

Oakland University

Winter 1998

MAGAZINE



Attacking the Heart

Chemistry
professor's
discovery solves
cardiology
mystery

Also in this issue ...

A Center Like No Other
You won't believe what you
see in the Oakland Center

El Maestro de Musica

Joe Blattert SEHS '71
put his life in harmony
through the international
language of music

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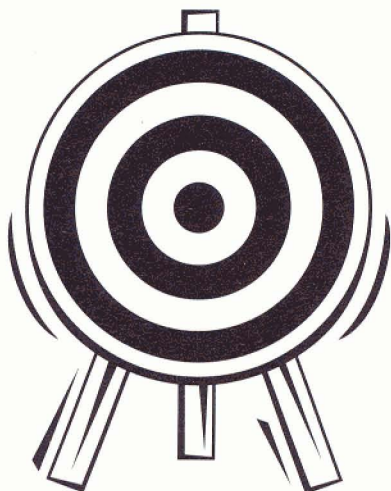


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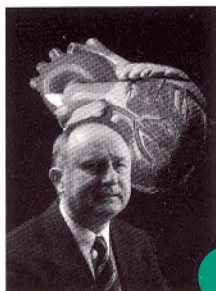
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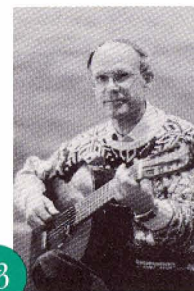
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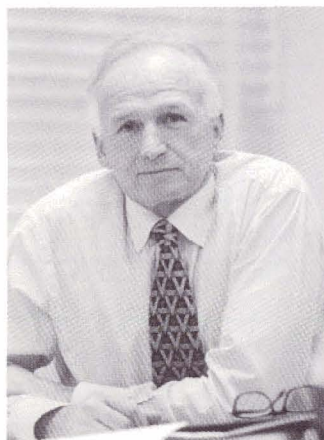
Winter 1998

Bissonnette leaves for University of San Diego

Paul Bissonnette, vice president for Finance and Administration, has left the university to take a position with the same title and responsibilities at the University of San Diego, in his hometown.

"Much was accomplished under his capable leadership over the past five years, most notably the construction of the Science and Engineering Building and the Recreation and Athletic Center, and the move to Division I athletics," OU President Gary D. Russi says. "We are sorry to be losing such a good friend, but very happy for Paul and his family."

During the interim period, Susan Aldrich, assistant vice president for Capital Planning and Design, will lead the activities of the Finance and Administration division in close coordination with division directors.



Paul Bissonnette

OU prepares for North Central Accreditation review

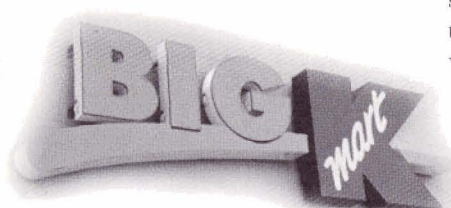
To maintain accreditation, Oakland University is reviewed by the North Central Association every 10 years.

In preparation for the February 1999 review, OU is undergoing a major comprehensive self-study.

Susan Awbrey, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, is coordinator and Mary Papazian, associate professor, English, is the associate coordinator.

Oakland educates the Big K

Oakland University is finishing up its first year of providing job training to Kmart Corporation employees, thanks to a \$440,860 grant from the Michigan Jobs Commission.



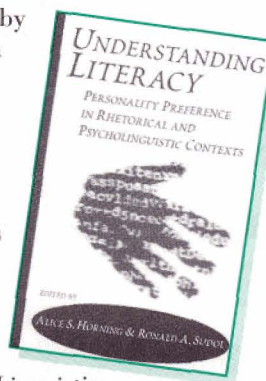
OU has provided training to more than 1,000 Kmart employees from October 1996 to October 1997 at its corporate headquarters in Troy.

OU faculty from the School of Business Administration and the Center for Business Excellence helped teach classes at Kmart.

Professors' book shows how to improve communication

Two Oakland University professors are helping students become better writers by using research on how personality types affect communication.

College of Arts and Sciences Professors Alice Horning, Rhetoric and Linguistics, and Ronald Sudol, Rhetoric, contributed articles and produced the book, *Understanding Literacy, Personality Preference in Rhetorical and Psycho-linguistic Contexts*.



Computer graphics classes taught over the Internet

For the first time, Oakland University faculty are teaching classes over the Internet. No classrooms. No class meetings.

Each week, 15 graduate students and five undergraduates log into a virtual-classroom, either on their home computers or at OU's on-campus facilities. Students enrolled in the Designing Computer Graphics course study lecture materials, take tests and submit homework on-line.

OU rated 'best buy' again

For the second year in a row, Oakland University has been selected as one of the nation's best college values by *The Student Guide to America's 100 Best College Buys: 1998-99*, published by John Culler & Sons.

The rankings are based on survey results of more than 1,750 two- and four-year, public and private colleges and universities nationwide.

To be considered for inclusion, a college or university must:

- be an accredited, four-year school
- offer full residential facilities
- have had an entering freshman class in fall 1997 with a high school GPA and/or SAT/ACT score above the national average
- have had a cost of attendance below the national average of the institutions considered.

Professor to aid in planning radiation research

An Oakland University professor will help the U.S. Department of Energy plot research in radiation chemistry that will solve national problems.

Michael Sevilla, professor, Department of Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences, will participate in the prestigious DOE workshop, Research Needs and Opportunities in Radiation Chemistry, in April.

Sevilla is regarded as a leader in radiation chemistry.

Enrollment hits winter record

Oakland University marked its highest winter enrollment total of 13,295 students this year. In a fifth consecutive year of increases, the headcount is up almost 2 percent compared to last winter's enrollment of 13,075. Graduate enrollment is up by 3 percent; undergraduate headcount is up 1.3 percent.

New SEHS doctoral program educates the educators

Oakland University's School of Education and Human Services will offer a new doctoral program leading to a Ph.D. in education with specialties in counseling, early childhood education and educational leadership next fall.

SEHS master's program graduates are expected to be among the first doctoral candidates. Students will be required to fulfill 76 credits to earn the degree.

President Russi offers a 'snapshot' of what's ahead in Oakland University Update

During the 1998 Oakland University Update on February 3, OU President Gary D. Russi cited where OU has been, highlighted accomplishments and offered a "snapshot" of what's ahead.



The address, called *Becoming the Model University of the 21st Century*, focused on four key areas — Learner Centered, Technology Enriched, Growth and Partnering for Success.

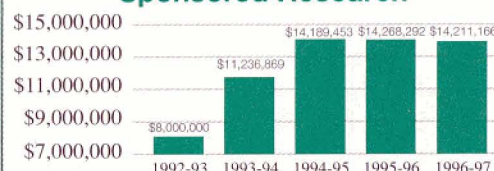
"OU is healthy, is growing in stature in the region and in the nation as a top-rate academic institution and is recognized as a university on the move," Russi said. "To reach a destination, we must follow a road map. That road map continues to be the OU Strategic Plan."

Russi also highlighted major accomplishments (see charts, right):

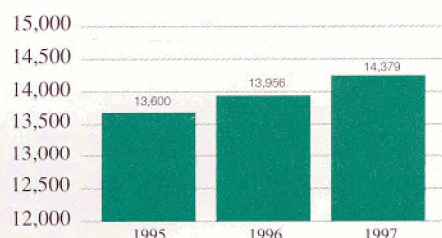
- New academic programs in 21 areas, most at the graduate level, since 1995
- New facilities such as the Honors College, the Science and Engineering Building, Pioneer Court, and classroom and energy systems upgrades (which have removed \$6.4 million from OU's deferred maintenance list)
- Strategic Plan and Technology fund projects, computer lab upgrades, building wiring and new administrative computing training
- New School of Nursing partnership with Henry Ford Health System
- Applied Technology in Business program for juniors and seniors, with 20 corporate sponsors
- Transfer articulation agreements with community colleges and partnerships with Public School Academies
- Record enrollment growth
- Faculty growth from 373 in 1995 to 396 in 1997

"Oakland's hallmark will be our commitment to produce liberally educated graduates, articulate in written and spoken word, as well as literate in the language of information technology," Russi said.

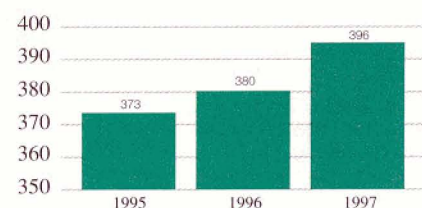
Gifts, Grants, Contracts and Sponsored Research



Student Enrollment



Faculty Employment



RECREATION AND ATHLETIC CENTER UPDATE

Center construction on target for September 8 opening

Recreation and Athletic Center construction is right on schedule for completion and opening September 8.

Crews have installed items ranging from wall tile in the recreation locker area to electrical, heating and cooling systems.

The OU Board of Trustees approved the selection of Club

Oakland men's basketball team to play MSU first in building

The Oakland University men's basketball team will play Michigan State University in the inaugural game at the Recreation and Athletic Center November 18, 1998.



Men's Basketball Coach Greg Kampe says the team is excited about playing MSU.

"This is one of the most significant things that has ever happened to basketball at Oakland University," he says.

Campus Recreation releases membership rates for new center

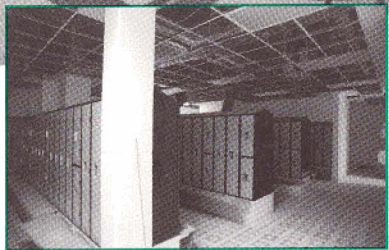
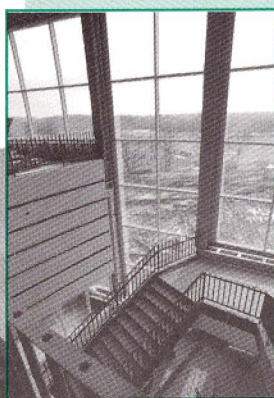
The Oakland University Department of Campus Recreation has published its Recreation and Athletic Center affiliate or membership rates.

Oakland University Alumni Association members will pay \$350 and non-OUAA alumni and President's Club members will pay \$400 annually.

OUAA membership is \$35 annually.

OU faculty and staff will pay \$300 annually. Spouses and significant others of rec center members will pay an additional \$285 annually. Children younger than 18 living at home will pay an additional \$75 annually.

For more information about the center or to learn how you can join as an affiliate member, call (248) 370-4732.



Construction of the Recreation and Athletic Center locker area, main floor and running track are under way. The facility is expected to draw faculty, staff, students, and alumni and friends. The center is built on and around the former Lepley Sports Center.

Cappuccino Inc. as the snack bar vendor on the main floor of the center.

The 720-square-foot snack bar will offer deli and bagel sandwiches, garden and pasta salads, juices and bottled water, and other light refreshments.

The contract term runs up to six years.

"The game will help OU open the center in a very grand way and usher in Oakland's new era in intercollegiate athletics," Athletic Director Jack Mehl says.

OU President Gary D. Russi says the game is a major step for the men's basketball program and "it is reflective of OU's history and close association with MSU."

Management program graduates second class

Twelve students graduated from an innovative engineering management program offered by Oakland University and the University of Technology in Vienna.

The universities cooperated to design the two-year-old program which meets a need in European engineering education for interdisciplinary academic training.

"No other engineering management program combines the best of two competitive worlds — European quality standards with American business skills," says Naim Kheir, professor and chair, Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering.

A paperless society? Then what is all that stuff on your desk?

You may not be able to find that note touting the wonders of a paperless society. It could be buried under a mountain of paper on your desk.

Not to fret. There is help.

Kieran Mathieson, associate professor, School of Business Administration, says take lessons taught in his classes.

Start with the basics. One accepted paper management system uses five "baskets." Label them To Do, To Read, To File, Today and Trash, and be ruthless, he says. "Other" is not a choice.

For hard-core paper junkies, call for reinforcements — the National Association of Professional Organizers at (512) 206-0151.

Nursing adds practitioner track to master's program

Oakland University now offers a master of science in nursing for nurse practitioners, meeting an important need in health care for the new millennium.

Nurse practitioners provide basic health care, diagnosing and treating common acute illnesses and injuries. They assume some duties that were the responsibility of physicians.

Oakland recognizes the need for nurse practitioners as health care reform focuses on comprehensive coverage, high quality, cost-effectiveness and increasing access to care.

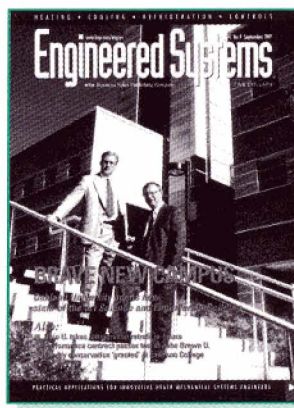
Student earns Fulbright scholarship

Shari L. Anderson, a post-baccalaureate Oakland University student in German, is spending the 1997-98 academic year in Germany on a Fulbright scholarship. The grant allows her to study language and mathematics

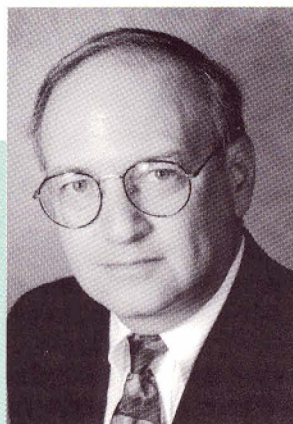
teaching methods and educational philosophy in Germany, while working as a teaching assistant at a German gymnasium (secondary school).

Building featured on magazine cover

The cover story for the September 1997 issue of *Engineered Systems* magazine featured Oakland University's new Science and Engineering Building.



Pictured on the magazine cover are mechanical engineer David Kistler and Ray Mora, associate director, OU Plant Engineering and Construction Management, Campus Facilities and Operations.

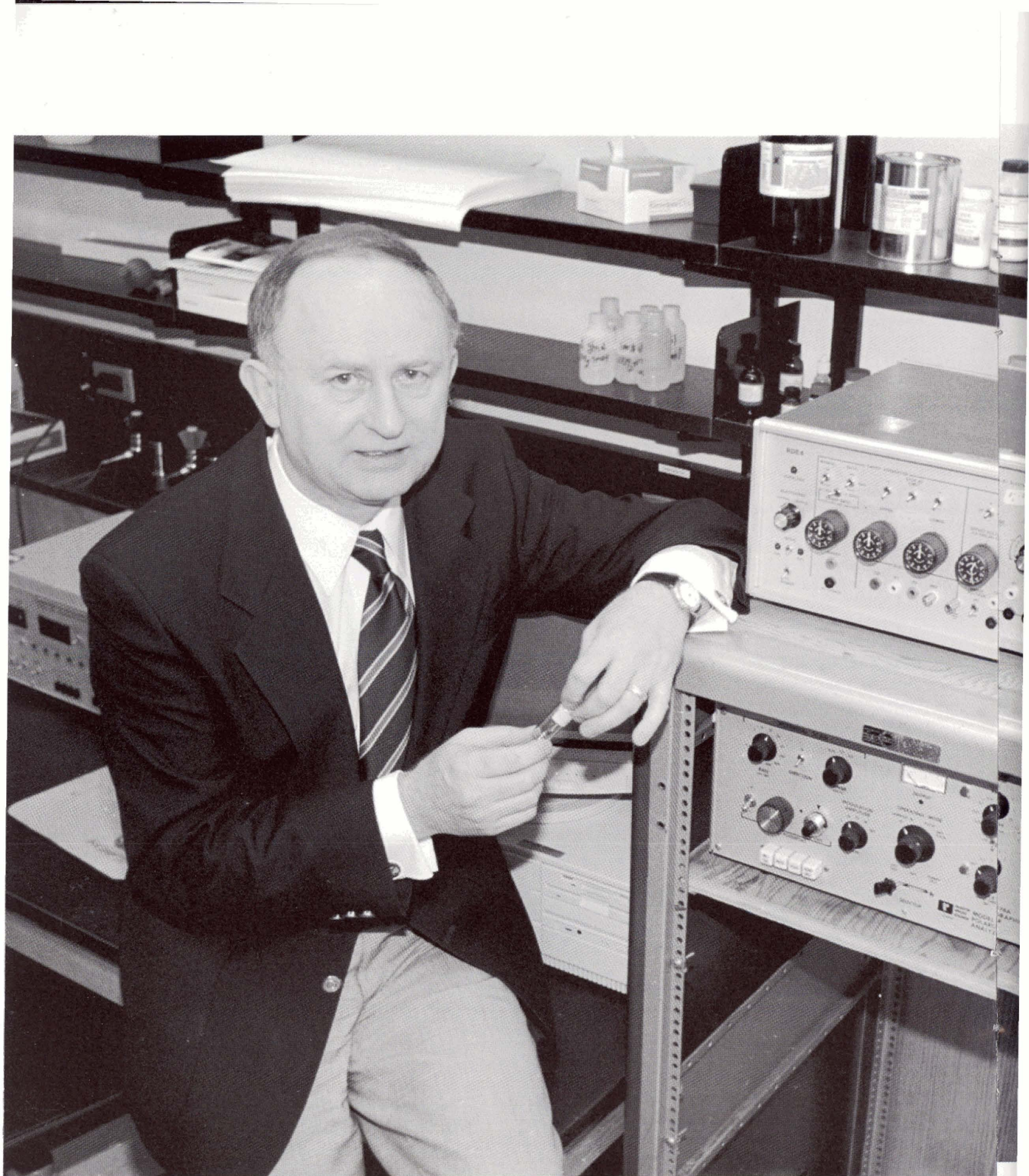


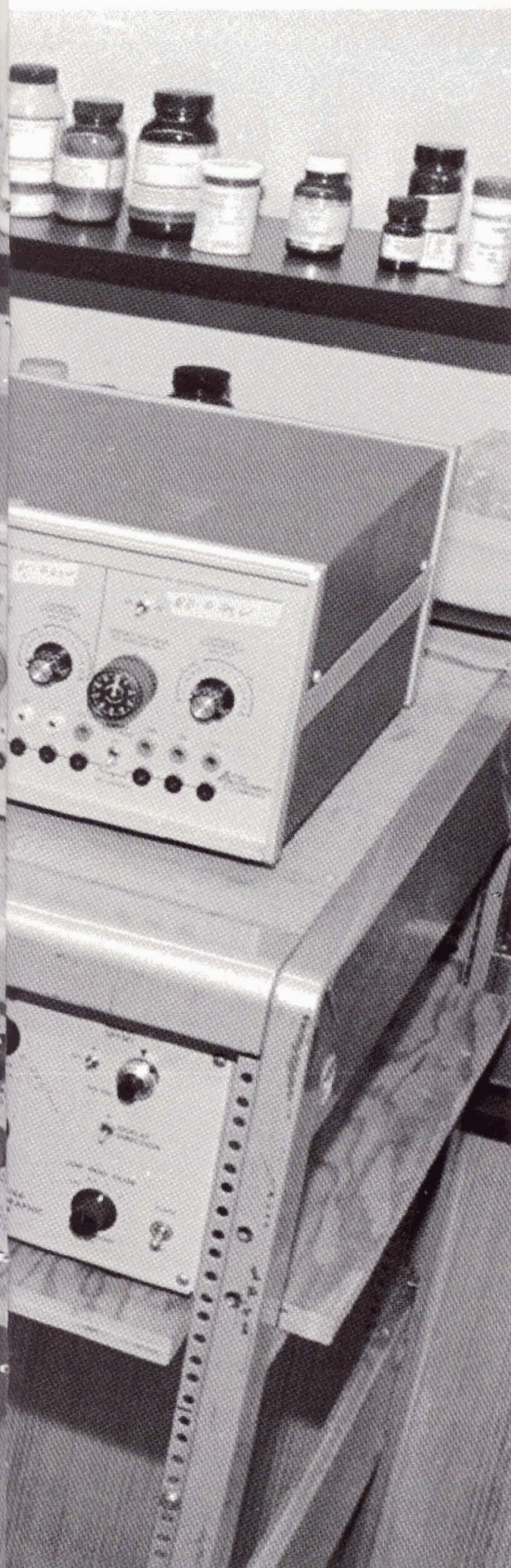
Mike Polis is dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Polis joins prestigious engineering board

Michael Polis, dean, School of Engineering and Computer Science, next month will begin a three-year term on the Board of Governors of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Control Systems Society.

Polis is one of the board's six new elected members. He has served as an associate editor and an associate editor at large for the journal, *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*.





ATTACKING THE HEART

By JENNIFER CHARNEY

CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR'S DISCOVERY SOLVES CARDIOLOGY MYSTERY

Tadeusz Malinski's office in Oakland University's new Science and Engineering Building is reserved, its 18th-century paintings commanding the quiet respect one lends a museum. It doesn't seem like the epicenter of a revolution in cardiology, where calls and letters flow in daily from around the world.

Fellow scientists want to know more about Malinski's discovery, the missing piece of the puzzle that explains how the heart works.

Malinski, professor, Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences, and his team are the first to show that the powerful vasodilator nitric oxide is released during each heartbeat. The team also discovered that nitric oxide controls the heart's relaxation phase and that the amount of nitric

oxide released is directly proportional to the contraction forces of the heart.

The breakthrough could lead to better prevention and treatment of heart attacks and high blood pressure, and improved preservation of hearts for transplant.

Circulation Research, the prestigious American Heart Association journal, published the findings in its September 1997 issue.

Previous theory on how the heart works is based only on the heartbeat's muscular contraction or pumping phase. But Malinski's work shows the heart's contraction and relaxation must be synchronized and in correct proportions to each other for the heart to function efficiently.

"If the contraction or relaxation

fails or is not optimal, you always have a disorder of the heart," Malinski says. "However, deficiency of nitric oxide will be the more common cause of a disorder."

Because this discovery enables scientists to better understand how the heart works, they could develop improved diagnostic and treatment methods to prevent serious damage. With Malinski's method, the condition of the heart can be calculated mathematically based on nitric oxide production.

This method will help to diagnose heart problems much earlier. The system that releases nitric oxide is the endothelium, a layer of cells in the heart, arteries and veins. The endothelium produces nitric oxide using oxygen and the amino acid, L-arginine.

Malinski discovered that supplying additional L-arginine early can prevent deterioration of the endothelium.

His findings can also help assess the health of a heart for transplantation.

Malinski found that by measuring nitric oxide in the heart before transplantation, he can predict how well the heart will perform. The longer the heart can be stored and kept in a healthy condition, the more time is available to match the donor heart with the recipient and prepare the patient for surgery.

Current solutions can store the heart for only about four hours, and very often transplant recipients develop transplantation-associated coronary artery disease, which can lead to early death. Based on Malinski's discovery, new solutions for cardiac preservation are being developed that can extend the storage time to about 12 hours and eliminate transplantation-associated

coronary disease. Transplant studies are under way with Columbia University Medical School.

Malinski and his team started researching the role of nitric oxide in the heart two years ago. They made their discovery using Malinski's special device, microsensors, which are 300 times thinner than a human hair. Microsensors can be implanted in the heart to monitor the forces and the release of nitric oxide. The prestigious scientific journal, *Nature*, published an August 1992 paper on the microsensors. The devices were also used to examine the role of nitric oxide in the brain, Parkinson's disease and stroke. A paper on those findings will be published soon.

Heart transplant surgeon Igor Huk, professor, Department of Surgery, University of Vienna, says the discovery in Malinski's September 1997 paper is revolutionary.

"This is something absolutely new, which explains how the heart is working," Huk says. "First we have to understand the physiology of a normal healthy heart and vascular system. The next step is to understand or prevent pathology like heart attacks. If we understand

"This is something absolutely new, which explains how the heart is working. First we have to understand the physiology of a normal healthy heart and vascular system. The next step is to understand or prevent pathology like heart attacks. If we understand the physiology, we can prevent pathophysiology."

— Igor Huk
professor, Department of Surgery,
University of Vienna

"It's been very hard to get a direct measurement of nitric oxide using any kind of electrode. Malinski has been able to actually determine, eliminating all the pulsation and electrical activity, the changes during the actual beating. That is revolutionary."

— Frederick Kiechle
chair, Clinical Pathology
William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak

the physiology, we can prevent pathophysiology."

Frederick Kiechle, chair, Clinical Pathology, William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, agrees that Malinski's finding is a breakthrough.

"There's been a lot of confusion about what nitric oxide does during normal heart rhythm," Kiechle says. "There's a lot of electrical activity that goes on (in the heart). It's been very hard to get a direct measurement of nitric oxide using any kind of electrode. Malinski has been able to actually determine, eliminating all the pulsation and electrical activity, the changes during the actual beating. That is revolutionary."

Doctors could take such measurements before and after surgery to determine if a procedure was a success, Kiechle says.

Malinski, who colleagues say is modest and soft-spoken, acknowledges that the breakthrough is his top achievement. "It's very rewarding to find something so useful," he says. "The response is overwhelming. Every day we are getting requests from around the world for information on applying the research."

But Malinski qualifies the victory. "We know probably a little bit more in that area than the average physician,

but application of the breakthrough always takes time," he says. "We understood from the very beginning the importance of the discovery."

The down side was the two-year lag between the discovery and the date of its publication in the journal. And the obstacles of performing the research at a university like Oakland were perceived to be serious.

"We do the research, which is very medically oriented, and we succeeded without ties to a major medical school," Malinski says. "We managed to attract transplant surgeons. More than 90 percent of the research was done at Oakland University."

Malinski's theory also competed against research from many other prestigious institutions. He says swimming against the establishment current with a new theory is difficult, but Oakland's research quality has never been in question and its reputation is growing.

All the hubbub over nitric oxide seems a world apart from 16th, 17th and 18th century European art, which is Malinski's other area of expertise. Actually, the fields of chemistry and art are linked.

Malinski specializes in art restoration and analysis. He determines paintings' components, ages and authenticity using X-ray technology. Such chemical analysis is crucial in choosing the best preservation methods.

Malinski was an accomplished painter when he was growing up in Poznan, Poland. He went on to earn art and chemistry degrees concurrently and teach art restoration and analysis in Europe.

He never dreamed of making such an important medical discovery — he favors art.

"It's much more pleasant work," Malinski says. "Chemistry is brutal because the research demands almost all of my time."

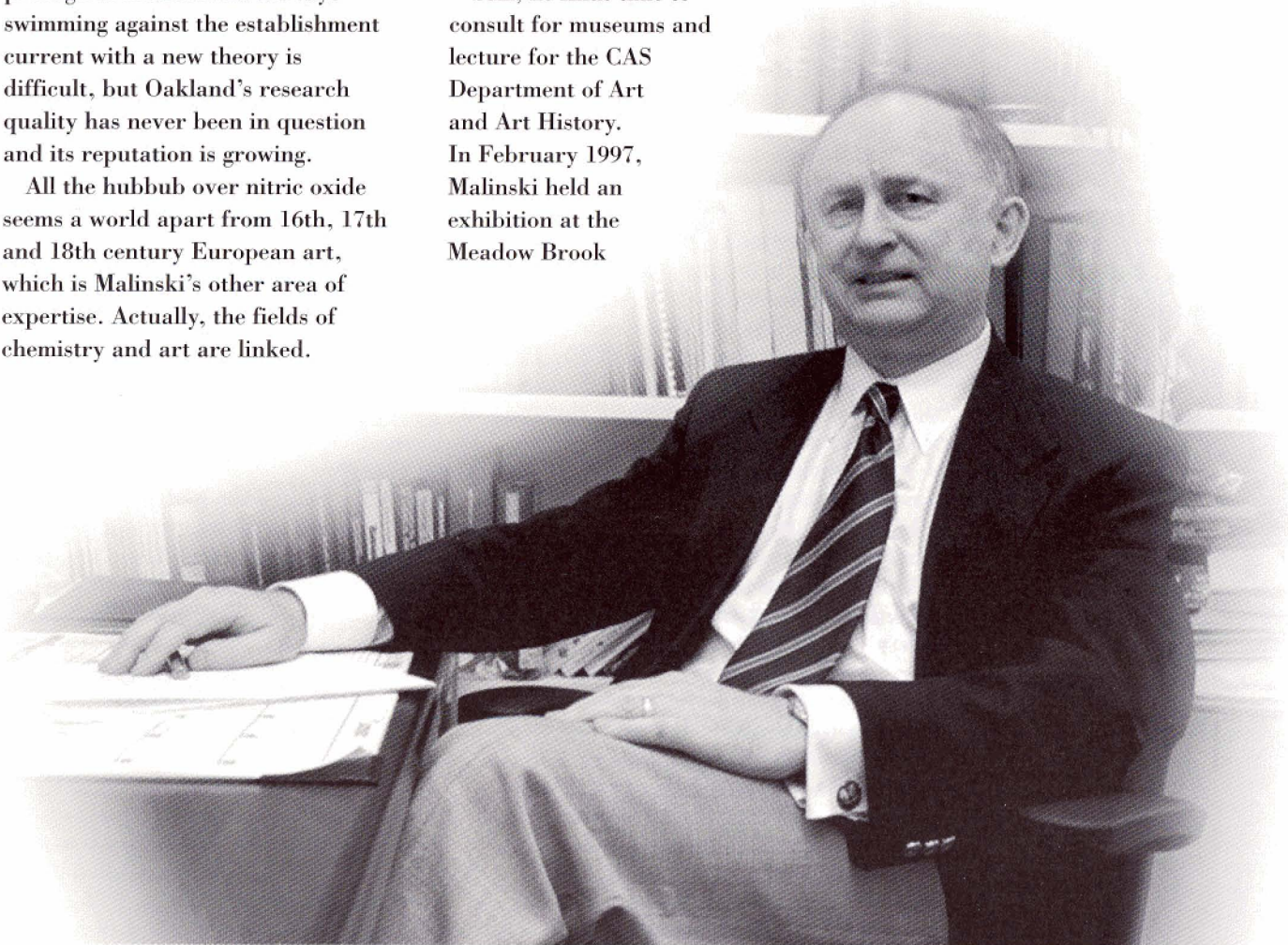
Still, he finds time to consult for museums and lecture for the CAS Department of Art and Art History. In February 1997, Malinski held an exhibition at the Meadow Brook

Art Gallery featuring 40 Dutch, French and Italian Old Masters' paintings and drawings from his collection.

"Malinski's linking of chemistry and art is a perfect example of how different disciplines can combine to reinforce one another, leading to a richer and more complete appreciation of our culture and the arts," CAS Dean David Downing says.

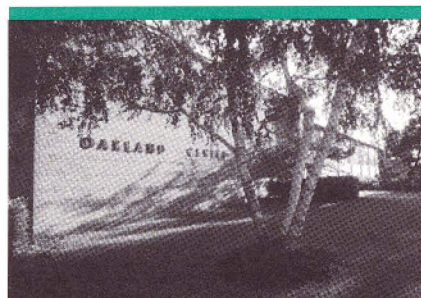
Malinski is one professor who really does have an art down to a science. And his masterpiece comes from the heart.

Jennifer Charney is a freelance writer in Ferndale, Michigan.





A center like no



No one will likely mistake the Oakland Center for one of the seven wonders of the world. But in 1959, Oakland University's new one-half million dollar multipurpose building was definitely something out of the ordinary.

"Woody Varner named it the 'Oakland Center' because he wanted everyone to use it," says Bill Marshall of OU's first chancellor who recruited Marshall to become the center's fifth director from 1973-1995. "Student unions are for students. Woody told me, 'This is the only gathering place on campus so we want faculty and staff and the community to use it. We want to build a sense of community.'"

Built in three stages, the main building opened in 1959. Two years later, OU added the north wing and a south addition in 1971.

Designed by Swanson Associates and built by J.A. Fredman, right from the start the streamlined 34,776-square-foot facility on the west end of campus was a hit. Generations of students have embraced the Oakland Center as the "family room of the university." Even faculty and staff quickly found valuable uses for meeting and social gatherings.

"It was a carnival environment," Marshall says. "There were times for serious discussion, but there were times for dancing and singing

and people talking. Before the library opened, sometimes you couldn't find a seat."

Almost 40 years later, the Oakland Center is poised for another major remodeling project scheduled to begin in June 1998. OU expects to complete the \$1.9-million lower-level renovation by January 1999. The goal is to upgrade existing facilities and to increase

interaction among student groups by bringing them closer together.

This follows the launching of the new \$1.3-million food court in early 1997.

If you remember the center in its original structure and design, you might find it hard to recognize now. Today, the size of Oakland Center has tripled, reaching 115,000 square feet.

Far from the orange and gold motif of the '70s, OU has transformed the Oakland Center into a colorful, aesthetically delightful campus hub.

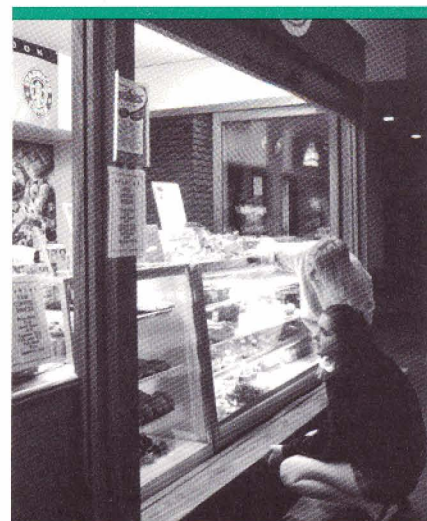
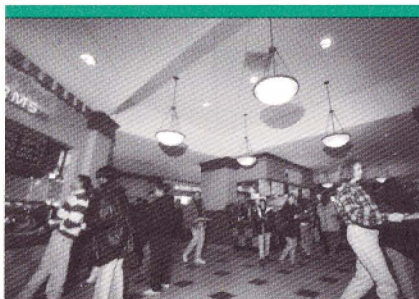
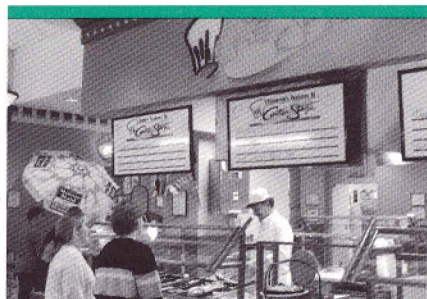
The most striking change is evident the moment you enter. The Crockery multipurpose space is gone, and in its place is the food area — named Pioneer Court — that has quickly met with student approval.

"The OC is much more convenient now, a real benefit for students," junior Catina McCoy says as she picks up a late dinner. "It's providing more services, and the food court offers options to students. It's a real campus

**As the
second major
remodeling of the
Oakland Center
approaches,
you won't believe
what you see**

other

By Todd Haight



attraction now. Students come here for meals, to study and to find out what's happening with the student organizations."

With seating for around 500, the food court is both spacious and comfortable. A morning visit finds students cramming for class or chatting over coffee and bagels from the new Starbucks Coffee and Freshens Yogurt.

By noon, Oakland Center is buzzing with campus life. The center overflows with students, faculty and staff dining on food choices that range from tacos to taboullie. Standard food court fare includes favorites Taco Bell, Pizza Hut and Burger King, along with several tasty newcomers:

- DC Subs, offering deli and submarine-style sandwiches;
- Meadow Brook Farms, featuring roasted chicken and turkey with all the trimmings; and; and
- Center Stage, perhaps the most innovative aspect of the court.

"We call Center Stage presentation-style cooking," says Richard Fekel, director, Oakland Center. "We have chefs cooking hot entrees to order. The menu changes daily with choices like oriental stir fry, pita wraps, fajitas and Chicago-style hot dogs. People love it."

The court, which replaces the former JW's, also offers plenty of healthy choices, including fresh fruit, salads and nutritious entrees.

Campus visitors like Dan Cetnar of Tranex Financial also notice a big difference. Cetnar has been leading seminars at OU for two years, but also remembers frequent visits to friends at Hill House a dozen years ago.

"It looks great," he says. "An incredible difference from the '80s. It's nice and clean with lots of open areas. I hear piano playing every

now and then, and that adds a nice touch."

Alumni agree.

"The school is growing, so these improvements fit right in. It's a sign of the times," says Brad Driscoll CAS '66, chairman, Retail Resources Inc.

Barbara Williams CAS '66, MAT '80, is convinced the improvements enhance the university's sense of community.

"These changes encourage students to mingle because it's such a pleasant environment," says Williams, special education teacher, Lake Orion Community Schools. "As people form ties and develop a feeling of affiliation, they'll be more active alumni."

Leo Bowman CAS '76 calls the center a magnet that extends beyond the campus. "The university is making a bold, new statement that we will forge ahead to become a premiere university. As an alumnus, it makes me proud," says Bowman, judge, 50th District Court. "The university could have stayed still and said everything's just fine. But these improvements, coupled with everything else going on campus, will attract more high-caliber students and it will attract more alumni as well. And when the sports complex is completed, we're going to see a new level of student and alumni involvement."

Not everything is rosy inside the new Oakland Center these days. Finding a table around the lunch hour on weekdays, for example, is a tough chore. Long lines form for the most popular fares.

And junior Brian Potter, the newly elected president of the Oakland Center Advisory Council, says the food court is good business for the OC's first floor, but bad news for the lower level — for a while longer at any rate.

OAKLAND CENTER HISTORICAL TIMELINE

September 1959
Oakland Center's main
building opens

August 1961
North wing added

January 1971
South addition completed

January 1997
Pioneer Court opens

September 1997
Fireside Lounge is
refurbished with new
furniture and an
electronic sign is installed
in Pioneer Court

Spring 1998
Copy Center and
Information Center to open

January 1999
Lower-level renovation
to be finished

"Very few students come to the lower level now," he says. "Bringing new services — the computer lab, games room, student organization rooms — will breathe new life into the lower level. There's an ocean of knowledge here, and it's part of the whole college experience."

Still, in spite of increasing traffic, Sandy Auten, office assistant, School of Education and Human Services, likes what she sees.

"The OC creates a nice central point for students," she says. "The court area pulls everyone together, and makes us more of a community." Fekel agrees.

"The food court is an enormous success," he says, adding it may have increased building traffic as much as 50 percent. "It's a great blend of food choices, and the court design allows us to handle a far greater volume than ever before."

The food court is just part of the transformation. Oakland Center is fast becoming not only a major source of campus meals, but information and instruction as well.

"We're placing a greater emphasis on leadership training and student activities," Fekel says. "We offer a variety of educational and cultural programs, as well as retreats and seminars that help develop OU students into leaders."

OC renovations are indicative of the university's dramatic growth. OU has already launched more than \$100 million in construction projects, including the recently opened \$43-million Science and Engineering Building, the under-construction \$37-million Recreation and Athletic Center and a planned \$17.5-million School of Business Administration building.

Robert Jarski, associate professor, Exercise Science, says the OC renovations are the ties that bond the university, blending faculty, staff and student interests.

"The center can contribute to making OU more of a living-learning environment, where faculty and students meet to study academic issues and detail," he says. "It strengthens relationships and learning opportunities. The OC is a gathering place for us as a community, and as a university family. It's the soul of the campus."

Woody Varner would have been proud.

Todd Haight CAS '87 is a freelance writer in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

Check out what else is cooking at the new Oakland Center

A new one-stop campus information shop will be located on the first floor next to the Fireside Lounge.

Student employees will provide information about OU departments, events, activities and the surrounding community.

The center will be open from 8 a.m. until late in the evening and on weekends.

In another change, the Oakland Center Scheduling Office, which is located next to the new information center, was renamed the Oakland Center Reservations Office to eliminate confusion. Before the change, students during registration assumed the office handled scheduling of classes.

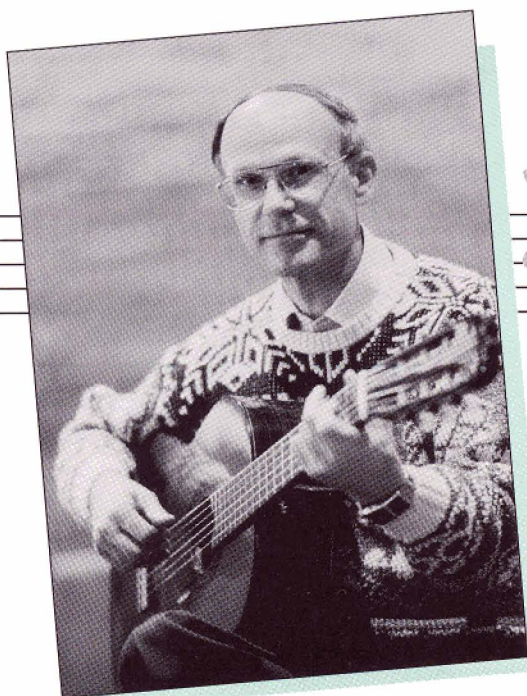
Rick Perhai, plant engineer and energy manager, calls such learning improvements as the information center smart.

"That's a great idea," he says. "The information area is well-traveled and will make it more convenient to learn what's happening on campus, and the computer areas will improve student access," he says. "Oakland Center is being used like never before."

Here's what else is cooking:

- New thermal-pane windows
- Upgraded fire alarm system
- Possible Bookcenter expansion
- Full-service copy center which will offer duplicating, mailing and packaging services to students, faculty and staff
- Multipurpose room
- University history wall
- Area for displaying university-owned art

El Maestro de Musica



Joe Blattert SEHS '71 put his life in harmony through the international language of music

By Ellen Creager



When Joe Blattert SEHS '71 arrived in Guadalajara, Mexico, he didn't speak much Spanish. But he did speak another language the residents vividly comprehended — seven-part harmony.

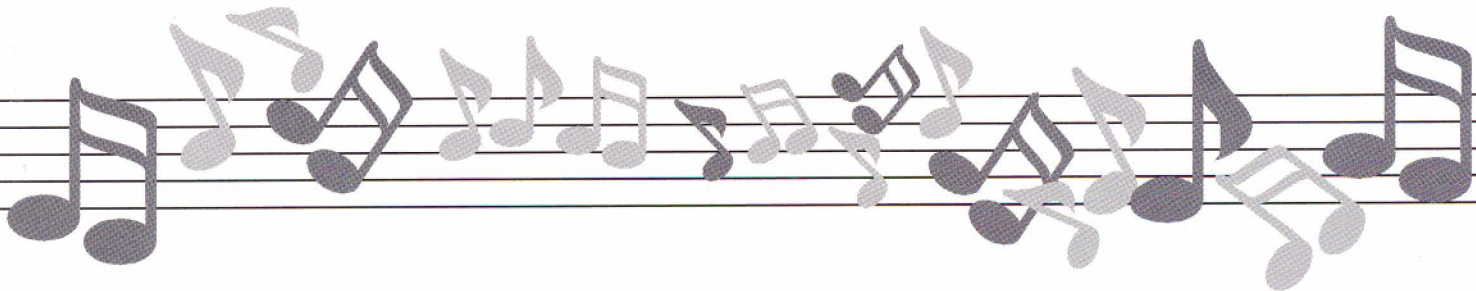
Since 1989, Blattert has helped church choirs there learn to sing complex parts and record and produce jazz-flavored compact disks of contemporary Mexican evangelical music. Along the way, the pianist, guitarist and instrumental arranger has absorbed a new culture and placed his musical imprint firmly on the city's musicians.

"If you ask musicians and worship leaders in Guadalajara, you find Joe has had his hand in the instruction of almost everybody," says the Rev. Michael LeBlanc, a Louisiana native who lives near Guadalajara, five hours northwest of Mexico City. "He even taught me how

to play the clarinet, much to the chagrin of the poor people who live with me."

Guadalajara is 12 hours south of Texas, a half-day's drive from the Pacific Ocean. Known as the "garden city," it has sunny weather year-round. "I haven't seen snow in seven years, except on vacation at Lake Tahoe," says Blattert, 50, a Marine City, Michigan, native who now lives in an apartment in the bustling metropolis of five million. Although Guadalajara is sprawling, Blattert believes living there has mellowed him and lowered his blood pressure.

"I'm naturally task-oriented, which is good for getting things done, and getting right to the point," he says. "Mexican people are very friendly and take less notice of what time it is. The whole culture there is people-oriented." Still, those who know him say Blattert remains a tough taskmaster and perfectionist who single-handedly has



elevated Guadalajara church choirs to new levels.

"He is very demanding and perhaps even intimidating as he has such high standards," says LeBlanc, pastor, Faith, Hope and Love Center of Tlaquepaque, near Guadalajara. "It's like it says in Ecclesiastes 1:18, with much wisdom there is much grief. Poor Joe suffers greatly when we hit a flat or wrong note or are slouchy in some way. But even though we fall far short, we have all improved greatly. Others also watch him in delight.

"I learned from him how to do computer-based sequencing arrangements, how to make harmony parts for a song and I helped him when he was recording," says Efrain Panecatí, 22, Mexican pianist at the Praise Studio at Casa de Oracion, a 2,000-member church in Guadalajara where Blattert worked until 1997. "He always wants to do the best; even in the final production he is not satisfied. He was critical — and people thought he was tough — but we also learned we could always make things better."

Blattert's path from Oakland University to Guadalajara has been roundabout.

At age 19, Blattert took a trip to Mexico, his first outside the United States other than Canada. He made a big impression on the young people. "That trip made me be drawn to everything Hispanic and to the country," he says.

Back in the U.S., Blattert intended to become a priest at Sacred

Heart Seminary in Detroit. But he soon changed plans and enrolled in OU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. "There was no concert band when I started," he remembers. The young musician would eventually play 13 instruments, focusing on piano, guitar and bass guitar. After graduating, he taught guitar and piano while working as a musician at two Catholic parishes and the Zion Evangelistic Temple in Clawson and Troy.

In the early 1980s, Blattert had a fateful meeting with the Rev. Marco Polo Nunez, a pastor from Mexico who was visiting Michigan. The two worked together on a chorus tape at Zion Evangelistic Temple. They came up with the idea to use the orchestral track, translate the lyrics into Spanish, and proceeded to produce the tape in two languages. Although he didn't know it at the time, it

was a turning point. He briefly joined Youth With A Mission, a missionary program in Texas and Colorado. But in 1988, Blattert went to Guadalajara for six weeks at the invitation of Nunez and loved it.

A year later, he moved there for good.

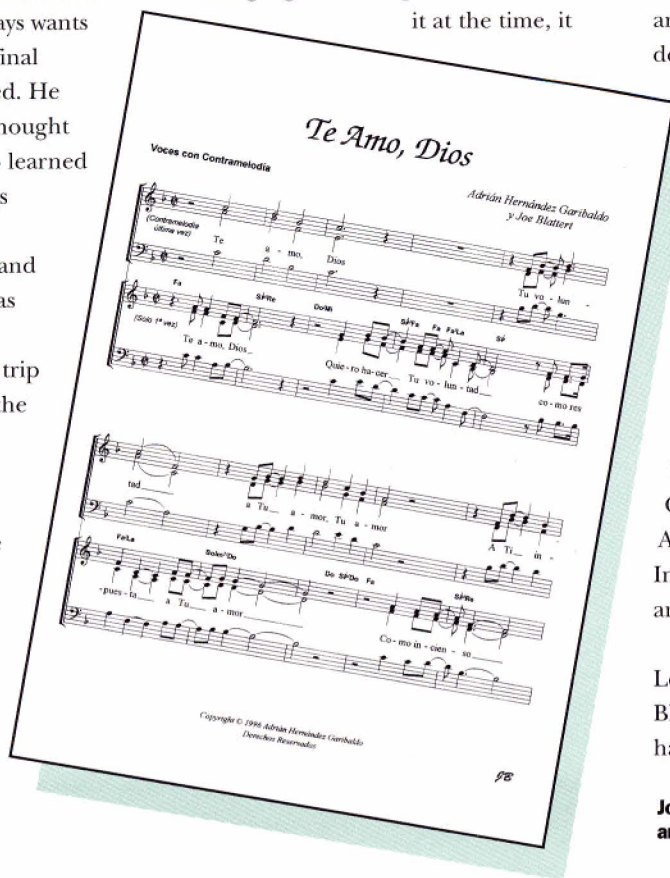
"It felt so far away from home at first, I might as well have been on Mars," he says. "Everything was so different."

His Spanish quickly improved, and the first church he worked at was Casa de Cristo, a small charismatic parish run by Nunez. He gave private music lessons and taught English at a local junior high. He also became involved with Casa de Oracion, the largest nondenominational Christian church in Guadalajara, whose dynamic pastor, Chuy Olivares, wanted to produce contemporary recordings with his large choir. In 1993, Blattert arranged and directed the music for the first Casa de Oracion compact disk, *Mi Refugio*.

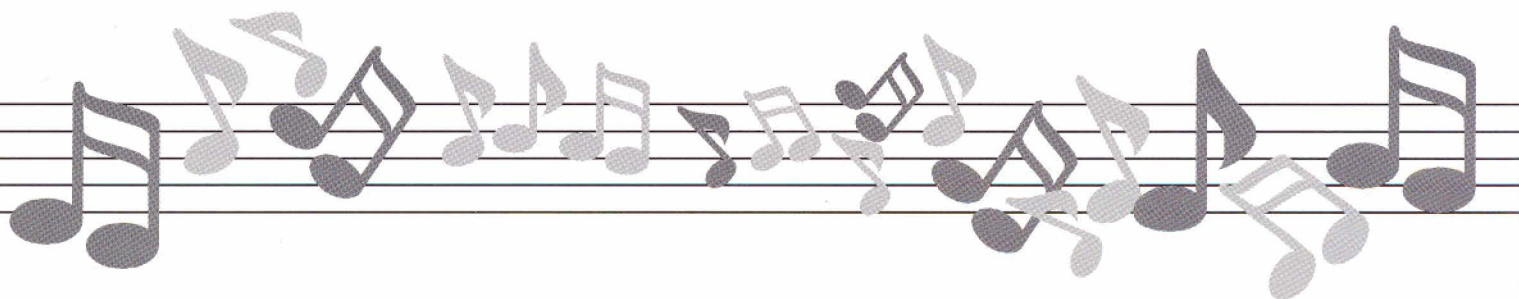
The musical accompaniment was sequenced using synthesized orchestral sounds, along with live electric guitar and saxophone, with added tracks for the choir, lead singers and audience. The CD was widely distributed in Mexico and South America and picked up by a U.S. distributor, Canzion.

Since then, Blattert has completed five other recordings with Casa de Oracion: *Bajo Su Sombra*, *Rio de Adoracion II*, *Rio de Adoracion Instrumental*, *Albanzas Hacia Lo Alto* and *Sana Mi Tierra*.

It was at Casa de Oracion where LeBlanc remembers first hearing a Blattert choral arrangement. "The choir had about 50 voices, but they sounded



Joe Blattert SEHS '71 writes his own music, left, and practices on the piano, right.



like angels or something. The song service was phenomenal," he remembers. That's when he asked Blattert to come teach his little 18-member choir to sing the same way.

Blattert has put a lot of miles on his truck. He drives back to Michigan most summers to earn extra money and visit his family. In 1997, he spent nearly six months in Detroit working as an executive assistant at the Karmanos Cancer Institute in order to buy a new truck and musical equipment. He also substituted as a musician at Shrine of the Little Flower, Royal Oak, and Divine Savior, Westland. He stayed long enough, too, for a memorial service for his father, who died last summer. But just after Christmas, he prepared to load up his truck with his keyboard, computer and possessions, drive to Florida to visit his mother, then trek the 2,400 miles back to Guadalajara.

"You should see me trying to get back across the border with all my musical equipment; it's always an adventure," he says.

The recording work has ended for now at Casa de Oracion, so Blattert is scheduled to work with three

other Mexican evangelical churches on their music programs, including LeBlanc's Faith, Hope and Love Center. The evangelical movement is something he is comfortable with theologically.

"I'm more nondenominational now," he says.

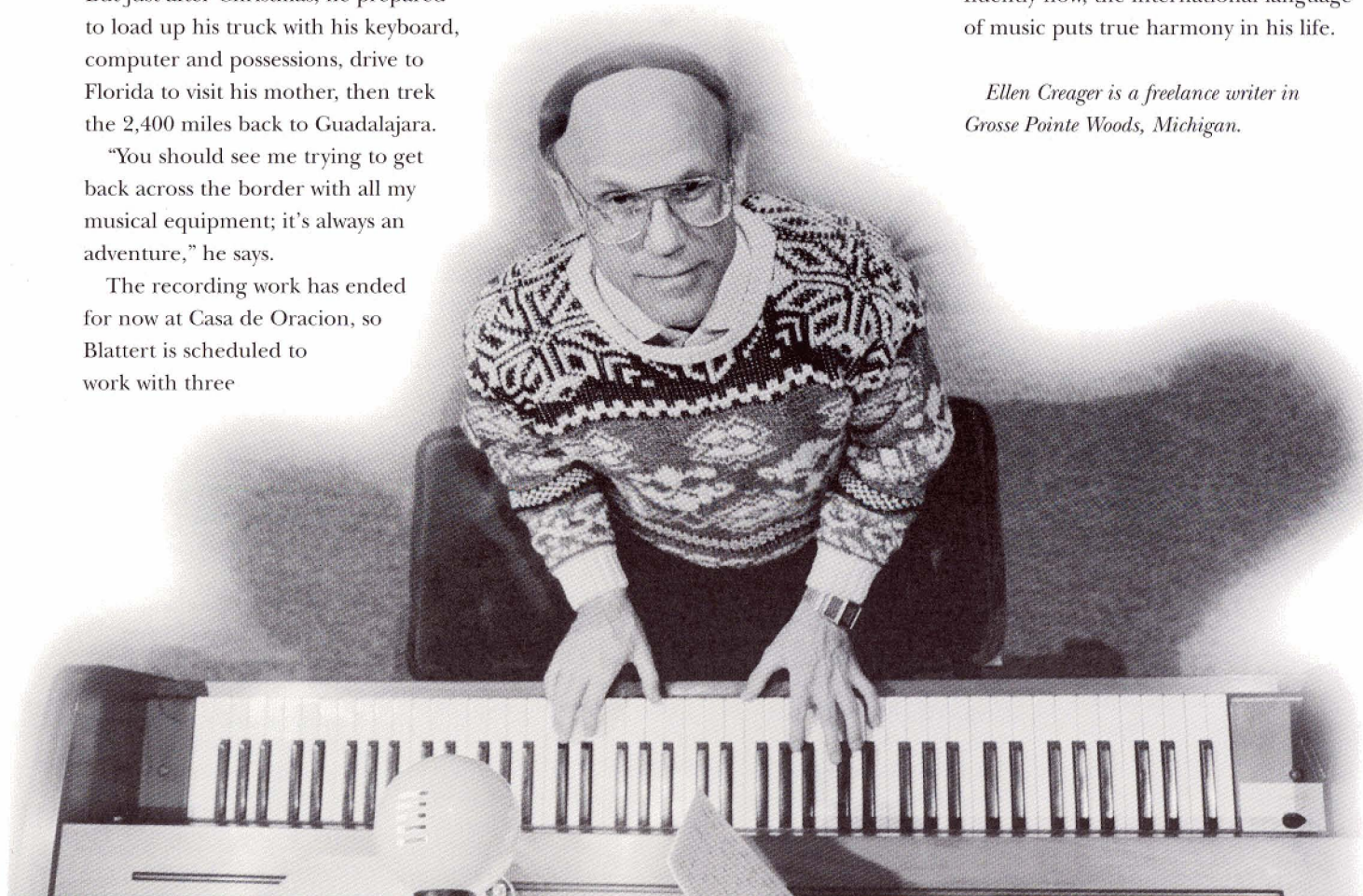
Although still tied to his Catholic heritage, he has embraced a more ecumenical view of Christianity over the years and laments the vast divide between the tradition-bound Mexican Catholic church and the evangelical Christian churches there. "I feel more of a calling to bring people together. There is no reason they cannot work together on some of the moral areas," Blattert says. "But unlike the ecumenical

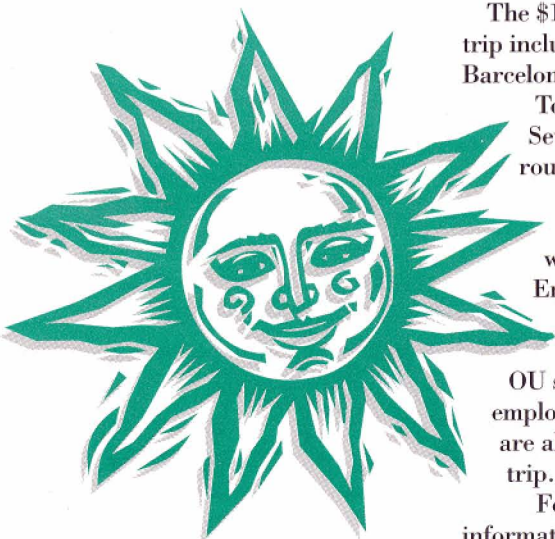
movement in the U.S., the churches in Mexico are very far apart."

His religious music for the churches has veered toward seven-part harmony arrangements with a jazz feel, which is as popular in Mexico as it is among American evangelical congregations. He still teaches guitar, piano — and even clarinet — to those students who really want to learn. And although far away from Michigan, Blattert feels closer than he ever has to his friends and family. The combination of CNN from California and e-mail means "I can communicate with everyone," he says. "This last year, I've felt the U.S. is just around the corner."

And although he speaks Spanish fluently now, the international language of music puts true harmony in his life.

Ellen Creager is a freelance writer in Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan.





Take a trip to Spain

Better brush up on your Spanish.

Oakland University alumni may see for themselves May 5-16 that there's more to Spain than its famous Flamenco music and dance, bullfights, beaches and sunshine.

The Center for Student Activities and Leadership Development, the College of Arts and Sciences, Departments of Modern Languages and Literatures and International Studies, the Honors College and the Office of Alumni Relations have organized the spring excursion.

The \$1,975-per-person trip includes tours of Barcelona, Madrid, Toledo, Granada, Seville and Cordoba; round-trip airfare from Detroit; sightseeing with professional English-speaking tour guides and more.

OU students, employees and guests are also welcome on the trip.

For more information, call Gina Onyx at (800) 228-0707 or Paul Franklin at (248) 370-2020.

Mark your calendar for golf outing

Rev up your school spirit for the annual alumni golf outing August 10 at OU's acclaimed Katke-Cousins Golf Course — one of the top 10 courses in Michigan.

A buffet lunch at Meadow Brook Hall, overlooking the 17th hole, is included. Morning and afternoon tee times are available for this scramble-format event.



Mark your calendar on August 10 for the annual alumni golf outing.

"There's a time for serious work, but there's also a time for humor in

the workplace," says Rich Moll SEHS '70, MBA '84, chair, SEHS Alumni Affiliate.

To ensure you're on the mailing list, call (248) 370-2158.

OU award lauds dedicated volunteers

The Oakland University Alumni Association will honor loyal alumni and other dedicated volunteers who support OU.

At the OUAA's fifth annual Alumni Awards Banquet September 18, winners will receive The Spirit Award, recognizing exemplary volunteer service to the university; The Distinguished Achievement Award, recognizing outstanding professional achievement or contributions to the community; The Distinguished Alumni Service Award, recognizing volunteer leadership and service to the university; and The Odyssey Award, recognizing alumni whose lives exemplify Oakland University's motto, "to seek courage and knowledge."

Conference puts humor to work

About 25 people learned how to lighten up on the job at an Oakland University miniconference, *Humor in the Workplace*.

The recent program, sponsored by the School of Education and Human Services, Alumni Affiliate, included activities to show how to interact and have fun.

Festival booth raises scholarship money

The Oakland University Alumni Association raised \$2,900 selling food and drinks last September at the Art and Apples Festival in Rochester.

The money will go into the OUAA Memorial Scholarship Endowment, which has grown to \$336,000.

"OUAA scholarships are a powerful tool for recruiting the best and brightest students," says Terry Barclay, director, Alumni Relations.

Annually, the association offers nine scholarships.

Pilot alumni chapter off to a good start

The new Oakland University Lansing alumni chapter, a pilot effort that could become a model for other regional chapters across the country, is drawing interest.

The group's first social get-together in October generated ideas for such future events as attending area university sporting events. Records show about 400 alumni in the Lansing vicinity, says group leader Michelle Walk SBA '93.

Call (517) 347-8797 for more information.

OU tops 50,000 alumni

As Oakland University's student enrollment continues to grow and set new records, OU's alumni ranks are expanding (see charts right).

"OU has more than 50,000 alumni, and many live in southeastern Michigan," says Terry Barclay, director, Alumni Relations. "Some alumni don't realize how big the university is getting."

The 1997 alumni data profile has some interesting statistics. Of 50,166 alumni, the university has addresses for 46,099, while 3,529 are considered "lost alumni" and 538 are either deceased or requested no mail.

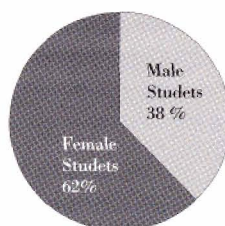
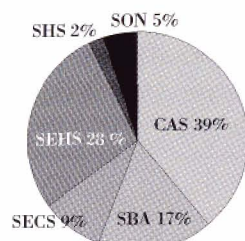
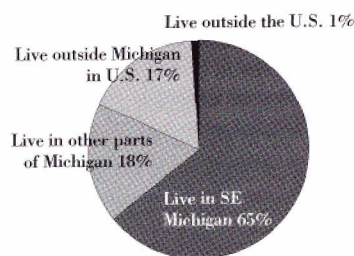
Of the 46,099 addressable alumni:

- 65 percent live in southeast Michigan, while 18 percent live in other parts of Michigan.
- 17 percent live elsewhere in the United States, while fewer than one percent live abroad.
- 39 percent graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences; 17 percent from the School of Business Administration; 9 percent from the School of Engineering and Computer Science; 28 percent from the School of Education and Human Services; 2 percent from the School of Health Sciences; 5 percent from the School of Nursing.
- 38 percent are male and 62 percent are female.

Ambassadors program benefits students and alumni

Two Oakland University departments streamlined the Alumni Admissions

OU alumni breakdown



Ambassador program after a successful first year.

The Offices of Admissions and Enrollment Management and Alumni Relations started the program in 1997 to build relationships between alumni and newly admitted students.

Such personal attention spurs more students to enroll.

Ambassadors develop one-on-one relationships with prospective students, corresponding by e-mail and meeting over coffee, at home receptions and out in the community.

Now, instead of going it alone, ambassadors team up to host home receptions for students and parents.

To volunteer, call the Alumni Relations Office at (248) 370-2158.

Nursing forms alumni affiliate board

As a result of alumni reunion activities last year, an Alumni Affiliate Board has been formed for the Oakland University School of Nursing.

University Relations coordinates this group of 20 alumni who give several hours a year to help the school. Alumni will be involved with the Spring Telefund from March 30 to April 2, become student mentors through Career Connections, help at Art & Apples and much more. If you are interested in becoming involved with this enthusiastic group of peers, call Adrienne Bass at (248) 370-4687.

If you would like to help with the Telefund, call Joann Burrington at (248) 370-4065.

Alumni Relations hires new staff members

The Office of Alumni Relations welcomes two new staffers — Assistant Director Adrienne Bass and Administrative Assistant Linda Oliver.

Bass started January 12, replacing Colleen Peters. Her responsibilities include managing the alumni affiliates and the Alumni Admissions Ambassador program. Previously, she worked for a family landscaping business and an advanced technology company in Chicago.

Oliver joined the office last November after serving as an office manager for a Southfield psychology clinic. Her duties include overseeing alumni records and volunteer programs, training volunteers and organizing special events.



Adrienne Bass



Linda Oliver

Lifelong learning focus will benefit future engineering students

Education has always been an emphasis in Toru Tom Sugiyama's life.



**Toru Tom Sugiyama
SECS '97**

Sugiyama SECS '97 has earned four degrees — three at the graduate level — and has been studying toward a Ph.D. in systems engineering through the

Oakland University School of Engineering and Computer Science since September 1995. He has merited a host of honors, accreditations and awards for his academic and professional achievements.

In an inspiring show of support for the future of engineering, Sugiyama and his employer, Southfield-based NHK International Corporation, have teamed to establish the NHK International Corporation Endowed Scholarship at OU's School of Engineering and Computer Science.

"We're especially proud of this scholarship," says David S. Disend, vice president, University Relations, and executive director, OU Foundation. "Tom and NHK have established this endowment to support our efforts to

attract, retain and graduate students who will leave their positive mark on the engineering and global business community of tomorrow. This is a remarkable and admirable goal that we believe will benefit not only our students but the entire engineering profession."

As corporate secretary, treasurer and senior manager for NHK, Sugiyama is responsible for all company operations in North and South America. He received master's degrees in Business Administration and Accountancy from California State University, Sacramento, where he was named MBA Outstanding Student of the Year in 1994.

He later earned a master of science degree in systems engineering from Oakland University's School of Engineering and Computer Science, where he is now a Ph.D. candidate.

The desire for an OU endowed scholarship came from Sugiyama.

"My Oakland education was exceptional, and I wanted to share that opportunity with tomorrow's students," he says.

In other fund-raising news:

- Two alumni have donated \$204,375 to OU to support information technology initiatives in the School of Business Administration and to fund a martial arts room in the new Recreation and Athletic Center. The gift of Michael Grieves MBA '79 and Diane Grieves SBA '83 will support the Applied Technology in Business Program, a competitive scholarship opportunity

that combines a rigorous education in business administration with hands-on training in information technology. Michael Grieves is the new chair of the School of Business Administration Board of Visitors and also chairs the President's Technology Advisory Board. He is president and co-founder of Data Systems Network Corporation, Farmington Hills. Diane L. Grieves is vice chair of the OU Foundation Investment and Gift Policy Committee and executive vice president of Data Systems Network Corporation.

- The Sixth Annual Keeper of the Dream Banquet February 19 was a major success, signified by the dramatic growth in revenues from \$9,000 in its first year to more than \$100,000 this year. "The banquet demonstrates Oakland's commitment to increasing the retention and graduation of a richly diverse student body," says Glen McIntosh, director, Office of Equity. This year's event attracted a record number of corporate sponsors. Named scholarships were contributed by NBD Bank; Haden, Inc.; J. S. Alberici Construction Co., Inc.; and William Beaumont Hospital. Longtime university friend and OU Foundation director, Alice Shotwell-Gustafson established a scholarship endowment with a major gift. "People have embraced the idea of the banquet, the spirit of Dr. King's vision," says Kevin Early, associate professor, Sociology. "Their commitment to diversity celebrates the values for which Dr. King lived and died."



Oakland students Jermaine Evans and Renique Quick were award recipients at the Sixth Annual Keeper of the Dream Banquet February 19.

Career/Accomplishments 1990s

Julie Ankrum MAT '95 is teaching an undergraduate course at the University of Michigan-Flint on Integrated Language Arts.

Julie Bristol SBA '97 is employed by CWC, Bloomfield Hills, as an associate data technician.

Mary E. Cammarata SEHS '96 is employed at Skilltech, Farmington Hills.

Elizabeth A. Carter CAS '95 is currently a staff writer and columnist with the *Oakland Tech News*.

Alfredo Casab SBA '93 graduated from Wayne State University Law School in 1996 and was admitted to the Michigan Bar. Casab is currently employed with Velardo, Sugameli, and Olson PLC.

Sandra Chrabaszkeski SBA '95 is a marketing representative, Pegasus Fund Accounting, First Chicago NBD.

Eric Corbin SBA '97 is employed by Deloitte and Touche as an assistant accountant.

Christine (Urban) Coutilish SBA '92 is working for Mid-Lux Tech Center, Flint. Pete, her husband, is a tool and die supervisor, Grand Blanc Metal Fabrication, General Motors Corporation.

Lina Daniel SBA '97 is employed by Deloitte and Touche as a staff accountant in the auditing department.

Deanne Daugherty SBA '96 is employed by Jablonski and Company as a staff accountant.

Marian E. Flanagan MA '94 is employed as a counselor at L'anse Creuse/Mount Clemens Alternative Education: Cass Avenue Academy and at Macomb Community College as an adjunct counselor.

Scott Fournier SBA '95 has joined PVS Chemicals, Inc. as the Detroit-based controller for PVS' Illinois subsidiary.

Jennifer Fuller CAS '95 joined the Detroit office of Shadwick as assistant account executive.

Gregory T. Grabowski BGS '91 was named vice president, Advancement and Alumni Relations, Detroit Catholic Central High School.

Noel L. Gregory MAT '91 received The Teacher of Achievement Award presented this October at the MANS Conference at Cobo Hall, Detroit.

Amy L. (Squashic) Hogan SEHS '94 is a human resource manager, Payroll 1, Inc., Royal Oak.

Angela R. Johnson SEHS '95 is a teacher, Clarkston Public School District.

Marcy Lamerson CAS '97 was named account executive, Chevrolet Operations-Retail/Wholesale Group.

Sandra Lewis MAT '90 retired as a director at Jumpin Tots, White Lake.

Anita McCann SON '92 is a manager at Metro Home Health Care Services, Inc., Howell.

Tricia Olszewski SECS '92, MS '94, is a senior engineer at General Dynamics.

Craig Preston CAS '96 is an advertising and marketing intern for Arch Associates LLC, Northville.

Christine H. Przeworski CAS '94 participated in the Korean Airline Flight 801 salvage effort

Starting again

When it comes to starting over, Sandra Scott CAS '82, MA '88, has "been there and done that."

Now she's using her personal and professional experiences to help others cope with starting anew.



Scott has been through a divorce, presented seminars on divorce, worked as a therapist specializing in pre-divorce counseling and trained to be a certified divorce mediator.

So when the Methodist church approached her about writing a book for divorce recovery programs in their churches nationwide, she saw it as an opportunity to share what she's learned. *Starting Again* covers a lot of subjects, from grieving, rebuilding, children and healthy vs. unhealthy relationships.

So when the Methodist church approached her about writing a book for divorce recovery programs in their churches nationwide, she saw it

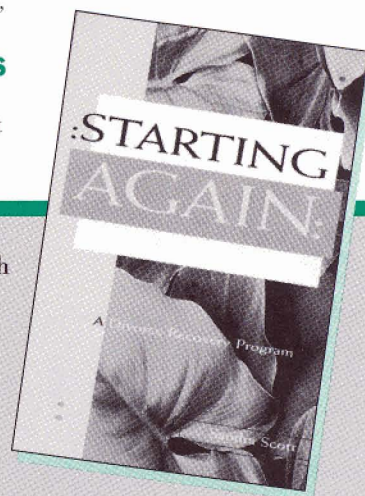
as an opportunity to share what she's learned. *Starting Again* covers a lot of subjects, from grieving, rebuilding, children and healthy vs. unhealthy relationships.

"People going through a divorce need to know that what they're feeling is normal, and it won't last forever," she says.

Scott's broad experience with divorce recovery programs began at Oakland.

"I brought together professionals such as attorneys, financial planners, career specialists and counselors to address pre-divorce concerns in a seminar," she says. "That really helped me develop a focus for my private practice."

On a whim last year, Scott applied to Northwest Airlines to become a flight attendant. Now this 56-year-old grandma's flight schedule takes priority over her private counseling practice. "When travelers find out I'm a therapist, they tend to open up. I end up doing a lot of jump-seat therapy."



in Guam while serving at a Naval Medical Center, San Diego. Przeworski joined the Navy in January 1995.

Constance E. Ratcliff MSN '95 is a family home care recruiter and a part-time teacher at Detroit College of Business-Flint.

Hilary Riggert SEHS '96 is attending Hawaii Pacific University for graduate studies in Human Resource Management.

Tracey Robinson CAS '93 joined Campbell-Ewald as a media analyst, Marketing Media Research.

Denise Sedman CAS '95 has been named marketing coordinator for Oakland County Development and Planning. She previously had served as a senior account manager with Hedge & Company, a Southfield-based advertising agency. She has more than 17 years experience in the advertising and public relations fields.

William J. Stahl SEHS '95 has accepted a full-time teaching position with Detroit Public Schools.

Sarah R. Tomczak CAS '93 graduated from George Washington University as a physician assistant and works in Bethesda, Maryland.

Susan M. Young SECS '90 was promoted from manager, Business Analysis and Financial Planning, to director, Finance, General Dynamics Land Systems.

Gloria (Resch) Zamora SON '94 is in her fourth year in the United States Air Force Nurse Corps. She is a first lieutenant.

1980s

Joseph Angileri SBA '80 is a partner in charge, Michigan Tax Practice, Deloitte & Touche. He also joined the Oakland University Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Michael J. Barker CAS '81 was promoted to technical manager, Sovereign Engineered Adhesives, Akron, Ohio. Barker specializes in epoxy structural adhesives. He is married to Cheryl Ann and has two children, Michael James and Candace Gail.

Lisa R. Bass CAS '80 was named vice president and general manager, Dishwashing Category, Maytag Appliances.

Karen Batchner-Farmer CAS '80 was named director, Corporate Relations, MichCon Gas Co. Farmer is responsible

for representing the company's economic development, community and local government interests.

Larry J. Baylis DO CAS '85 is president, M-15 Family Medical Center, PC, Clarkston. He also joined the Oakland Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Darlene Bliss CAS '89 is a clinical hypnotherapist and is self-employed, State of Bliss Inc., A Place for Women.

Rene Cafmeyer SECS '84 is a senior product development engineer, Chrysler Corporation.

Susan E. Cohen MA '81 joined the law firm Buesser, Buesser, Black, Lynch, Fryhoff and Graham, PC.

Louise B. Collins BGS '81 is practicing law with Howard & Howard, Bloomfield Hills. She specializes in financial institutions and securities law, concentrating in regulatory compliance offices.

Cathy Colombo Boley CAS '88 joined the staff of the *Warren Weekly*, covering city government.

Darlene Fields SBA '88 is a financial consultant, Citizens Bank, Royal Oak.

Aboard the Intern-Ship

Wendy Corriveau (Bodine) CAS '93 credits her Oakland University internship with getting her where she is today as regional development associate, Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Warren.

Corriveau raises funds for the institute through outreach offices that deliver educational programs and provide free medical supplies, food and other services to cancer patients and their families.

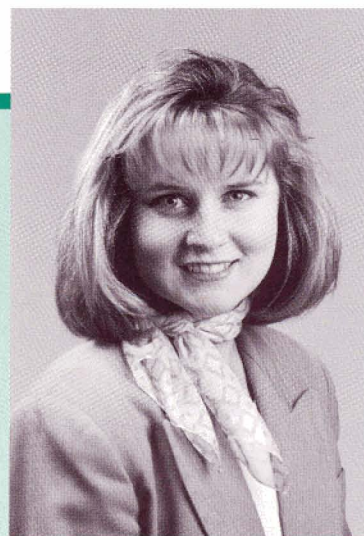
Corriveau's internships — one with Little Caesars and the other with SelectCare — placed her in professional settings where she was required to demonstrate professional skills.

"They were two-day-a-week, nine-to-five internships," Corriveau says, "with real responsibilities. At Caesars, I dealt a lot with the community and gained invaluable business experience. At SelectCare, I was hired as a full-time employee when my internship ended."

Corriveau's largest fund-raising initiative is the institute's Holiday Greeting Card Program, which raises more than \$200,000 annually for research, treatment, community outreach, and education programs.

"OU steered me in the right direction," she says. "My internships were so beneficial. I can't stress enough how important they are to developing a career."

Corriveau met Marc, her husband, during her freshman year. They married in 1995.



Susan B. Foran CAS '83 is a librarian, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Peter French SBA '81 was named president and CEO, Brown Corporation. French has served the company for 11 years and lives in Lake Odessa with Lori, his wife, and their two daughters, Krystal and Amanda.

Greg Gozzard CAS '83 has been appointed assistant conductor and winds/percussion coach, Dearborn Youth Symphony.

Gary H. Graca SBA '81, MBA '84, joined the law firm Dean and Foulkerson, Troy.

Sheila T. Gregory CAS '84 was appointed assistant professor, Educational Leadership, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She completed a faculty exchange at the University of the West Indies.

Madhavi Gunda CAS '89 is a first-year cardiology fellow, Henry Ford Hospital.

Steven Lundy CAS '87 is a predoctoral student, Department of Immunology/Microbiology, Wayne State University.

Kelly Martek CAS '89 is working as an employment case manager, Jewish Family Service, Denver, Colorado.

Paula Masterka CAS '84 received a promotion to assistant vice president, Huntington's West Bloomfield office. She is responsible for growth and development.

Christian McCallister CAS '82, MA '84, is coordinating a volunteer mentoring program through the Rochester Area Youth Assistance. She resides in Rochester Hills.

Diane Michele MA '83 is a licensed professional counselor. She completed her second master's in metaphysics and is working on her doctoral degree.

Kristin Miramonti Waite CAS '92 received her Ph.D. in biochemistry from Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Michael F. Nackerman SECS '84 relocated to Michigan from Ohio with his wife and three children to work as chief process engineer, DuPont Automotive, Troy.

Lynda M. Poly-Droulard SON '83 and her husband are celebrating the five-year anniversary of their business, Safety Auto Center, West Bloomfield.

Angela Reynolds SBA '86 is employed by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan as a senior tax specialist.

Sandra Scott CAS '82 (see profile on page 19) has published a new book on relationships, *Starting Again*. The book is a resource for divorce recovery programs for all Methodist churches nationwide.

Lynn M. Sikorski CAS '83 was installed as the first female president of the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology.

Joyce Weiss MA '80 started her own consulting company, Joyce Weiss & Associates.

1970s

Stanley A. Babiuk SECS '73, who is senior vice president, ANR Pipeline, was appointed to the Oakland University Alumni Association.

Patricia Book CAS '72 was promoted associate vice president, Outreach, and executive director, Continuing Education, Penn State University.

Cameron Brunet-Koch CAS '78 was appointed dean of students, North Central Michigan College.

Clark E. Chapin CAS '71 is designing and developing gasoline and diesel fuel systems for General Motors Corporation minivans.



D'oh! 'Bart's' on the radio

Best known as bad guy Bart on the NBC soap opera *Days of Our Lives*, Steve Blackwood CAS '78 is moonlighting these days.

Not as an actor, but as a singer.

His new CD, *I Don't Worry 'bout a Thing*, is out on the Newborn Jazz label and is receiving radio airplay nationwide.

"Jazz is in my soul," Blackwood says. "My acting and singing careers are taking off at the same time."

After leaving Oakland in 1978, Blackwood joined a Blues band in New York. He soon realized he liked Jazz better.

"I'm finally performing the music I love," he says. "I call it Blazz, a mixture of Jazz and the Blues. Acting and Jazz singing are similar. They're all about listening and reacting to others."

Blackwood has also made appearances on *NYPD Blue*, *The Nanny* and *Dr. Quinn*. On stage, he has performed across the country in a variety of plays — *Oleanna*, *The Time of Your Life* and *The Glass Menagerie*.

His CD is available at the Royal Oak Music Center or by sending \$11.50 plus \$1.50 handling to Newborn Jazz, 4114 Warner Boulevard, Unit C, Burbank, California 91505.

Sallylou Cloyd CAS '70 was named CEO of SOC Credit Union.

Robert N. Cooper CAS '73 was named president, Walsh College Board of Trustees.

Gloria E. Cruice CAS '75 received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the University of Detroit Mercy.

Marlene L. Ellis CAS '71 joined the law firm Howard & Howard, Bloomfield Hills. She specializes in financial service law.

Claudia Fornasiero-Johnson CAS '76 is the fine arts dance director at Highland Park High School in Illinois. She is married to Lt. Col. Scott Johnson and they have two daughters: Katrina, 16; and Alesandra, 12.

Maurice D. Freed CAS '77 joined the Farbman Group as an associate broker.

Joan E. French SEHS '78 has taught kindergarten at Yale Public Schools for 20 years and is teaching first grade for the fifth year.

Stephen Friedman SBA '76 is president/residential developer/builder, Friedman & Associates, Inc.

Dean Gallea BSE '73 heads computer and audio product test laboratories at Consumers Union Electronics Department.

James Garavaglia SEHS '73 has been promoted to senior vice president, Public Affairs, Comerica.

Carol R. Gove SEHS '70 was appointed executive director, Greater Detroit Chapter, The National Association of Women Business Owners.

Karen S. Gunn CAS '74 is currently chair, Behavior Studies Department, at Santa Monica College. She is also president of Gunn Consulting Group.

Linda S. Hall SEHS '77, MA '82, was appointed a school principal, Utica Community School District.

Ted O. Howard CAS '72, SEHS '75, has been teaching in Alaska since 1982 and has co-authored a book, *Fishing for Compliments*.

Colleen Jennings-Roggensack CAS '75 is executive director, Arizona State University's Public Events Office, and is a community activist.

Susan L. (Friedman) Jimenez SEHS '79 is working for the City of Livonia as a program supervisor. Jimenez also coaches the South Lyon High School girls diving team.



Who's watching the children?

When the Felician Sisters went searching for a director to open a child care center for St. Mary Hospital employees, Sister



Joyce Van de Vyver SEHS '78 was their first choice.

"They chose me because of my background in early childhood education," she says. "I'm living my dream."

Van de Vyver often returns to OU. Case in point: While conducting a feasibility study, she conducted research at OU's Lowry Early Childhood Center.

In 1996, the hospital built its own 16,000-square-foot child care facility with a staff of 34 and space for 150 children from infants to age 6. Van de Vyver was instrumental in the innovative design and operation of the center and is still at the helm as director. Van de Vyver feels strongly about the importance of educating professionals for the growing field of early childhood care and education.

"We encourage students from nearby neighboring universities to do their practice teaching with us," she says.

Steven Kaplan CAS '75

was appointed as an adjunct professor, Detroit College of Law. Kaplan is also employed as an assistant prosecuting attorney, Macomb County.

Richard J. Kay CAS '76 is a certified clinical mental health specialist, a licensed professional counselor, certified social worker and limited licensed psychologist.

Diane McCord MAT '71, EDS '90, who has worked in the Madison Heights Public School District for 19 years, was appointed director, Curriculum/Technology/Teaching K-12.

Skating on success

What began as a hockey team friendship for Ray Scroggie SBA '88, standing, and Greg Verrier SBA '91 has skated into National Computer Enterprises Inc., a computer company that sold \$4 million in computer hardware this year.

"I'd never go back to work for someone else again," Verrier says. "This way, all the dividends come back to you."

Scroggie agrees.

"It was risky, but we had solid financial backing. One of our customers described us as 'The guys who do whatever we need done right away with no problems.' That's us."

Before starting the business in January 1997, Scroggie worked 10 years as sales manager for an area computer leasing company. Verrier had worked as a sales representative for Scroggie.

Scroggie and Verrier still play hockey together in the senior league in Frasier. Their team name is The Crushers.

And that name seems to fit their business style as well, as they aim to "crush" the competition.

"We wanted the easiest and best customers to work with," Scroggie says. "The ones we trusted and who trusted us. That kind is a rarity in the computer business."



Jonathan M. Bensky SBA

'66 was promoted to senior foreign rank, minister-counselor, Singapore.

Marshall Bishop CAS '64

will assume the presidency of Southwestern Michigan College on July 1, 1998.

Lewis Eblinger CAS '69

is a foreign officer, U.S. Department of State. He is serving as first secretary and personnel officer, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, India.

James Gray SECS '69

is employed with Borg-Indak, Inc. as director, Engineering. His wife, Marilyn Gray SEHS '69, is currently subbing for Delavan-Darien Schools. They have relocated from Sterling Heights to Delavan, Wisconsin.

Cleveland McNeir MAT '77

retired from Williams International, Walled Lake.

Sandra L. Murphy MAT '78

joined Youth Living Centers as program officer, Community Education and Recreation. Her role is to oversee all aspects of the agency's community-based programming.

John D. Poholsky SEHS '77

is celebrating 35 years at Hamtramck High School, his last 12 years as a counselor.

Dorothy Scott SEHS '75, MAT '80, Ed.D. '96,

completed her doctoral degree and is teaching in Las Vegas for Clark County Schools.

Joyce Van de Vyver MAT '79

(see profile on page 22) is director of on-site child care center at St. Mary Hospital, Livonia. She also helped design

and equip a new freestanding facility for 150 children.

Toni S. Walters MAT '76,

who is an Oakland University associate professor, Reading and Language Arts, received the Teaching Excellence Award at OU.

1960s

David Baker Lewis SBA '65

has been elected to MA Hanna Company's Board of Directors. He is chairman of the Detroit-based law firm Lewis, Clay & Munday.

James G. Baner CAS '68

is a teacher, Clarkston Community School District.

Marilynn Lorenz SEHS '69

was promoted to lead group leader, High Security Juvenile Detention, Burton Reception Center, State of Michigan.

Engagements/ Weddings

David J. Benedict SECS '84

announces his engagement to Laura Balsiera. Benedict was promoted to supervisor, Supplier Quality, Chrysler Corporation. A 1998 wedding is planned.

Debra L. Holbrook CAS '93

married Jason D. Kaszubski in December. Holbrook is a reporter with the *Advisor/Source Newspapers*. Kaszubski works as an employment specialist with New Horizons.

Donna Majer-Sugg SON '93

announced her engagement to Dana Busch. Majer-Sugg works in the operating room at Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital.

Marlene Frankfurth CAS '88
married Pete Humbert in
November.

**Linda (Phillips) Manuszak
SEHS '94, MA '97**, married
Don Manuszak in October. She
is a substitute teacher, Troy
School District, and he is a
senior biller, Oakland
Psychological Clinic.

Eric Noyes MBA '92 married
Mimi Gendreau in June.

**Lesley Toto CAS '93, MA
'95**, announces her
engagement to Gordon
McCowey. A May 23, 1998,
wedding is planned. Both are
employed at EDS.

Death Notices

**Gayle Marie Hibbard MBA
'69**, September 7, 1997

Frances Horwitz MAT '73,
July 17, 1997

Leon Martysz Jr. SECS '71,
August 4, 1997

**Kathleen Jo Schulte MAT
'76**, August 23, 1997

Birth Announcements

**Theresa (Schell) Coutilish
BGS '87** gave birth to
Benjamin on November 8. She
lives with John, her husband,
and their son, George Paul, 3,
in Troy. John Coutilish owns a
law practice in Bloomfield
Hills.

**Robert M. Lawrence SBA
'88**, along with Patricia, his
wife, announced the birth of
their daughter, Andrea, on
September 22. Robert was
recently promoted to manager,
Quality Control, Deutsche
Financial Services.

Calendar of Events

April 29, 1998
OU Day at the Capitol

May 7, 1998
Nightingale Awards
School of Nursing

May 9, 1998
Volunteer Conference

June 6, 1998
Commencement

August 2, 1998
Concours d'Elegance

August 10, 1998
Alumni Golf Outing

September 18, 1998
Alumni Awards Banquet

November 18, 1998
Division I Men's Basketball
Game Opener —
MSU vs. OU

**Melinda (Alessi) Rivelli SEHS
'89** announced the birth of twin
boys, Nicholas and Matthew, on
October 30.

**Victoria K. Zannetti SECS
'89** announced the birth of her
son, Andrew George Zannetti,
on July 7.

ABBREVIATION KEY

BGS	General Studies
CAS	College of Arts and Sciences
MA	Master of Arts
MAT	Master of Arts in Teaching
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MM	Master of Music
MPA	Master of Public Administration
MS	Master of Science
MSLS	Master of Science- Library Science
MSN	Master of Science Nursing
MSW	Master of Science- Social Work
SBA	School of Business Administration
SEHS	School of Education and Human Services
SECS	School of Engineering and Computer Science
SHS	School of Health Sciences
SON	School of Nursing

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BREAKTHROUGH PUMPS NEW LIFE INTO HEART RESEARCH WHILE ACCELERATING PRACTICAL PROCEDURES

By Igor Huk



“Malinski’s paper describes convincingly what very well may be the missing piece of the puzzle.”

Oakland University researcher Tadeusz Malinski’s paper on the function of nitric oxide in the beating heart should be considered one of the most important cardiology papers published in the last decade.

Malinski’s findings are of crucial importance not only in understanding of the regulatory mechanisms of the heart on a beat to beat basis, but are of significant practical pharmacological and surgical importance.

The currently accepted theory which describes how the heart beats was published in 1918 and is now known in all the cardiology textbooks as Starling’s Law; it views the heart as a stationary discharge pump.

However, many studies have suggested that Starling’s Law must be modified to include some other unknown factor that results in the

heart acting as a suction pump as well as a discharge pump.

Malinski’s paper describes convincingly what very well may be the missing piece of the puzzle. According to Malinski’s paper, nitric oxide generation, stimulated by the compression of the healthy beating heart during discharge, will then cause the heart to forcefully expand, creating an intake suction.

The knowledge of this mechanism on a molecular level will surely simplify and accelerate development of new drugs and surgical procedures for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

Igor Huk, Ph.D., MD, is a world renown transplant surgeon and professor at The University of Vienna, Medical School, Vienna, Austria.

Virtual Rec Center . . .



... but not for long. Computer images show areas of the new \$37-million Oakland University Recreation and Athletic Center, scheduled to open September 8: above, the recreation gym and indoor running/walking track; top right, the 50-meter pool and bubble pool and spa; and right, the entrance to the rec center. See page 4 inside for the latest rec center information.

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