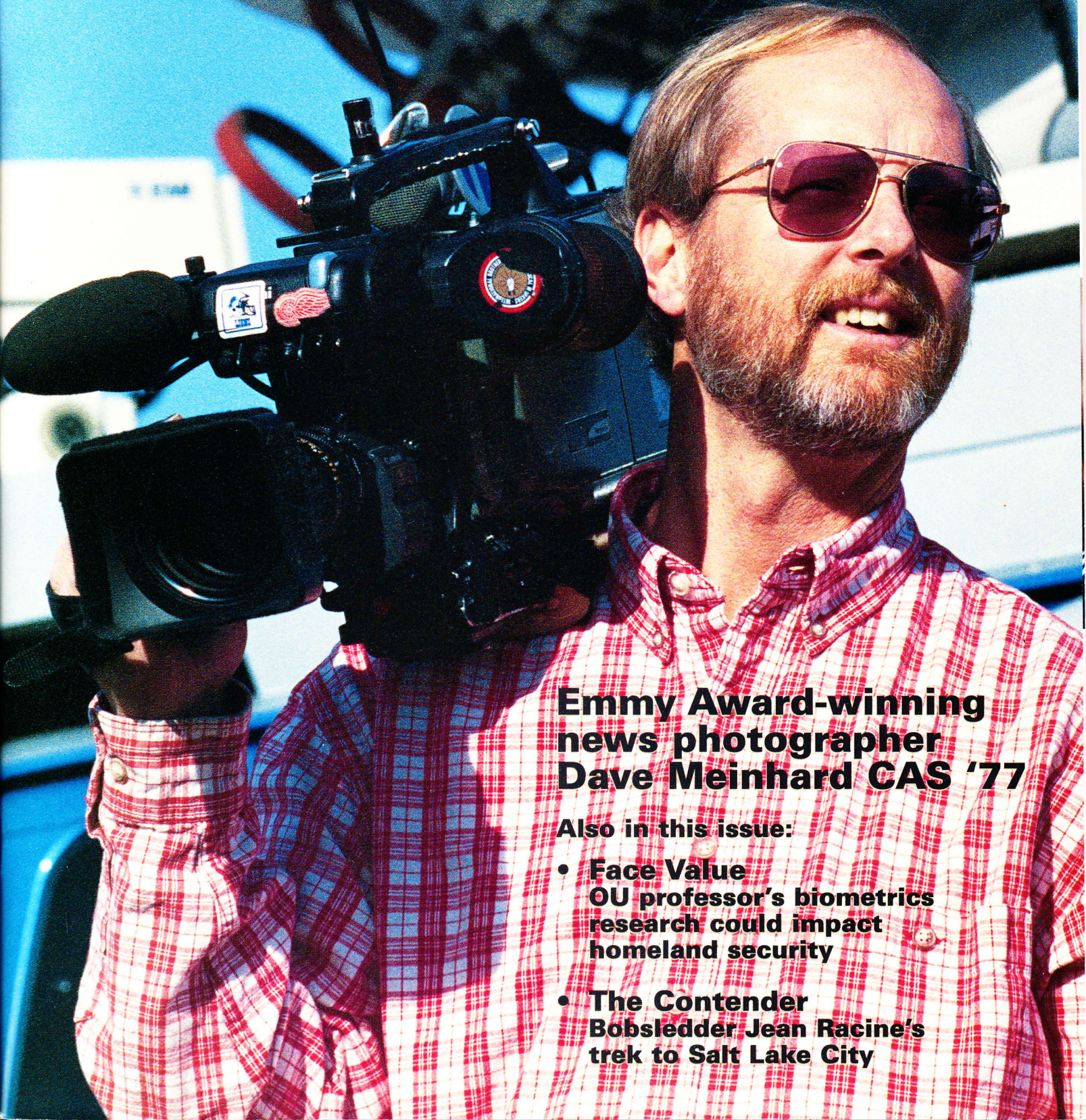


Oakland University

Spring 2002

MAGAZINE



Emmy Award-winning news photographer Dave Meinhard CAS '77

Also in this issue:

- **Face Value**
OU professor's biometrics
research could impact
homeland security
- **The Contender**
Bobsledder Jean Racine's
trek to Salt Lake City

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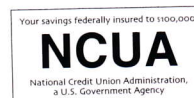
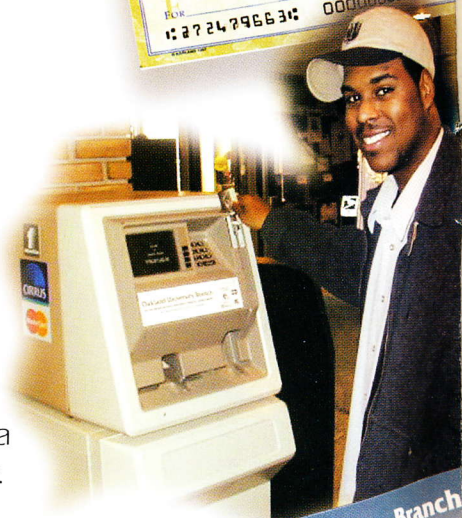


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On the cover:

Veteran TV news photographer
and CAS graduate Dave
Meinhard documented the
World Trade Center tragedy for
metro Detroit viewers. See story
on page 16.

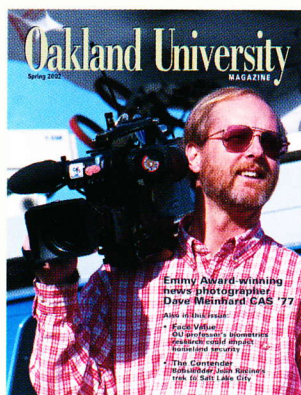


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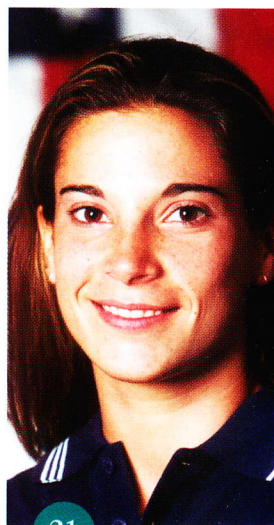
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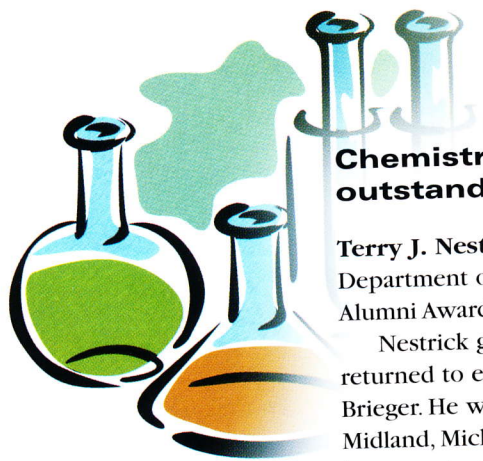
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Chemistry department recognizes outstanding alumnus

Terry J. Nestrick CAS '68 has been selected by the Oakland University Department of Chemistry to receive the department's 2001 Outstanding Alumni Award.

Nestrick graduated with a BS in chemistry and, after a stint in the Army, returned to earn an MS in 1972 under the supervision of Professor Geoff Brieger. He was subsequently employed at Dow Chemical Company in Midland, Mich., as an analytical chemist. Over time, Nestrick became a leading expert on the analysis of dioxins, highly toxic byproducts of certain industrial processes, as well as from combustion of halogen-containing materials.

In recognition of his scientific achievements, Nestrick was invited into the doctoral degree program at the University of Umeå, Sweden, in 1986, and completed it two years later. Nestrick is the author or co-author of more than 60 scientific publications. He also holds seven patents.

Now retired from Dow Chemical, he resides with his wife and son in the Midland area and continues work as a consultant. ●



Phi Sigma Sigma sorority house

Former farmhouse home, sweet home, for OU sorority

Last fall, seven members of the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority moved into a university-owned home located on OU property east of Adams Road, becoming the first OU Greek organization to have its own house on campus.

Built around 1918, the house once served as a residence for Meadow Brook farm staff. The university acquired the home and others in the neighborhood around 1957, when Matilda Dodge Wilson and her second husband, Alfred Wilson, donated their Meadow Brook estate and \$2 million to found Oakland University. The neighborhood is now known as the "cottage district" and houses graduate assistants and faculty members.

The two-story, 2,000-square-foot residence makes an ideal sorority house, says Sue Padden, Phi Sigma Sigma house manager.

"Every sorority wants to have a house to strengthen the sisterhood

and to provide a 24-hour central meeting point," Padden says.

"However, to find a house for a sorority is just about next to impossible. A portion of our dues every year went to a 'hopeful house' fund, and we did actually look a couple of years ago, but we couldn't afford anything in Rochester. ... When this house became available, we jumped at the chance to move in."

OU spent about \$85,000 in summer 2001 to renovate the home for the sorority. Major work included gutting and remodeling the kitchen and two bathrooms, replacing the roof, paving the former gravel drive and installing new appliances.

The remaining homes in the cottage district will be made available to other student organizations as they are vacated, says Eleanor Reynolds, director of University Housing. ●

Faculty members receive Fulbright grants

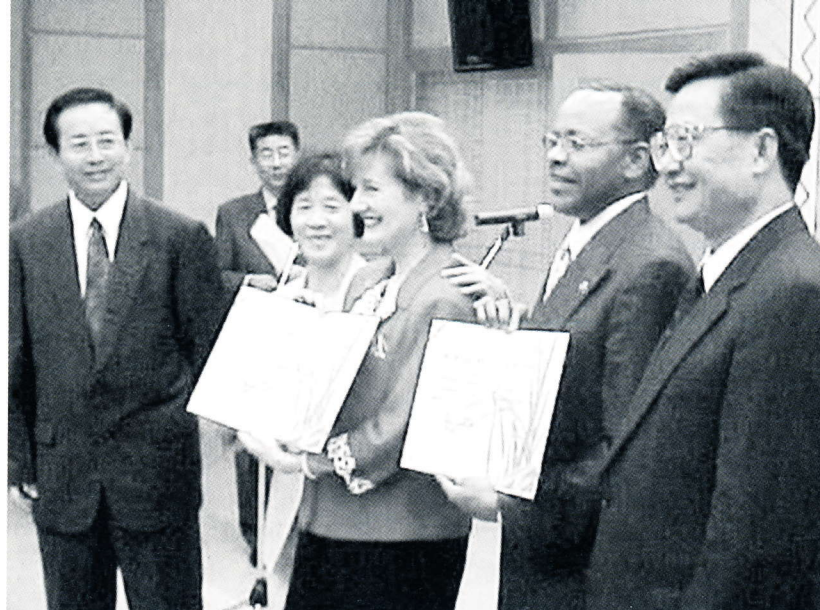
Two Oakland University faculty members were recently awarded Fulbright Scholar grants, given each year by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) as part of the international exchange program.

John F. Kelly, assistant professor, Department of Political Science, will be lecturing and conducting research on "Comparative Federalism in Canada and the United States from the Provincial and State Perspectives," at the University of Windsor in Windsor, Canada.

Barbara Ann Nelson, lecturer, Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism, will be lecturing on "Image Building and Cultural Haunting," at the University of Bucharest in Bucharest, Romania.

The Fulbright Scholar Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, with additional funding from participating governments and host institutions in the United States and abroad.

The CIES is a private, nonprofit organization that manages Fulbright scholar exchanges. Final selections are made by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, which also formulates policy for the program. ●



Mary Otto (c)

SEHS dean named honorary citizen of China

SEHS Dean Mary Otto was made an honorary citizen of Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou Province, in August 2001 — a singular honor, commemorating the more than 15-year history of the working relationship between the School of Education and Human Services and the People's Republic of China.

"The[school] has a longstanding commitment to promoting cultural understanding," Otto says. "This honor recognizes the work of many individuals who have committed themselves to the success of the Oakland University/China collaboration in Guiyang."

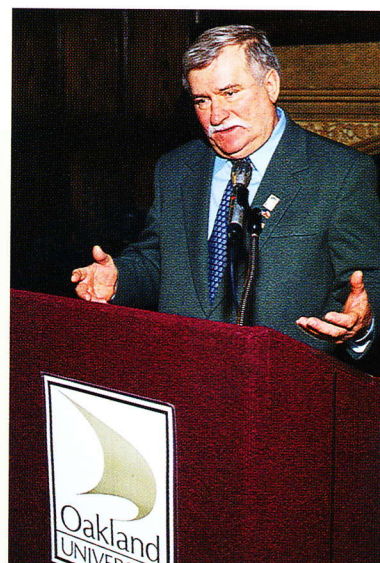
Otto was one of two to receive the honor. The other recipient was OU alumnus Jerome Hill, PhD. The two-year review process is very arduous. Otto's selection marked the first time that such an honor has been bestowed in Guizhou Province.

"In China, educators are considered to be very important — even essential — members of the community," she explains. "It is very special to be recognized for Oakland University's commitment to international education." ●

"Many Americans fear globalization, but closing your eyes is not the proper solution," he said. "The challenges of today's world can be met by the intellect and technology. No other generation has been faced with such an opportunity."

Walesa compared the present war against terrorism with his country's past struggles against communism.

"There were 250,000 Soviet soldiers based in Poland with nuclear weapons all around," he said. "This new war on terrorism can be won with intellect and sophisticated means. Those who are for life will defeat those who are for backwardness and death. With our common efforts, we can overcome them." ●



Lech Walesa



Face

Computer Science

professor's

biometrics research

could impact

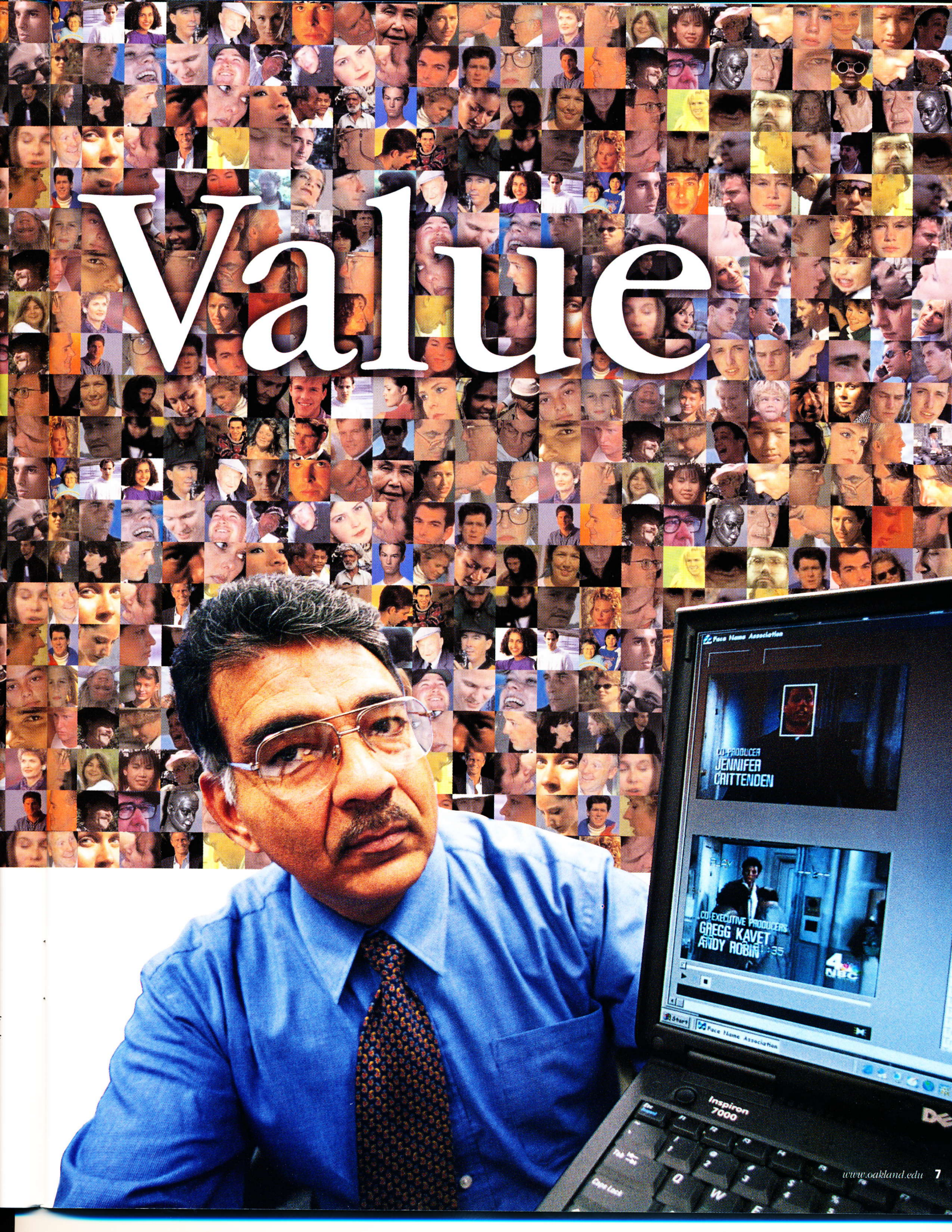
homeland security

By Jennifer Charney

An airport surveillance camera records the face of every traveler passing through the security checkpoint. Each face is instantly converted into a unique pattern — like a fingerprint — and scrutinized against a database of collected patterns belonging to known terrorists. Before you can say James Bond, the would-be perpetrator is identified, stopped and rendered harmless. Protecting the public is just one of the applications that make the Omni Face Detector one of the most fascinating inventions to emerge from Oakland University's Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Developed by Ishwar Sethi, professor and chair, and a group of former and current doctoral students, Omni is a software system that incorporates principles of an emerging technology called biometrics — automated systems that identify people based on their unique, unchangeable physical characteristics. Biometric

Value



systems compare a scanned image of a physical characteristic to a stored sample of that trait.

Some building systems, for example, grant access to employees only after they place their hands on a scanning device. Automated teller machines can identify bank customers by scanning their eyes. Fingerprint scans replace passwords on some personal computers. Face recognition software is used to identify people in similar ways. Someday, people may not have to carry identification cards or car keys; they need only open their eyes, reveal their faces or offer their fingerprints.

Sethi's Omni software allows for the sophisticated identification and indexing of visual and audio information, and is expected to revolutionize the use of such information.

In higher education and the corporate arena, students, workers and others are inundated with audiovisual productions — on the Web, on TV, CDs, DVDs and videotapes. These media contain a staggering amount of information in the forms of images, music, lyrics and speech. Until now, to locate a specific image or segment of music

or speech, a person would either have to fritter away hours forwarding and reversing to locate the information, or rely on an index providing limited information. Sethi's Omni software can provide a great deal more information in a very short time.

Omni Face Detector was developed with a January 2000 to December 2001 grant of \$106,193 from Philips Research USA, based in Briarcliff Manor, NY. The technology converts digitized images of physical characteristics into patterns that the software can recognize and associate with a specific person. To find faces in a video, Omni looks for colors that represent skin tones. Since all human skin tones lie in a narrow band of color representation, Sethi says this part of the task is relatively simple. Next, the software separates the faces from other objects that have the same tone. To tell the difference between a person and an object, Omni looks for ovals — facial shapes.

"The challenge is that the person could be sitting close to the camera or far away, or at an arbitrary angle between the face and the camera,"

Sethi explains. But Omni can detect faces despite these constraints and complex backgrounds.

The user can learn about the content of a video according to the number of faces that Omni detects. If for example, Omni finds many faces in a segment or frame, the video probably contains a crowd scene. If the software finds two faces facing each other, the frame or segment might show people who are talking.

Once it detects a face, Omni can then keep track of how the face moves throughout the video. The user can relate that movement to the nature of the action in the video. If the face is moving rapidly through the video, it may be in an action scene, Sethi says.

Television broadcasting companies could use Omni to index their vast video collections. With Omni, they could find desired segments quickly and easily.

At a large work site, Omni could be used to monitor staff movement. The information could help employers determine whether or not employees are spending too much time walking in the halls or bonding in the coffee room.

About Ishwar Sethi

Experience:

Sethi joined the OU faculty in August 1999 as professor and chair of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science. In his Intelligent Information Engineering Laboratory at OU, he develops methods for information manipulation, information indexing and retrieval, and information mining and visualization. He teaches courses on visual computing, information retrieval and data mining.

In January 2001, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers elected Sethi an IEEE fellow for his contributions in statistical pattern recognition and neural networks. Sethi has served on many program committees of national and international conferences. He is on the editorial boards of *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence*, *IEEE Multimedia*, *Pattern Recognition*, *Pattern Recognition Letters*, and *Machine Vision and Applications*.

Former and current PhD students who worked with Sethi on indexing projects:
Victor Kulesh | Dongge Li, PhD | Daniela Stan | Gang Wei, PhD

For more information on Sethi and his projects, visit www.cse.secs.oakland.edu/id17.htm on the Web.

Education:

BS, Electronics and Communications Engineering, 1969

MS, Automation and Control Engineering, 1971

PhD, Electronics and Communications Engineering, 1976

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India

Sethi says Omni could even be used to prevent motor vehicle crashes. Using video from a small camera mounted in the center of the steering wheel, the software could monitor drivers' blink rates and alert them if they appear to be dozing off.

Another Sethi research project that identifies media content is his audio classification system. The software analyzes the audio track of a video, identifying certain segments as containing fast-paced music or romantic music, for example. Such information can give the user clues about the video's content and mood. Fast-paced music may indicate a car chase scene, for instance.

The system also is programmed to recognize speech. If a video contains speech, the software can transcribe it using the speech recognition system, IBM ViaVoice.

Once the speech is transcribed, Sethi's software can build an index of keywords in the speech. Then users can search the transcription by keywords to find the video segment that contains the desired content.

Sethi also has developed speaker identification software that can match a voice in a sound track with a face in a video. These abilities would come in handy in a library or other archive. The user could tell the computer to find a segment in a video in which, for example, President Bush is speaking about the Pentagon. The software would search the transcription for Bush's face and the word "Pentagon," leading the user to the desired segments. Students in a distance education course also could use the software to search a Web site for a specific lecture by a specific professor on a specific topic. Then the student could search each lecture for certain segments.

In the next several years, Sethi will work on creating one system that incorporates the capabilities of Omni, the audio classification system and the speaker ID software. This integrated system will analyze and index audio, video and text.

"The idea is that you have a video in which you look at the person in terms of the face, then you try to identify the person through the audio track — the voice," Sethi says. "Then you try

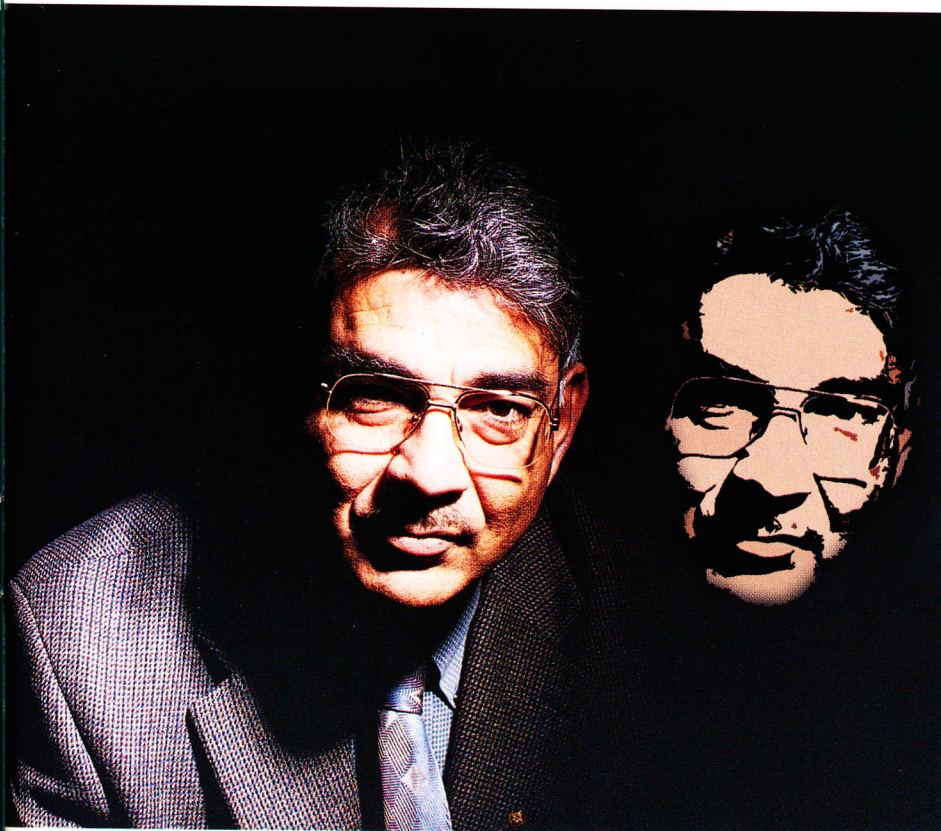
to do the transcription of the speech and check for certain keywords to figure out what is being talked about."

Such technology could complement your TV in the not too distant future.

A computer-driven recorder could produce TV shows according to your specifications. Suppose you're a Detroit Pistons basketball fan and you missed a game. Your recorder could produce a video summary containing highlights like those shown on TV news.

"The recorder would automatically piece together plays that you may like," Sethi says. "You could program it to record all three-point shots, for example."

No matter what the application, the implications of Sethi's work could have a profound impact on the future. ■



The Far Field

Poets, novelists
and other
wordsmiths
grow at OU
writers' retreat

It is a quiet, scenic place away from life's distractions where time is devoted to the practice of the writer's craft and invaluable feedback is derived from a community of poets, novelists and other wordsmiths — the Far Field Retreat for Writers.

The retreat borrows its name from a poem by Theodore Rothke, *The Far Field*, in which the poet writes, "I dream of journeys repeatedly." At Oakland's Far Field, "the journey is both what

brought us to writing and the process itself."

Far Field is a four-day, on-campus retreat sponsored by the Oakland University Department of English and the College of Arts and Sciences



Mary Ann Samyn

Distinguished Program Fund in association with The Writer's Voice Project of the Detroit YMCA. It was developed by Mary Ann Samyn CAS '92, an

Honors College and English department alumna, whom Brian Connery, English department chair, describes as an important and award-winning young poet.

"She contacted Brian Murphy in the Honors College and me," Connery says, "and I consulted with members of our creative writing faculty. Under Mary Ann's direction, we planned the 2001 retreat, brainstorming for distinguished guest faculty and defining the nature of the retreat. What we decided to aim for was an intensive four-day retreat during which the primary focus would be writing and workshopping, so that participants would be stimulated to move beyond whatever plateau they had previously reached in their writing."

Thirty writers participated in the first Far Field Retreat. Two-thirds were fiction writers.

"I'm not sure why that is," Samyn says. "In general, I think fiction is more accessible to people. Lots of people have the desire to somehow express their feelings and capture their experiences, and fiction, which is less concise than poetry, seems like a natural choice for lengthy self-expression."

"[Poetry is] not a mass audience

sort of art, but that's okay. ... After the events of Sept. 11, I wasn't at all surprised to see the major networks interviewing poets such as Billy Collins, our current poet laureate. Poetry takes chaos and tries to find beauty, order, meaning. Who doesn't need that?"

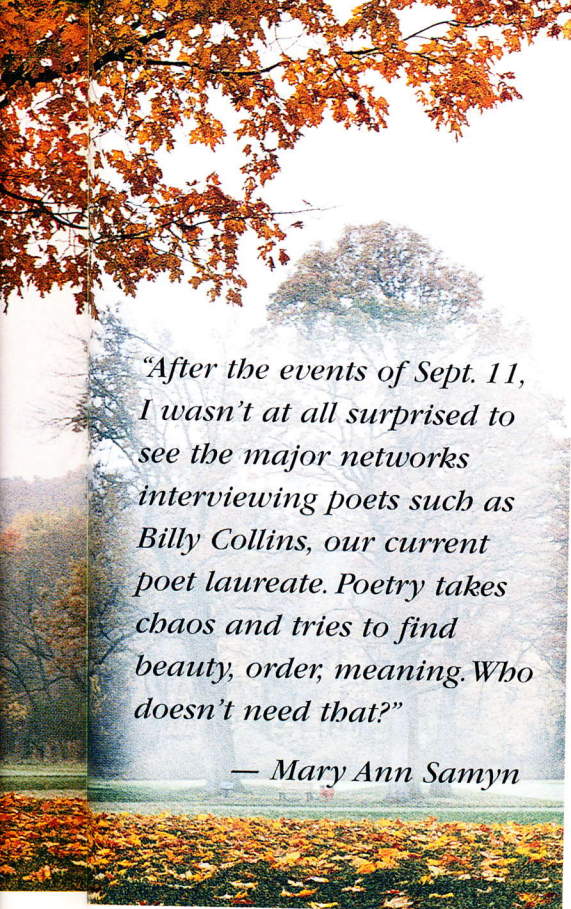
Unlike writers' colonies, which emphasize time to write above all else, Samyn says Far Field more closely resembles a writers' workshop.

"Far Field is pretty typical in terms of its combination of workshop, readings, craft sessions, social time and writing time," she says. "It is modeled more on conferences such as Bread Loaf and Ropewalk."

The first participants gained a lot from the experience.

"The positive atmosphere of community...was undeniable throughout the weekend," noted Lisa Friederich-Harris on her evaluation of the retreat. "Not only did I benefit as a writer from the intensive group analysis of words on paper, but also from the opportunity to connect with other Michigan writers."

"The speakers made me feel like getting published may not be so impossible," commented Courtney Bertrand. "The experience of work-



"After the events of Sept. 11, I wasn't at all surprised to see the major networks interviewing poets such as Billy Collins, our current poet laureate. Poetry takes chaos and tries to find beauty, order, meaning. Who doesn't need that?"

— Mary Ann Samyn

shopping with [Pushcart Prize-winning fiction writer] Reginald McKnight is something I will hold with me forever."

"Writers enjoyed lots of things about the retreat," Samyn says, "the congenial atmosphere, the amount of attention their work received from our faculty, the beauty of OU's campus, the opportunity to make contacts with other writers, even the food!"

"But the focus is really the workshop," she emphasizes. "Participants at Far Field get the chance to be in workshop with faculty who know how to give commentary and how to encourage others in the workshop community to do so at a high level."

Connery says the retreat is very important to the English department, which has been increasing its emphasis on creative writing over the past several years.

"We have on the faculty two distinguished poets, Edward Haworth Hoepfner and Gladys Cardiff; two fiction writers, Maureen Dunphy and Annie Gilson; and a very successful teacher of creative nonfiction, Linda McCloskey," Connery says. "The retreat offers us an opportunity to share the talents of these faculty members with

the local writing community and to let both our students and our faculty work with visiting writers."

For 2002, a workshop on creative nonfiction will be added. Samyn will lead a poetry workshop and serve as conference director. She has had three volumes of her poetry published: *Rooms by the Sea* (Kent State

University Press 1994), *Captivity Narrative* (Ohio State University Press 1999) and *Inside the Yellow Dress* (New Issues Press 2001). A former special lecturer in the OU Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism, Samyn is currently an English instructor at Kirtland Community College in northern Michigan. ■

— Debbie Patrick

Far Field Retreat for Writers

Oakland University / May 16-19, 2002

FACULTY

POETRY

Jim Daniels is the author of six books of poems, including *Places/Everyone*, winner of the Brittingham Prize for Poetry, University of Wisconsin Press (1985). His chapbook, *Night with Drive-By Shooting Stars*, a full-length volume from New Issues Press, will be published in spring 2002. Daniels has earned a Pushcart Prize and was included in *Best American Poetry 2000*. He is a professor of English and directs the Creative Writing Program at Carnegie Mellon University.

Gerry LaFemina is the author of several chapbooks and two full-length collections of poetry, *23 Below* and *Shattered Hours: Poems 1988-94*. Mammoth Books will publish his next collection of poems, *Graffiti Heart*. LaFemina has been the recipient of grants from ArtServe Michigan, a program of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the Irving Gilmore Emerging Artists Foundation. He is the editor of *Controlled Burn*.

Mary Ann Samyn is profiled in the article.

FICTION

Maureen Dunphy conducts workshops on Pelee Island, leads writers' retreats in the Irish Hills, and co-directs the annual Clockhouse Writer's Conference at Goddard College. Her work has appeared in *Peninsula: Essays and Memoirs from Michigan* and *Beyond the Lines: Writing What You Couldn't Say*.

Brenda Flanagan won three major Avery and Julie Hopwood Awards at the University of Michigan. Her work has since appeared in Ishmael Reed's *Konch*, *Caliban*, *Calaloo*, the *Indiana Review*, *Witness*, the *Caribbean Review* and the *Anthology of African American Literature*. She is the author of a novel titled *You Alone Are Dancing*. Flanagan teaches creative writing at Davidson College in North Carolina.

NONFICTION

Jerry Dennis has written for the *New York Times*, *Smithsonian*, *Audubon*, *Sports Afield*, *Wildlife Conservation* and *National Geographic Traveler*. His books on nature and the outdoors, including *A Place on the Water* and *Leelanau: A Portrait of Place in Photographs and Text*, have won numerous awards. The Michigan Library Association named him Michigan Author of the Year in 1999.

Cost: \$750 on campus; \$700 commuter; meals included

For more information, visit www2.oakland.edu/english/farfield on the Web.

To Kresge,

Gifts to Kresge Library enrich the learning atmosphere

Great universities are built on great libraries according to Elaine Didier, dean of Oakland University's Kresge Library (KL). And great libraries mean more than stacks of books, no matter how great. In this Internet age, achieving greatness means developing new ways to reach patrons through the Web, such as delivering documents using digital technology, expanding digital collections and helping users navigate their way through cyberspace. It also means providing an attractive, comfortable place to support intellectual and cultural pursuits.

While plans are under way to raise Kresge's technological profile, library staff and generous donors are working to make it more aesthetically pleasing.

In summer 2001, Kresge acquired new water-resistant carpeting. And last September, several gifts were made to the library that have enriched the learning atmosphere for students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends.

Paul Haig SEHS '73 and his wife, **Diane Haig BSE '82, MS '86**, donated a Ching Dynasty scroll of horses and a Ching Dynasty painting of a Chinese scholar. Both date to the 18th century.

Paul earned a degree in Elementary Education; Diane graduated with degrees in Electrical Engineering. In 1994, the Oakland University Alumni Association honored the Haigs with an Odyssey Award. They own Haig



Paul Haig

Jewelers and the Haig Gallery in downtown Rochester, Mich. Paul designed the OU presidential inaugural medallion.

"We made the gifts because we believe in Oakland University," he says. "We think the university has a lot of strengths and we are happy to enhance the library. We think our gifts are a good enhancement to the other art works."

Judith MacGregor Raber donated a bronze sculpture titled *Adam and Eve* created by her husband, the late Melvin C. Raber (1912-1996).

The sculpture now resides in the Kyes lounge, a "very popular place for students."

"The reason I made the gift was that, number one, Mel was very interested in the library. He had donated a considerable amount of money to Kresge Library early on [the Melvin C. Raber endowment]. His sculptures were really like his children — he never had any of his own. He really did want them to be shared by young people and when he passed away I thought it would be a good way to do that.

"He did very serious, more realistic pieces, but everybody seems to like his more whimsical work. I think he would enjoy knowing that the students are enjoying it."

, with love

By Debbie Patrick and Jennifer Charney



Smita Desai



Words of thanks

"Your support has made a difference in the lives of our faculty, students and staff," said OU President Gary D. Russi at the dedication ceremony last October. "I did a little research and found that some of you were supporters of Oakland's first campaign — Enduring Legacy. You helped move books from all over campus to the main library, book by book. Many of you have helped support our collections and information technology enhancements. ... Without a strong library, the university could not strive to be a world-class institution. Thank you for helping us in our efforts to achieve this vision."

— Gary D. Russi
President, Oakland University

Smita Desai CAS '00 funded the acquisition of furniture for new KL reading areas. Desai graduated with a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in psychology, and is currently pursuing a second undergraduate degree in psychology.

"I needed to disperse funds from an existing scholarship fund I held and thought, what better place than my alma mater," Desai says. "I've spent lots of hours at Kresge Library and have developed a soft spot for it. Floors three and four had no cozy corners

with soft chairs just to hang out and relax in — now they do!"

Desai says making the gift gave her a sense of accomplishment, much like earning her degree.

"Learning is my passion and getting a college degree was a dream come true at age 46," she says. "OU helped me achieve the dream."

Desai, Raber and the Haigs were honored at a donor recognition and gift dedication event on Sept. 25, 2001, attended by several friends of Kresge Library. ■

And the Emmy Goes to....

Alumni Peter Smokler and
Dave Meinhard own the ultimate in TV recognition

by Yvonne C. Claes

It doesn't get any better than an Emmy Award when you work in television. On the national and local levels, Oakland University alumni continue to make their mark, earning recognition from industry peers for everything from prime-time situation comedies to local breaking news. Two stellar examples are College of Arts and Sciences graduates Peter Smokler and Dave Meinhard. Both are profiled below.

Smokin' Pete Smokler

Winning an Emmy was a surreal experience for Oakland University alumnus **Peter Smokler CAS '68**. First, there was the red carpet, the celebrities, the limousines and the horde of photographers shouting at him to turn and smile for *their* cameras. Smokler admits to feeling like he was a character in a fairy tale. After all, it's not often that a "kid from Detroit" garners the recognition of the Hollywood elite.

It was September 2000 and Smokler stood before the Pasadena Civic Center on his way to receiving an Emmy award for his work on the ABC comedy "Sportsnight." The sitcom, which was canceled after two seasons but runs in syndication on the Comedy Central cable network, depicted a fictional show on an equally fictional sports network. Smokler nabbed the Emmy for Outstanding Cinematography for a Multi-camera Series for an episode titled "Cut Man," on which he served as director of photography. He was given his Emmy by actor Tom Selleck, who served as master of ceremonies for the event — a separate untelevised ceremony honoring technical achievements.

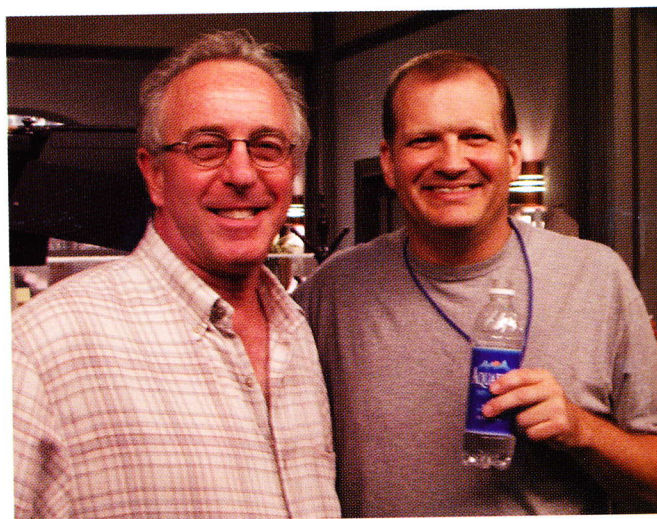
"We're the people who *rent* their tuxes," Smokler says wryly. "The people you see on the air — the actors and writers — those are the people who *own* their tuxes."

The win came on Smokler's fourth Emmy nomination. "Winning sure does beat the heck out of losing," he says. "I kept wondering, 'What's a Jewish kid from Detroit doing here?'"

Asked where he keeps his Emmy, Smokler pauses, then answers offhandedly, "It's on a shelf somewhere around here." Here, is a home in Pacific Palisades that he shares with his wife and their five-year-old son. He also has a 20-year-old son from a previous marriage.

Smokler doesn't downplay his Emmy win, but says the moment of victory far outweighs any material object representing it.

"The thing is the moment, the moment they say your name," he explains. "The object doesn't have as much satisfaction in it."



Peter Smokler (left) on the set of "The Drew Carey Show" with Carey.
Photo Courtesy of Peter Smokler.

Smokler's career behind the camera has its roots on Oakland University's campus. A Detroit Mumfords High School alumnus, Smokler was encouraged by an older high school chum, who is now a poet living in France, to attend Oakland.

"He infected me with everything he was studying — Aristotle, Faulkner," Smokler recalls. "I had to go."

Another draw was the fact that Oakland, then an extension of Michigan State University, did not have teaching assistants as instructors; all professors had doctoral degrees, he says. He estimates that the university then had 750 students living on campus — a couple thousand overall.

Smokler graduated in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in political science. From a politically active family, he saw himself one day working as a lawyer for groups that advocated radical social change. The politically charged atmosphere among Oakland students at the time added to his zeal.

"Oakland was a radically different school when I was there," he recalls. "Those times were so bereft of a sense of morality. Everything around you seemed connected to the war."

If he had pursued a law career, Smokler would have followed in the footsteps of his father, Ned Smokler, who worked as a labor attorney during the 1930s, representing the Council of International Organizations (CIO) before it merged with the American Federation of Labor (AFL).

A semester-long trip to Hong Kong in his senior year made Smokler permanently forego a briefcase for a camera.

"What's one of the first things you do when you get to Hong Kong?" Smokler answers his own question. "You buy a camera! It's cheap and there is no duty."

Smokler bought a Pentax SportMatic with three lenses. Then he and a group of other students shot hundreds of rolls of film. They attended classes in the morning, ventured out around the city taking photos in the afternoon and returned in the evening to study in their rooms.

"Hong Kong is an intense place," Smokler says. "We were just looking for

anything different, anything that we hadn't experienced or seen before in this country."

But Smokler and his classmates almost never made it to China. In his junior year, OU began a new program sponsoring freshmen who wanted to study overseas. Smokler, whose concentration was Asian Studies, and his friends petitioned university officials to allow them to do the same. The administration acquiesced, and Professor Henry Rosemont, from the Department of Philosophy, accompanied the group.

During the trip, Smokler met American filmmaker Skip Gerson, who later would have an impact on his career.

On returning to Oakland, Smokler and his friends successfully applied for a grant to put on a photography show during the university's fine arts festival. The group displayed approximately 70 photos, mostly from the Hong Kong trip.

Following graduation, Smokler applied to the Peace Corps. He attended training camp in California where he again met Gerson.

"I resigned after four weeks," Smokler reveals. "I wanted to go to L.A. and hang out with Skip, who lived in a commune of filmmakers and artists in a big house in Hollywood. Skip left to work as a cameraman on a film. I moved into his room and stayed there for three years."

Three days after his arrival in the artistic community, Smokler got a job as an assistant cameraman on a film project. Although the film, "Reality Mr. Kaufman," was never released, the experience led to Smokler's first real

professional job as an assistant cameraman with Churchill Films, an educational film company. But his real interest was in documentaries, and after a few years, he found himself in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula shooting a three-part PBS documentary series about contemporary Mayan life.

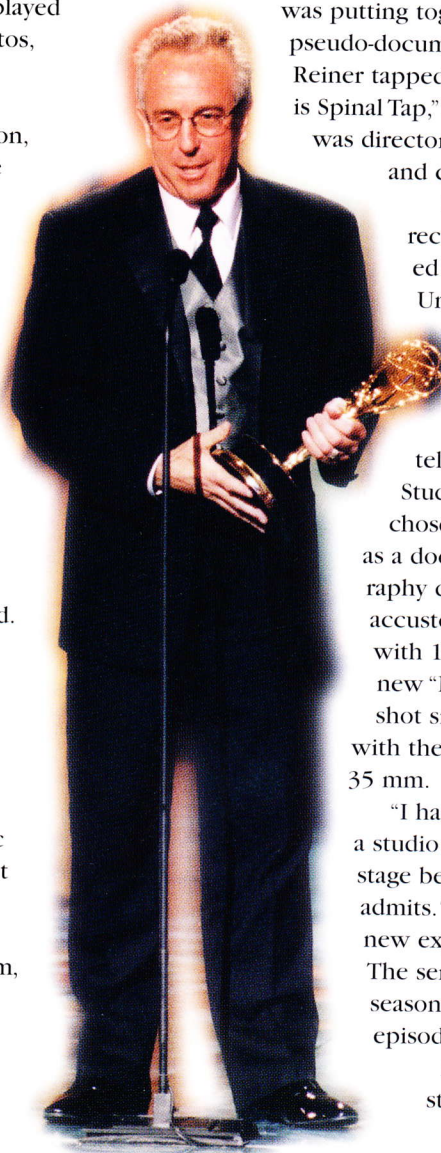
From there, Smokler did camera work for "Frontline" specials, including one with Muhammed Ali on the dangers of boxing. Then he was invited to work on a feature film titled "Eat My Dust," produced by Roger Corman, famed "B" movie producer. The project starred a young Ron Howard, who went on to become a noted director.

Smokler's reputation as a professional who spent extended periods of time with subjects in order to intimately represent them on film began to draw the attention of prominent Hollywood types, including Rob Reiner, who was putting together a crew for a pseudo-documentary rock film. Reiner tapped Smokler for "This is Spinal Tap," for which Smokler was director of photography and camera operator.

From there, Smokler received an unexpected phone call from Universal Studios to work on a new series of the old "Leave it to Beaver" television show. Studio executives chose Smokler because, as a documentary photography director, he was accustomed to shooting with 16 mm film, and the new "Beaver" was to be shot similarly instead of with the more traditional 35 mm.

"I had never worked in a studio or on a sound stage before," Smokler admits. "This was a totally new experience for me." The series lasted five seasons, with 22 episodes per season.

More calls from studios for sitcom

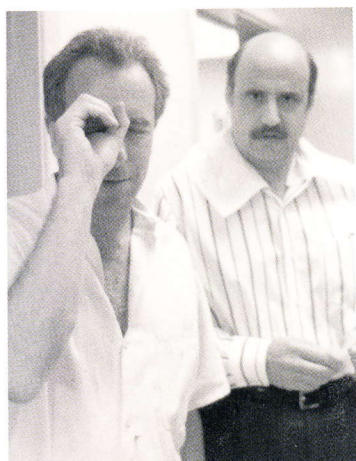


work followed as did requests to do network movies of the week and feature films. The CBS series "Pee Wee's Playhouse (Emmy nomination, Best Direction of Photography)" the feature film "Problem Child II" and the Vietnam series "Tour of Duty" for New World Television are just some of the projects that kept Smokler busy during the 1980s. He is especially proud of his work with "Unsolved Mysteries," which called for recreating real-life crimes.

"If you think about it, we laid the groundwork for reality television, which is so prominent today," Smokler observes. He worked on "Unsolved" for about three years.

His first sitcom, Paramount's "Flesh and Blood," quickly followed. Again, Smokler's technical skills were put to the test.

"All my experience up to this point had really been using a single camera," he explains. "With sitcoms, you have multiple cameras and you shoot in front of a live audience."



Smokler (l) on the set with actor Jeffrey Tambor of "The Larry Sanders Show."

Smokler's second sitcom, HBO's "The Larry Sanders Show," combined all his skills into one effort. The show, which starred comedian Garry Shandling, had a five-season run and earned Smokler two Emmy nominations (Best Lighting Direction).

Then six years ago, Smokler's phone rang with an offer to work as director of photography for a new comedy titled "The Drew Carey Show," with which he's been affiliated for six seasons. He describes Carey as "a fun guy who really cares about his audience."

While working on the show, Smokler pulled double duty with "Sportsnight." He now works simultaneously on "Drew Carey" and the new NBC sitcom "Inside Swartz."

"There's no rest for the greedy," he jokes.

WXYZ-TV news photographer Dave Meinhard.

Photo by Agapé Images, Inc.



Documenting Drama

Fifteen minutes after the first hijacked plane slammed into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, local news photographer **Dave Meinhard CAS '77** jumped into his truck and headed for New York City.

But the chaos in the tragedy's wake prevented Meinhard from immediately getting to Ground Zero. So Meinhard and a reporter broadcast the ensuing drama as best they could from Jersey City, N.J., with the New York skyline in the distance. During his week-long stay, he eventually made it to the site and documented the historic event for metro Detroit viewers. Recalling the national tragedy, Meinhard likes to focus on the positives.

"I saw so many good things," he says. "I saw women with plates of cookies coming out to give them to rescue workers. It was amazing how quickly New York and the nation pulled together."

Meinhard, who graduated with a degree in communication arts, says his interest in everything audio visual began early. He learned how to operate a projector while still in grade school and then became adept with more sophisticated video equipment in high school. Despite his early inclinations, Meinhard initially sought a music degree, but switched majors after encountering Dan Brown, who went on to head the university's audio visual department, and the student-run television station in Varner Hall.

"I was lucky," Meinhard says of his Oakland years. "I had good people who encouraged me."

That luck – and admittedly a bit of skill – garnered Meinhard his second Detroit Emmy award in May 2001. Meinhard was awarded the honor in the Breaking News category for capturing the dramatic rescue attempt of several young children from a burning home in Royal Oak Township in spring 2000. Five children perished in the inferno, which investigators ruled involved arson.

"We shoot the story, edit the story and feed it back to the station from our news trucks. ... When there's no reporter, I become the reporter, carrying a microphone in one hand and a camera in the other."



Meinhard recalls getting the call at the station just as he was packing up equipment at the end of his afternoon shift. He remembers turning to a reporter who accompanied him to the scene, and saying, "God, I hope they got the kids out."

When he arrived at the scene, neighbors pointed out the mother, who was frantic and covered in soot. Emergency personnel were loading the gravely injured children into ambulances just as the father, who did not live at the home, arrived.

"The house was engulfed in flames," he says. "There was so much drama going on with rescue workers trying to save the children, and the reactions of the mom and dad."

The veteran news photographer, with WXYZ-TV Channel 7 since 1979, says you must distance yourself from the dramatic events happening around you, which isn't always easy.

"I just try to document the moment," he says. "I got some incredibly moving pictures showing this tragedy unfolding. I was hoping in this case my pictures would compel someone to come forward. Unfortunately, it was not to be."

No one has ever been arrested in connection with the blaze.

Meinhard shared the Emmy with the story's producer and reporter.

Twenty years ago he won for a station documentary on the plight of the elderly. That story focused on the emotional and

financial struggles of a widow named Clare.

Of his Emmy wins, Meinhard says, "It's nice to be recognized for your work. You don't go into this business necessarily hoping for awards, but they are nice to receive. ... So many other people where I work deserve Emmys too," he says.

2001 was made more memorable for Meinhard when he garnered a second place Michigan Association Press award for footage of a July 4 drowning on the Clinton River. A woman in her 20s drowned while going down the river in a kayak. It was while shooting footage for the story that two other young women fell into the river a short distance from where Meinhard and another photographer from a different local TV station were filming. Both men set down their cameras on a nearby log jam and successfully rescued the pair.

The Herculean effort garnered Meinhard the "Everyday Hero Award" from the American Red Cross last autumn.

Meinhard has witnessed many changes in the news business during his more than 20 years behind the camera.

Technological advances, for instance, have reduced the number of people required to put together a broadcast. Sometimes, that number is one.

"We shoot the story, edit the story and feed it back to the station from our news trucks," he explains, noting that reporters do not always accompany news photographers on assignments. "When there's no reporter, I become the reporter,

carrying a microphone in one hand and a camera in the other."

Such was the case when former Vice President Al Gore made a stop in Detroit during the 2000 presidential campaign. The reporter assigned to the story got hung up at a security checkpoint, so Meinhard donned his reporter's cap. He says proudly that he asked Gore a "relevant" question, which didn't occur to reporters from competing stations.

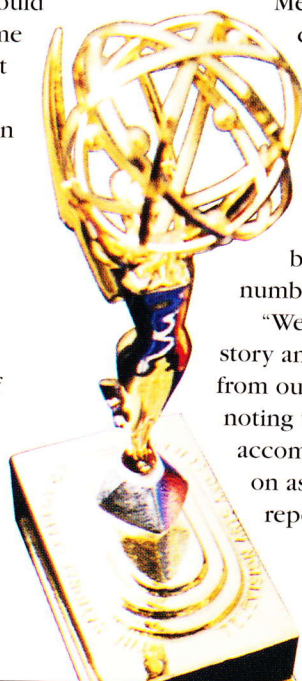
"Reporters were asking his opinions on trade and other national issues," he says. "That's fine, but I asked him why Detroit was so important to his campaign. Remember, he was stopping in Detroit just about every other day during the campaign."

Meinhard's time behind the camera has not permanently sidelined his musical pursuits. He still plays the trumpet, usually with his son, at the family's Troy home. He and his wife Jan, married since 1984, have three children. They also serve as a host family for Healing the Children, a nonprofit organization that pairs American families with children from overseas who come to the United States for medical treatment. An eight-year-old burn victim from the Dominican Republic now lives with the family.

For Meinhard, domestic contentment is accompanied by job satisfaction. He says he is happy in his work and couldn't imagine doing anything else.

"It's a neat job," he says. "You get to do something different every day. It sure beats being chained to a desk." ■

Yvonne C. Claes is a free-lance writer residing in Eastpointe, Mich.



Making the Band

CAS grads find their sound and their audience as Tribal Traktion

By Jeff Samoray



From left: Todd Levy,
Mike Schwarzenberger,
Matthew Parnell and
Jason Milan

The Main Event. Toledo, Ohio. One warm, September night. A crowd of twenty-somethings swells around the stage. It is midnight, and they have endured hours of opening acts in anticipation of the prime attraction. And then it happens.

Wearing gas masks, as if in the aftermath of some post-apocalyptic holocaust, the band takes the stage. The maskless lead singer begins against a placid guitar-bass-drums backdrop. Then, he drops to one knee, suddenly confronting the audience at eye level as he belts out the next verse of "Break You Down." Behind him, the guitarist jumps and twirls, moving spastically with each cymbal crash. The bass player spins and stomps in turn while the drummer thrashes away at the skins. This is Tribal Traktion, a local band generating heat and attention from Pontiac to Detroit, East Lansing, Toledo and beyond.

As they grind out original tunes through the smoky night, young women in jeans and halter tops dance with young men in T-shirts and shorts, sway to the beat, pass the occasional writhing body overhead, or slam in the mosh pit. It's

the Red Hot Chili Peppers meets Rage Against the Machine, and they love it.

The common thread connecting the band members, and many of its fans, is Oakland University.

The roots of Tribal Traktion can be traced back to the winter of 1999 and OU's Recreation and Athletics Center, where bassist **Todd Levy CAS '00**, guitarist **Jason Milan CAS '00** and drummer **Mike Schwarzenberger CAS '99** first met. All three had musical backgrounds reaching back to their grade school days, but they did not meet until they began lifting weights on the OU campus.

"Mike and I first met in the gym in February of 1999," Milan says. "I just went up to him and asked him about using a weight machine. It was just a casual conversation. Somehow we started talking about music and later we began jamming upstairs above Mike's garage."

Levy joined the group a couple months later after overhearing a conversation between Milan and Schwarzenberger at the gym.

"I had been between bands when I was working out at the Rec Center. Some guy was complaining about an amplifier blowing out, and I just went over and asked him what kind of amp he had. It turned out to be Jason. I was looking for a band and asked if they needed a bass player. We just went out and started jamming together. It was comfortable right from the start."

Their early sound, though admittedly raw, inspired them to continue jamming, and to seriously search for a strong lead vocalist.

"We all just hit it off personally and musically," Schwarzenberger says. "Our band was a lot different from the other bands I had been in before. We blend reggae, funk, and every other brand of music style. It's heavy music, but to be different we had to bring in all kinds of different elements. And part of that was bringing in a vocalist who could really sing after we had jammed for about six or seven months."

The nascent group placed an ad for a vocalist in the *Metro Times*, a local alternative weekly. After reading his horoscope in the paper, Bob Suszynski,

a rock singer who grew up in Detroit's northern suburbs, decided to answer it.

"I was in a coffee shop with some friends one day and we read my horoscope in the newspaper," says Suszynski, who goes by Matt Parnell, his stage name. "It said something like 'seek out your interests and it will lead you to things you didn't expect.' Then I remembered that ad in the *Metro Times*. I was looking for a new band to be in and the ad kind of struck me. I was looking to do jazz, hip hop, something hard.

"That horoscope was right. What I didn't expect was to find three other guys at about the same age with the same interests — three different people that you'd not only want to be with in a band, but also hang out with."

With Parnell, the group was complete. Now, all they needed was a name. That came to them over lunch at a local Taco Bell.

"Well, Jason was into primitive tribal art and Mike's into motorcross, so they just came up with a combination of two words," Levy says. "Choosing a name for a band is the hardest thing. I was very relieved when they came up with it."

The sound of the band began to change dramatically after Parnell took over the vocals and became the lyricist. Tribal Traktion morphed into what Levy describes as "a cross genre group — a hybrid metal/hard core/funk/psychedelic mix of sounds." The band started playing at high school house parties, then had its first show at Griff's Grill in Pontiac in March of 2000.

Levy used his business skills, forged from seven years of managing his deck maintenance/repair business, to book shows for the band. Within six months of its first outing, Tribal Traktion had reached its goal of headlining shows in Pontiac at 7th House and Clutch Cargo's.

Still, for all its early success, Tribal Traktion has found it hard to establish itself in the Detroit rock scene. Aside from the occasional show at the Shelter in Detroit or the Wired Frog in Eastpointe, band members say they prefer to play venues in Bay City and Toledo, where they have the biggest number of fans. Toledo's Main Event is now Tribal Traktion's home base.

"They're a good draw," says Jonathan Anderson of Toledo's River East Entertainment Group, which

Todd Levy





includes The Main Event. "I listened to their CD, thought it was marketable and booked them. I've heard nothing but positive things about them ever since."

The band plays The Main Event as much as every other weekend in some months, which suits its fans just fine.

"Their performances are so amazing and full of positive energy," says Erin Sawden, 18, of Brownstown Township, Mich. She helped promote the band through a local Web site and helped Tribal Traktion get airplay on a local music show on Detroit rock station WRIF. "I don't know what genre the band falls into because they're a bunch of different genres mixed together. But they are definitely up-and-coming and their music is all their own."

Part of the appeal is the band's stage presence. The gas masks are removed after "Break You Down" and at some point, Parnell loses his shirt. Schwarzenberger pounds out a tribal beat on his drums and Levy makes some 360 degree spins three feet off the stage with his bass.

"You're never going to see a band that puts more into its live shows than us," Levy says.

Emily Cummings, 19, of Perrysburg, Ohio, admits she is as taken by Tribal Traktion's physical performance as she is by the lyrics.

"The way they reach out into the crowd is cool," she says. "Matt's voice really drew me in. And Jay's face when he plays — the crazy, off-the-wall faces — is very expressive. I love their song, 'Break You Down.' I really get into the lyrics of that."

"Sometimes the words are inspired by things that are going on in my life,"

says lyricist Parnell. "The music is heavy and very youthful but there's no anger or hate in it. Our music is always positive, no matter how it might sound."

The band hopes it can use its positive energy to move Tribal Traktion into the national spotlight. Currently, all band members hold full-time "jobs": Levy still owns his deck maintenance operation, Milan works for a silk screening company based in Pontiac, Schwarzenberger does inventory control for a school bus parts manufacturer, and Parnell works for an electronic security firm — not because they have to, but to support their musical "careers."

Part of the band's investments goes into recording. The band produced a self-titled six-track CD in 2000, which Levy says they used "just to get into clubs." Later that year, the group realized it needed another recording with a more defined style, so they produced the three-track CD "The Sci-fi EP." The recording gained some airplay on college stations at OU (WXOU) and Michigan State, and on the Internet at sites like livebands.net and garageband.com.

Since then, the band has hired a producer and released a new 6-track CD titled "EVO" in December. The next step is to pursue a contract with a major record label. Atlantic, Sony and Jive Records have shown interest, Levy says.

"We'll try to get a single into all the right hands," Levy says. "I'm a determined person and I'm not going to give up. We want people to hear our music and experience the feeling that we get when we play. I look at it as pursuing a dream job — playing music is pure pleasure."

Band members agree that their OU experiences have helped them with the business side of their musical careers. Levy says the concepts he learned in a class taught by Associate Marketing Professor Mukesh Bhargava impressed him greatly.

"Going to college and getting degrees, as we did, gives you a level of discipline that you need in order to accomplish any of your goals, whether it be succeeding in a band or becoming a doctor," Levy says. "In college we learned how to sit down and do research for our papers, and we're still doing research because we're essentially self-managed. We've got to make all the phone calls in our industry, which is really the industry of marketing."

"I also maintain personal ties on campus. I still work out at the Rec Center with friends that I had classes with. And I try to keep in touch with Professor Bhargava. We got along well and he's a really good guy."

The other band members have similar goals and aspirations. All agree that Tribal Traktion is the "only job I'd ever want or be happy with."

Parnell takes a spiritual approach when he speaks of the band's success and future plans.

"It's been a very magical experience," he says. "I believe in fate. Tribal Traktion happened for the right reason at the right time. And if you live in a way that's true to yourself, things will fall into place."

For more information on the band, its releases and upcoming performances, see the Tribal Traktion Web site at www.tribaltraktion.com. ■

The Contender

For Jean Racine,
the journey to
Salt Lake City
was worth
more than gold



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Bobsled and Skeleton Federation

By Joanne C. Gerstner

Jean Racine sees herself everywhere.

A Kellogg's Crispix cereal box has her smiling face peering back at shoppers in supermarket cereal aisles. A quick click of the TV remote shows her in a VISA credit card commercial on one channel, and then chatting with Matt Lauer on NBC's "Today Show" on another.

Flip through the February 2002 issue of *Glamour* magazine and you'll find Racine featured. Read the October 2001 issue of *GQ* magazine and you'll discover Racine playing supermodel, dressed in designer clothes with teased hair to match.

Last November, she joined champion sprinter Maurice Greene at the White House to present President George W. Bush with a special USA Olympic sports jacket.

Being famous is a little bit unsettling for this OU freshman. Racine wants you to know her as more than a pretty face. In fact, she wants the world to remember her as one of the first women to win an Olympic bobsledding gold medal at the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

"That's what this is all about," says Racine, 23, referring to the attention, "being No. 1 in Salt Lake. Everything I have been doing for the past four years has been



aimed toward February 2002. It's nice to get the support of sponsors to help me out financially. It's been a blessing. But nobody's going to care about me on March 1, 2002, if I've done nothing in Salt Lake."

Racine has made news more often than even she wanted to before the Olympics, thanks to a very publicized breakup with teammate and close friend Jen Davidson just before the Olympic trials in December.

The pair was strong, with two World Cup championships and 12 other individual race wins. But troubles in the fall of 2001 had led to fourth place or lower finishes.

Davidson struggled with a leg injury that hampered her pushing ability. Racine had to make a tough decision: replace Davidson and find a new partner before the trials or hope her friend would heal in time.

She agonized over everything and came to a sad and serious conclusion: this was her best shot at winning an Olympic medal and Davidson's injured knee likely would hold them back. Racine dropped Davidson and found a new brakeman in Gea Johnson.

The new team clicked quickly, easily qualifying for the Olympic team and setting a new track record at the Park City, Utah, Olympic venue. And they won a silver medal in the final World Cup event before the Olympics, defeating most of the competition they'll face in Salt Lake.

Davidson didn't take the news well and sued Racine. A judge ruled on Jan. 29 in Racine's favor, saying she followed all proper U.S. Bobsled Federation guidelines in making her decision.

"Given the same circumstances, I don't know how I could have dealt with it any differently," Racine says. "Jen and I were teammates for three and a half years. I don't want to take that back or regret it. It's unfortunate that she couldn't deal with the professional side of the sport."

Growing fame

It's not much consolation for Racine, but controversy is probably the surest sign that she is becoming as well known as her sport.

Women's bobsledding (also called bobsleigh) has come into prominence and acceptance in the past few years and earned Olympic medal status in 1999.

It's every bit as dangerous as the men's version. The two-woman teams push their sled for the first few meters, jump in, and then take a ride down the twisting, icy, half-tunnel track to speeds reaching more than 80 mph.

Accidents on the track lead to serious injuries,

even death, but Racine remains unafraid.

"It's a matter of yes, I know I could be really hurt out there but I still love doing it," Racine says. "I've been lucky — bruises and a few scares, but never anything where I was so shaken up that I wouldn't go back. The speed is a rush. It's a thrill to have that speed, to control it, to make something out of it. I can't explain it better than that, it's just like a special zone of being in that moment."

Racine, standing 5-foot-4 and 135 pounds, is the driver. She makes split-second tactical decisions, which can win or lose races. A former member of the junior national luge team, Racine came to bobsledding knowing the feel and proper line needed to negotiate tight, banked walls.

Johnson's speed and power propels the sled at the start, with her main duties over in mere seconds.

Racine got into the sport at 17, making the switch from luge after watching bobsled teams in action at the Lake Placid Olympic track. She called 800-BOBSLED, got information on the national team, tried out and the rest is history.

But being the world's best in bobsled comes at a price.

Racine has been forced to move away from her native Waterford and put her business studies at OU on hold for a year or two to properly train.



She lives, temporarily, in Park City, Utah, to have easy access to virtually unlimited training runs at the official bobsled park. The team also competes extensively throughout Europe, taking her farther from home.

Their off-track training is grueling and time consuming, with hours of running sprints, weight lifting and working on developing their explosive-ness for a strong push start.

"Going to school is easier than my training, less exhausting," Racine says, laughing. "I really enjoyed going to school at Oakland, I miss it. I like learning things and challenging myself. But there was no way I could train the way I needed to and be ready for Salt Lake and still be in Rochester studying. There are no Olympic-caliber bobsled tracks anywhere near Oakland. And I think the professors would have killed me for missing as much class as I probably would have had to cut this winter before the Olympics.

"It's OK though. I know I'm going to come back to school. This is just the priority right now."

Staying tough

Racine's life was filled with drama even before she made the tough decision about Davidson in December. She spent most of 2001 grieving for her biggest fan and truest confidante — her mother Cathy — who died May 14, 2001, from scleroderma, a rare connective tissue disorder. Racine watched her mom deteriorate progressively as she battled the disorder for years.

Racine's maternal grandmother, Helene, died February 2001 from lupus.

"You ask God what is going to come next," Racine says. "At times, you just wonder if your heart can take more sadness. But somehow you go on. You have to keep the hope."

The family had high hopes in March 2001 for Cathy, as she received a kidney transplanted from her sister, Linda. Cathy told Racine that she would recover in time to see her compete in the Olympics. But complications ensued and Cathy was unable to recover. She had sparked the start of Racine's Olympic odyssey 10 years ago.

"She somehow scraped together \$500 to send me to this luge camp I

had heard about," Racine recalls. "Not many moms would let their kids spend \$500 on something as crazy as luge. She did. And never had any hesitation about it. I always dreamed about being in the Olympics. But in every dream, I shared my success with my mom.

"I miss her. Just when I am at my lowest though, I feel her somewhere in my heart. I have to hold on to that."

Racine's sister, Christine, says the rest of the family will serve as her support network.

"Jean won't have to look far to find us," Christine says. "We'll be the ones screaming our heads off by the track. Mom's going to be with us, too. We're all behind Jean no matter what happens."

Cashing in

Times have gotten better financially for Racine, even though, at press time, she hadn't yet completed her Olympic dream.

Racine and Davidson's successful partnership had led to an estimated \$500,000 in endorsements from Kellogg's, General Motors, Xerox, Northwestern Mutual Insurance and GNC sports performance stores. The pair did print and TV commercials,

along with personal appearances for the companies. They even had their own Web site. But the breakup changed everything.

Their six TV commercials were yanked, the smiling posters of Racine and Davidson beside their sled came down and companies tried to figure out what to do.

"It's like a divorce," says agent Evan Morgenstein, who handles Racine's and Davidson's affairs. "It's a difficult thing, but we're going to get through it."

Female bobsledders normally don't live well off the sport. It's costly to buy and maintain elite sleds and to travel all over Europe for the races.

If everything goes right in Salt Lake, Racine could win gold and make up to another million dollars in endorsements. And of course, live for years off the fame that comes with an Olympic gold medal.

Racine thinks all the pain she's been through the past year will pay off.

"No pain, no gain, right? I feel at peace and confident," she says. "What's going to happen will happen in Salt Lake. I definitely have a good feeling. I'm confident and I think this is my time." ■

Joanne C. Gerstner CAS '93 covers the Olympics for The Detroit News.

A bittersweet ending

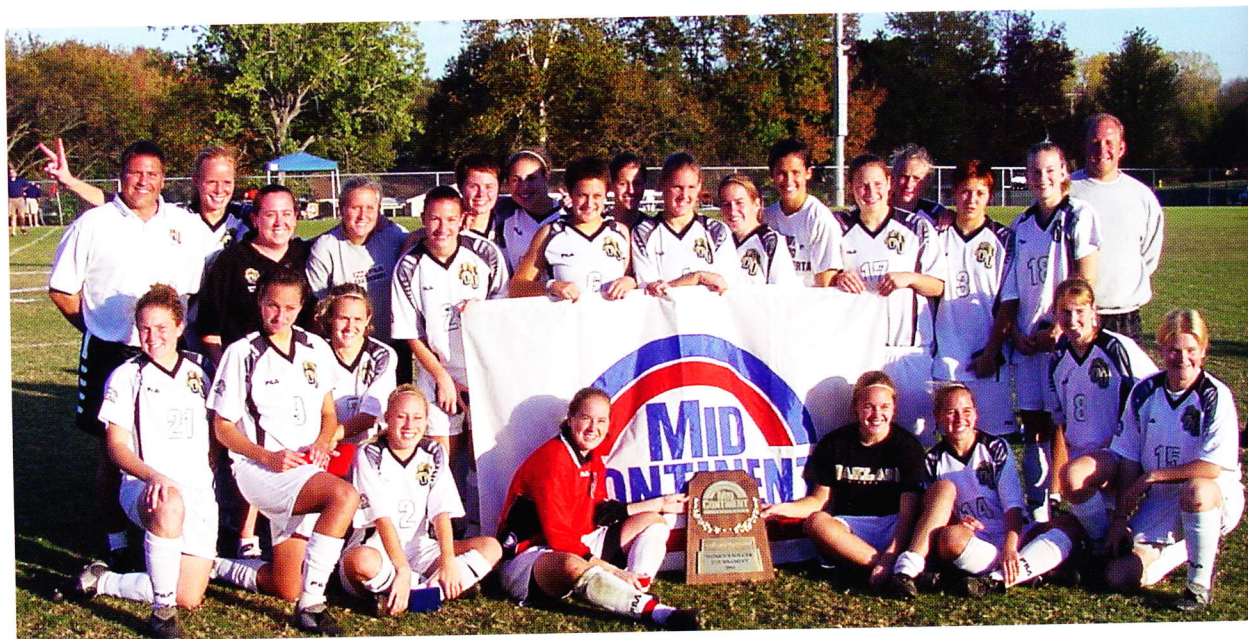
All the training, sacrifices and controversy came to an end in less than two minutes of competition Feb. 19.

Jean Racine and partner Gea Johnson saw their 2002 Olympic dreams die at the start of the first race. That's when Johnson's hamstring, injured in training two days before the final, gave way. She'd taken treatment and hoped it wouldn't affect her. But during the first steps of the push for the first run, the hamstring failed her. Johnson kept going, but wasn't able to give full power to her all-important steps.

Racine and Johnson, the top-ranked bobsled team for the U.S., finished fifth with a two-run time of one minute and 38.73 seconds. The loss was made bittersweet when they watched the USA2 team of Jill Bakken and Vonetta Flowers win the gold and make history in the first women's Olympic bobsled event with a time of 1:37.76.

Heavily favored to medal, Racine had received a great deal of media attention and endorsement dollars leading up to the Olympics. But at the finish line, she and Johnson clung to each, sobbing.

"I'm still proud of what we did," Racine says. "It's not like we crashed and burned. We came in fifth. America was on the podium, and that was the goal," she says. "We didn't win, but America did."



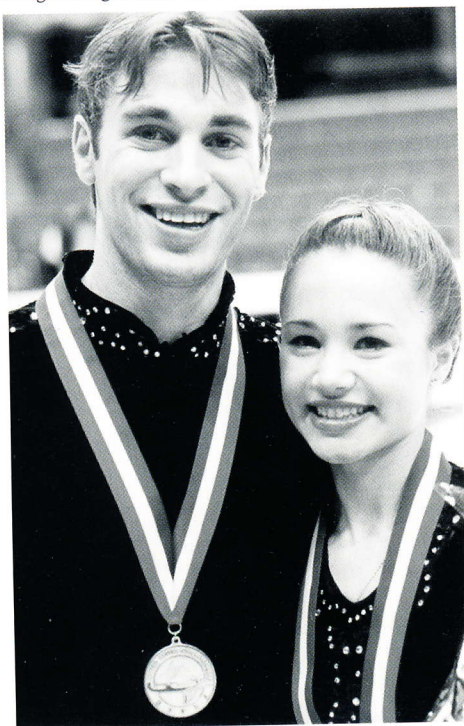
Women's soccer team first to the NCAA

The Oakland University women's soccer team accomplished in 2001 what no other OU team has in the university's first three years of Division I competition — a trip to the NCAA tournament.

The Golden Grizzlies earned the opportunity by defeating Oral Roberts 3-0 in the Mid-Continent Conference championship game. The victory was OU's second straight Mid-Con title.

OU seniors Anita Rapp, Ashley McGhee and Gail Wilson scored. Sophomore Sarah Buckland made six saves to shut out Oral Roberts. Rapp, Mid-Con Co-Player of the Year, was named most valuable player of the tournament. Rapp, of Lillehammer, Norway, earned a gold medal with the Norwegian team at the 2000 Games in Sydney, Australia. ●

Craig Joeright and Larisa Spielberg



OU skating pairs compete at U.S. Championships

Sister and brother team, Danielle and Steve Hartsell were in fourth place following the short program at the 2002 State Farm United States Figure Skating Championships in Los Angeles, Calif., in January. Competing for a medal and one of only two spots on the U.S. Olympic team, the Hartsells were in good position to do both. But just before they were to take the ice for the free skate, they notified the judges that Steve was unable to skate due to a groin injury. The Hartsells won a bronze medal at the 2001 U.S. Championships and took the gold in 1999. Danielle is an elementary education major. Steve is studying business.

OU sophomore Larisa Spielberg and her partner, OU junior Craig Joeright, competed in the free skate and placed seventh overall in the pairs competition. Partners since 1996, Spielberg and Joeright won a bronze medal at the 2000 U.S. Championships, their best finish to date. ●

Chris Gawronski, men's diver of the year

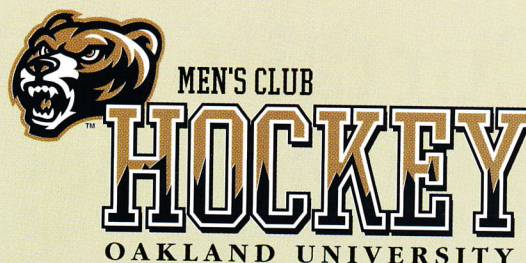


Swimmers, divers win Mid-Con championship

The Oakland University men's and women's swimming and diving teams captured their third consecutive Mid-Continent Conference Championships on Dec. 1 in Indianapolis, Ind.

Senior Marc Gray was named Men's Swimmer of the Year. Teammate Chris Gawronski was named Men's Diver of the Year.

On the women's team, freshman Tara Berringer was named Newcomer of the Year. Tamara Swaby was selected Women's Swimmer of the Year for the second year in a row. Senior Devon Cunningham was chosen Women's Diver of the Year. Head Coach Pete Hovland received his second straight Mid-Con Coach of the Year award. ●



Grizzlies on ice

Following two winning seasons and a trip to the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) national championships last season, the Grizzlies men's ice hockey club entered its third ACHA season prepared to do battle at the varsity level. This season, the team competed against the likes of Michigan State University, Indiana University, Ferris State and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor — all part of the ACHA's newly formed Great Midwest Hockey League.

For the second consecutive year, the club earned an invitation to the ACHA national tournament. At press time, the Grizzlies were slated to enter the 2002 event ranked as the number four seed from the Central Region.

Formerly known as the Black Bears, the club took on the Grizzlies moniker at the start of the 2001-2002 season. It has represented OU in the United States and Canada, and participated in international competition in 2000 in Reykjavik, Iceland. Home games are played at the Onyx Ice Arena in Rochester.

The coaching staff includes Head Coach Anthony Jalaba, Tom Ricketts, defensive coach and general manager, and Norm Foster, goalie coach.

Check out www.oakland.edu/org/hockey on the Web for more information. ●

Softball team wins Mid-Con regular season championship

The Oakland University softball team defeated IUPUI to win the Mid-Continent Conference regular season championship for the first time in May 2001. The team ended the regular season with a 24-27 record and was 16-6 in the conference. ●

2001 Fall Records and Mid-Con Standings

	Conference				Overall			
	W	L	Pct.	Place	W	L	T	Pct.
Volleyball	2	20	.167	7th	6	22	--	.214
Men's Soccer	3	2	.600	2nd	8	6	3	.559
Cross Country	OU Men finished in 5th place OU Women finished in 2nd place							

For more information and 2002 schedules, go to www.ougrizzlies.com.

Curtain up on publishing career

Laura Lee CAS '91 is an author. Her latest book, *The Pocket Encyclopedia of Aggravation*, Black Dog and Levanthal Publishers, is getting some good press and opening the door to new publishing opportunities and career security — all exciting, satisfying things for any aspiring author. But Lee wanted to be an actress. In fact, she had her heart set on it.

Although an independent major at OU, Lee took courses that essentially made up a theatre major. She also auditioned for productions, worked backstage, did some directing and joined the Vorpmi Improvisational Comedy Troupe.

"We did some professional performing and were paid for it," she says, "which means I can claim to have been a professional comic. It is a surprisingly useful credential to have sometimes."

Lee calls her immersion in all things theatre the best part of her Oakland University experience.

"Most of my best OU experiences came from my connections to students in the theatre department," she says. "Those experiences helped give me confidence."

Lee took that confidence to England where she worked and traveled for six months following graduation. When she returned to the States, Lee attended the Specs Howard School of Broadcasting. She worked in radio after that for about five years.

"I worked in Cadillac, Mich., Franklin, Penn., and Leesburg, Virginia. At the last station, I was the morning drive announcer and program director. I finally burned

out on radio and came to realize that writing was my true calling," Lee says. "Since then, I've written six books."

Looking back, Lee says the hint of a writing career first emerged at OU.

"It was at Oakland that I began to believe that maybe I was meant to be a writer," she explains, although the idea wouldn't fully take hold for a number of years.

"I did get a lot of backstage experience and I had fun on the productions, but I always [wanted] a shot at acting."

Lee was never cast in a single OU production.

"At the time, it was a hard thing for me not to get the chance to try."

"In my last semester at Oakland, I auditioned for the last production in which I might have a shot at acting. I did make the call-back list but was not cast. I

went home fairly devastated by the whole thing, and ended up writing a one-act play about it, which, as it turns out was a comedy."

Lee offered her one-act play to a student organization.

"Because there were not a lot of official opportunities for theatre students [at that time] to do productions, some students put together a group called S.T.A.G.E. [Student Theatre Area Guild Ensemble]. I brought my play to the group's organizer, Joe Bailey, and he put it on S.T.A.G.E.'s calendar. ... I got so much positive feedback on that script that I began to think my talents lay more in the writing arena than in



Other Books by Laura Lee

Invited to Sound (poetry)

The Name's Familiar: Mr. Leotard, Barbie and Chef Boyardee

The Name's Familiar II

Bad Predictions

Arlo, Alice and Anglicans: The Lives of a New England Church

acting. I have never acted since. That was 1991."

More than 10 years later, Lee is in the middle of her seventh book — a Q&A on U.S. history trivia. And *The Pocket Encyclopoedia of Aggravation* is doing well.

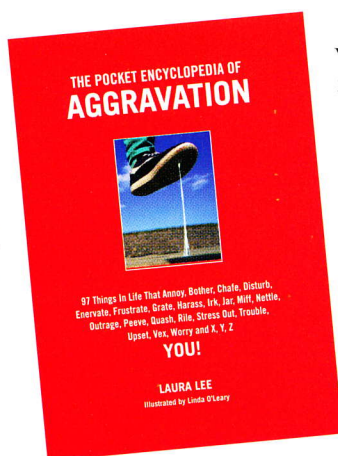
The book, Lee says, "is not just a list of pet peeves, but an explanation of the science of psychology behind everyday annoyances."

What inspired her to write it?

"A mosquito. I am one of those people whom other people invite to picnics to keep the mosquitoes away. I started out researching why mosquitoes pick on some people more than others, and ended up with an entire book, but never did get a satisfactory answer."

Check out *The Pocket Encyclopedia of Aggravation* at www.albany.net/~lauralee/books.htm. •

— Debbie Patrick



1960s

Katherine (Keiser) Dahlstrom CAS '68 has been appointed special instructor, Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism, Oakland University, and is writing special newspaper sections for Newspapers in Education at *The Detroit News* and the *Detroit Free Press*.

Gerald J. Smith CAS '69 received his MA in theatre history from the University of Toronto. He taught music and theatre at Ryerson Polytech University, Toronto, for five years and worked in medical/health administration, communications and professional/trade association management. He is currently the deputy registrar for the Ontario Professional Planners Institute in Ontario, Canada, where he has lived since 1969.

1980s

Kenneth R. Atkinson SEHS '82 is an assistant professor of religion at the University of Northern Iowa and recently had a book published titled, "An Intertextual Study of the Psalms of Solomon: Pseudepigrapha."

Barbara J. (Smith) Bolz CAS '85 was appointed chairman of the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Detroit Mercy.

Lisa R. (Smith-Bass) Buckley CAS '80 is vice president and general manager for Maytag Appliances in Clive, Iowa, and recently married Ishmail Buckley of Los Angeles, Calif.

1970s

Frederick G. Bromm CAS '74 graduated from the Army War College in July 2000 and currently works as a senior engineering specialist for General Dynamics Land Systems. He is a certified professional manager, a certified cost estimator/analyst and a colonel (commander) for the United States Army Reserve.

Karen A. Depper CAS '79 recently graduated with highest honors from Davenport University with a degree in accounting and has been employed at ISP Coating Corporation in Romeo, Mich., for more than 13 years. She was recently promoted from office manager to accountant.

Phillip T. Foley CAS '78 joined the staff of *Insider Business Journal* in Brighton, Mich.

J. Thomas Halliley SECS '78 has spent 20 years working for various software companies in southern California and recently relocated to the metro Detroit area.

Pepi S. R. (Buchalter) Lucas CAS '74 is a professor at Centennial College in Scarborough, Ontario, and recently received a major teaching award.

Melinda (Conway) Callahan MPA '85 is the executive director of the Rochester Community Schools Foundation.

Frank C. Cary CAS '83, MS '85 is employed as a senior scientist at Peak Sensor Systems.

Nicole M. (Yourng) Cooper CAS '89 is the vice president of Cooper Enterprises, Incorporated.

Robert A. DeFour SECS '87 is a program manager for GLS Enterprises, Incorporated.

Gregory Masel CAS '76 is a divisional quality manager for Borg-Warner Automotive and is married to **Donna Jones SON '80** who is a home care nurse.

Jerry K. Oermann MA '78 received a PhD in 1990 from the University of Michigan and is currently employed as director of special education for Oxford Area Schools where he resides with his wife and three dogs.

LeAnn M. Swieczkowski MA '73, MA '80 retired from the United States Army in August 2001 after 20 years. She has relocated to Charlotte, N.C., where she plans to write her memoirs.

Chris J. Tannis CAS '71 is a supervisor for Audio Visual Engineering in Toronto, Canada.

Parry C. Thomas CAS '76 is a traffic manager for Fred Meyer, a national transportation company.

Steven G. Gibbs CAS '82 owns a solo practice, the Law Offices of Steven Gibbs.

Susanne C. (Pilath) Gum SON '80 is a registered nurse and German language interpreter at the Munson Medical Center recovery room. Gum maintains a small photo business called Philosophy on Film. She volunteers her time as "Boopsie the Clown" in parades and for special interest groups and is active in theatre and figure skating.

1980s *Continued*

Rosemary P. (Natzell) Haacke SEHS '88, MAT '94 and her husband, **Larry Haacke SBA '87** have two children, Lauren and Jacob. She is employed as a first-grade teacher for the Hamtramck Public Schools.

Carolyn D. Harrison CAS '85, MA '88 works full-time at Oakland Community College, Southfield campus, where she is responsible for the campus instruction center. Carolyn also teaches as an adjunct instructor in the English Department. She has held a variety of positions at the college for more than 20 years.

Dann D. Hart SBA '86 is president of Hart Pavement Striping Corporation. One of the company's projects is the Northwest Midfield Terminal parking structure at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Joseph A. Helpern PhD '88 was recently appointed vice chairman of the Department of Radiology at New York University Medical Center. He is a tenured professor of radiology, psychiatry and physiology, and neuroscience at the NYU School of Medicine. Helpern also is chief of medical physics and director of the Center for Advanced Brain Imaging at the Nathan S. Kline Institute. He is an internationally recognized expert in the field of Magnetic Resonance Imaging. In addition, Helpern is the recipient of The American Chemical Society Citation for Outstanding Accomplishments, co-recipient of the Harold G. Wolf Award, and winner of the Shannon Award, conferred by the National Institutes of Health.

Ara E. Kallibjian SHS '83 is the residency director of Pediatric Surgery at Deaconess Hospital and has his own private practice, where he specializes in foot and ankle surgery.

Gerald P. Kearns SBA '84 is a professor at Forsyth Technical Community College where he received the 2000 Excellence in Teaching Award. Kearns has several industry certifications.

Nancy M. Kort CAS '89 is the manager of communications at Lighthouse of Oakland County, Incorporated, in Pontiac.

Christine Laine SBA '83 currently resides in Venice, Calif., where she is the director of corporate studios for Merle Norman Cosmetics in Los Angeles.

Vicki S. Larabell CAS '87 received the Oakland University Outstanding Administrative Professional (AP) Award in 2001 for her long record of cooperation and service to the community and university. She is currently the associate director, Information Technology Institute, and has served on the AP Assembly Executive Committee, in the AP Association, and on many search committees. Larabell also teaches HRD 309 for the School of Education and Human Services at Oakland University.

Deborah M. Lewakowski SBA '87 recently received an MBA in corporate change management from the University of Michigan and works for Baan USA, a leading finance consulting practice.

(Kelly) Maria Gemma Martek CAS '89 entered religious life as a sister in 2000 and on Aug. 5, 2001, became a novice and received the Dominican habit and her new religious name, Sr. Maria Gemma. Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, operate four Catholic independent schools in Ann Arbor, Mich., called Spiritus Sanctus Academy.

Tim J. Meyer SBA '86 works as the business development manager for Ronnisch Construction Group in Southfield.

Diane Michele MA '83 works as a Great Lakes regional director for the International Network for Attitudinal Healing.

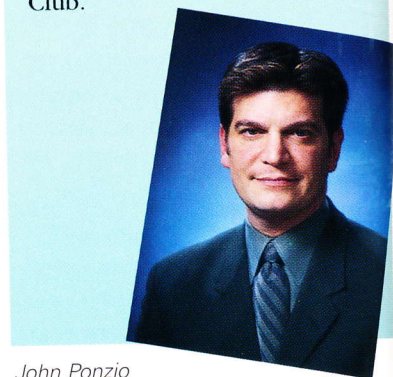
Michael F. Morissette SBA '89 is vice president and management supervisor for Doner Advertising in Newport Beach, Calif.

William H. Narro BGS '89 graduated from the Detroit College of Law in 1995 and is employed as a staff attorney for Asset Acceptance Corporation.

Joseph E. Nipote CAS '86 resides in Los Angeles, Calif., where he is pursuing a career in acting. He has won roles on various television shows and in feature films, including "Casper," "Northern Exposure," "Murphy Brown" and "Viper."

Susan C. (Wirth) Novak SBA '86 was elected a partner in the Plante & Moran, LLP Southfield office as a CPA. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants.

John Ponzio CAS '85 was named vice president of public and government affairs of Farmer Jack Supermarkets. He earned his MBA from Northwood University's Richard DeVos Graduate School of Management in 1999 and is a member of the Public Relations Society of America, the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Detroit-Windsor International Torch Club.



John Ponzio

John E. Rhadigan CAS '83 is the main anchor of the SW Sports Report for Fox Sports Net, Texas.

Ann L. Wiles MBA '80 recently graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., with a degree in Advanced French-English Translation and is the owner of the business, Ann Wiles Translations.

1990s

Dannelle M. Aboud CAS '99 is an account executive for Hermanoff & Associates, a public relations firm in Farmington Hills, Mich.

Brian Arbeiter CAS '90, MPA '92 is the assistant athletic director for development at Oakland University.

Adric A. Arndt CAS '96 is currently employed with the Medical Lake School District.

Matthew J. Basham CAS '90 is the program director for the largest CISCO Networking Academy in the southeastern United States.

Barbara L. Bland MM '93 was nominated for Best Classical Vocalist for the Detroit Music Awards. She is a faculty member in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance at Oakland University.

Morris P. Brown SBA '93 has been named program manager — materials management for Automotive Industry Action Group. Brown received his master's degree in information management and communication from Walsh College.



Pamela D.
Buck-Christian

Pamela D. Buck-Christian SON '99 was elected in June 2001 to serve a four-year term on the Farmington Public School Board of Education and will serve as secretary for the 2001-02 school year.

Michael P. Cartwright CAS '92 is currently a manufacturing planning specialist with Ford Motor Company in Sharonville, Ohio, and is busy restoring a 1966 Mustang. He has two children.

Carolyn Celletti BGS '96 celebrates the 20-year anniversary of her business, Cellettico Financial, Incorporated.

Neena R. Colbert CAS '99 is employed at St. John Health System as the training specialist for the Practice Management Operations department.

Esther M. Coleman PhD '94 was promoted to associate professor at Marygrove College in the education unit.

Brett W. Cooley SBA '93 was recently promoted to customer solutions manager with AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP.

Tracy L. Crawley CAS '98 works as a biology and chemistry teacher at Dondero High School in Royal Oak.

Eva M. Duller SEHS '99 is married with one child and works as a full-time wife and mother.

Michael J. Flanigan SHS '96 is currently the safety manager at Eagle Ottawa in Rochester Hills, Mich., and is married with four children.

Gary A. Foster CAS '91 is a certified purchasing manager for International Purchasing Services of Clinton Township and has served on the Pontiac Michigan City Council since 1995 where he is currently the president Pro Tem.

Trina L. (Montalto) Fox SEHS '96 is a substitute teacher as well as the president of the Detroit Metro Gamma Phi Beta Alumnae Chapter.

Seth A. Friedman SEHS '98 is the lead project manager for a Fortune 500 information technology consulting firm specializing in the financial industry.

Thomas M. Hendricks SEHS '90 works as a facilities manager at Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills, Mich.

Deanna L. (Aleck) Kahler CAS '92 is a freelance business writer at ArvinMeritor. Prior to that, she served as publications editor for Kmart Corporation's employee newsletters.

Sandra Kalla CAS '97 is attending the University of Detroit School of Law and is employed at the law offices of Resnick & Moss, P.C.

Tell us what you think

ENTER TO WIN OU GIFT PACK

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

1. I am:

☐ OU Alumni ☐ OU faculty and staff ☐ Friend

2. OU Graduation

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

3. School/College

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

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

Face Value

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Poor

The Far Field

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Poor

To Kresge, with Love

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Poor

Making the Band

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Poor

And the Emmy Goes to...

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Poor

The Contender

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Adequate ☐ Poor

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

Features:

☐ Always ☐ Frequently ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

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

☐ Always ☐ Frequently ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

The Sports Page.

☐ Always ☐ Frequently ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

Book Nook: A look at publications written by alumni.

☐ Always ☐ Frequently ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

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

☐ Always ☐ Frequently ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

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

☐ Always ☐ Frequently ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never

6. *OU Magazine* is considering changes. Please rate the following in order of what would be most interesting (1) to least interesting (7) to you.

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

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

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

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

10. Please tell us a little about yourself:

I am: ☐ Male ☐ Female

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

(Optional)

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

Name: _____

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

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____

We have a winner! SEHS alumna Annette L. Noble-Farmiloe won an OU gift pack by returning a completed survey from the winter issue and sharing her contact information. Fifty people responded and were entered in the drawing.

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

Send your completed survey to *OU Magazine*:

Fax: (248) 370-3182
Mail: 433 Varner Hall,
Rochester, MI
48309-4401





Lee Ann King

Lee Ann King SEHS '98 is employed at Northwood University of Midland as manager of its University College Flint Program Center. She has served as account manager for Trillium Staffing Solutions in Flint, Mich., and has worked in a variety of positions at area institutions, including Baker College, Central Michigan University and the Troy Career Center.

David Kniola SEHS '93 is currently serving as the national chairman of the Graduate and Professional Student Services Network of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

David G. Kolasinski CAS '94 earned his master's degree in hazardous waste management from Wayne State University in August 2001 and is currently the health, environment and safety specialist for Hydro-Aluminum in Adrian.

Jennifer (Kacanowski) Mannino CAS '97 is currently working to receive her master's degree in counseling from Oakland University and was married in the spring of 2000 to Jake Mannino.

Regina M. Markowski SBA '99 is a technician at Trans Union Settlement Solutions in Troy where she has been employed for two years.

Dana L. (Mitchell) Martin BGS '92 is employed as a fitness director at the Oakland Athletic Club in Birmingham.

Gary J. McCarrick CAS '97 works in General Motors' executive office as a recovery consultant which has given him a great deal of traveling opportunities.

Ty McGregor CAS '98 has been a basketball coach for Grand Valley State University and Central Michigan University and played professional basketball for a European league in Denmark for two years. He is the owner of a fitness center in Mio, Mich., and is the director of the Ty McGregor Roundball summer camp.

Tim W. Melton CAS '95 was elected to his second term as an Oakland County Commissioner in November 2000.

Pamela T. Mitzelfeld CAS '98, MA '00 works as a special lecturer in the Department of English and in the Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism at Oakland University.

Cynthia H. Moffatt CAS '99 is currently attending the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

Jessica L. (Frasier) Nicholas CAS '91 relocated to California after graduating and has since married and had two children.

Dave E. Nykanen CAS '92 is an attorney with Steinhardt, Pesick and Cohen in Southfield, Mich.

Sally (Sanson) O'Meara SON '91 and **Patrick J. O'Meara SECS '89** celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary on Sept. 7, 2001. They met at OU while working as Orientation Group Leaders in the summer of 1987. Pat proposed at the Meadow Brook Ball in March 1989. They were married at St. John Fisher Chapel.

Jennifer L. Owens SEHS '94 was recently promoted to associate director of Student Leadership Services, Incorporated.

Derek L. Patterson SECS '91 received a Master of Science degree in engineering science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., and is now employed as a lead product engineer at General Motors. He has recently married.

Colleen L. (Vogan) Phelps SEHS '94 and her husband, Keith, are expecting their second child in early March 2002. They have one daughter, Tori, born Aug. 9, 2001.

Blake A. Pollock BGS '92 is employed as vice president/branch manager of Prudential Securities in Buffalo, N.Y.

Brian D. Roberts BGS '97 is employed with EDS and enjoys participating in 26-mile marathons.

Jennifer M. (Thomack) Robinson CAS '97 was married in April 2000 and has recently built a home in Oxford. She is employed with Executive Human Resources & Recruiting.

Sylvia J. (Wilson) Samek MAT '95 and **Herbert F. Samek MBA '92** recently celebrated dual promotions. Sylvia was promoted to vice principal with the Greater Essex County District School Board after 25 years of experience. Herb now works for State Farm Insurance as a claims adjuster.



Herbert Samek



Sylvia J. Samek

Scott Saylor SBA '98 is the operations manager for a manufacturing plant and resides in Sterling Heights, Mich., with his wife and two children.

Kelly M. Schehr CAS '96 received her master's degree in human resources in December 2000 and is a technical recruiter for DGE Incorporated.

1990s *Continued*

Michael J. Shields CAS '94 is the assistant manager of human resources at Focus: HOPE in Detroit.

Kathleen M. Strace CAS '91 was recently promoted to vice president, manager of broadcast administration, at J. Walter Thompson.

Frederick F. Strale Jr. CAS '95 was awarded a doctoral degree in evaluation and research from Wayne State University in December 2000. He is currently research director for Detroit Health Care for the Homeless in Detroit, Mich., and the Michigan Institute for Neurobiofeedback in Troy, Mich. Strale also is an adjunct professor of education at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Anastasia L. Sved SBA '91 was promoted to a management position at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in Detroit.

Holly Teasdale CAS '95 has spent many post-graduate years studying abroad in such places as the University College of Dublin, Ireland, and the University of Wales, Lampeter. She also conducted research in Britain and Germany. Teasdale received her master's degree from Wayne State University in 2000 and is currently pursuing certification through the Academy of Certified Archivists. She married Christopher Tucker on Oct. 31, 2000.

David T. VanSweden CAS '95 is a systems administrator at Western Michigan University.

Bradford S. Vannelli SBA '98 works as a financial adviser for Merrill Lynch in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., where he's been employed since 1999.

Sheri L. Weber CAS '96 was awarded a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine on June 3, 2001, and is currently completing an internship at Detroit Riverview Hospital in Madison Heights, Mich.

Victor T. Wynn CAS '93 earned his PhD in sociology from the University of Iowa in August 2001 and is a faculty member at Wichita State University in the Department of Sociology.

Kathy A. (Facione) Yakubison SEHS '98 was recently promoted to senior instructional system designer at Raytheon Professional Services.

Jennifer Zielinski CAS '94 was promoted to client business manager from staffing consultant for Accountants On Call.

2000s

Ryan Bobel CAS '00 recently completed his first year at Wayne State University School of Law.

Kari D. Bryson CAS '00 is attending Wayne State University to earn her master's degree in Library and Information Sciences.

Taynya (Paslowski) Fierro CAS '00 is a department analyst in the Executive Secretary Division of the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Dorian L. Fisher CAS '00 has attended Wayne State University School of Law for the past year.

Linda J. Hickmott CAS '00 is employed as the assistant to the city manager in Hazel Park, Mich.

Lauren A. Mathews CAS '00 is currently earning her master's degree in teaching at Wayne State University and student teaches at Adams High School.

Christina L. Pavlock SON '00 received her pediatric nurse practitioner degree from the University of Pennsylvania in August 2001 and is working at the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania as a PNP for the urological surgical team.

Joseph J. Rozell CAS '00 is chairman of the Shelby Township Planning Commission.

Megan K. Ryan CAS '01 teaches social studies at Utica High School.

Nancy M. Vitale CAS '01 has begun an internship in dramaturgy and literary management at the Actor's Theatre of Louisville.

Nicole L. Wheeler CAS '00 is currently completing her second year of graduate school in the School of Social Work at Grand Valley State University with a focus on domestic violence and sexual assault.

Robert J. Wooley CAS '01 is employed with the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

We want to hear from you

Send us the latest information about you or your accomplishments for future publication in Class Notes. Be sure to include a print or high resolution (300 dpi) digital file if you have one. Class Notes are printed on a space-available basis. Return this form to the address below.

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Forms also may be sent via fax to (248) 370-4206.

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E-mail us at ouaa@oakland.edu.

Visit us on the Web at: www.oualumni.com.

OU Alumni Association Membership

An Oakland University Alumni Association membership offers many benefits — on campus and off. Campus benefits include opportunities for service and leadership, borrowing privileges at Kresge Library, access to two rounds of golf at Katke-Cousins Golf Course, a reduced rate for Recreation Center membership, discounts around campus and invitations to special alumni events. Community benefits include discounts at DOC Optics Corp., Allied Van Lines, Hertz and participating Choice Hotels. For details, check www.oualumni.com.

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For those who have received a degree from OU.

___ \$35 Regular Alumni Membership

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(both OU graduates)

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For those who wish to be connected to OU but did not receive a degree from the university.

___ \$50 Friends of the OUAA Membership

___ \$90 Two-year Friends Membership

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

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

☐ Please send me information on how to include OU in my estate plan.

☐ I am interested in other giving opportunities at OU.

Family Fun Day Basketball

A group of more than 50 alumni, spouses, guests and children attended the Family Fun Day Basketball event on Jan. 19. Activities for the youngsters included shooting hoops for prizes and cuddling up to the "Griz" for pictures. OUAA Board members, **Stan Babiuk SECS '73**, **John Ganfield SBA '81** and **Gregg Garrett SECS '97** were among the attendees.

Then it was on to the Oakland Arena where the Golden Grizzlies defeated the IUPUI Jaguars 83-69 before more than 1,700 fans. The half-time program included tricycle races, music from the Pontiac Northern High School band and a show by the Oakland Dance and OU Cheer teams. ●

OCAA trip west draws alumni fans

A group of OU alumni and friends fought snow and ice to leave Detroit Metropolitan Airport Jan. 31 for Cedar City, Utah, and Las Vegas, Nev. The group made it to Cedar City just in time to cheer the Golden Grizzlies on to an 84-60 victory over the Thunderbirds of Southern Utah University. Following a one-night stay in the mountains of southern Utah, the group made their way to Las Vegas for a three-night stay at the Treasure Island Hotel and Casino where they enjoyed fine dining and live entertainment. Many also tried their hands at the game tables and slot machines, or explored the Nevada desert.

Go to www.oualumni.com for details about upcoming OCAA trips! ●



Save the date!

Aug. 12, 2002 — 27th Annual Alumni Golf Outing

Join alumni golfers and friends for our annual golf and lunch event at the beautiful Katke-Cousins golf course and Meadow Brook Hall. For more information, call Alumni Relations at (248) 370-2158.

Sept. 7 and 8 — Art and Apples Festival

The 37th annual Art and Apples Festival is a juried fair of fine art and crafts, featuring 300 top-quality, national exhibitors and an estimated attendance of 100,000. Art and Apples "ranks among the best art fairs in the U.S." according to *Sunshine Artist* magazine. Stop by and visit the Oakland University Alumni Association booth or call Alumni Relations at (248) 370-2158 to volunteer and join in the fun.

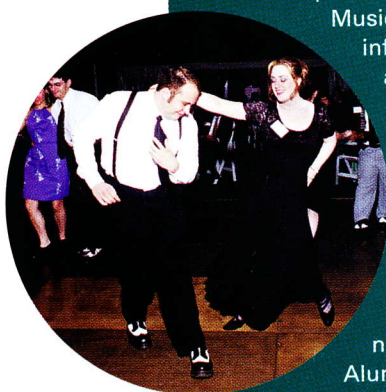
Sept. 21 — The American Heart Walk

Oakland University hosts the largest and most successful American Heart Walk in the country! Choose a one-mile or 2.5-mile route and help raise money for the fight against heart disease and stroke.

Music, food, fun and healthy activities await you. For more information on volunteer opportunities or to join our alumni team, please call the Alumni Association at (248) 370-2158.

Sept. 27 — Annual Alumni Awards Banquet

Join the Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) for a dinner celebration honoring the achievements and services of alumni. Save the date for an evening of fun, food, music and honors at the historic Meadow Brook Hall. For more information on attending or to nominate an alumna/alumnus for this honor, please call Alumni Relations at (248) 370-2158.



Alumni corporate networking event

More than 70 alumni and business associates exchanged business cards and conversation at the OCAA's second Corporate Networking Basketball Event Feb. 7.

Mike Palazzola SBA '78 brought a large contingent from his firm, Derderian, Kann, Seyferth & Salucci. OU charter class member **Tom Werth CAS '63**, **Julie Granthen SBA '81**, and representatives from General Motors, Ford Motor Co., Lionel Trains and several area hospitals also were in attendance.

Following the pre-game reception, participants cheered the Golden Grizzlies on to an 85-76 victory over Oral Roberts. ●

OU Day at the Capital

Be an advocate for Oakland University in Lansing, Mich., and join other alumni, students and friends of OU in our annual OU Day at the Capital April 10, 2002. For more information, call Rochelle Black at (248) 370-4630. ●

A champion of diversity

One life goal of **Elizabeth Davis-Russell CAS '65** is to foster diversity and inclusion in higher education and other institutions. Working on this mission has taken her on a path that has stretched from her hometown of Harper, Liberia, in West Africa to institutions in New York City, California, Chicago and now the State University of New York College at Cortland (SUNY Cortland). At Cortland, Davis-Russell is provost and vice president for academic affairs.

After receiving her BA in psychology from Oakland, Davis-Russell went on to earn an MA in educational psychology and a PhD in clinical psychology from New York University. She earned an EdD in counselor education from Yeshiva University in New York.

She pursued a career in academic administration to make an impact on academic directions and decisions affecting underrepresented populations.

"I felt that if I went into practice as a psychologist, I could have some impact on a few people; in education I could have an impact on more people as an administrator," she says.

In 2001, she chose to work on her mission at SUNY Cortland, where she is responsible for supervising its School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Professional Studies, and for developing and applying college policies in academic areas. She also oversees the offices of Enrollment Management, Information Resources, Institutional Research and Assessment, Graduate Studies and Outreach, Sponsored Programs and International Programs.

"SUNY Cortland's commitment to educating for the common good was one of the things that was attractive to me," she says. "And because of my own commitment to diversity issues and inclusion, their

statement on that also seemed attractive to me."

Before joining SUNY Cortland, Davis-Russell was a presidential associate at Alliant University, the former California School of Professional Psychology.

Her ultimate goal is to see that educational institutions affirm diversity and allow many voices their rightful place in academe, where they can contribute to and enrich discourse.

Davis-Russell is an expert on the study of different cultures and the impact of cultural traditions on how people function. She recently edited the *MERIT Handbook* (MERIT stands for Multicultural Education, Research, Intervention and Training).

She also developed a method that assesses a person's response to the differences of others.

"[The method] looks at people moving from early stages of ethnocentrism, when people tend to denigrate differences, to later stages of ethnorelativism, in which differences seem a natural part of our existence — when differences are not only accepted, but also appreciated and embraced," she says.

"The book begins with a conceptual framework for viewing multicultural education within a pluralistic society such as ours. It then focuses on models of educating psychologists to work with culturally pluralistic people," Davis-Russell says. "It also raises issues on how research should be conceptualized and conducted with culturally different populations, provides some insights on providing treatment with culturally different populations, and presents some perspectives on cultural sensitivity."

Davis-Russell has come a long way from the Liberian capital of Monrovia, where she grew up. Her father was an associate justice of that nation's Supreme Court.



Elizabeth Davis-Russell

Professional highlights:

- Dean for Academic and Professional Affairs, California School of Professional Psychology
- Tenured associate professor and coordinator of psychology, The City University of New York LaGuardia Community College, Long Island, NY
- Faculty member, Chicago School of Professional Psychology
- Director, Center for Inter-cultural Clinical Psychology, Chicago School of Professional Psychology, and director of admissions
- Director of guidance and placement, YMCA of Greater New York, Harlem Branch
- Coordinator of adult and family services, Englewood Community Health Organizations, Chicago

She chose Oakland after writing to the Liberian embassy about attending a smaller college in the United States. Oakland was the one they recommended. At the time, OU had been recruiting through embassies. ●

— Jennifer Charney



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"Before attending Oakland University, education just meant learning facts and figures to me. OU's focus on conceptualizing and problem solving, plus the open exchange of ideas between professors and students really provided an environment conducive to learning."

— Dale E. Greene SBA '68 and
Executive Vice President of
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* deceased

The 74,000-square-foot, \$17.5-million Elliott Hall of Business and Information Technology houses the School of Business Administration and the Information Technology Institute, and includes state-of-the-art computer labs and equipment to better prepare students for the 21st-century workplace. The building was made possible thanks to the support of the state of Michigan and several major donors, including R. Hugh and Nancy Elliott (below), whose generous contribution to name the building has helped Oakland provide the equipment, programs and faculty to make a great business program even stronger.



"In the Elliott Hall of Business and Information Technology, we are greatly enhancing the quality of business education we deliver to our students. The technological features of this building enable us to develop academic programs that prepare students for a dynamic, global work environment."

— John C. Gardner
Dean, School of Business Administration

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The Vetowich family is endowing a scholarship for a soccer student-athlete named for their son-in-law, Dan Weinerth, an OU alumnus and former soccer player.

* deceased

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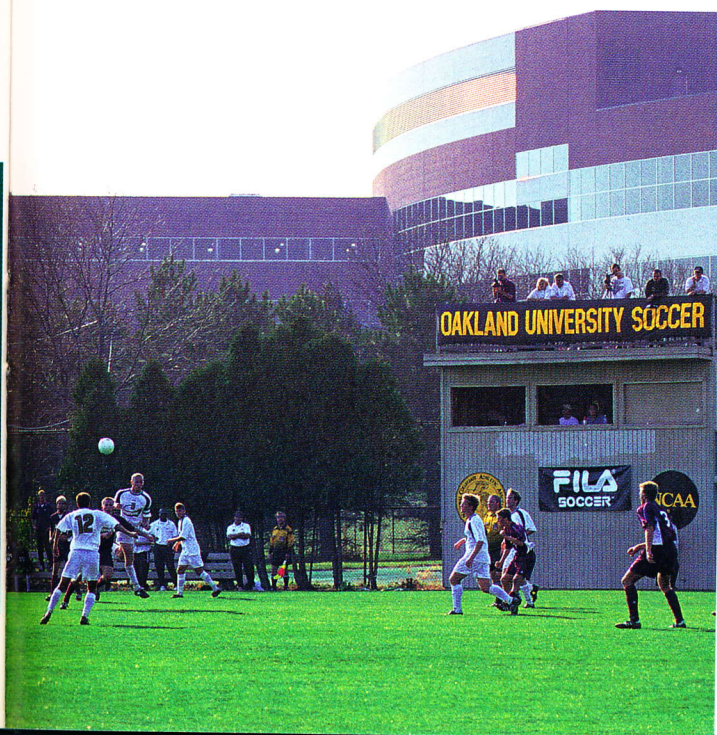
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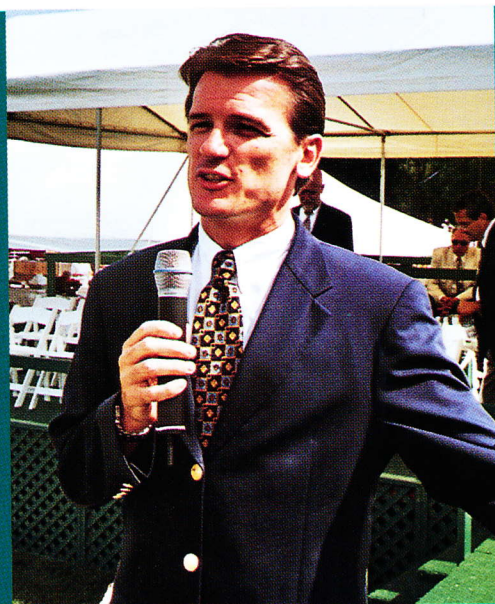
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The College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Program Fund received two generous gifts totalling \$200,000 from the family of Pierre V. Heftler, in his memory. Heftler was managing partner of the law firm Bodman, Longley and Dahling, where he dealt with gifts and taxation. His association with and love of OU is of long standing. He served as OU founder Matilda Dodge Wilson's lawyer and sat on the Matilda R. Wilson Foundation Board for many years, serving as its president in 1995. Patricia Heftler CAS '77 is a member of the college advisory board. The fund will be used to feed the spirit of innovation and outreach across the college's 15 departments and the Center for Biomedical Research.

Pictured: Adam Avery CAS '00 conducting research for CBR investigator Gabrielle Stryker, professor, Biological Sciences.



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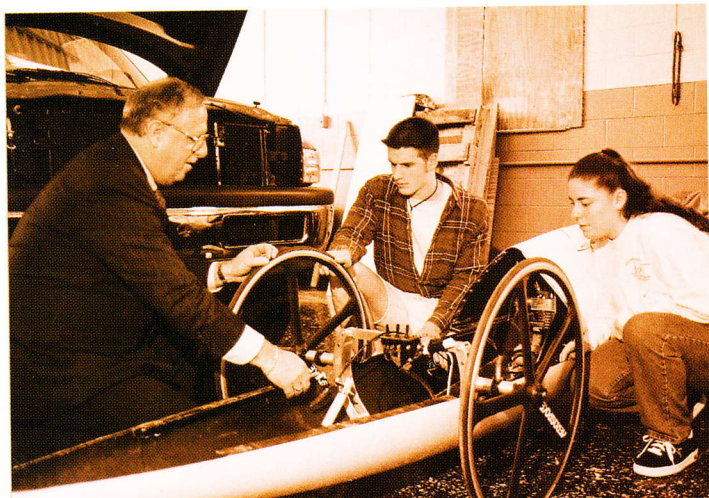
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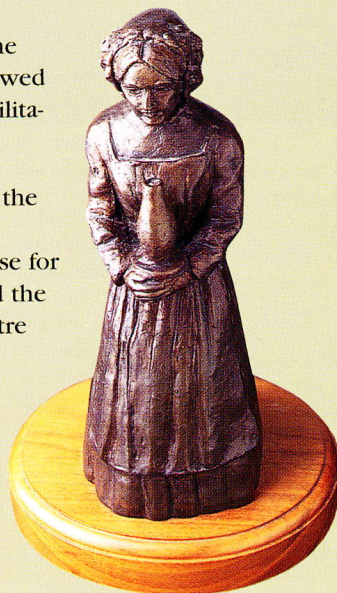
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At the 11th Annual Nightingale Awards, Margaret "Maggie" Allesee, (pictured above, right, with former SON Dean Justine Speer), a long-time member of the SON Board of Visitors, announced her donation of \$1 million to the school to establish an endowed chair in geriatric and rehabilitation nursing.

Allesee is also a director of the OU Foundation and sits on many boards, including those for Meadow Brook Theatre and the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. She received a 2001 OUAA Honorary Alumna Award for her many contributions to the university.



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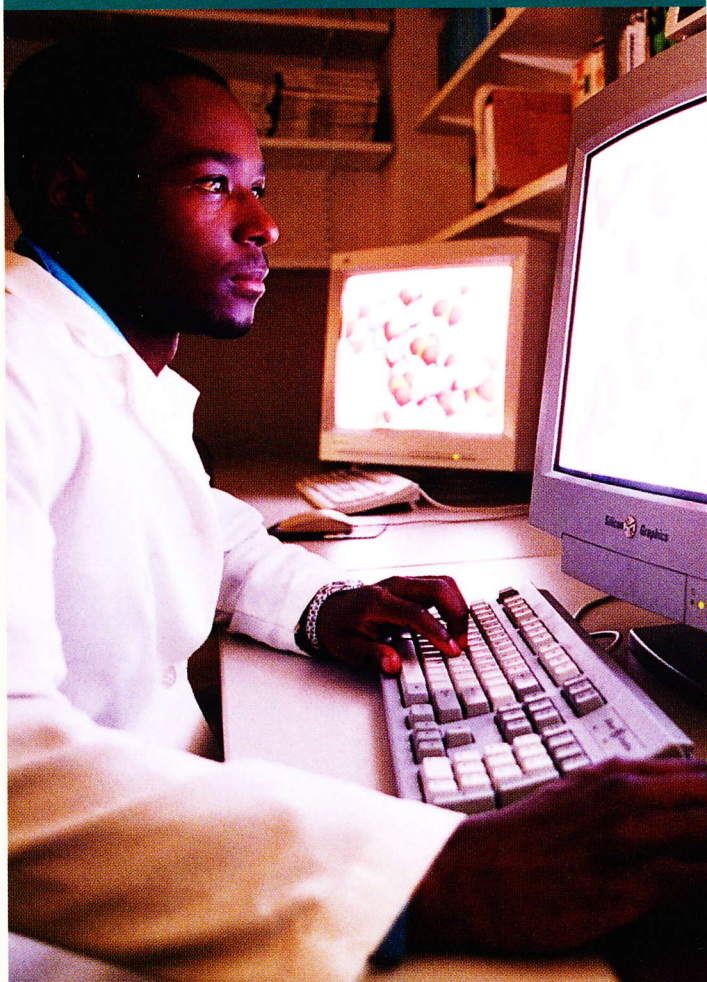
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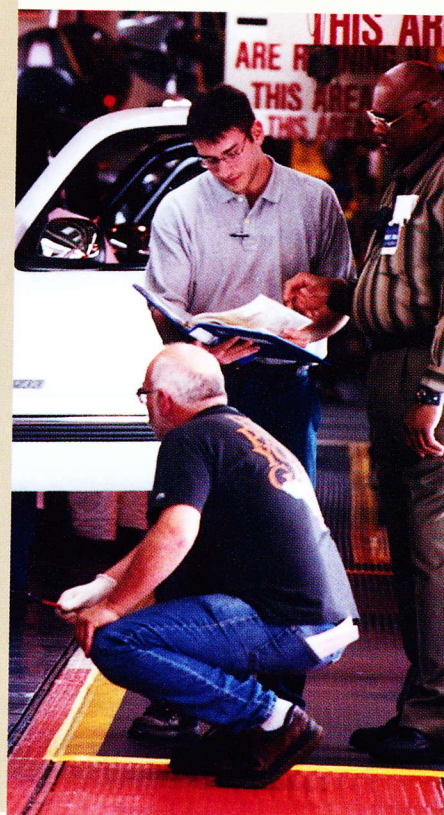
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 know the professors on a one-to-one basis.
 They encouraged me to go into television.
 I graduated summa cum laude, second in
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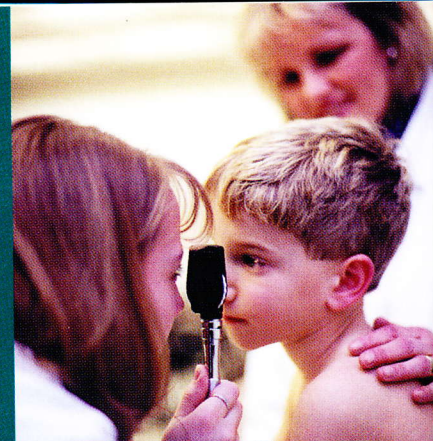
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"We often take our eyes for granted. But, when we're threatened with blindness we begin to realize what marvelous and valuable sense organs we possess. My goal is to provide the fundamental knowledge required to effectively treat diseases that rob so many of their sight."

— Andrew Goldberg
 Assistant Professor, Eye Research Institute
 Undergraduate students assist with his research on how inherited eye diseases cause partial or total blindness.

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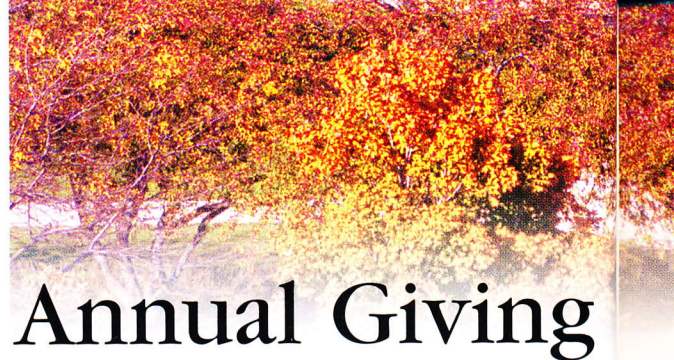
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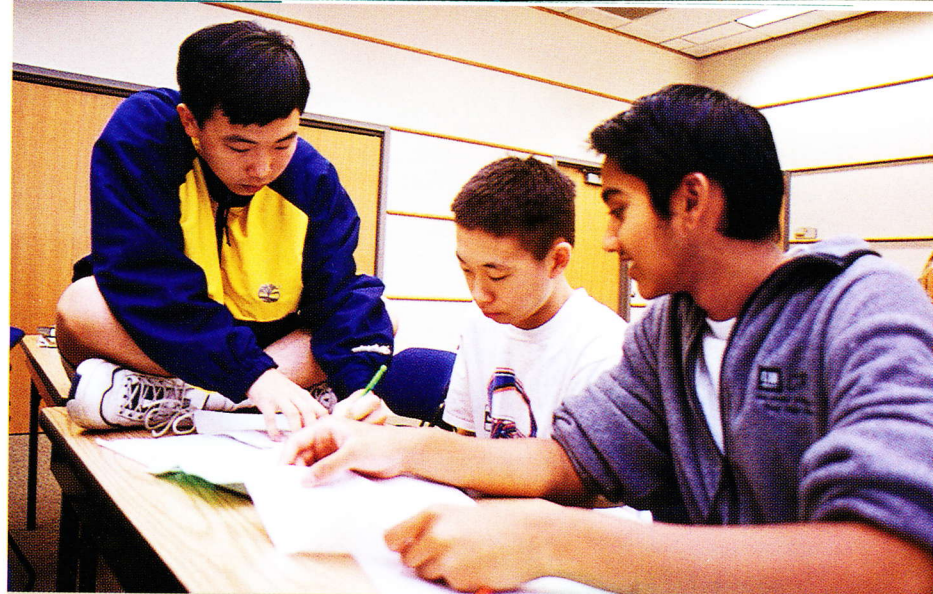
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OU employees give back

Through Oakland's All-University Fund Drive (AUFD), OU employees contributed more than \$128,000 from Nov. 1 through Oct. 31, reinforcing their commitment to OU by supporting a favorite program or the areas of greatest need for the university.

"It was an act of great joy for me to be able to support the work of all the students involved. I was very anxious to support a production, which was so full of labor and love by talented students looking forward to making careers in the theatre."

— Michael Gillespie, professor, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. Gillespie contributed through the AUFD to support the student-directed and produced show "Hey There, Good Times!"

Pictured are: Lee Huff (left) and Courtney Presley.
 Photo courtesy of production director Travis Walter.

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In 2001, Meadow Brook Hall friends donated more than \$1 million for its ongoing support.



"My grandmother would be pleased with what is going on here," says Judy Lavendar, granddaughter of John F. Dodge and Matilda Dodge Wilson, about the preservation work on Meadow Brook Hall and the development of Oakland University.

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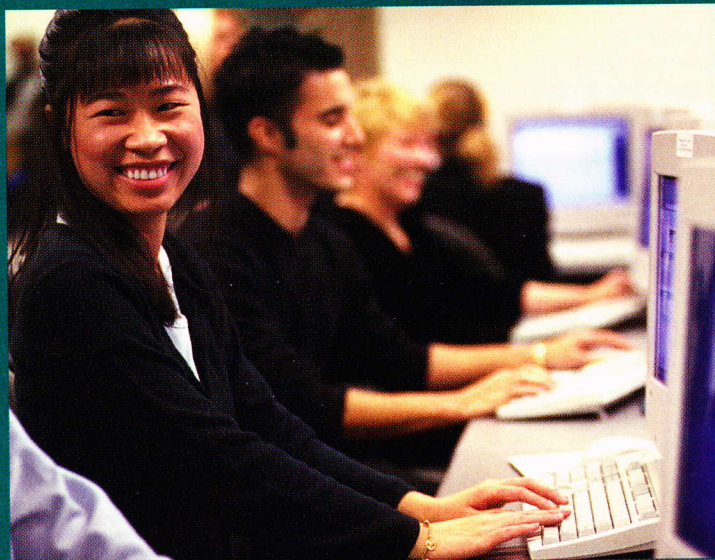


Oakland is one of only a few universities in the country to receive accreditation in music, theatre and dance in the same year. Oakland's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance received the following accreditations:

- The National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) approved the music area for membership for degrees in Bachelor of Arts in Music; Bachelor of Music in Performance, Music Education and Composition; and Master of Music in Performance, Pedagogy, Music Education, Composition and Conducting.
- The National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) approved the theatre area for membership with the four-year degree of Bachelor of Arts: Performing Arts (Theatre Performance, Music Theatre, Theatre Production).
- The National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD) approved the dance area for membership with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Dance.

Pictured: Joey Bybee and Amanda Materne in a scene from "Romeo and Juliet."

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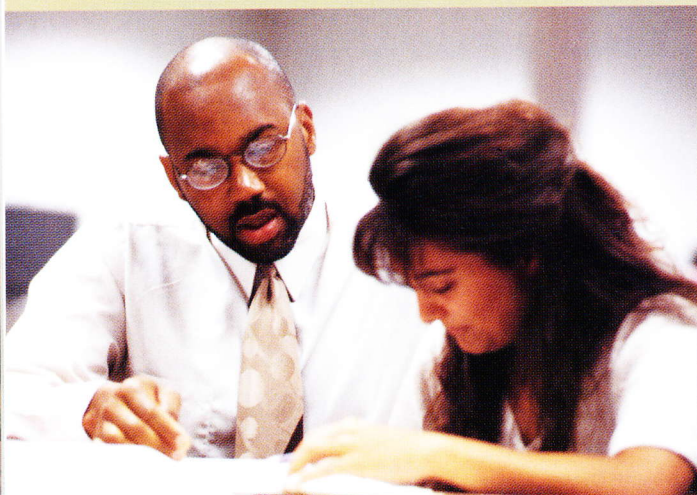
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Pictured below: Two art history majors research Native American art objects at Cranbrook for an exhibition at Meadow Brook Art Gallery developed by their class.



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"We were very lucky to have had this opportunity as undergraduates. I'm sure that the experience I gained through this class and from working on the [Harmony in Variation] exhibit will be an advantage after graduation."

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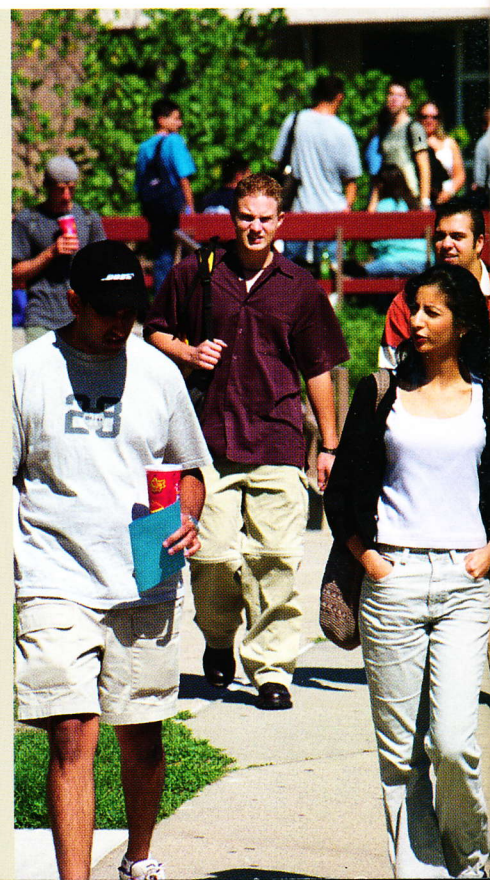
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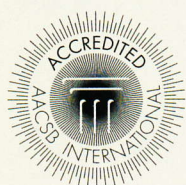
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