

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Winter 1994

MAGAZINE

THE ROAD TO READING

Oakland takes a leadership role in
improving children's literacy

Oakland University Magazine
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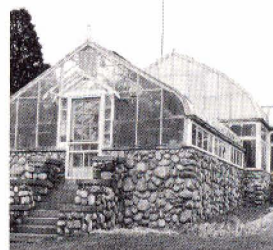
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MAGAZINE

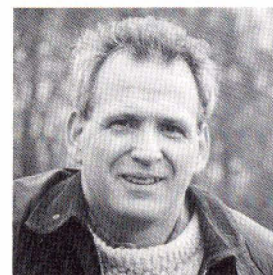
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Oakland University is among a select few institutions in the United States training teachers to help first-grade students improve their reading skills.

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Long before there was Meadow Brook Hall, there was Meadow Brook Estate Greenhouse. Today, volunteers keep good things growing to beautify the campus.

HEALTHY OUTLOOK 18

It's never too late to go from sedentary to active — and improve your well-being in the process. Oakland's health experts give advice on revamping the mind and body.

FOR LOVE OF NATURE 22

Alumnus Tom Carney brings a unique literary style to writing about the outdoors.

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Why Oakland Established an Office of Minority Equity

On the cover: Education Professor Robert Schwartz works with young reader Rahnetra Sparks.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Partnerships for Educational Success

Oakland University is committed to enhancing elementary and secondary education through innovative teacher-education programs. Our School of Education and Human Services continues to be a leader in bringing creative staff development programs to Michigan schools.

Two programs, both of which were begun in New Zealand, have been very effective in helping teachers improve reading and math skills of elementary school pupils. One program, Reading Recovery, is profiled in this issue of the *Oakland University Magazine*. The other program, Beginning School Mathematics (BSM), enjoys wide acceptance for its practical approach to teaching math skills and, more importantly, for producing positive results. BSM encourages children to see relationships between math skills and what they do in their everyday lives so they are motivated to learn and use math.

Through collaboration with Oakland Schools, BSM is being piloted in Bloomfield Hills, Southfield, Walled Lake, Waterford and Pontiac. Implementation of BSM in Detroit, Highland Park and Pontiac has generated sufficient documentation for the National Black Child Development Institute and the National Black Education Association to list BSM as an appropriate and effective instructional and curriculum approach for teaching mathematics to young urban children.

Oakland faculty members selected BSM and Reading Recovery for their truly innovative approaches to teaching. Relying heavily on positive reinforcement, the emphasis is on encouraging children to

learn through self-discovery with the support of a trained teacher.

As education experts know, such programs are expensive. Local school districts must commit time and resources as must the university. Just as important, parents must take an active role in nurturing their children to become good learners. The commitment of time and resources is well worth it, however. The children we help today will be contributors to our society tomorrow.

As you will note when you read the article, Reading Recovery addresses a critical need in our society. As advanced as the United States is, it is not at the head of the class when literacy is assessed. Sadly, the United States is home to millions of individuals who are, at best, what we call "functionally literate." They can read enough to get by, but their potential goes largely untapped. Millions more do not even reach the level of functional literacy.

For many reasons, universities must move to improve skill levels of all members of our society. At Oakland, we have taken the aggressive approach by helping to eliminate reading and math problems when they begin.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Sandra Packard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'S' and 'P'.

Sandra Packard
President

Holiday Happenings

November 26-December 12

Inspecting Carol
Varner Studio Theatre

November 26-December 30

A Christmas Carol
Meadow Brook Theatre

November 28-December 12

Holiday Traditions; annual decorated Christmas Walk, tours, gift shopping, Meadow Brook Hall, Meadow Brook Estate Greenhouse, Knoke Cottage (Santa)

December 3

31st Annual Yuletide Celebration
OU Community Chorus, 8 p.m.,
Varner Recital Hall

December 10-12

Meadow Brook Estate Annual Christmas Show
Varner Recital Hall

Theatre

January 6-30

Shirley Valentine
Meadow Brook Theatre

January 28-February 6

The Three Musketeers
Varner Studio Theatre

February 10-March 6

You Never Can Tell
Meadow Brook Theatre

March 17-April 10

The Last Days of Mr. Lincoln
Meadow Brook Theatre

March 18-April 2

A Little Night Music
Varner Studio Theatre

Music

December 5

A Tribute to Stanley Hollingsworth
Pontiac Oakland Symphony,
Oakland Chorale, guest pianist, 3 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall

January 21

Cabaret Concert, 7:15 p.m.
Northfield Hilton, Troy

February 20

Young Artists Concert, 3 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall

March 11

Oakland University Concert Band
spring concert, 8 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall

March 24

Jelly's Last Jam
Afram Jazz Ensemble, 8 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall

March 25

OU Community Chorus
spring concert, 8 p.m.
site to be announced

March 31

Vocal Jazz Ensemble, 8 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall

Dance

February 11-12

On the Move
Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, 8 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall

April 15-17

Oakland Dance Theatre
spring concert
Varner Studio Theatre

Art

December 12-January 30

Ted Lee Hadfield and Wendy MacGaw at
Mid Career,
Meadow Brook Art Gallery

Continued on next page

ROCHESTER'S BEST KEPT SECRET

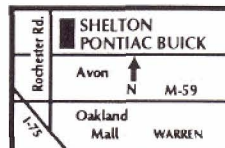
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CAMPUS CALENDAR

Art *continued*

February 20-April 3

Art of Indonesia from the Collection of Diane and Paul Haig
Meadow Brook Art Gallery

April 17-May 15

Michigan Artists Program at
Oakland University
Meadow Brook Art Gallery

Athletics (home events only)

November 29

Men's basketball
Lewis University, 7:30 p.m.

December 4

Women's basketball
Saginaw Valley, 1 p.m.

December 7

Men's basketball
Grand Rapids Baptist College, 7:30 p.m.

December 9

Women's basketball vs. Grand Valley, 5:30
Men's basketball vs. Grand Valley, 7:30 p.m.

December 18

Women's basketball
Madonna University, 7 p.m.

December 29

Men's basketball
Michigan-Dearborn, 7:30 p.m.

January 4

Women's basketball
Gannon University, 5:30 p.m.
Men's basketball
Saginaw Valley, 7:30 p.m.

January 13

Women's basketball vs. Ferris State, 5:30 p.m.
Men's basketball vs. Ferris State, 7:30 p.m.

January 14

Men's swimming/diving
Eastern Michigan, 7 p.m.

January 15

Women's and men's (coed) swimming/diving,
Denison University, 2 p.m.

January 20

Women's basketball vs. Northern Michigan,
5:30 p.m.
Men's basketball vs. Northern Michigan,
7:30 p.m.

January 22

Women's basketball vs. Michigan Tech, 1 p.m.
Men's basketball vs. Michigan Tech, 3 p.m.

January 22

Women's and men's (coed) swimming/diving,
Ashland/Ferris State, 2 p.m.

January 27

Women's basketball vs. Northwood University,
5:30 p.m.
Men's basketball vs. Northwood University,
7:30 p.m.

January 28

Women's swimming/diving
Eastern Michigan, 5 p.m.

February 5

Women's basketball vs. Wayne State, 1 p.m.
Men's basketball vs. Wayne State, 3 p.m.

February 5

Women's swimming/diving
Northern Michigan, 12:30 p.m.

February 12

Women's basketball vs. Lake Superior State,
1 p.m.
Men's basketball vs. Lake Superior State,
3 p.m.

February 19

Women's basketball vs. Hillsdale College,
1 p.m.
Men's basketball vs. Hillsdale College, 3 p.m.

March 9-12

NCAA II Championships, men's and
women's swimming/diving, Canton, OH

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Time for Winter Athletics

Optimism runs high for another successful winter sports season.

It all starts with the women's swimming and diving team, which will challenge for its fifth national NCAA Division II championship. Coach Tracy Huth's women look to senior backstroke Amy Comerford for leadership. The 20-time All-America swimmer and six-time individual national champion has her eyes on another Swimmer of the Year title, which she first earned as a sophomore.

The men's swimmers are a preseason favorite to win the national title, despite having only one senior. What to watch: how the newcomers blend in under Pete Hovland's coaching. Twenty of 32 Pioneers will spend their first winter at Oakland, and for five, it's their first winter in the United States.

In basketball, the men, coached by Greg Kampe, and the women, by Bob Taylor, have a mix of experienced and new players. Both teams expect to contend for league championships, and possibly earn post-season tournament berths.

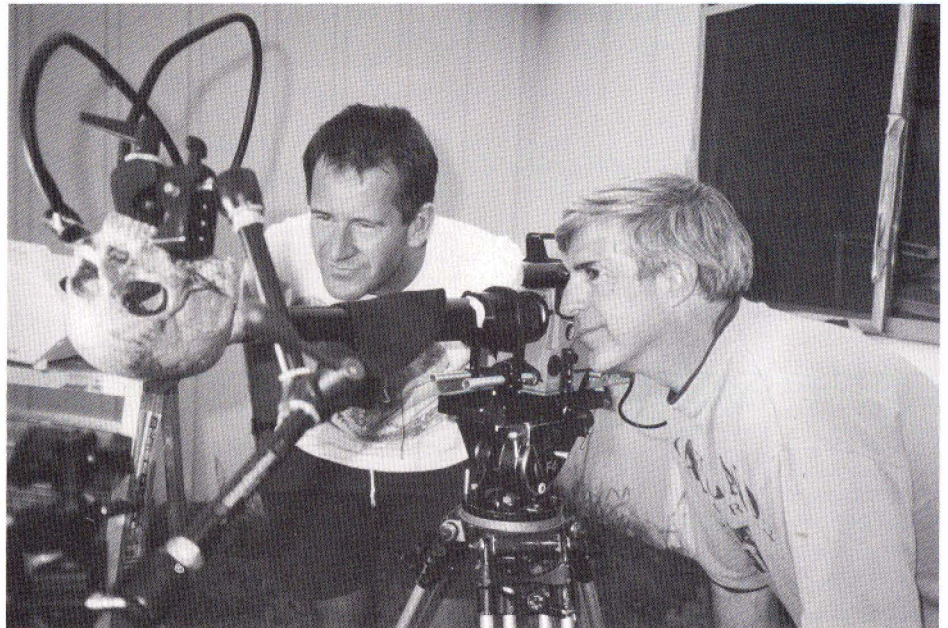
A successful winter would be a natural follow-up to a strong fall. The women's tennis team finished second in the conference, and Kris Jeffrey earned Coach of the Year honors.

Coach Peggy Groen, in her first season as volleyball coach, guided the Pioneers to a national ranking. The team also set a school record with a 14-match winning streak to open the season, and continued on to a 22-10 regular season finish. The team qualified for the NCAA tournament for the first time in its history.

In soccer, the team stayed in the nation's top 10 all season and finished with a 13-3-2 regular season record. The team received its eighth consecutive NCAA Division II tournament bid, which is the longest current streak, and won its first-round game.

The magazine went to press before results of the volleyball and soccer tournaments were known.

The men's cross country squad equaled its best-ever second-place league finish. The women's team, competing for the first time, found a strong performer in senior Nancy Collister, who placed seventh at the league championship in the 5,000-meter event.



Biologist George Gamboa peers through a BBC film crew's camera to see how his wasps are performing.

Biologist Helps BBC Crew

The courtroom is packed as the prosecution introduces a surprise witness in a murder case.

Suddenly there's a scream, and ...

Oh, no! The witness has escaped. It flew out the window!

Don't worry, there are plenty more wasps where that one came from.

Frontiers of science lead through strange places, including courts of law and wasp combs. George Gamboa knows, for he has helped re-create for the British Broadcasting Corporation some evidence from a Michigan murder case that was solved with the aid of ordinary wasps.

The Oakland professor of biological sciences is an internationally recognized expert in wasp behavior. The BBC filmed a segment for *The Natural World* series with Gamboa's help. The program will focus on *The Natural History of Crime* and air on Public Broadcasting System stations beginning next September.

How do murder and biology tie together? "When they discovered the murder victim's

body, there was a wasp's nest in the skull," Gamboa explains. "They called in a person who was familiar with wasp biology, and from the size of the comb and the composition of the brood in the comb, he was able to determine an approximate date of nest-initiation. That gave investigators a minimum time that the body had been in the field. From there, they made an estimate of how long it would be for the skull to be sufficiently open for the wasps to nest in it."

A BBC film crew came to Oakland and spent eight hours shooting scenes of wasps in fake skulls. Less than a minute of the footage is expected to make it on the air.

Gamboa knew something the film crew didn't: Wasps are finicky.

"Wasps won't fly until the temperature is about 70 degrees," Gamboa says. A cool day threatened the project, but the sun shone long enough to warm the wasps that Gamboa had brought in an ice chest. After carefully inserting numbed wasps into the skulls, the crew filmed the insects as they warmed and flew out the eye holes.

FOCUS

Estelle Snyder

She and husband Paul became President's Club members in 1986 and lifetime members in 1988.

Family: The Snyders (he is vice president of manufacturing at MascoTech) have two sons and a daughter, and six grandchildren.

Home: Troy, Michigan

Her involvement with Oakland: Volunteered at Meadow Brook Hall for 11 years as a member of the Guilders and the Friends of Meadow Brook Hall. Now chairs the Friends of the President's Club, which has 12 members.

What the Friends of the President's Club does: "We do a little of everything to help out the staff, including mailing newsletters. It's a wonderful organization, and I want to help it grow."

Why it's significant: It's the only President's Club committee that allows nonmembers to serve.

Her philosophy toward philanthropy: "Oakland University is a wonderful place, and I think people in the community should do all they can to support it." She is also active in the Salvation Army and Bloomfield-Birmingham Symphony auxiliaries, and World Medical Relief.

How she started volunteering: "When we lived in Ohio, my daughter taught hearing-impaired children. I learned sign language and helped out as an aide."



Language Lab Opens the World to OU Students

Parlez vous, Espanol?

After a few hours in Oakland University's new language laboratory, you won't mix your foreign phrases. The lab in Wilson Hall has the latest electronic teaching aids.

The lab contains 30 study carrels for individual use or classroom instruction. Each station contains a video monitor and headset. The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures in the College of Arts and Sciences operates the lab, which opened this fall.

The list of improvements over the old lab, which was also in 409 Wilson, is extensive. New equipment includes VCRs, video disc players, special projectors and a set of computers for interactive instruction.

"It's going to be a long time before I figure out all the things that we can do in this lab," joked Christopher Clason, assis-

tant professor of German and lab director. The McGregor Foundation provided \$256,500 for renovating the lab and providing salary support for two instructors in Japanese and Russian.

President Sandra Packard commented that the lab provides the university with another means of reaching out to the surrounding community. In addition to students who can use the lab, executives from businesses who do business overseas may also receive training at Oakland through various collaborative ventures.

The president noted that area teachers can also benefit by improving their skills with the lab materials. Lab users not only hear the spoken language of their choice, but see people on the monitors speaking the language in natural settings. The tapes can also take students through foreign lands to get a visual image of the culture they are studying.

SBA Business Forum Excels

Ever organize a lunch for 920 of your best friends?

The School of Business Administration did with its annual Business Forum in October, and made the effort look easy. Much of the planning and actual detail work were carried out by SBA students.

The Business Forum brought Robert Eaton, chairman and chief executive officer of Chrysler Corporation, to campus to speak on issues affecting the auto industry.

SBA Dean George Stevens said the Business Forum is an education in itself for student planners. "The Student Board, a group of very busy and involved students, goes through an elaborate and long process of planning and coordinates nearly every aspect of the Business Forum program. They learn what it is to produce a major special event. The students, given their comments to me and the fact that some of them have done this program more than once, believe doing this is a marvelous learning experience."

Eaton spoke of the need to pass the North American Free Trade Agreement, to reduce the trade deficit with Japan, to lower health-care costs and to work more cooperatively with government regulators.

"Opponents (of NAFTA) say the auto companies will run across the border to Mexico, chasing cheap labor," Eaton remarked. "What they don't seem to understand is that we could do that now, if that's all we had in mind."

"One reason we don't do that is because transportation and other costs more than offset low wages in Mexico and create an actual penalty of \$410 per vehicle for a vehicle that is brought back and sold in America."

Stevens said the forum is important to the SBA in terms of positioning the SBA and the university within the community and establishing a reputation for students and alumni.

"To have the opportunity to listen to and ask questions of a nationally known person and attract an audience of hundreds of influential people to our campus makes it all worthwhile," Stevens added.

The Business Forum was cosponsored by the Office of Student Life in the Division of Student Affairs.

Group Cites Adviser

The chief adviser for the Department of Biological Sciences has received a Certificate of Merit from the National Academic Advising Association.

John Cowlshaw and other recipients were honored at the NAAA national conference in Detroit.

"For those people at Oakland University that have a genuine appreciation of the value of good academic advising, John personifies the ideal of faculty commitment," said Virginia Allen, assistant vice president of academic affairs and director of academic services and general studies. "He acts as a bridge between departments, between students and the university, and between faculty and administrators. He does this by virtue of who he is, not his position or job description."

Cowlshaw outlined his personal philosophy of advising. "I strongly believe in the importance of academic advisers in aiding the whole developmental process of students. Many students are at a particularly formative point in their lives. The university represents a whole new world of ideas and relationships." He added that the advising process requires the adviser to get to know students and their needs, but also to give the students room to make decisions and learn from them. "I think it is also important for advisers not to set students against their past, but to help them to expand from it."

Chapter Earns Award

The Oakland University Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the national professional accounting honorary society, has been recognized as a "superior chapter" by the organization's national council.

The primary objective of Beta Alpha Psi is to encourage and recognize scholastic and professional excellence in accounting. Superior chapter status is the highest honor awarded. To receive the award, a chapter and its members must plan and accomplish an extensive program of professional development and community service activities.

The Oakland chapter received the award at the national meeting of Beta Alpha Psi in San Francisco. The award was for the 1992-93 program year.



Stephan Sharf, vice chair of the Oakland University Board of Trustees, Governor John Engler and OU President Sandra Packard turn ceremonial shovels at ground-breaking ceremonies.

Engler Praises Science Complex

Speaking at an indoor ground-breaking ceremony October 1 for the \$39 million science and engineering complex, Governor John Engler commented, "When you think about the topics — physics, chemistry, mathematics that students will be learning in this new building — those are exactly the skills that graduates are going to need for the very critical jobs Michigan needs in the 21st century."

The project will begin in earnest at the first of the year, and completion of the building and renovations to existing Hannah Hall are expected in 1996.

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Brian Connery (left) and Venkat N. Reddy

Peers Pick Faculty "Bests"

Two Oakland faculty members have been selected by their peers and students for their exceptional teaching and research.

Brian Connery, assistant professor of English, was awarded the 1993 Teaching Excellence Award for his abilities to sustain stimulating classroom discussion even in the larger sections he has taught, and for his creative use of journals to keep students thinking and writing. The award citation noted that "in a university that takes justifiable pride in the teaching accomplishments of its faculty you stand out as a truly exceptional teacher. Both students and colleagues recognize you as a demanding and exacting teacher, and yet your teaching evaluations are a steady litany of high praise."

Venkat N. Reddy, director of Oakland's world-renowned Eye Research Institute (ERI), was awarded the 1993 Research Excellence Award for his efforts as co-founder of the Institute of Biological Science (now ERI) and for his major contributions to understanding lens physiology and the mechanisms of cataract formation during his 35-year career devoted to studies of the eye and blinding eye diseases. The award citation noted Reddy's continuing research support from the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health, including a MERIT Award of \$1.3 million. His recognition includes the prestigious Friedenwald Award and the Michigan Scientist of the Year Award.

Connery and Reddy each received \$2,500 cash awards, with funds provided by the Oakland University Foundation.

Students Lend Park A Hand

The old paddle-wheel boat at Kensington Metro Park ain't what she used to be.

And you can thank some Oakland University engineering students for that. The park near Milford, Michigan, called on Oakland students to help fix a persistent problem with its diesel-powered tour boat. Essentially, the 66-passenger boat lost its oomph and no one, even a professional engineering consulting firm, could figure out why.

That spelled trouble in River City — or on Kent Lake in this case — when tours were cut short to keep to posted schedules.

Oakland students, under guidance of Martin Erickson, a retired test engineer who assists the School of Engineering and Computer Science, went to work analyzing the hydraulic system during the 1992-93 academic year. Mechanical engineering students Kevin Reitchel, who graduated this past summer, and seniors Bill Barsuhn and Susan Pouscho made a scale model of the paddle wheeler and tested it in the Lepley Sports Center pool.

"They learned to correlate the difference in the size of the boats to determine the amount of thrust and torque the real boat would need to keep it going at a steady speed," said Joseph Hovanesian, professor of mechanical engineering.

Through various studies, the students discovered that once the engine reached a certain speed, hydraulic pressure dropped, which slowed the paddle wheel. The students changed the fluid, made other adjustments to the mechanical parts, and the boat sailed at full power.


Said Barsuhn, "I looked at it as a good application of my fluids courses. I learned a lot about hydraulics in the process. The most useful thing was that we applied something from school. It was more than just theory, we were able to apply the thought process to solve a real-world problem."



It's full steam ahead for the Island Queen at Kensington Metro Park, thanks to students and faculty of the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

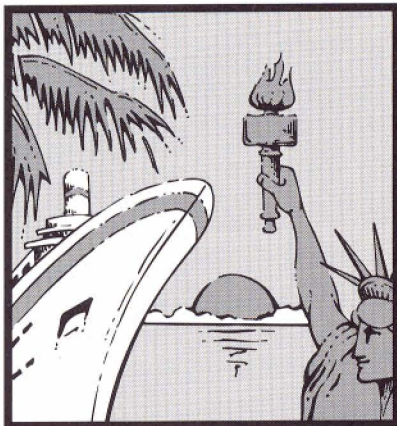
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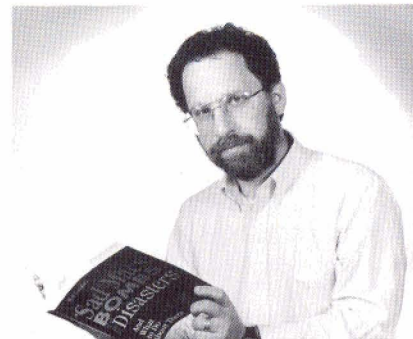
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Macintosh Book Reveals All

P psychologist Ted Landau knows what makes a brain crash and bomb.

Not a human brain — the brain inside a Macintosh computer. Although humans are prone to problems, too, and require the services of people in Landau's field, he has ventured out to solve what makes the brain of a Macintosh go kaput.

The associate professor in the Oakland Department of Psychology has turned a pastime of knowledgeable computer use into a second career as a software reviewer and author.

"At first I used the computer for what I intended it for, to write manuscripts, to help with my research, and so on. Working with the Macintosh, I guess I got into a position of being able to answer other people's questions."

Landau began writing software reviews for publication. *MacUser*, considered one of the leading monthly magazines for Macintosh aficionados, has published scores of his reviews on academic-related software, statistical programs and other teaching-related software. The magazine has rewarded him by listing him among its contributing editors.

Landau's wealth of Macintosh knowledge has recently been published in a 600-page book, *Sad Macs, Bombs and Other Disasters*, by Addison-Wesley.

The book contains a hint of the psychology professor side of Landau. He wants readers to learn to solve their own problems. He also gives some "what if" scenarios for readers to ponder.

"I thought it would be neat to write a book in which the ideal of the book would be that somebody could solve the problems without me having to stand over them and tell them what to do," he explains.

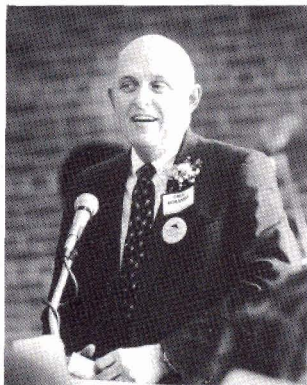
Charter Grad Cited as Distinguished Alumnus

Gregory J. Demanski, a member of Oakland University's charter class of 1963, received the 1993 Distinguished Alumni Service Award during Homecoming activities in October.

Demanski, vice president and manager of capital control for National Bank of Detroit, has been an advocate and ambassador for the university since he graduated with a bachelor's degree in management 30 years ago (nearly a decade before there was an OU School of Business Administration).

Today Demanski is a member of the Enduring Legacy Endowment Alumni Campaign Committee and the President's Club Steering Committee, serving on both the Executive Committee and the Alumni Membership Committee.

Demanski has been a board member, vice president for fund raising and president



of the Oakland University Alumni Association. Under his leadership, the OUAA established its first official budget procedure, made significant by-laws revisions and created a comprehensive five-year strategic plan. He has also been instrumental in annual telefund campaigns and has chaired the OUAA's annual golf outing.

In presenting Demanski with a plaque for distinguished service, President Sandra Packard said, "You will never hear Greg promoting his own good works or seeking the limelight. For Greg, the satisfaction has always been in giving credit to others and having the works speak for themselves."



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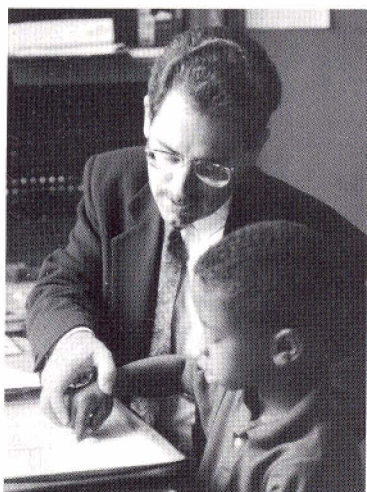
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The Road to Reading


By Jay Jackson



Recovery at work: Schwartz and one of his pupils.

The inability of millions of Americans to read proficiently is universally described as a national disgrace. Educators at Oakland University approach improvements in literacy from different angles, including an innovative Reading

Recovery program and studying how writing contributes to good reading.

Oakland University is among 22 college and university Regional Teacher Leader Training Centers in the United States providing the Reading Recovery program. In turn, these centers “teach the teachers” to take the program to their communities. 

VIRTUALLY EVERY YEAR you see this headline: *Why Johnny Can't Read*.

Symbolic Johnny is the poster child for literacy concerns in the United States. Few argue the problem, only the solution. With millions of American adults at or below a basic reading level, the pressure is on to improve schooling.

Oakland University's School of Education and Human Services is among a select group of national centers training teachers to eradicate illiteracy at the root level. The innovative program, imported from New Zealand, is Reading Recovery.

The program instills success before failure has a chance to discourage youngsters. Developed in the 1970s, Reading Recovery catches first graders who are having trouble and, with remarkable results, improves their reading ability through daily tutoring. Reading Recovery supplements regular classroom lessons by providing a new structure.

“It's a one-on-one early intervention program with one tutor for one child,” says Robert Schwartz, who directs the Reading Recovery training program at Oakland. By providing a 30-minute lesson every day for an average 12 to 16 weeks in local schools, specially trained teachers see the fruits of their labors literally before their eyes. “The goal is to take pupils from where they begin, which is with little knowledge about literacy or how to read, to the average of their class,” explains Schwartz.

Literacy assessments at the beginning of first grade reveal which children are prone to difficulty. Reading Recovery addresses children in the bottom 15 percent to 20 percent of the class.

It seems to strain the point to claim success for attaining an “average” ability. But, Schwartz points out, youngsters at the average level in first grade generally improve as they continue to read. Those at the bottom lag further behind as they get older. Compounding problems, if children cannot read independently, they cannot learn from literature, math or science books, and the downward spiral begins. Children may mistakenly believe that they are “not smart.”

“Research shows that with Reading Recovery, pupils stay with the average reading level through at least the next three grades,” Schwartz says.

Perhaps the obvious question is, if the program works as well as proponents claim,

Is Your Child a Lucky One?

Oh, what a lucky child!

Some parents hear that comment about their children, but it's more than just a descriptive phrase to educators who teach reading.

Professor Robert Schwartz says he agrees with tips from the book, *Reading in Elementary Classrooms*, which lists six signs of lucky children. A lucky child:

- 📖 Knows some words he or she can read or write, such as "mommy," "daddy" or his or her own name
- 📖 Knows some letter names and sounds
- 📖 Knows print conventions, such as that reading goes from left to right on a page, and can tell the difference between a word and an individual letter
- 📖 Knows why people read and write
- 📖 Has broad background knowledge and concepts of reading, such as knowing the name of an animal from seeing a picture of it
- 📖 Wants to learn to read and write

Adds Schwartz, "Lucky children may come to school prepared with thousands of hours of reading exposure in the home." Exposure includes being read to, playing word games and doing other activities with parents that encourage children to learn.

Parents who suspect their children who are already in school are not reading adequately should first approach the teacher, Schwartz suggests. If necessary, talk to the curriculum director for your child's school.

Another possibility is to call the Oakland University School of Education and Human Services to sign up for a reading clinic. Children from first grade to high school are evaluated. No referral is needed. For information, call (313) 370-3065.

why don't all schools use it? The answer is money.

Schwartz would love to see Reading Recovery in all schools, but it's labor intensive. In Detroit, there are approximately 15,000 first graders. Based on the standard of 20 percent who might benefit, that means 3,000 students could attend Reading Recovery ses-



In training: Anne Hollins, a teacher in Ferndale, Michigan, works with Dana Monroe during a teacher-training session on campus. From an observation room, other teachers and Oakland faculty members watch the interaction between pupils and teachers.

sions. "Last year we worked with 70 students in 12 schools," Schwartz says. "For those children and their parents, the program was a blessing. For the school system, this was a first step in its plan to make the program available to all students who need this support."

What hurts, Schwartz says, is believing in the program, but knowing not enough children receive help. "Across the country, for children who have exposure to about 60 lessons, 83 percent are successfully brought up to the average. The other children all make progress, but they may not make it to the point where we feel they have learned the strategies well enough to continue to make progress on their own."

Establishing a Reading Recovery program involves training teachers to work with children; training teacher-leaders who work both with children and with other teachers to get them started on a program in their home school system; and having university educators to work with districts and teacher-leaders.

In Michigan, only Oakland and Western Michigan University are certified Reading Recovery development sites.

"Of course, with funding problems now, it's difficult for districts to commit to this program," Schwartz says. "Teacher-leaders within districts are the key personnel who train their own teachers and supervise implementation," says Schwartz.



Faculty member Lee Skandalaris lectures to prospective Reading Recovery teachers.

Readng Recovery uses a variety of available textbooks. "Typically a Reading Recovery teacher will have a set of about 600 books that they choose from based on the level of progress of the child," Schwartz adds. "The program depends critically on the teachers' decision-making as they observe the children's responses to the lesson. That's why it takes a year's training for the teachers, so that they first become good observers of literacy behavior, and then they become expert decision makers as to what that behavior means to get to the next little step in the progress toward learning to read."

Each Reading Recovery teacher requires a set of books that cost from \$1,500 to \$2,000. The little books include pictures and text, with the simplest showing a single phrase and image per page. Pulling one from his shelf, Schwartz explains how the book does its magic. "A child who's just learning to look at print is introduced to this story by us talking about it and looking at the pictures. A child who doesn't feel like a reader could quickly learn to read this book," he says.

The financial commitment with Reading Recovery is funding the staff, not buying the

books. Districts must balance the costs, however.

"The economic payoff is that eight children complete the program and continue working at the average of their class,"

Schwartz explains. "Without the program, three of these children might have been retained in first grade. Three others would have received small group support over several years, and one or two might have been classified as learning disabled and remained in special services for five to 10 years. With Reading Recovery, even the two children who don't complete the program do make progress, and the number of children needing long-term support is reduced, so

these programs can become more effective."

Critical to the program's success is the contact the program directors maintain with teachers. Schwartz works primarily with teachers in their Detroit schools. Another faculty member, Lee Skandalaris, teaches on Oakland's campus, working with teachers from Oakland County and throughout Michigan. Teacher-leaders who went through the Oakland program also work with groups in Farmington and Detroit.

With a program like this catching on nationally, how do Oakland's prospective teachers get in on it? Actually, they don't, at least not while they're students.

Reading Recovery training at Oakland is a graduate-level program offered through a cooperative effort with local school districts. Only teachers from participating districts are accepted.

The sad part for educators like Schwartz and Skandalaris? Knowing that thousands of students who could benefit from Reading Recovery won't, and some will be mislabelled as learning disabled or having an attention deficit.

"A lot of children who are 'behavior problems' in the classroom are not problems in our program because the reason for misbehaving is eliminated. The program is not asking them to do things that they cannot do, whereas in the classroom they might feel confused and lost," Schwartz says.

"As Michigan's educational funding problems are resolved, we look forward to expanding Reading Recovery for children and teachers across Michigan." ■

To improve reading, remember to write, write, write

PARENTS ALARMED BY their youngsters' spelling errors may fret needlessly.

Literate children, those who master reading and writing, may not necessarily be good spellers at first. If that sounds contradictory, Ronald Cramer understands.

The professor of education in the Oakland University School of Education and Human Services is a nationally recognized textbook author and researcher who studies how children in grades K-8 learn to spell — and misspell.

Cramer and Professor W. Dorsey Hammond have again collected more than 20,000 samples of children's unedited compositions from throughout the United States. Their first survey similar to this was completed 10 years ago.

"We examined these compositions to look for patterns of spelling errors, to find new things perhaps, about what causes kids to misspell words, and what areas they are weakest and strongest in," Cramer says.

Cramer has concluded from the data that schools in general do not pay enough attention to a broad scope of literacy instruction. "Not just spelling," he cautions. "Spelling, after all, is far less important than reading and writing — it's a hand-maiden to both of them. I'm convinced there's not enough effective reading and writing instruction going on in the schools. In particular, we are deficient in our teaching of writing. I'd like to see more of it."

Make no mistake, Cramer does not advocate de-emphasizing spelling. The national data will become part of the professors' word list and spelling activities for the fifth edition of *Scott-Foresman Spelling*, published by



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Scott-Foresman, a book Cramer and Hammond have updated continuously for the past 15 years.

"There is a view that children in early draft writing should be urged to spell words as best they can. I am very much an advocate of that notion, and my research does demonstrate quite clearly that kids who are given that opportunity are much more likely to become good spellers than kids who simply do not write very often."

Why? Kids who invent spellings are expressive. "The notion here is not that you are encouraging children to misspell words, but the opposite: You are encouraging them to use whatever knowledge they possess of the spelling system, and to use it in their writing."

As part of the writing process students must edit and proofread their work to correct errors. Cramer says that philosophy should carry through to adulthood.

"When I'm writing on my computer, I don't give a damn about whether or not I'm spelling words correctly and punctuating properly, and so on. I get my ideas down and then I go back, edit and revise. It works, because in the end, if you have frequent opportunities to write, you pay attention to your spelling and become good at it."

As for spelling, Cramer and Hammond

have discovered that some things never change. "There is a set of words — around 100 very frequent, common words — that children continue to misspell over a long span of time," Cramer adds.

"Some of these words begin to show up at the first-grade level, and are still on the list of most frequently misspelled words at the eighth-grade level. They tend to be frequently homophones (sound-alikes), and the problem there tends to be a failure to understand the meaning or usage of the homophone. Or, words like 'a lot' where children have closed that into 'alot.' We've found some categories of spelling problems where they get better at it."

For example, first graders misspell vowels almost half the time. By eighth grade, inflective endings are a problem. A little interpretation is in order. What it means, Cramer says, is that as you get older and your vocabulary becomes more complex, your spelling errors change, too.

"Poor performance turns out not to be that," Cramer explains. "It's just that the children have more complex things to handle."

Good spelling ties in with literacy, though, by way of good writing. "A major factor is the frequency with which you read, and the frequency which you practice it

Top 10 Misspelled Words

1. Too
2. A lot (not "alot")
3. Because
4. There
5. Their
6. That's
7. They
8. It's
9. When
10. Favorite

If you're sharp, you noticed the bonus word — we misspelled "misspelled." Professor Ronald Cramer says that many misspelled words actually result from inappropriate usage (their, there) while others are misspelled due to difficulties of the word itself (because, favorite).

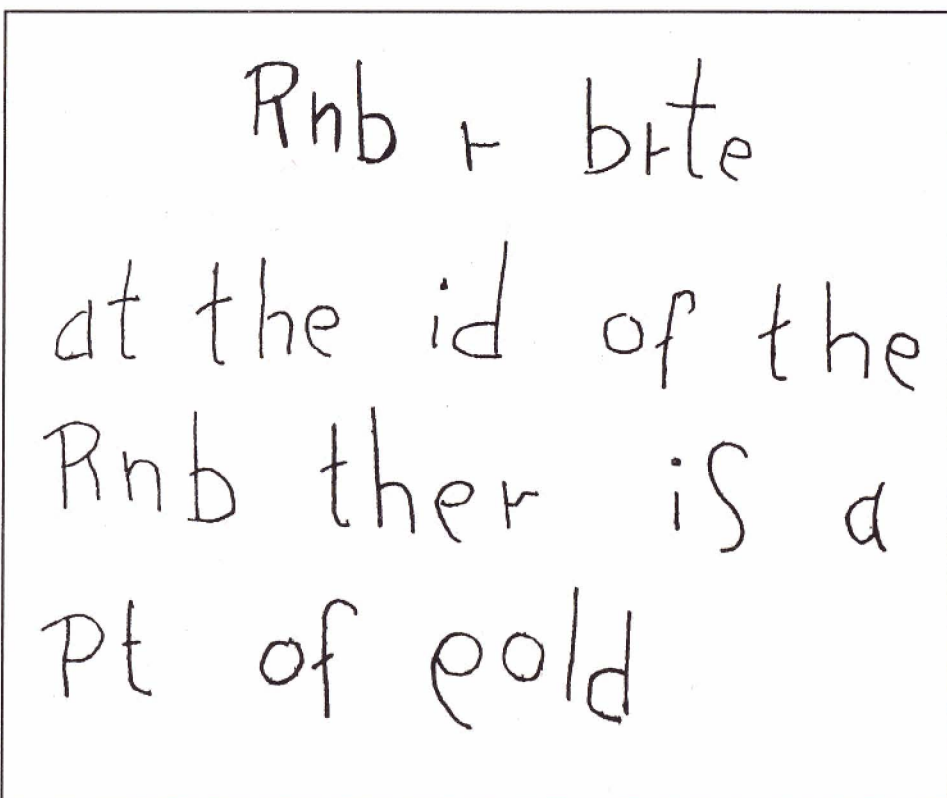
through writing. When there is any diminution of a youngster's opportunity to read widely, or any diminution of the opportunity to write frequently, and if the schools do not stress spelling, then there's going to be a diminution of spelling skills."

Spelling ability and reading ability may not be in synch at first. "When children first learn to talk, they approximate the sounds they hear in their oral language environment. They say 'da-da' instead of 'dad.' Their language is shaped closely to the language of their parents or siblings. The errors they made initially will not hang on, because they're surrounded with a rich oral language.

"The youngsters who are in a rich reading and writing background, who have opportunities to read widely and to write frequently, are also going to have their written language shaped to the correct language that surrounds them."

Cramer suggests that parents recognize the important role they have. "A very major factor in becoming a literate person is what happens at home. If the home is a literate home, where there is reading to and conversation with children, then the child comes to school prepared to learn to read and write," he says.

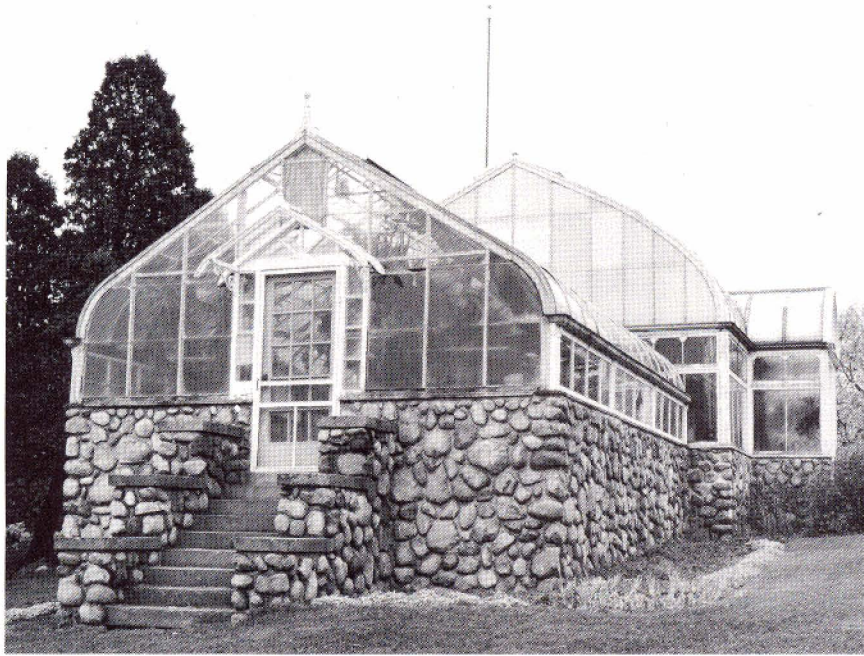
Times have certainly changed in teaching. Cramer remembers his own grade schooling when he received a paddling for not having his reading lesson down pat. "Not a very good motivator, I think," he says, shifting in his chair from the memory. ■



Inventive spelling: Rainbows are bright, at the end of the rainbow there is a pot of gold.

Always in Bloom

By Vicky Billington



Oakland University's Meadow Brook Estate Greenhouse was built 15 years before Meadow Brook Hall.

Shortly before her death in 1967, the spry white-haired Matilda Rausch Dodge Wilson stood before the annual meeting of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association (WNF&GA) and gave her final address as national president. "Keep growing," she urged the horticultural group.

Just a growing season or two later, the "mistress of Meadow Brook Hall" and benefactor of Oakland University was gone.

Her name and legacy live on and so do many of the championship flowers and plants Matilda grew and nurtured at the Meadow Brook Estate Greenhouse, thanks in large part to local members of the WNF&GA.

Today the greenhouse is responsible for growing most of the plants that decorate the university landscape. The annual planting of geraniums, marigolds, petunias, impatiens and begonias are what makes Oakland one of the most colorful and picturesque college campuses in the country. Each spring the

greenhouse staff produces more than 50,000 bedding plants for the campus.

Long before there was an Oakland University, before there was a Meadow Brook Hall, there was the Meadow Brook farm house (now called the John Dodge House, located on the east side of campus). The house was originally used as a country getaway for Matilda and her first husband, automotive pioneer John Dodge. They purchased the farm shortly after they were married in 1907 and travelled there when they wanted a break from Detroit city life.

The Meadow Brook Estate Greenhouse was built in 1914, the same year the first Dodge touring car was produced, and 15 years before Meadow Brook Hall was completed.

"Rumor has it," says Mary Maclean, manager of the greenhouse, "that Matilda got the greenhouse because John wanted a golf course." (John Dodge had a nine-hole golf course built on the property, which was

turned back into farm land after his death in 1920.)

"Matilda was a hands-on gardener, big into chrysanthemums, and she and her gardener showed her mums all over the world."

Like Meadow Brook Hall, the greenhouse is a classic English structure. It was designed and built by the British firm Lord & Burnham, shipped to Michigan and assembled on the farm.

The 16,000-square-foot building has seven rooms enclosed by a curved glass ceiling. The focal point is an elegant Gothic conservatory that features a "living vase" — a large tufa rock embedded in the ground (the greenhouse was built around it), planted with exotic tropical trees. The rock sits in the middle of a constant running-water goldfish pond.

"We call it our own 'little Belle Isle,'" says Maclean. "The greenhouse is the best kept secret in Rochester." ■

Tips for staying green from the Meadow Brook Estate Greenhouse

Growing indoor plants can help beat the winter blahs. Here are tips on how to keep indoor plants healthy during the cold, dark and often dry months of winter, from Meadow Brook Estate Greenhouse Manager Mary Maclean.

☛ Many indoor plants like to be cool; lower temperatures set buds and help them flower.

☛ Home furnaces can make indoor air dry, so increase the humidity around plants. Misting plants is a waste of water and keeping plants in a puddle can rot roots. One easy way to boost humidity around plants is to set a potted plant on an inverted pot, then set the inverted pot in a base of water.

☛ Most people kill plants by over-watering, says Maclean. "The general rule is to let plants dry out to the touch before you water them. In fact, your finger is the best tool you've got."

☛ Cut back on food and fertilizer, since most plants are in their dormant season in the wintertime.

☛ Special grow lights are a good idea, but make sure lighting comes from cool bulbs. Fluorescent are best. If you increase the hours of light, you can decrease the amount of light.

☛ If plants start to fade in color, it usually means a lack of fertilizer. Re-pot and re-soil.

☛ If part of a plant turns brown that means it's getting too much or too little water or light. "You have to pay attention to what you've been doing to the plant, then adjust accordingly. Never put a plant on a schedule."

☛ Insects are more prominent in the winter months. Particular pests to look for include:

- * Spider mites, look for tiny little spider webs
- * Mealybugs, look for cotton fuzz
- * Scale, look for small brown nodes

☛ Use insecticidal soap to keep bugs away. As with any insecticide, use caution. Take plants outside or in the garage to spray them.

Indoor Plants Anyone Can Grow

Peace Lily
("It has a white flower and grows well in low light.")

Chinese evergreen

Jade
("Just don't water them until the leaves get soft.")

Sansevieria
("You can keep one under a bed and not water it for a year and it will still probably be okay.")

Holiday Plants

Poinsettia
("They're very pretty but chances are they won't grow again next year. They're lots of work.")

Holiday cactus
("The most lasting of the holiday plants. As long as they are kept in a cool location, they will blossom." Three types include holiday cactus, which have lavender, white or pink flowers; original Christmas cactus, usually red; and Easter cactus, usually red with white.)

Amaryllis
("These forced bulbs make nice gifts because you can watch them grow and flower.")

Christmas trees
("Always fresh-cut the tree before putting it in water." If you can't cut it yourself, have them do it for you at the point of purchase.)



Meadow Brook Estate Greenhouse Manager Mary Maclean.



Healthy Outlook

By Jay Jackson

Oakland experts offer sound advice to revitalize your body and mind.

FRED STRANSKY helped shape his profession from proverbial bit player in the wings to featured performer in the spotlight.

Health care is not entertainment, but Stransky advocates it with the zeal of a performer belting out his signature song. Someone croon about leaving his heart in San Francisco? Probably due to clogged arteries, Stransky would hypothesize.

The Stransky style, rather than smokey and jazzy, is an uptempo beat of carefully clipped words and phrases. Stransky knows talking about good health is one thing, getting the public to buy into it is another.

Think about fitness trends for a moment:

- The 1970s were for runners. But, says the director of Oakland University's Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute, the big picture missed something. Casual fitness hounds understood the exercise part, but nutrition and prevention weren't always part of their total package.
- In the 1980s, "wellness" became the word. Staying healthy in the first place was the ticket to avoiding crawling into the doctor's office with assorted ailments. Too many took that to mean eating right meant survival.
- Now it's the 1990s and the message is prevention, and that means exercise *and* nutrition. Not one or the other, but both.

Stransky has a mission at the MBHEI, although it is not to replace or compete with medical clinics, or to substitute for private health clubs. His focus is on identifying risk factors and educating individuals to lead a healthy life-style, risks such as:

- Smoking
- Poor nutrition
- Stress
- Consumption of alcohol, caffeine and other drugs
- Lack of exercise

"Our primary role and mission relates to preventing disease," Stransky says. "In fact, the majority of our activities are clinically oriented and involve health evaluations, teaching nutrition and smoking cessation classes."

A full-time medical director oversees the clinical aspects. Another part of the teaching nature of the institute is training residents from local and out-of-state hospitals who are specializing in internal medicine and family practice. Three a month work at the MBHEI and Graham Health Center, which is the student and staff clinic on campus.

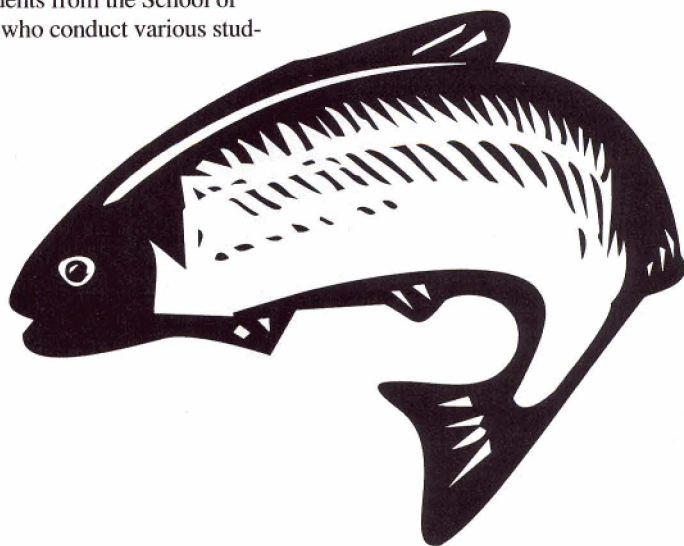
The educational nature of the institute is invaluable to students from the School of Health Sciences, who conduct various stud-

ies, under direction of their professors. As a community asset, the MBHEI offers:

- Cardiac rehabilitation programs to help individuals with coronary artery disease
- *Sixty Plus* exercise and nutrition programs for senior citizens
- *Just for Women* programs aimed at women who want to develop a nutrition and exercise routine that works
- *Cease Using Tobacco*, a program for smokers who want to be nonsmokers
- *Strong Bones, Healthy Bodies*, a series designed for persons at risk of osteoporosis (fragile bones)

"Through consultation with each patient, we help modify risk," says Stransky, an exercise physiologist by training. But what if you want to turn your life-style around. What do you do first?

- Visit your physician and speak up. Say you are interested in promoting wellness. Many



people visit their physician, Stransky adds, but the exchange between them comes from the wrong perspective.

"I think today when people go through a physical assessment, there's an emphasis placed by the physician on 'how do you feel?' We know that, because we train physicians in preventive medicine, and they are the first to admit that prevention is not really a major issue in practice. When physicians see 30 to 40 patients, they're really moving, and they're asking, 'Why are you here? What can I do for you? I'll see you the next time you come in.'"

■ You have to be young to benefit, right? Not so. You're never too old to revitalize your innards.

■ Your job? Ditto.

What matters is that you do something besides gather dust, because more than likely you'll live longer and healthier if you exercise.

"On a number of occasions, after people have established an exercise program, they've said to me, 'I forgot what it felt like to feel good.' When we asked them initially if they felt good, they responded 'yes.' But that was based on 40 years of feeling the way they did."

Stransky is particularly proud that Oakland University was one of the first institutions to promote wellness for employees. The financially self-supporting institute established its place as a promoter of good health and took that message to the community. Companies like Chrysler and ITT, and the public in general, decided to learn a thing or two from the institute.

"When quality of life becomes such an important issue, I believe there's a much

Feel Good with Us

Oakland University's Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute is a community resource available to individuals and corporate clients alike.

Programs offered by the institute focus on fitness and prevention of disease through life-style modification. The institute also offers special lecture series and programs for businesses and organizations on request.

As a health institute, the MBHEI provides an indoor running track, a weight room and other fitness equipment under the guidance of trained experts.

To find out more about how the institute can help you or your company, call (313) 370-3198.

Fitness Facts

■ Exercise should not be painful. In competition, higher levels of intensity may be pursued, but are not necessary to achieve overall fitness.

■ Thinness has little to do with total body fitness. It is through individual genetics and metabolism, not always participation on an active exercise schedule.

■ "Trouble areas" such as thighs, waist and bottom are treated with the same attitude as overall body fat. Fat cannot simply disappear through spot exercises — the pattern of fat loss is hereditary and cannot be altered by exercise. Remember, training muscles does not make them smaller.

■ Lifting weights vs. aerobic exercise: 30 minutes of aerobic exercise will help "burn up" the caloric intake, thus beginning to reduce body fat. Weight-lifting is geared towards achieving muscle size, which may be of interest but not necessarily "better."

■ Clothing such as sweatsuits or "rubber" suits worn during exercises to increase sweating are not recommended. If the body produces too much perspiration, it will dehydrate and average performance will decrease. Also, sweating does not reduce body fat in any way.



■ Body fat, quite simply, is difficult to lose (other than surgical removal). It only begins to go when the number of calories used exceeds the calories consumed.

■ Sports drinks have no particular benefit for persons exercising less than two hours at a time, thus water is preferred for the healthiest results. Sports drinks may benefit you in long-distance events, such as marathons.

■ It is often due to lack of appropriate activities rather than the biological aging process that people "slow down." Studies have shown if people remain active as they age, they can be much healthier than younger, sedentary individuals.

(Excerpted from Fitness and Fallacies: Everyone's Guide to Safe and Effective Exercise, by Rick DeLorme and Fred Stransky, 1990, Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, Dubuque, Iowa.)

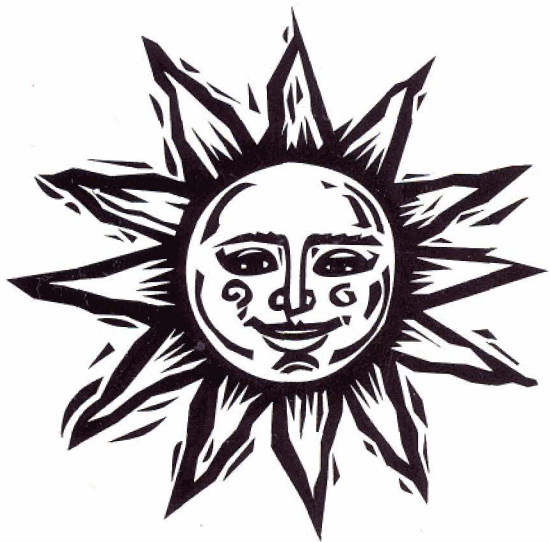
greater role for medicine to direct patients toward a life-style that's consistent with being better," he says.

Stransky has a "get 'em while they're young" attitude. If he's disappointed, it's that Oakland, and universities in general, fail to educate students about good health and behavior. "The vast majority of our students graduate without being exposed to any kind of health experience. Yet we brag as a university about how well our students are edu-

cated," Stransky says. "We do a great job in providing a general education, but the element of physical fitness is not considered. That's my biggest disappointment, that we can't provide a program for all students."

"It's generally agreed that if we can get people active, they feel better, they become more productive, they have less anxiety," Stransky says. ■

More "Healthy Outlook" on page 20.



Out of the Darkness

As the days grow shorter your mood may get darker.

Scientists are proving what people have thought for ages — life seems much rosier when the sun shines on them.

Sitaramayya Ari, an associate professor in Oakland University's nationally respected Eye Research Institute, says a key ingredient in this theory is common salt (lithium chloride).

"It has been known for many years that long periods of light-deprivation lead to depression, and more recently, it has been reported that bipolar or manic-depressive people have supersensitivity to light," Ari says.

The link between psychological feelings and Ari's research interest lies in the retina, or the inside back of the eye where light is converted into signals that go directly to the brain.

"Lithium chloride has been used effectively in treating bipolar disease, and a lot of research is being directed at the exact role of lithium," Ari adds. The research Ari has conducted is strictly basic. No clinical testing involving individuals is part of the effort.

Ari explains that biochemical reactions in rod photoreceptor cells in the retina are affected by lithium, a metallic element. Lithium can moderately inhibit an important enzyme group called guanylate cyclase, which plays a key role in helping the eye react to light.

What Ari wants to learn is whether the effect of lithium on the enzymes is relevant to light supersensitivity in bipolar patients. If it is, it could prove invaluable in treating manic-depressive patients.

The National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health has provided grant support to Ari. ■

Stressing the Positives

Everyone is under stress of some kind, that's a given. But not everyone knows what to do about it.

People like Jack Wilson who study stress and stress-reduction techniques say you can get too wound up hearing about stress to realize what it is in the first place.

"By and large, 'stress' is anything in your environment that you perceive not to be completely in control of. That can be something that's very, very stressful to you, but not very stressful to someone else," he says.

Now think about this: There's good stress and bad stress, also called 'distress.' What gives? Probably you.

Wilson, a psychologist and associate vice president for student affairs at Oakland University, says how well you manage stress is partly a function of your personality type. Type A's are hard-chargers; and the Type B's take things in stride.

"Generally there is a correlation between the decision-oriented personality type who likes to have everything wrapped up neatly and lives in a more stressful environment. Then there's the 'go with the flow' adaptive Type B personality. Generally the B person-

ality is not as prone to stress-related disorders, while the A personality is," says Wilson.

Not only are individuals who experience stress prone to physical discomfort, but their ability to think clearly and focus on tasks is inhibited.

Wilson, though, doesn't dismiss stress as a mind game. He teaches classes in stress reduction through the Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute. Stress is a real factor in people's lives, he says, and like other conditions, it can be managed.

If it isn't, your mental and physical func-

tioning will decline.

Signs of stress include mild depression, inability to sleep or eat, and muscle aches and pains.

Yet stress is also a motivator of sorts. When you face deadlines, you may feel an edge that electrifies you. If it goes too far, the stress can lead to an upset stomach, headache and other physical ailments.

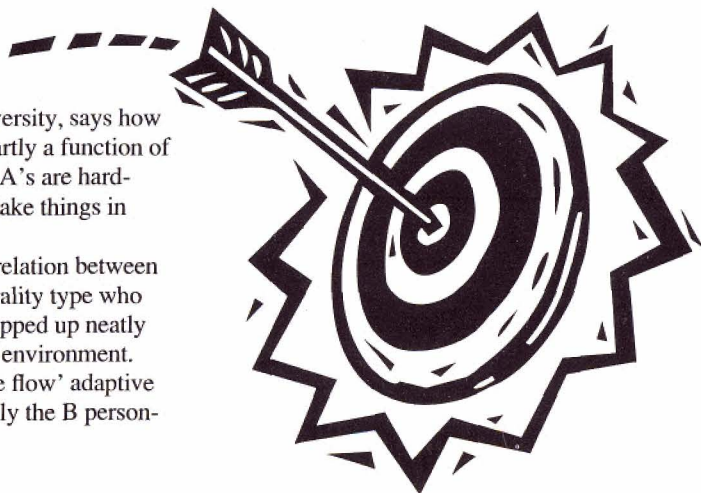
Lucky for you, Wilson says, the body knows what to do.

Sigh.

Not sigh as in give up, but as in exhaling the tension. Good breathing techniques have long been associated with stress reduction. What most people fail to realize is their body has been telling them to breathe properly when tension sets in. It's the old "good air in, bad air out" philosophy.

"I strongly believe that a tremendous number of people I see who feel they are under stress, have surrendered a sense of control that they could have over their lives," Wilson says.

Fine tune your attitude and see what happens to your physical comfort. Without that ability to adjust, you might wind yourself up so tight that the only way you'll unwind is to — well — snap. ■





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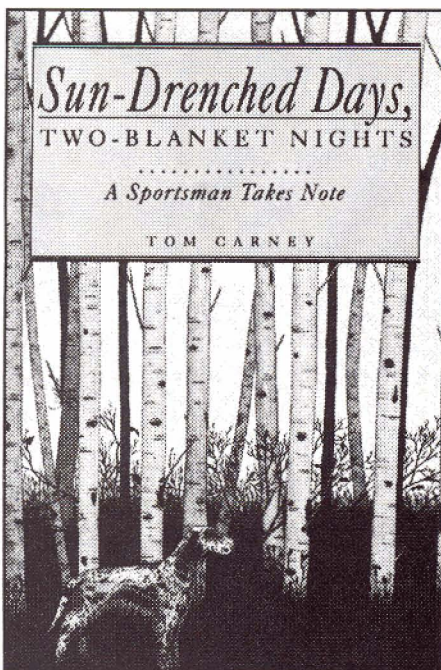
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For Love of Nature

Author and Oakland alum Tom Carney ('73) shares his thoughts and perceptions of the natural world in a new book.



Tom Carney

NATURE HAS captivated writers throughout literary history. Some writers take their readers outdoors to experience the moment. Others tell a story that coincidentally has the outdoors as an element.

Oakland University alumnus Tom Carney (B.A., '73) skillfully crafts the two styles in his book, *Sun-Drenched Days, Two-Blanket Nights: A Sportsman Takes Note*. This is not an "outdoors" book; it is one that weaves story-telling in the true sense with a love of nature. Carney credits the inspiration for his vignette writing style to Donald Morse, a professor of English, who was particularly helpful in developing flowing dialogue.

Carney has been a free-lance writer since 1980, and his work has appeared in numerous national publications. He also writes a regular column for the *Oakland Press* newspaper. When not traversing fields and streams for inspiration, he teaches in the Utica, Michigan, school district. His devotion to promoting writing led him to organize the *Woods-n-Water News* Youth Writing Contest for high school students.

The story which appears on the next page is excerpted with permission of the author. Carney's book is published by Partridge Pointe Press, P.O. Box 180347, Utica, MI, 48318-0347, and is available in bookstores or postpaid from the publisher for \$12.50. ■

The sun has been on the run for less than an hour. Can't waste time. I have to get up for summer school. My textbook is quite long. About two miles.

Quickly brewed coffee is usually morning's first friend, but today the calm, foggy pond beckons me outdoors. With an agreeable creak, the fiberglass solo canoe forms an immediate alliance with the pond's surface.

Likewise, the ash paddle and the water exchange a few low fives and quickly I am deep into the mist. The shoreline is never in doubt, so I don't need to chart my progress by anything as poetic as the wind in my face or the trail my paddle makes in the water.

After several lessons, however, I can chart another sort of progress: the various ways the pond and its supporting characters have opened up and have both welcomed and taught me.

Once, a hen mallard and her five juveniles saw me coming and glided away. No "hurry," but a lot of "wary." I had to consider. The first brood I had seen earlier in the year contained seven ducklings. Was this a second brood? Another hen? Or was it the same brood? Had a pike cut in during survival's incessant waltz?

Survival: Another hen mallard made quite a commotion, quacking in alarm to her brood. I looked up in time to see the bald eagle take a cursory glance, dive bomb them once, zoom in my direction, peel off about thirty yards away, attempt to score the catch of the day, then roost, haplessly I'm sure, in the pine tree across the pond.

Daily life: What could have attacked the bluegills we found at two different times with their tails and part of their backs gone? One was still alive, attracting attention from the sky and from below as he flipped among the lily pads.

Mystery: What a treat, the 19-inch smallmouth that hit a black plastic worm while I trolled in the canoe. It fought so hard and the canoe is so light, that I ended up getting pulled around by the monster fish I had hooked. Like Gregory Peck in *Moby Dick*. While re-
viving the bass, I noticed a fresh scar on its left cheek. It's tough to imagine a predator that would attack such a large fish. Disease?

Change, constant change: Each week, each day, the pond displays the cycle of things, nature's steady march, in much more obvious

ways than a lake or big river will. Lily pads spurt where only a few days earlier there had been clear water. One day, white lilies will pre-dominate; the next, yellow. The downy goslings that had tramped through our yard are now indistinguishable from their parents. And the juvenile ducks which just last week swam away from any threat, are now taking practice flights to different spots in the pond. Less obviously, the great blue heron tends to his work, as do the beavers, muskrats, and the occasional loon. The wood duck only a few weeks ago just a hatchling tumbling from the box, now whistles her anxious cry as she catches sight of the canoe drifting by.

A small turtle swims by, just beyond arm's reach. "Gee," the thought occurs to me, "if I only had a net, I could have caught him and kept him as a pet." At that point I am overwhelmed with the knowledge that the zoo mentality must still fester somewhere within. The

only note of hope is that almost immediately I realize that the whole pond is a zoo, and its exhibits are always changing.

Not only the animals and plants, but also the pond itself constantly changes. In fact, it is the child of change. Technically, the pond is a flooding. Like some skillful plastic surgeon, the dam half a mile downstream from us has transformed forever the identity and complexion of the river. Since it has flooded beyond its natural banks, the river covers hundreds of tree stumps in fairly shallow water. Consequently,

the pond remains free of humongous outboard motors, water skiers, and jetboaters, while at the same time it lures my canoe.

The calm water of the morning and late evening invites me to try fly casting for some of the bluegills calmly slurping away in the lily pads. So flat is the water that I don't need to scan the sky for any bird action. If anything is in view, I'll see its reflection in plenty of time to look up. Daytime winds vary, offering new and challenging routes for drift fishing. Heavy rains thrash the surface of the pond, swamping the lily pads and leaving the patch of bullrushes standing alone, a defiant sentry.

Sometimes the pond offers so many lessons that two hours go by before I think of returning. On other days, the pond looks best from the dock where I sit with my coffee and listen to the bluegills kiss the bugs on the surface — kind of our bobbing for apples.

With lessons like these, I feel no desire to return to the classroom.

SUMMER SCHOOL



Get Involved with Admissions Ambassadors

According to the Oakland University admissions staff, alumni and current students make the most effective student recruiters. Teamed up, they make an unbeatable combination.

That's the idea behind the Admissions Ambassadors. They work closely with Oakland's admissions staff to identify potential students and recruit them through personal letters, phonathons, and participation in high school college nights and regional college fairs throughout the state.

Some activities, such as writing personal letters and some phone calls can be done on your own time from your home. Others, like college fairs, require a brief commitment of your time and may involve some travel.

This year, the Ambassadors encourage more African-American, Hispanic and Native American alumni to participate in this program through a series of targeted events

aimed at recruiting a more diverse student body.

Student recruitment season is upon us. If you are interested in becoming an Admissions Ambassador, call Jill Dunphy in the Alumni Relations Office, (313) 370-2158, or Stacy Penkala in the Office of Admissions, 370-3360.

SBA Mentors Begin Second Year

If you graduated from Oakland University with a degree in business administration and have been looking for a way to reconnect with the university and its students, consider becoming a School of Business Administration Alumni Mentor.

You don't have to be an executive to be a mentor. Mentors come from a variety of backgrounds, offering a wide range of life experiences from which students can learn.

The SBA Mentoring Program provides ongoing opportunities for business students interested in specific career fields to meet

with alumni who serve as role models, advisers, resources and friends.

In addition to providing exposure to "the real world," mentors help students set goals, fine-tune their professional etiquette, increase their awareness of networking opportunities, and motivate them to do their best academically.

The Mentoring Program starts in February. To find out more about it, call the Alumni Relations Office at (313) 370-2158.

Career Out of Shape?

If your career is out of shape and you're thinking of a change, plan to attend *Career Fitness: Exercising Your Options*, an on-campus workshop sponsored by the Career Development Network of the OUAA. The workshop will take place from 9 a.m.-noon on January 15 in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms.

Our speakers will help you add some muscle to your career plans: Lucille Kus, '88, a licensed personal counselor specializing in career planning and counseling; Marsha Boettger, '75, career counselor, Career Development Resource Center, Chrysler Corporation; and Bob Thomas, director of the Department of Placement and Career Services at Oakland University.

Admission to the seminar is \$10 for OUAA members, \$20 for nonmembers. OU students will be admitted free.

Seating is limited, so make your reservations early by calling the Alumni Relations Office at (313) 370-2158 and using your Visa or MasterCard. Or, use the reservation form in the advertisement located in this magazine.

Deadline for reservations is January 7.

Bring Your Resume

Once you've polished your job-seeking skills at the Career Fitness Workshop, plan to attend the first Alumni Job Fair at the Novi Hilton on January 29.

Alumni from all Michigan colleges and universities are invited to take advantage of this forum, which will feature recruiters representing dozens of businesses from Michigan and Ohio. Bring your resume and dress for a job interview.

For more information, contact the Oakland University Department of Placement and Career Services at (313) 370-3250.

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1973

Daniel Kinsella moved to the Chicago law firm of Burditt & Radzius, chartered, as a shareholder from partner at Gottlieb and Schwartz. He graduated in 1977 from the University of Illinois College of Law and has practiced in Chicago since then. He published a four-part series on the Americans with Disabilities Act in *Modern Casting* magazine and an article on the retroactivity of the 1991 Civil Rights Act in the *Illinois Bar Journal*. Dan lives in Chicago with his wife, Ruth Anne Buckley, and his son, Timothy, born in January 1993.

1974

Gail Johnson retired after 19 years of teaching English at St. Clair County Community College in Port Huron, Michigan. 1975

Steven Kaplan published two articles in August 1993: "Questions and Answers on Michigan's New Anti-Stalking Legislation" in *Michigan Psychologist*, and "The Jailkeeper's Right to Search his Prisoner" in the *Oakland County Law Journal*. Steve was elected vice president of the Oakland County Democratic Party and is an assistant prosecuting attorney in Macomb County.

Rosaline Patterson was appointed to the State Board of Education Periodic Review Council. Rosaline has a private tutoring business using reading diagnosis and correction.

1976

Ennie Bond entered the gaming industry while pursuing her doctorate in clinical psychology in Las Vegas, Nevada. She became the first female roulette dealer at Caesar's Palace and was promoted to casino floor supervisor. Ennie and her 8-year-old daughter Courtney live in Las Vegas.

Barry S. Platt received a doctorate in clinical neuropsychology with a minor in consumer psychology from the University Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is currently working on post-doctoral supervisor hours towards full licensure in Michigan. Barry works two days a week in Ann Arbor at Arbor Psychological Consultants and owns Heatherbrook Rehabilitation and Counseling, which assists persons with traumatic brain injuries to reenter the world of employment. He is currently seeking a publisher for his book, *How to Choose a Quality Post Acute Care Rehabilitation Facility for the Closed Head Injured: A Consumer Guide for Families*

1977

Susan Johnston was named director of computing services at Crain Communications. She is listed in *Who's Who in America, Women in Business*. Susan and her husband and four children live in Huntington Woods, Michigan.

1978

Elias Escobedo, Jr. was appointed by Governor John Engler to the Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control. Elias, of West Bloomfield, is an

attorney and counselor at law in private practice. He earned his juris doctor from Wayne State University.

Phil Foley recently joined Stuart Newman Association as media relations representative for Middle and Upper Keys. Phil lives in Tavernier, Florida.

1980

Bill Cameron was promoted to assistant vice president of financial accounting at Jackson National Life.

1981

Linda (Wright) Austin and her husband, James, are happy to announce the birth of their first child,

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ALUMNI NOTES

Robbie Elizabeth, on August 15, 1993. Linda is employed as a litigation assistant in the Auto Safety and Product Litigation Department of Ford Motor Company.

Sandra Hamden works in the Sales Department at Ottenheimer. Her husband, **Keith** ('82) was recently promoted to national-sales manager of Salton/Maxim Housewares. Sandra and Keith live in Mundelein, Illinois, with their daughters, Kelly, 3, and Kimberly, 1.

1983

Colette Fortin is the print production coordinator at Entertainment Publications, Inc., in Troy, Michigan.

Mary Anne Pilette received the status of nationally registered music educator from the Music Educators National Conference in August 1993.

1985

Joe Bubenzer is vice president of sales and engineering at Dura Mechanical Components, Inc., in Troy, Michigan. Joe, his wife and four children live in Rochester Hills.

Gregory Stapleton married Deborah Shillingham on May 29, 1993, in Lexington, North Carolina. Greg was promoted to corporate network systems engineer at Microsoft in Charlotte.

1986

Dr. Wendy (Ruprich) Russo graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic in June 1992 and married Dr. Michael Russo in September 1992. They practice on Long Island, New York.

1987

William R. Brown was appointed director of environmental services for Battle Creek Health System in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Pam Korb is teaching special education in the Bendle School District in Burton, Michigan. Pam and her husband, Ken announce the birth of Spencer's little sister, Adrienne Marissa, on July 1, 1993.

1988

Jill Powell and her husband, Kevin, are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Jordan Ross, born May 13, 1993.

Nancy C. Shew teaches at St. Francis DeSales High School in Columbus, Ohio. Nancy was entered in the 1992 edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. She and her husband Archie and their two teenage daughters have adapted to central Ohio.

1989

Kimberlee McLaughlin is a personnel management specialist in the management intern program at the Department of Defense, Office of Dependents Schools, at its headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE keeps you informed about — and in touch with — Oakland University and its many programs, alumni and friends. Please send us news (appointments, promotions, honors, marriages, children and other activities) about yourself or your Oakland friends. Moving? Send us your new address right away. Let's keep "in touch!"

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Major/degree _____

1992

Bogdan Adamczyk, recent doctoral graduate of the School of Engineering and Computer Science, was appointed senior engineer at IIT Automotive in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

Dawn Aubry is a graduate assistant for residence services at Kent University. She is working toward a master's degree in education in higher education administration and college student personnel.

Slawomir Fryska, recent doctoral graduate of the School of Engineering and Computer Science, was named head of Dynamic Systems group at Allied Signal Research and Development Center in Chicago, Illinois.

1993

Jennifer Kincer is the events assistant at The Palace of Auburn Hills (Michigan) and Pine Knob Music Theatre in Clarkston.

Diane Tumidajewicz attends Wayne State University's School of Social Work.

IN MEMORIAM

1977

Elaine Boesky

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Sun., Dec. 12, 3 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall

Pontiac Oakland Symphony

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Varner Studio Theatre

Eisenhower Dance Ensemble

On the Move
Fri., Feb. 11 and Sat., Feb. 12, 8 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall

Pontiac Oakland Symphony

Young Artists Concert
Sun., Feb. 20, 3 p.m.
Varner Recital Hall

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ALUMNI NOTES

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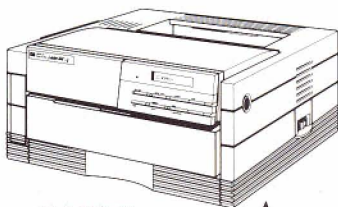
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Why Oakland Established an Office of Minority Equity

By Kevin Early

Honesty, integrity and caring are essential qualities. Together with its intellectual goals, these are the qualities that embody the essence of a university. Moreover, the recognition and appreciation of individual differences and cultural diversity are imperative in an environment of learning. Members of the community must assume responsibility for these qualities.

The academy is a vehicle of change, not just a subject of change. The academy must remain a place where the consideration of ideas, no matter how unpopular, and the right to disagree are valued and respected.

Oakland University is on the cutting edge. Our challenge for the 21st century is developing a greater knowledge of and respect for all groups: religious, racial and cultural. I am confident that Oakland University can meet this challenge, despite society's resistance to change.

The ultimate outcome of the Oakland experience should be a commitment to serving other people. ■



Kevin Early, assistant professor of sociology, is serving as interim director of the new Office of Minority Equity established this fall at Oakland University. A full-time director will be appointed in the winter semester.

Early is no stranger to administrative roles. He served as special assistant to President Sandra Packard for the winter 1993 semester.

Early earned considerable national

attention when his book, Religion and Suicide in the African-American Community, was published by Greenwood Publishing Group in 1992.

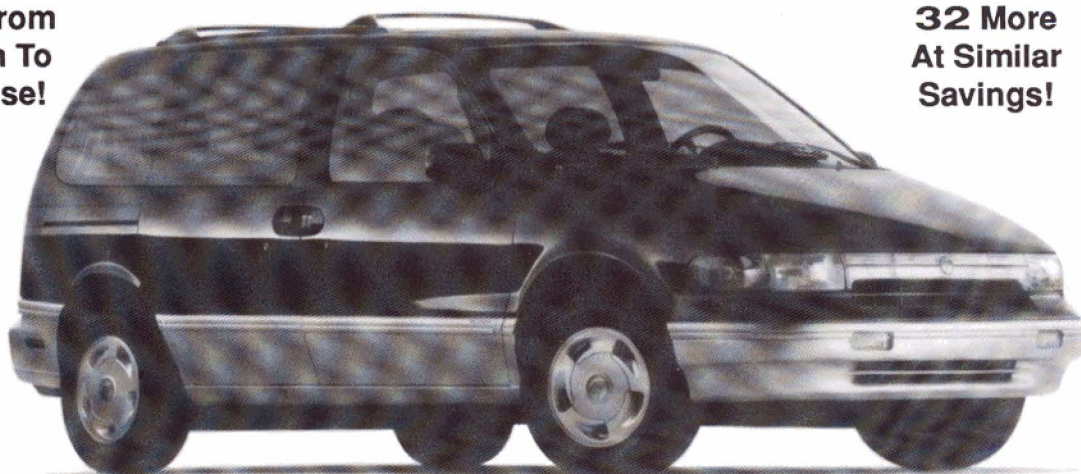
As interim director of the Office of Minority Equity, Early planned a retreat for students and staff members called Living Colors II. The retreat considered models of racial unity and how they can be applied at Oakland.

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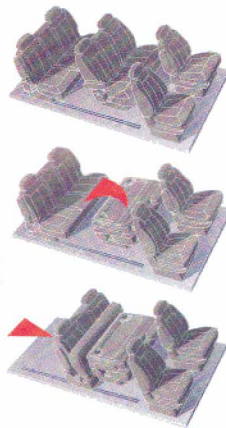
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