

summer 2018 **OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE**



Mr. **OU**

**CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Glenn McIntosh
ON A NEW HORIZON

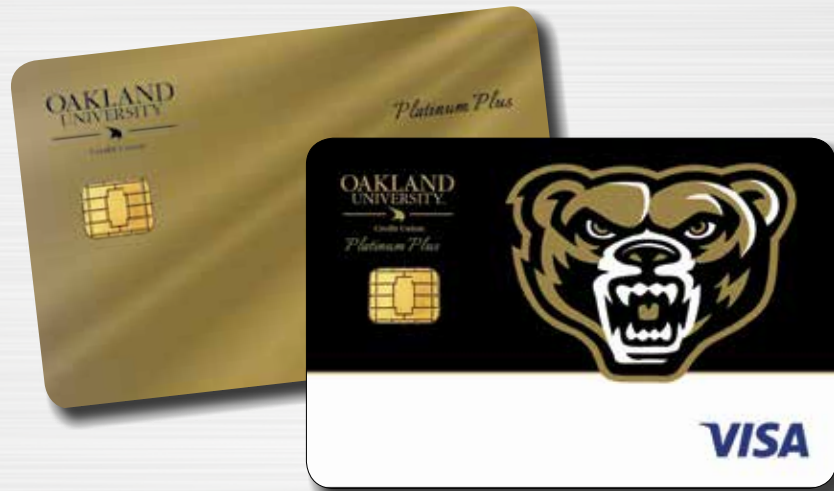
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Oakland University Magazine is a biannual publication distributed free to alumni, staff and friends. See current and past issues on oakland.edu/oumag.

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Oakland University is an equal opportunity and affirmative action institution.



ON THE COVER

Vice president for student affairs and chief diversity officer, Glenn McIntosh, shows his school spirit!

Photo by Adam Sparkes



Make it here.



Gathering in their ceremonial black and gold robes, our students are nearly indistinguishable during commencement as they graduate from one stage of life to start another. By our simplest understanding, we celebrate achievements because they mark the end of some toilsome task or journey. But it's often the roads traveled in between start and finish — the strength, resolve and fight to keep going — that truly make our achievements worth celebrating.

Resilience is ingrained in our roots as a university of humble beginnings. And from these roots, opportunity grows, allowing our Golden Grizzlies to not only blossom, but also fly. President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D., underscored this message in a special address to campus during her inauguration this spring, which was appropriately themed "Roots and Wings." And in our pages, we continue to echo this sentiment.

A high regard for higher education brought Oakland University graduates Laura and Shamil Halabu together. (Their love story starts with the Oakland Center on page 16). Now, their children — five of whom are also graduates — are honoring their family's legacy in a special way that opens doors and opportunities for other students.

Sometimes making it here is half the battle, shares Glenn McIntosh (on page 22), vice president for student affairs and OU's first-ever chief diversity officer. He overcame great odds to get his education and become the leader that he is today, and his experience helped him gain a greater understanding of what it means to have "school spirit."

"School spirit is the pride OU students, faculty, staff and alums carry from life-affirming experiences on our campus," he says. Once they make it here, they are Golden Grizzlies for life. ➤

Emell Derra Adolphus

Editorial Director

Oakland University is a nationally recognized public, doctoral research university located on 1,443 acres of scenic land in the cities of Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills in Oakland County, Michigan. The University enrolls more than 19,000 students and offers more than 275 bachelor's and graduate degree and certificate programs.

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INAUGURATION OF
ORA HIRSCH PESCOVITZ, M.D.
SEVENTH PRESIDENT OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

APRIL 20, 2018



It's been said that universities are places of "light, liberty and learning." That very true sentiment came to mind on April 20 as I was proudly installed as the seventh president of Oakland University.

It was a day steeped in tradition, with words that inspired, music and dances that dazzled, and an energized audience dedicated to our noble mission of shaping the lives of today's students and tomorrow's leaders.

"Roots and Wings" was our theme, and it was most fitting. A university at its best gives us strong roots to grow and powerful wings to fly. We looked back with admiration on Oakland's amazing founders — our roots — while creating our own legacy as we help students develop their wings to learn, to lead, and, ultimately, to soar.

Now that I'm "official," I feel exhilarated. I'm raring to go. And I know that you are, too.

We'll redouble our efforts to achieve our priorities. We'll ensure that every student who wants to learn can do so. And we'll lead the way for higher education, proving and increasing our significant value to society.

I know I can count on you, our extended community of champions, leaders, alumni, benefactors, parents, partners and friends, to help us aim high and advance Oakland's vision — to unlock the potential of individuals and leave a lasting impact on the world through the transformative power of education and research.

Ours is, indeed, a noble mission. I am honored to be on it with all of you.

We hope you enjoy this special edition of our magazine that commemorates a truly memorable day.

Ora



'Roots and Wings: The Case for Higher Education'

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.

Oakland University Presidential Inauguration

As delivered on April 20, 2018

**ROOTS AND WINGS
OF AN EAGLE**

It is a true honor and privilege to serve as the seventh president of Oakland University.

From my very first days on campus, I have felt a special kinship with this amazing place — our history, our values, our people and our purpose.

You and I, we are resilient. We've persevered against great odds or risen above tragedies. We cherish lifelong learning. We thrive on hard work. We have grit! We have guts!

Our visionary founder, Matilda Dodge Wilson, liked to say, "to attempt great things is to expect great things." I would add, "with passion and persistence, we **accomplish** great things for today's students and tomorrow's leaders."

Matilda did it all on a grand scale, without fanfare or complaint. She ran her family farm and her business, and she was this great state's first woman lieutenant governor. She pioneered our university with a generous spirit. To put it simply: **she got things done.**

Consider this: To accommodate our earliest seminar students in 1958, a year before the arrival of full-time students, Matilda and her team established the roots of this great institution by converting a chicken coop into a classroom. It was made of tile, concrete and a few stray chicken feathers!

From those roots — those humble beginnings — grew Oakland University.

Today, our superb faculty teach nearly 20,000 students across a campus that is growing in scale and reputation, while contributing 800 million dollars annually to the economy and 112,000 impressive alumni to date.



A university at its best gives us strong roots to grow and powerful wings to fly.

That's today's theme: We're celebrating Oakland's unique history — our roots — as we build on that legacy by helping students develop their wings — to learn, to lead, and ultimately, to soar.

Helping students achieve their full potential is our highest priority and our greatest pride. This isn't always easy; our paths aren't always clear. This reminds me of a favorite fable — one that also happens to start in a chicken coop!

The story is this: When an eagle was very small, he fell out of his nest. A kindly farmer picked him up and brought him to his farm's chicken coop. The eagle grew up there, strutting around, pecking at the ground and acting very much like a chicken.

One day, a naturalist came to the farm to see this eagle who thought he was a chicken. The man believed that the bird had the heart of an eagle, and nothing could change that. So the man lifted the eagle onto a fence and said, "Eagle, stretch out your wings and fly!" The eagle moved slightly, but then jumped down and rejoined the chickens.

The same thing happened again the next day. But the naturalist was determined. He returned once more, and this time, he took the eagle some distance away to the foot of a high mountain.

The man held the eagle on his arm and pointed high in the sky. He said: "Eagle, you belong to the sky. You were born for greatness. Stretch out your wings and fly!"

This time, the majestic eagle stared skyward into the bright sun and stretched his massive wings. His wings moved, slowly at first, and

then faster and more powerfully. With the mighty screech of an eagle, he flew towards the sun."

I love that fable because it's a wonderful illustration of what educators do every day.

From my vantage point, I see all of you who are helping Oakland's students find their **greatness within, as they gain confidence, stretch their wings and fly.**

You — our extended community of champions, leaders, benefactors, parents and partners — help us aim high and advance Oakland's vision — to unlock the potential of individuals and leave a lasting impact on the world through the transformative power of education and research.

With your help, we're also transforming to keep pace with the fast-changing needs of our students and our economy, ensuring that education is highly relevant, affordable and accessible to all who want to learn.

I'll come back to this in a moment with a spirited defense of our value and our contributions at a time when higher education is under attack. How we respond to this threat will make all the difference for future generations.

So, thank you to our:

- Past presidents, on whose shoulders I stand;
- Respected trustees, faculty and staff, who push us to be our best;
- Distinguished leaders of fellow institutions, who raise the bar for all of us;
- Prominent mayors, state and federal legislators, who support our goals;
- Generous benefactors, alumni and community leaders, who invest in our potential;
- Devoted family and friends, who have provided strong, loving roots; and





■ Talented students, who will help change the world. They include eloquent Lena Mishack. Lena, you are going to make a very fine physician one day!

Special thanks also to:

- U.S. Senator Gary Peters;
- Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson;
- OU Board Chair Ric DeVore;
- OUAA Board President Beth Benson;
- AAUP President and faculty representative Tom Discenna; and
- AP Assembly President and staff representative Stephanie Willis;

Thank you all for your great remarks and contributions.

My own roots are in evidence today. I loved that wonderful tribute from Indiana University President Michael McRobbie; he is an extraordinary friend, colleague, mentor and leader. IU's accomplished first lady Laurie McRobbie is also here; she is a fantastic friend and colleague.

Dear friends who have traveled near and far to be a part of my inaugural celebration.

To my family — you are my pride and joy — my children Aliza, Ramzy, Ari, Allison, Naomi and Adam; my darling grandchildren; and my partner, Dan, and daughter, Rachel. I'm thrilled that my wonderful siblings, Emmet, Arica, Charles, Rick, Paul and Veronica are here today.

To my parents, Rabbi Richard and Bella Hirsch, who are watching from their home. I'd like to say thank you for building our home around love, learning and service to others.

With us in spirit is my late husband, Mark. He was a true renaissance man who would have loved our bright, curious students and our beautiful campus

complete with its nature preserve and the 49 tolling bells we heard today. He would agree that this is the perfect place to make a lasting impact on the world.

REPAIRING THE WORLD

I have no doubt that education has the power to transform. I learned that lesson when I was only six years old.

On August 28, 1963, my father, Rabbi Richard Hirsch, took me to the March on Washington. My father was close friends with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and he played a leadership role in the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. King made history that day with an extraordinary speech that called for an end to racism.

Standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial before hundreds of thousands of civil rights supporters, Dr. King talked about his dream for America. He said: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

I couldn't see Dr. King over the crowd that day and I couldn't fully grasp what he was saying. But I understood the sentiment — that **powerful words and actions can change history.**

Two years later, despite warnings of danger, my father and Dr. King marched together in Selma. On April 4, 1968 in Memphis — 50 years ago this month — Dr. King's life was tragically cut short.

We grieved as a family. Then my father delivered one of the eulogies, and I'll never forget his words.

He said: "When God created man, he used every color of dust. Why? So that no one would ever be able to say, 'the color of my skin is better than the color of your skin.'"



It was a powerful and lasting memory for all who heard it.

My mother was less in the public eye than my father, but no less remarkable. A child of war-ravaged communist Russia, she arrived in this country in 1954, not knowing a word of English.

She quickly learned, and we spoke both English and Hebrew in our home. She was a strict disciplinarian. She liked to say: "We run a tight ship here — we call it a dictatorship!"

Books were our favorite toys. If we misbehaved, the penalty was an evening without reading. Dinnertime was noisy: a time for debating ideas as we welcomed political and religious leaders from many backgrounds and cultures into our home.

These amazing experiences were my roots. Our home focused on faith, education, music, the arts, and service to others. Perhaps, then, it is no surprise that, like me, two of my brothers are doctors and a third is a rabbi.

We believe in the Jewish principle of Tikkun olam, a Hebrew phrase that means to "repair the world." This calls on us to do everything we can to improve the lives of others.

Repair the world. And so, that is why I am here. That's a big part of why I left a corporate job to return to academia.

Here, we shape the lives of students. Here, as our mission says, we cultivate the full potential of a diverse and inclusive community. Here, we make discoveries that change the course of history. We dive into facts and debate mile-high ideas. We make learning a lifetime habit.

And, we actively engage in our communities, learning from them and making them better as we do so.

Where else but at a university can we do all that?

You see — at Oakland University, I've returned to my own roots and I've also found my wings. It is a freeing, exhilarating feeling to be in the right place at the right time to do the most good for generations to come.

You might ask: 'How will OU make a lasting impact on the world from our beautiful location here in southeast Michigan?' My answer is — don't underestimate us! We already do — in thousands of bold and innovative ways:

- We do it through our talented students and their academic success — reflected in rising retention and graduation rates. But it's much more than good grades. Some are working to make football helmets safer or documenting the plight of refugees who escaped violence. And our medical students are collaborating with 60 community partners, including clinics in Detroit and Pontiac, to prevent disease and promote good health.
- We also do it through our brilliant faculty and researchers, and their contributions to scholarship and better teaching environments. But it's more than that. Our professors are working to improve the health and literacy of our communities, hosting STEM summer camps, and even deploying a drone to combat hunger and boost crop production in Africa.
- We do it through important partnerships, such as our OU-Pontiac Initiative, where we have six pillars working collaboratively with the mayor and other leaders to help revitalize the community.





■ And we do it through our diverse, welcoming environment that encourages a rich tapestry of people, backgrounds and ideas. I'm proud that we've been recognized as the nation's second-safest campus as well as Michigan's most LGBTQ-friendly campus. It's essential that our students know that we warmly welcome free speech and that every single voice matters.

■ We also do it by innovating for the future. We're among the nation's top five schools for placing engineering graduates in the fast-growing industry of self-driving cars. This makes perfect sense, given our connection to the Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company. We're also unique in Michigan for directing not one but two business incubators that assisted roughly 80 startup companies in the past six years. This translates to new jobs and millions of dollars in economic impact for our region.

Stay tuned: we're just getting started!

UNIVERSAL TRUTH: EDUCATION IS A STRENGTH

Thomas Jefferson believed that educated citizens are a vital requisite for our survival as a free people. I wonder what he would think of some of today's media headlines.

Here are just a few: "Education is a Racket." Or "Higher Education is Bad for America." Or "College Is A Waste of Time." Or even "College is Dead."

My response? **Nothing could be further from the truth.**

But clearly, this is an urgent issue; higher education is under attack. Critics contend that we are no longer relevant. That a four-year

degree is too expensive and takes too long. And that universities haven't kept pace with the cutting edge needs of our workplaces.

Some of these points are fair criticism, and we must do better for our students — or we'll risk falling behind.

Here at Oakland, we're leading by example. We have added our persuasive voices to the debate. And we're working in partnership with industry and other universities and community colleges across the state to ensure that everyone who wants to learn can do so.

Far from a monopoly, we are a big tent, dedicated to the unique needs of today's students. To meet those needs, we're evolving quickly:

■ To help relieve students' cost burdens, we're increasing efficiencies as well as student aid. To make classes accessible, we offer flexible schedules, and we've created easy pathways for transfer students.

■ To prevent students from falling behind, we energetically mentor and tutor.

■ To help students land jobs, we partner with top employers and community leaders to provide real-world internships.

We can, and we will, do more. But to suggest that higher education is a wasted effort or obsolete is just plain **rubbish**. Back when I was a child at the March on Washington, Dr. King broke through the confusion and the noise, and he spoke the truth.

**Here is our universal truth:
Education is not a weakness.
It's a strength.**

It will **never** be a disadvantage to be educated. It's not a racket; it is the pathway to a rewarding, productive life. It's not a waste; it's the best possible use of our time.

All indicators of a good life — our happiness, our health, our jobs, our family, our contributions to society — are improved by an active mind and a quality education.

- Spending time with extraordinary faculty is a strength.
- Learning to lead a campus social group is a strength.
- Discovering a love for a poem, a play or a symphony is a strength.
- Being the first in your family to graduate college is a strength.
- Competing and winning a sports tournament and feeling a sense of confidence as we spread our wings is a **strength**.

This is no time to settle or to be complacent. Our roots are in the chicken coop — but we have the hearts and heads and wings of majestic eagles!

Like our founders, we will be bold! We'll show that grit, and those guts! With the transformative power of education and research, we will inspire and aspire to rise.

We'll improve lives everywhere from the statehouses to schoolhouses to factories to hospitals to museums to Broadway stages.

With powerful minds and passionate hearts, we'll invent and innovate, nurture our families, grow our businesses, be great citizens of the world, and serve others.

As Matilda said all those years ago, we'll attempt and expect great things. And there is no doubt in my mind that we will accomplish them.

In doing so, **we will help to repair the world.**

Thank you. 🍷



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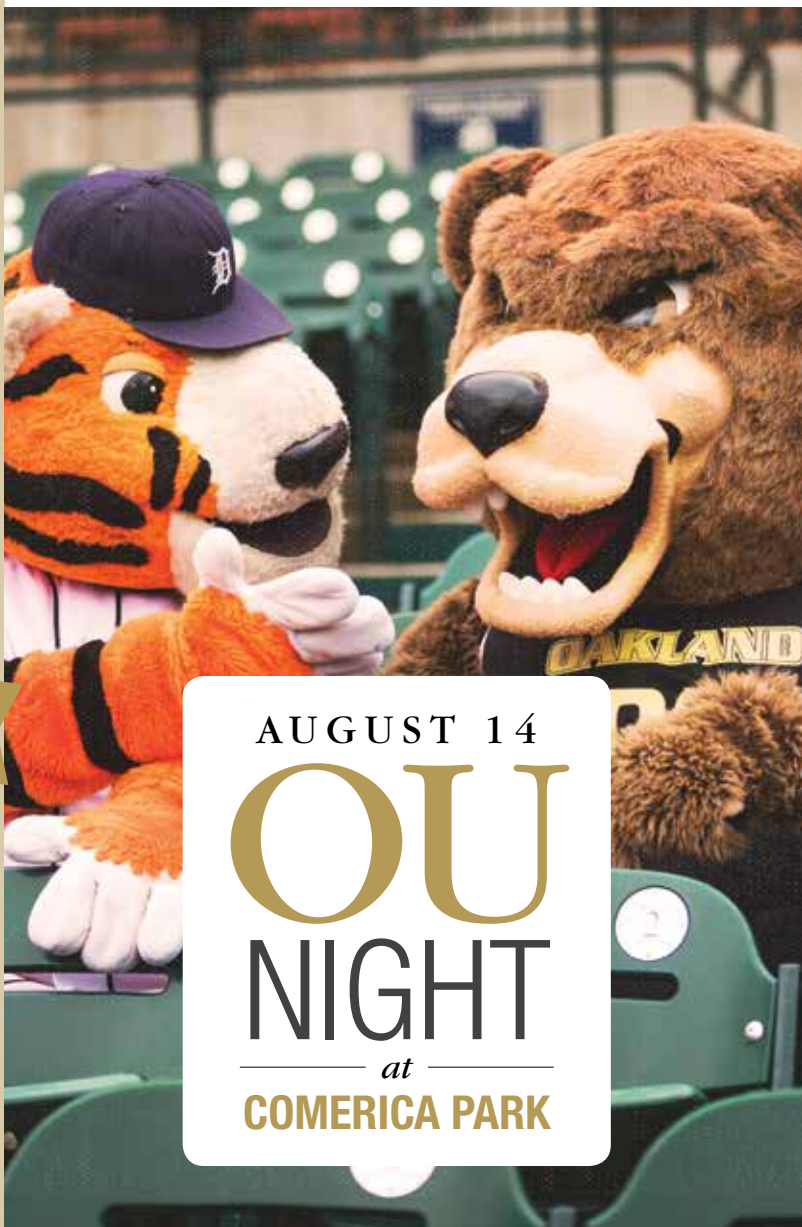
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Tigers - OU baseball cap with their ticket
and a chance to win other prizes.

For tickets and more information, visit oakland.edu/events/comerica

FOLLOWING *their* DREAMS

By Emell Derra Adolphus

Each year, Oakland University celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of goodwill at the Keeper of the Dream Awards Celebration. During this year's 26th annual gathering — hosted by Center for Multicultural Initiatives on Jan. 15 — seven Golden Grizzlies received scholarships in recognition of their leadership on and off campus. ➤

Michela Manga

biomedical studies

"Michela is full of love for others, no matter their race, heritage or social status," says Caterina Pieri, special lecturer of Italian.

Hansen Karyakose

social work

"Hansen embodies empathy and compassion for others, and courage and advocacy to fight for equality on all levels," says Stephanie Brandimarte, director of field and student support in social work.

Blake Walton

criminal justice

"Blake shows an ability to advocate for those who cannot always advocate for themselves," says Katherine Johnson, residence director at Oak View Hall.

Adam Sparkes

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Farrah Sitto

biology

"Farrah is respected for her academic achievements and esteemed for her ability to selflessly bring out the best in others," says Juan Martínez Millán, Ph.D., visiting professor of Spanish.

Obadah Asbahi

biology

"Obadah has a knack for working with people and treats individuals from all walks of life with great respect, kindness and empathy," says OUWB assistant professor Roberto Rinaldi, Ph.D.

Lakaysha Mitchell

social work

"Lakaysha improves race relations at OU through her dedication to equality," says Melissa St. Pierre, special lecturer of writing and rhetoric.

Kessia Graves

communication

"Kessia's ability to connect with students is going to help them stay and graduate from OU – which will ultimately help them reach their dreams," says academic adviser Melanie Chamberlain.



PERFECT FORM

**Diver Joe Smith
continues to impress**

By Emell Derra Adolphus

Joe Smith seems most comfortable at the edge of a diving board. The Oakland University junior, majoring in accounting, has quickly made a name for himself as a diver who can keep a cool head under pressure, and it shows in his dedication as a student-athlete.

This year he was named the Horizon League Male Diver of the Year, and he is the first Oakland athlete to sweep diving at the Horizon League championships.

Smith is also the first male diver in Oakland history to qualify for the NCAA Division I Championships. He placed 18th in 1-meter diving with a score of 327.65 at the 2018 NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships at the Jean K. Freeman Aquatic Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was four points away from making it to the consolation finals, and that fact has strengthened his resolve for next year.

"Larry Albright, Oakland's dive coach, helped with my progress more than ever," says Smith. "I'd never done a three-meter before, and I was first in the three-meter last year at zones. This year, I was second in the three-meter."

Swimming and diving head coach Pete Hovland put it best: "Joe is a dedicated hard worker. He's focused on being the best he can be." And his best is yet to come. 🏊



© Adam Sparkes

WILDLIFE *watch*

By Emell Derra Adolphus

Planning a fishing trip this summer? Be sure to look out for the New Zealand mud snail (pictured on dime). This invasive species may be small, about 1/8 inch, but it can be a big problem for our Great Lakes' fresh water systems.

"We don't want them to become the new zebra mussel," says Scott Tiegs, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences. "Zebra mussels have literally caused billions of dollars in economic damage to the Great Lakes region. They are a little mussel, but they have fundamentally altered the Great Lakes ecosystem."

New Zealand mud snails can achieve densities of 100,000 per square inch — which means there could easily be millions in one stream. The larger problem is that the snails compete with native macro invertebrate for food, which can have a detrimental effect on fish food and on fishing as a result. Last year, Dr. Tiegs received a \$191,888 grant from the state of Michigan to establish a network of "citizen scientists" to monitor the snail's presence for three years. He enlisted the help of local fly fisherman to spot the pin-sized pests, but anyone out enjoying the waters this summer can help with the hunt.

"Michigan is the source of 20 percent of the world's fresh water, so we need to take good care of this," says Dr. Tiegs. "When we introduce species like the mud snail that have such dramatic implications, I think we need to do something about it." ➤

If you find a New Zealand mud snail, report it at michigan.gov/invasives. To learn about biological sciences at OU, visit oakland.edu/biology.



After suiting up in yellow smocks, students entered the anatomy lab for lessons on the body's skeletal system and muscles as seen on uncovered cadavers.

future PHYSICIANS

By Emell Derra Adolphus

At the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine's Future Physicians Summer Enrichment Program, high schoolers receive a head-to-toe review of what it's like to practice medicine.

During the two-week course, students study biomedical sciences and learn how social issues impact the processes of the human body. They meet health care professionals during special guest lectures, network with students who share similar interests, and complete hands-on demonstrations using state-of-the-art technologies. Program days this year are June 18-29. ➤

For more information on the Future Physicians Summer Enrichment Program, please visit oakland.edu/medicine.



OUWB instructors use an embalmed brain and spinal cord to explain how the brain functions.

© Adam Sparkes



STRONG FINISH

Swimmer Holly Morren leaves a legacy in the water

By Emell Derra Adolphus

© Josh Scott

Senior Holly Morren's older brother, Jeremiah, SEHS '17, had a major influence on her decision to swim at Oakland University. After watching her brother compete in the men's swimming and diving division as a Golden Grizzly, Morren felt she could make the biggest splash as a student-athlete at OU.

"I asked him so many questions about what OU's program was about, how the coaches were," says Morren, an integrative studies major. The siblings were star swimmers on their high school team in Holland, Michigan. "After I watched how the coaches interacted with the team, I got a clear vision."



Jeremiah Morren

Morren is the only woman in Horizon League history to swim the 100 free in under 50 seconds (2016-2017). She is the Horizon League champion in the 50 free (22.58), breaking the school, pool, and league record (2015-2016).

"Oakland has a championship culture," says swimming and diving head coach Pete Hovland. "The programs have been successful for four decades. Holly's accomplishments during her time here will be a part of that forever."

After a strong last season, Morren is ready for whatever comes next after graduation. "I'd like to get into personal training or maybe coaching," she says, whatever keeps her close to the sport she does best. ➤

SWIM SCHOOL

Train like the Golden Grizzlies this summer at head coach Pete Hovland's Competitive Swim Camps for all levels of competitive swimmers. Swimmers participate in six hours of lectures, demonstrations and drills per day, swimmers receive evaluations following swim meets. Open to boys and girls ages 8 to 18 years old. ➤

Session I: June 17-21
Session II: June 24-28

For more information, visit petehovlandscompetitiveswimcamps.com.



OUTLOOK: *Seasonal* EXCITEMENT

By Scott Kunselman, Chief Operating Officer



As spring reaches full bloom, it is a marvel to see the greening of our 1,400-plus acre campus. Budding trees, blossoming flowers, sunshine reflecting in Bear Lake — our students, faculty and staff have a front seat to picturesque views and world-class amenities, and I am excited to share that we will be adding to that list this year.

In addition to our two championship golf courses, various hiking trails, walkways, wetlands and waterways, we will soon add an outdoor, aerial adventure park to the northeast corner of our campus at Walton Boulevard and Meadow Brook Drive.

This public space will no doubt be a boost to our campus life. But it will also serve as a much-needed connective point between our main campus and the surrounding community.

SUMMER SOUNDS

With the season's visual transformations, the sounds of multicultural events taking place across campus add to the ambience. One of my personal favorites is our annual Carillon Concert Series. This free music event is open to the public and is masterfully played by carillonneur Dennis Curry, who teaches a training program on the carillon in the School of Music, Theatre and Dance.

Donated by longtime OU supporters Hugh and Nancy Elliott, the Elliott Tower is designed to be a rallying point for student activities and a visual centerpiece for our campus, surrounded by decorative landscaping and fountains. Our carillon tower is the 14th tower in Michigan, and OU is the fourth Michigan university to have a carillon. Its 49 bells and keyboards were cast and built by the Royal Bellfoundry Petit & Fritsen of the Netherlands, and The Verdin Company of Cincinnati did the design and installation.

Fittingly, the elements that make our University special are as unique as our student body is diverse. And, when they are all operating at once in a way that complements our campus experience, there is no better place to be. ➤



Want to share your outlook?
Send topic submissions to
oumag@oakland.edu.



CARILLON *Summer Series*

Enjoy the music during
**OU's 6 Fridays at 6 p.m.
summer Carillon
Concert Series.**

JULY 6

Dennis Curry, Oakland University

JULY 13

Roy Kroezen, Centralia, Illinois

JULY 20

Joey Brink, University of Chicago

JULY 27

Philippe Beullens, Leuven,
Belgium

AUG 3

Andy Zhang, Yale University

AUG 10

Julianne Vanden Wyngaard,
Grand Valley State University



For more information about
the Carillon Concert Series,
visit oakland.edu/elliott-tower.

FORENSIC *first*

By Emell Derra Adolphus

Oakland University's School of Nursing partnered with forensic science specialists across the country to create Michigan's first-ever forensic nursing program. The graduate-level program provides comprehensive education in forensic nursing and its various subspecialties, which include sexual violence, intimate partner violence, child/elder maltreatment, emergency preparedness and disaster management.

Forensic nurses are health care providers with specialized education and training in the care of patients who are victims of trauma, violence, and maltreatment, explains special instructor Kelly Berishaj, director of the forensic nursing program. This specialty training enables them to keep one eye on patient care and the other on the courtroom.

They provide expert witness testimony and are instrumental in the detection, preservation, and collection of evidence that may be used to prosecute crimes.

In the emergency room, forensic nurses are health care providers first when caring for patient-victims, explains special instructor Kelly Berishaj, director of the forensic nursing program. But specialty training enables them to keep one eye on patient care and another on the courtroom.

Using head-to-toe analysis, forensic nurses are trained to deliver care while making split-second decisions that could be pivotal to preserving evidence.

"A comprehensive education is crucial so that our graduates can practice in any avenue of forensic nursing," says Berishaj. "There is a real demand for nurses that are trained to care for patient-victims because this content is not traditionally part of a nursing school's curriculum."

Last year, a cohort of 12 students became the program's first graduates, positioning OU to be a pioneer in forensic nursing education, Berishaj explains.

"We have access to tremendous partners and clinical resources," she says. "Students are receiving jobs at forensic nursing agencies, emergency departments in hospitals and the American Red Cross. Others are becoming educators and are now able to provide much-needed training to health care employees caring for patients who are victims of trauma and violence." ➤

For more information about the forensic nursing program, please visit the graduate programs section at oakland.edu/nursing.



TEE off

Join fellow OU alumni and friends at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 11, for a day of golf at the annual Oakland University Alumni Association Golf Challenge. The 2018 Golf Challenge is presented by the Oakland University Credit Union and provides a unique opportunity for all Golden Grizzlies to support current and future students through the OUAA Scholarship Program. Last year, the OUAA's scholarship program distributed nearly \$90,000 to students of merit.

Golfers select from the R & S Sharf course featuring a Scramble format or a Best Ball format on the Katke-Cousins golf course. Cost is \$200 and includes 18 holes and cart, buffet lunch, afterglow reception, and a special player gift. 🍷

Sponsorship opportunities are available! To register, visit oualumni.com/events.

For more information, please contact Kristen Lemire at klemire@oakland.edu.



GOLDEN GRIZZLIES GETAWAY *Travel Program*

Pack your bags and your brain for an educational trip across the world with fellow Golden Grizzlies as part of the Golden Grizzlies Getaway Alumni Travel program.

Alaska Majestic Frontiers | August 16-27, 2018

National Parks of America | September 7-18, 2018

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta | October 11-16, 2018

Iceland's Magical Northern Lights | October 31- November 6, 2018

Southern Grandeur | April 7-15, 2019

Gems of the Danube | April 29 - May 11, 2019

Baltic & Scandinavian Bliss | August 13 - 24, 2019

For more information about upcoming trips please contact Amanda Fylan, assistant director of alumni engagement, at (248) 364-6128 or fylan@oakland.edu.



WINE-DOWN *like a Golden Grizzly*

Sit back and relax as a private motor coach transports you through Michigan's beautiful countryside to visit three wineries and one brewery during the Young Alumni Wine Tour starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 2.

Stops include Burgdorf's Winery (Haslett, MI), Hoffman Farms (Highland, MI), Midtown Brewing Co. (Lansing, MI), and Fieldstone Winery (Rochester, MI). Cost is \$75 per person, which includes transportation, tasting fees and lunch. Space is limited. 🍷

For more information about this event and to register, visit oualumni.com/events.

SENSE OF PRIDE

Learning to lead at Oakland University

By Jacob Walters

A bachelor's degree in elementary education unexpectedly prepared Julia W. Music, SEHS '01, for her true calling as a community leader.

"I had to take the dreaded communications course and work on five speeches. But that gave me the confidence I needed to be a strong voice for my community," says Music, who has since become a recognized LGBTQAI activist as chair of the Ferndale, Michigan, Ferndale Pride street fair. "Pride is an empowering day for everyone where people can walk through the streets and be themselves without fear of judgment."

For Music, empowerment started in the classroom at OU.

"Oakland University is a great opportunity to learn from professors who actually teach students directly," she says. "It was important that the classes were tailored to get students what they needed."

In Music's case, a sense of purpose naturally blossomed from there. ➤

For more information on Ferndale Pride, visit the ferndalepride.com.

FERNDALE PRIDE Saturday, June 2 | 1 p.m.

© Adam Sparkes



making an IMPACT

By Eric Reikowski

Aaron Helander, CAS '17, understands how financial aid scholarships can change a student's life. Scholarships opened the door for him to attend college and pursue his passions, including education, athletics and service. As an undergraduate, Helander was captain of the men's swim team, an orientation group leader, a Second Year Experience ambassador and a volunteer for the Oakland University Center for Autism Outreach Services (OUCARES).

Last spring, Helander received OU's Human Relations Award, given to a graduating senior who makes an outstanding social impact on campus. Upon receiving his bachelor's degree in integrative studies with a concentration in entrepreneurship, he was inspired to create a \$1,000 annual scholarship that will support OU undergraduate students.

"I've had an amazing time at OU, and I have been afforded many different opportunities," he says. "So I wanted to start giving back to the University, and I thought the best way to do so was through a scholarship for undergrads."

Known as the Helander Social Impact Award, the scholarship is open to undergraduate students with at least 28 credits and a cumulative GPA of 3.5. The application includes a 500-word essay asking applicants about their career plans and aspirations to make a positive impact on others.

Now pursuing his master's in business administration with a concentration in finance, Helander is a financial manager for a Detroit-based coffee company. He also works as a graduate assistant in the Office of Alumni Engagement, competes in Master's Swimming and volunteers at events such as OU's Make a Difference Day.

"I believe everyone has something to give, whether it be time, talent or treasure," Helander says. "Find something that you were involved with in school or something that you are passionate about and start to give back no matter what level you are at." ➡



© Josh Scott



© Josh Scott

By Emell Derra Adolphus

Michael J. Westfall is Oakland University's new vice president for university advancement.

Westfall recently served as vice president for advancement and executive director of the foundation at Eastern Washington University, and he has served in a number of advancement roles of increasing responsibility at the University of Toronto, Virginia Tech, Michigan State and Georgetown universities.

He has a proven track record of academic fundraising success at both large and small schools, as well as winning strategies to keep alumni engaged and supportive of their alma mater.

Look for him at your next OU alumni gathering and be sure to welcome him to the Golden Grizzlies. ➡

GIFT OF GOODWILL

By Robert Guttersohn

Charter class graduate Al Monetta, SEHS '63, remembers a much different Oakland University. In the early '60s, he recalls, the University's landscape felt more like a small-town high school than the internationally-acclaimed college that it is today. There were no dorms, and OU founder Matilda Dodge-Wilson's farmland was within clear view. But the curriculum was rigorous.

"It was really nice then because you knew a lot of people even though most of us commuted," says Monetta, who received his bachelor's degree in secondary education in mathematics and history.

A tight-knit campus led Monetta to develop a close relationship with professor of mathematical sciences James H. McKay, Ph.D., one of OU's first professors.

"I had a class taught by him almost every semester because there were only three professors teaching mathematics," Monetta remembers. "He was my first professor there, and he was easy to work with. There was never an issue to directly ask Dr. McKay for help."

McKay taught at OU for more than three decades before retiring. He passed away in 2012, but his legacy lives on through

two endowments established in his honor to benefit students in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Now Monetta and Bruce Voss, his partner of 40 years and now husband, have apportioned a percentage of their trust to be bequeathed to McKay's endowment.

Like most teachers, Monetta knew for much of his life he wanted to become a classroom instructor.

"My mother was a teacher, and I really liked what she did. I knew in high school I wanted to teach, and mathematics was my favorite subject," he says.

Still, his family didn't have the means to pay for school outright. Scholarships helped ease the financial burden on his family and allowed him to finish school in four years.





"I applied for scholarships, and those scholarships paid for my tuition and books every year," says Monetta, and his contribution to McKay's endowment will do the same for other students. "I wanted to give something back to the University."

Upon finishing his degree, Monetta taught mathematics in a junior high school in East Los Angeles for five years. While teaching there, he earned his master's degree in secondary teaching. He moved back to Michigan after his father became ill and spent the next 25 years teaching mathematics and computer science courses at the high school level in

Waterford. But he always made a point to drop in and visit McKay, his favorite professor.

Now retired, Monetta and Voss, who also attended OU in 1971, have been dedicated donors to the University and Meadow Brook Hall for almost 50 years.

László Lipták, chairman of the mathematics department, says he hopes their bequest inspires others to give back. "We are extremely grateful for this generous gift. Their commitment acknowledges the impact of the exceptional education the University delivers and will allow us to support a greater number of students for generations to come." ➤



FAMILY TIES



Shamil (CAS '81) and Laura, (CAS '81) Halabu's children: Peter (CAS '07), Paul (CAS '09), Nathan (CAS '11) and Liz (CAS '12) each fondly remember their time at Oakland University. But they also acknowledge that they're only the latest generation in a family that has taken advantage of OU's education for the past four decades.

By Jacquelyn Goetz Bluethmann

Photos by Josh Scott

TWO GENERATIONS OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY SUCCESS STORIES (AND COUNTING)



Shamil immigrated from Iraq with his family in 1977. The youngest of eight, he followed in his siblings' footsteps to college, but found a unique experience at OU. "I enjoyed the small class sizes at Oakland," Shamil recalls. "My professors were very available and willing to help."

Initially he planned to be a dentist. "Halfway through, I changed my mind," says Shamil, who instead graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. "I decided I wanted to pursue law."

That wasn't the only thing he pursued. In his sophomore year, Shamil met his future wife, Laura (Mazurkiewicz), during a ping-pong game on the lower level of the Oakland Center. "For a short while, I had her believing I was a professor at the University," he remembers with a smile.

Laura's parents were first-generation Polish-Americans. Her father played the organ and worked as a treasurer for a local Catholic church. "His progress was limited in his profession because of education," she explains. "So he laid the foundation in our family that education was first and foremost."

Laura and her brothers — Michael (CAS '79), Martin (SHS '89), Matthew and Steven (SECS '91,'08) — all went to OU. Together,

they were the first generation of college students in their extended family. "Anything is possible when you have your degree," Laura remembers her father telling her.

Despite differences in language, culture and curriculum, Laura hit it off with Shamil immediately. "We connected intellectually, but we also connected over the similarities and differences between our families," she explains. They graduated together in 1981, and, as soon as Shamil got his law degree from the Detroit College of Law, they were wed. Shamil then began a decades-long legal career, and the couple got started on their own family of five children.

And, of course, when their children reached adulthood, Oakland was their first choice for a quality college education. "My parents were of the mindset: why should they send any of us far away to school when we could get an A+ education in our own backyard," says Liz. But Nathan has his own theory: "It was a predetermined path for all of us to attend OU after Peter did," he says, laughing.

Peter, the eldest, received a full scholarship from OU and graduated from The Honors College in three years. After getting his bachelor's in 2007, along with a Wilson Award, he headed to Harvard Law School — the first student in OU history to do so — and joined the family law practice. Paul, the next oldest, got a B.A. in physics, also graduated from The Honors College, and now runs a dental equipment business. Nathan studied communication at Oakland, got a master's in advertising from Michigan State University, and now works for a digital marketing agency in the Chicago area. Liz also graduated in three years from The Honors College and received her law degree from Wayne State University in 2015. She now runs two title agencies in the Detroit area, and has just received OU's Young Alumni Ten within Ten Award. Christopher, the youngest sibling, attends college near the family's current home and is majoring in chemistry like his dad.

Liz credits their time at Oakland as being both a formative period in their lives and a stepping stone to their success. "At Oakland, I was encouraged to think critically and to have my own opinion," Liz explains. "It was an open and nonjudgmental environment in which to learn. For me, the experience was about opening my mind and letting new ideas and opinions in."

Now the Halabu siblings are giving back to Oakland by funding a \$25,000 endowment in their parents' name. The endowment, available to students in The Honors College, will help today's generation achieve the same quality education that has been a cornerstone of the Halabu family's success.

"Dad always told us that college was not a place to play socially and occasionally go to class. In his eyes, this combination of school and work was the next piece of us becoming an adult," Nathan recalls. "An endowment is the best tribute we can give our parents," he adds, recognizing that the siblings' time at Oakland was "a tremendous gift." For the Halabu siblings, their endowment is just the logical next step in a family relationship with Oakland that has continued and evolved over generations. ➤

BEHIND the CURTAIN

An insider's view of
the grit and glamour
of performance in the
new School of Music,
Theatre and Dance

By Brandon Wright

Photos by Alex Godin





Over the course of three decades, the number of students studying performing arts disciplines — music, theatre and dance — has grown exponentially at Oakland University. The music department was established in 1959; theatre and dance were offered as extra-curricular activities and, by 1985, joined with music to form a new Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. Even in these early years, some graduates made an important impact in the world of performing arts, and as programs continued to grow in size and quality, more and more graduates have gone on to highly successful careers in music, theatre or dance.

To name a few, internationally renowned jazz violinist Regina Carter (CAS '85) graduated from the newly created department in 1985 and is currently artist-in-residence at Oakland. Opera singer Jacquelyn Wagner (CAS '03) performs lead roles regularly in the major opera houses of Europe and recently made her debut at "La Scala." There is also Caitlin Burke (CAS '01), a well-known Gilbert and Sullivan performer in the U.S. and England, and Esau Pritchett (CAS '99), who has an extensive career as an actor on stage, in movies and television.

Last year, Oakland University's Board of Trustees voted to officially establish a new School of Music, Theatre and Dance (SMTD) within the College of Arts and Sciences. For students, faculty and staff in the new school, the designation came with



"We take students of a variety of different experience levels and interests, and we are able to support them and take them on a long journey," says music professor and instrumental program coordinator Greg Cunningham, who has been at OU for 20 years. "The school is small enough, so we can do that, and the school is large enough that there are enough opportunities for them to figure it out. It's a very student-centered place."



great fanfare because it acknowledged the department's progress, presence and boundless potential.

"We needed to be recognized for what we were — that we had grown to the size, stature and quality of a school" says Distinguished Professor of Music Education Jackie Wiggins, SMTD's founding director. "For our students and for the community, we offer artistically-grounded academic programs and diverse performance opportunities."

In total, SMTD has 21 degree programs — bachelor's through doctoral — and produces more than 200 performances a year. While students and faculty focus energies on learning and teaching their own disciplines, they also enjoy collaborating across disciplines; the fruits of which are often shared with the community.



"Part of our engagement with society is dialogue, is conversation, is exposure," explains Jeremy Barnett, coordinator of the theatre technology and design program and assistant professor of theatre. "We do discuss heavy themes, but we also discuss light themes, like joy and mirth. Sometimes you listen to music that is simply joyful. Sometimes you enjoy seeing a dance or being a dancer because there is joy in simply watching or being that."

"Now you might not be able to solve all the world's problems with a single piece of art, but being able to listen to that piece of music or enjoy the recital because it is joyful, that then opens you up to the next piece, which maybe confronts some of the world's issues," Barnett adds. "We are really dexterous across all areas, and we help students find the path that's going to be the most meaningful academically for them, but also to take them in a specific direction that they're looking to go professionally. We're not churning out degrees; we're helping to create artists." ➤

"Many of our graduates have gone off to New York, Seattle and Chicago," says associate professor Gregory Patterson, chair of the Department of Dance. "They're working, they're choreographing, they're building their reputation, they're creating works, they're starting companies, they're dancing for companies, they're teaching, so there is a lot of success."

The background of the entire page is a soft-focus image of white and silver confetti falling, with several gold stars scattered throughout. The large, gold-colored text 'MR. OUI' is superimposed over this background.

MR. OUI

With a larger-than-life leadership style, **Glenn McIntosh**, Oakland University's first-ever chief diversity officer, is settling into his new position that he calls, **"the role of a lifetime."**

By Emell Derra Adolphus



Glenn McIntosh has a determined-to-win attitude that dates back to his adolescent years. Raised in a low-income household on the west side of Detroit, he beat inner-city **adversity** to graduate high school with magna cum laude honors and all-city and all-state accolades in football and track and field. These **accomplishments** paved the way to his dream of attending college. He was a chubby kid who was teased mercilessly because of his weight, but he beat his inner-critic to become a bodybuilder — **winning** Mr. Michigan in 1996, Mr. Ironman in 1997, and a slew of other titles for his athleticism.

McIntosh has since put his career as a bodybuilder behind. But, for 24 years, he's channeled that competitive edge into fostering a welcoming environment at OU, the past five years serving as vice president for **student** affairs. Now, as OU's first-ever chief diversity officer, McIntosh steps into the role of shaping OU's commitment to **diversity**, equity and inclusion. And, blending his unique expertise as a counselor and businessman — with the charisma of a tireless sports coach — he wants, more than anything, to see OU **win**.

President Pescovitz outlined four strategic goals pivotal to the long-term success of the University, the fourth being diversity. Explain your role in ensuring this goal's success as chief diversity officer.

Making diversity the University's fourth strategic goal really speaks volumes about President Pescovitz's commitment to the equity and the empowerment of our campus community members, in support of gender, race, religion, thought, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

To put it all into perspective, it's a serious step forward. And, as vice president for student affairs and chief diversity officer, my focus is on those next crucial steps. I will lead a collaborative, University-wide effort to develop and implement a strategic approach to demonstrate our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion for faculty, staff, students, alumni and guests. I want to help make OU a more open and accepting place. We do this by building the cultural competency of our community members. This will have a major impact on OU's ability to attract and retain a wealth of talent.

Your history with OU dates back to the early '90s. How did your relationship with the University begin?

It's a little-known fact that, two years before becoming the founding director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI), I served as a Saturday Academy instructor for Project Upward Bound. The college preparatory program helps inner-city high school students meet college admissions standards. During that time, I met some wonderful OU faculty, staff and students who really epitomized my belief in higher education and how it can be harnessed to unlock opportunities for individuals and communities.

As CMI director, you developed and implemented programs that positively impacted retention and graduation of underrepresented students. In what ways was your mission personal for you?

As someone from a low-income family of seven, who grew up in a neighborhood where opportunities were rare, it's been a personal dream of mine to help people from low socioeconomic backgrounds access higher education, embrace the classroom experience and co-curricular learning opportunities.

Professionally, within a year of being in that position, I created the Oakland University Trustee Academic Success program. The program garnered local, state and national recognition for its retention and graduation rates for underrepresented minorities. Today, it continues to be a premiere program.

How has this progress benefited the University since then?

Most notably, our campus has become a reputable, regional university because we are doing a lot of things well across campus. Our significant growth in enrollment, state-of-the-art residence halls and learning facilities, technological enhancements and Division I athletics has transformed our school and attracted a much more diverse campus community.

Describe your drive and leadership style.

As an athlete, whether playing a team sport or individual sport, I learned the value of teamwork and acquired an appreciation for all types of differences. But the goal was always to win. I move that mindset and work ethic into my leadership roles. My approach is to create a supportive team environment where each person on my team feels valued and can utilize their strengths to better serve the campus community.



“School spirit is the pride OU students, faculty, staff and alums carry from life-affirming experiences on our campus. It’s deeply personal, but at the same time, it is a shared experience. That’s the cornerstone of higher education, and empowering students to their full potential is our unyielding purpose.”

As chief diversity officer, how do you define success?

I define success as the process of setting diversity, equity and inclusion goals and metrics for the campus community and consistently taking action to close the gap between our current and desired campus climate. This includes making the student, faculty and staff diversity composition better represent our geographical region.

Out of all the awards and accolades you have received, which one do you hold most dear?

The Mr. Michigan title I received for bodybuilding in 1997. Winning that contest demonstrated how we can spiritually, mentally and physically transform ourselves through dedication and hard work. That achievement changed my approach to living and gave me the mindset to be intentional and head-on in fulfilling my heart’s desire.

What was the highlight of your college experience?

Well, I’m fascinated by people, so going from a high school population of 400 students to a student body of more than 14,000 students was eye-opening. I quickly embraced the reality of “differences” without placing a good or bad label on it. Consequently, I grew into being a person who put helping others first. I served as an orientation group leader, resident adviser, basketball team tutor, student government president and fraternity president.

Is that a reflection of the environment you worked to create at OU?

The most basic way I’ve tried to reproduce that experience at OU is by role modeling cultural competency, empathy and support for others. Like a pendulum, I swing from using a subtle to

direct approach in challenging faculty, staff, students and alums to make OU an inclusive environment. And I have played a significant role in creating complementary programs, services and university departments, including the Center for Multicultural Initiatives, Veterans Support Services Office, and the Gender and Sexuality Center, to support access and inclusion.

Over time, I have forged cross-divisional partnerships to help create a welcoming climate campus-wide. While I know we still have work to do, we have made measurable progress. And it’s an honor, a dream, and a privilege to be the guiding force behind where we are headed next. ➤



DRIVING SUCCESS

By Brian Bierley

Omar Brown-El, senior director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI), intimately understands the challenges facing underrepresented students at OU. In his freshman year at OU in 1991, the Flint, Michigan, native faced economic and academic hardships. But he quickly turned them around to become a student leader, get his bachelor’s degree in communication and a master’s degree in counseling.

He served as president of the Association of Black Students and led plans to develop CMI as a space for underrepresented students, and he has a unique understanding of the challenges facing underrepresented students.

“We have some outstanding programming like the Oakland University Trustee Academic Success program. Our nationally-recognized program, now in its 24th year, is setting the standard for academic excellence and leadership development to help underrepresented students acclimate to the demands presented by college life,” explains Brown-El. “My message to current high school students and those accepted as future OU students is that you have a place here at Oakland.” ➤



1960s

Gail Avery Short, '65, is a retired Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Children's Librarian in San Diego, California. She also spent many years teaching preschool through junior high and had a 12-year career at TRW in San Diego, California. During these years, she raised her two children by herself and bought a home. For extra income, she became a clown, Mrs. Santa Claus, Mama Bear and Mrs. Easter Bunny to read stories to children at parties in schools, companies and homes.



Martin Reisig, CAS '67, is a full-time mediator at American Settlement Centers and was recently named a Michigan Super Lawyer in the alternative dispute resolution

category. He was also named in the mediation and arbitration categories in Best Lawyers in America and DBusiness Top Lawyers.

1970s

Leonard Kniffel, CAS '70, recently published a new memoir titled "Busia: Seasons on the Farm with My Polish Grandmother." Kniffel is the author of three previous books and was editor of American Libraries magazine for the American Library Association from 1996 to 2012. He is president of the Polish American Librarians Association and on the board of directors for the Polish Museum of America. Proceeds from book sales benefit various museums. For more information on where to purchase the book, visit polishmuseumofamerica.org.

James Kelly, CAS '72, recently won the George Garrett Fiction Prize from the Texas Review Press. His story collection "Pitchman's Blues" will be published this year. "I credit OU professors Nigel Hampton, Gertrude White and Joseph



Dement, among others, for teaching me to eliminate nonsense, get to the point and support with specifics," he says. View the announcement at texasreviewpress.org.

Cynthia Brody, CAS '78, recently joined Simon PLC as a senior attorney. After graduating from OU, she received a law degree from Northwestern University and has spent her career practicing real estate and banking law.

1980s



Sandy Schuster, CAS '75, SEHS '81, was named chief development officer at the Southfield-based Jewish Vocational Service (JVS).

She will lead fundraising and development efforts and will serve on the agency's executive management team.

David Clinthorne, Ph.D., CAS '81,

recently published a book on the joy of flying titled "Daddyman's Flying Adventures - A Lifetime in The Air." Dr. Clinthorne studied biology, chemistry and physics at OU and has led a successful career in the biotech industry, earning his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. His book is available on amazon.com.



Phillip A. Serra, SBA '86, was recently named a Best-in-State Wealth Advisor on Forbes' inaugural list for 2018. Serra has been a financial adviser with Merrill Lynch in Farmington Hills for 30 years. He works closely with families, corporate executives and business owners to deliver strategies designed to meet each client's goals. He is also a certified financial planner and a certified public accountant.

1990s

Angel Favazza, SEHS '98,

recently published "Canine Chronicles," her fifth sci-fi book, exploring the distant realms with humanity's best friend: the dog. Currently, Favazza teaches Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition at Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Utica Community Schools. Favazza's books are available on amazon.com.



2000s

Theawiana (English) Bracewell, CAS '97, '00, and David E. Bracewell Jr. were recently married. Theawiana was also recently named event manager for Oakland University's Office of Academic Affairs and honored for her 20 years of service to the University.

Michelle Kane, SEHS '00, recently published her third young adult novel, "Kids of 8 Mile High." Twenty-five percent of proceeds will be donated to First Step-Michigan, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. The book is available nationwide on amazon.com.

Derek Dickow, CAS '02, was recently named one of DBusiness' 30 in Their Thirties. He is the founder of Steward Media in Birmingham. His previous clients include Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, Troy Mayor Dane Slater, Westland Mayor Bill Wild, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, Hon. Victoria Valentine, and Lt. Gov. Brian Calley.



Kari L. Melkonian, CAS '03, was included in Michigan Lawyers Weekly's Up & Coming Lawyers class of 2017. Only attorneys in their first 10 years in practice are eligible for this award. Melkonian is a partner at Collins Einhorn Farrell PC, a leading defense litigation firm in Southfield, Michigan. She focuses her practice on the defense of general and automotive liability claims.



Patrick B. Johnston, M.D., CAS '05, and his wife, Ginger, welcomed a son, Anders Soren Johnston. Anders was born on April 19, 2017. He joins his big brother, Xavier, in the family. Dr. Johnston lives in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and is a trained hand and elbow orthopedic surgeon.

Submit class notes to oumag@oakland.edu or visit oalumni.com and click on "Update Your Record."

View a complete list of class farewells at oakland.edu/oumag.



2010s

Eric Boulis, CAS '13, welcomed a son, Harrison, with his wife Maria in June 2017.

James Cavellier, SBA '90, '96, was recently named Chief Information Officer (CIO) at Cass Information Systems, Inc in St. Louis, Missouri. At Cass, Cavellier will oversee the company's global information technology strategy and operations. ➤



Staff and Faculty Farewells

James Clatworthy, Ph.D., professor emeritus, passed away on January 10, 2018. Dr. Clatworthy joined Oakland University's faculty in 1966 in the School of Education and Human Services and served as associate dean until his retirement in 2002.



Thomas Fitzsimmons, professor emeritus, passed away on July 24, 2017. He was a charter faculty member of the University, a poet and a full professor of literature during his 30-year tenure at OU.

Kenneth Harmon, professor emeritus, passed away on January 25, 2018. He joined Oakland University's faculty in 1969 in the Department of Chemistry, where he served until his retirement in 2002.



Vincent B. Khapoya, Ph.D., professor emeritus, passed away on April 6, 2018. Dr. Khapoya joined Oakland University's faculty in 1974 and served as chair of the Department of Political Science for several years until his retirement in 2009.

Samia Ragheb, M.D., passed away on January 19, 2018. Dr. Ragheb served as an assistant professor at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine in the Department of Biomedical Sciences. ➤



Motley CREW

By Emell Derra Adolphus

The Student Enterprise Theatre group, founded in 1967, quickly took center stage on campus because of its popular student-produced performances. From directing to set design, students in this talented troupe managed dozens of productions from start to finish, giving those involved a unique learning experience and launching some entertainment careers in the process. In this cast for a production of John-Michael Tebelak's musical, "Godspell," is a young John Roman (far right), a producer of NBC's "Law & Order: Criminal Intent." ➤



2018 Downtown Rochester Events Calendar

Farmers' Market
May 5 - October 27

Deck Art
May 10 & 11

Music in the Park
June 21 & 28, July 5, 12, 19 & 26

Junk in the Trunk
June 23

Sidewalk Sales
July 12-14

Explorers Club
July 12 - August 4

Movies in the Moonlight
July 14, 21, 28 & August 4

Summer Farm to Table Dinner
July 22

Rockin' Rods in Rochester
August 12

Junk in the Trunk
August 18

Art & Apples Festival@
September 7 - 9

Fall Farm to Table Dinner
September 16

Rochester Mills Oktoberfest
September 28 & 30

Rochester Posed
October 4

Trick or Treat Downtown
October 20

Movies in the Moonlight:
Halloween Edition
October 20

Holiday Expo
November 12

Festival of Trees
November 16-18

Lagniappe
November 19

The Big, Bright Light Show
November 19- January 1, 2019

Small Business Saturday
November 24

Kris Kringle Market
November 30 & December 1

Christmas Parade
December 2

Caroling in the City
December 16

Fire & Ice Festival
January 18 - 20, 2019



For more information call 248.656.0060 or visit downtownrochestermi.com.

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