



Monday, January 13, 2003

Year in Review highlights OU achievements

Oakland University experienced continued growth and enrichment on many levels in the year 2002 as it further defined itself as a university of distinction with a visionary undergraduate experience.

Among the significant achievements in 2002 were the completion of two major buildings — the Education and Human Services Building and the student apartments — and a 550-space parking structure, all which opened in the fall. A record-breaking number of students were able to stretch their intellectual boundaries and participate in new research initiatives. New degree programs, study abroad opportunities and real-world partnerships were created. Faculty members were awarded major grants and recognized for their breakthrough research. And the national and international press focused on the university when U.S. President George W. Bush and Poland President Aleksander Kwasniewski visited campus in July.

Major university events for 2002 are encapsulated in the **2002 Year in Review** Web page, which is organized into 10 different categories. Some of the highlights from each category include:

Strong Undergraduate Education

- The university unveiled two new undergraduate degree programs — a Bachelor of Science degree in financial information systems and a Bachelor of Science degree in wellness, health promotion and injury prevention.
- OU reached a new partnership agreement with Korea's Chungnam National University, opening doors for student study abroad programs and faculty exchanges.
- The Honors College celebrated its 25th year.

Student Research

- More than 90 successful grant applications garnered \$9.3 million in research funding.
- Thirty students earned University Student Research Scholar Awards in the first year the prize was offered.
- Seven undergraduate students earned \$3,000 summer research fellowships with OU's Eye Research Institute (ERI).

Quality Graduate Programs

- For the first time, the School of Engineering and Computer Science offered a doctorate in mechanical engineering.
- The physical therapy doctoral program earned full accreditation for eight years
- The School of Education and Human Services launched a new post-master's school counseling specialization program.

Growth of Campus

- The Education and Human Services Building celebrated its grand opening on Oct. 18.
- The new student apartments were dedicated Sept. 6.
- For the first time in Oakland's history, enrollment topped 16,000 students. It marked a 1.2 percent increase over last fall, bringing the student body total to 16,059.

Growth of Student Services

- Freshman Outlook, a new e-mail based support program designed to help freshmen adjust to college life, was launched.
- An online tuition payment system was implemented for the winter 2002 semester.
- Graduate Admissions and Graduate Student Services opened their new office in North Foundation Hall.

Quality Students

- Student quality rose even higher. Incoming freshmen for fall 2002 boasted a mean ACT score of 21.5, up from 21.3 in 2001. The mean grade point average also increased, rising from 3.13 to 3.15.
- President George W. Bush honored OU junior Lenwood Compton at a Republican rally on Oct. 14 for his outstanding volunteer efforts with AmeriCorps.
- The Golden Grizzlies softball team became the first in OU history to win an NCAA tournament game since the university moved to Division I competition.

Inspired Faculty

- Chemist Xiangqun Zeng and biologist Gabrielle Stryker, both assistant professors, earned a \$2 million research grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop a biosensor that will detect instantaneously as little as a single particle of such biological or chemical hazards as anthrax or neurotoxins.
- Three OU professors achieved the rank of Distinguished Professor.
- The New York Academy of Medicine awarded the prestigious 2002 Lewis Rudin Glaucoma Prize to OU Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Shravan Chintala for co-authoring one of the most significant publications on glaucoma research.

Diversity

- More than 600 people attended the 10th annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Banquet.
- OU celebrated National Heritage Month with Hispanic Celebration 2002.
- OU offered a Chinese Language and Culture Immersion Program, an intensive five-week course at the Foreign Affairs College in Beijing.

Community

- U.S. President George W. Bush and Poland President Aleksander Kwasniewski visited the OU campus in July to discuss their countries' mutual vision for world peace.
- The university awarded honorary degrees to three regional, national and internationally renowned figures in 2002.
- Crain's Detroit Business listed six Oakland University alumnae and staff to their 2002 list of the area's Most Influential Women.

Partnerships

- Alumnus and Board of Trustee member Dennis Pawley contributed \$1 million toward the creation of the Pawley Institute, a center that will meld technology, business and human resources for manufacturing, and establish a "lean manufacturing" learning center, focused on streamlining processes.
- About 2,500 OU alumni and friends responded to the revamped Telefund program, contributing more than \$150,000 to university programs.
- Thirty-three beginning law school students enrolled at Cooley Law School were able to take their first-term courses at the OU campus thanks to a new partnership.

For details on these and many more achievements from the past year, visit the [2002 Year in Review](#) Web page.

SUMMARY

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