the development of alternative and renewable energy technologies. In addition, Nanorex, a Bloomfield Hills-based developer of tools used to design and analyze atomically precise nanosystems, has provided a \$10,000 sponsorship.

The institute is also likely to establish and broaden research partnerships with the School of Engineering and Computer Science, the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, the School of Health Sciences and Oakland's business incubator, OU Inc., among others.

"This is no longer sci-fi. That's how powerful the human mind is," Yih says. "If you imagine it or dream it, you research it, develop it, build it and it becomes reality."

Those interested in learning more about or supporting the NanoTech R&D Institute should contact Yih at (248) 370-2552 or yih@oakland.edu. ■

Talks could create SMART route

Oakland University officials are exploring the prospect of a new transportation option that would significantly enhance the campus community's access to all that the Rochester area has to offer.

Mary Beth Snyder, vice president for student affairs, says that conversations with the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) may lead to a new bus route to popular destinations including the downtown area and local shopping malls. The discussions have included Rochester area merchants and service providers, chamber of commerce representatives, local apartment complex managers and municipal officials.

Oakland University recently conducted a survey of about 6,000 students and found there's a great deal of interest in such a service. Unfortunately, tough economic times make the task of funding the new service a formidable challenge. Snyder adds that creating a route is estimated to cost about \$400,000 annually.

"It's not going to be easy. It's not a slam dunk as far as the funding is concerned," she explains. She added, however, "I think there's a strong enough will out there that we're going to get this job done." ■

Special tuition assistance fund available

Hundreds of Oakland University students are getting help covering the cost of their education thanks to an initiative designed to ensure that they remain in class despite daunting financial hardships.

With the state's economic crisis putting some students' ability to pay for college in jeopardy, university administrators have encouraged those with concerns to visit the Financial Aid Office and inquire about grants that can be made from the Special Tuition Assistance Fund. A total of \$250,000 has been made available to students in need.

Financial aid officers report that while some students have already received assistance, many more have learned about other sources of financial aid

they had not already been seeking. In this sense, the campaign has incorporated a valuable educational component to its altruistic focus.

The Special Tuition Assistance Fund is one of numerous measures Oakland has taken to assist students with tight personal finances. A comprehensive educational stimulus campaign, for example, has increased scholarship awards for incoming freshmen by as much as \$1,000, created new scholarships and maintained its commitment to provide five merit-based scholarships for new students. Further, administrators have eliminated the prospect of student loans for need-based freshmen entering OU this fall through the 100 percent Tuition Grant program. ■





OU, Royal Park Hotel partnership benefits region

Officials with Oakland University and the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester, Mich., have announced that the hotel will serve not only as the university's preferred destination for guest lodging, but also as its official conference center.

Through the agreement, OU will be able to avail itself of first-class accommodations and conference center space the Royal Park Hotel offers. Another benefit Oakland will gain is event and conference management training from Royal Park Hotel staff.

"This partnership will allow Oakland University to welcome its esteemed visitors and guests to the hospitality of one of Oakland County's premier hotels," says Oakland University President Gary Russi. "This will significantly enhance our ability to advance Oakland's educational, cultural and community partnership goals."

Roy Rewold, one of three major investors in the Royal Park Hotel, says the greater Rochester community is likely to benefit from the arrangement. "It's obviously going to bring a lot more traffic here into Rochester. I think a lot of people will be surprised at how much good it will do." ■

Opportunities for displaced, threatened workers abound at Oakland

Oakland University administrators, faculty and staff are providing countless ways for workers displaced by the state's economic crisis to take the next step in their careers, or to pursue completely new professions.

For those who are considering career changes, who are interested in assessing their professional strengths or who want to explore their range of options, Oakland University's Adult Career Counseling Center (ACCC) can help with self-assessment, career exploration, computerized career guidance, educational planning, resume writing, interview skills and more.

Through Oakland University's partnership with Michigan Works, displaced workers can acquire a competitive edge while searching for new positions. Programs approved through the state employment program focus on the fields of financial planning; paralegal services; assistive, vocational and licensed practical nursing; medical administration; and patient care. In addition, nearly three dozen undergraduate and graduate degree programs have been approved by the state.

Outside of Michigan Works, professionals can return to OU to advance their education and marketability through programs that include teacher certification, as well as foreign language and non-profit management certification programs. Other career tracks Oakland is serving include paralegals, financial planners, project managers, engineers, IT specialists, computer scientists and more.

For more information on how Oakland is working to keep its wide range of educational programs and services affordable, visit www.oakland.edu/quality. ■

Program offers new start

Seventeen students enrolled in the Detroit Health Care Career Center's (HCCC) certificate program for licensed practical nurses recently demonstrated how an Oakland University School of Nursing partnership holds great potential to change people's lives and address pressing social challenges.

The students walked in as the first graduates of the LPN program at the career center, which opened its doors in September 2007 as the result of a collaboration between the School of Nursing, the City of Detroit Workforce Development Department and the Detroit Medical Center.

"It was just such a wonderful ceremony because for many of these people, this was their first exposure to higher education," says Linda Thompson Adams, dean of the School of Nursing.

She explained that the LPN program will enable these students, and more in the future, to offset a critical shortage of nurses in the region. At the same time, it presents viable career options to individuals who've been displaced by the state's shrinking manufacturing sector. "It was very inspiring to hear the stories of people who had always wanted to be nurses but didn't think they could actually do it. And now they are nurses," Thompson Adams says. "They're an example to their family and friends of what is possible when you're determined to pursue an opportunity."

The HCCC's next cohort of LPN students is expected to graduate this May. ■



Keeper of the Dream scholarships carry on tradition

Four Oakland University students were honored at the 17th annual Keeper of the Dream Awards Celebration this past January for

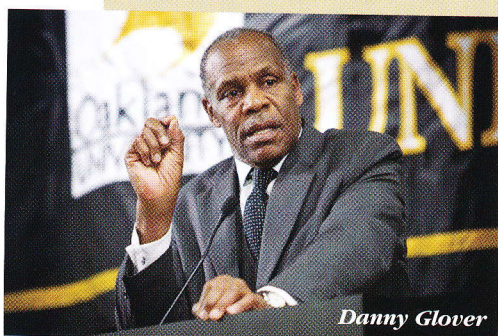
their efforts to break down cultural stereotypes, promote

interracial understanding, demonstrate leadership qualities and succeed academically.

The awards celebration pays tribute to the civil rights achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The human rights activist and actor Danny Glover served as keynote speaker.

Glover told students and the audience that King's work must continue. "As we celebrate the election of this brilliant young man, Barack Obama, King would say to look at it as only an event ... it is still on us to continue, as people, toward finding a new moral level and implement concrete change."

Recipients of the 2009 scholarships include Lisa Daily, a nursing student whose award was sponsored by Beaumont Hospitals; Jasmine Rudolph, a nursing and engineering biology student whose award was sponsored by the Oakland University Alumni Association; Relando Thompkins, a student majoring in social work whose award was sponsored by the Keeper of the Dream Foundation; and Norris Chase, a business major whose award was sponsored by the Ford Motor Company Fund. ■



Student-inspired program helps feed the hungry

Motivated by OU students Joel Baetens and Stefanie Bair (members of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship on campus) Oakland University's food service provider, Chartwells, has formed a local partnership with Forgotten Harvest, a community food rescue organization serving the Detroit metropolitan area.

Baetens and Bair developed and submitted the food sharing proposal to several university leaders, including OU President Gary Russi. Plans began to materialize when Chartwells generously agreed to donate leftover, prepackaged food items such as sandwiches and salads to Forgotten Harvest prior to each semester break.

"Not only is this a wonderful opportunity for Chartwells at Oakland University to support the local community, but we have also been able to synergize our efforts with Forgotten Harvest for food waste awareness on campus," explains Andrew Willows, manager of Chartwells at Oakland University. "The partnership is simply the right thing to do, and I look forward to working with Forgotten Harvest."

The partnership is expected to grow this year, as Chartwells has pledged to donate surplus food items from catered events, as well as prepared and prepackaged foods left over on Friday of each week. Baetens calls these efforts "a great first step" and said the ultimate goal is to facilitate food donations on a daily basis. ■

Cheng named Professor of the Year



Eddie Cheng, professor of mathematics and statistics, joined an elite rank of educators this spring when he received the Professor of the Year honor from the President's Council of the State Universities of Michigan. This prestigious award recognizes outstanding faculty contributions to undergraduate instruction, and is sponsored by the chief academic officers of the 15 Michigan public institutions. Cheng, along with Erik Goodman of Michigan State University and Steven Wright of the University of Michigan, was selected for the

third annual award. The recipients were recognized at a May 14 luncheon with a commemorative plaque and \$3000 award.

"Dr. Cheng is lauded for his excellent teaching and the mentoring of undergraduate students in research projects. He has published papers with undergraduate students and even with high school students, which is a rarity for a scholar of his stature," says Virinder Moudgil, senior vice president for Academic Affairs and provost.

Cheng's major work has been to help students overcome their anxiety about mathematics and train the next generation of mathematicians by engaging students in the Summer Mathematics Institute, a six-week summer program for exceptional Southeastern Michigan high school students. Active in the community, he also participates in the Oakland Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) summer program in Computational and Numerical Statistics and Mathematics, and has served as the director of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. He received the 2007 Distinguished Teaching Award for Michigan from the Mathematical Association of America.

"I feel most proud when I am able to successfully assist students who seek help in class or in my office," Cheng says. ■

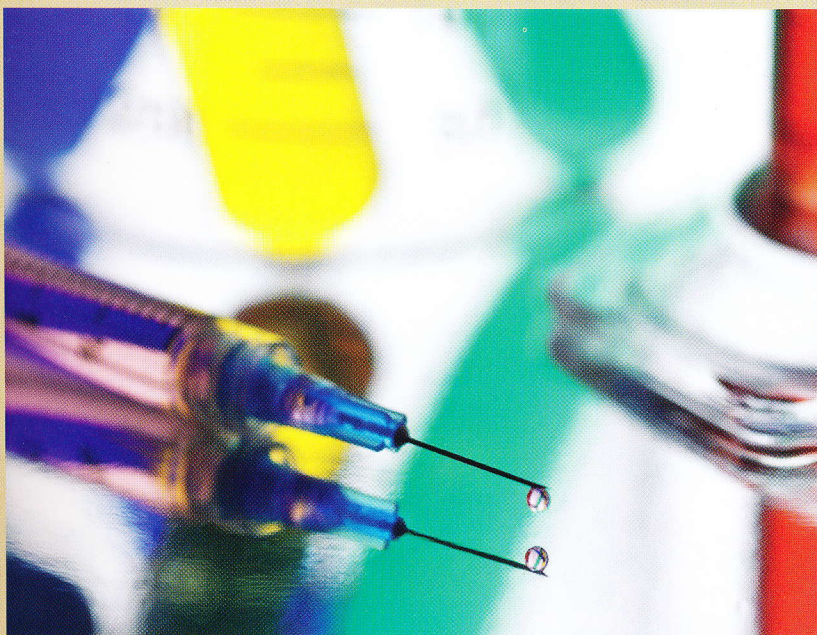
Health care hub planned

Meshing seamlessly with Oakland County's plans to become a national health care destination, Oakland University is envisioning a health sciences research hub that will integrate several exciting initiatives already underway.

To be located on the northwest corner of campus, the research park will include a 157,300-square-foot Human Health Building that recently won approval for \$40 million in state funding. The university plans to raise a \$21 million match to complete the state-of-the-art facility, which will include School of Nursing and School of Health Sciences classrooms, laboratories and a public health clinic.

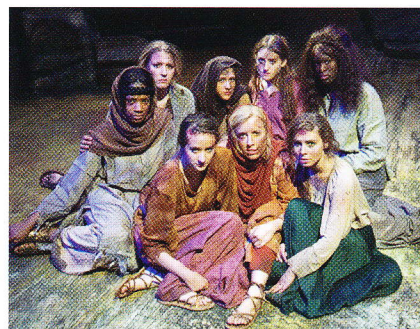
Also to be located on the site is an Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine building, targeted for completion in 2012, and a research facility that would be used for drug trials, specialized health care treatments and other research initiatives.

University officials anticipate that development of the research park will lead to more than \$1 billion in economic activity in the region, along with 11,000 jobs. This represents a considerable share in an estimated 45,000 jobs the county's overall health care initiative is expected to welcome over the next decade. ■



The Trojan Women snags regional honors

Cast and crew involved in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance (MTD) production of *The Trojan Women* won the distinct honor of performing during the Region III American College Theatre Festival in Saginaw in January.



Given that festival organizers considered entries from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, selection of *The Trojan Women* is seen as a feather in the cap of the growing MTD program. Director Karen Sheridan says participation in the festival serves not only as a great compliment to the cast and crew, but also as a rare opportunity for MTD students to perform before theatre experts from across the country.

"It's a terrific festival because there are a lot of sponsorships that allow students to go to the festival and try to win scholarships and awards that will further their education in the arts," she adds.

In addition to group recognition, the MTD production of *The Trojan Women* includes several individual students who have attracted attention for their work in design and technology, theatre critique and playwriting. ■

SON offers certificate in occupational health nursing

The Oakland University School of Nursing now offers a specialized certificate program to prepare registered nurses for careers in the growing field of occupational health.

The program is completed entirely online over a period of six months to one year. Participants are offered a comprehensive educational experience that guides them through a series of modules devoted to specific topics, including basic concepts

of occupational nursing, chemical and physical hazards of the workplace, worker mental health, wellness programs and management skills.

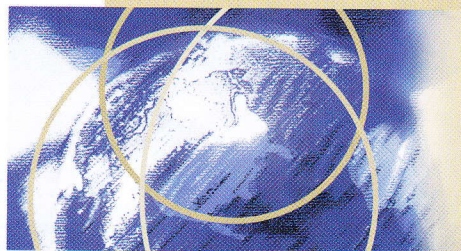
"The program is self-paced," says Jaime Sinutko, project manager. "It is perfect for an experienced RN looking to specialize in occupational health."

Occupational health nurses focus on protecting the health and well-being of

workers through a proactive approach to health care. They also play a key role in promoting wellness programs that enhance employee satisfaction and decrease absenteeism and turnover.

For more information on the Certificate in Occupational Health Nursing Program, contact Sinutko by phone at (248) 370-2761 or by e-mail at sinutko@oakland.edu. ■

A business brain trust



Oakland University's School of Business Administration has opened the Center for Integrated Business Research and Education (CIBRE), an effort that connects business professionals, students and academics to

address and shape the future of business research and business education locally, regionally and globally.

The CIBRE provides a place where business leaders, researchers, professionals and students come together to share resources, ideas and identify actions to address organizational issues, educate current and future professionals, and support economic development in the community and the world.

Through its inter- and cross-disciplinary approach, CIBRE equips businesses in multiple sectors with in-depth expertise and partnership on such critical issues as hiring and training professionals, starting up or expanding the marketplace, retooling to remain competitive, and much more. For more information, log on to www.sba.oakland.edu/cibre. ■

Student Life Corner

OU celebrates first-ever homecoming

The wide array of activities and events scheduled during Oakland University's inaugural homecoming weekend on Feb. 6 and 7 welcomed thousands of enthusiastic Golden Grizzlies supporters.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive," said OU Dean of Students and Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Glenn McIntosh. "All of the events were well attended, from the pep rally and the ribbon-cutting ceremony to the skating party and the basketball games."

McIntosh said it was fitting that both the men's and women's basketball teams won their games against Centenary College before near-sellout crowds. "That can go down in history books as a super bonus for this first homecoming event."

Weekend events featured a roast honoring the more than 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, an event that raised \$35,000 for the OU endowed scholarship fund. Other events included an OU Tailgate Party, a Casino Night and a favorite Oakland University Alumni Association event.

"We were excited to incorporate the OUAA's annual Family Festival into OU's first homecoming weekend and were thrilled with the turn-out," said Erin Sudrovech, assistant director of Alumni Relations. "Many of our alumni showed up with their families in tow, and everyone enjoyed the spirited atmosphere that the weekend of events provided."

McIntosh said homecoming planners are already looking forward to putting together an even bigger and better celebration next winter. "Overall, we reached our goal for the first year in that we brought a lot of alums back to campus and we got to show them all of the developments on campus over the years," he explained. "We're excited to continue planning for this event to become an annual tradition that campus begins to treasure. It looks like we already have a good start on that." ■



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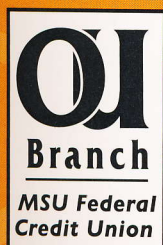
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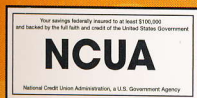
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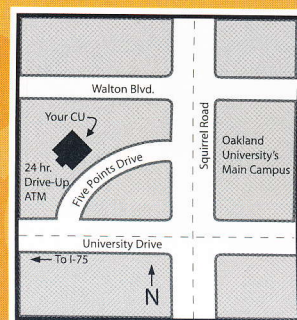
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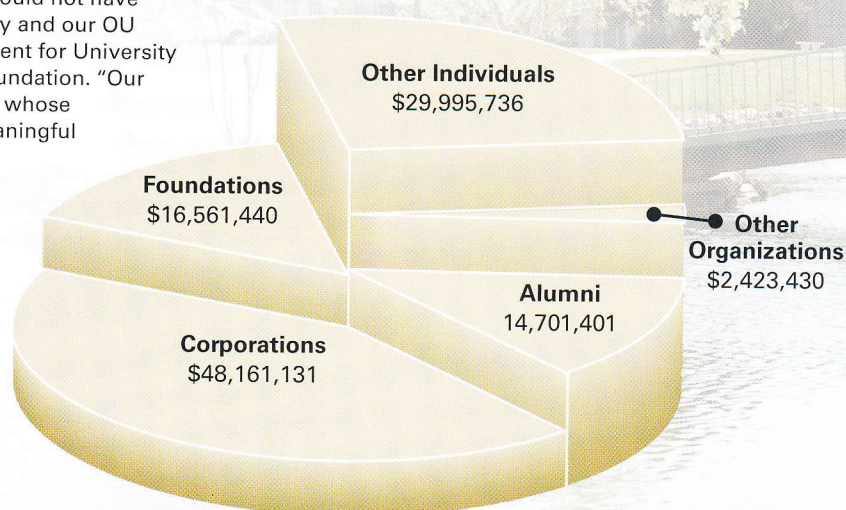
A bright tomorrow

Comprehensive Campaign hits \$110 million goal

Oakland University greeted this spring with a celebration of dedication, generosity and the realization of a goal that promises to foster many more successful seasons. OU's first ever Comprehensive Campaign, officially launched in spring of 2005, reached its \$110 million goal nearly a year early. This towering achievement in today's challenging economy is testament to Oakland's clear vision for the future and the tireless support of faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors and friends.

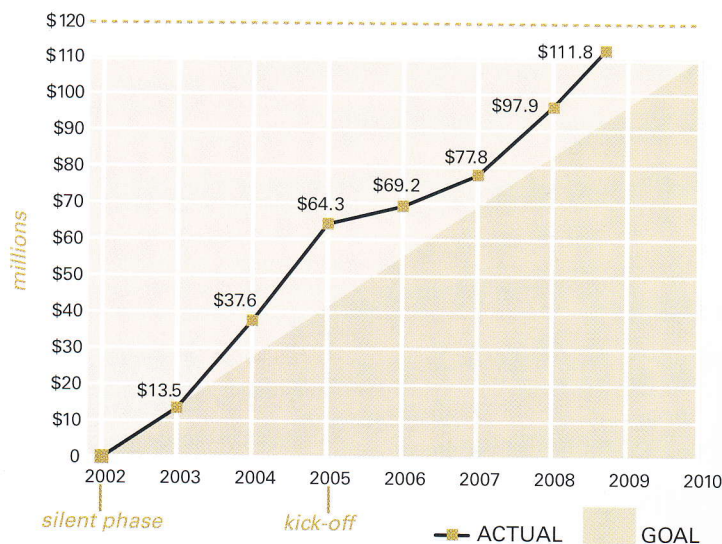
"This is a tremendous achievement that we would not have reached without the support of this community and our OU family," says Susan Davies Goepp, vice president for University Relations and executive director of the OU Foundation. "Our success is a result of our visionary supporters whose contributions have been so impactful and meaningful to our students and this campus."

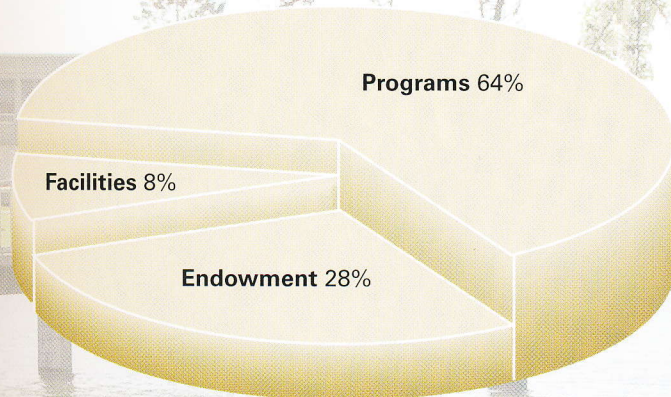
Here's a quick look at how the numbers break down through March 31, 2009.



Campaign Dollars by Constituency

Campaign Goal vs. Actual





Campaign Commitment Breakdown

Campaign Dollars to Units

College of Arts and Sciences	\$9,109,245
School of Business Administration	6,152,855
School of Education and Human Services	4,420,555
School of Engineering and Computer Science	26,151,830
School of Health Sciences	355,905
School of Medicine	15,150,149
School of Nursing	6,629,759
Academic Affairs – other	5,866,424
Athletics	1,620,901
Student Affairs	975,903
Office of the President	2,811,563
Meadow Brook Hall	12,303,118
Other	20,294,931
Total	\$111,843,138

President's Campaign Council Members

Frederick Adams	Ann Nicholson
Maggie Allesee	Dennis Pawley, SEHS '82
Henry Baskin	Gary Pilibosian, SECS '86
Janet Bennett, CAS '90, '79	Richard Rassel
Susan Cischke, SECS '76	Joan Rosen
Walter Douglas	Robert Schostak, BGS '78
R. Hugh Elliott	Stephan Sharf
David Fischer	James Sharp Jr.
John Ganfield, SBA '81	Walter Young
Diane Grieves, SBA '83	Gary Russi, president Oakland University
Susan Kampe	Susan Davies Goepp, vice president University Relations Oakland University
Barry Klein, CAS '68	
David Baker Lewis, SBA '65	
Ron May	

Together
We Made a Difference!

\$111,843,187.⁹³



Congratulations!

We Reached Our Goal!

Together We've Made a Difference

INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY - The Campaign for Oakland University

Come Help Us Celebrate...

The Oakland University community is invited to join with university leadership, alumni and donors for a brief program, video presentation and reception to celebrate the conclusion of the university's first-ever comprehensive campaign.

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

1:45 - 2:45 p.m. immediately following Faculty Recognition Luncheon.

Center Fireside Lounge

Refreshments will be served.



Marking a milestone

OU alumni, faculty, staff, donors, students and friends got together last month to celebrate reaching (and exceeding) Oakland's Comprehensive Campaign goal nearly a year early. Here are some images from our celebrations. ■

OU Dance and Cheer team members added to the festivities at the April 15 staff, faculty and alumni gathering.

Above: OU President Gary Russi; Marta Bauer, Honors College student and recipient of the Handleman scholarship; Sue Goepp, vice president for University Relations, and Dennis Pawley, co-chair of the President's Campaign Council, thanked donors and the OU community for their dedication and generosity.



1. Ann and Craig Stinson.

2. (l-r) Oakland University Alumni

Association Board Members: Adam Kochenderfer, CAS '02; Lynn Gross, SBA '87; Beth Benson, SBA '81; Julie Granthen, MBA '87, CAS '81; Adrienne Bass, director of Alumni Relations; and Theresa Stayer, SHS '84. 3. Sandra Sprovtsoff and Marc Dutton. 4. Virinder Moudgil, senior vice president for Academic Affairs and provost, and Stephan Sharf.

5. (l-r) James and Ann Nicolson; Maggie Allesee; OU President Gary Russi; Dennis and Carlotta Pawley; Vice President of University Relations Sue Goepp. 6. (l-r) Gene Michalski, chief operating officer, Beaumont Hospitals; Nick Vitale, senior vice president of financial operations, Beaumont Hospitals, and Lisa Vitale; Dr. George and Kay Wilson. 7. (l-r) Honors College students Tawnee Milko, Renée Blackburne and Marta Bauer with Jude Nixon, director of the Oakland University Honors College.

Campaign
Celebration

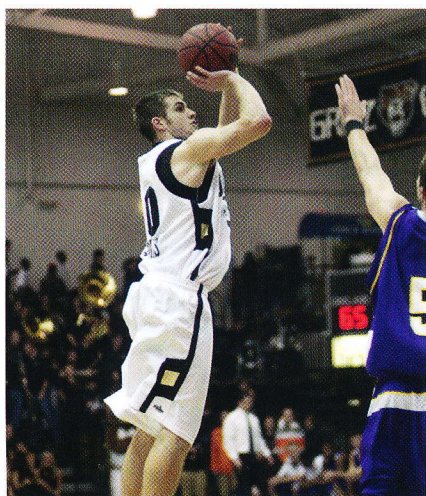
Gala

INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY

THE SCOREBOARD

A banner year

The 2008-09 season was a banner year for the men's basketball program. Oakland won a Division I best 23 games (one win shy of the school record of 24, set in 1994-95) and advanced all the way to The Summit League Championship game before falling to North Dakota State University 66-64 on a heart-breaking last second shot. The team advanced to the second round of the inaugural CollegeInsider.com post-season tournament, where they took down Kent State University at home (80-74) on March 17 before falling to Bradley University on March 23 on a last-second shot, 76-75. The team went undefeated at home this season, and has won 14 straight games inside of the O'Rena. Senior **Erik Kangas** and junior **Johnathon Jones** were named to the All-Summit League first team, while sophomore **Keith Benson** was named to the second team. Jones set The Summit League single-season assists record (278), led the nation in assists, was selected Mid-Major All America by CollegeInsider.com and named The Summit League's Most Valuable Player by CollegeInsider.com. Benson broke the all-time school record in blocks (127) and single-season for blocks (87), and Kangas set a new single-season league record for 3-pointers with 135 and was selected to compete in the ESPN College Three-Point Championship in April at the Palace of Auburn Hills, where he was the runner-up.



Senior Erik Kangas



Senior April Kidd

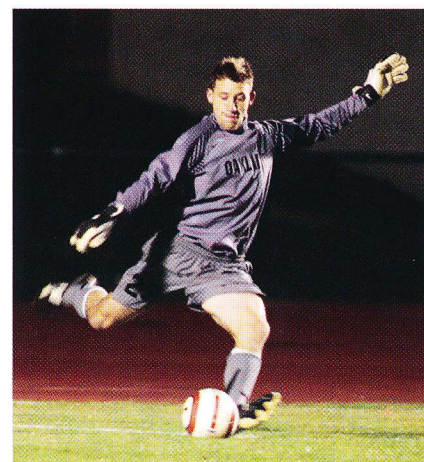
A show of career bests

The 2008-09 women's basketball team set a new record for wins in the Division I era with 26 and a new DI record of 16 league wins, both career-bests during head coach Beckie Francis' tenure. Several Oakland players set new school records. Sophomore **Brittany Carnago** set the new single-season mark in blocks with 89, senior **April Kidd** set the OU record in single-season steals (107) and the Oakland record for steals in a career, and senior **Jessica Pike** finished her career as the 8th all-time scorer in Oakland history with 1,485 points. Pike was also named to the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America second team and the All-Summit League first team. Junior **Melissa Jeltema** was named to the league second team; Carnago earned an honorable mention nod and freshman **Sharise Calhoun** was named to the all-newcomer team. After falling to #14 South Dakota State University in The Summit League final (79-69) on March 9, Oakland was selected to participate in the WNIT, where they hosted Dayton in the first round at the O'Rena on March 19, where they lost 70-55.

Men's soccer

The Golden Grizzlies posted a school-record 14 wins and finished No. 30 in the country in the College Soccer News Poll for the first time in school history. OU won The Summit League regular season championship and earned their second-straight NCAA tournament appearance with an at-large bid, hosting Ohio State University in the first round. Oakland also broke several school and league records.

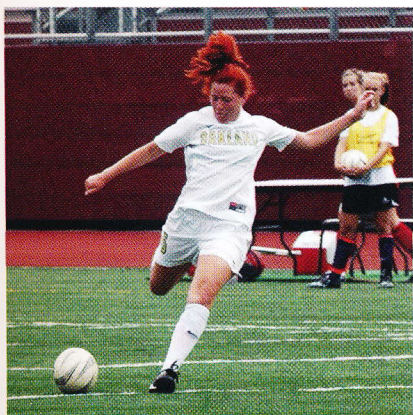
Their 0.54 goals against average finished fourth in the nation and set a new school and Summit League record. The Grizzlies also posted 12 shutouts to match a league record, finishing sixth in the country. Their .750 (14-4-2) winning percentage was ninth-best in the NCAA and .845 save percentage was 15th. Senior **Steve Clark** was named Defensive Player of the Year with his league-best 11 shutouts and joining him on the all-league and all-region teams were fellow seniors **Ian Daniel**, **Martin Sandell** and **Piotr Nowak**, along with junior **Stefan St. Louis**. Freshman **Tom Catalano** was named Newcomer of the Year and head coach Gary Parsons was named Coach of the Year. Junior **Stew Givens** was also named to the *CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District First Team. A few months later, Parsons, who had been at the helm of the program for 28 years, announced his retirement and named assistant Eric Pogue as his successor. ■



Senior Steve Clark

Women's soccer

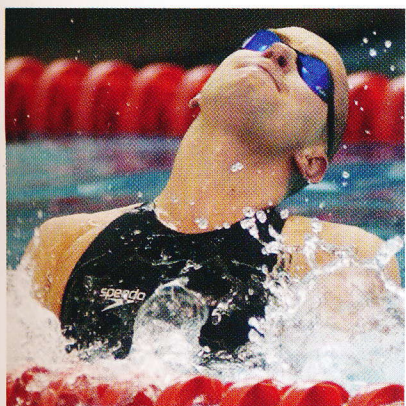
After a slow start in the season's earlier games, the Oakland University women's soccer team (9-9-2) was on fire during the conference season, posting a 7-1 record against Summit League opponents and earning a share of the regular season championship title before falling 1-0 in the championship tournament game. Senior **Jessica Boyle** was named Offensive Player of the Year and seniors **Kristi Evans** and **Kristi Smith** joined her on the All-Summit League first team. Boyle was also named to the *CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District First Team. Sophomore **Meghan Hartwig** and freshman **Jessica Lynch** were named to the second team, and Lynch, along with freshman **Deanna Colarossi**, was named to the Newcomer team. ■



Senior Kristi Evans

Swimming and diving

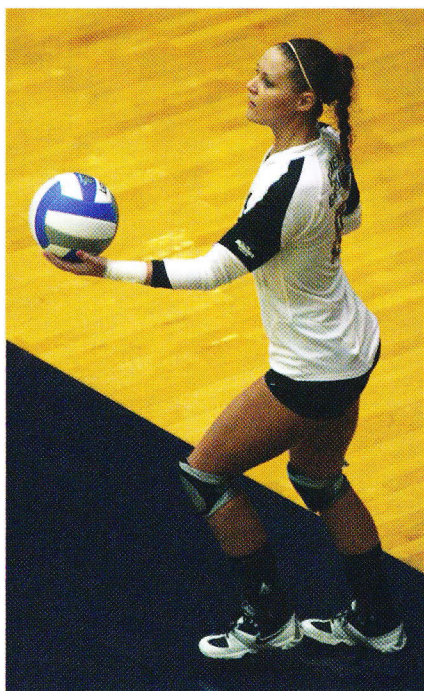
The swimming and diving teams continued to prove their dominance in The Summit League and as a mid-major powerhouse in 2008-09 as the both the men's (8-1 in dual meets) and women's (7-4 in dual meets) squads captured their 10th straight league title. Oakland has not lost a league championship since entering Division I competition. On the men's side, freshman **Anders Jensen** hit two NCAA automatic qualifying standards in the 100-yard backstroke (46.65) and 200 back (1:41.49), which were also school, OU Aquatic Center and Summit League records. Jensen was named Newcomer of the Year and Swimmer of the Year for his efforts, and earned All American honorable mention at the NCAA Championship. Head coach Pete Hovland was named Men's Coach of the Year, senior **Sophia Gustafsson** earned Swimmer of the Year on the women's side for the second straight year and freshman **Alyssa Vela** was named Newcomer of the Year. In all, OU set 27 Summit League records, two NCAA automatic qualifying standards and 15 NCAA "B" cuts at this year's league championship. ■



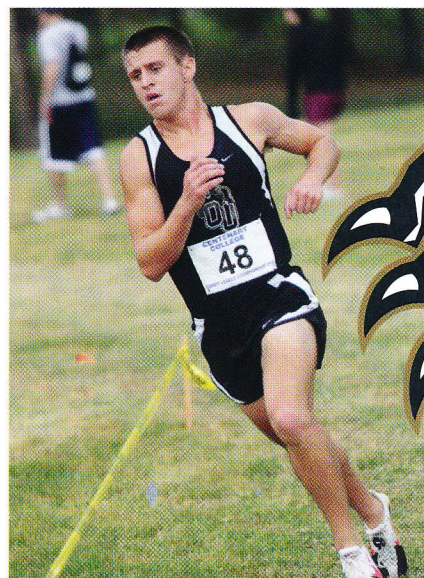
Freshman Anders Jensen

Volleyball

In head coach Rob Beam's second year at the helm, the Oakland University volleyball team (8-21 overall, 5-11 Summit) continued to make strides of improvement across several areas as the Golden Grizzlies battled through injuries of key players and finished with eight wins for the second year in a row and improved to 5-11 in Summit League play. Senior **Lauren Duquette**, who donned a cast for a majority of the season due to a broken wrist, didn't let her injury hamper her play, as she was named to the All-Summit League second team. She concluded her career as Oakland's all-time leader in four statistical categories; service aces (95), service aces per set (.260), digs (1,805), and digs per set (4.93). ■



Senior Lauren Duquette



Junior Zack Jones

Cross country

The Oakland University men's and women's cross country teams showed a lot of promise for what's to come during the 2009 campaign. The men's team finished as runner-up in The Summit League Championship and remained a mainstay in the Great Lakes Regional rankings throughout the entire season, peaking at 11th place overall, which is the highest ever hit in the program's Division I history. Junior **Zack Jones** was named to the All-Summit League first team for his third place finish at the championship meet and senior **Andrew Lawrick**, sophomore **Brandon Griffin** and freshman **Kenny Wall** were named to the second team. Jones set the school record in the 8K at the Summit League Championship with a time of 24:28:30. For the women, juniors **Erica D'Angelo** and **Sara Lieblein** were named to the All-Summit League second team. ■

Academic all-stars

Oakland University student athletes are at the head of the class, placing first on The Summit League's fall Academic All-Summit League list, with 65 Golden Grizzlies on the Academic All-League team. Western Illinois trails in second place with 56 selections.

Student-athletes from men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, and volleyball were honored for their academic achievements. To be named to The Academic All-Summit League Team, a student-athlete must have a 3.00 or better grade-point average in the semester in which they compete and must use a year of eligibility. ■

Compiled by Samantha Franz, OU Athletics Media Relations

Sports photography provided by the Department of Athletics, Jose Juarez



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Same Planet, Different World

Nick Dubin has built a career aiding 'Aspies'

By Alice Rhein

No, he's not a math savant, and he can't fix your computer either. Yet that's the conclusion some people draw when Nick Dubin, CAS '00, tells them he has Asperger Syndrome.

"We are not a homogenous group. I am very connected to certain people with Asperger, but just like neurotypicals — people without Asperger — I can also be repelled by certain people with Asperger," says Dubin, whose second book on the subject was just released this spring. "I wish people would judge me as a person, rather than hear Asperger and have a bunch of preconceived notions."

An autism spectrum disorder, Asperger Syndrome (AS) was first identified during World War II by Austrian pediatrician Hans Asperger, who described several of his patients as "little professors" since they had an intense knowledge of certain subjects and spoke about them with little regard to the interests of the listener.

"I wish people would judge me as a person, rather than hear Asperger and have a bunch of preconceived notions."

— Nick Dubin

Knowing yourself

A former all-state high school tennis player, Dubin was still a student at Birmingham Seaholm High School when AS was added to the American Psychiatric Association's diagnostic reference, *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-IV), but it would be a decade later before he was diagnosed with AS. Now 32, Dubin wishes the diagnosis would have come much earlier.

"I think we all wish we'd have known," says Dubin, referring to his mother, Kitty, who teaches playwriting at OU, and father, Larry, a law professor at University of Detroit Mercy. "I was given a lot of wrong labels so it would have saved us a lot of heartache in the process."

Individuals with Asperger Syndrome "feel like aliens on this planet," notes Dubin in his latest book *Asperger Syndrome and Anxiety: A Guide to Successful Stress Management*. "On a daily



Nick Dubin, CAS '00, discovered he had Asperger Syndrome in 2004. Since then, he has channeled his knowledge, personal experience and skills into books, DVDs and speaking engagements to help people understand AS.

basis, we must fit into a world that seems totally foreign to us. This process of integration can be both exhausting and frustrating, but more importantly, it can provoke uncontrolled anxiety."

Armed with a degree in communications from OU, where he hosted a jazz and blues show on the campus radio station WXOU, Dubin set his sights on a master's degree in special education from U of D Mercy. A horrible student-teaching experience, which he recounts in his book *Asperger Syndrome and Bullying: Strategies and Solutions*, prompted him to seek professional help which led to his diagnosis.

Since then, Dubin has channeled his knowledge, research skills and personal experience into books, three DVDs and speaking engagements geared toward enlightening the public about AS. His latest book is the first written specifically for adults with AS.

Asperger not Asperger's

Wondering what happened to the apostrophe? Medical conditions named after a person, such as Asperger's and Down's Syndrome, are known as eponyms. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) along with the American Medical Association style manual prefer the non-possessive form since the person it was named after never "owned" the disease. Editorial and medical literature still use both, such as Alzheimer's Disease and Crohn's Disease, but the preferred reference is just the noun, as in Asperger Syndrome. Of course, there are always exceptions to the rule, such as Legionnaires' disease. ■



Social stumbling blocks

"Individuals with Asperger, including myself, experience a lot of anxiety in their lives on a daily basis. Anxiety can often be a barrier in achieving one's goals," says Dubin, who is currently completing his doctorate of psychology and just signed a contract for his next book on Asperger and depression.

The basis for writing specifically about anxiety stems from the fact that "livelihoods are questionable unless we can find and maintain gainful employment and meet our daily and long-term needs," Dubin writes in his book. "Dating and socializing are also major challenges as well, sometimes compromising our ability to form families and create social networks. These challenges, along with many others, present a serious handicap for many of us with Asperger's, but they are not insurmountable."

Incorporating literature review, personal accounts and anecdotal reports from fellow "Aspies," a term widely used on Asperger social networking sites, Dubin's latest book identifies problem areas that lead to anxiety. These can include a lack of social skills and an inability to establish meaningful and/or romantic relationships. "This was a more research-based book, but the tone is user friendly," says Dubin.

He adds that people with Asperger struggle with interpersonal situations such as dating, and statistics also show that they are often unemployed or underemployed. Yet others excel in their profession, such as Temple Grandin, whose compassion and insight into animal behavior has helped transform slaughterhouses. "People with Asperger have great qualities such as honesty, dedication and innovation. When channeled in the right direction, they can excel," says Dubin. "In practical terms, that doesn't always happen."

After his bullying book was published, Dubin spoke to parents and professionals at nearly 50 engagements, from small venues to national conferences. Candid in providing examples

from his own childhood of being bullied, Dubin says that both parents and teachers tell him his talks are helpful. "Sometimes it's not easy hearing their gut-wrenching stories," says Dubin, "but it's nice having people come up to me and appreciate the work that I do." ■

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

Is this you?

After receiving his diagnosis in 2004, Nick Dubin made a list of the various Asperger traits that he felt characterized who he was. He includes this extensive list as an appendix to his book *Asperger Syndrome and Anxiety*. Below are traits excerpted from the "Aspie self-checklist" in which Dubin asks, "How many of these traits do you share with me?"

- In the past, I have been diagnosed with either classic autism, a general learning disability, schizoid personality disorder, schizophrenia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress syndrome, general depression, semantic pragmatic disorder, PDD-NOS, Tourette's syndrome, sensory integration dysfunction, nonverbal learning disability, hyperlexia, or dyspraxia.
- I dislike unpredictability. I like order and structure, and often need it.
- I consider myself extremely intelligent.
- I have trouble reading the body language of other people, and judging intent.
- My five senses are extremely sensitive.
- Socializing is harder and takes more effort for me than academic tasks that interest me.
- I am relatively uncoordinated.
- I have a collection of some kind ... coin collection, music collection, baseball card collection, collect statistics on a certain subject, etc. ■



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Robert Gibbs is a leader in New Urbanism, an urban planning movement that offers creative alternatives to urban sprawl.

Urban LEGEND

By Amy Lynn Smith



If Robert J. Gibbs had focused solely on his primary interest of urban planning as an undergraduate at Oakland University, he might not be as successful as he is today.

But instead, Gibbs, CAS '77, pursued a liberal arts degree — a well-rounded education he is convinced made a difference in his career.

“Even though I’d wanted to be an urban planner since high school, I wanted to be sure,” Gibbs explains. “I took social studies — which included anthropology, economics, English and history — and specialized in Russian history. It’s very helpful to me today, because I can dig back and have a broader understanding of complicated issues.”

Gibbs went on to earn a master’s degree in landscape architecture, a form of urban planning. He then worked for development firms including The Taubman Company, where he honed his skills in retail planning. In

1988, he established his own practice, the Gibbs Planning Group, in Birmingham, Mich.

Today, Gibbs is considered a leader in his field, as well as one of the country's top experts in an urban planning movement known as New Urbanism. The movement, which was founded in the early 1990s, is dedicated to offering an alternative to suburban sprawl, by creating walkable communities where housing, retail, government and employment can successfully co-exist.

Small towns, big ideas

Gibbs is a charter member of the Congress for New Urbanism, having been recruited by the founding members as the movement's retail consultant. He says New Urbanism was first introduced into Michigan 15 years ago, although Birmingham is a 19th-century model for the movement that, in some ways, revives the appeal of a small-town-America lifestyle. The Gibbs Planning Group has created all 25 of Michigan's New Urbanism projects, about 10 of which have been built so far.

One of these projects is within sight of Oakland University: the Village of Rochester Hills. "That's a concept I helped invent, called the open-air town center," Gibbs explains.

He has also created New Urbanism communities in Beverly Hills, Howell, Grand Rapids and Canton, and for many other cities across North America. In addition, Gibbs does master planning for cities around the country — such as Birmingham, Mich., Palm Beach, Fla., and Charleston, S.C. — and works with numerous commercial clients. College campuses are a quickly growing area of his practice, too, with many schools seeking mixed-use campus town centers.

In addition to contributing to books on urban planning, Gibbs recently received a contract to write a book of his own. He also finds time to teach, putting the education degree he earned while at OU to good use. Gibbs presents about 25 guest lectures every year at universities including the University of Michigan, Georgia Tech and Harvard University.

A nice place to live

He firmly believes that urbanism is the future, especially with today's high fuel prices and aging groups, which make walkable communities increasingly appealing. New Urbanism also provides opportunities to revitalize blighted areas by bringing in retail businesses and employers that can help communities thrive.

"We did a plan for Naples, Fla., 15 years ago, when the city was Deadsville — everything closed at 4 p.m.," Gibbs says. "Today, it's a nice place to live."

He admits that New Urbanism isn't for everyone, and that traditional suburbs will always have their place — although even suburbs can be retrofitted to New Urbanism designs. "We're not trying to control where people live, but we need to offer them options," Gibbs says.

He clearly understands the value of having choices. After all, Gibbs gave himself as many as possible while he was a student at OU, which he praises for its academic excellence, especially in the liberal arts.

"Being able to pull from what you know about anthropology or ancient Japan makes you a bigger thinker," he says. "It assisted in the launching of a career I find very rewarding." ■

Amy Lynn Smith is a freelance writer from Birmingham, Mich.

Michigan's smartest cities

Although the term "New Urbanism" is still used, a variation on the name has emerged: "Smart Growth." According to Robert J. Gibbs, a nationally recognized expert in New Urbanism, Michigan is home to a number of Smart Growth communities:

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| • Berkley | • Howell | • Rochester |
| • Birmingham | • Kalamazoo | • Royal Oak |
| • Ferndale | • Northville | • Traverse City |
| • Grand Rapids | • Plymouth | |

"These are some of the top Smart Growth communities in the United States — in fact, I think Michigan would be one of the top five Smart Growth states in the country," Gibbs says. "I'm very bullish on Michigan and think it will turn around very well." ■



A familiar crossing at the Village of Rochester Hills, one of Gibbs' New Urbanism projects.

Helping paws

Nursing program brings wagging tails to patient therapy

By Karen Hildebrandt

Sometimes a cold nose can butt in where others can't. And sometimes it's just what the therapist ordered.

As of fall 2008, the School of Nursing (SON) began offering one of only a handful of online certificate programs in the region for animal-assisted therapy (AAT) and has supported the efforts of Teacher's Pet, an innovative program that pairs at-risk youth with shelter dogs. In addition, SON Dean Linda Thompson Adams supports AAT research resulting from the programming. SON is championing these programs because evidence indicates the interactive relationship between man and beast has therapeutic benefits. For example, studies show that owning a pet can lower blood pressure, increase mental alertness, lower incidence of depression and increase overall well-being. AAT has shown anecdotal effectiveness in nursing homes, counseling centers and hospitals.

Barking up the right tree

More and more clinicians are using animals to promote wellness and encourage interaction, yet few educational institutions offer AAT programs. SON fills that void with its certificate program, which draws students from all over the country and a variety of service areas. In addition to the coursework, students must develop a goal-setting business plan to help incorporate AAT within their practice.

Some therapists, such as John Streeter, of Martinsburg, W.V., use dogs to build trust between the therapist and client. The dog, offering unconditional love and nonjudgmental friendship, relieves tension and anxiety during therapy sessions, creating an atmosphere of safety.

Streeter, a nationally board certified counselor, licensed professional counselor and SON AAT student, works with clients who have experienced trauma as a result of sexual assault, domestic violence, incest, and childhood abuse and neglect, as well as first responders who need assistance managing work-related stress. When he adopted a malnourished German shepherd stray, affectionately named Yogi, he recognized the dog's ability to help his patients heal.

"Animals assist on so many levels," Streeter says. "Having a dog present promotes conversation and provides an immediate source of affection and unconditional love which many clients have never experienced. When they look into the dog's eyes, they see a living being focused completely on them. Children who had lost their trust of adults often found it easy to tell their stories to Yogi."

After Yogi died of cancer last year, Streeter adopted two new dogs to follow in his paw prints and expanded his AAT

to cats and other animals. He finds the certificate program an important learning tool. "I'm not aware of any other programs like it," he says. "It provides an excellent foundation exploring both the possibilities and limitations of AAT and can be used by a range of service providers."

What friends are for

Teacher's Pet, a non-profit organization founded by Amy Johnson, SON administrative project coordinator, brings at-risk youth together with abused or neglected animals for the therapeutic benefit of both. The students are paired with rescued dogs that need tender loving care, along with strong obedience training. Working within an alternative program at Kingsley Montgomery School in Waterford, Mich., the students spend 10 weeks making the dogs adoptable for others. Along the way, they learn something about themselves.

"I learned that dogs don't really know what you're talking about, but they do sense your feelings," says Teacher's Pet student Robin Ewers, "I didn't just learn about dogs. I also learned about myself and responsibility. I learned that I can do something right. Teacher's Pet has made me a stronger person, and I will never forget how it changed my life."

Changing course for the better is what the program, which also has partnerships with Crossroads for Youth in Oxford, Children's Village in Pontiac and Macomb County Juvenile Justice, is all about.

"Teacher's Pet is an exceptional intervention for severely emotionally impaired students as well as other at-risk youths," says Erika Laskowski, a social worker at Kingsley Montgomery. "I personally witnessed students make dramatic improvements in their behaviors and have seen increases in self-esteem, self-confidence, improved relationships and attendance. One student refused to participate in school at all and was thinking of dropping out of school. After he was chosen for Teacher's Pet, he came to school everyday, started to complete academic work and even made friends. All of this because of a session of pet therapy!"

It's a familiar story to Johnson, who established the program to reach kids before they start making bad decisions in their lives. "It gives them a purpose," she says. "These kids have a chance to give back. Research tells us people need to contribute to be healthy. It benefits their compassion, makes them better models in the community and causes a ripple effect within the community." ■

For more information on the online certificate program and/or Teacher's Pet, contact Amy Johnson at (248) 370-4065 or johnson2@oakland.edu.

Karen Hildebrandt is a freelance writer from Pleasant Ridge, Mich.



Good friends get together twice a week at Kingsley Montgomery School in Waterford as part of the Teacher's Pet program, which brings at-risk youngsters together with rescue dogs. These good pals are: (r to l) Michael Lusk and Chase; Miles Walker and Venture; Genesis Rabine (specially appointed "assistant" and daughter of one of the program facilitators) and Troy; Amy Johnson, founder of Teacher's Pet, with Troy.

Kenneth McMillan is not your average physician. He spent a good part of his career in the Democratic Republic of Congo at a rural church-run hospital and today he's doctor to the Kola mission in Minneapolis, Minn.



Healing *heart*

OU alum cares for those most in need

By Susan Thwing-McHale

Kenneth McMillan, M.D., CAS '72, has been a physician for more than 25 years. Yet his time has not been spent ensconced in a hospital or physician's office. Instead he has made the wild terrain of the Congo and the streets of inner-city Minneapolis, Minn., his workplace.

Currently the Director of Medical Services for the Kola Outreach Program in Minneapolis, McMillan does everything from treating wounds, to ordering prescriptions, to screening for hypertension and diabetes. He also works with patients to deal with the consequences of alcoholism and living on the streets of Minneapolis. McMillan delivers the most basic of primary care to patients. He cares for patients in the Kola facility, and can also be found traveling by foot or by bike through the streets of the city, searching out those in need.

Founded in 1999, the mission of Kola (Lakota for "Friend") is to provide culturally specific supportive services to homeless Native Americans, including case management, health care

outreach, daytime activities, and health screening and referral services. Through his work with Kola, McMillan considers himself a "safety net physician."

A safety net

"Minneapolis has a significant number of homeless Native Americans who are plagued by chemical abuse and mental illness," McMillan says. "Because they are frequently without health insurance and medication, and often neglect their injuries, I have adopted them as my 'special population' with an overall purpose of harm reduction ... (The patients) find themselves falling through the cracks in our health system, hence the need for a 'safety net' provider." Since joining Kola, McMillan has treated more than 1,200 individuals and helped several hundred become more independent, reducing their reliance on emergency room visits for primary care. However, other challenges remain.

"This saves our local government significant emergency

"We found that most of the deadly diseases like diarrhea, cholera, malaria, meningitis and plague could be prevented with simple changes in lifestyle such as mosquito nets and better hygiene."

— Kenneth McMillan

expenses, but we find it difficult to get money to run our outreach program," he says. "The present economic crisis forced our county to cut our funding 50 percent in January. We continue to write grants and encourage donations."

McMillan's work with the Kola Outreach Program is not the first time he's worked to provide much-needed care.

Soon after finishing his surgical residency at Wayne State University's medical school, McMillan joined CrossWorld, a Christian international mission that serves 25 countries. In 1982 he traveled to the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) in Africa, where he had spent his childhood as the son of a missionary. He also met his wife, Virginia "Ginny" Stone, who was a fellow medical worker. They were married in 1983 and settled at a rural church-run hospital called Rethy in the Ituri highlands of the Congo. McMillan worked as a surgeon and medical director at the 100-bed hospital.

Congo surgeon

"We found that most of the deadly diseases like diarrhea, cholera, malaria, meningitis and plague could be prevented with simple changes in lifestyle such as mosquito nets and better hygiene," he says. "So we created a public health department which handled epidemics and taught villagers how to prevent future outbreaks."

He also served as public health officer of the Rethy Health District and founded and directed the Rethy Nursing School.

"Because I was the only surgeon for 300,000 villagers over a 15-mile radius, Ginny and I started a nursing school which trained Congolese health agents, midwives and multidisciplinary nurses capable of doing major surgery," he says. "We saw that Congolese young people were able to learn the essentials of health care and serve with compassion, so we were actually preparing to turn everything over to them when war struck. We had to leave but were very satisfied to find out last year that our surgical nurses were able to handle the war injuries when there were no doctors."

In 1996, as the war broke out, McMillan and his family were forced to evacuate. They left everything behind and landed in Minneapolis — his wife's hometown — and, without missing a beat in his mission to help those who need it most, he accepted a position working with Kola. In the meantime, McMillan has participated in medical relief trips with CrossWorld to the Congo for the past 10 years.

"(Ginny and I) have felt called to career medical missions, and have found it a very happy family experience and a rewarding professional practice," he says. ■

On the ball

In class and out, Huczek's always created quite a racquet

By Alice Rhein

His fellow business students suspected there was something odd about Jack Huczek, MBA '08, SBA '05. He was unable to work on group projects on weekends, and often found ways to gear assignments to the subject of fitness.

If any were too timid to approach the affable Rochester native and ask, a quick Google search would have revealed that their classmate was, and is, a professional racquetball player currently neck and neck with the world's No. 1 player, Rocky Carson.

Having won his first professional victory in 2002 against Cliff Swain at the champion's home club in Boston, Mass., Huczek has forged a career for himself that includes sponsorships, product development and now, armed with an MBA in marketing and entrepreneurship, an edge into the business side of racquetball's burgeoning market.

"There's an increase in courts being built, with the major change coming into the health club industry. They are recognizing that racquetball is an important part of the facility. It is our job as players and ambassadors to take it to the next level through advertising and exposure," says Huczek, who turned 26 in January.

Have game, will travel

And if new portable courts are any indication, the sport is heading to a venue near you.

Last year, the courts appeared in Denver, Colo., with an audience of thousands on hand. This Mother's Day weekend, the Pro Nationals were in Chicago, Ill., and the portable courts were at Navy Pier. "It's pretty cool. We have the ability to put the court virtually anywhere," says Huczek, who'd like to see the sport at festivals and even major malls.

The idea is that once you've seen a game live, you're hooked.

"One of the highlights of my career has been to compete in front of people who have never experienced the game before at its highest level," says Huczek, who adds that racquetball is not a global sport, nor an Olympic sport, but it is very popular in Central and South American countries. "There's that innocence factor where people have the jaw drop. It's times like that where I have to pinch myself and say this is what it's really about — influencing people and putting a smile on their face."

You could say racquetball is in Huczek's blood, since his mother, Sharon Huczek, MAT '79, was a racquetball champion herself and got him hooked at the ripe age of 2. By 3, he was competing in tournaments, and by 8, he had gone national. Huczek's dad, John, is the "silent champion in the family."

He means business

"He's not a racquetball player but he has traveled to hundreds of events with me over the years," says Huczek. "He's been instrumental in making me the person I am." Traveling goes with the territory, and during the International Racquetball Tour (IRT) season, tournaments fall on weekends. Huczek credits Oakland with giving students the flexibility to schedule classes Monday through Wednesday.

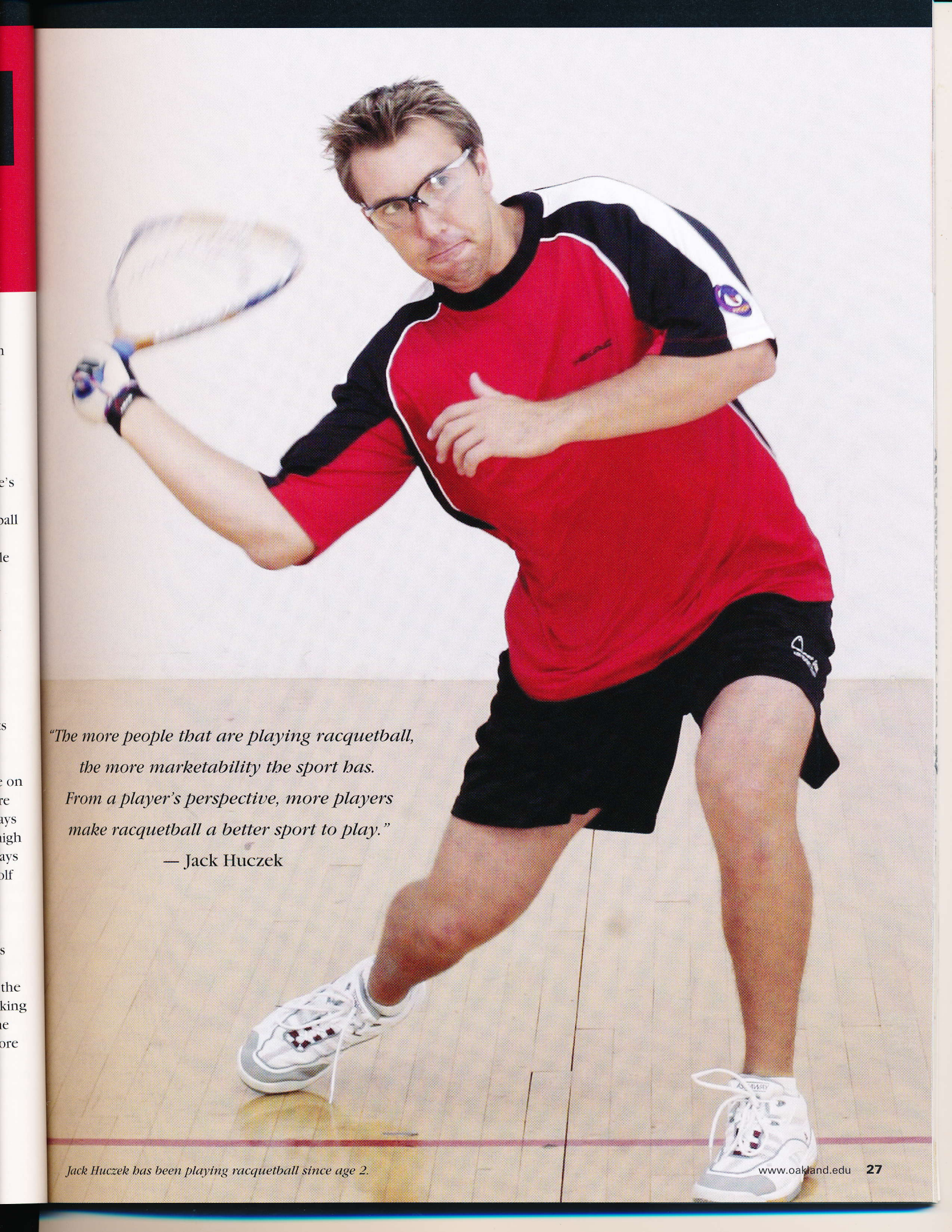
"That really speaks volumes to the credibility of the university. I was able to do two things that I love for the past seven years: playing racquetball full time and getting my education. Any other place, I wouldn't have been able to do that," he says.

Huczek still counts his education as being his proudest accomplishment, despite dominating wins on the court against players he once emulated using a forehand that sports announcers have dubbed "nasty and thunderous."

Since graduating, Huczek and his girlfriend, Christie Van Hees, a top-ranked Canadian racquetball player he met while on tour in the Dominican Republic, have moved to Dallas, where Van Hees works for an oil and gas company. "Texas has always been a big racquetball state, and there are former pros and high level amateur players to spar with and work on my game," says Huczek, who plays squash to cross-train and works on his golf game during the off-season.

While he plans to remain on the professional circuit for as long as he can be competitive, Huczek estimates that 35 is a typical retirement age in pro racquetball. Therefore, he's already using his degrees to explore business careers post-racquetball. "The more people that are playing racquetball, the more marketability the sport has," says Huczek, who is working with his sponsors, Head/Penn, Ashaway and Python to refine racquets, strings and grips. "From a player's perspective, more players make racquetball a better sport to play." ■

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



*"The more people that are playing racquetball,
the more marketability the sport has.
From a player's perspective, more players
make racquetball a better sport to play."*

— Jack Huczek

Jack Huczek has been playing racquetball since age 2.

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Captain Colleen Mott has found that her counseling background is a real asset in her day-to-day work at the Troy Police Department.

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Change of station

Troy's first female police captain steps into commanding new role

By Mary Gunderson-Switzer

With 23 years of experience under her gold-plated belt buckle, the first female captain in the Troy, Mich., police department shares one of her fondest on-the-job memories — the time she made a special springtime delivery.

"I was on patrol one Saturday morning," reflects Capt. Colleen Mott, MAC '02, "and a couple flagged me down. The wife was in labor, and I ended up delivering the baby in the front seat of their mini-van."

In law enforcement, such satisfying moments undoubtedly co-exist with the daily challenges and dangers. Promoted to captain in 2007, Mott commands 100 employees in Troy's Police Operations Division. It's where she belongs.

The eldest of six children in her family, Mott grew up in Detroit, Mich., where her mother, her mother's friends and all the women in their Westside neighborhood were homemakers. "Being a homemaker didn't appeal to me, although there's no more important job," Mott says. "But I picked the most exciting and worthwhile profession to me — being a police officer."

Law and order

A pre-law freshman in 1978, Mott left that academic path when she felt pulled to pursue a criminal justice degree at Wayne State University. While continuing with that degree, Mott joined the Troy Police Department in 1985, beginning with road patrol and traffic safety.

She's never looked back.

"Arriving at a traffic accident, it was chaos — people panicking, cars banged up, debris everywhere, and traffic blocked," Mott says. "Later, when the site was cleared and I was leaving, I saw medical needs met, wrecked cars towed and traffic flowing. It was instant gratification."

Her job today is equally fulfilling, but it requires sustained attention to a myriad of fluctuating problems. The Police Operations Division that Mott oversees includes road patrol (traffic safety/plainclothes detective unit) and communications (911 calls, from dispatch to follow-up paperwork).

"The hardest part is prioritizing," Mott says. "Employees come to me with issues needing attention, and I have to decide which comes first."

Fortunately, Mott has gained the depth and breadth of experience required to make wise decisions.

In addition to the road patrol unit, Mott has worked undercover in the nitty-gritty world of narcotics as part of the drug enforcement surveillance unit. She's coordinated officer training and also served in the juvenile unit, where she learned of terrible abuse and depressingly poor parenting. To round out

her experience, Mott has been part of the negotiations team, aiding in hostage and barricade situations.

Through the years, Mott has witnessed interesting changes within Troy police department. When she first started there were only a few women working there. Today, the 200-employee department is housed in City Hall, and it boasts 18 female officers and several female support personnel.

"I try to encourage the female officers however I can," she says, "but what matters most, whether male or female, is high-quality work."

Judgment calls

Good police work also takes a big dose of common sense and quick thinking — qualities Mott has in abundance.

In her early days on the force, one of the first calls Mott responded to was from a frantic mother whose child had gotten his head stuck in an apartment railing. Mott calmly suggested applying dishwashing liquid to the child's head and to the rails.

"It worked!" Mott laughs.

That on-your-feet thinking also serves Mott well in scarier situations. Earlier this year, she was called upon to help in negotiations when a man barricaded himself in a condominium — a situation that was peacefully resolved. Mott says she didn't realize how valuable her counseling degree from OU would be in police situations.

"You can learn things like budgeting along the way, but learning how to deal with people is so crucial in my line of work," she explains.

Essentially on call 24/7, Mott still finds time for other interests. She uses her counseling degree in private practice one evening per week. She's a Girl Scout troop leader. And as a certified fitness instructor, Mott hopes to soon teach more classes.

While helping others, Mott doesn't cop out on self-improvement.

This spring, Mott will be at the FBI National Academy in Virginia attending a professional program for U.S. and international law enforcement leaders who are nominated and chosen to attend. The participants take part in a 10-week course of study that includes undergraduate and graduate classes. Mott plans to apply course credit toward a master's degree in public administration.

While Mott is excited about attending the world-renowned FBI program, she'll be equally happy returning home.

"I'm fortunate to love my job," Mott says. "I enjoy resolving what seems irresolvable. It's plenty of excitement each day." ■

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

Professional *Pioneers*

**Enterprising entrepreneurs can successfully
blaze new trails — in good times and bad**

By Amy Lynn Smith

Entrepreneurship is alive and well, despite the economic challenges facing today's business community.

In fact, times like these may force people to think about being an entrepreneur, says Jim Schrager, SBA '70, a strategy researcher and clinical professor of entrepreneurship and strategic management at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

"If you've got a great idea — a very well thought-out concept — it's always a good time to start a business," he explains.

No matter what the economic environment, Schrager says, three fundamental components are required for a business to succeed: leadership, strategy and luck. "Very rarely can any one of these things by itself end up a big success," he explains.

Strong leadership, no matter how it's carried out, is essential. Then there's strategy. You need a good idea, one that's innovative and not imitative. Last but not least is luck. It's not something you can control, Schrager says, but you need to understand when luck plays a role and account for it.

Being an entrepreneur requires some other essential attributes, too. One of these is unwavering willingness to work hard. "Entrepreneurs who fail are those who believe it's an easy road to riches," he explains.

But entrepreneurs reap certain benefits usually not found in corporate jobs. For one thing, stress is decreased when you control more of your life, Schrager says. "Entrepreneurs deal with stress because of the marketplace, but they don't have the stress of uncertainty from above," he explains.

Perhaps most important, entrepreneurs may just be happier. "The people I've been lucky enough to talk with who have the most wonderful lives are always entrepreneurs," Schrager says.

Here, we profile four OU alumni who are outstanding examples of the fundamentals of successful entrepreneurship in action.

**Anahid Lisa Derbabian, founder/
owner, Integrity Communications**

Work shouldn't be a four-letter word, says Anahid Lisa Derbabian, SEHS '05. Instead, it should be a three-letter one: joy.

And if anyone understands the emotional component of business, it's Derbabian. After all, she acquired a double major in business and psychology from Michigan's Albion College before earning a master's degree in counseling at OU.

Derbabian applies this combination of skills as the owner of Integrity Communications in Birmingham, Mich., which she founded in 2004. Her marketing, branding and public relations practice helps companies create a strong brand, and communicate that brand using traditional and digital media and communications to foster growth.

Having worked in the industry for nearly 20 years before establishing Integrity Communications, Derbabian had plenty of experience — and plenty of ideas about how she wanted to run her company.

"I've always been someone who really likes to think out of the box, and I thought if I was my own boss I could come up with ideas and just fly with them," she explains.

Derbabian uses what she calls a "virtual model," bringing in specialists with the talent each project requires. "Whether it's a graphic designer or Web site developer," she says, "our clients are getting senior-level expertise."

She leverages her counseling skills in her marketing practice, too — especially in recent months.

"At a time when so many business owners are fearful and seeking steps that lead them toward growth and success, I appreciate providing strategic and proactive marketing guidance, encouragement, and the most necessary component — hope," Derbabian says.

This understanding of the human element of her business has contributed significantly to Derbabian's success. And it most certainly makes her work meaningful.

"Part of my goal is to help people create the life and the company they're meant to have," Derbabian says. "When I look back, I want to believe that I've been able to impact people, organizations and the world for the better."

Anahid Derbabian has found a niche in creating brand awareness for a myriad of companies.

Johnna Goodwin, owner, Changing Places Moving

It's been said that every home needs a feminine touch. Although Johnna Goodwin, SBA '85, brings much more to her business than her gender, it's definitely been an asset.

Goodwin took over Changing Places Moving in 2002, after being a partner in the Waterford, Mich.-based business for 17 years. Being the sole provider for her three children — whose support she credits for a large share of her success — Goodwin knew she needed to find a unique angle to help the business grow. Although she earned her bachelor's degree in accounting, Goodwin says marketing "came very naturally" to her.

She began networking with real estate agents, mortgage companies, bankers and area Chambers of Commerce. "My goal was to meet one hundred people every week, and my referral base just started to grow," Goodwin explains.

In her first year running the company, about 12 percent of its business came from the real estate community. Today, that figure has soared to 87 percent.

Being a woman in a male-dominated marketplace doesn't hurt, either. For one thing, women tend to be the ones negotiating the moving deals. Goodwin also believes she has enhanced the company's attention to detail and sensitivity, a mindset she extends to her crews through ongoing training.

"Moving is right up there with death and divorce as being one of the most traumatic events in life," she explains. "We wanted to take the horror out of moving."

Changing Places Moving has grown steadily and customizes its services to the needs of each client and their budget — something that's proving especially attractive to consumers today.

Although she admits these are challenging times, Goodwin sees the opportunity to be creative, and is exploring avenues for continued growth such as companies that are relocating. "Staying current with industry changes and networking is really important," she says. "And most of all, you have to be ready and willing to change when the situation calls for it."



Johnna Goodwin uses a natural talent for marketing to keep Changing Places Moving ahead of the competition.



Leonard Magro uses his Web savvy to help client companies build business.

Leonard Magro, president, Magro International

Sometimes, timing really is everything. Before he started his own company in 2005, Leonard Magro, SECS '01, was putting his master's degree in electrical and computer engineering from OU to good use working in the automotive industry. But sensing the industry's volatility, he and his wife decided it was an ideal time for Magro to start his own company: Magro International, an Internet marketing firm.

In fact, his wife, Julie (Mayes) Magro, CAS '01, whom he met at OU, where she earned her bachelor's degree in marketing — helped him start Magro International and is director of marketing.

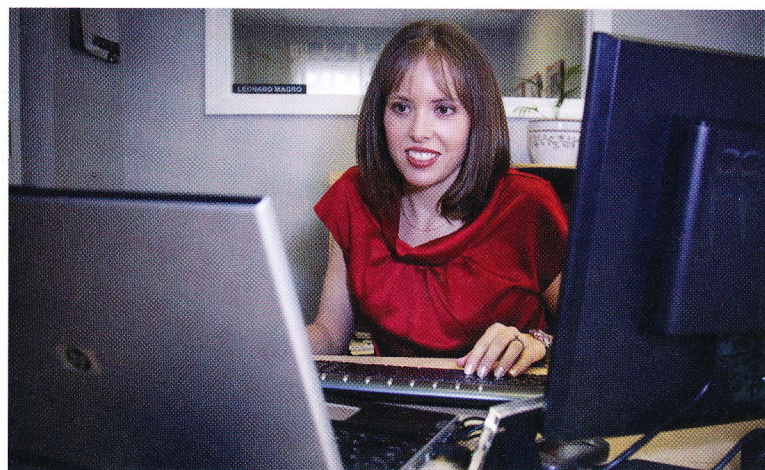
According to Magro, the company's primary goal is to help businesses harness the Internet. "If you don't have a comprehensive Internet marketing strategy, a Web site on its own isn't going to do much for you," he explains. "You need an online presence, and then you need to build traffic to that online presence and convert that traffic into customers."

Even in a tough economy, Magro International has expanded from a home-office operation into a business with office space in downtown Rochester, Mich., and hired a third employee in 2008. Magro attributes much of the company's success to the industry itself.

"Internet marketing is a growing field, and a lot of businesses are diverting their marketing budgets away from traditional media to the online world," he explains. "So I think we are definitely in the right place at the right time."

The company's primary emphasis is on building relationships with companies that want to implement ongoing Internet marketing strategies. Magro hopes the company will continue to grow, partly by constantly evolving in step with emerging technologies, such as online video and social media.

"We work hard but we also have a lot of fun," Magro says. "Our focus is on making the companies we serve successful — and if they're successful, we will be, too."



Leonard's wife, Julie, is in charge of marketing for Magro International. They met at Oakland University shortly after Leonard arrived from his home country of Malta.

**Jim Schrager, strategy researcher
and clinical professor**

For proof that entrepreneurship takes many forms, consider Jim Schrager, SBA '70, who engages in three different "jobs" in a typical week.

The first is teaching corporate strategy and entrepreneurial strategy — two related but entirely different subjects, he says — at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, where he's been a clinical professor since 1997. Second is his work as a researcher, studying companies and seeking new solutions to business problems. The third endeavor is his consulting work with start-up businesses and established companies, sharing the expertise and knowledge he has acquired over more than 25 years as a researcher, teacher and adviser.

"Strategy is equally important to start-ups and corporations, so I work with both to help them make sure their strategy is going to serve them well," says Schrager, who earned a bachelor's degree in economics from OU. His other degrees include a Ph.D. in organization behavior and policy from the University of Chicago; an MBA in accounting from the University of Colorado; a JD (Juris Doctor); and a CPA Certificate from the State of Illinois.

No two days are the same for Schrager. During a recent week, he spent one day developing strategies for a very large law firm's individual practice groups, and another day helping a start-up company figure out how to fund clinical trials for a new vaccine.

Ultimately, Schrager says, strategy is an essential component to starting or running a business, and is more beneficial today than ever before in helping people make better decisions.

Since mid-2008, demand for Schrager's consulting services has increased dramatically. "Companies of all sizes are realizing that to get through this economy, they have to have the absolute sharpest ideas possible," he explains. "I don't make decisions for them, but I ask them questions that help them determine if their ideas are worth pursuing." ■

Amy Lynn Smith is a freelance writer from Birmingham, Mich.



*James Schrager is an expert
in business start-ups.*

Three entrepreneurial essentials

Jim Schrager offers three tips for aspiring entrepreneurs that apply to any industry or economic environment:

1. Develop your idea on all levels. For example: How will you build your product? Sell it? Who's going to buy it? How will they find out about it? What's the competition doing?
2. Don't develop your idea in isolation. Find other smart, interesting, experienced people and get honest feedback. "The idea will be much better," Schrager says.
3. Find a way to test your idea without betting the farm. Ideally, try your idea on a modest scale while keeping your day job. That will give you a sense of whether your idea can go the distance. ■

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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.

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

Oakland Center



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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

GrizzLink is better than ever

The OUAA is excited to announce the new and improved GrizzLink online community. With our re-launch, GrizzLink now offers new and enhanced features to better serve OU alumni. And, best of all, it's still a free service. Alumni who have used the previous version of GrizzLink will be impressed with all the expanded features and options:

Public and Private Profiles - When friends come to find you, they'll see a profile page you can customize to reflect your personality. You can even design a different page for each of your audiences: your friends, other members of the OU community and the rest of the world.

Widgets, Gadgets and Feeds - Your profile page can also bring in content from around the Web including the latest Google™ gadgets; feed content from ESPN® or other RSS news feeds; Flickr® photos; YouTube® videos; LinkedIn pages and even your Facebook® badge. You can make GrizzLink the one place it all comes together for you and your friends.

Friends List - It's easy to stay in touch with all your OU friends. Add to your friends list and send them a note instantly without having to write several messages.

Job Opportunities - Help us help you, by building the alumni network. Post a job listing and instantly connect with a talented pool of OU alumni. And if you are looking for a job, you may become one of the hundreds of OU alumni who work with one or more fellow OU alumni.

Other benefits to using GrizzLink include the ability to:

- add photo albums and slideshows to your profile page to show others what you've been up to, and see what your friends have been up to, too
- use the Career Center to find mentors in your career field
- share your resume with other alumni and potential employers
- list items or a service in the Classifieds area to sell or trade with alumni or to promote your business
- post a business WebCard
- post a Class Note and tell fellow OU alumni your news
- find old classmates (nearly 5,000 alumni are online and have activated their accounts) and add them to your personal Friends Center
- easily update your contact information to keep in touch with other alumni and the University

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OU creates legislative advocacy opportunity for alumni

Oakland University is urging alumni to become more actively engaged in supporting OU's goals for the future – and has created a program to help them do just that.

In May, the Oakland University Alumni Association and Oakland's Office of Government Relations launched OU's first-ever alumni advocacy program: the Grassroots Grizzlies Advocacy Network. By giving alumni tools to write letters of support, contact legislators and build personal relationships with legislative staff, the initiative is expected to make a significant impact on state appropriations for OU.

"The purpose of the program is to allow alumni to communicate with the legislative branches of state government, convey issues of importance and better understand the legislative activities in and around the

state," says Adrienne Bass, director for Alumni Relations.

Rochelle Black, vice president for Government Relations, adds that the program has the potential to give Oakland an even stronger voice in Lansing. "With the severe budget challenges facing the state, it's beneficial to have our alumni by our side to help protect the future for Oakland University and preserve the reputation of the degrees we have awarded to our more than 85,000 alumni."

Alumni interested in joining the advocacy network can establish a login and password at a new Web site launched to help alumni become engaged advocates for OU: www.ciclt.net/oakland. For more information, contact Brad Barrett, assistant to the vice president for Government Relations, at (248) 370-3683 or barrett2@oakland.edu.



Get the Grizz on board!

Show off your pride in your alma mater by replacing your old license plate with an Oakland University signature plate featuring the Golden Grizz mascot. You can show your pride in OU and help support the OU Alumni Scholarship Fund. When you purchase an OU plate, \$25 of the \$35 purchase fee goes to the university. You can also purchase an OU collector plate.

It's easy. Just log on to http://www.michigan.gov/documents/orderform_ou_16223_7.pdf or visit your nearest Secretary of State office.



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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.

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**ALUMNI
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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.

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

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I/We would like to contribute \$ _____
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☐ 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 these dates: Upcoming OUAA events

Mark your calendars for some exciting events coming up this summer and fall.

June 5 – Single Mingle at the DIA

June 13 – OU Day at the Zoo

June 20 – Alumni Summer Golf Clinic

June 25 – Lansing Alumni Gathering at Lugnuts Game

July 20 – OUAA Golf Challenge

Aug. 1 – Black Alumni Chapter Summer Picnic

Aug. 9 – OU Day at Comerica Park

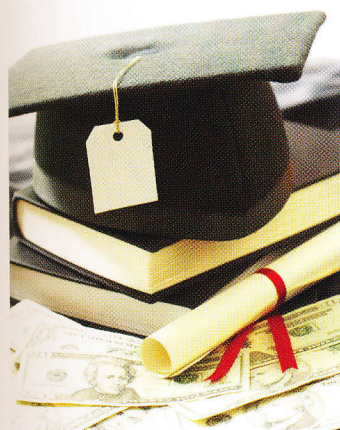
Nov. 7 – Alumni Awards Banquet

For more information and/or registration on all these events, call the OUAA Events Hotline at (248) 364-6140 or visit www.oualumni.com.

Can you help? Alumni volunteers are needed for the OUAA Golf Challenge and OU Day at Comerica Park. Contact Erin Sudrovec, assistant director of Alumni Relations, at (248) 364-6136 or sudrovec@oakland.edu for more information. ■

Scholarships support students' educational goals

Once again this year, the OUAA is helping students follow their dreams, by awarding more than \$75,000 in scholarships to approximately 25 deserving students. The scholarships being awarded this year include:



College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Scholarship

School of Business Administration Alumni Scholarship

Frances C. Amos School of Business Alumni Scholarship

School of Education and Human Services Alumni Scholarship

School of Engineering and Computer Sciences Alumni Scholarship

School of Health Sciences Alumni Scholarship

School of Nursing Alumni Scholarship

Black Alumni Scholarship

Honors College Alumni Scholarship

Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship

Alumni Association Returning Alumni Scholarship

Alumni Association Working Student Scholarship

In addition, the OUAA is sponsoring its annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship and several study abroad scholarships. Eight students also continue to benefit this year from their renewable Honors College Scholar and OUAA Distinguished Scholar awards. ■

Meet our new Alumni Relations staff members

Three new staff members have joined the Alumni Relations department: Karen Coronado, membership program manager; Shanna Sparks, office assistant; and Bris Villanueva, alumni program and event specialist.

Coronado, SBA '08, brings extensive marketing experience to OU, having worked in various sales/marketing manager and business sales executive positions since 1988. As membership program manager, she is responsible for establishing and providing the best value in membership benefits to OU alumni, while increasing visibility, awareness and membership in the OUAA.



Karen Coronado



Shanna Sparks

for invoicing and balancing department accounts, managing office supplies and coordinating meeting logistics.

Villanueva previously worked as a conference services manager at various hotels, planning and executing events for high-level clients, and planning medical education conferences for Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine.

At OU, she plans most of the roughly 20 programs and events the OUAA hosts each year and implements new programming ideas for the upcoming year. ■



Bris Villanueva

Keep OU in the family

Become an Alumni Admissions Ambassador for OU

As an alumnus of Oakland University, you remember what it was like to cheer for the black and gold at sporting events; to participate in student organizations and programs; to be a part of the OU family.

Remain connected to your alma mater and share your experiences with future generations of Golden Grizzlies by joining our growing team of Alumni Admissions Ambassadors.

By volunteering as an ambassador at events such as regional and national college fairs and on-campus visit programs, you can share your enthusiasm for Oakland with prospective students and their families, providing them with a valuable, genuine connection as they explore their college options. Through your own collegiate and professional successes, you will illustrate the benefits of the OU experience.

The AAAP invites you to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

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

E-mail 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 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.



Join ambassadors Julie Van Marcke, CAS '03, and Joe Van Marcke, CAS '02, in their efforts to grow Oakland University

FAST FACTS

- Ambassadors have served the university at 73 undergraduate recruitment events
- 308 hours of volunteer service have been provided – just two or three hours per year from each ambassador makes a big difference in our recruitment efforts
- Over 5,000 points of contact have been made with prospective students and their families
- As of March 2009, Undergraduate Admissions has received applications from 43 different states for fall 2009, a 33% increase in states represented from March 2008

See what's been going on!

A festive holiday gathering

More than 170 alumni and friends from the Black Alumni Chapter attended the Just Friends Holiday Celebration at the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms on Dec. 13. The event included a reception and dinner, and also featured a tribute to current and former OU faculty and staff — plus entertainment by OU alumni. Now the Black Alumni Chapter is at work planning their annual summer picnic for Aug. 1. Stay tuned for more information about this summertime tradition or check for updates on www.oualumni.com.

A sweetheart of an event

Talk about a love affair: The OUAA Sweethearts Dinner, hosted on Valentine's Day at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester, Mich., attracted a sell-out crowd of 80 OU alumni and friends. Plans are underway for a similar event next year, so mark your calendars for Feb. 13, 2010.

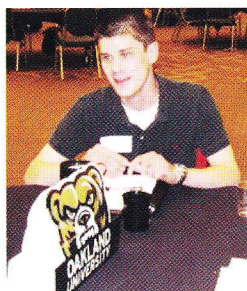
Going all out for the Golden Grizzlies

OU alumni sure know how to show their team spirit. More than 60 alumni and fans gathered at two watch parties to cheer on the men's and women's basketball teams in the conference tournament title games on March 10. The watch parties were held at the Rochester Mills Beer Company in Rochester, Mich.



A powerful networking opportunity

The Oakland University Alumni Association partnered with the Future Alumni Network, Student Congress and Career Services to host the second annual Alumni-to-Student Power Networking dinner on Feb. 18. More than 100 students and alumni attended the event, which featured alumna Denise Anne Taylor, CAS '91, as the keynote speaker.



The event gave students the chance to network with OU alumni specializing in their field of interest, while enjoying appetizers, a strolling dinner and dessert. Alumni in attendance shared their experience in areas including communication, industrial health and safety, political science, accounting, information systems and human resource development.

Alumni interested in volunteering for the 2010 Power Networking dinner are encouraged to contact Bris Villanueva, program and event specialist, at (248) 364-6137 or villanu2@oakland.edu.

Hitting Hockeytown

The OUAA hit the ice on March 29 as alumni and friends gathered at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena for Alumni Night at the Joe. Nearly 90 people came to watch the Detroit Red Wings take on the Nashville Predators. In addition to the game, the evening included a special pre-game reception and dinner for OU fans. ■



Need a getaway? Go with the Grizzlies

OUAA members and their travel companions can see the world through the OUAA Grizzlies Getaway travel program.

Italy's Lake Garda & the French Alps
Sept. 23–Oct. 1
\$1,349 plus airfare per person
(double occupancy)

Enjoy a remarkable holiday immersed in the legendary beauty of the Italian lakes and the French Alps; visit romantic Venice, beautiful Montreaux and the 13th century Château de Chillon; and travel to charming Zermatt, a classic mountain village nestled at the foot of the majestic Matterhorn.

The Best of the Italian Riviera
Oct. 3–11
\$1,349 plus airfare per person
(double occupancy)

Experience the exquisite beauty of the Tuscan landscape at Montecatini, the best-known of all Italian spa towns; visit Florence – a living museum of Renaissance art and architecture – and the charming Siena; enjoy the seaside resort town of San Remo, which is ideally located for visiting the glamorous cities of Monte Carlo and Nice.

Best of the Mediterranean & Greek Isles
Oct. 16–29
Cost starts at reduced alumni rate of \$2,599

Visit the legendary lands of the Eastern Mediterranean where the past comes to life, aboard the beautifully appointed 684-passenger Oceania Insignia. See the fabled Greek Isles and other captivating ports while leisurely sweeping the coasts of Turkey, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia and Italy. Seek the lost civilization of Atlantis on Santorini; explore the walled city of Dubrovnik; or float along Venetian canals – among endless adventures to be experienced during your Mediterranean odyssey.

For more information on these and other available trips, visit www.oualumni.com and click on the travel section.

CAS

A passion for research

Last year at this time, Jeanette Kheir's career plans were still a bit fuzzy. Now, the Oakland University senior has a clear picture of her future – and what she sees is a career in scientific research.

Kheir, who is majoring in chemistry and minoring in mathematics, got an in-depth look at scientific research when she participated in a chemistry department summer research fellowship under the guidance of Distinguished Professor of Chemistry Michael Sevilla.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for me to understand and work with research," says Kheir, who spent two and a half months helping Sevilla explore the impact of gamma radiation on double and single-strand DNA coupled with gold metal particles. "It was just so interesting. Even when I messed up measuring a solution, it made it more fascinating to see the outcome."

The summer research fellowship is one of numerous undergraduate research opportunities offered through the Department of Chemistry. "It's priceless for the students," says Department Chair and Biochemistry Professor Arthur Bull. "By the time they leave, they've had the opportunity to experience serious research."

Kheir's research experience was funded by a grant from Dr. Jean Holland of the College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board. Holland, a dermatologist, says she likes the idea of giving students the opportunity to conduct research. "Getting experience in a lab – a real lab – can sometimes hook someone on a science career who otherwise would never have thought of it."

SBA

Meeting the economy head on

The School of Business Administration is responding to national and state-level economic struggles with an innovative package of research and educational offerings that will give tomorrow's business leaders the expertise to compete.

With an expert in financial distress and bankruptcy leading the way, the SBA is enhancing its Accounting and Finance curriculum with courses that

address transformational analysis and business restructuring, and considering new courses that explore the causes of financial distress and techniques to prevent company failures. The SBA is also exploring introducing a Master of Finance to provide the area with the much-needed expertise of finance professionals.

Rajeev Singhal, assistant professor of finance, is the expert leading these initiatives for the SBA.

"The recent crisis in the financial sector has put pressure on companies to restructure their operations, improve their portfolio, reduce costs and make their balance sheet healthier. That's when turning to well-educated finance professionals can help businesses create renewed success," says Singhal.

Accounting and Finance Advisory Board Member Jim Mallak has stepped forward to offer a \$25,000, five-year gift – and his expertise – to the restructuring and transformation curriculum project.

"The work OU will be doing will play a role in improving our state's and our nation's financial success," says Mallak, a managing director with the Detroit-based restructuring consulting firm Alvarez & Marsal.

SECS

New beginnings

The tough economic times bearing down on companies across the nation, and particularly on those in the manufacturing industry, have many technical professionals examining their knowledge base and skill sets. Unfortunately, many are finding they need additional training or education to be competitive in a tight employment market.

The School of Engineering and Computer Science has answered this need with the introduction of two sets of academic programs, each specifically designed for computer scientists and engineers who've lost their jobs or who fear they may soon lose them.

A set of four skills-rebuilding programs offers computer scientists, computer and mechanical engineers, and robotics designers and programmers an opportunity to become familiar with the latest technology and theory. Coupled with their work experience, completion of these programs will significantly broaden professionals' workplace marketability.

Five professional development programs, which offer participants opportunities to earn post-graduate certificates, are designed to enhance the highly specialized skills of those working in embedded systems, mechatronics, alternative energy, polymer engineering, industrial engineering and automated controls.

All of the skills-rebuilding and professional development programs being offered have been approved by Michigan Works, which means that displaced workers enrolled in the state employment program are eligible for up to \$5,000 per year in tuition grant assistance. For more information, visit www2.oakland.edu/secs/ or call (248) 370-2233.

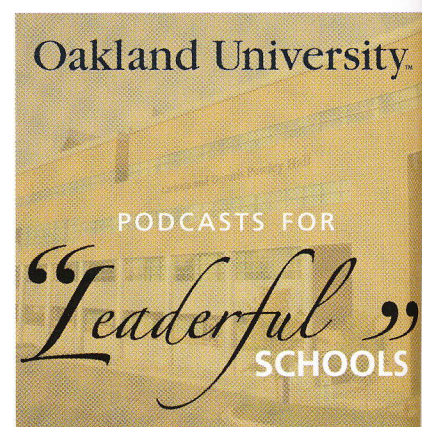
SEHS

Podcasts promote dialogue

When Professor of Teacher Development and Educational Studies Pam Morehead first heard about the potential of podcasts for reaching large audiences, she knew they would be an excellent vehicle for getting the word out about the School of Education and Human Services and its Educational Leadership program.

Podcasts (audio or visual digital media files) are distributed online and downloaded to portable media players and computers. Their content can range from episodes of National Public Radio's *Car Talk* to professional workshops.

Morehead, who attended a podcast workshop at Fordham University several years ago, learned that a number of college podcasts had cultivated as many as 50,000 weekly subscribers within three or four years of getting off the ground. It didn't take long for her to sell the idea to her colleague in Educational



Leadership, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership Robert Maxfield.

Since Morehead and Maxfield launched Podcasts for Leaderful Schools in August 2007, the audio program has featured more than 45 interviews and discussions addressing topics including collaborative leadership, social justice and school reform. The guest list has ranged from area principals and superintendents to nationally known authors and teacher educators Roland Barth and Gloria Ladson-Billings.

Until recently, every show was co-hosted by Maxfield and Morehead. Last December, cancer claimed Morehead's life. She had completed her final podcast one month earlier. "Right up to the end, she didn't want to let this go," Maxfield says. "She fought an incredibly courageous battle."

Today, Maxfield is co-hosting the podcasts with Linda Tyson, Teacher Development and Educational Studies department member and coordinator of the art education program. The podcasts have been attracting about 1,700 weekly listeners. And the SEHS isn't the only department tapping into podcasts' potential. Lisa Reeves, director of the Professional Development Office, is advertising new offerings from her office via podcast.

For more details, visit www.oakland.edu/pocasts4collaborativeleadership.

SHS

A new realm of discovery

The School of Health Sciences Prevention Research Center has embarked on a pioneering project to pinpoint the impact that metabolic syndrome may have on psychological treatments and disorders, offering exciting new research opportunities for undergraduate students.

The center will launch a new study involving metabolic syndrome, a constellation of factors that predispose people to premature or unnecessary heart attacks and strokes. Researchers will study databases to determine if this syndrome can make one more vulnerable to brain disorders, including depression, or whether the syndrome negatively impacts the benefits of pharmaceuticals on treating mental states. The project is funded through the Bloomfield Hills-based Mental Illness Research Association (MIRA).

Once the funding is in place, the SHS will offer undergraduate students small awards to conduct this research with a faculty mentor during one or two semesters. "This research will be a very strong and unique undergraduate experience at OU," SHS Dean and Professor of Health Sciences Kenneth Hightower says.

This project also will tie in with Hightower's primary goal for the center: to bring OU faculty researchers, medical doctor research specialists, students and community members together to address health care issues. "Our new center will bring all of the pieces together to impact our citizens through a process called translational research, not test tube or bench science, but discovering what works with whom," Hightower adds.

MIRA, a nonprofit organization, is dedicated to funding research for brain diseases and disorders and erasing the stigma associated with them.

The Prevention Research Center already has a project under way that overlaps with MIRA's mission. The center is providing free assistance to area stroke survivors who have not fully recovered. Physical therapy doctoral students, under expert faculty and clinical supervision, are customizing treatments intended to prevent further decline and despair among the stroke survivors.

For more details log on to MIRA at www.miraresearch.org and Prevention Research Center at www.preventionresearch.oakland.edu.

SON

Focusing on nursing retention

Oakland University's School of Nursing and St. John Health (SJH) are partnering to reduce attrition and shortages in the nursing profession.

Using a five-year, \$5.3 million grant from St. John Health for Transforming Nursing Education, the resulting Riverview Project will strive to close the gap between nursing education and practice. The project calls for more intensive, lengthier rotations; virtual simulations; and increased student support and mentoring.

Participants will work at Detroit Riverview, a former hospital that now provides primary and urgent care, lab services and a pharmacy. The entire second floor of the building is being renovated to accommodate the program.

HC

Research abroad

When OU seniors Jessica Pike and Jonathan Benefiel conducted their Honors College thesis research projects, they took a global approach – literally.

Pike, a senior majoring in Wellness, Health Promotion and Injury Prevention, spent a month in Swaziland last summer looking into the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Benefiel, who is pursuing a degree in mathematics, visited several European cities in July 2007 to learn about Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler. Both students received funding from The Honors College to help cover their travel expenses.

Pike stayed with a local family during her stay in Swaziland. UNAIDS estimates that more than a quarter of the southern African nation's adult population has HIV/AIDS. Pike's research involved assisting a rural nurse, working in a hospital and interviewing residents in the capital city, Mbabane. Ultimately, Pike concluded, the health care system appears to focus primarily on treating those diagnosed with HIV, but not preventing the spread of the virus. "They're trying to prevent death," she says. "There's very little done to prevent people from getting AIDS."

Pike, a guard with the Golden Grizzlies women's basketball team who has earned numerous academic and athletic honors, has decided to focus her graduate studies on international health. "The trip opened my eyes to the bigger picture," she says. "People are struggling for their lives."

In the course of Benefiel's research, he became the first student to join a Mathematical Association of America (MAA) study tour – a program that had been limited to professors and researchers. The Leonhard Euler Tour celebrated the 300th birthday of the mathematician known for contributions to analytic geometry, trigonometry, geometry, calculus and number theory.

Benefiel, who published an article about his experiences in the MAA's publication, *Math Horizons*, is an Academic Skills tutor and math workshop leader. He plans to pursue graduate studies and possibly become a math instructor. ■

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

CAREER/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1960s

James Batchelor, CAS '68, has been named a Michigan Super Lawyer for 2008 in creditor rights and bankruptcy. He is the managing attorney of the Grand Rapids, Mich., office of Trott & Trott PC.

Thomas Soldan, CAS '66, joined the Board of Directors of the Model T Automotive Heritage Complex, which is restoring the historic Ford Piquette Plant in Detroit, Mich., home of the Model T.

1970s

Donald Beagle, CAS '75, published a book entitled *Poet of the Lost Cause* from the University of Tennessee Press. A biography of the Civil War poet Fr. Abram J. Ryan, the book examines Ryan's career as a Confederate chaplain in the war, a southern newspaper editor during Reconstruction, and an internationally famous poet and lecturer in the 1880s. The book also traces Ryan's influence on writers such as William Faulkner, Margaret Mitchell, O. Henry, and Allen Tate. UTPress has posted a blurb at <http://utpress.org/a/searchdetails.php?jobno=T01220>.

Amy Butler, CAS '77, has been appointed director of the Bureau of Energy Systems with the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth.

Donna Lee DeBaets, MAT '79, retired as a Supervising Ranger in 2008 from the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department in California after almost 25 years of service as a Park Ranger. The plans for the first year or so after retiring include lots of travel. She and her partner Ginnie recently completed a cross-country RV trip, which included a stop in Badlands National Park. This trip brought her closer to her goal of visiting all of the National Parks. When not traveling, the couple plans on rotating throughout the year between their homes in California, New Mexico and Hawaii.



Leslie Griffen, CAS '70, is the principal of the Griffen Group, a management consulting firm specializing in career and executive coaching, human capital management and small business management in suburban Kansas City, Mo.

Daniel Kinsella, CAS '73, has been selected again as a Super Lawyer in the area of Labor and Employment Law by the peer-reviewed selection procedure of *Law & Politics*. Kinsella, a shareholder in the Chicago Law firm of Schuyler, Roche, P.C., received his law degree from the University of Illinois in 1977 and has practiced in Chicago since graduation. He is also on the Board of Editors of three books jointly published by the American Bar Association and the Bureau of National Affairs: *Covenants Not to Compete: A State-by-State Survey*; *Employee Duty of Loyalty: A State-by-State Survey*; and *Trade Secrets: A State-by-State Survey*. He lives in Winnetka, Ill., with his wife and three children.

Gordon Mapley, CAS '71, retired from administration at Youngstown State University and assumed a position of dean of the Western Institute at Missouri Western State University.

The Rev. Rod Reinhart, SEHS '72, organized a gift drive for wounded soldiers at the annual Christmas party at St. Joseph and St. Aiden Episcopal Church in Blue Island, Ill. The gifts were delivered to wounded men and women at the Jesse Brown and Veterans Administration Medical Center, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital and other veterans' hospitals in the area.

David Shedlarz, SBA '70, has been elected to The Hershey Company's Board of Directors.

1980s

Susan J. Brennan, MAT '88, began a new career as a family service counselor with Resthaven Cemetery & Ellis Funeral Home in Midland, Texas. Previously, she taught K-12 for 14 years in Nevada, New Mexico and Ohio.

John Bomarito, SBA '83, joined World Marketing Group in Irvine, Calif., as a national director, exhibits and promotions on behalf of Kia Motor America.

Stephen Cassin, MPA '81, is one of three nominees for Member of the Year by

Automation Alley, Michigan's largest technology business association.

Theresa (Beaver) Cochell, CAS '84, recently joined the Corporate Education and Development department at the Auto Club Group as a training consultant. She is also active in the Oakland University Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program.

George Corona, SBA '85, has been appointed executive vice president and chief operating officer for Kelly Services, Inc.

Ann (Kotula) Wagner, MBA '94, SBA '88, is senior manager at Chrysler LLC.

Bernice Lopata, CAS '84, is the associate vice president for advancement services in Wayne State University's division of Development and Alumni Affairs.

Christian McCallister, MA '84, is a clinical psychologist working under contract for Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority in the Pontiac office of Easter Seals, where he works with children and adolescents. He recently published his first novel, a futuristic adventure story entitled *Coming Full Circle: Munising to Munising*.

1990s

Danielle Jay Boone, MED '99, SEHS '95, moved to Brisbane, Queensland, to complete her doctorate at Queensland University of Technology. She recently completed her doctoral studies degree in the area of early childhood art education. She currently works for Queensland Government's Department of Education, Training & the Arts as a senior advisor in Student Services.

Leanne Bowen, BGS '97, has been named to *Crain's Detroit Business* "40 under 40" list. She is senior project manager for Jones Lang LaSalle in Detroit, Mich.

William Boyle, MED '98, has been appointed principal of Model High School and Bowers Academy by the Bloomfield Hills Schools Board of Education.

Michael Dingwall, SBA '92, has been admitted to the partnership of "Big Four" accounting firm KPMG.

Ann Edgerton, MED '97, accepted a position as administrator at the University of Minnesota Child Development Center.

She constructively manages on 'male turf'

It may come as a surprise that pretty, petite Leanne Bowen, BGS '97, likes to frequent construction sites. But it's a niche she's built for herself — from the ground up.

Senior project manager for commercial real estate company Jones Lang LaSalle, Bowen isn't quite 5' 2," but she's a towering dynamo who oversees large commercial construction projects. The Hilton Garden Inn and Wayne State University's fitness center stand as two concrete successes. She's also done work for London-based WPP Group, Ernst & Young, MasterCard and the State of Michigan.

While Bowen manages construction progress, company moves and office renovations, she not only finesses nitty-gritty details but also keeps an eye on the big picture.

"It can get complicated, with so many people involved," she says. "I make sure everybody's playing nice in the sandbox."

Featured in the 2008 *Crain's Detroit Business* "40 under 40" for succeeding in an industry typically dominated by men, Bowen is poised and articulate. She's also strong-minded. Asked if she encounters any on-the-job sexist behavior, she's clearly capable and confident.

"Believe me, I can handle myself," she says. "It's so true that knowledge is what it comes down to, so I've never felt intimidated."

Bowen is a project manager in many areas of her life. Working at Detroit's Cadillac Centre one morning, she hurries home in the afternoon to tend to her sick daughter. The next day, she's at her office in the Renaissance Center, before heading out on a business trip to San Diego. She makes it work, like she's always done.

Once an aspiring journalist, Bowen worked at OU's student newspaper, and while enjoyable, the experience made her realize journalism just wasn't her thing. She switched gears to a general studies degree, loading up on business and construction classes. With an adviser's help, she packaged a practical, outside-the-box education.

Now president of the professional organization Commercial Real Estate Women, Bowen began her real estate career in college, as a receptionist for drywall contractor Denn-Co Construction, Inc. She became the company's purchasing manager after graduating, but was soon eager for a new challenge. She sought out and landed a job at Detroit-based Turner Construction Co., then a nearly all-male company. That experience paved the way to Jones Lang LaSalle in 2004.

The life lesson? Don't be intimidated — just go for it. ■

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

Named to the 2008 Crain's Detroit Business "40 under 40" list, Leanne Bowen has built a niche for herself overseeing large commercial construction projects.



World traveler says OU felt like home

For a more than a century, the hope of the American dream has inspired and fascinated people across the globe. Asmaa "Annette" Jamil, SBA '95, MIS '00, feels that she's been fortunate enough to live it.

She and her family emigrated from Iraq to the United States when she was a child, seeking economic opportunity in the 1970s. More than 30 years later, she is helping others from the Middle East to follow the same path.

"I have a passion to encourage development in that region of the world and to help individuals succeed," says Jamil. "My knowledge, experience and heritage are very helpful in this pursuit."

Helpful is an understatement. By day, Jamil is a manager for Daimler Financial Services, where she evaluates global business units and operations, and makes recommendations about consolidation, standardization and outsourcing opportunities. This work takes her abroad nearly every other week, yet she still finds time for humanitarian efforts.

In 2006, Jamil taught a seminar in Yemen to more than 100 entrepreneurs. Upon completion of the session, the students participated in a two-week internship in the United States. The program was a success, thanks to the efforts of the American-Arab Chamber of Commerce, where Jamil served as a board member.

"It was the proudest moment of my professional and personal accomplishments," says Jamil. "I loved every minute of it ... every aspect of it."

She also lent a hand to the American Middle East Economic Affairs Committee, which supports and encourages Arab women to succeed in business. As part of the leadership team in 2006, she introduced its Women's Business Council at the U.S.-Arab Economic Forum in Houston.

It's a full schedule with professional pursuits, international travel and volunteer efforts. But that doesn't stop Jamil from faithfully teaching First Communion classes at her Chaldean Catholic Church. For 13 years she's held the responsibility close to her heart.

Jamil's interest in humanitarian efforts first surfaced while attending OU. "The professors cared about each student," Jamil says. "That philosophy has stayed with me. I think of everyone as a person, and I try to help them in any way that I can."

Jamil chose OU for her undergraduate studies because it was a convenient commute from her home in Oak Park, Mich. Before long, she realized that OU wasn't just close to home, it felt like home. That's quite a compliment, considering all the places Jamil has visited around the world.

Reflecting on her education at OU, Jamil is thankful for small classes with fewer than 30 students. "It allowed me to interact with professors and students, providing a great foundation for professional networking and lasting friendships."

A solid foundation and endless opportunities — for Jamil, it's not just the American dream. It's a reality. ■

By Kathy Pate, a freelance writer from Dryden, Mich.



Asmaa "Annette" Jamil moved to the United States from Iraq more than 30 years ago and today helps others follow the same path.

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John Lesser, SBA '92, has been named to *Crain's Detroit Business* 40 Under 40 list. He is partner at Plante Moran Financial Advisors in Auburn Hills, Mich.

David Lingholm, CAS '98, has been hired by Basso Design Group, a Troy, Mich., based interactive design marketing agency as an account executive. Lingholm has a diverse background in sales, non-profit fundraising and management. He says that his key to success is to never stop learning. In addition to working for Basso Design Group, Lingholm also serves as a director for BNI of Michigan. Prior to his association with Basso Design Group, Lingholm was a residential and commercial security specialist for ADT, where he was a Centurion Club award winner and was sales representative of the month several times. Lingholm also serves on the Board of Trustees for the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit and on the Board of Directors for the Maple Valley Memorial Scholarship Foundation.

Berthold Martin, SBA '91, of Chrysler LLC won the SAE/Timken-Howard Simpson Automotive Transmission and Driveline Innovation Award. Martin was honored during the SAE 2008 World Congress in

Detroit, Mich. The award, established in 2007, recognizes engineers for significantly contributing to the advancement of transmission and driveline technology. Martin is a senior manager/specialist in advanced engineering at Chrysler Powertrain Product Engineering. He has been the architect and principal engineer for the major internal automatic transmission programs at Chrysler for the past 20 years.

Charlotte Mather, MBA '05, SON '92, was selected as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellow.

Richard Newton, CAS '96, met and married the love of his life, Felicia Cross, while attending Oakland University. The couple has two sons. The oldest, Donte, is a freshman in high school and is learning to fly airplanes.

Patricia Siegel, SON '94, has been named manager of the anesthesia department at Botsford Hospital where she will oversee the daily staffing of 10 operating rooms and four endoscopy suites, obstetrics and the cardiac catheterization lab.

Melissa (Winter) Means, CAS '95, has recently relocated to Manhattan, Kan. She works at Kansas State University

where she is serving as the coordinator for leadership development. She joined her husband, who teaches as a member of the art faculty at Kansas State.

Patricia Zimnie, SEHS '97, is assistant principal for the Oak Park School District.

2000s

Traci Belt, SBA '06, was recently promoted from senior accountant to manager at Andrews, Hooper & Pavlik PLC., in Auburn Hills, Mich.

Scott Brills, BGS '04, will be participating in a 10,000 mile journey from London, England to Ulan Bator, Mongolia this summer representing Detroit and the State of Michigan in the annual Mongol Rally. Based in London, the rally was formed as a novel way to gain media attention and monetary donations for charities around the world. Brills will be raising money for Mercy Corps International, an organization that assists underprivileged families in over 100 nations in becoming self-sufficient by providing fresh water, efficient farming techniques, proper nutrition, medical care and education.

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*"Your Big Payday," by AJ Fanter, published Yahoo! Education 2008, based on a 1998 study by the Institute of Higher Education Policy.



Michelle Serafino
Oakland University Alumna
Master of Training and Development

► **Distinguish yourself.**

Ashli Bobo, CAS '03, has been promoted from promotions account executive to manager, B-Experiential, at The Berline Group in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Michael Govan, MA '05, has secured a school counseling job at the Arts and Technology Academy in Pontiac, Mich. He will continue to own and operate Reflections Counseling Center in Troy, Mich., but will expand his interests into this pre-K through 8th grade school.

Eric Hohauser, CAS '05, has been appointed director, client services at Troy-based Harvey Hohauser & Associates.

Latoria Macon, BGS '06, moved to Florida in June 2007 and was recently promoted to the position of learning systems assistant with The Walt Disney Company. She has been with the company since 2002.

Army Spec. James Martin, SECS '07, has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

Sandy (Muskovitz) Danto, MA '06, was re-elected president of Jewish Family Service at its 80th annual meeting in June.

James Pettinato, CAS '01, is currently a Web content manager for www.organizeit.com in Rochester Hills, Mich. He is a proud husband to Mary T. Pettinato, a costume designer and costume shop manager at Meadow Brook Theatre, and father of Theodore L. Pettinato, who turned 2 on Dec. 13, 2008.

Jesse Thompson, BIS '06, was promoted to chief of training, training officer for the St. Clair Shores Fire Department in September 2008.

Matthew Zalewski, CAS '04, graduated in May 2008 from Wayne State University Law School and has been admitted to the Michigan Bar Association.

ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS

Leah Grubb, CAS '02, married Michael Grubb in a small private garden in the middle of Center City Philadelphia, Pa.

Jaime Ann Leafdale, SEHS '01, married Sergio Lucente in August 2008.

Karen (Stahl) Danoff, CAS '99, married David Danoff in March 2008. The couple met in 2001 while pursuing master of library science degrees at the University of Maryland, College Park. She is a reference librarian at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Rockville, Md.

Vanessa Williams, MPA '07, CAS '03, married Kenneth Kulisz in January 2009 at the Lafayette Grande in Pontiac, Mich. The couple resides in Oregon.

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Brian Graves, CAS '97, announces the birth of his second daughter, Samantha, June 1, 2008.

Joan Kiser, CAS '05, and her husband, Jordan, are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Logan Garnet Kiser on July 5, 2008.



Travis Machan, SEHS '98, and Rhonda (Wolfe) Machan, SEHS '99, announce the birth of Etta Rana Machan on Oct. 13, 2008. She joins her two big sisters: Elka, age 7, and Ezma, age 4.



Tracy (Wade) Utech, MPA '01, CAS '91, and her husband, Greg, are proud to announce the birth of their son Noah Gregory on Nov. 30, 2008.



Amy (Wylín) Butkovich, CAS '00, and her husband, Marty, announce the birth of their daughter, Presleigh Ellen, on Dec. 13, 2008. This is the couple's first child.

DEATHS

Elizabeth Fox, SEHS '72, died Jan. 4, 2009.

Sharron Granlund, MAT '88, died Jan. 17, 2009.

Charles Herring, Jr., SEHS '91, died Jan. 22, 2009.

Robert Jocis, SBA '81, died Aug. 2, 2008.

The Reverend Daniel Kivel, CAS '77, died Jan. 21, 2009.

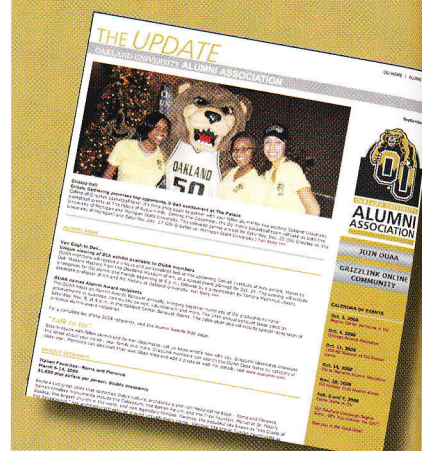
Marilyn Lorence, SBA '91, died Nov. 27, 2008.

Frances L. Margerum, SEHS '73, died Jan. 9, 2009.

Dr. E. Alan Sadurski, CAS '72, died Aug. 22, 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



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. Please include a print or high resolution photo.

Just don't call him 'batman'

Dave Kugler, CAS '95, is counting on the wisdom of youth to help adults get over their hang-ups about bats. As owner and president of Critter Catchers, a wildlife control company, the Oxford, Mich., native recently set up a grant administered by the Organization for Bat Conservation (OBC) to bring its live bat program (based at the Cranbrook Institute of Science) to metro Detroit schools.

"The OBC does a lot of work in the local schools of southeastern Michigan. We find that the program teaches kids to respect bats and has removed some of the fear that afflicts many adults," says Kugler, who married his high school sweetheart, Patty, MA '02, SEHS '96, a middle school literature teacher in the Goodrich area. Their toddler, Oliver, can already locate bats in a book.

Kugler explains that the OBC is also helping a generation concerned about pesticide run-off to appreciate the versatility of these bug-eating machines. "There are nine species of bats in Michigan, and they all consume night-flying insects," says Kugler, 36, who credits his OU biology degree with giving him the technical background to operate his company, which specializes in humane bat removal.

"A single bat can consume more than 1,000 insects each night," says Kugler, who also has a master's in hazardous waste management from Wayne State University. He knows more than wildlife; he audited and advised auto manufacturing and research sites for a dozen years before starting his business. But he knows bats like an engine designer knows pistons: "A three-chamber bat house can hold 300 bats who will seek out mosquitoes, moths and beetles with radar precision."

Is there any downside to using this winged natural predator to control insects? If so, Kugler, an outdoor buff who enjoys fly-fishing and hiking has yet to hear it. Even so, many people still believe the silly myths that bats are rabid creatures who want to do nothing more than get tangled in our hair should they mistakenly get trapped in the house.

The fact is, Kugler says, nothing could be further from the truth. Bats want no part of being indoors. Yes, a rare few have rabies (less than one percent in nature) but he relies on scientific research rather than media hype when he needs to know about the incidence of rabies in bats.

Critter Catchers specializes in bat removal when colonies have taken up residence in attics or between walls. "In the animal control business, it seems that the misconceptions change with the seasons," says Kugler, whose company also is often called upon to remove raccoons, skunks, squirrels, rats, mice and moles.

Kugler plans to continue his grant to OBC and hopes other Michigan businesses will pitch in as well. "Investing in education is a great way to maintain one of Michigan's strengths: Its talented work force."

Not realizing the importance of that, he knows, would be really batty. ■

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



Dave Kugler owns a wildlife conservation company that specializes in safely removing bats from residential areas.

Rob McCabe turned a job loss several years ago into an opportunity to forge a new career that allows him to use his talents and education weaving magical yarns for youngsters.



What a magical web he weaves

There's magic in Rob McCabe, CAS '81. As a professional storyteller, he drifts easily between the characters of his yarns. He slips into different ages, foreign accents and emotions to bring the written word alive and fulfill his mission of promoting literacy.

Like the roles he assumes, McCabe has reinvented himself since receiving his bachelor's degree in theatre arts from Oakland University. He's been an actor, a writer, an archival preservationist, a children's librarian, a consultant and a teacher. Most recently, he's added magic and puppetry to his theatrical stories to further his creativity.

"I've had some bad luck with my jobs being cut, but I realize that everything I've done has led me to where I am now," says McCabe, an avid reader and devotee of classical literature.

Where he once honed his skills in Agatha Christie's *Black Coffee* in Varner Hall at OU, he now commands the stage at schools, libraries, storytelling festivals, museums and workshops across the country. He deftly brings to life Greek and Roman myths, folk and fairy tales, horror stories and personal essays.

"Some of my best training came from my theatre instructor, Adeline Hirschfeld-Medalia (OU professor emerita)," he says. "Not only was she a gifted teacher, but she was a giving teacher."

And her style fostered individual creativity. "I encouraged creativity by teaching many non-traditional theatre forms, so that really got the students' creative juices flowing, and clearly Rob benefited from this," says Hirschfeld-Medalia, who recalls his enthusiasm.

His parents were also major influencers in his love of language — and languages. "My mother was from Colombia," says McCabe. "She spoke Spanish and she taught me. Later, I decided it would be nice to use Spanish, French and Japanese in my multi-cultural yarns."

That bi-lingual approach not only captures the audience's attention, but they walk away with an appetite for a different language and a longing to learn more.

He attributes his love of the spoken word to his father, Robert McCabe, who read Greek myths to him nightly. He also helped his son get his first storytelling gig by telling him of an opening at an after-school program in Detroit, Mich. It's been magic ever since.

"The arts are wonderfully enriching. It's so good for my soul," McCabe says.

For more information, contact McCabe through his Web site at www.robmcabec.com. ■

By Rene Wisely, a freelance writer from West Bloomfield, Mich.

2008
Donor Honor Roll



INNOVATION AND
OPPORTUNITY



Dear Friends,

"Innovation and Opportunity - The Campaign for OU" has reached its goal of \$110 million and continues to impact countless lives. I extend to you my deepest thanks for your faith in our institution and your concern and caring for the lives we touch.

As you peruse these pages you'll find numerous examples of gifts made to Oakland University in 2008. Many of your gifts have come in the form of student scholarships, a source of support so badly needed by many students and parents facing financial hardship.

Even during this tough economic period Oakland is focused on the future. We are expanding our presence in health care education by bringing a new medical school to Oakland University, a move, which with our partner, William Beaumont Hospitals, will have an everlasting impact on our regional economy and on the physician shortage nationwide.

And, in Macomb County we are building on our intent to develop a 21st century satellite campus to bring quality, convenience and access to Macomb residents. The recently opened Macomb-OU Incubator in Sterling Heights, and the OU Incubator on our campus provide critical business development services and job growth while providing hands-on learning experiences for our students and faculty entrepreneurs.

As we look to the future, we are strengthened by your inspiring gifts and caring involvement in our university and all that lies ahead for our Oakland family.

With gratitude,

Gary D. Russi

Gary D. Russi
President

Lifetime Gift SOCIETIES

Matilda Wilson Founders Society

The Matilda Wilson Founders Society recognizes donors who contribute cumulative gifts of \$10 million or more or a planned gift of \$20 million. This society honors Oakland University benefactor Matilda R. Wilson and pays homage to her commitment as a university founder.

Siemens PLM Software
Matilda R. Wilson Fund

Varner Society

The Varner Society recognizes donors who contribute cumulative gifts of \$5 million or more or a planned gift of \$10 million. The Varner Society recognizes Oakland's founding chancellor Woody Varner and his leadership and vision for Oakland University.

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Golden Oaks Society

The Golden Oaks Society recognizes donors who give cumulative gifts of \$1 million or more or a planned gift of \$2 million. This society is named in honor of Oakland's charter faculty members, who often referred to themselves as "The Old Oaks."

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Meadow Brook Society

The Meadow Brook Society recognizes donors who contribute \$500,000 or more in cumulative gifts or a planned gift of \$1 million.

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Preserving Meadow Brook Hall

A \$3.3-million matching grant from the Matilda R. Wilson Fund will ensure that Meadow Brook Hall will remain an architectural, cultural and historic landmark for Oakland University and the community.

The grant will fully fund critical preservation and restoration needs at Meadow Brook Hall through 2016. The fund will match contributions to the hall, dollar for dollar, up to a maximum of \$3.3 million. This grant brings the Wilson Fund's historical support of the hall to an impressive \$15 million, which includes a \$7-million gift in 2004.

"In the great tradition of philanthropy of the university's founder, Matilda Wilson, the trustees of the foundation she created in the 1940s have once again acknowledged the importance of Meadow Brook Hall with their generous and creative matching grant," says Geoff Upward, the hall's executive director.

Pioneer Society

The Pioneer Society recognizes donors who contribute \$250,000 or more in cumulative gifts or a \$500,000 planned gift.

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	>> Donna and Walt Young

"Meadow Brook's place in the historic fabric of our region and the automobile's early development is well established, but there is much more about the building and its occupants to be shared with current and future generations," he adds. "This grant will both directly address critical preservation needs of the building over the next nine years and challenge the hall's staff and friends to raise funds for additional preservation projects and to develop interpretive and conservation programming. We could not be more appreciative of the Wilson Fund's support and interest in sharing this shining example of the values and contributions of Detroit's heritage with the greater community for years to come."

The grant will fund projects including exterior repairs, code improvements, interior restoration, and mechanical systems, kitchen and electrical upgrades. In addition, it will fund conservation projects and curatorial support as well as preventive maintenance. ➤

President's Council Society

The President's Council Society recognizes donors who contribute cumulative gifts of \$100,000 or more or a planned gift of \$250,000.

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* deceased > first-time society donation >> increased society level

Former GM CEO designates MBH for \$500,000 gift

Former General Motors CEO Roger Smith made philanthropy a priority during his life. Now Meadow Brook Hall is benefiting from his generosity. The hall is receiving a \$500,000 gift from the International Paper Company Foundation in honor of Smith, a former company board member.

Smith, who died in 2007 at age 82, designated the hall as a beneficiary through International Paper Company's Charitable Award Program for Education in Honor of its Directors. Smith was a chairman of the board of General Motors Corp. and served as CEO from 1981-1990.

Smith's wife, Barbara, says she couldn't be happier about the gift. "That's exactly what Roger and I wanted," she says. "We've been very involved in Meadow Brook Hall since the '80s. The hall is a treasure. Every time I enter this wonderfully preserved historic building my skin prickles, it's so beautiful.

"We, as a community, don't do enough to preserve historical jewels as these," she adds. "Meadow Brook Hall is a shining example of how a community can come together to keep history and beauty alive."



Former GM CEO Roger Smith was well known for his community involvement and philanthropy.

During his life, Smith also served on the boards of Citicorp/Citibank and PepsiCo and was active in numerous charitable activities. As a director at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, he founded the General Motors Cancer Research Awards in 1978 with a \$2-million grant from General Motors. Since its inception, 41 scientists have been honored with the program's prestigious awards: The Kettering Prize, The Mott Prize and The Sloan Prize.

"We're honored by this generous donation," says Kim Zelinski, associate director, Meadow Brook Hall. "Roger Smith and his wife, Barbara, have been such great supporters of the hall over the years. They not only offered financial support, but served as wonderful personal advocates for the hall."

The International Paper Company Foundation will award the \$500,000 gift to Meadow Brook Hall & Gardens in \$50,000 increments over a 10-year period. The first installment was paid shortly after Smith's death. >

Matilda R. Wilson Society

The Matilda R. Wilson Society recognizes donors who contribute \$50,000 or more in cumulative gifts or a planned gift of \$100,000.

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Hugh and Nancy Elliott

Craig and Ann Stinson

Couples issue inspiring challenge

Two couples have joined forces to inspire others to consider philanthropic gifts for Oakland University's School of Business Administration (SBA).

Hugh and Nancy Elliott, honorary SBA alumni, and Craig, SBA '84, and Ann, SBA '83, Stinson have been challenging alumni and friends of the SBA to come forward to support the school and its many initiatives and programs.

Collectively, the couples have committed to matching gifts and pledges - up to \$500,000 - made to the SBA as part of the Campaign for OU. Their challenge began last November and will continue through Oct. 31, 2009.

"I believe in SBA Dean (Mohan) Tanniru's vision for OU's School of Business Administration and want others to step forward to join in helping us create a new understanding of business student education," Hugh says. "Integrating sound business fundamentals along with a global perspective is critical."

Craig Stinson says the SBA is on the cusp of becoming a business school that is recognized across the nation. Supporting the school is a key component of making that goal a reality. "The SBA at OU is already a great school delivering an outstanding education," he says.

Both the Elliotts and the Stinsons are longtime Oakland supporters. It was the Elliotts' generosity to the SBA that inspired the college to name the R. Hugh and Nancy Elliott Hall of Business and Information Technology in the couple's honor in 2002.

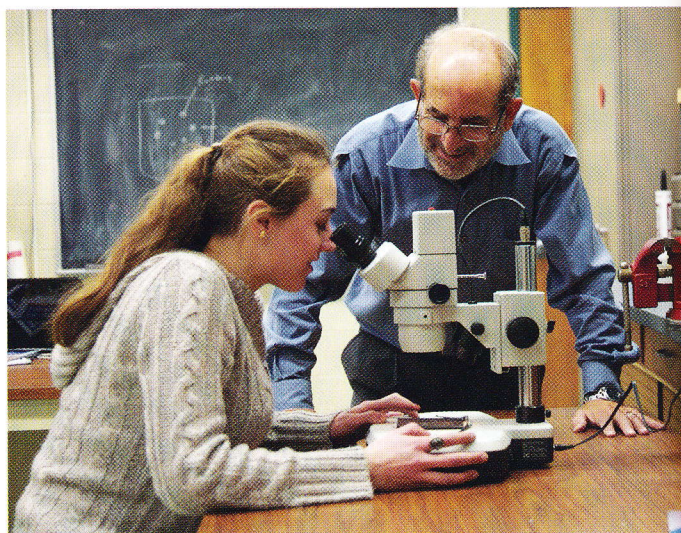
Craig Stinson has been a strong supporter of the Applied Technology in Business (ATIB) program, and has served as a member and is the current chairman of the SBA Board of Visitors. ➤

Alfred G. Wilson Society

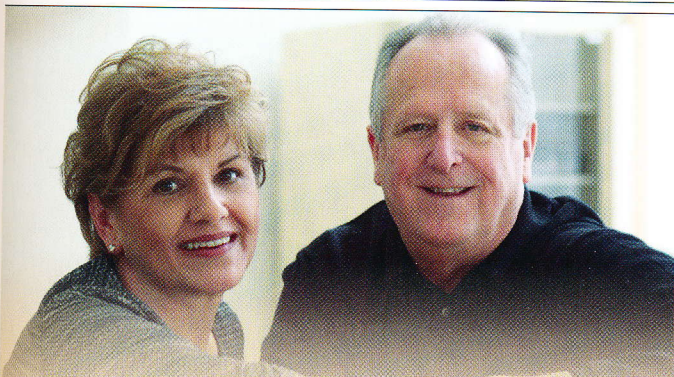
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Terrence J. O'Connor
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Janet and Donald O'Dowd
David F. and Susan Ogden
>> **Dale R. O'Hara**
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Chakrapani Ranganathan and Asima Hussain
Richard C. and Carolyn B. Ress
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William Charles and Christine Stuart
Alvin T. Swope*
Amitendranath Tagore
Charles W. and Shirley Thompson
Charles H. and Maryanne Torner
Sue and John Tower
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Durward Belmont* and Paula* Varner
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H. Wayne and Shirley Ann Wells
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Keith L. and Nancy L.* Winquist
Dr. Betty J. Youngblood



* deceased > first-time society donation >> increased society level



Dennis and Carlotta Pawley's generosity has inspired others to support OU.

Donors step up to meet Pawley Alumni Challenge

Giving back to the organizations and institutions that help your success – it's a mission that has inspired Dennis, SEHS '82, and Carlotta Pawley for many years. With the Pawley Alumni Leadership Challenge, announced in May 2008, they've called on fellow alumni to step up to the plate as well. Since the announcement, alumni and friends have supported OU programs through more than \$1.2 million in donations.

"As a leader, it's important to set an example. We have an obligation – and that's a strong word but I believe it – to support the organizations and programs that helped make us successful," says Pawley. "We need to give back so that others can experience success as well."

A former Chrysler executive, Dennis Pawley is serving his second term on the Oakland University Board of Trustees, including two years as chair, and was co-chair of "Innovation and Opportunity – The Campaign for OU." The Pawley Alumni Leadership Challenge encourages OU alumni, who have the financial ability, to follow the example of Dennis and Carlotta by pledging to donate to a program, initiative or scholarship opportunity that they feel especially passionate about. The Pawleys led the way with new collective gift commitments of \$600,000 to fund three new endowments: one for undergraduates, one for graduate students and one targeted at faculty with the common goal of supporting those pursuing, promoting and facilitating learning in lean studies – a philosophy close to Dennis Pawley's heart.

For alumni who are ready to meet Pawley's challenge, he says the key is to identify an area that is important to them. Pawley says he has chosen to support SEHS in his long history of giving because it is the school he attended, and also because "SEHS is all about people. I think we can reach the most people and make the greatest impact this way."

Pawley is confident his fellow alumni will continue to meet the leadership challenge: "Being an alumnus myself, I know that I probably wouldn't be as successful as I am if I hadn't gotten this great education from Oakland University. I know many people who feel the same way... and who will agree it's essential to give back to the institution that drove their success." 🌟

President's Club Society

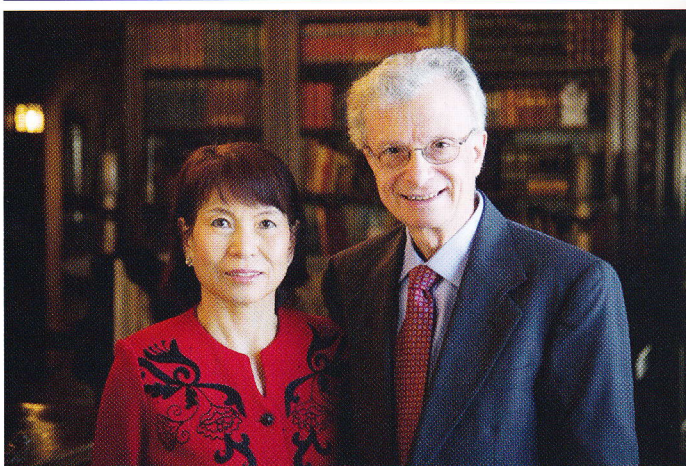
The President's Club Society recognizes individuals who have made cumulative cash gifts of \$10,000 or a planned gift of \$20,000.

- | | |
|--|---|
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| Herbert A. Abrash | Kyoungsoo and Duksoon Bae |
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| Felix T. and Bernice G. Adams | Angelo L. Baiardi* |
| Frederick M. and Cheryl Adams | Chris A. and Cindy Baiardi |
| Norma L. and Robert L.* Adams | John J. and Janet Lee Bailey |
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| Ann M. Arner | Patricia A. and Drew Becker |
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Suzanne Blum and Robert J.W.
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Blumenthal
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Pasquale and Elvira Borraccio
Spero and Kimberly Ann
Boutsikaris
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William L. Bowers
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Russell C. and Joan Bowman
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David R. and Fredrika Dodge
Caldwell
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Denis M. and Karen Callewaert
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Ray C. and Carolyn S. Campbell
James B. and Susan C. Canner
William R. and Suzanne Cantwell
Lawrence Paul Canyock
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Ralph A. and Barbara J. Caponigro
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Dale F. Carney
David H. and Margery Carney
Paul Carollo
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George P. Caronis
Peter M. and Deborah Carozza
C. Robert and Frances Carson
> Annette and John Carter
Stuart and Elizabeth Carter
John S. and Claudette Carterson
Linda E. and Sam Caruso
Neil W. Casaceli



Haija and Miron Stano's generous donation to the SON and The Honors College will support students who demonstrate leadership and community involvement.

Stanos create endowed scholarship fund

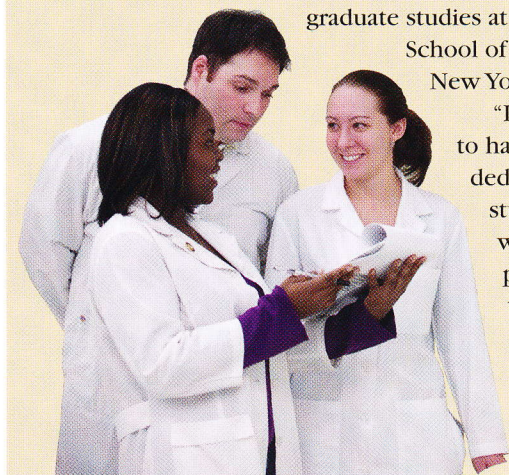
Student leaders and volunteers from Oakland's School of Nursing (SON) and The Honors College now have a new scholarship opportunity, thanks to a \$100,000 donation from Miron and Haija Stano.

The Miron and Haija Stano Endowed Scholarship Fund provides renewable awards to full-time undergraduates in the SON and The Honors College, who have demonstrated leadership or community involvement and have a record of outstanding academic achievement.

"With so much at stake in the current restructuring of our economy, it will be increasingly important for OU to attract and financially support students who will contribute to Michigan's future," says Miron Stano, who has been an OU professor of economics and management for more than 31 years specializing in health economics.

Haija Stano, CAS '88, is a recently retired Crittenton Hospital Medical Center RN. She says she appreciates the opportunity to provide the kind of scholarship opportunities that helped her as a student. In addition to her OU degree, she is a graduate of the National Medical Center School of Nursing (now the Sung-Shin University, College of Nursing) in Seoul, Korea, and completed post-graduate studies at Mount Sinai School of Nursing in New York City.

"It's important to have good, dedicated students who see this profession as worthwhile," she says. ➤



* deceased > first-time society donation >> increased society level

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 Jimmie Sue and David W. Daniels
 John and Margaret* Dankovich
 John and Joan C. Darish
 Fred and Janet Darter
 Michael T. and Marilyn C. Davidson
 Stuart and Joan Davidson

Friendship inspires athletic scholarship

Hugh Elliott, longtime Oakland University benefactor, has established the R. Michael O'Brien Athletic Scholarship in honor of his 30-year friendship with Michael O'Brien. When O'Brien lost a battle with cancer in January 2008, Elliott knew he needed to do something to honor his friend.

Elliott and his wife, Nancy, have established the award with a \$50,000 initial donation. The scholarship endowment was augmented by a gift of \$25,000 from Leslie O'Brien, Michael's wife. Elliott's plan is to be the catalyst for a fully endowed scholarship.

"Mike was a big part of OU and so many people knew him and cared about him. What better way to leave a legacy?" Elliott says, adding that he chose an athletic scholarship because sports were a common interest of his and O'Brien's.

The Elliotts have a long history of supporting Oakland University. They are the namesakes of the Hugh and Nancy Elliott Room in the Athletics Center O'Rena and of the Elliott Hall of Business and Information Technology.

The first Michael O'Brien endowed scholarship recipient will be announced during the 2009-10 academic year. In the meantime, Elliott said he's glad he can honor the memory of his friend.

"He was a great man," Elliott says. "He could look right at you and see what was in your heart. He really cared about people, and I'm glad that we can be the catalyst for his enduring legacy." 🐾



Hugh and Nancy Elliott (middle and right) established an athletic scholarship in honor of their dear friend Michael O'Brien. His widow Leslie (left) augmented the gift.

President's Club Society *continues*

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Donald and Patricia Dawson	Robert M. and Barbara Durling
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Joseph C. and Diana Gornick Day	> Robert J. and C. Angela Dutkiewicz
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Gerald and Rennlyn DeClaire	Timothy P. and Colleen E. Dykstra
Greg and Pam Deel	Robert J. and Diane Dzenko
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Stephen DeLong	Robert J. and Cornelia Eaton
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Patricia L. and Kim C. Dobson	Christopher and Kathleen Fejes
> R. T. and Susan P. Dobson	George J. Fekaris
Thomas J. and Margaret A. Doherty	Michael J. and Susan M. Feldman
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Bradley P. and Connie Driscoll	Dean S. and Suzanne Fields
John L. and Darlene Drudi	George L. and Romana Figacz



Jim Mallak's SBA donation will help start new initiatives in research and curriculum development that focus on solutions to Michigan's ailing economy.

SBA initiatives tackle ailing economy

These are tough times. But when times get tough, the tough come up with solutions. A \$25,000-five-year financial commitment from Jim Mallak, a member of the advisory board of the Accounting and Finance department, will assist the School of Business Administration in starting new initiatives in research and curriculum development – including a new course that may look at causes of financial distress and its solutions.

Mallak, who is managing director of the professional services firm Alvarez & Marsal in Detroit, Mich., has more than 30 years of business experience in the automotive industry. One of the most important areas for research right now, he notes, is in the area of business transformation. Mallak says underperforming and distressed companies, hit hard by the economic downturn, can work through challenging circumstances.

"Because of the way the economy is shaping up, one of the most important areas to look at is working with distressed companies and assisting them in reevaluating practices to rebuild and begin growing again," he says. "Companies need to look at and address the critical issues affecting their short-term survival while also looking at ways to achieve long-term success again.

"This is going to be a very important area for the young people who are in business school today," he says, adding that his commitment will provide the finances to support such research and attract faculty interested in these areas.

Mallak says the key to an economic turnaround will be graduating expert professionals able to adjust to the changing business structure. "It's never been more crucial to have informed instructors who can share knowledge that is significant to today's business world," he stresses. ➤

* deceased > first-time society donation >> increased society level

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 Jack Ginsburg
 Thomas J. and Anne M. Giroux
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 William M. Goba and Mary K. Raphael
 Gary L. and Jennifer E. Goedtel
 Susan Davies Goepf
 Darryl T. and Marilyn Goldberg
 Randal E. Golden
 Edward A. and Nancy K. Golick
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 Richard and Michelle Gordon
 Robert H. Gorlin
 Patricia Gormely Prince & Thomas C. Gormely

SON collaboration with Henry Ford Health System is win-win

Nursing was Rebecca Howard's first career goal. Now, after working for more than eight years as a Ford Motor Co. line worker, the Augusta Township resident is realizing her dream with help from Oakland University's Displaced Auto Workers for Nursing (DAWN) Program.

"It's a great opportunity," Howard says. "And it's not as much of a change as I thought it would be. I love learning, and I love helping people."

DAWN is a collaboration between Oakland's School of Nursing (SON) and the Henry Ford Health System, which has given the SON \$65,000 to help get the program under way.

The planning process began about two years ago, after the health system approached the nursing school for assistance. "We were all looking for ways to help auto workers get the skills they needed to build new careers," says Colette O'Connor, SON's director of development. "We need more nurses, and these people needed new jobs, so it was a natural fit."

DAWN requires students to meet the same educational requirements as other nursing students do, primarily, prerequisite math and science courses. Most of the DAWN participants fund their tuition with buy-out money from the auto companies. DAWN participants attend classes for two years, including summer semesters, working with SON faculty at Henry Ford Hospital. The program will accommodate approximately 40 students.



Oakland University's DAWN program is helping student Rebecca Howard realize her dream.

Howard, who's considering emergency room or intensive care nursing, started the college nursing prerequisites after high school, but changed her mind after learning the nursing major had a three-year wait for entry. Later, after marrying and having children, she left college and took a job with Ford. Now, she says, the DAWN program is a perfect fit.

"It's intimidating - we're used to working with inanimate objects - but I absolutely love it," Howard says. "The instructors have been very helpful. They tell you what's expected of you." ➤

President's Club Society *continues*

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Endowments create a strong foundation

Through endowments, donors can create a lasting legacy while supporting the objectives of Oakland University and its students. Endowments are vital to the university's financial strength and long-term growth. Equally important, they can transform the lives of students.

Consider the Donald C. Hildum Endowed Scholarship in Communication. Established in 1996 in honor of Hildum, a professor emeritus of communications and linguistics at OU, the scholarship provides promising communication majors with the financial assistance they need to complete their degree.

"It's amazing how much students are fitting into their lives - family obligations, volunteering, working to pay for school," says Priscilla Hildum, Donald's widow. "Don and I always appreciated OU's dedicated and accomplished faculty and their attention to students."

In addition to the funds donated to create the endowment, members of the Hildum family regularly make contributions to commemorate holidays and other special occasions, fostering additional growth to support more students' aspirations.

Students in an entirely different curriculum are aided by the Safety Engineering Laboratories Endowed Fund for Safety Scholarships, which was established by John and Rachael Hoffmann in 1991. John Hoffmann, who founded the company Safety Engineering Laboratories, was impressed with Oakland's active Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) program and wanted to help promote its future growth.



Endowments are vital to OU's financial strength and long-term growth.

Until the fund was created - with donations from the Hoffmanns and corporate matching funds - there were no OSH scholarships available. Now, qualifying students in the program can receive assistance to pursue their ambitions.

"When we established the fund, Oakland was a young university with very few endowments," says John Hoffmann. "We've contributed regularly to the fund over the years and are pleased to support the OSH curriculum."

Among the university's most enduring endowments is the David and Marion Handleman Scholarship, which was established in the late 1970s. In its first year, the endowed scholarship provided tuition assistance to 16 students - and has helped scores of students in The Honors College and the College of Arts and Sciences over the past three decades.

"Endowed funds make a lasting impact," says Susan Davies Goepp, vice president for University Relations and executive director of the OU Foundation. "It is important to many of our donors that they make a difference to OU and our students in perpetuity." 🐾



Thanks to a Providence Hospitals scholarship, OU nursing student Carolyn Ireland is returning to her dream career choice after a two-decade absence.

Providence Hospitals scholarship supports second chance

Carolyn Ireland is becoming a nurse – again. Enrolled in OU's one-year Accelerated Bachelor of Nursing program, Ireland completes her degree in May 2009, a degree she first pursued in the early 1980s.

"I started nursing school, but I realized that I needed more life experience in order to really care for patients in the best way possible," she explains. After a career in marketing and physical therapy, marriage and two children, and a battle with breast cancer, she now feels ready. "It is not enough to be good at nursing skills ... but to be one who feels and has empathy for the sick; that can be the real healing power. I believe I am now that nurse."

Thanks to a \$5,000 scholarship from St. John Providence Hospitals, Ireland can return to "her true calling." She is one of six nursing students this year to receive scholarships from Providence, which has provided more than \$180,000 in financial assistance to School of Nursing (SON) students over the past six years. Ireland says the scholarship will allow her to focus on her education so she can become the nurse she was meant to be.

"My husband works at GM, and I have one child starting college in the fall so it always feels a little shaky financially," she says. "This will help us get through."

Kathy Ryan, vice president of Operations-Acute Services at Providence Hospitals and a SON Board of Visitors member, said the scholarships are designed to help nursing candidates like Ireland and to address the current nursing shortage in Michigan.

"At Providence we knew we needed to do something concerning the nursing shortage," she says. "As a Board of Visitors member I saw firsthand how proactively Oakland was working on this issue. Oakland has a leading program in nursing, and they are actively working to recruit and train more nurses. We are so pleased to be a partner with OU in working to bring great nurses to the community." 🐾

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OU supporters establish fourth endowed fund



James and Ruth Huebner have continued their support for the School of Nursing by establishing a fourth endowed fund.

Three years ago, Dr. James Huebner and his wife, Ruth, committed \$75,000 to create three endowed funds for nursing students. The first two endowments honor Dr. Huebner's mother, Anna Huebner, and Mrs. Huebner's parents, William and Matilda Dahlberg. The third fund is named after the donors, the Dr. James and Mrs. Ruth Huebner Award.

Now, most recently, the Huebners have provided an additional \$29,000 to enable the funds to continue making awards in an under-performing market. They have also established a fourth award for a nursing student, which will be renewable. This will allow four student awards to be given in 2009 and five to six awards beginning in 2010. Dr. Huebner describes nurses as "the glue that makes the

hospital run. If you don't have quality nurses, hospitals and patients suffer. They make all the difference."

The Huebners have been close friends to Oakland University for many years and describe their relationship as "very gratifying." Ruth served on the School of Nursing's Board of Visitors for nine years and helped launch the first Nightingale Awards for Nursing Excellence program, now in its 21st year. ➤



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Smith donation supports OU, Kampe



J.B. Smith believes in "giving back." His latest OU donation will support athletics.

According to J.B. Smith, success is what you do with your money – not how much you have. Smith believes true success is sharing resources and time with the community. His most recent gift to Oakland University was a \$35,000 donation to the Athletics department in honor of Head Basketball Coach Greg Kampe's 25 years of coaching at OU. The gift will support the Athletics Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Smith, chairman of iSEKURITY and a self-described venture capitalist, says his donation is also in honor of the positive effect Kampe has on the athletes.

"I have had the opportunity to witness what goes on behind the scenes and Kampe takes it far beyond athletics," Smith says. "He's 100 percent behind them, and he cares about those kids. He makes a difference in their lives."

Smith has worked at the executive level in venture capital for 10 years, playing a key role in the development of many companies. Smith was integral in the growth of Web Group, LLC, recognized in 2002 as one of *Inc. Magazine's* "Fastest Growing Private Companies in America."

"I feel blessed in my life," he says. "And I believe it's essential to give back. My largest goal in life now is to get others to see [philanthropy] as a necessity. It's not about getting your name in the paper – it's about making an impact on the causes that mean something you." 🍌

Head Basketball Coach
Greg Kampe



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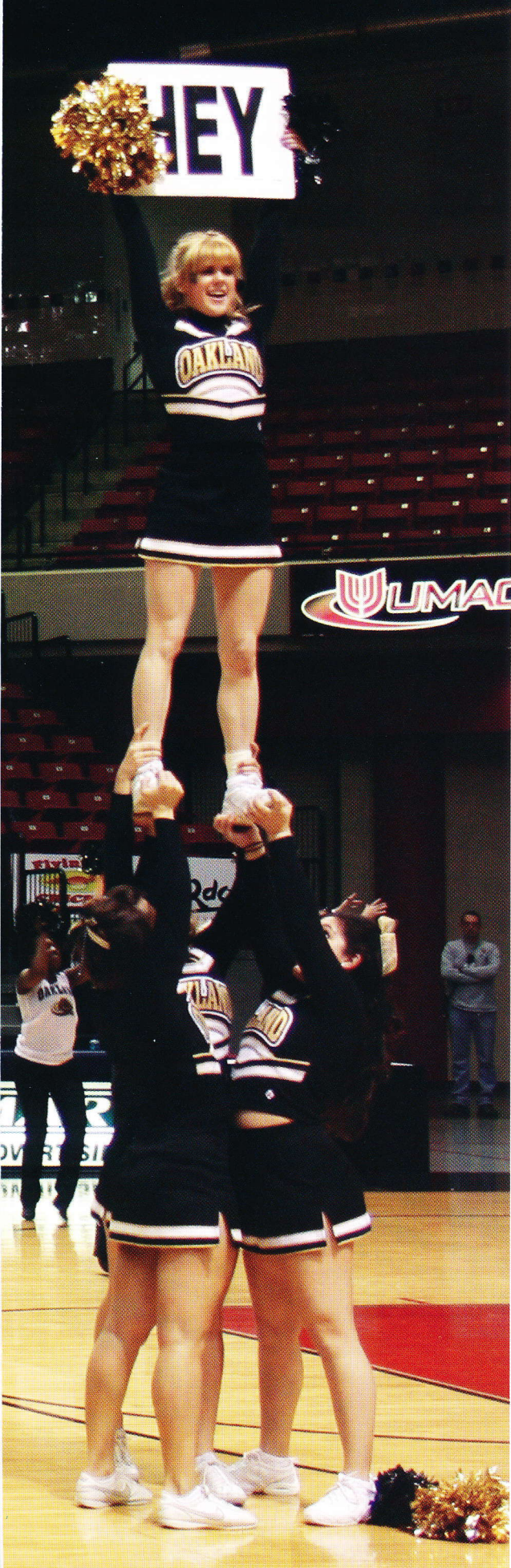


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Meadow Brook Hall's beauty inspires gift

Lucille Cross was a familiar face at Meadow Brook Hall. She made a point of visiting the grounds regularly to walk her dog and take in the beautiful scenery. She was so taken with the lovely facility and the kind staff she met there that she bequeathed \$25,000 to the hall.

A resident of the nearby Walton Woods senior development, Lucille passed away recently at age 98.

"My mother and I would walk the dog on the Meadow Brook Hall grounds all the time," says Lake Orion resident Nancy Cross, Lucille's daughter. "She felt it was very special to have such beautiful grounds across the street from her residence, and the staff was so kind to allow us to enjoy it. I was thrilled when she told me she wanted to leave an estate gift."

The gift will help support the Meadow Brook Hall preservation fund and allow the hall to host community events and tours, says Kim Zelinski, the hall's associate director.

"We're honored by Lucille's gift," Zelinski adds. "We enjoyed seeing them [Lucille and Nancy] day after day. Often they organized a whole group of dog walkers, and it was great to see a community of people enjoying the grounds together." 🐾



Lucille Hall's gift to OU was inspired by her love of Meadow Brook Hall.

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Service organization directs educator's gift to scholarship fund

Rosamond P. Haeberle devoted much of her life to teaching others, spending most of her career teaching music in Waterford and Pontiac, Mich., schools.

Haeberle left a bequest to the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Stoney Creek Chapter, and organization members have decided to build upon Haeberle's legacy as an educator by establishing an Oakland University scholarship fund.

Haeberle, who was a long-time member of NSDAR, didn't specify how her gift to the organization should be directed. Chapter members voted and selected Oakland to receive a \$50,000 portion of her bequest, plus \$2,000 so an award could be made this academic year.

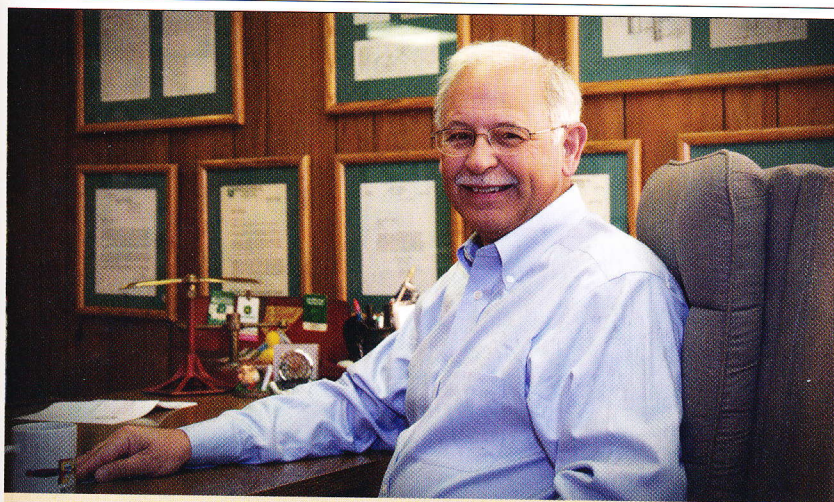
"Oakland University is local to Rochester, and we wanted to provide a scholarship that would serve the needs of the tri-county area where Rosamond taught and our chapter is located," says Twila Helferich, chapter regent.

Haeberle is listed in the 1999-2000 edition of *Who's Who of American Women* and the 2000 editions of *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in the World* for her work as president of more than 15 organizations.

NSDAR is a volunteer women's service organization that supports patriotism, the preservation of U.S. history and educational programs. ➤



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Marc Dutton says his donations to OU stem from a desire to help keep his alma mater "strong and healthy."

Keeping OU 'green' and healthy

Since his graduation from Oakland University, alumnus Marc Dutton, SBA '71, has actively supported OU, including the Athletics department and as a business partner in the Applied Technology in Business (ATiB) internship/scholarship program. A former OU cross-country and track team member, Dutton says his motivation is simple.

"My support of OU stems from a desire to stay connected and be a part of Oakland University," Dutton explains. "I want to help keep OU strong and healthy."

Dutton owns Marc Dutton Irrigation, a full-service lawn sprinkler system company based in Waterford, Mich., which made his latest donation - supporting a waterfall project as part of the redesign and renovation of the 2nd hole on the Katke-Cousins Golf Course - a "perfect fit."

"As a member of the 'green' industry it seems very appropriate for me to be associated with this project," Dutton adds.

Oakland University's Golf and Learning Center Director Bill Rogers adds, "His thoughtful gift will add to the beauty of the course, and improve the overall playability of the golf hole. This is not only a visual enhancement, but the waterfall flow will also assist in maintaining a high water quality within the pond." 🌿

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Retired cardiologist gives generously once again

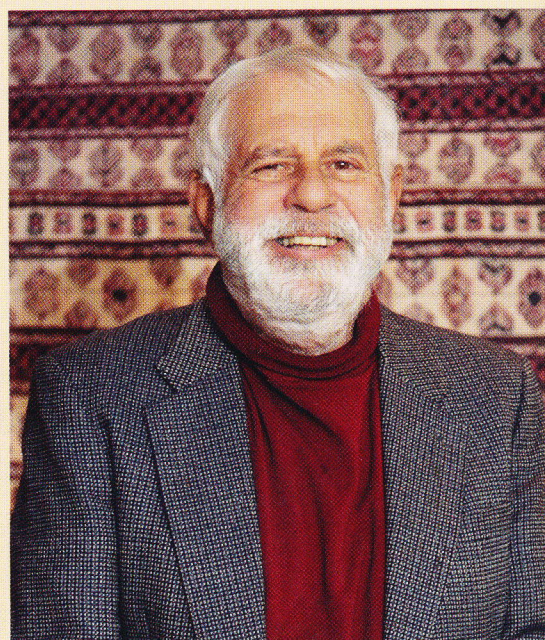
Dr. Bert London, already an avid supporter of Oakland University, has made two more significant donations to the university.

The first is an additional gift annuity to fund the Dr. Berton London Cardiology Research Endowed Fund, to support cardiology research at the OU William Beaumont School of Medicine opening in 2010.

"Oakland University and Beaumont Hospital have always been very active in medical research and I wanted to support that activity," London says. "When I created the fund, it was always my intention to make ongoing contributions."

His other recent donation is a gift of more ethnographic art to supplement the collection he previously donated. Since making his first donation - which is displayed in Wilson Hall - London has acquired new artifacts. While visiting destinations including Tibet, Yemen and Guatemala, London purchased items such as a curved dagger from Yemen, a Tibetan horse carved wood mask, and a Japanese shogun bronze sculpture in a ceremonial gown.

"I wanted all my artwork to remain in a single collection, so I wanted the new pieces I've acquired to join those I already donated," London adds. "I'm very pleased with the way my donation is being displayed, giving it wide exposure to many individuals on campus."



Bert London's latest gift to OU will support cardiac research.

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Words from donors

Howard Camden is a long-time university supporter. *"Oakland University fills an educational need for many people. I feel education is of the utmost importance. I'm the son of immigrant parents. They used to tell me, 'Get an education, work hard, use common sense, be charitable and you'll do well in America and in life.'"* ➤



Faculty member leaves behind a legacy in retirement

Jon and Gwyn Hartman don't want to be considered "philanthropists." They would much rather be thought of simply as people who believe in giving back.

Over the years, the Hartmans have supported a number of worthwhile causes. Jon has also given of his time, sharing his vast business experience as an adjunct faculty member in OU's School of Business Administration, where he was dedicated to being the kind of teacher who makes a difference in students' lives.

When Jon retired in December 2008, the Hartmans decided to leave a lasting legacy by creating a \$25,000 endowment for the Accounting and Finance Department Faculty Enrichment Fund. The funds will be used in part for recruitment incentives to attract new faculty, curriculum development and research support.

"My hope was to create a fund that would help things grow and provide some guidance, without too many strings attached," Jon says. He notes that he thoroughly enjoyed his nine years of teaching at OU, a smaller school where he and Gwyn felt their gift could make a significant impact. "I'd like to challenge everyone to look at their good fortune," Jon adds, "to pick an organization and to give back." 🐾

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Scholarship helps student build for the future



Kaja Mitevska

A dedicated student in the School of Business Administration, Kaja Mitevska says that receiving the Volkswagen of America Corporate Leadership Scholarship Award made her feel like someone believes in her – and her dreams. “Receiving the VW scholarship has allowed me to worry less about my finances and concentrate on my education and doing everything in my power to ensure that I have a successful future,” Mitevska says.

Mitevska works to put herself through school, which she says can be difficult at times with a full-time

class load, an internship commitment and coaching a high school cheerleading team. “Had I not received this scholarship, I would have had to cut back on my internship hours and possibly given up coaching to work more to pay for my education,” she adds. “This scholarship has allowed me to keep my internship and continue to apply my OU education in the real world, as well as gain other experiences that I believe to be extremely important to my future success.”

Mitevska, who targets a May 2010 graduation date, interns for Doner Advertising where she is gaining experience with digital marketing. “I would like to continue in the digital world either on the client, agency or sales side. My goal is to land a job in Michigan that is challenging and pushes me to be creative and use both my education and work experiences.”

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Ellen Stuart has been supporting Oakland University for 10 years.

"We've lived here for 17 years, and I know Oakland

University is a very fine college. We give to a lot of colleges; it's really important to support education." ➤

* deceased



Carolyn Williams (left) and Ronda Pellerito are two of 10 English students who have benefited from a scholarship award for "non-traditional" students created by Tim Otto in honor of his mother, Eva.

Scholarship award benefits non-traditional English majors

Tim Otto wanted to find a special way to honor his mother, Eva Otto, CAS '03, who was in her late 50s when she returned to college at OU to pursue majors in English and art history. "My intent was to find some way to honor my mother and the work that she'd done and her accomplishments," he says.

He achieved his goal by establishing a scholarship award for non-traditional English majors in the College of Arts and Sciences. Eva credits Tim for his appreciation of her life experience. "He knew what I went through to get there and what I went through to finish. Getting there was the hardest part; finishing was not so hard."

She adds that going back to school was very rewarding. "I was apprehensive at the time. I felt that kids coming out of high school knew so much more. But it turned out not to be the case. Life experiences do count."

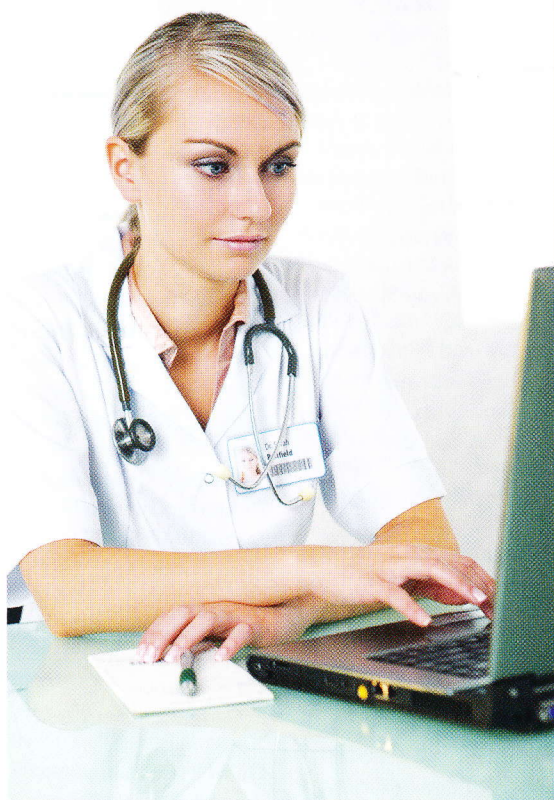
Since the award was established, 10 students have benefited from scholarship support including latest recipients Ronda Pellerito and Carolyn Williams. A mother of two young children, Pellerito says, "It's great to be recognized with this award. It means a better life for my two kids." Pellerito plans to use her English major to pursue creative writing or a master's degree. "This has financially helped a lot," she adds. "I promise to do my best."

Williams, who made the decision to return to school later in life, describes the scholarship as "a confirmation that what I was doing was correct. When you make a decision to come back, you second guess yourself all the time. Yet you know that you have something else to give back to society." After completing her bachelor's degree, Williams plans to pursue secondary education accreditation or go on to a master's degree.

"It feels great to know we've helped them over the hump," Tim says. "By creating this award, I've been able to repeat the beauty of what my mother achieved. Many of the recipients have achieved something special just as I think she did."

Eva and Tim have met most of the scholarship recipients, some of whom have already graduated. "They've moved on to successful futures that are giving them a lot of satisfaction," Eva says. "They are doing what they love. That's a benefit of having come back [to college] at a later age. You know better what you want. You have a whole different outlook on life."

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Beaumont-sponsored conference highlights advancements in nursing

William Beaumont Hospital was the presenting sponsor for the second year in a row at Oakland University's School of Nursing Envision Conference, which shared new technology and advancements in nursing and health care.

"Beaumont is aligned to work collaboratively with Oakland University to continually increase the number and quality of nurses," says Val Gokenbach, vice president, chief nurse executive for William Beaumont Hospitals. "The conference is one way to bring a very high level presentation of interesting topics to our community to enhance the profession of nursing and to give our nurses the opportunity to see what's new on the horizon."

The conference, held last fall at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester, Mich., highlighted the role of entrepreneurs in nursing. Keynote speaker Louise Woerner, director and founder of Home Care Resources, described entrepreneurial opportunities in home-based nursing care.

Oakland University and Beaumont Hospitals frequently join forces. The OU Beaumont Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia was recognized as the 11th best program in the nation in the *U.S. News and World Report's* "America's Best Graduate Schools 2007." Beaumont and OU faculty collaborate on dozens of biomedical research projects, and student scholarships are made possible through Beaumont. ➤

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Laura Schartman

All-University Fund Drive contributors Laura Schartman, CAS '79, MBA '92, and Louann Stewart find it very easy to explain why they participate in Oakland University's annual fund-raising campaign. For them, it seems only natural.

"It never occurred to me not to support it," says Schartman, director, Institutional Research. "I value what the university does."

Stewart, manager of access services for Kresge Library, expressed similar thoughts. "You support the things you believe in. I certainly support the university."

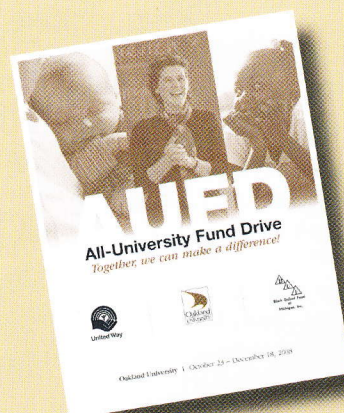
The annual fund drive gives OU faculty, staff and retirees an opportunity to benefit

Oakland University, the United Way for Southeast Michigan and the Black United Fund of Michigan. The 2008-09 campaign generated a record \$225,305.

Schartman has been contributing to the drive since the early 1980s. "I guess that's my background," says Schartman, who served in 2007-08 as the drive's co-chairwoman. "My parents always gave to United Way."

She directed her latest gifts toward the College of Arts and Sciences; the philosophy department; the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance; the School of Business Administration; and Kresge Library.

Stewart, who has been a drive participant for at least five years, targeted the library. 🐾



Francis William Shea, CAS '65, MAT '74, is a regular Oakland supporter. *"I was there in the years before it was Oakland University. I know it has high standards, and I like to support that effort."* 🐾

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Scholarship frees student to devote more energy to studies

When Daniel Breznau was a freshman, he sent out multiple scholarship applications with no success. When he tried again the following year, however, the news was considerably better. "When I got the letter in the mail, it was like *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*," says Breznau, now a junior majoring in biochemistry.

The Oxford resident is one of five students selected for the Oakland University Alumni Association's (OUAA's) 2008 Working Student Scholarship, a \$2,000 one-time award. It's one of 13 scholarships offered through the OUAA. To date, the association has awarded approximately \$875,000 in student awards. In 2008 alone, it distributed \$85,000.

In Breznau's case, the award opened new doors. Instead of limiting his schedule to school and his part-time job, the pre-med student was able to participate in a 21-day mission trip to Yuma, Ariz., where he interacted with the Native American Cocopah people. While the trip was not associated with any of Breznau's classes, he considers it a growth experience.

The award also changed the way Breznau approached his studies. "In school [before the scholarship] I was just barely scraping by trying to have good grades," he says. "I was freed to learn more things instead of grabbing what I needed and running out the door.

"It had a deeper impact than what I expected." 🐉



Daniel Breznau is a 2008 recipient of one of 13 scholarships offered through the Oakland University Alumni Association.

Sharon Sigler, MA '80, SEHS '74, is an annual supporter of OU. *"I wanted to encourage other people to pursue their education, especially in the school of education. They have good teachers and a very good program. It's affordable; it's accessible. It had a very big impact on me. I think it's important to support it."* 🐾

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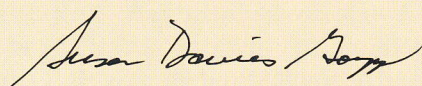
Your gifts in 2008 brought Oakland University to the doorstep of our campaign goal with an impressive \$104 million raised. The personal stories of alumni, friends, corporations and foundations who stepped forward last year to provide support for our students and faculty are shared with you here. Their stories are inspiring and the lives they touch forever changed.

Now, at the conclusion of the Campaign for OU we have turned a page in the life of Oakland University. Through new academic programs, classroom and laboratory renovations, student scholarships, research endowments and study abroad opportunities we are transforming lives and ensuring the future of this great institution.

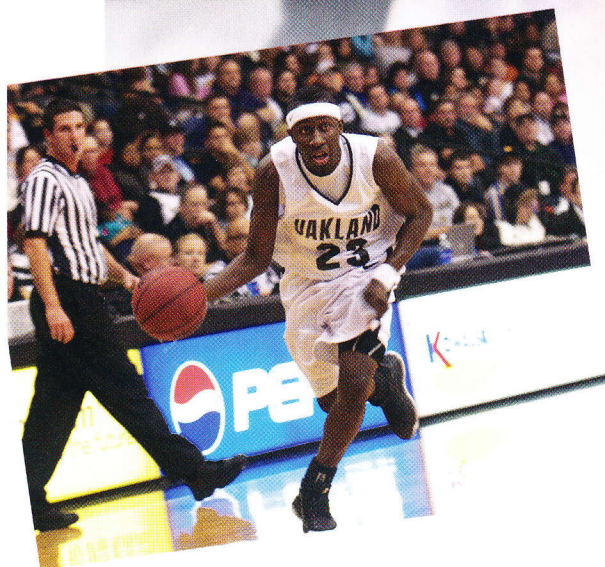
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Sincerely,



Susan Davies Goepp, CFRE
Vice President for University Relations and
Executive Director of the OU Foundation



Show your team spirit! These guys sure did. They're part of OU's "Grizz Gang," fans who get together to cheer on the team. They showed up (along with lots of other friends, students, alumni, faculty and staff) for the men's basketball game during Oakland's first-ever Homecoming weekend this past February. Festivities included men's and women's basketball games (they won both); the annual Alumni Fun Festival; tailgate party; ice skating party; and a Build-a-Grizz-Bear competition. An event celebrating 25+ years of coaching at OU for Pete Hovland, swimming and diving coach; Greg Kampe, men's basketball coach; and Gary Parsons, men's soccer coach; benefitted the Oakland University Endowed Athletic Scholarship Fund. Approximately 5,500 people attended the weekend event. Inset: Junior Johnathon Jones at the game against Centenary College. The Grizzlies won, 78-65. ■



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Mary Otto, OU Vice-President for Outreach and former Dean, School of Education and Human Services

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