

Archives  
LD  
4142  
.O342  
A1  
2001-02:  
Fall/Winter

# Oakland University

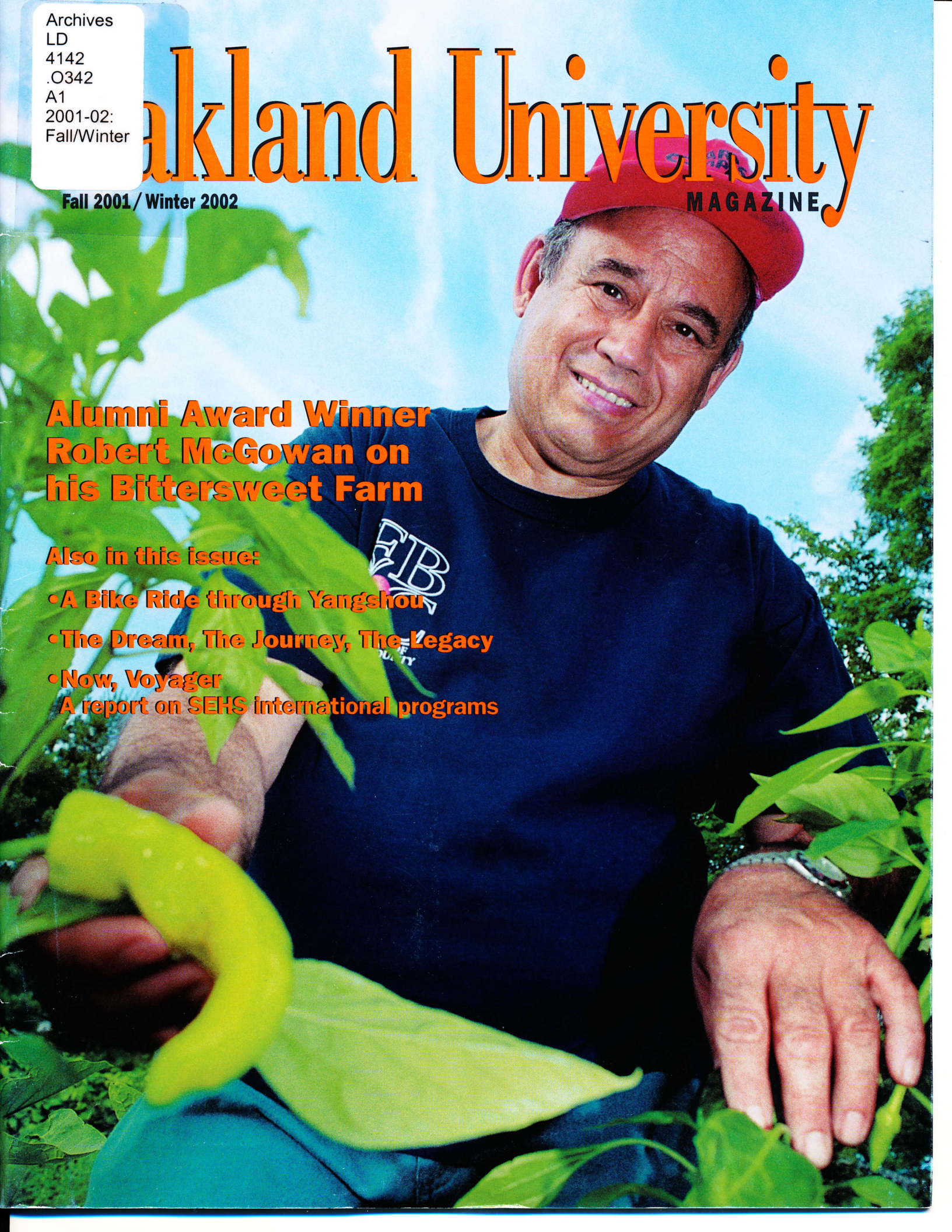
MAGAZINE

Fall 2001 / Winter 2002

## Alumni Award Winner Robert McGowan on his Bittersweet Farm

### Also in this issue:

- A Bike Ride through Yangshou
- The Dream, The Journey, The Legacy
- Now, Voyager  
A report on SEHS international programs





# A Lifetime of Financial Service

The OU Branch of the MSU Federal Credit Union is here for you every step of the way. Located near the Oakland University campus, we are in your neighborhood and have the financial services to make life a little easier.

## • MoneyLine and ComputerLine

Perform over 40 account transactions from any touch-tone phone or with a computer and modem. Enjoy toll-free access.

## • ATMs — Free to Members

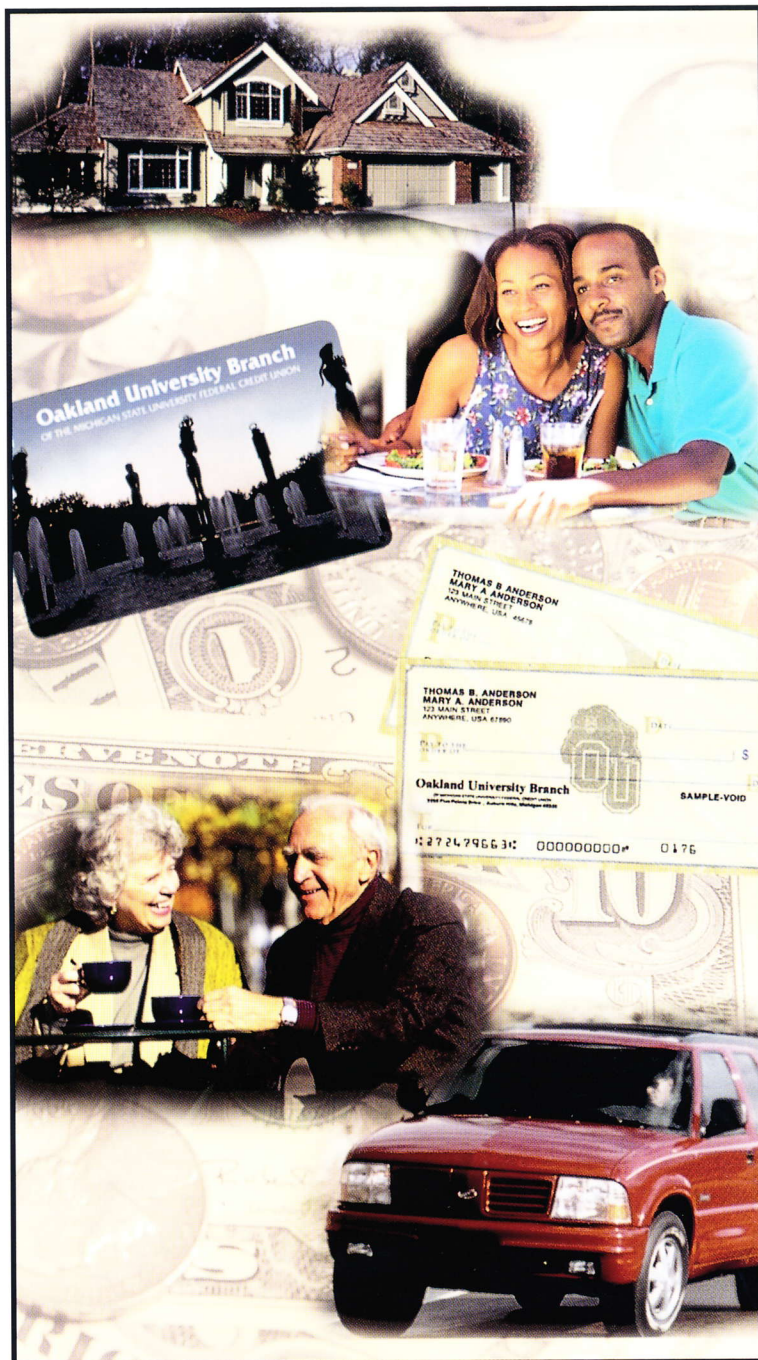
Find our ATMs in the Oakland Center, the Kresge Library, outside North Foundation Hall and at our office. Use Quantum, MagicLine and Cirrus ATMs. You're covered around the world.

## • Low-cost Checking

Earn dividends on your balance and show your OU spirit with OU Golden Grizzly and OU Sail checks. For every box of checks sold, a \$1.00 donation is made to Oakland University.

## • Low-cost Auto Loans

Enjoy low loan rates and easy terms. Call LoanLine for 24-hour loan service.



*-the financial institution of the OU community-*

**3265 Five Points Drive  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326  
(248) 370-3545  
800-766-OUUCU**

**MoneyLine • 800-MONY-LINE  
ComputerLine • 800-818-0718  
LoanLine • 800-611-2-APP**



**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY**

**KRESGE LIBRARY**

**ROCHESTER, MI 48309-4484**

<http://www.oakland.edu/msufcu>



# Oakland University

Fall 2001 / Winter 2002

MAGAZINE

President  
**Gary D. Russi**

Vice President for University Relations and  
Executive Director of  
the Oakland University Foundation  
**Susan Davies Goepp**

Associate Vice President for  
Communications and Marketing  
**Geoffrey C. Upward**

Editor  
**Debbie Patrick**

Staff Writer  
**Jennifer Charney**

Editorial Assistant  
**Sheila Carpenter**

Art Director  
**Debra Lashbrook**

Guest Designer  
**Lynn Metzker**

Campus Photographer  
**Dennis Collins**

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE is published three times per year by Oakland University, with support from the Oakland University Alumni Association and the Oakland University Foundation. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. ISSN: 1054-6480. Issue No. 64.

Editorial and publishing offices are located at 433 Varner Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, MI 48309-4401 (248) 370-3185 Fax (248) 370-3182

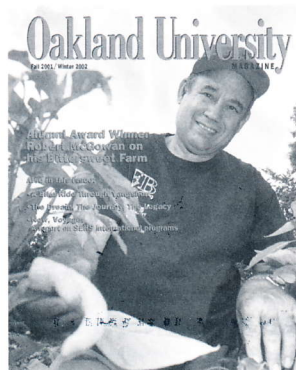
Submit Class Notes to:  
E-mail: ouaa@oakland.edu  
Web: www.oualumni.com

Submit address changes to:  
Alumni Relations at (248) 370-3700  
Web: www.oualumni.com

Oakland University is an equal opportunity and affirmative action institution.

## On the cover:

Alumni Award winner Robert McGowan raises more than 1,000 pounds of vegetables each year for the Food Bank of Oakland County. See story on page 16.



## Features

### 6 The Best and Brightest

Newest Wilson Award Winners exemplify OU's best.

### 10 A Bike Ride through Yangshou

For alumni, students, faculty and staff, Oakland's China Tour is a study in contrasts.

### 12 Now, Voyager

SEHS international programs reach out to New Zealand, Jamaica and other nations.

### 16 The World Is Not Enough

Recipients of the 2001 Alumni Awards pair professional success with community service.

### 22 The Dream, The Journey, The Legacy

Oakland's Keeper of the Dream program celebrates 10th anniversary.

### 24 Doris Travis: Friend of the Arts at OU

OU benefactor leads fascinating life.

### 25 A Simple Gift Returns a Lifetime Income

Gift annuities benefit you and OU.

6



12



24



## Departments

### 2 News and Notes

### 26 Book Nook

### 27 Class Notes

### 31 Survey

NON-CIRCULATING

## Campus reaction to the attack on America

Within hours of the attack on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., Oakland University cancelled classes and closed the campus for the day. This precautionary measure allowed students, faculty and staff to reflect on the gravity of the day and spend time with their families.

In the weeks following the attack, OU organized several events to help the campus community cope and to underscore the message that President George W. Bush and other national and local leaders delivered, that Americans should not retaliate against citizens of Middle Eastern descent.

The university held a memorial service the day after the attacks. One week later, the Center for Student Activities hosted a forum where opinions and concerns were discussed. On Sept. 25, a "Day of Understanding" at OU allowed faculty members to spend the first few minutes of their classes speaking with students about their fears, and encouraging harmony. Throughout it all, University Counseling Center staff offered their services to the entire university community.



## License plate update

The latest Michigan Department of State Fundraising Plate Report shows that Oakland University has sold a grand total of 841 OU Golden Grizzly license plates. Those sales have contributed a total of



\$21,895 to the OU Alumni Scholarship Fund. The total includes 752 Original Standard, 87 Renewal Standard, 63 Original Personalized and 26 Collector plates. OU continues to trail Michigan State, which has sold more than 17,000 plates. The report shows the department's fiscal year-end total, reflecting sales through Oct. 1, 2001.

## OU heart walk attracts record numbers

Although final figures are not yet available, event organizers for the 2001 Metro Detroit American Heart Walk on Sept. 22 estimate that about 17,000 walkers raised at least \$1.5 million, setting new records for attendance and donations.

Organized in conjunction with the American Heart Association, the walk helped raise funds for heart disease and stroke research. Oakland University hosted the event – the nation's largest heart walk – for the third consecutive year.

Musicians performed along the winding, one-mile route, including the Cass Technical High School and Clintondale High School marching bands.

Several booths, manned by various corporate sponsors

provided participants with complimentary snacks and helpful information. The Oakland Fitness Council offered free flexibility and body fat analyses, and nutrition facts. Subway™ treated walkers to more than 10,000 sandwiches at the walk's conclusion.

During opening ceremonies, the American Heart Association contributed \$250,000 from its national heart walks to the New York Firefighters 9-11 Disaster Relief Fund. This fund assists families of the firefighters and EMS personnel who lost their lives during the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.



## More news on OU Web site

Visitors to the Oakland University Web site will find a new and improved News & Information site, accessible from the university's News & Info button (or [www3.oakland.edu/oakland/newsinfo](http://www3.oakland.edu/oakland/newsinfo)).

The new site – The News @ OU – builds on existing home page news articles and offers more comprehensive, up-to-date coverage of university news. It also offers a collection of information links to make it easier for visitors to find the information they need.



New information links include: local weather, a campus map, a faculty and student directory, athletics and *The Oakland Post*, the university's student newspaper.

## Ameritech grant helps students learn about business

The Oakland University School of Business Administration (SBA) recently received a \$50,000 grant from Ameritech-Michigan to establish an Entrepreneurship Institute (EI) to provide high school students from underserved communities with early entrepreneurship training.

In phase one, students attend a one-week entrepreneurship camp on campus. They learn, through experiential exercises, to identify opportunities and turn them into businesses. They also start mini-businesses and sell their products at area flea markets.

In phase two, student teams write business plans and meet weekly with SBA mentors, faculty members and local entrepreneurs.

In phase three, students create a formal presentation to show to industry professionals.

The institute awards a \$500 scholarship to each student who successfully completes all aspects of the program. In addition, Oakland University will give an additional scholarship to those students who attend Oakland's SBA.

## OU and Providence Hospital help nursing students

The Oakland University School of Nursing (SON) and Providence Hospital, a member of St. John Health System, signed a collaborative agreement on Sept. 21 that addresses recruitment of student nurses, educational opportunities for OU

students, support for student retention through scholarships, mentorships, and clinical research opportunities for OU faculty and Providence staff.

"Working with the executives and nursing staff at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers has been one of my most rewarding experiences," says Kathleen Emrich, interim dean, SON. "Their leaders are forward thinking and responsive and their nursing staff is exemplary. Our students will benefit greatly from their placements there."

As a part of the agreement, OU nursing seniors will be paired with practicing Providence nurses for a one-to-one experience. The goals are to increase the independence and skill level of the students, to prepare them to function as professional nurses with typical caseloads, reduce anxiety and improve their transition into professional roles.

"At Providence, we are constantly exploring opportunities to attract quality nursing candidates in order to support our high quality of care. This agreement, with a respected institution such as Oakland University, will strengthen our recruitment and training endeavors and directly benefit our patients," says Kathryn Ryan, vice president of operations - Acute Services and chief nursing officer. "We are looking forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Oakland University."

Providence Hospitals and Medical Centers has been the major sponsor of the SON's annual Nightingale Award for two consecutive years and recently designated six \$5,000 scholarships exclusively for OU student nurses.

## JDH has a new phone system

To make it easier for the Oakland University community to reach the

University Relations staff located at the John Dodge House, OU has introduced a new and improved telephone system. By calling JDH at the new number - (248) 370-3700 - you now can reach staff members from Advancement Services, Alumni Relations, Constituent Research, Planned Giving, and the President's Club.

Susan Davies Goepp, vice president for University Relations, also can be reached at this new number.

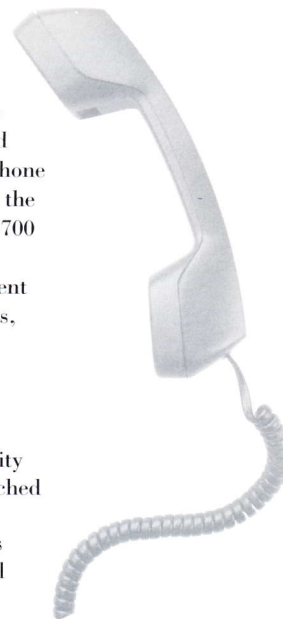
During regular business hours, the receptionist will direct your call to the appropriate extension. After hours, an alphabetical directory feature will help you reach the person you're calling.

## OUTAS wins national diversity award

The Oakland University Trustee Academic Success program was among seven university programs nationwide chosen to receive the 2001 Noel-Levitz Retention Excellence Award. The award recognizes higher education programs that keep students in school and support their efforts to graduate. Students who take advantage of Oakland's OUTAS program have a higher rate of graduation compared to the total population. The retention rate for OUTAS students in the class of 2000, for instance, reached 88 percent compared to 76 percent for the total student population.

OUTAS students represent many races and cultures, including African American, white, Hispanic, Asian, Filipino and Native American.

Gloria Sosa, director, Office of Equity, received the award in New Orleans, La., in July with colleague Glenn McIntosh, who was recently appointed assistant vice president, Academic Affairs, and dean of students.





## OU confers 4 honorary degrees

At commencement ceremonies in 2001, Oakland University conferred honorary degrees on four extraordinary individuals.

**The Hon. Damon J. Keith**, judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree for his national eminence as a jurist and his commitment to civil rights activities. Keith was first appointed to the bench in 1967 and is highly regarded for his wisdom in upholding the Constitution. "The Keith Decision," for example, prohibited President Richard Nixon and Attorney General John Mitchell from engaging in warrantless wiretapping, a decision unanimously upheld by the United States Supreme Court. Recognizing his legal and Constitutional expertise, President George Bush appointed him to the Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution in 1990.

**C.R. Rao**, director, Center for Multivariate Analysis, and holder of an endowed chair in statistics at Pennsylvania State University, was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree for his internationally recognized research and scholarly influence. Rao's fundamental work has helped define contemporary statistical thinking and has strongly influenced the natural sciences, the social sciences and engineering. Rao is the former president of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the International Statistical Institute and the International Biometric Society. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Arts and Science, the International Statistical Institute, the Indian National Science Academy and the Royal Society (U.K.), among numerous others.

**David DiChiera**, a former faculty member (1962-75) and former chair of the Music Department at OU, general

and artistic director, Michigan Opera Theatre, was awarded an honorary doctor of arts degree for his civic and artistic leadership. DiChiera had an active role in establishing Meadow Brook Music Festival. While at Oakland, he created the Overture to Opera program, a series of staged opera scenes and one-act operas performed locally, which he developed into Michigan Opera Theatre. DiChiera spearheaded the creation of the Detroit Opera House, which opened in 1996. He is recognized internationally for his contributions to the world of music.

### Thomas Lynch CAS '82

was awarded an honorary doctor of humanities degree. Lynch is the author of *The Undertaking: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade*, winner of an American Book Award and finalist for the National Book Award. He has written three collections of poetry: *Skating with Heather Grace*, *Grimalkin & Other Poems*, and *Still Life in Milford*. His collection of essays, *Bodies in Motion and at Rest* won the 2000 Great Lakes Book Award for general

nonfiction. Lynch's poems and essays have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, *Esquire*, *Newsweek*, *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, and the *London Review of Books*, among other notable publications. Lynch lives in Milford, Mich., where he operates a funeral home.

## OUAA names new board members

The Oakland University Alumni Association named six new members to its board of directors in May.

**Cheryl D. Henderson Case CAS '92** of Lake Angelus, Mich., is president and owner of Case Properties L.L.C. Henderson Case volunteered at Oakland's Lowry Center for Early Childhood Education when she attended OU and went on to earn a master's degree in early childhood education.

**Gregg Garrett SECS '97** of Berkley, Mich., is a senior consultant with Cap Gemini Ernst & Young, LLP. Garrett was instrumental in starting the first OU Men's Lacrosse team and coached the team

## Calendar

### Now

*An Exhibition by Painters Lynn Galbreath and Sally Tardella.* Meadow Brook Art Gallery. Through December 23.

### Dec. 1

2001 Meadow Brook Hall Holiday Walk – *Flappers and All That Jazz*. Call (248) 370-3140 for more information. Through Dec. 20.

### Jan. 3

First Mid-Continent Conference men's basketball game versus Chicago State. See [www.ougrizzlies.com](http://www.ougrizzlies.com).

### Jan. 5

First Mid-Continent Conference women's basketball game versus Southern Utah. See [www.ougrizzlies.com](http://www.ougrizzlies.com)

### Jan. 11

*Harmony in Variation: Form and Meaning in Native American Art.* Meadow Brook Art Gallery. Call (248) 370-3005 for more information. Through Feb. 17.

### Feb. 28–March 2

National Independent Conference Championship for men's and women's swimming teams. See [www.ougrizzlies.com](http://www.ougrizzlies.com)

For more OU news and notes, click on the News & Information link on Oakland's Web site: [www3.oakland.edu](http://www3.oakland.edu).





from 1995 to 2000. He also served on the School of Health Sciences Task Force and the Student Affairs Task Force.

**John R. Hruska Jr. CAS '86, SBA '89** of Rochester Hills, Mich., is a vice president of Bank One Corporation. Hruska has been a member of the board of directors of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Lansing Housing Coalition and the Independence Township Sesquicentennial Committee.

**Phyllis D. Meadows, PhD, SON '80** of Ann Arbor, Mich., is a program director for Youth and Education for the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. Meadows received the 1994 School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Nightingale Award. She is a board member of the Detroit Community Health Connection, the Children's Museum of Detroit and the Eureka Foundation, among others.

**Thomas Mittelbrun III SBA '88** of Troy, Mich., is an administrator for the Electrical Workers' Joint Boards of Trustees. Mittelbrun currently administers a group of multi-employer fringe benefit trust funds.

**Cynthia Tomczak SBA '94** of Birmingham, Mich., is a national account manager for TV Guide Media. Tomczak is a member of the Adcraft Club of Detroit, the Magazine Representatives Association and Cable Advertising Representatives.

### Travel west with the Golden Grizzlies

Join alumni and friends of OU athletics for four nights and five days in Utah and Las Vegas, Nev.

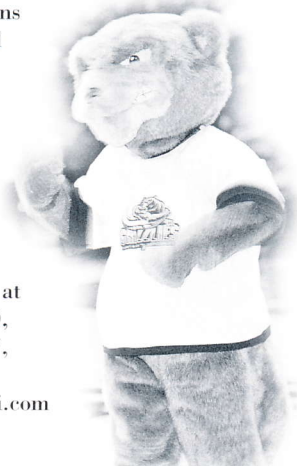
Grizzlies fans will depart Jan. 31, 2002, via Northwest Airlines and arrive in Las Vegas. A motor coach will transport travelers to Cedar

City, Utah, to attend the men's basketball game against Southern Utah State.

On Feb. 1, the group will journey to Las Vegas to spend three nights at the first-class Treasure Island Resort where they also will enjoy Super Bowl Sunday. Travelers will depart Las Vegas for Detroit on Feb. 4.

The total cost for the trip, including airfare, airport transportation, accommodations and basketball tickets is \$525 per person (based on double occupancy).

For more information, please contact Adrienne Bass at (248) 370-3700, extension 1687, or visit [www.oualumni.com](http://www.oualumni.com) on the Web.



## Journey to Shakespeare's England

May 27 – June 4, 2002

Oakland University alumni, students, faculty and staff are invited to enjoy a pleasant trip to Shakespeare's England, with visits to London and Stratford-upon-Avon, the bard's birthplace.

See a play at the newly reconstructed Globe Theatre, at the Royal Shakespeare Company Theatre or the Swan Theatre. Tour castles and enjoy the local cuisine. There will be many planned activities, but also free time for you to explore on your own. **Cost: \$2,110**

**Includes:** Round-trip air transportation from Detroit; hotel accommodations based on double occupancy; guided tour of London; three dinners; tickets to two theatre performances; a lecture on Shakespeare at St. Francis College; motorcoach transportation; a tour and workshop at the Globe Theatre; and more!

**Contact:** Dewald Travel at (800) 228-0707 for information and to sign up. Information is available at the Center for Student Activities in the Oakland Center, and from the CAS Web site: [www.oakland.edu/studentactivities](http://www.oakland.edu/studentactivities).





# The Best and Brightest

By Vivian DeGain

Oakland University's Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards are presented annually to an OU senior man and woman who have contributed as scholars, leaders and responsible citizens to the university community. Oakland's Human Relations Award also is presented annually to either an OU man or woman who has contributed to greater racial understanding on campus. For 2001, OU conferred the Alfred G. Wilson Award on Charles Archer, the Matilda R. Wilson Award on Cristina Kapustij and the Human Relations Award on Natasha Vanover. All three, graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences, are profiled here.



## Nothing less than his best

If winning the 2001 Alfred G. Wilson Award was a surprise to Charles Archer CAS '01, it was no surprise to those who know him.

One of his mentors, Roy Kotynek, PhD, associate professor of American History, College of Arts and Sciences, says that after 34 years of teaching many outstanding students, Archer stands out as one of the very best.

"He's very bright and he has a very intelligent perspective, but he combines that with diligence and hard work.

His work is first rate, but he takes nothing for granted, always trying to improve and challenge himself to do better. And what really makes him special are his people skills. ... He is very personable and open," Kotynek says. "And he was genuinely surprised to win the Wilson."

"When I first came to Oakland as a freshman, I saw the Wilson Award and thought it was quite an accomplishment," Archer says, "but I never thought [it would be mine someday.] My intent, my goals for achievements and participation in organizations, was to continue the leadership



experiences I had begun in high school throughout my college life and to build my resume," he says. "I was very surprised and honored when they told me I had won."

**W**hat didn't surprise Archer, 23, of Auburn Hills, Mich., was the dedication to teaching and children that developed in him at OU or his continued love of history.

"I declared my major almost immediately," he says. "I've always wanted to be a teacher. I think it's the most important profession. Without teachers, we would have no doctors, lawyers, chemists, professionals in any field or students getting the encouragement to pursue them. And, the role of teachers has never been more important or demanding."

Archer, who graduated magna cum laude in May with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History with History Department honors, began student teaching in the school district where he attended high school — Chippewa Valley. He plans to complete his teaching certificate requirements at Dakota High School in the 2001-02 academic year.

No stranger to the classroom or playground, Archer has served as a substitute teacher, tutor, mentor and camp counselor. And over the summer, he was the program manager and director for the Avondale School District Kids Club summer program.

"I really enjoy working with children and people of all ages. I have worked for the past four years with all different age groups from preschool, elementary and secondary to adult ed[ucation]," he says.

He also has tutored and supervised exceptional students who were autistic, mentally or emotionally impaired.

"When I started [at Avondale] four summers ago, I was so steeped in my subject area I had no idea if I could work with kids. But in [one] of my OU classes, the professor told us that to be successful teachers, we must balance a love for the subject with a love for the students. In my work experience, I feel enriched because I have found that balance."

At OU, Archer served as co-president of the Oakland Chapter of the Golden Key International

Honour Society. As vice president and chairman of the Best of America program, he led college volunteers to speak with middle school students about the dangers of substance abuse, the importance of education and choosing positive friends. Archer also served as a University Student Congress legislator, and as a

student representative to the Senate Planning and Review Committee, and the Senate Academic Career and Advising Committee. He was a four-year member of the Student Association for Teacher Education; a member of Alpha Zeta Upsilon, the Oakland Chapter of the international history honor society; and a member of Phi Delta Kappa Oakland County Chapter, a professional fraternity for teachers.

While Archer says he is proud of his achievements and determination to be a role model to children, his eye is on yet another prize.

"Everything is leading to my most important role, of being a husband and father. If I didn't have any of the other achievements, I would still consider myself a success with that one simple and ultimate goal. Call me old-fashioned, but what we need most in this world is a return to family values. I hope to instill in my children [someday] a similar outlook."

## "Value everything in life..."

The 2001 Matilda R. Wilson Award winner, Cristina J. Kapustij CAS '01, 22, of Sterling Heights, Mich., earned a bachelor of science degree in biology and a bachelor of arts degree in Russian language and civilization — both with honors. It was a double-major that she intended when she entered OU from Marian High School in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.



Cristina J. Kapustij

**Y**et, midway through her very successful academic career, Kapustij faced a tremendous personal tragedy — the death of her mother. Despite her loss, Kapustij persevered with her academic goals, including travel abroad as an exchange student. She attended Herzen University in St. Petersburg, Russia, an experience she calls "a really wonderful opportunity."

In his recommendation of Kapustij for the Wilson, Nathan Longan, professor, Modern Languages and Literatures, wrote:

"[Cristina] was a founding member of the Russian Club in the winter of 1997, and took over as president later that year. ... During one of the Russian Club's monthly cultural events, a ballet performance in the winter of 1998, Miss Kapustij's character came into sharpest focus for me. After the performance, the club gathered at a local coffee shop and during the conversation, I learned that Cristina's mother had very recently passed away. I was astounded at this young lady's ability to continue to get straight A's, continue to lead and inspire enthusiasm, and be enthusiastic herself. ... She never hid that her mother's death was a terrible blow, but she never once used it to explain or excuse a missed class or incomplete assignment. There were none."

Although Kapustij's trip to St. Petersburg was a difficult one,



she says it was one way to honor her mother.

"My mom died of breast cancer when I was a sophomore, and [the past two years] were quite a whirlwind," she says. "My mom, of Ukrainian descent, taught Eastern European History at Wayne State University and she placed a very high value on education throughout my life. This had a strong influence on my desire to study in Russia."

In St. Petersburg, Cristina lived with a host family, which included a host mother who spoke "excellent English" as well as her two daughters, Sasha and Asha. She completed the program and returned home.

"And then it all hit me," she says. "I had a few rough semesters but everyone at OU was very understanding. I took lighter loads. My grades were not as stellar as in the past," she says, but she remained focused on graduation. She was determined to complete her degree on time and do the best she could under the circumstances.

"You have to find the thing inside you," she says, "that compass, that strength, to keep on track."

**K**apustij's biology major included the opportunity to do research and work as a lab teaching assistant. She performed scientific analysis for Oakland's Eye Research Institute, working on cataract research with Frank Giblin, PhD, professor, and Uma Venkateswaran, PhD. She presented scientific results at the 2000 Meeting of the Minds Undergraduate Research Conference. Kapustij also served as a genetics (Bio 341) lab teaching assistant for 16 students under the direction of Douglas Wendell, professor, Biological Sciences.

In addition to her many academic commitments, Kapustij served with numerous university and student organizations.

"All of us who worked with Cristina knew that her first priority as a student was to do her very best in her coursework. But she was the unusual person who also understood that her campus involvement would have a tremendous, positive impact on her personal development," says Mary

Beth Snyder, vice president, Student Affairs. "Cristina served as an effective representative of students in university governance and expanded her circle of friends through a myriad of service and social activities. She is definitely the kind of leader whom others will always want to follow."

Kapustij says it was her service as a Student Liaison to the OU Board of Trustees that added another destination to her road map of life – an interest in law, government and public policy.

"As a student representative to the board, you are the main voice from the whole student body to the board," she says. "It was pretty frightening at first. But once I got the feel for the job and the process, I felt more connected to the university. I think this is where the whole law school shift came from."

Kapustij is studying for the LSAT and hopes to attend law school. She is considering combining her background in international study and biology with a law career.

In addition to serving with the Board of Trustees, Kapustij served on the Student Advisory Board, as a Student Congress legislator and as the Legislative Affairs Committee director.

Although special, the Wilson award was one of many awards that Kapustij received. Others include the Don R. Iodice Grant-in-Aid for Foreign Study, an Oakland University Undergraduate Research Grant, Commuter Involvement Award, Campus Activity Award, and the Frederick G. Kaviuk and Mary Kirachuk Scholarship for Slavic Studies.

"Earning the Wilson is an incredible honor," Kapustij says. "It epitomizes what an OU student is supposed to be. I cried, because it was an appropriate culminating event, after everything, to my graduation.

"After my mom's death, I learned that what is most important is to value everything in life – that a 4.0 isn't the most important thing. If you've worked your hardest and tried your best – these are the things that matter."



Natasha Vanover

## "Tolerance can be a good start."

Of the many qualities that distinguish Natasha Vanover as the recipient of the 2001 Human Relations Award, these three top the list: community service, a dedication to understanding a wealth of peoples and cultures, and the desire to use her voice as a journalist to inspire others to share in her search for mutual understanding and respect.

Born in San Diego, Calif., Vanover lived in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, her mother's homeland, with her family during her formative years, from ages 2-6. When her family moved to Auburn Hills, Mich., 15 years ago, she attended Pontiac Northern High School, studied French for three years, and spent her senior year in high school abroad as an exchange student in Japan.



Vanover, 23, a resident of Auburn Hills, graduated with a GPA of 3.68. She earned her bachelor of arts degree in journalism with a minor in Japanese language and civilization through Oakland's Honors College.

Though she didn't speak Japanese when she first went to Japan, Vanover needed to become a quick study, as all of her classes were in Japanese. She says her host family, including a mother, father and daughter – a girl Natasha's age – were very willing teachers.

"I became fascinated with Japanese culture when I had the opportunity to meet three exchange students from Japan who attended Pontiac Northern," Vanover says. "We got to know each other on the tennis team. I applied for the exchange program, gathered my recommendations, and I felt very lucky to have been selected to go. At that time, Northern did not have a Japanese program, but Pontiac Central did, and a student was selected from Central to attend also," she says.

While the cultures of both islands, Japan and Jamaica, are very different in some ways, Vanover says there are also many similarities. Attending school in both nations required her to wear a uniform, dress with simplicity regarding accessories and makeup, focus on academic achievement and refer to everyone as "Mr. or Miss." In the town of St. Anne Parish, Jamaica, Vanover developed a great love for the culture and people of the lush, tropical island, which joins the traditions of African languages, Spanish, English, Native Arawak and Patois, a Jamaican dialect.

"I felt so fortunate to grow up with a close relationship to my family in Jamaica," Vanover says. "The environment is a bit more laid back, and the pace of life is a bit slower, but the people-to-people interactions are perhaps deeper, because of the closeness of the community."

Emigrating to the United States, she says, brought mixed feelings.

"I wanted to stay in Jamaica and enjoy the multicultural environment, but we also had a great respect for the educational opportunities here, and

the many colleges and programs available," she says.

Vanover began her studies at Oakland University with her strong personal international perspectives. And while she excelled academically, she also invested her time in many campus and community organizations that worked to enhance multicultural understanding.

Vanover served as a Board of Trustees' Diversity Ambassador; a Peer Mentor for the Office of Equity; an Orientation Group Leader; a Connections Peer Leader; and was the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the 1999 Keeper of the Dream Award, the 1999 Sidney Fink Memorial Award, and the 2000 Michigan Association of Governing Boards Outstanding Student Award.

She also presented published works at the 1999 Meeting of the Minds Undergraduate Research Conference, worked as a guest columnist for *The Oakland Press* and as a staff writer for *The Oakland Post*. She completed a journalism internship at ABC's Detroit television news station WXYZ-Channel 7, and worked with the OU Department of Communications and Marketing and UPN Fox-50, reporting on new programs at the university.

How much more can an honors student do without jeopardizing her GPA? Vanover found the time and energy to mentor individual college students about their studies and future, as well as children at Five Points Community Church.

"I think I am most proud of 'Spirituality in Service,' a program in which I helped to organize 12-15 students who worked one Saturday a month visiting different cultural sites to perform community service," she says.

The group visited Christian, Jewish, Islamic and Buddhist communities from around the Greater Detroit area. They assisted at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen with an art therapy program for children. They helped a Mormon cannery in Farmington Hills, Mich., clean up and organize storage areas, move boxes, sweep and dust. And, in Hamtramck, they met a Buddhist

monk, who taught them a lesson in humility, the importance of small contributions, and how a simple labor opens doors to discussion and interaction between people.

It was in the early spring, but it was very cold and there was a light dusting of snow on the streets of Hamtramck. Their job was to walk through the neighborhood and tidy up the streets, picking up every cigarette butt and bit of litter.

"It was an amazing experience," Vanover says. "Many people stopped and talked with us and some thanked us. It was fun to see the many kinds of responses from people and in ourselves, too. Now, we appreciate a one-on-one perspective and we all think twice about throwing any trash on the ground," she says.

As Vanover looks ahead, deciding on the exact path that will combine the use of her diverse talents and backgrounds, she says she has a vision about diversity – think bigger.

"So many times, when we talk about diversity, we talk about tolerance, in terms of tolerating another person's religion, culture or sexual preference. Tolerance can be a good start, but I have some reservations about that word. I think it's better to set higher standards – to develop a deeper respect and acknowledgment for the person and culture, and for that, there has to be a learning component, an effort to truly understand.

"My family has been a great inspiration to me in all the projects I pursue. My parents instilled in me a 'pride and passion in all you do.'

"And I am very close to my younger brother, who is studying telecommunications at Michigan State University as an Evans Scholar. I may be a couple of years older, but he is an inspiration to me in the way he looks at the world. He has a balance and insight that I admire." ■

*Vivian DeGain is a free-lance writer residing in Rochester Hills, Mich. She is a former staff writer for The Daily Tribune in Royal Oak and The Eccentric Newspapers.*



Vanover, 23, a resident of Auburn Hills, graduated with a GPA of 3.68. She earned her bachelor of arts degree in journalism with a minor in Japanese language and civilization through Oakland's Honors College.

Though she didn't speak Japanese when she first went to Japan, Vanover needed to become a quick study, as all of her classes were in Japanese. She says her host family, including a mother, father and daughter – a girl Natasha's age – were very willing teachers.

"I became fascinated with Japanese culture when I had the opportunity to meet three exchange students from Japan who attended Pontiac Northern," Vanover says. "We got to know each other on the tennis team. I applied for the exchange program, gathered my recommendations, and I felt very lucky to have been selected to go. At that time, Northern did not have a Japanese program, but Pontiac Central did, and a student was selected from Central to attend also," she says.

While the cultures of both islands, Japan and Jamaica, are very different in some ways, Vanover says there are also many similarities. Attending school in both nations required her to wear a uniform, dress with simplicity regarding accessories and makeup, focus on academic achievement and refer to everyone as "Mr. or Miss." In the town of St. Anne Parish, Jamaica, Vanover developed a great love for the culture and people of the lush, tropical island, which joins the traditions of African languages, Spanish, English, Native Arawak and Patois, a Jamaican dialect.

"I felt so fortunate to grow up with a close relationship to my family in Jamaica," Vanover says. "The environment is a bit more laid back, and the pace of life is a bit slower, but the people-to-people interactions are perhaps deeper, because of the closeness of the community."

Emigrating to the United States, she says, brought mixed feelings.

"I wanted to stay in Jamaica and enjoy the multicultural environment, but we also had a great respect for the educational opportunities here, and

the many colleges and programs available," she says.

Vanover began her studies at Oakland University with her strong personal international perspectives. And while she excelled academically, she also invested her time in many campus and community organizations that worked to enhance multicultural understanding.

Vanover served as a Board of Trustees' Diversity Ambassador; a Peer Mentor for the Office of Equity; an Orientation Group Leader; a Connections Peer Leader; and was the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the 1999 Keeper of the Dream Award, the 1999 Sidney Fink Memorial Award, and the 2000 Michigan Association of Governing Boards Outstanding Student Award.

She also presented published works at the 1999 Meeting of the Minds Undergraduate Research Conference, worked as a guest columnist for *The Oakland Press* and as a staff writer for *The Oakland Post*. She completed a journalism internship at ABC's Detroit television news station WXYZ-Channel 7, and worked with the OU Department of Communications and Marketing and UPN Fox-50, reporting on new programs at the university.

How much more can an honors student do without jeopardizing her GPA? Vanover found the time and energy to mentor individual college students about their studies and future, as well as children at Five Points Community Church.

"I think I am most proud of 'Spirituality in Service,' a program in which I helped to organize 12-15 students who worked one Saturday a month visiting different cultural sites to perform community service," she says.

The group visited Christian, Jewish, Islamic and Buddhist communities from around the Greater Detroit area. They assisted at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen with an art therapy program for children. They helped a Mormon cannery in Farmington Hills, Mich., clean up and organize storage areas, move boxes, sweep and dust. And, in Hamtramck, they met a Buddhist

monk, who taught them a lesson in humility, the importance of small contributions, and how a simple labor opens doors to discussion and interaction between people.

It was in the early spring, but it was very cold and there was a light dusting of snow on the streets of Hamtramck. Their job was to walk through the neighborhood and tidy up the streets, picking up every cigarette butt and bit of litter.

"It was an amazing experience," Vanover says. "Many people stopped and talked with us and some thanked us. It was fun to see the many kinds of responses from people and in ourselves, too. Now, we appreciate a one-on-one perspective and we all think twice about throwing any trash on the ground," she says.

As Vanover looks ahead, deciding on the exact path that will combine the use of her diverse talents and backgrounds, she says she has a vision about diversity – think bigger.

"So many times, when we talk about diversity, we talk about tolerance, in terms of tolerating another person's religion, culture or sexual preference. Tolerance can be a good start, but I have some reservations about that word. I think it's better to set higher standards – to develop a deeper respect and acknowledgment for the person and culture, and for that, there has to be a learning component, an effort to truly understand.

"My family has been a great inspiration to me in all the projects I pursue. My parents instilled in me a 'pride and passion in all you do.'

"And I am very close to my younger brother, who is studying telecommunications at Michigan State University as an Evans Scholar. I may be a couple of years older, but he is an inspiration to me in the way he looks at the world. He has a balance and insight that I admire." ■

*Vivian DeGain is a free-lance writer residing in Rochester Hills, Mich. She is a former staff writer for The Daily Tribune in Royal Oak and The Eccentric Newspapers.*



# A Bike Ride through Yangshou

## Oakland's China Tour is a study in contrasts

By Debbie Patrick

Traveling 10,000 miles is like reading 10,000 books – that, says Richard Stamps, associate professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, College of Arts and Sciences, is a Chinese proverb with which he totally agrees.

“There’s an immeasurable value to travel,” Stamps says. “It’s a mind-broadening, mind-expanding experience.”

Stamps ought to know; he has made 15 trips to China in 20 years, all part of an Oakland University program he started to give students, alumni and friends of OU “a feel of the real culture of China.

“It’s an attempt at continuing education and lifelong learning,” he explains. “An attempt to give students and alumni the opportunity to take what they learned in the classroom and see it live.”

In May, 16 students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of OU joined Stamps on a journey that took them from the north of China to the south, from modern cities like Beijing to the ancient capital of Xian City. They even took a bike ride through Yangshou and learned something of the rural villages – their customs and people.

“It wasn’t a tourist experience,” says Adrienne Bass, director of Alumni Affairs and Stamps’



The 2001 tour group with Adrienne Bass (front row, center).

assistant on the study tour. “It was a total experience. We saw two weddings, an ancient gravesite, went into the schools and into people’s homes,” she says. “We met with farmers when they were harvesting grain. The people opened up their homes and their hearts to us.”

“It was all spontaneous,” says Stamps. “There was a structure [for the trip], but flexibility within that structure. The places we went to were carefully selected from experience, and I had a local guide arrange some visits, but there are always new families and unplanned events. On one free day, for example, some of us rented 10-speed mountain bikes for 79 cents and took pictures of the countryside.”

“A group of us left with our guide,” recalls Chuck Smith CAS ’90. “A few miles down the road, we stopped for a rest and to admire the scenery of karst mountains. ... I left the group and peddled about 10 miles farther,

well beyond where most foreigners go. I parked my bike and had lunch next to a small creek. About half of the vehicles (bikes, busses, cars, military trucks, farm tractors) passing by slowed down to say “Ni hau,” or “hello.”

While Stamps speaks Chinese – “enough to get along” – most members of the tour group did not. To prepare for the trip, three orientation sessions were held at which travelers were taught “survival Chinese,” and other useful skills. But many of the Chinese people they encountered spoke English.

“The people respond to your willingness to try [to speak their language],” Stamps says, “and there is a hungering and thirsting for the English language.”

Stamps says the Chinese would engage the study-tourists in conversation to practice their English.

“There’s a practical payback,” he explains. “Better jobs become





The Chinese welcomed study-tourists into their homes.

available if their English is good."

Although those taking the China Study Tour get off the beaten track, they also see the known wonders that attract thousands to China every year.

"We visited the modern day capital, Beijing," says Stamps. "We saw the Great Wall, the Summer Palace, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. And we saw the ancient capital, Xian City. That's like stepping back in time 2,000 years. There were the Terre Cotta soldiers – still there from when the first emperor was buried.

"Then we went down south to the city of Guilin, a scenic, beauty spot. It's all green and water and rice paddies and mist. We also saw the north, which is brown and dry, where wheat is grown. We ended up in Shanghai, a modern city of 14 million people, the financial capital."

OU students can take the China Study Tour as an independent study and get credit for their journey. But what do nonstudents get out of the trip?

"It completely changed my perception of China," Smith says. "Until very recently, most everything I read or saw depicted China as a backward Third World country. While I'm sure that is still true of many areas, the urban centers are as modern as any city I've been to and wealth is building rapidly, if not very evenly."

The trip had a big impact on Smith.

"I'm going to study Chinese," he says, "move some of my stock

holdings to take advantage of an expanding market there, and may be starting a small import business."

Pat Romanko BSN '91 was all set to make the trip in 1989 when the China Study Tour was suddenly cancelled. The world, it seemed, was looking at China and at a student protest in Tiananmen Square. Romanko tried for several years to go, but somehow never made it. She finally made the trip in 2001.

Jeff Sprys CAS '01 was more prepared than his fellow travelers.

"I had taken two years of Chinese at OU, worked in a Chinese restaurant for nine years, taken a lot of classes with Professor [Linda] Benson and Professor Stamps, and had planned to go myself. But when I found out Professor Stamps was going, I thought it would be much better. The opportunity to use my language skills was unprecedented."

Sprys' skills made him "something of a negotiator for the other members of the group," Stamps says. But like the others, Sprys was mesmerized by China.

"The experience of going is much richer than studying," Sprys says. "I learned more in two weeks than in three years of

study, especially with the itinerary Professor Stamps set up – the contrasting climates and dialects, the different ways of living in the north and south. I would have liked to have stayed longer."

Ultimately, Sprys plans to practice international law in China. He says the study tour didn't change any of his plans, it served to reinforce them.

"The trip is not for everyone," Bass says. "It's physical. There's a lot of walking and climbing and bike riding. The weather can range from 75 to 105 degrees in May. It can be very wet and rainy."

But most people find they love it and take a lot away with them.

"I plan to go back next year and stay a whole month," says Sprys. "For me, leaving was the most difficult part."

"I want to get people taking the study tour hooked on China," Stamps says. "The people who went this year were like sponges. Everyone had a desire to learn," he says.

And that includes Stamps.

"I see new things each time I go," he says. "I love to teach. I love China. I love to bridge the two."

In 2002, Stamps plans to go again and exit from Hong Kong. Readers are invited to go with him from May 24 through June 8. Check out the Web site – [www.chinastudytour.com](http://www.chinastudytour.com) for more views and news. OU student Leanne Battani also compiled a Web site of the 2001 experience at <http://geocities.com/chinastudytour2001>.

For additional information on the 2002 China Study Tour, contact Adrienne Bass at (248) 370-3700 extension 1687. ■

Below, Shanghai, the financial capital.





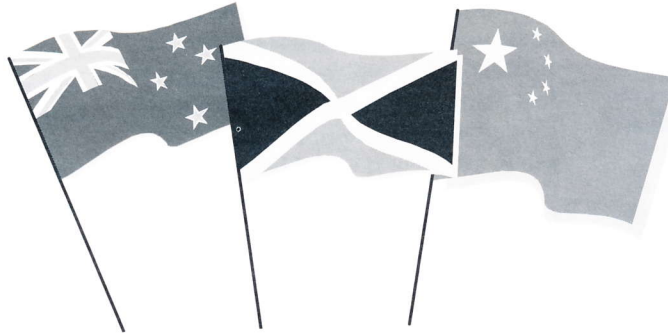
# Now, Voyager



Students at  
Rangeview  
Intermediate  
School, Room 28,  
in New Zealand.

**S**EHStakes its passion for education,  
literacy and people around the world

**B**y Cheryl Crandell



**B**uilding relationships. Increasing global understanding. Caring passionately about learning. These have been key motivators in an exciting, ongoing process that has allowed Oakland University's School of Education and Human Services (SEHS) to touch – and be touched by – diverse peoples from many corners of the globe.



"We increase our global understanding as we work with people from other cultures, and we become better at the work we do," says SEHS Dean Mary Otto.

"Our international programs have been so successful because they have been started by people who have a passion for education, for literacy, for people," she says.

"The grassroots work [for each one] began with faculty who donated their time and expertise. Every single program we have started with people doing work without remuneration. And in many cases, faculty have paid their own expenses, as have other teachers and volunteers."

Each international program is unique in its focus, its origin and its geography, but all share one important goal: to benefit and enrich the students and faculty at OU as well as the students, faculty and communities of the global partners involved.

SEHS students and educators of every hue work together to effect change and form strong bonds. Their efforts provide Oakland University with an important window on the world.



In the mid-1990s, the School of Education and Human Services began to explore new opportunities for international exposure. Eric Follo, chair, Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Leadership, was acquainted with educators in New Zealand after cooperation on other programs. He also knew a colleague in the department who was a native of Christchurch. Follo suggested a student-teacher exchange with Christchurch College of Education and got the nod to explore the concept.

"Eric and I worked on it for a good year or 18 months before it began," says Sherrill Karppinen, coordinator, School and Field Services. "Their programs and their high literacy rate – they're cons ahead of everyone else in their early literacy program – were real selling points. It would be a good learning experience for our students

and something that they could enrich their classes with here," she explains.

And, of course, New Zealand is an English-speaking country, making things much less complicated for pupils and student-teachers alike.

After countless meetings, letters, e-mails and visits back and forth, the program got on track. Distance learning connections were established in September 1998, so that students and faculty on both sides of the globe could become acquainted with each other. Thorough orientation seminars took place before planes were boarded and the adventure got underway. And that was a good thing.

Educational and cultural differences could have come as quite a surprise for the intrepid travelers from OU. For example, in New Zealand, teachers must handle all subjects, including art, music, foreign languages and physical education. They also are expected to develop many of their own teaching materials, rather than rely

on the commercially prepared variety used in the States.

The first group of five New Zealanders arrived for their student-teaching experience in the Rochester public schools in October 1998. Shortly thereafter, their 18 OU counterparts departed for Christchurch for five weeks – one third of their student-teaching experience. In the years since, the program has expanded to include the North Island, in a partnership with the Auckland College of Education, and now OU students and their kiwi counterparts can be found packing their bags to teach and learn abroad in almost every semester. A good working relationship has developed among faculty from all institutions, and returning SEHS students give the program rave reviews.

"The educational system in New Zealand is, basically, awesome," says Jeanne Van Laan, one of the original "pioneers" from 1998. "It is driven by the academic, social, physical and psychological needs of the child."

"It was a great experience," agrees recent graduate **Gretchen Parks SEHS '01**. She returned in April after a month at Rangeview Intermediate School in Te Atatu South, outside Auckland – an area populated by a diverse mixture of Europeans, Asians, Pacific Islanders and native Maori peoples.

"The experience was extremely valuable to me in helping me to develop a teaching style that was more in line with my own personal expectations of my students. It's always valuable to learn about other cultures and teaching methods."

What's next?

Karppinen and her colleagues hope to facilitate a teacher/administrator exchange with public school professionals from Christchurch. New Zealand teachers and administrators would come here to observe in January, during their "summer break," and stay with local counterparts for four or five weeks. Then the local educators would board planes for New Zealand in July for a reciprocal experience.





# The World Is Not Enough

2001 Alumni Award recipients pair professional success with community involvement

By Cathleen Hagan



## **The 2001 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award**

### **ROBERT MCGOWAN MA '74, CAS '67**

When Robert "Bob" McGowan was a kid growing up in Rochester, *The Secret Garden* was one of his favorite books. His mother and grandmother were gardeners. But although McGowan appreciated gardens and gardening, he felt no particular urge to take up the hobby himself.

Then, 10 years ago, McGowan and his wife, Barbara Hamilton, bought Bittersweet Farm, a 150-year-old former dairy farm in Clarkston, Mich.

"There was something about coming here that triggered the idea of putting

the farm to work," explains McGowan. "I needed a garden and needed to garden, to get involved with the land."

He joined a new club that formed for "serious" gardeners, and went into the initial meeting with an idea for a community service project: donating vegetables to people who need them.

Last year alone, McGowan's garden — well over 20,000 square feet of eggplants, peppers, tomatoes, beans and squash — produced 1,050 lbs. of organically grown vegetables for the Food Bank of Oakland County.

"We can confidently say that in the last few years, thousands and thousands of pounds of this product have been distributed to families who would not be able to afford the luxuries of [fresh vegetables]," wrote Helen Kozlowski, executive director of the Food Bank, in support of McGowan's nomination. "He is an outstanding donor, genuine, sincere and dedicated to doing what he can to eliminate

hunger in this little corner of the world. One man can, and has, made a difference!"

Of course it

takes more than one man to raise this many vegetables. McGowan, a Master Gardener, depends on volunteers to help. Many come to fulfill the 40 hours of community service required to earn Master Gardener status.

"Not only does Bob give of his own time and personal resources," wrote

**"You only keep what you share..."**



Martha Ferguson, extension program coordinator for Michigan State University Extension-Oakland County, "he provides the means for dozens of other gardeners to participate alongside him in his most worthwhile endeavors." In recognition of his efforts, McGowan was chosen Oakland County Master Gardener of the Year for 2000.

McGowan originally pursued a career in education, earning a BA in English from OU in 1967. While a student, he acted in eight major theatrical productions and was part

of a seven-student team that negotiated to bring the Barn Theatre (now gone) to campus. Following graduation, McGowan taught for nine years before turning to advertising in 1976. That same year, he earned his MA in English at OU.

"I like to say I voted for them (OU) twice," McGowan quips. "It was a great place to be and a great school."

Today, McGowan is senior vice president and partner at Smith-Winchester, a provider of integrated marketing communications, where as copy chief he is responsible for

promotional copy for all media. Wielding words instead of garden tools, McGowan has used his professional skills for community service as well. He developed the graphic and logo design for the Food Bank, and literature for the Alzheimer's Disease Association, Square One (a homeless shelter), the Hunger Action Coalition in Detroit and Imagine/Render.

"I do think," McGowan says, looking out over the tidy rows of vegetables, "you only keep what you share."

## The 2001 Odyssey Award

### PATRICIA BOOK, PHD, CAS '72

Bestowing the Odyssey Award on Patricia Book could not be more appropriate. Her professional and educational journey has indeed been an odyssey, leading her from OU to Connecticut, Cyprus, Alaska and Pennsylvania. While many say it's the journey that counts, where you start that journey also is pretty important.

"OU has always had a very fond place in my heart," says Book. "It was there that I was inspired to pursue a major in anthropology and continue my studies in graduate school. I attribute much of what I have become to the formative period I had at OU."

Pivotal influences from that period include faculty (particularly professors Judith Brown and Peter Bertocci, whom Book calls "a constant source of intellectual challenge, support and guidance") who embraced social activism, great literature and dialogue on social issues, and the atmosphere on campus.

"In the early 1970s, OU was a place of thoughtful human activism," says Book, who supported environmental causes, equal opportunity and the women's movement. "The values I formed there... have guided my work and my life to this present day."



**"I attribute much of what I have become to the formative period I had at OU..."**

Book's educational and career achievements, contributions to education and literature, and volunteer commitments fill 18 pages of her curriculum vitae. Master's and doctoral degrees in cultural and medical anthropology from the University of Connecticut. Several months of doctoral research in Cyprus studying thalassemia (a genetic anemia). Director of the Northern Alaska Health Resources Association. Adjunct research associate in anthropology at the Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Fairbanks. Author, co-author and editor of more than 45 publications. Dean of the School of Career and Continuing Education of the University of Fairbanks. Member, director and/or president of numerous committees and organizations, including the United Way, the Rotary Club, the Alaska

Parent Teacher Association, the Fairbanks Arts Association, and the Community Alcoholism Advisory Committee.

In 1992 Book left Alaska for Pennsylvania, where she became associate vice president of continuing education for program development at Pennsylvania State University. Since 1997, she has been associate vice president for outreach and executive director, Division of Continuing Education, Outreach and Cooperative Extension. She is also on the graduate anthropology faculty. Continuing her dedication to community service, in 1998 she joined the board of the Central Pennsylvania Festival of Arts (CPFA), a five-day festival with more than 100,000 attendees and 1,000 artists, and is currently president of its board of directors.

"Let me summarize by saying, Pat has distinguished herself at Penn State, in her professional field and in the community," wrote James Ryan, vice president of Outreach and Cooperative Extension, in support of Book's nomination. "She makes a strong statement about the value of an Oakland University education."



## The 2001 Distinguished Alumni Service Award

### JAMES WILBERT SBA '73

For James Wilbert, winner of this year's Distinguished Alumni Service Award, the moral of the story is simple: treat people well and they'll return the favor.

"I have been so honored to work with a school as it moves forward," says Wilbert, managing partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers West Michigan practice. "OU has taken good care of me and I've tried to take good care of it."

Urged to attend OU by friends on the university swim team, Wilbert says he was attracted to OU by its intimate size and solid academic reputation. His experiences as a student in the School of Business Administration (SBA) cemented a relationship that has lasted more than 30 years.

"OU takes such good care of the students through the faculty, career counseling, service and support groups," says Wilbert, who gratefully remembers the extra support he received when returning to school after a two-year stint in the Army.

Although he says he has always been active on campus in some capacity and has stayed involved because he enjoys the activities, culture and camaraderie, his most significant contributions began in the early 80s.

As a charter member of the SBA Alumni Affiliate Board in 1985, Wilbert helped establish the first alumni scholarship for the SBA, participated in several fund-raisers and activities and served as board president. He also joined the SBA Board of Visitors and was asked in 1991 to charter and chair the OU Accounting and Finance Advisory Board.

"That was very special to me," says Wilbert. "The board was an important part of the business school designed to promote our great professors and get more recognition. I was delighted they asked me to help start [it.]"

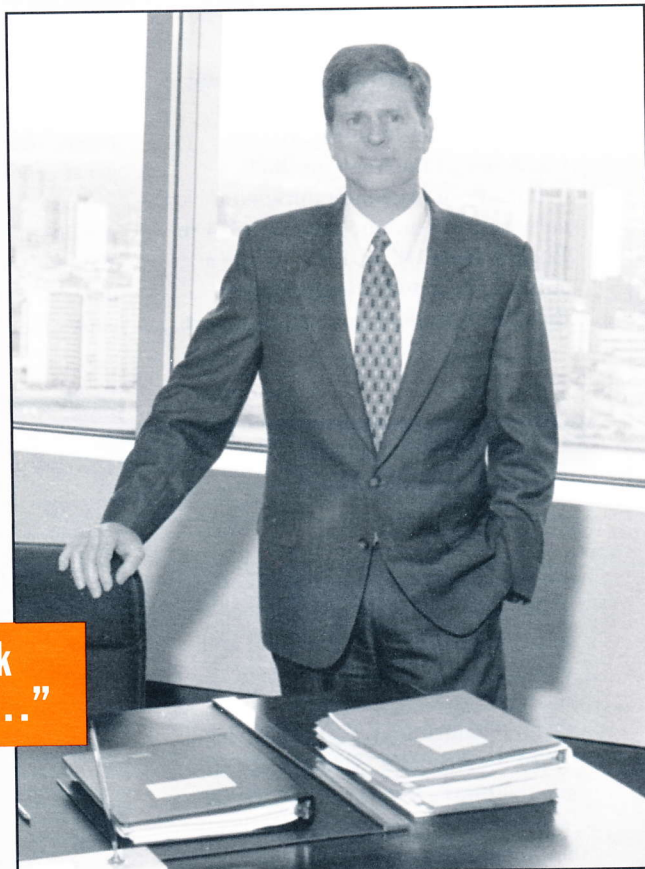
On both boards, Wilbert worked on accreditation and later reaccreditation projects that were crucial to the recognition of OU's business and accounting programs. He also organized a Management Information Systems and

**"You never think you do enough..."**

Accounting Recruiter's banquet, giving students the chance to mingle with the accounting faculty and recruiters in a business environment.

In 1995, Wilbert expanded his service to the university by joining the Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) board of directors. He has served as treasurer of the OUAA since 1996.

Wilbert has sought additional opportunities to support OU and youth education during his tenure with PricewaterhouseCoopers, such as serving on the company's Supporting Youth Business Education committee. While in New York, he initiated an after-school tutoring program in Harlem. In Detroit, he adopted a middle school as part of the Detroit Compact program. And he sponsored a new swim-safe program for inner-city children in Grand Rapids, where he currently resides.



The OUAA presented Wilbert with The Spirit Award in 1994. Nominated this year for his "lasting impact on the SBA, OU and its students," Wilbert's continued commitment earned him OU's highest alumni honor.

"I was surprised," says Wilbert. "You never think you do enough to deserve such an award. Since graduation, Oakland has played an important role in my personal and professional development. I seem to have been the beneficiary of our long relationship."



## **The Spirit Award**

### **STANLEY A. BABIUK SECS '73**

Called “a true ambassador” by nominator Adrienne Bass, Stan Babiuk has largely reflected the spirit of this award through the Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA). Babiuk’s service to the OUAA spans more than a quarter of a century and includes support of the Art & Apples Festival, the Alumni Golf Outing and the Annual Awards Banquet. He has served on the OUAA Board of Directors since 1997, currently as chair of the Nominations and Bylaws Committee.

Babiuk’s efforts as a volunteer have contributed to increased scholarship funds for students

and expansion of the OUAA’s involvement in the community, and have earned him the title of ambassador.

The scope of his dedication extends beyond the OUAA. During 27 years with the ANR Pipeline Company — currently as senior vice president for project development — Babiuk has recruited and hired many OU alumni, and supported a graduate fellowship and engineering scholarship program in cooperation with ANR Pipeline. Active in the School of Engineering and Computer Science, Babiuk is also a longtime member of the OU President’s Club.

A member of the OU baseball team in the early 70s, Babiuk

continues to step up to the plate for Oakland University.



## **The Spirit Award**

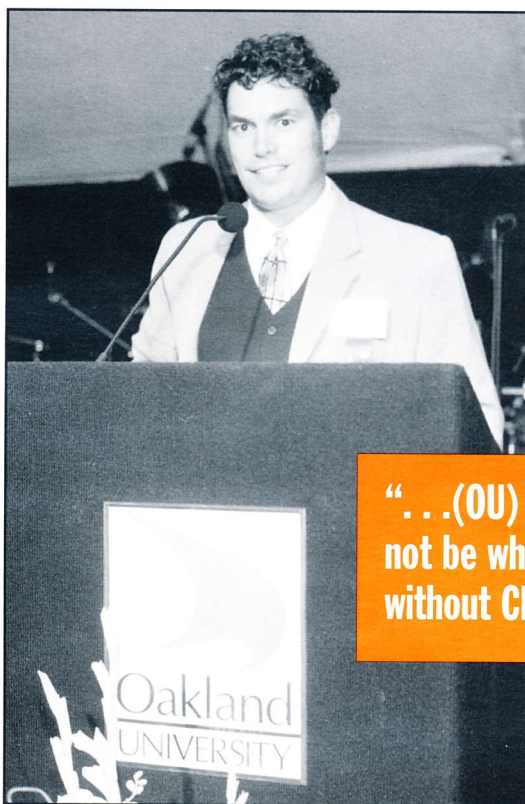
### **CHRIS CATALLO CAS '90**

Some have feared that computers isolate us; Chris Catallo, vice president and founder of Sv3 Media Group, exemplifies just how much they can bring us together.

“It’s not exaggerating to say the (OU) Web site would not be where it is today without Chris’ attention,” wrote Geoff Upward, associate vice president, OU Communications and Marketing, in nominating Catallo.

A trained musician, Catallo has been taking MIDI and other interactive computer applications to the max since his early teens. Improvements to OU’s Web site that illustrate his talent and dedication include a new and improved home page, 12 splash screens and fully developed admissions, athletics and alumni sites that allow information to be updated as news happens. Live Webcasts from home and away basketball games, which allow fans to listen to the action no matter where they are, are particularly appreciated by parents of players who can’t attend games or view them via television.

“His dedication to the project and what he delivered exceeded expectations,” Upward noted. “In the



**“... (OU) Web Site would not be where it is today without Chris’ attention.”**

course of the project, he provided Web-related consulting far above the parameters of his contract...to ensure his alma mater would have a fun, compelling and interactive site.”

In addition to the Web site, Catallo has welcomed both OU students and

alumni onto the staff at Sv3 Media Group. He participates in the Applied Technology in Business program and contributed two-year scholarships through Sv3 to OU students working on projects for the company.



# The World Is Not Enough



Maggie Allesee with husband, Bob Allison (l), and OU President Gary D. Russi.

**"Maggie's commitment to education is an inspiration to us all."**

## Honorary Alumnus/a Award

### **MARGARET ALLESEE**

Margaret "Maggie" Allesee of Bloomfield Hills made headlines two years ago when she donated \$1 million to OU's School of Nursing (SON), establishing an endowed chair in geriatric and rehabilitation nursing. An advocate for preparing to meet the increasing needs of an aging population, Allesee's gift provided funding for a faculty nursing expert in geriatrics and a graduate assistant to research, teach and promote programs for the elderly.

What didn't make headlines — and deserves to — are Allesee's equally valuable contributions of time and energy as a member of four OU boards: the OU Foundation (a director since 1999), the School of Nursing Board of Visitors (since 1988), Meadow Brook Theatre and the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. To put Allesee's commitment to OU in perspective, consider this: a well-known philanthropist, Allesee, 72, serves on more than 30 other boards. Many are the biggest names in nonprofit organizations from the Detroit area, including the Karmanos Cancer Institute, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Lighthouse in Pontiac and Cranbrook.

"I have had the pleasure of serving on the Board of Visitors for the SON with Maggie," wrote nominator Patricia Jorgensen. "She is one of the founding members of the board, donating funds and time to the school. Maggie's commitment to education is an inspiration to us all."



## JOHN SAVIO

This year marks John Savio's 20th anniversary as vice president, branch operations of the OU-MSU Federal Credit Union. It also marks two decades of Savio's positive involvement in a wide range of university activities, boards and programs.

"My experience with John began three years ago in my role with the Alumni Relations department," wrote nominator Adrienne Bass, director. "I don't think I was here a week before John came over to share collaborative ideas he had to interact with the Alumni Association. He has played the key role of supporter ever since and has provided support in almost every event we have held over the years."

It is a compliment to Savio that his volunteer commitments are too numerous to list here; they include the Enduring Legacy for Kresge Library Pledge, six golf programs, several athletic committees, two search committees, a pancake breakfast and program sponsor, speaker and donor.

The common denominator in all of Savio's contributions has been his "keen ability" to build collaborations and identify ways to improve the university.

"No matter the mission," Bass noted, "John is always there with open arms and a positive attitude."



**"No matter the mission, John is always there with open arms..."**

## GEORGE SEIFERT

As this year's Honorary Alumnus Award illustrates, there are several reasons why non-graduates choose to give outstanding service to OU: appreciation for the university's accomplishments and programs, an affiliation, a commitment to supporting education and, like

George Seifert, the simple desire to make a difference.

"George is just interested in being involved," says nominator Phil Williams, "and OU is a way for him to channel that interest."

Williams met Seifert 10 years ago, when Seifert became a member of the OU Foundation following retirement from his position as vice president of

Ameritech, capping a 35-year career. Seifert has also served as adviser to the dean of the School of Business, and with his wife, Betty, actively supports Meadow Brook Theatre, the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, and OU students with scholarships through the College of Arts and Sciences.

Citing his leadership, wisdom and "vast expertise in business and foundation development," Williams calls Seifert a valuable addition to the foundation and an asset to the university.

"His warm, sincere, friendly manner has engaged everyone on campus from potential students to fellow volunteers," says Williams.

*Cathleen Hagan is a free-lance writer residing in Ortonville, Mich.*



**"George is just interested in being involved."**

George Seifert (c) with OU President Gary D. Russi (l) and John Ganfield, senior vice president, Bank One Municipal Banking Group, and treasurer of the OUAA board.



# Friend of the Arts at OU

## Doris Travis

At age five, she made her stage debut. At 14, she dropped out of school and became not just a dancer, but one of the world-famous Ziegfeld girls with the Ziegfeld Follies. It was an unusual beginning for a woman who would always be described as an original.

Doris Eaton Travis, now of Norman, Okla., is a former Michiganiaan. She married Paul Travis, who came to Detroit shortly after college to sell automobile parts. Paul ultimately bought the Rochester



Paper Company and, after many years, sold it and retired with Doris to Oklahoma. During the years in between, Doris became the first person to open an Arthur Murray dance studio franchise in the state of Michigan. She and her husband once owned 19 Arthur Murray dance studios together, bringing the art and enjoyment of dance to thousands of people in many communities. Their efforts broadened not only the audience for dance, but also appreciation for it.

Paul and Doris were social friends with OU founders Alfred and Matilda Dodge Wilson and visited Meadow Brook Hall on several occasions.

Despite her incredible success, Doris always regretted that she never received a formal education and, at age 76, entered the University of Oklahoma. She graduated, Phi Beta Kappa, at the age of 88 with a bachelor's degree in history in 1992.

**Laurie N. Eisenhower, right, professor of dance, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, was named a 2001 Travis Professor. Photo by Rick Smith.**

Over the years, the Travises became avid supporters of the arts and generous supporters of Oakland University.

In spring 2001, the Doris and Paul Travis Professor Program was established in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) through a \$538,000 endowment from the Travises. Their gift represents the single largest gift to the college in its history and will benefit generations of professors and students.

The Doris and Paul Travis Professor Program honors four faculty members — one each from Music, Theatre, Dance, and Art and Art History. Faculty are selected based on outstanding accomplishments in teaching, research or professional service. Those designated Travis professors receive an annual salary supplement and an annual faculty development fund for a period not to exceed three years.

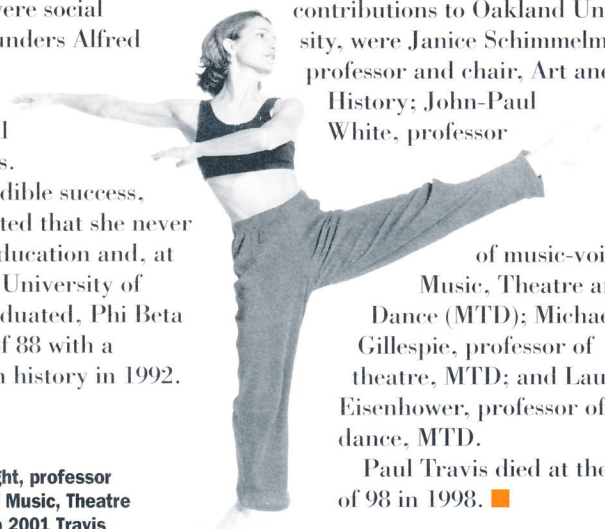
The very first Travis professors, chosen in April for their outstanding contributions to Oakland University, were Janice Schimmelman, professor and chair, Art and Art History; John-Paul White, professor

of music-voice, Music, Theatre and Dance (MTD); Michael Gillespie, professor of theatre, MTD; and Laurie N. Eisenhower, professor of dance, MTD.

Paul Travis died at the age of 98 in 1998. ■

### In Brief

- Doris Eaton Travis made her stage debut at age 5. At age 14 she dropped out of school and became a Ziegfeld Follies girl.
- Doris married Paul Travis, who came to Detroit shortly after college to sell auto parts. He bought the Rochester Paper Company and after many years, sold it and retired with Doris to Oklahoma.
- Paul and Doris were social friends with Alfred and Matilda Wilson and visited Meadow Brook Hall on several occasions.
- Doris always regretted that she never received a formal education, and at age 76 she entered the University of Oklahoma. She graduated at the age of 88 with a bachelor's degree in History.
- Her story has gained national attention from CNN, the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, and The Rosie O'Donnell Show.





# A SIMPLE GIFT RETURNS A LIFETIME INCOME

## Gift annuities benefit you and OU

If you think it's impossible to receive a high level of steady, reliable income in an era of uncertain, unpredictable market conditions while realizing many tax benefits, you should consider gift annuities.

As its name suggests, it is part gift and part annuity. The gift is a contribution of money or property to Oakland University. The annuity is an arrangement by which the university agrees to pay the donor a guaranteed income for life.

Gift annuities provide multiple benefits. Since a portion of the gift is treated as a charitable contribution, the donor gets an immediate income-tax deduction to help offset current income.

And, through the contribution, the donor makes a long-lasting difference to OU students today and tomorrow. OU receives the balance of the annuity account when the donor and his or her beneficiaries no longer need it.

Henry Price believes in doing philanthropic works while he is alive and can see the effects of his contributions. He also believes strongly in the importance of libraries and in the mission of Oakland University. Price demonstrated those beliefs by creating a gift annuity for Oakland University to increase the permanent collection of business materials in Kresge Library.

In exchange for his generosity, Price receives an attractive fixed-rate income during his lifetime.

"I am pleased that the gift annuity yields more than a CD and lets me make a gift now while I can enjoy it," Price says.

Price, a long-time friend and supporter of OU, also has served as a general trustee of the Michigan State/Oakland University Foundation, director of the OU Foundation and member of the foundation's finance committee.



Charitable gift annuities are tax-planning tools for young and old alike. While those donors approaching or in retirement can use a gift annuity to ensure an income for their lifetime, younger donors can take advantage of a deferred gift annuity for retirement planning.

Through a deferred gift annuity, donors can enhance retirement income and earn an immediate income tax deduction. Income from the gift begins at the planned retirement age. By deferring income, the donor receives a significantly larger deduction than a gift annuity would provide.

Gift annuities — and other contributions to OU — make a difference to the donor and help the university. ■

### The simplicity of gift annuities

Creating a gift annuity is simple and straightforward. Since the university invests the funds, donors don't have to worry about managing another investment portfolio.

- A gift annuity can be established with a relatively small sum of money.
- There is no need to create a new will.
- A sum of money is transferred to Oakland University.
- Oakland University pays the designated person — usually the donor and his or her spouse — a set guaranteed income for life. The payments are backed up by the full assets of the university.
- A portion of the annual income is tax-free over the donor's life expectancy as a return on investment.
- At the death of the last income beneficiary, Oakland University receives the funds remaining in the annuity account.

For more information on gift annuities and other types of planned giving, please contact Don Whitton, director, Planned Giving, at (248) 370-3700, extension 1247 or visit the Giving to OU page from the Visitors & Friends button on the Web at [www.oakland.edu](http://www.oakland.edu).

### Moving money out of the stock market? Consider creating a gift annuity.

Current gift annuity rates are significantly higher than other fixed-income investment rates. At press, CDs, money market funds and the like were paying between two and four percent. A gift annuity would pay a 72-year-old donor 7.4 percent, almost doubling the amount earned on the investment, and make a lasting impression on OU students.



# Lost and Found

Attorney **P. Mark Accettura CAS '77** recalls a woman for whom he settled business and estate matters after the death of her husband. The widow was so traumatized by this loss that she killed herself about 18 months later. Handling cases like this one made Accettura realize the need for a book to help people carry on with life after the death of a spouse.

"Most surviving spouses don't commit suicide," he says. "But they all really suffer. They just don't know where to turn. They are emotionally distraught. And, there's a ton of business to take care of."

Typically, the surviving spouse is a woman, Accettura says.

"And in many cases, because of the era she comes from, her husband handled the money. So you get this distraught woman in her 60s or older who's thrown into the management of her personal affairs. It can be overwhelming for her."

So Accettura gathered contributors to produce the book, *Lost and Found – Finding Self-Reliance After the Loss of a Spouse*, which he co-authored with a friend, financial planner Steven J. Case. The book is unique, Accettura says, because it combines advice to cope with the emotional challenges, and the legal and financial tasks that follow a spouse's death. Some of the contributors are Accettura's friends who have ties to OU.

Attorney **Lynn Westfall Gross SBA '87** and Accettura wrote the second chapter, "Getting Organized." This chapter covers topics such

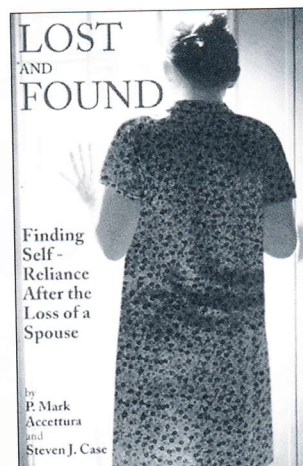
as income taxation of inherited property, locating and organizing important papers, and determining expenses. Gross is a member of the Farmington, Mich., firm, Accettura and Gross, which specializes in estate planning and administration.

James M. Knaus wrote the chapter, "Insurance: Claims, Life, Health, and Long-Term Care." An adjunct faculty member in the Oakland University Personal Financial Planning Certificate Program, Knaus also is a Certified Financial Planner.

**Keith Tishken CAS '77**, a lecturer in film studies and production at Towson University in Baltimore, produced photographs to introduce each of the book's 13 chapters.

The first chapter, "Grieving the Loss of a Spouse," offers advice from Dorothy E. Deremo, president and CEO, Hospice of Michigan. Accettura will donate part of the book's proceeds to that organization.

Other chapters cover topics such as social security, retirement accounts, probate and trust administration, tax planning, estate planning, prenuptial agreements, funeral arrangements and losing independence. A 35-page directory lists organizations, Internet sites and other books about related subjects.



*Lost and Found* was published in 2001 by Collinwood Press, a company that Accettura formed. The book is available for \$24.95 at

lostandfoundspouse.com and from Barnes & Noble, Borders and Amazon.com.

– Jennifer Charney

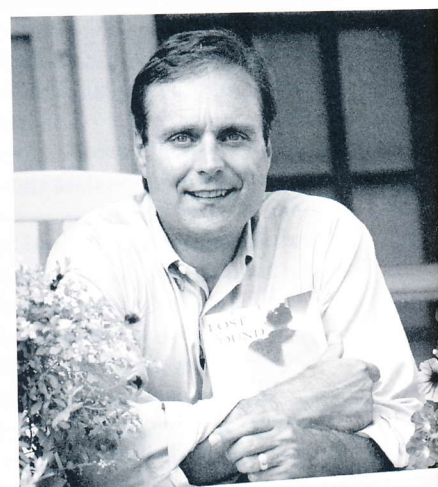


Photo by Agapé Images, Inc.

## About P. Mark Accettura

- BA, sociology, Oakland University, 1977
- JD, University of Detroit/Mercy School of Law, 1981
- Master of Laws degree, (LLM in taxation) New York University School of Law, 1982
- Adjunct professor, University of Detroit/Mercy School of Law, 1984-1994
- Host of *Law Talk*, a public access TV show seen in 37 southeastern Michigan cities



## CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1960s

**Elizabeth Davis-Russell CAS '65** has been named provost and vice president for academic affairs at SUNY Cortland. She was previously a presidential associate at Alliant University in Fresno, Calif.

**Michael J. LaFave SBA '68** is president of Michael J. LaFave Associates located in Massachusetts where he resides with his wife, Carla.

**Craig G. Paul SBA '68** has joined The Epitex Group Company and is working as a contract programmer at Ford Motor Company.

**James W. Pitt SECS '66** retired from DaimlerChrysler Corporation after 34 years of service. His last position was senior manager of LCP Thermal Systems.

**Philip Weber SBA '67** was promoted from technical service manager to automotive technical services director at Sika Automotive in Madison Heights, Mich.

## 1970s

**Susan (Barley) Baker SBA '78** was invited to be a presenter at the 18th Annual Intercultural Communication Conference at the University of Miami this past March.

**Michael Bennett SBA '78** was promoted to vice president at Colliers International Real Estate firm. He is an affiliate of the National Association of Realtors as well as a member of the Detroit Area Commercial Board of Realtors.

**Steven Blackwood CAS '78** received the Alumni Arts Achievement Award in Theatre at the second annual MaTilDa Awards ceremony on April 2.

**Charles O. Burton CAS '74** is running for Tulsa County sheriff. He is currently employed at the David L. Moss Criminal Justice Center and is retired from 19 years service as a deputy with the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office.

**Clark Chapin CAS '73** has been employed with General Motors for nearly 25 years. He is active in developing new fuel system designs.

**Deborah Cherry SEHS '76** was honored at a Legislative Appreciation Dinner this past October for her service to the Oakland community.

**Bethany (Kunz) Cronk SEHS '75** received the 2001 Parent Child Preschool International Award for her involvement as a speaker, a teacher and the program director for the Michigan Council of Cooperative Nursery Schools.

**Elias J. Escobedo CAS '78** is a member of the Saginaw Valley State University Board and was recently sworn in as president of the Oakland County Bar Association.

**Winfred Evans MAT '77** was promoted to business development manager from corporate sales manager at DRCI L.L.C.

**Gregory T. Farnum CAS '74, MA '78** recently had a novel published titled *The Event*.

**Ronn E. Jamieson SECS '74**, formerly an engineering director of North American Car Group Electrical, is now the chief engineer of Electrical at Adam Opel, AG in Russelsheim, Germany.

**Diane Gedeon-Martin CAS '79** and her husband, Roger, relocated to Glastonbury, Conn., along with her business, The Write Source, which is celebrating its ninth year.

**Mark Gonzalez CAS '77** is the dean of liberal arts at Century College in White Bear Lake, Minn.

**Carol Halsted ADA '75** received a 2000 Art Achievement Award from Wayne State University and is a professor and chair for the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance at Oakland University. She was honored for a photography exhibit mounted at the Detroit Institute of Arts in 2000 titled, "The Power and Passion of Dance."

**Terry L. Hickman MAT '76** was elected president of the Nevada State Education Association.



**Susan L. (Friedman) Jimenez SEHS '79** works for the juvenile delinquency diversion program for the city of Livonia and also coaches diving at South Lyon High School.

**David J. Meinhard CAS '77** was awarded his second Detroit Emmy on May 19 in the category of "Breaking News" for his work as a television engineer and news photographer for WXYZ Channel 7 News Detroit where he's been employed since 1979. Last year he received the "Everyday Hero Award" from the American Red Cross.

**Ayers Morison Jr. CAS '71** joined the architectural design team of Harley Ellis. He was formerly with the Smith Group architectural firm.

**Richard Moy CAS '76** is employed as a senior automotive designer at General Motors Corporation.

**Janice G. Schimmelman CAS '71** made a presentation on "The Iron Plate in American Photography" in Rochester, N.Y., this past October and also has published "Art in the Early English Magazine."

**Thomas Sparks CAS '70** was promoted from associate to shareholder of the Butzel Long law firm in Detroit. He is a member of the American Bar Association, State Bar of Michigan and American Health Lawyers Association as well as the co-author of a book titled, *Judicial Review of Administrative Decisions*.

**Jana L. Stone CAS '72** lives in Seattle and is a free-lance editor and publications project manager as well as a contributing writer to the Encyclopedia of 19th- and 20th-Century British Writers to be published this fall.



**Diane Tate-Bolton CAS '79** joined the Youth Sports and Recreation Commission of the Skillman Foundation as program associate. She was previously the education services manager for MediaOne.

**Jean Williams CAS '70** is a business and marketing consultant and operates her consulting business from her home in Hawaii, where she has lived for more than 20 years. She received her MBA from Hawaii Pacific University in 1998.

**Ronald J. Wood SBA '73** was appointed to executive vice president and chief operating officer of Independent Newspapers Incorporated and will also serve as general manager of *The Macomb Daily*, a parent company.

## 1980s

**Joyce Ajlouny SECS '87** has lived in Palestine for the past 14 years and is married with three sons. She is presently the representative of a British development and humanitarian organization called Oxfam.

**Lynne E. (Anderson) Barrett SBA '87** is a married housewife with two children, Jim and Tom.

**Lisa (Hall) Bridgeforth CAS '84** is an account manager for AT&T and the vice president of AT&T Pioneers, a volunteer organization. She and her husband, Keith, have three children.

**Crescentia (Schutz) Cook CAS '88** participated as a patron contributor at the 2000-01 Eisenhower Dance Ensemble program.

**Brian K. Cunningham CAS '82** was awarded the GM Chairman's Honor Award, a lifetime General Motors achievement designation.

**Ralph R. Echtenaw CAS '88** started a window washing business in Alma, Mich., and is also establishing his photography credentials as the owner and operator of Hoop Match Photography.

**Robert L. Foster CAS '80** was promoted to associate professor of music at Augusta State University as well as granted tenure. He earned his master's degree at Wayne State University.

**Tammie Glenn CAS '81** was promoted to director of Lifespan Clinical Services, Starfish Family Services, in Canton Township.

**Susanne C. (Susi) Gum SON '80** has been a staff nurse in PACU at Munson Medical Center for the past 12 years as well as a professional photographer. She is active in sports, dance and figure skating as well as theatre, fly fishing and foreign travel.

**Richard K. Johnson CAS '87** is currently writing his dissertation for a PhD in applied management and decision sciences.

**Larry R. Kandel SECS '83** works as a senior programmer analyst for IBM and currently resides in Reno, Nev.

**Laurie Kaufman MA '82, PhD '97** is an assistant professor at Madonna University.

**Nancy (Paske) Keener SON '87** is an emergency room nurse and married with two children.

**Kelly Martek CAS '89** has relocated back to Michigan from Denver and has entered the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, Ann Arbor. She is completing her first year as a postulant and was received to the Dominican habit on Aug. 5.

**Bonnie (Sayre) McNeill SEHS '80** was featured in the *Inside Oakland* newsletter for being employee of the month, November 2000, at Oakland University. She has been an administrative secretary for the Modern Languages and Literatures department for more than 19 years.

**Bret J. Moeller SBA '82** is a national director of technology programs for the Whitman Group in Miami, Fla.

**Sharen (Rose) Plezia CAS '85** has set up the Big Sisters, Big Brothers and literacy programs in her hometown, Key Largo, Fla. She is also a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

**Gary A. Plourde CAS '87** is a senior vice president for Sun Trust Bank, Florida. He and his wife, Kristen, live in the Orlando area with their two children.

**Claudia Roeder CAS '84** recently completed her master's degree in human resources management and works as a compensation consultant.

**Martin H. Rosol BGS '89** has been employed with General Motors Corporation in Connecticut for three years as an area parts manager and is married with two children.

**Frank Szuba SECS '89, MBA '95** recently relocated to El Paso, Texas, where he works for Delphi Automotive Systems in Juarez, Mexico, as a supervisor of product engineering.

**Martin Testasecca CAS '81** is a vice chairman of the board of directors for the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble.

**Kay Thayer CAS '83** is a member of the board of directors for the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble.

**Marilyn (Rossi) Vala CAS '84** works for Lear Corporation and has enrolled in the MBA program at Michigan State University.

**Heidi Van Arnen BGS '89** was featured in *Crain's Detroit Business* for her business' accessible Web site idea for those with disabilities. She is the founder and CEO of iCan, Incorporated, a Birmingham, Mich., company that provides Web accessibility consulting.

**Daniel J. Vandenhemel CAS '85** is a communications manager for Plante & Moran and resides with his wife and three children in Troy. He was also recently elected president of the Michigan Health Care Communicators Association.



**Phyllis (Wolfe) White CAS '82** received the Alumni Arts Achievement Award in Music at the second annual MaTilDa Awards ceremony on April 2, 2001.

## 1990s

**Kim Adams CAS '93** spoke at an admissions reception earlier this year about her Oakland University experience. She is a meteorologist for WXYZ-TV Channel 7.

**Jennifer (Schrinel) Allen CAS '94, MAT '00** has taught French at L'Anse Creuse High School for the past seven years and is married to Eric Allen. They have one daughter, Kaitlyn Claire, born July 11, 1998.

**Timothy Armbruster SBA '98** is a network administrator for Alps Automotive Incorporated in Auburn Hills.

**William Borowicz CAS '93** is a certified applied technology machine repairman for DaimlerChrysler Corporation AG and resides in Grosse Pointe Park with his wife, Renee, and two children, Ashley and David.

**Shannon (Taylor) Brewer CAS '93** recently completed the Great Floridian Ironman Triathlon, a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike and a 26.3-mile run.

**Donna M. Brunett SEHS '97** is employed as a human resource manager for Capstone Mortgage Corporation.

**Carolyn A. Canham SEHS '98** is an IT recruiter for Netstar Corporation in Bloomfield Hills.

**Sean Case SECS '96** was promoted to manager of contract administration from systems engineer at Safflok in Troy.

**John Coughlin CAS '92** is the lead Web developer for the Department of Information and Instructional Technology at Oakland University where he is constantly improving the Web site.

**Ronald P. David SECS '90, MS '92** was promoted to supervisor of DaimlerChrysler's Jeep Division and is a member of the Stay and Play Social Club.

**Melissa (Miller) Farr CAS '99** is a 1999 Oakland University Writing Excellence Award winner who works as a registrar at the Flint Institute of Art.

**Dana M. (Connolly) Garwood CAS '95** is currently employed in Troy at OnStar in the finance department and resides in her newly built home in Macomb County.

**Vicky L. Hardiman MAT '98** is a private practitioner in the field of substance abuse treatment, specializing in dual disorders.

**Claudia (Henning) Kaditz SEHS '90** is a human resources manager for Savair, Incorporated in St. Clair Shores as well as a mother of four and a grandmother of four.

**Margaret L. Keranen MAT '90** retired after 29 years of teaching elementary special education in the Berkley School District.

**Joshua J. Krupp CAS '98** is currently attending the University of Michigan earning his PhD in neuroscience.

**Eric O. Lundquist Jr. CAS '95** formed his own law firm, Becker & Lundquist, PLC, where he practices real estate, estate planning and business law.

**Ashley (Rowell) Mabbitt CAS '97** joined Blue Care Network as a communications specialist for Corporate Provider Relations this past October.

**Jill (Solovich) MacDonald MA '97** started her own psychotherapy practice in downtown Royal Oak.

**Renee A. (Charboneau) Mirovsky SON '94** received her Master of Science in Nursing degree from Wayne State University and is working as a nurse practitioner for North Oakland Internists in Auburn Hills.

**Barbara J. Moy PHD '94** is currently employed as the director of communication arts for the Detroit Public Schools.

**Shirley Oleinick MAT '93** was named the 2000 Elementary Teacher of the Year for Ferndale.

**Kirk W. Parish SBA '97** is an assistant controller for the TRW Automotive plant in Brighton.

**Richard C. Parra SECS '99** attained the Cisco Certified Network Associate certification and is currently pursuing a master's degree in systems engineering. He is currently employed with Lockheed Martin Management & Data Systems and is engaged to be married in April 2002.

**Stevan Patyi MA '95** works as an adoption specialist for the state of Michigan. He has two children, Taylor and Stevan, Jr.

**Kimberly A. Puccio CAS '97** has taken a position as case manager at a moderate risk facility for pregnant juvenile felons.

**Stephen R. Rakowicz SON '98** is a registered nurse at Crittenton Hospital in Rochester.

**James Randazzo SBA '90** was named regional manager of Motion Industries, Incorporated, north division.

**Mukund Row SECS '99** is an avid motorcyclist and is enjoying his degree in computer science.

**Teresa M. Sadrnia SON '92** is a mother of twin girls and is working at St. John Hospital as a staff nurse in the Women's Health Unit. She was recently honored with the Michael David Rinke Nursing Award from St. John for her outstanding achievement in job performance.

**Nicholas P. Scholz CAS '99** works as a computer analyst for EDS.

**Denise Sedman CAS '95** was named account supervisor for Manning Selvage & Lee Public Relations.

**Patricia K. Siegel SON '94** has completed her master's degree in nurse anesthesia and is now a CRNA leader at Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield.



**Abigail (Daniels) Smith CAS '95** along with her husband, Greg, were patron contributors of the 2000-01 Eisenhower Dance Ensemble program.

**Susan (Bissett) Spangler CAS '95** is serving as the assistant dean of student life at the University of Charleston, W. V.

**Susan K. Stackpoole CAS '94** received a master's degree in social work from Wayne State University in 1999 and is currently the executive director of the Rochester Center for Behavioral Medicine as well as the co-director of Choice's Now.

**Kimberly A. Taylor SON '95** is currently working as a psychiatric nurse for the mentally ill at Morc, Incorporated and is pursuing her master's degree in business at the University of Phoenix.

**David A. Tomczyk CAS '90, MS '98** works as a statistician at Corning in Wilmington, N.C.

**David Wisz SECS '94** was promoted to shareholder from attorney at Carson, Gaskey & Olds P.C.

**Nancy E. Wright CAS '90, SBA '98** and her husband, Lee, established the Exotic Animal Rescue League. She is also a tutor at Macomb Community College for students with special needs.

**Joseph Yaker CAS '97** was featured in *The Oakland Press* in an article titled, "Loft Living Space" that describes his Pontiac residence and his career as a Web developer.

**Kathleen Zuziak CAS '91** received the Outstanding Student in Music Education Award at the second annual Matilda Awards ceremony on April 2, 2001.

## 2000s

**Aldrin J. Arche CAS '00** recently relocated to New York City to pursue his acting, dancing and singing career and will be touring the south-eastern states with a children's theatre company this fall.

**Kathleen Bethell CAS '00** is attending Indiana University, Bloomington, to continue her education in English Literature.

**Mary Calvano CAS '00** works as a family counselor at The Judson Center and is attending Michigan State University to obtain her master's degree in social work.

**Kimberly J. Clifton CAS '00** is a director of public relations and marketing at Marine Life Oceanarium.

**Michelle D. Guy CAS '00** is currently working for the Office of Admissions at Oakland University as an adviser.

**Dominic F. Nastasy SBA '00** is currently the manager of financial planning and analysis insurance operations for the Auto Club Insurance Association.

**Timothy A. Rooks CAS '00** was recently named senior editor and board member at Wavefield Books. He is also a frequent contributor to various magazines and journals around the world.

## ENGAGEMENTS/WEDDINGS

**Nicole Chaffin SEHS '00** married **Geoffrey T. Clark SEHS '98** on October 7, 2000.

**Aimee M. Fitzgerald CAS '98** married John P. Markland on March 17 at St. Kieran Catholic Church in Shelby Township. She is a media buyer analyst at Alan-Frank and Associates in Bloomfield Hills and he is a mechanical technician at Automotive Systems Laboratory in Farmington Hills.

**James Fleming CAS '93** announces his engagement to Angela Zanotti. He is president and owner of Baseline Management, a tennis service corporation and she is attending Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. They are planning a spring wedding.

**Lisa L. Karchnak SEHS '95, MEd '99** is engaged to Michael Peterman, a logistics manager for CH Robinson Worldwide in Ann Arbor. She is a teacher for Rochester Community Schools.

**Colleen E. Lyons SEHS '98** is engaged to Michael E. Springs. She is a fifth-grade teacher at Walton Charter Academy in Pontiac and he is a supervisor at United Parcel Service.

**Sally (Lantz) Mattson CAS '73** announces her marriage to Terry T. Brown. They married on May 6 at the Rochester Community House. She is a free-lance writer and the owner of PRfx, a Rochester Hills public relations firm. Brown is a broadcaster on WWJ-Newsradio 950.

**Kristi Morauski SHS '99** married Bryson Chaffin in San Antonio, Texas, on May 5, 2001. She is employed as a cytotechnologist at a private pathology laboratory.

**Heidi C. Olmack CAS '91** married Charles Anderson on September 1, 2001. The wedding was held in Minneapolis.

**Kristin E. Rieman SON '00** announces her engagement to Brian J. Powals. She is a pediatric nurse at St. Joseph Mercy in Pontiac and he is a mechanical engineer at Autoliv.

**Amy C. Ruprich SEHS '96** is engaged to Scott Monroe. She is a teacher in the Walled Lake School District and he is employed at 3M Corporation.

**Brian Schiff CAS '95** announces his engagement to Carolyn Band, a nursery school teacher. Schiff obtained his master's degree in education from Marygrove College in Detroit and is employed at Hillel Day School of Metropolitan Detroit in Farmington Hills.

**Stephanie L. Woodman CAS '94** is engaged to J. William Costello. They plan to marry in August 2002.



# Tell us what you think

## ENTER TO WIN OU GIFT PACK

*Oakland University Magazine* wants your feedback so we can be responsive to our readers' needs and wants. Please let us know what you think is working — and what can be improved — by completing the survey below. If you share your name and contact information with us, you'll be entered to win a special OU Gift Pack in a random drawing.

1. I am:

- ☐ OU Alumni ☐ OU faculty and staff ☐ Friend

2. OU Graduation

- ☐ 1960s ☐ 1970s ☐ 1980s ☐ 1990s  
☐ 2000s ☐ Not applicable

3. School/College

- ☐ SBA ☐ SEHS ☐ SECS ☐ SHS  
☐ SON ☐ CAS ☐ Not applicable

4. Tell us what you think of the articles in this issue:

The Best and Brightest

- ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Poor

A Bike Ride Through Yangshou

- ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Poor

Now, Voyager

- ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Poor

The World is Not Enough

- ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Poor

The Dream, The Journey, The Legacy

- ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Poor

Doris Travis: Friend of the Arts at OU

- ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Poor

A Simple Gift Returns a Lifetime Income

- ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Poor

5. Which part of *OU Magazine* do you read:

Features:

- ☐ Always ☐ Frequently ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

News & Notes: A compilation of news from around OU's campus.

- ☐ Always ☐ Frequently ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

Alumni News: Brief accounts of alumni achievements and activities.

- ☐ Always ☐ Frequently ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

Book Nook: A look at publications written by alumni.

- ☐ Always ☐ Frequently ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

Class Notes: A brief update about alumni news and accomplishments.

- ☐ Always ☐ Frequently ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

Mini Profiles: Short profiles of OU alumni included in the Class Notes section.

- ☐ Always ☐ Frequently ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

6. *OU Magazine* is considering changes. Please rate the following in order of what would be most interesting (1) to least interesting (10) to you.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Letters to the Editor  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Alumni Across America, featuring OU alumni living outside Michigan  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Upcoming campus events, providing information in advance of events so readers can attend.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Alumni-written articles about alumni and campus achievements.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Contributions that enhance Oakland University and the companies and people who make them.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Links to OU's Web site, providing updates and/or more information about magazine articles published.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Ads promoting school and college programs, campus events and activities, and other campus-related areas.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

7. The best part of *Oakland University Magazine* is: \_\_\_\_\_  
 because \_\_\_\_\_

8. If I could change one thing about *OU Magazine*, it would be: \_\_\_\_\_  
 because \_\_\_\_\_

9. Please share additional comments and suggestions about *OU Magazine* with us:

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

10. Please tell us a little about yourself:

I am: ☐ Male ☐ Female

My age: ☐ 20-34 ☐ 35-50 ☐ 51-65 ☐ 66 or Older

(Optional)

11. Share your name and contact information with us and you'll be entered in a drawing to win a special OU Gift Pack.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (including street address, city, state and ZIP): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Share your feedback  
 with us and enter to win  
 an OU Gift Pack!

Send your completed  
 survey to *OU Magazine*:

Fax: (248) 370-3182

Mail: 433 Varner Hall,  
 Rochester, MI 48309-4401



# Where are you now?

☐ Check here if this is a new address.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Miss

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

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

ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address \_\_\_\_\_

**www.oualumni.com**

**1-877-445-ALUM (2586)**



## We want to hear from you!

Send us your latest news or accomplishments for future publication! Don't forget to include a photo, class year, major and degree. Class notes are printed on a space available basis.

E-mail [ouaa@oakland.edu](mailto:ouaa@oakland.edu) or mail to:

**Alumni Relations  
Oakland University  
John Dodge House  
Rochester MI 48309-4497**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Your alumni association membership

comes with **advantages for you**, including: opportunities for service and leadership; borrowing privileges at **Kresge Library**; access to two rounds of golf at **Katke-Cousins Golf Course**; a reduced rate for **Recreation and Athletics Center** membership; a 10-percent discount (on selected items) at **the OU Bookstore** on campus; discounts at **Meadow Brook Theatre, Meadow Brook Hall** and **Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute**; financial services at the **OU-MSU Federal Credit Union**; and **invitations to special alumni events**. Visit [www.oualumni.com](http://www.oualumni.com) for the most current list of advantages.

### MEMBERSHIP TYPE

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Regular Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$60 Two-year Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60 Married Membership (both OU graduates) \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Two-year Married Membership (both OU graduates)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Friend of the OUAA Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$90 Two-year Friend Membership

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

☐ Enclosed is my/our check payable to Oakland University

☐ Please charge my ☐ VISA or ☐ MasterCard Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

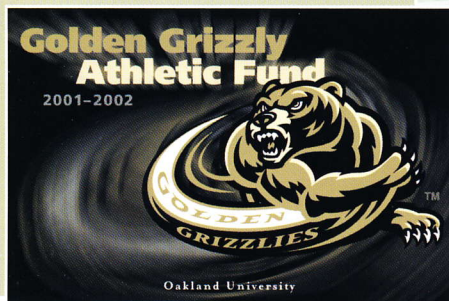
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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



Please return this entire form with payment to: **Alumni Relations, Oakland University, John Dodge House, Rochester, Michigan 48309-4497**. Forms may also be sent via fax to (248) 370-4206. Contact us at (248) 370-3700.





SHARE THE

# DISTINCTION

250 Golden Grizzlies competing in 14 varsity sports need OU alumni and friends on their team

Raising unrestricted dollars for Oakland University Division I athletics is the priority of the Golden Grizzly Athletic Fund. These dollars will assist more than 250 student-athletes in 14 varsity sports with scholarships, team equipment purchases and life-skills programs. This newly titled fund provides an opportunity for alumni and friends to make a meaningful contribution to OU while enjoying special privileges and access.

Supporters of the Golden Grizzly Athletic Fund have a ground-floor opportunity to secure the best seats in the 'Orena' and will be placed at the head of the line for NCAA post-season and away game tickets, and invitations to members-only events.

In its first two years of Division I competition, OU won 11 Mid-Continent Conference championships. More than half of OU student-athletes maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. Your contribution will help maintain this academic and athletic success.

Many benefits come with a contribution to the Golden Grizzly Athletic Fund. Call (248) 370-3117 or go to [www.ougrizzlies.com](http://www.ougrizzlies.com) for more information.

## Yes! I want to support the 2001-02 Golden Grizzly Athletic Fund!

Enclosed is my gift of:

- ☐ \$1,000  
☐ \$500  
☐ \$250  
☐ \$125  
☐ \$50  
☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ My check, payable to the Golden Grizzly Athletic Fund, is enclosed.

☐ Please charge my gift to: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ My gift is unrestricted to the Golden Grizzly Athletic Fund.

☐ Athletic program designation(s) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please send me information on basketball season tickets.

☐ Enclosed is my completed matching gift form.

Return to: Oakland University, Golden Grizzly Athletic Fund,  
 Department of Athletics, Rochester, MI 48309-4401





Oakland University Magazine  
Rochester, Michigan 48309-4401

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Rochester, MI  
Permit No. 17



DELIGHT YOUR HEART  
**ENTERTAIN**  
YOUR SPIRIT  
2001-2002 SEASON



# Meadow Brook Theatre

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S PROFESSIONAL THEATRE COMPANY

## Pump Boys and Dinettes

SEPT 12 - OCT 7

America's Favorite Feel-Good Musical!

## Murder on the Nile

OCT 17 - NOV 11

The Duchess Of Death's  
Most Diabolical Mystery!

## A Christmas Carol

NOV 23 - DEC 23

A Holiday Classic

## The Mystery of Irma Vep

JAN 9 - FEB 3

Madcap Mayhem On The Moors!

ALUMNI DISCOUNTS: OUAA members and  
Friends receive a 20% discount on up to  
two tickets per show. Restrictions apply.

Photo: Robin Lewis-Bedz, Michelle Mountain, Karen Sheridan & Kelly Pino.

## Bee-luther-hatchee

FEB 13 - MAR 10

Who owns The Story Of Your Life?

## Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

MAR 20 - APR 14

Temperatures Rise As A Family Is  
Caught In The Heat

## Godspell

APR 24 - MAY 19

The Classic Rock Musical

Call now for ticket information  
or a FREE season brochure!

**248-377-3300**

[www.mbttheatre.com](http://www.mbttheatre.com)