OU

Research-ready | *Master of dance* | *Spin doctor*

Season guide

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | Summer 2013

2012 Donor Honor Roll

Charter Class celebration

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

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Oakland University Magazine is published three times a year. It is distributed free of charge to alumni, staff and friends. See current and past issues on **oakland.edu/oumag**.

Reproduction without permission is prohibited. ISSN: 1054-6480. Issue No. 89.

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Letters to the Editor should be mailed to our editorial offices or emailed to **OUMag@oakland.edu**. Include your name, address and a phone number or email address. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

Address Changes Call (248) 364-6133 or email **ouaa@oakland.edu**.

Oakland University is an equal opportunity and affirmative action institution.

ON THE COVER

OU's Charter Class celebrates its 50th reunion in September.

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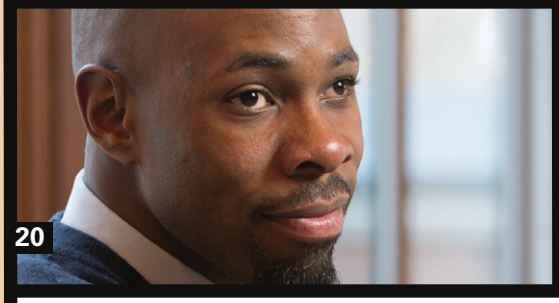

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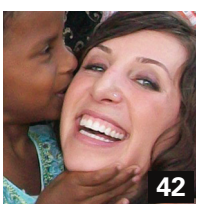

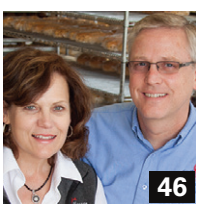

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We are pleased to share our Donor Honor Roll with you. It is the thousands of donors who make all our achievements and efforts — from research to artistic performances to student scholarships — possible. This special section showcases the profound impact of giving to Oakland University.

Dear alumni, colleagues and OU friends,

After 20 years of having had the honor and pleasure of serving this tremendous university, I have retired.

The significant growth of the university is a testament to the hard work of the extremely high-quality faculty and staff with whom I have had the privilege of working.

During my tenure, I am proud that the university has experienced tremendous growth. Our student population has grown to nearly 20,000, and the academic credentials of incoming first-year students have improved significantly. More than 65 new academic degree programs have been added since 1995, and full-time faculty has grown to more than 500.

During this time, Oakland University has invested — often with state support — more than $400 million to enrich environments for teaching, research, learning and living.

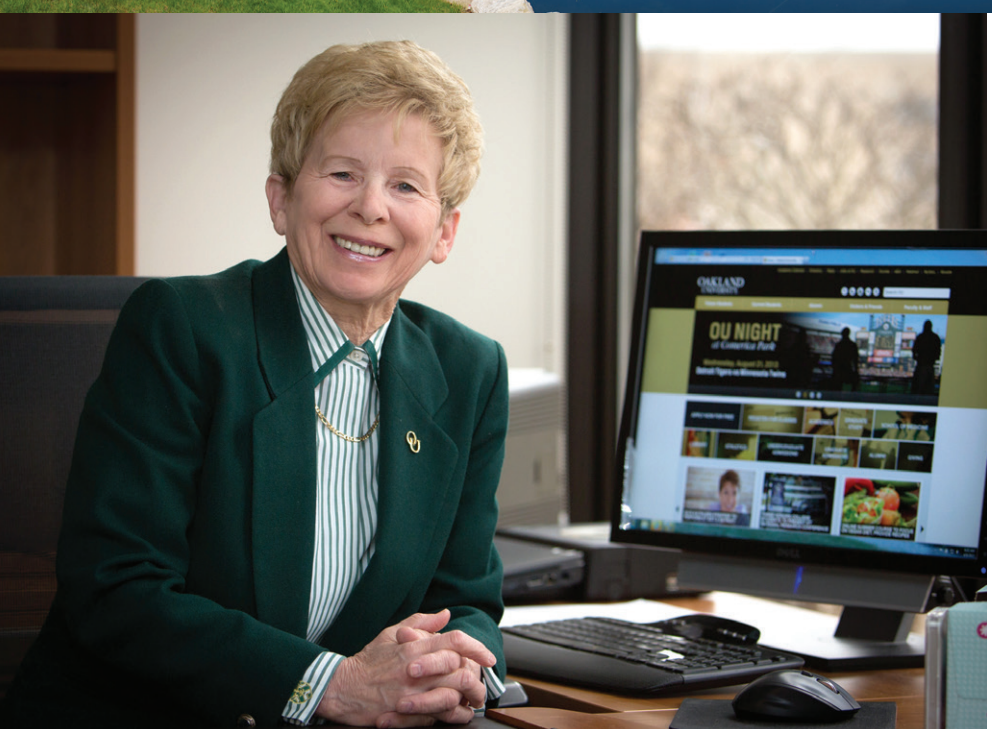
Capital improvements included a $43-million Science and Engineering Building, a $37-million Recreation and Athletics Center, the $17.5-million R. Hugh and Nancy Elliott Hall of Business and Information Technology, the $32-million Carlotta and Dennis Pawley Hall, $21-million new student apartments, and construction of a $2.2-million student activities center.

In addition, the university has built a $64-million Human Health Building that opened in 2012 and launched the first new allopathic medical school in the state in 47 years, the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. The new $75-million engineering center, a $30-million student housing complex, and with philanthropic funds, the new campus landmark, the Elliott Tower, are slated to be complete in fall of 2014.

The Board of Trustees has named Associate Vice President for Outreach Betty J. Youngblood, Ph.D., as interim president. The Board of Trustees will be managing the search process for a new president.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the faculty, staff, alumni, friends, donors and the entire Oakland University community who have contributed to the growth and success of our students and the university.

Sincerely,
Gary D. Russi



"We shall continue to move OU forward."

— **Dr. Betty J. Youngblood**
Interim President

Betty J. Youngblood, Ph.D.

With the announcement of the retirement of Gary D. Russi, Oakland University's Board of Trustees has named Betty J. Youngblood, Ph.D., associate vice president for Outreach, as interim president. Youngblood, CAS '65, a Macomb County native, has served as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Superior, president of Western Oregon University and president of Lake Superior State University. She holds an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, and earned her B.A. in political science and South Asian Area studies from Oakland University.

"Oakland is a wonderful place to learn and work," says Dr. Youngblood. "There is a positive, supportive and inspiring culture here. If we keep the best interests of our students, our employees, the broader community and the university itself in clear focus, we will overcome any challenges. I promise you that this will be the strongest guiding perspective in all that I do while serving in this interim position." ●

This special dinner and auction will benefit the preservation of The Hall

MEADOW BROOK'S
8TH ANNUAL

gourmet

WILD GAME DINNER

Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 6 p.m.

Featuring live and silent auctions, cocktail & hors d'oeuvres reception, tours and a seated gourmet meal – **all to benefit the preservation of Meadow Brook Hall.**

Guests will have the opportunity to bid on guns, gear, golf getaways, exclusive one-of-a-kind experiences, jewelry and more! Included in the evening's activities is the presentation of the first annual Dodge Sportsman Award to Charlie Mann, Owner, Hunters Creek Club, Metamora, Michigan.

Reservations are required

$100 per person
$750 per table of 10

Table Sponsorships available at $1,000 include 10 tickets and name recognition on printed program

Call (248) 364-6263 to purchase tickets

www.meadowbrookhall.org

FEATURED TASTES*

Pulled Carolina bbq wild boar biscuit

—

Bison & barley chowder with foraged mushrooms & crispy Walla Walla onions

—

George Frisch's smoked king salmon cobb salad with wild boar bacon

—

Braised boneless elk shortrib & pan roasted quail breast with sweet potato dauphinoise, poached asparagus, sage jus & port reduction

—

White chocolate macadamia nut bombe with caramel sauce & berry garnish

* Mild menu may be requested with your reservation

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Leaving a legacy

VP for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Mary Beth Snyder, compassionate advocate for students, retires

By Donna Mirabito

Next time you pass the Grizz statue outside the O'rena, think of Dr. Mary Beth Snyder.

She and Pete Hovland, head coach of OU swimming and diving, worked jointly to keep the iconic statue there on permanent display for the enjoyment of students and alumni alike.

That's a small but significant example of the kinds of student-centered activities the "get things done" vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management has accomplished in her nearly 20 years at OU.

During Dr. Snyder's tenure, student recruitment and retention programs and the First Year Advising Center were initiated. She also oversaw the building of the Recreation Center, two additional student housing complexes and the expansion of the Oakland Center to include a food court and banquet facilities.

On May 28, colleagues and friends gathered at the Oakland Center for a reception marking Dr. Snyder's retirement. She plans to travel over the summer and then teach or consult.

Dr. Snyder joined the Oakland community in 1994 as vice president for Student Affairs, and in 2003 expanded her role to include enrollment management. Dr. Snyder also taught as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Education and Human Services.

Her profession and the community recognized Dr. Snyder numerous times. In 2002, she received the Phyllis Googasian Award for the advancement of women in higher education. The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) recognized Dr. Snyder in 2007 with its Distinguished Service Award, and in 2010 with its "Pillar of the Profession" honor. In 2012, she received the Burnstein Clinic's "Esteemed Women of Michigan" award.

Her colleagues will miss Dr. Snyder's mentorship, compassion and ability to "get things done."

Nancy Schmitz, assistant vice president for Student Affairs and Student Life, worked with Dr. Snyder for 19 years.

"Mary Beth has been a wonderful supervisor, mentor and colleague," she recalls. "Anyone can tend a garden and the flowers will bloom, but Mary Beth has built new gardens. In her time as vice president, she has made significant accomplishments that were all part of her vision."

Glenn McIntosh, assistant vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life, says that Dr. Snyder "maintained a level of compassion over the course of her career that is truly rare. She knows how to make things happen. Over the years, she has become like family to me, and her retirement will leave a void in my daily life."

Dr. Snyder, according to retired OU President Gary Russi, accomplished a vision that leaves a long-standing impact on the university.

"Vice President Snyder has been instrumental in improving student life and has led many major student-centered initiatives," he says. "The impact she has had on the growth of Oakland University will be felt by generations to come." ■

News

Kevin Corcoran, Ph.D.

Corcoran named CAS dean

Kevin Corcoran, Ph.D., of Northern Kentucky University, has accepted the university's offer to become the next dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He assumed the OU position July 1, 2013. Dr. Corcoran is a professor of psychological science and former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at NKU. Before that he headed the faculty of psychology for the University of Cincinnati, where he also taught clinical psychology.

Tamara Jhashi, Ph.D.

Jhashi awarded fellowship

Tamara Jhashi, Ph.D., associate professor of art history at Oakland University, has been chosen to participate in one of the most prestigious fellowships in American higher education leadership. Over the next year, she will expand both her knowledge of and contributions to higher education as a member of the American Council on Education (ACE) Fellowship Class of 2013-14. Dr. Jhashi plans to study the role and value of modern liberal arts education, as well as how arts and sciences programs can be strengthened in universities such as OU. The fellowship includes a yearlong placement at another institution of higher education, where she will study the administrative roles and working relationships of the president and his or her senior leadership team.

Founders' Day celebrated

With multiple construction projects in place that promise to transform OU, members of the university community came together to celebrate Founders' Day last April 16. Administrators broke ground on the new student housing complex, scheduled to open next year, followed later in the day with a groundbreaking ceremony for the Elliott Carillon Tower. Retired President Gary Russi praised the "renewed investment" in OU that will enable it to thrive in the 21st century. In 2011, Oakland established Michigan's first new medical school in 47 years. Last fall saw the completion of Oakland's 172,825-square-foot Human Health Building, followed by the groundbreaking for a 127,000-square-foot engineering center. To watch Oakland's campus change, grow and expand over the years, visit **oakland.edu/apps/timeline**.

New Master of Public Health degree

The School of Health Sciences (SHS) is introducing a Master of Public Health degree program this fall. SHS Dean Ken Hightower says the program aims to improve the health of individuals and communities by strengthening the foundational skills, core capacities, diversity, preparation and responsiveness of public health professionals.

Graduate study and engagement in the program will focus on exemplary instruction, relevant and meaningful research, and community-based, participatory public health service — all while preparing students to help create and enhance collaborations designed to protect and promote the health of human populations.

As a part of the educational process, faculty and students will enlist community partners in promoting public health needs assessments; program planning, implementation and evaluation; distribution of health policy formation; and health literacy campaigns.

Suvas lands $1.8M grant

Herpes simplex keratitis is the leading cause of corneal blindness among the world's developed nations. Susmit Suvas, Ph.D., OU assistant professor of biological sciences, has long investigated the biological factors at work in this corneal disease and aspires to find a medical intervention that will limit corneal damage and prevent blindness. He recently was awarded a $1.8 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to research ways of inhibiting chronic inflammation of the eye that can lead to corneal blindness. The five-year NIH grant will also support the involvement of two Ph.D. students, one post-doctoral student and one master's degree student.

Susmit Suvas, Ph.D.

Board honors student leaders

Oakland University's Board of Trustees recognized three outstanding student leaders with the prestigious Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson awards and the Human Relations Award.

Terri Orbuch, Ph.D.

The 2013 winners are international relations major Benjamin Eveslage, biology major Subha Hanif and business major Nicholas Kristock. The students were recognized by the board at its April meeting. All three have built impressive academic, social and community-service-based portfolios.

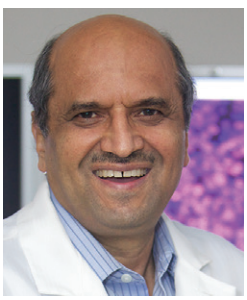
The Wilson awards are reserved for the top male and female scholars and leaders, while the Human Relations Award recognizes a student who has made a valuable social impact within the university community.

Golf academy opens

The Rick Smith Golf Academy (RSGA) has opened at the OU Golf and Learning Center. As one of the premier golf facilities in Michigan, the center is offering cutting-edge golf instruction through the highly respected Rick Smith Golf Academy. It offers customized programs for all golfers, from beginners to PGA Tour players. Smith, who designed OU's R&S Sharf Golf Course, has worked with a client list that includes Jack Nicklaus, Phil Mickelson, Lee Janzen, Vijay Singh, David Duval, Paul Azinger, John Daly and Greg Norman. Pat Gorman, head of instruction and operations for RSGA, will lead the business on a daily basis.

Chaudhry elected to board

G. Rasul Chaudhry, Ph.D., professor of molecular biology and co-director, Oakland University William Beaumont Institute for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine (ISCRM), was elected to membership of the board of directors of the Society for Brain Mapping and Therapeutics (SBMT). Dr. Chaudhry's one-year position has the possibility of extension, based on his contribution to the organization and the field. His


G. Rasul Chaudhry, Ph.D.

research involves understanding of basic mechanisms of growth, development, and differentiation of stem cells, as well as their therapeutic applications in degenerative diseases. He presented "Stem Cell Therapies for Neurodegenerative Diseases" at the 10th World Congress of the SBMT in Baltimore, Md., last May. The non-profit SBMT promotes research into the areas of brain mapping, engineering, stem cell, nanotechnology, imaging and medical devices to improve the diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of patients afflicted with neurological disorders. To learn more about ISCRM and SBMT, visit **oakland.edu/iscrm** and www.worldbrainmapping.org.

No smoking on campus

A policy change that prohibits smoking on all university-owned or -operated campuses becomes effective with the start of OU's fall 2013 term. It applies to all persons on campus at any time and for any purpose, fully expanding a smoking ban that had been limited to a 50-foot perimeter outside university buildings, as well as in university-owned vehicles. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, smoke-free policies are the only effective way to protect non-smokers from secondhand smoke. OU is now among 22 Michigan colleges and universities that have enacted smoke-free policies. Seventeen of these incorporate 100 percent tobacco-free guidelines.

'The Love Doctor' on TV

Oakland University professor Terri Orbuch, Ph.D. — one of America's most trusted relationship experts — will share her groundbreaking research and reveal the secrets to happy relationships in a Detroit Public Television special this fall. Dr. Orbuch, also known as "The Love Doctor,®" has followed hundreds of couples as part of an ongoing, landmark study funded by the National Institutes of Health. She blends her years of experience as a therapist with practical advice that is based on her own scientific research. In her upcoming special, Dr. Orbuch will translate science into accessible and simple strategies for improving and enhancing relationships at every stage.

"Secrets from the Love Doctor" will premiere at 6:30 p.m. EDT on Sunday, Sept. 8, on WTVS. The OU community is encouraged to show support for Dr. Orbuch and Detroit Public Television by calling (800) 859-9887 during the live show to make a donation, or pledge online at www.DPTV.org.

Lecturer named most outstanding

OU lecturer Alan R. MacNair has been recognized as the nation's most outstanding school string teacher by the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). He is the recipient of the 2013 Elizabeth A.H. Green School Educator Award from ASTA, the largest organization of its kind in the U.S. MacNair's decades-long music career has been marked by leadership in a variety of roles. He has served as founder and conductor of the Oakland University Chamber Orchestra for the past three years and taught at Troy (Mich.) High School for more than 25 years.

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Students discover career path through OU volunteer activities

Students have myriad service-based volunteer opportunities open to them at Oakland University. In addition to the positive community service it provides, volunteering is an excellent way to make new friends, build character, and learn leadership skills and handling responsibility. In some cases, students find the experiences complement their field of study or lead to a new career direction altogether.

For alumnus Jordan Twardy, his work with the OU chapter of Habitat for Humanity inadvertently played a big role in his future. His experience with the hands-on, grassroots initiative ended up shifting his direction from pre-law studies toward the public service sector.

"That planted the seed," explains Twardy, CAS '09. "I volunteered on one project, but that brief experience had such a tangible impact. We came together and when the job was done, you could see the result right there in front of you. You could really feel the benefits of giving. I shifted from a pre-law focus toward planning and public service because those are areas where you can get that same experience. You remember how you feel and the impact you make."

After graduating from OU, Twardy went on to earn a Master of Urban Planning degree from the University of Michigan. Today he is Director of Programs for the Eight Mile Boulevard Association (8MBA), a nonprofit organization that revitalizes a 27-mile span of Eight Mile Road, representing 13 communities, three counties and 1,700 businesses.

For 8MBA's spring "Clean the D" event, Twardy saw almost 500 people come together to clean up litter and debris, plant gardens, repaint fire hydrants and buildings, and perform other projects to improve the aesthetic appearance of Eight Mile Road. Twardy describes his job as "working in the trenches," where he can make a real impact but also pay the bills, "which is a great feeling being able to do what you love for a living."

"This organization exists to make an impact," Twardy says. "I trace a lot of my desire to do this back to my OU experience."

For Connie Farlow, BIS '12, her Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trip as a freshman sparked an interest in working for nonprofit organizations. By her senior year, she had become president of the OU ASB chapter and focused her studies on nonprofit management. She describes her time with ASB as hard work, but the type that doesn't feel like work.

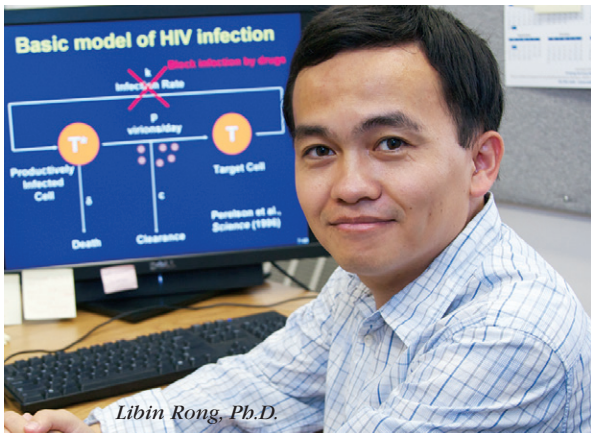
"That's everybody's dream," says Farlow, adding that it helped her realize what she wanted to do after college. Following graduation, she spent the next year as director of office operations for the National Relief Network in Grand Rapids, Mich., and was the group's liaison to OU for this year's ASB project. She now is looking to expand further into the nonprofit sector.

"For me, the most important thing is being part of an organization that is looking to help improve a community. Whatever the cause may be, I want to experience it all," Farlow says.

For more information on volunteering at OU, visit **oakland.edu/volunteer**.

By Cara Catallo

Richard Kelley



Libin Rong, Ph.D.

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Srinivasan wins NSF grant

Gopalan Srinivasan, Ph.D., professor of physics, has been awarded a three-year, $345,000 grant by the National Science Foundation to support his studies on magneto-electric composites. His colleague, Hongwei Qu, Ph.D., associate professor of electrical engineering, is co-principal investigator on the project. The NSF grant will fund studies into the development of miniature, low-cost, room-temperature sensors that could potentially replace current methods for medical imaging. The composite sensors could be used to diagnose medical conditions such as heart arrhythmia, migraine headache and epilepsy. Dr. Srinivasan has also been very successful in obtaining external funding from the Research Corporation, Office of Naval Research, and the Petroleum Research Fund to support undergraduate research on magnetic materials. His research has attracted more than $4.5 million in grant awards to date. Dr. Srinivasan was named a Distinguished Professor in 2011 by the President's Council of the State Universities of Michigan.

Gopalan Srinivasan, Ph.D.

Mazzeo: business school dean

Michael A. Mazzeo, Ph.D., has been named dean of the School of Business Administration. Dr. Mazzeo's areas of expertise are in finance and economics. He comes to OU from Michigan State University, where he served for 23 years as a faculty member, associate dean for undergraduate programs and finance, and as interim chair of the Department of Finance. He has a strong record of student mentoring and has won numerous teaching awards.

Michael A. Mazzeo, Ph.D.

Young to lead UCM department

John Young was named associate vice president of University Communications and Marketing (UCM) at Oakland University. He will be responsible for helping to solidify OU's image as a world-class institution of higher education. Young previously served as vice president of marketing for Northwood University in Midland, Mich. Before that, he served as vice president and chief marketing, enrollment and government relations officer at Walsh College. He also has significant health care marketing experience. His wife, Melinda, is an OU alumna.

John Young

Kelley heads OUWB fundraising

Richard Kelley has been selected to lead fundraising efforts for the Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) School of Medicine. As senior director of development, Kelley will plan and oversee all fundraising activities for the School of Medicine. His efforts will support OUWB's mission of enabling students to become skillful, ethical and compassionate physicians, as well as inquisitive scientists. Kelley has extensive major gift fundraising experience through leadership positions with the University of Detroit Mercy's School of Law and College of Business Administration, and with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Professor presents in China

Libin Rong, Ph.D., assistant professor of mathematics at Oakland University, will travel to Taiyuan, China, this summer to share his research at a conference focusing on computational and mathematical population dynamics. It is Dr. Rong's first appearance at the international conference, which will bring together experts in a variety of fields. Dr. Rong's research interests include mathematical biology, infectious disease modeling, virus dynamics, theoretical immunology and epidemiology. He is a member of the university's Center for Biomedical Research and is the 2013 recipient of OU's New Investigator Research Excellence Award.

AUFD celebrates record-breaking campaign

The Oakland University community celebrated a record-breaking level of commitment from donors to the 2012 All-University Fund Drive (AUFD).

This year, 14 donors took advantage of OU President Gary Russi's match for qualified gifts exceeding $10,000, and made planned gifts during the AUFD totaling an impressive $250,000 (see sidebar on this page).

For the first time in the campaign's history, 10 current students also donated. Guided by Peggy Chiu, computer facilities administrator for the School of Business Administration (SBA), the students contributed to the Center for Integrated Business Research and Education (CIBRE). Chiu was impressed with their desire to be involved with the campaign. Former Dean Mohan Tanniru had offered to match these student gifts.

Building on the momentum from this campaign, the Office of Annual Giving hopes to keep the culture of philanthropy going throughout the year. To learn more about the AUFD, visit the website at **oakland.edu/aufd**.

By Alison Gaudreau, contributing writer

2012 AUFD achievements

674 people made gifts to the **AUFD**. These donors supported 240 different funds including eight endowments and 63 scholarships.

59 donors made gifts to the **United Way** totaling $7,620.

44 donors gave to the **Black United Fund** totaling $2,016.

591 people funded their passions at **Oakland** and committed $316,266.

After Dr. Russi's matching funds this total climbed to *$471,257*.

AUFD

Young employees make planned gifts to fund their passion now

For some, making a planned gift is something you consider as you near retirement. However Luke Fleer, Emily Stepanian-Bennett and Dawn Aubry Slowik, whose average age is 34, leveraged an opportunity by committing to a planned gift during the All-University Fund Drive (AUFD) campaign.

With the president's $5,000 match for qualified planned gifts these OU employees recognized that their contributions could begin today and receive support from others even if the planned gift is not realized for many years.

For his part, Fleer established a tuition award to honor his high school mentor, David Kirkpatrick, an OU alumnus. Kirkpatrick was a guidance counselor and varsity boys' basketball coach in the Lapeer (Mich.) School District before losing his battle with cancer in 2004. The David Kirkpatrick (KP) Tuition Award will support incoming freshmen from this school district.

Office of Undergraduate Admissions coworkers Aubry Slowik and Stepanian-Bennett set up their planned gift for the benefit of the student-run Admissions Ambassadors program at OU. They started the Admissions Ambassador Gift Fund, which will provide professional development activities for the student leaders who serve as role models and provide tours and knowledge to prospective OU students and their parents.

Nabtesco's gift bolsters the engineering community

Most of the gifts made to Oakland University are considered investments in the future. That's especially true of the $50,000 gift to the School of Engineering and Computer Sciences (SECS) made by Nabtesco Motion Control.

Nabtesco, the world's largest manufacturer of precision cycloidal gearboxes, powers various-sized industrial robots worldwide. The company, which has an office in Farmington Hills, Mich., had been seeking a university to partner with. They found one nearby: Oakland University.

"OU isn't only educating for today, they're educating for the next 10 to 15 years," says Jim Gruszczynski, Nabtesco's business development manager. "It's a perfect fit for us, because we want to work with people hands-on and be with them in the future."

Louay M. Chamra, Ph.D., dean and professor at SECS, could not agree more. "University-industry collaboration can contribute to increasing the percentage of college graduates who are able to apply practical skills," he says. "This will allow them to perform successfully in the precision gears industry on their first day of employment."

Nabtesco's gift will fund a one-year student project to design and build an innovative robotics application. SECS will announce a theme in August and students will be introduced to Nabtesco's products.

Students will present concepts to a team of industry experts and faculty, who will select one project. A team of students will then develop the concept over the fall and winter semesters. In spring 2014, they'll present the finished product to the entire SECS.

"The idea is that the end product will be of professional quality to be showcased outside OU and in the new engineering building on campus," says Khalid Mirza, Ph.D., a visiting assistant professor and director of the Chrysler Robotics Lab at SECS.

The SECS intends to make this an annual event in an ongoing effort to build connections between OU and industry partners.

Longtime donor creates a lasting legacy

Norma Oberhauser, R.N., has always held Oakland University in the highest esteem. That's why she's made such generous gifts to both the School of Nursing (SON) and Meadow Brook Hall.

Most recently, Oberhauser pledged $250,000 for the naming rights to the Nursing Therapeutics Lab in honor of her parents, Ethel and Louis Oberhauser. In addition, Oberhauser designated $1,325,000 through her estate to be directed to the SON to expand the purpose of the Oberhauser Nursing Instruction Endowment Fund.

"I've always known that you can't have high-quality nursing care if you don't have high-quality nursing instructors," says the 87-year-old Oberhauser. "I believe, like my previous gift to create the original endowment, this gift will make nursing education better. The students will, in turn, provide excellent care when they become professional nurses."

Oberhauser's generosity has been extremely important to the students and faculty at the SON, as well. Ten years ago, she established the Oberhauser Nursing Instruction Endowment Fund.

Her donation to Meadow Brook Hall will likely draw the most notice, because the $225,000 gift in her estate is earmarked to pay for the complete restoration of The Hall's nearly 100-year-old organ.

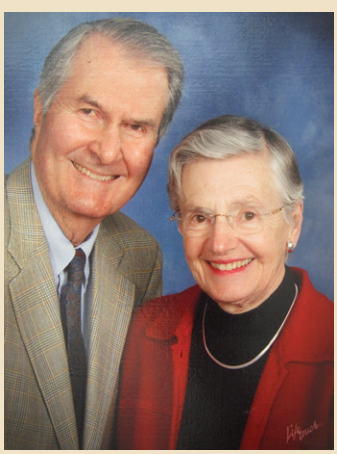
"It's the largest residential organ in the country," says Kim Zelinski, director of museum operations and advancement for Meadow Brook Hall. "It's a fixture at our special events, including our annual Holiday Walk."

According to Colette O'Connor, director of development at the SON, Oberhauser has had a long relationship with Oakland. "We talked a lot about the legacy she could create by expanding her current endowment to allow for more research grants in nursing and applied research as well as best teaching practices," she says.

Oberhauser's gift will make all this possible — generosity for which the SON and Meadow Brook Hall will be extremely grateful for many years to come.

Kerri Schuiling, Ph.D., SON dean, with Norma Oberhauser, R.N.

Communication professor honored by funding increase to scholarship



Donald and Priscilla Hildum

Sincere appreciation for past years at Oakland University and optimism for the university's future have led Priscilla Hildum to increase her gift to the Donald C. Hildum Endowed Scholarship in Communication.

The scholarship was created by the Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism to honor Mrs. Hildum's first husband, the late Donald C. Hildum, a founding and very popular professor in OU's communication program. Many of Hildum's family members contribute to the scholarship every year. Mrs. Hildum, herself, had committed $30,000 in her estate toward the scholarship and recently raised the amount to $50,000.

She thoughtfully shared her estate plans during the All-University Fund Drive (AUFD) last fall when she knew there was an opportunity to help the fund grow. At the time of the AUFD campaign, OU President Gary Russi offered a president's match of up to $5,000 for qualified planned gifts of at least $10,000, which increased Hildum's already generous commitment.

Mrs. Hildum says the scholarship helps connect worthy students with the opportunity for a college education. "I'm struck by how busy their lives are," she says of OU students. "But for as busy as they are, they are energetic, interesting and involved, and holding jobs to help pay the bills. I hope to ease that pressure," she adds about past scholarship winners. "They've always been upbeat and enthusiastic about all they're doing."

"We were so fortunate to come to Oakland," says Mrs. Hildum, who for 23 years also worked at OU, most recently as assistant to the provost for Academic Affairs, "and we were fortunate to have an assigned contribution plan right from the start. We were very grateful for that."

Mrs. Hildum recognizes the opportunity for donors to make an impact at Oakland, saying "the dollars go far at OU because it's such a good value. It's a very good education at a reasonable cost, with reasonably small classes, taught by a fine faculty."

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The Gold Standard

Recognizing Oakland University faculty members for their stellar accolades, achievements and contributions to further academic excellence.

Rebecca Cheezum, Ph.D., MPH, assistant professor, recently committed to do community-based participatory research (CBPR) with a new project for the Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO) in Detroit. The NSO Bell Building is the former historic Michigan Bell Building, which has been renovated into 155 apartments for chronically homeless adults. Dr. Cheezum will use her expertise to build a partnership with the staff and tenants of Bell. This partnership will involve research to evaluate the Bell Building program and assess continued needs of the tenants. The study is partially funded by the Prevention Research Center at OU and will advance its goal of conducting community-based translational research.

Margaret Glembocki, DNP, assistant professor, and **Kelly Berishaj, MSN,** visiting instructor, have co-developed Michigan's first forensic nursing program scheduled to launch in September 2014. Dr. Glembocki says this type of nursing is where health care and legal intersect. It focuses on patients who are victims of trauma, triggered from a range of experiences such as bioterrorism, abuse or neglect, or even a natural disaster. A forensic nurse will collect data and evidence using a skill set for assessing victims that differs from legal and police investigators. The program is a three-semester, post-baccalaureate program and includes the sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) component, a theoretical basis of forensic nursing, the legal system and death investigation, and ends with clinical training.

Emery Petchauer, Ed.D., assistant professor, teacher development and educational studies, will be working in fall 2013 with Detroit Future Schools to look at the impact of social justice and media projects on student learning and empowerment in Detroit. His research that focuses on making educational spaces and processes more equitable and humane, especially in urban schools, prepares him for this opportunity. In the last two years, Dr. Petchauer has authored two books about hip-hop culture. For his first book, *Hip-Hop Culture in College Students' Lives*, he spent six months studying how college students who were creators of hip-hop culture connected it to their educational lives. His second book, *Schooling Hip-Hop: Expanding Hip-Hop Based Education Across the Curriculum*, is an edited volume focused on the educational uses of hip-hop culture.

Jo Reger, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology and director of the women and gender studies program, received this year's Phyllis Law Googasian Award for her leadership in the women and gender studies program and the university at large. The award honors women who have contributed to the advancement of women at Oakland University through distinguished leadership, scholarship, advocacy, mentoring and program development. Dr. Reger also published a book, *Everywhere & Nowhere: Contemporary Feminism in the United States*. The book's topic explores the relevance of the feminist movement and how it still exists, particularly on a community level. Her research also indicates that the Internet makes cyber-feminism possible as people participate in activism through blogs and other social media outlets.

Mark Simon, Ph.D., professor of entrepreneurship and management, continues to lead the entrepreneurship minor for business and non-business students at OU, applying his academic research to shape practicing entrepreneurship. Dr. Simon says that the minor emphasizes a new approach to forming ventures and contacts with the market, positioning OU among the leaders in entrepreneurship and resolving market uncertainty. The minor uniquely matches a student's desire to achieve and refine an idea and tests a student's assumptions in the marketplace. He adds that the minor stresses the entire idea of developing unique concepts where there is no direct competition. Dr. Simon also is a member of the advisory board for the Ideas to Business (I2B).

Stephanie Swanberg, MSI, assistant professor and information literacy and eLearning librarian at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine Library, co-founded the OUWB Diversity Programming Team with Caryn Reed-Hendon, M.A., director of diversity and inclusion, OUWB School of Medicine, to develop and coordinate extracurricular education events for medical students. These events correlate to the curriculum and highlight health disparities in the local community. One such event, "The Butterfly Effect: Lupus in our Community," aimed to raise awareness of lupus on campus as part of Oakland's 2013 African American Celebration Month. Swanberg also supports the OUWB's vision by spearheading community engagement initiatives for the medical library. Her participation in community events and health fairs involves educating attendees about trusted websites for health information.

Wenjin Zhou, Ph.D., assistant professor of engineering, hopes to understand the structural and functional changes in the human brain to prevent and treat neurological disorders like Alzheimer's and multiple sclerosis. Dr. Zhou uses mathematical models, computational algorithms and visualization techniques during her research to find information in biomedical images, such as diffusion MRI, that are not otherwise visible to neuroscientists. Dr. Zhou is passionate about the unlimited potential of using computer science to improve understanding of the biomedical field. She believes that computer science will help lead to application-driven contributions for interdisciplinary research and will become important in exploring scientific and health-related problems.

By Michele Jasukaitis

Anders Jensen

Sandra Czerska

Travis Bader

Elena Popkey

Evan Bowser

2013 WINTER/SPRING SPORTS WRAP-UPS

Swimming and diving

The Golden Grizzlies continued their domination of Summit League swimming and diving by winning their 14th consecutive league championships in both the men's and women's competitions at the OU Aquatic Center. Senior **Anders Jensen** won his fourth consecutive Summit League men's Swimmer of the Year honor, and junior **Amr el Sayed** earned men's Swimmer of the Championship for the second straight year. Senior **Sandra Czerska** won both women's Summit League honors, while sophomore **Tricia Grant** was both the women's Diver of the Year and Diver of the Championship. Freshmen **Karin Tomeckova** and **Jorden Merrilees** were both named Summit League Newcomers of the Year, while OU head coach Pete Hovland garnered his eighth career Summit League men's Coach of the Year honor. Jensen became the first swimmer in league history to win four Swimmer of the Year awards and finished his OU career with 11 individual league titles, tying for the most in league history. He competed in the 100 and 200 backstrokes at the NCAA Championships. Czerska won three individual league titles, including a league championship and OU Aquatic Center record in the 100 fly, giving her a new Summit League record with 11 individual titles in her career. El Sayad won three individual titles at the league championships, setting the league record in the 1,650 freestyle, while Grant swept the women's diving events at The Summit League championships. ●

Men's basketball

The Oakland University men's basketball team reached the NCAA postseason for the fifth consecutive season, competing in the *CollegeInsider.com* tournament. The Golden Grizzlies were 10-6 in Summit League play, their seventh straight year of 10 or more league wins. Two OU players were NCAA I statistical champions. Junior guard **Travis Bader** led the nation with 139 three-point field goals and also finished fifth in scoring with 22.1 points per game, while junior guard **Duke Mondy** had an NCAA-high 100 steals on the year. Bader, whose 47 point-output against IUPUI in January was the second-highest NCAA I single game total of the year and earned him National Player of the Week honors, was selected to the Lou Henson Mid-Major All-America team. He also was selected to the All-Summit League first team and was named a Division-I Athletics Directors Association Scholar-Athlete. Mondy was named to the All-Summit League second team and the league's Newcomer of the Year, while senior forward **Drew Valentine** and sophomore center **Corey Petros** were all-league honorable mention. Head coach Greg Kampe became the 21st active NCAA I coach to earn his 500th win, and just the fifth to win all 500 at the same school. ●

Women's basketball

The Oakland women's basketball team struggled through an injury-plagued season, starting with a season-ending ailment to preseason Summit League Player of the Year Bethany Watterworth. Relying heavily on first-year players throughout the season — freshmen accounted for 58 percent of the team's scoring and 44 percent of the total minutes played — the Golden Grizzlies won five of their first seven games before limping to a 9-20 final mark. Freshman center **Olivia Nash** led the team in both scoring (11.9 points per game) and rebounding (8.0 per game) and was named The Summit League Freshman of the Year and named to the all-league second team by CollegeSportsMadness.com. Freshman point guard **Elena Popkey** (11.6 ppg) was All-Summit League honorable mention and was chosen to the league's All-Newcomer Team. ●

Men's golf

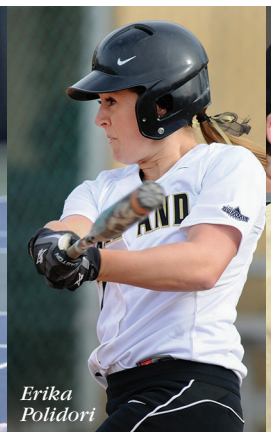
Freshman **Evan Bowser** capped an outstanding rookie season by becoming the first freshman in the history of the Oakland University golf program to earn All-Summit League honors when he was named to the all-league second team. Bowser also became the first freshman Golden Grizzly to win a tournament, taking medalist honors at both the Cleveland State Invitational and the Detroit Titans Invitational. Senior **Nick Cunningham** also was an individual champion during the season, taking first place at the University of Dayton UD Fall Invitational. Oakland, which won both the Cleveland State and Detroit Titans tournaments during the season, finished in sixth place at The Summit League Championship as Bowser tied for sixth place and Cunningham tied for 15th. ●

Women's golf

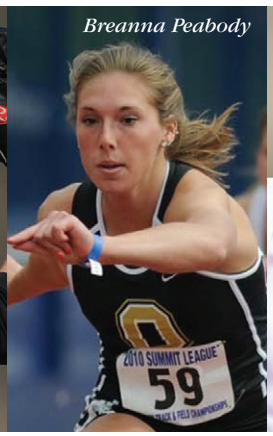
Senior **Alanna Gerber** and junior **Kassandra Komma** paced the OU women's golf team, both earning All-Summit league honors as the Golden Grizzlies finished in sixth place at The Summit League Championship. Gerber had six rounds of 75 or under during the season and was named All-Summit League first team. Komma, who shot a career-best 1-under-par 72 at the Cleveland State Invitational, was all-league second team. Komma tied for 10th individually at The Summit League

Alanna Gerber

Juliana Guevara


Erika Polidori

Jason Hager



Breanna Peabody

Jeff Arirguzo

Championship, while Gerber tied for 16th place.

Women's tennis

With a youthful roster featuring seven freshmen, the Golden Grizzlies posted a 3-4 record in league play and barely missed earning their first-ever Summit League Championship berth, finishing in fifth place in the conference standings. Three OU freshmen had winning records in Summit League singles matches: **Karine Celis** was 4-1, **Juliana Guevara** 4-2 and **Cam Sabourin** 3-2. Sabourin and junior **Grace Keating** had a team-best 5-9 doubles mark.

Softball

First-year head coach Connie Miner's squad showed a marked improvement in pitching as the Golden Grizzlies cut opponents' runs by more than two per game, but could not overcome a struggling offense that managed one or fewer runs in 10 of the team's 17 Summit League contests. Junior catcher **Erika Polidori** led Oakland, batting a team-high .306, and led the Golden Grizzlies in hits, runs scored and runs batted in. She was named to the CollegeSportsMadness.com Summit League All-Conference second team. Freshman **Erin Kownacki** led the OU pitching staff with a 2.95 earned run average, including a 1.95 mark in Summit League games.

Track and field

Senior distance runner **Brittni Hutton**, senior hurdler **Breanna Peabody** and freshman sprinter **Jeff Arirguzo** all were multiple medal winners at the Summit League Track and Field Championships during the 2013 indoor and outdoor seasons. Hutton was runner-up in the 3,000 meter run and took third place in the 5,000 meter run at The Summit League indoor championship meet, and finished third in both the 3,000 meter steeplechase and the 5,000 meter run at the league outdoor championship. Peabody won silver medals in the 60 meter hurdles at the indoor championship meet and in the 400 meter hurdles at the outdoor championship. Arirguzo starred at The Summit League outdoor championship meet with second place finishes in both the 100 and 200 meter dashes. Hutton and Peabody went on to compete in the NCAA East Preliminary outdoor meet in North Carolina, Hutton in the 10,000 meter run and Peabody in the 400 meter hurdles. Other top OU competitors at the league indoor championship were junior **Serena San Cartier,** who took third in the 60 meter hurdles, and the distance medley relay team of senior **Autumn Cleverley,** senior **Meaghan Ogonowski**, freshman **Karli Keur** and senior **Jami Rodes**, which also finished in third place.

Baseball

The Golden Grizzlies won their final five Summit League games of the regular season to finish with a 15-13 conference record and the second seed in the league tournament. Senior relief pitcher **Russell Luxton Jr.** and junior starting pitcher **Jason Hager** both were selected to the All-Summit League first team, and sophomore outfielder **Robby Enslen** was all-league second team. Luxton became OU's all-time saves leader during the season, finishing with eight for a career total of 20. In 13 Summit League appearances, he was 1-1 with six saves and a 1.76 earned run average. Hager, a left-hander, posted a 2-2 record in league play with a 2.23 ERA and 40 strikeouts in 48 1/32 innings pitched. Enslen batted .330 against Summit League opponents, leading the team in hits, doubles, runs scored, runs batted in, and slugging percentage.

Grizzly tracks

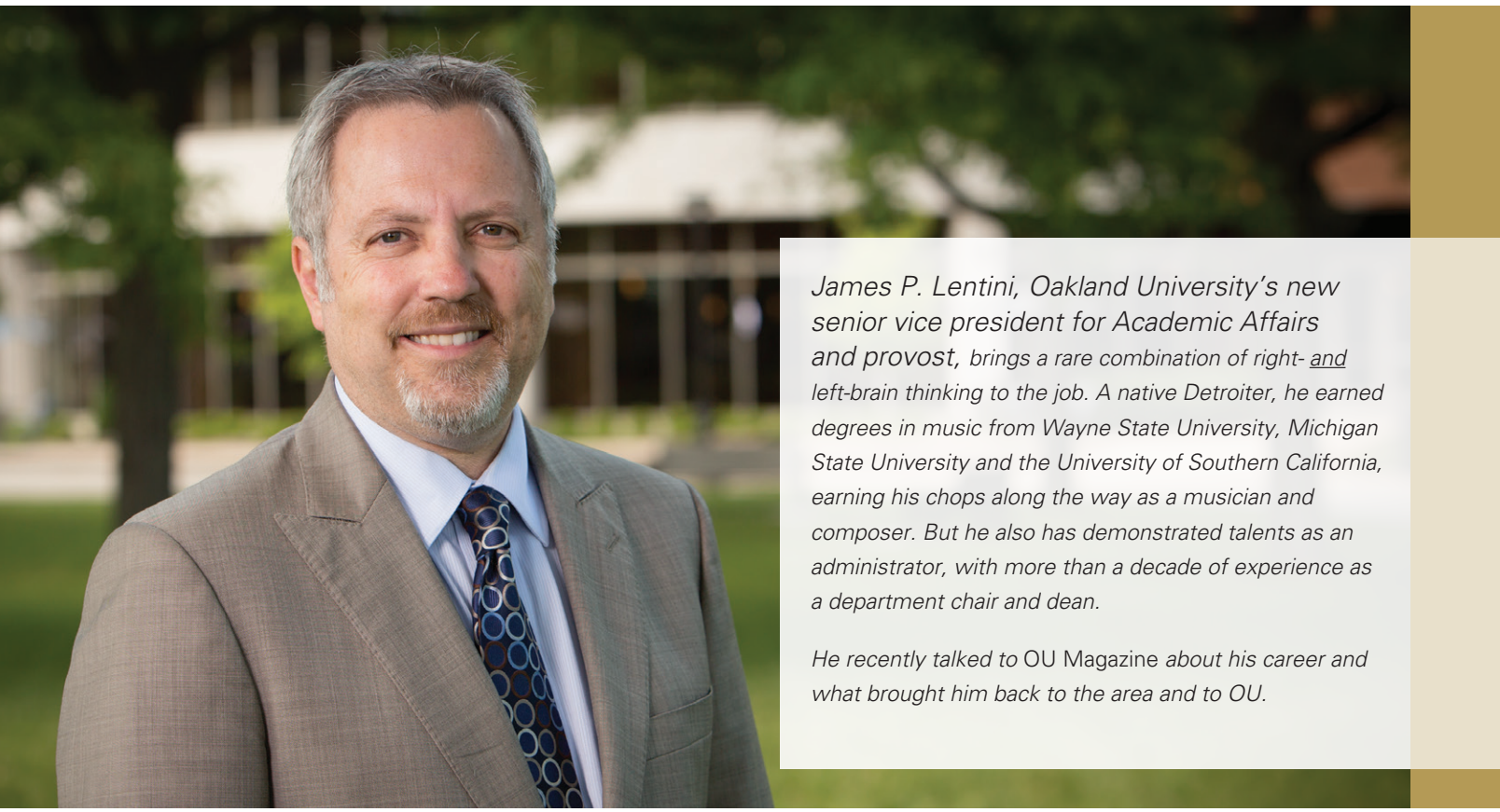
Oakland placed 147 student-athletes on The Summit League Academic Honor Roll — including 53 on the Academic Distinguished Honors List — for the 2013 winter/spring seasons. Student-athletes on the Academic Honor Roll must have a 3.0 or higher grade point average (GPA) in the semester in which they competed and must use a year of eligibility. The Academic Distinguished Honors List requires a 3.60 or better GPA … Two-time men's soccer captain **Nick Kristock** was honored in April by OU's Board of Trustees with the school's Human Relations Award. He is the first student-athlete to receive this prestigious honor, which recognizes a graduating senior who has made an outstanding contribution to intergroup understanding and conflict resolution. Kristock, who earned his bachelor's degree in business administration with a 3.85 grade point average, will begin graduate school at OU this fall and will compete in his fourth season with the Golden Grizzlies … Oakland placed fourth in the 2012-13 Summit League Commissioner's Cup standings. OU won league championships in both men's and women's soccer and men's and women's swimming and diving … The Oakland women's basketball team was presented the NCAA Public Recognition Award, which is given to programs with a multi-year Academic Progress Rate in the top 10 percent in the nation for their sport. It marks the second consecutive year the team has earned this distinction … **Lindsay Scarlatelli**, CAS '10, has joined the Golden Grizzlies women's basketball staff as an assistant coach. She previously coached at the University of Illinois-Chicago last fall and was a graduate assistant coach at Michigan State University from 2010-12.

Compiled by Fritz Reznor

Photos courtesy of OU Athletics Communications

Lentini joins OU as new provost

By Daniel Bodene



James P. Lentini, Oakland University's new senior vice president for Academic Affairs and provost, brings a rare combination of right- and left-brain thinking to the job. A native Detroiter, he earned degrees in music from Wayne State University, Michigan State University and the University of Southern California, earning his chops along the way as a musician and composer. But he also has demonstrated talents as an administrator, with more than a decade of experience as a department chair and dean.

He recently talked to OU Magazine *about his career and what brought him back to the area and to OU.*

From the perspective of a musician and composer, what do you find most rewarding about academic administration?

I think it has to do with my interest in balancing intuition and creativity with concepts that may be thought of as more logical and linear. One of my favorite books is called *A Whole New Mind* by Daniel Pink, subtitled *Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future*. Pink's thesis is that the world has changed from a place dominated by left-brain thinkers (where logic rules) into one where artists, designers and right-brain creative thinkers are needed to synthesize vast amounts of information to influence a new economic era. The kind of person that comes to mind is someone like Steve Jobs, whose amazing blend of creativity and business savvy has had an impact on the world in ways hard to imagine. The rewards are in building teamwork to invest in a vision and to see new ideas move into actionable plans that become realities.

What led you to pursue a career in academia?

I started playing guitar in a band on Detroit's east side when I was 15 years old, and by the time I got to college I had played hundreds of gigs of all types. As soon as I started college as a music major (at Wayne State), I loved it — so much so that I ended up adding as many areas of music to my major as I could. I started out as a classical guitar major and added composition and music theory as focus areas. I received great scholarships to pursue graduate study at Michigan State and then the University of Southern California. Once I was close to getting my final degree (a doctorate from USC), I remember thinking, now what? As it turned out, there was a job opening back home at Wayne State to teach electronic music and composition, so I applied and got hired as assistant professor. After 15 years at WSU, I made a jump to become the founding dean of the School of Art, Media and Music (now the School of the Arts and Communication) at The College of New Jersey, which was a great experience, then moved to a larger university as the dean of the School of Creative Arts at Miami University. Through it all, my love for learning, performing, creating and leading lit the path for my career.

As the founding dean of the School of Art, Media and Music at The College of New Jersey, what was your most fulfilling experience in starting a new school?

The best part was having a fresh slate to envision new ways the departments could thrive individually and across disciplines and, of course, having the opportunity to be the initiator of a new building project for Art and Interactive Multimedia. I worked with the provost to start the

planning, design and ultimate construction of a 70,000-square-foot facility (a $30-million project). As it turned out, I took my new position at Miami University in 2007, and I was invited back to the grand opening of the new Art and Interactive Multimedia building at TCNJ in 2010.

When you began the process of reorganizing Miami's School of Creative Arts — an existing school — how did you begin?

The arts at Miami had a long history with lots of good things in place when I arrived, though there had been several quick leadership changes that called for a new dean to come in to move things forward. To build on a strong tradition, I immediately had us work together to devise a new strategic plan, which we entitled "Extending Tradition-Embracing Innovation." That led us to widening the scope and impact of the arts at Miami, allowing us to bring in a new and innovative degree program in interactive media studies, opening a new art center on campus, and expanding the national visibility of our programs with initiatives that included a Year of the Arts celebration, a performance at Carnegie Hall (by 417 of our students), a performance by our marching band in the presidential inaugural parade in Washington, D.C. (at the request of First Lady Michelle Obama), and much more.

While you were dean of the SCA at Miami, retention and graduation rates became phenomenally successful. What were your strategies?

A great model for recruiting and retaining students for universities is to take a look at the highly individualized attention that takes place in arts-related programs. Because arts majors require auditions and portfolio reviews as a part of the admission process, there is a great amount of individual contact and attention from advisers and faculty for prospective students from day one. We've found that this makes a difference in retaining students and keeping them on track for graduation. Because student preparedness also has a direct effect on retention, a close look at how to attract high achievers through special honors and scholars programs also made a difference in improving retention and graduation rates.

What attracted you to the position at Oakland?

I've been a dean for 10 years now, so even though I was not looking to move from Miami University, when I received a call about the Oakland position I was drawn to the opportunity by the progress made by the institution over the past several years, including the obvious student demand as shown by growing enrollments. Looking closer, the size and scope of the leadership opportunity was a good match for my interests. All of that, plus the fact that I grew up in Detroit and spent most of my professional life there (15 years at Wayne State), made the idea of coming back home an intriguing possibility.

Do you have a philosophy or principle that will guide you as chief academic officer?

Sure. The first principle is to center on the goals established in our strategic initiatives and to make decisions that help the university to reach those goals. Along the way, there are always nuances and gray areas that can challenge us, so I stick to these principles: Gather as many sides to an issue as needed (there is always more than one side), be thoughtful, and in all interactions treat people fairly and with respect.

Where would you like to see the university go in the next 10 years?

While it's early yet for me to know intimately our complete scope of possibilities, I'd like to see Oakland University expand its visibility to a wider regional and national audience. I do envision OU becoming increasingly competitive with a select group of institutions that are recognized nationally for premier excellence in both teaching and research.

Ultimately, what do you see as OU's role in higher education in Michigan and the region?

The challenge for many institutions of higher education, I think, is to carve out a distinctive niche — to hone in on something that separates one place from so many other universities and colleges. We can be leaders in Southeast Michigan for educating and training the next generation of professionals, teachers, artists and citizens who will contribute to our region and beyond. Because OU is in an ideal location to build stronger corporate and industry ties, I believe that we can be distinctive in offering unique partnerships, internships and experiential learning opportunities for our students.

OU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance is thrilled with your appointment. Any plans to perform with them?

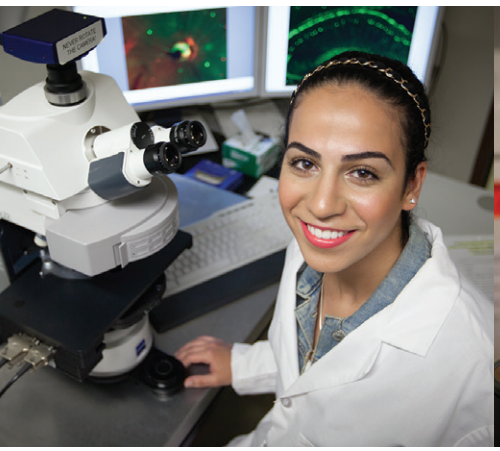
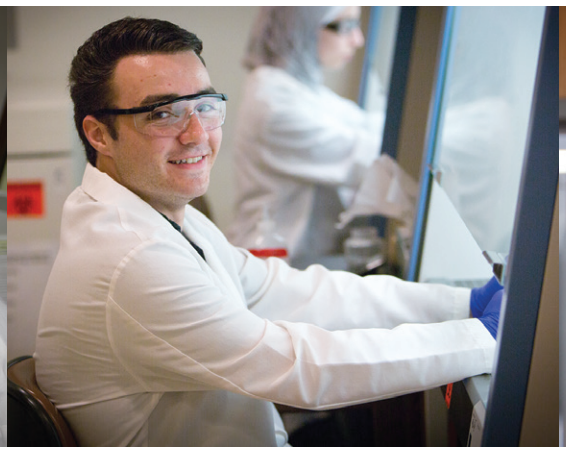
No firm plans yet, but I look forward to looking at opportunities as soon as I get settled into the new post. I know many of the faculty here from my earlier days in Detroit. In fact, I performed on the guitar in Varner Hall in the late '90s with some colleagues from OU.

Now that you're "back home," are there any Michigan activities on your list of things to do?

I'd love to see the Detroit Symphony, catch a performance at Meadow Brook, make it to a DTE Energy Theater concert, and attend a game or two of one of my favorite sports teams. ■

Research-ready

Undergraduates to gain 'OU advantage' with new research center *By Jennifer Heil Bonacorsi*

SUPER students: From left, Engy Alwashah, junior, biology major; Daniel Feldmann, CAS '12; Mindy Cao, senior, biology major, take advantage of OU's focus on undergraduate research opportunities.

In the world of academic research, it's usually graduate students who have the upper hand in working alongside their professors on projects. In addition to learning scientific techniques directly from the masters, these students sometimes are fortunate enough to receive credit in the resulting research publications — a decided "plus" for an academic career. It's no surprise that these are coveted spots.

At Oakland University, however, undergraduate students have been able to engage in research opportunities for decades. Now the university is looking to take this educational experience a step further. With the formation of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Leadership (CURL) this year, undergraduate research will enjoy an even higher profile and greater support.

Dorothy Nelson, Ph.D.

"We have a culture of including students in research here," says Dorothy Nelson, Ph.D., vice provost for research. "That includes undergraduates. By forming CURL, we provide a model to help recognize and advance the numerous undergraduate research projects that are being done here," she says.

One of those projects is the Summer Undergraduate Program in Eye Research (SUPER) within OU's world-class Eye Research Institute (ERI). Every summer since 2001, a select group of undergrads has worked under the guidance of respected ERI faculty members.

Unrivaled opportunity

Biology major Wasym Mando is a 2012 SUPER alumnus who recently joined the lab of ERI professor Shravan Chintala, Ph.D., associate professor of biomedical sciences. "It's a lot of responsibility, but I'm ecstatic about coming here every single day," says Mando, who expects to graduate early, after the fall 2013 semester, and at the age of 20 has just published a paper with Dr. Chintala and SUPER alumna Charlotte Massoll.

"The opportunities you get from working in the labs and from being mentored by the people who work here are unrivaled by other universities," he says.

The director of the ERI, Frank Giblin, Ph.D., professor of biomedical sciences, says that along with being published, SUPER participants and other ERI undergraduate researchers have gone on to receive fellowships, grants and scholarships to help them pursue further educational, research and career goals.

The students work with equipment that can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, explains Dr. Giblin, and "learn how to keep a lab notebook, how to deal with experiments that fail or that do not yield immediate results."

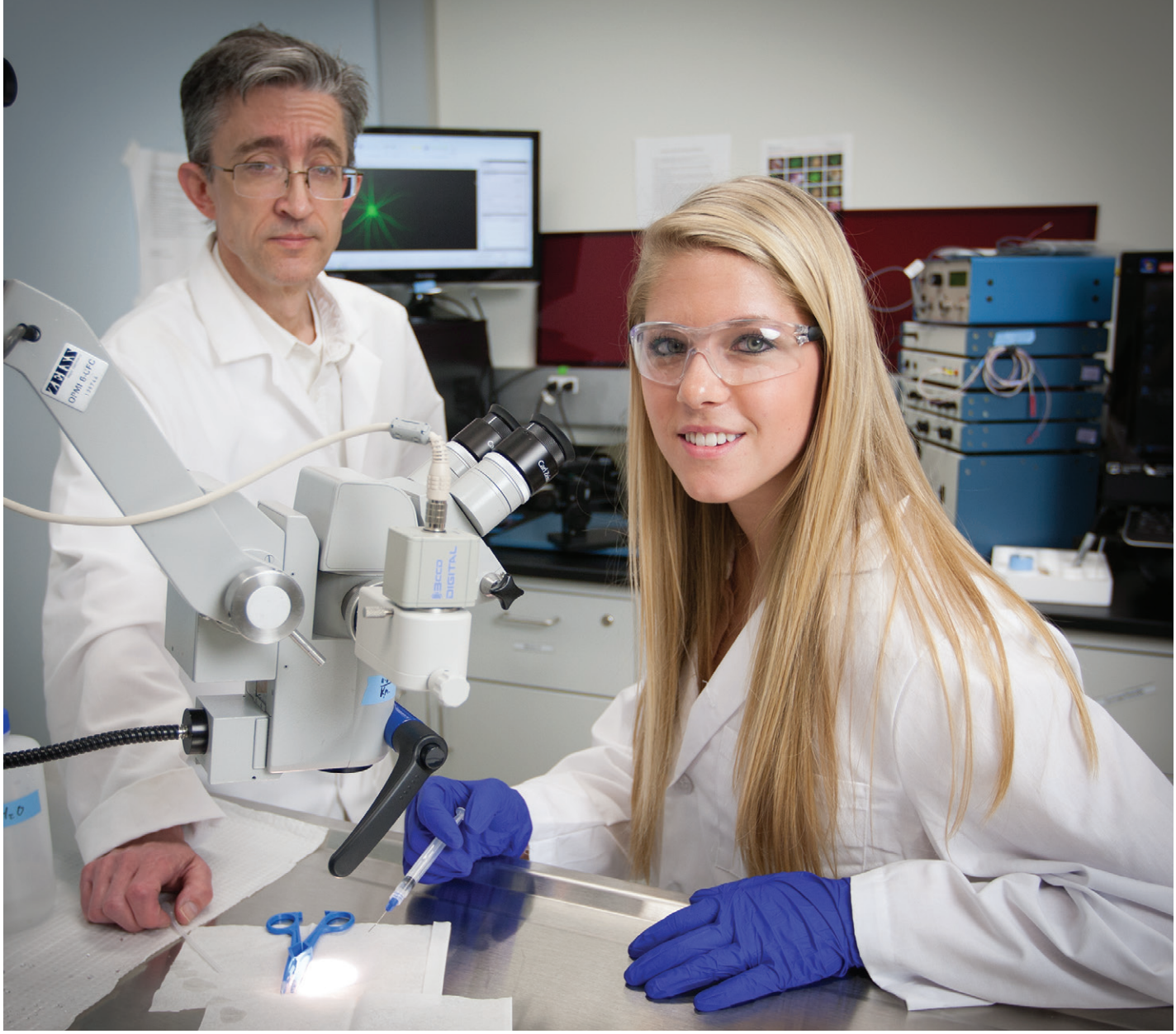
The discipline and perseverance gained by participating in undergraduate research puts a student on a path that can bolster graduate research efforts, says Graeme Harper, Ph.D., dean of The Honors College, which houses CURL.

"A student can learn firsthand about the social dynamics of a research team, whether they work in a lab setting or not," says Dr. Harper. "They will gain a general sense of research methods and philosophies."

One step beyond

CURL was named as such to emphasize the important link between research and leadership, says Dr. Harper. "We take research a step further here. Research leadership means going beyond the status quo and having a sense of what might be possible. It also means learning how to promote your work and effectively network with people both inside and outside the institution."

What's more, undergraduate researchers at OU come away with the skills that their future employers are looking for. "They know how to communicate, and how to be a



Sophomore Camryn DeLooff, a biomedical sciences major, and Kenneth Mitton, Ph.D., associate professor of biomedical science, at work in the Pediatric Retinal Research Laboratory of OU's renowned Eye Research Institute. Undergraduate research is one of OU's strong points.

team player and be a leader," emphasizes Dr. Harper. "And with the results of their research project, they can provide something tangible — a citation, a presentation, a product that demonstrates how much they already know."

The ERI's Dr. Giblin agrees. "Many of the student researchers at the ERI have their eye on being admitted to medical school. When they talk about all that they've done here, their interviewers are just blown away."

Both inside and outside the laboratory environment, the creation of CURL will help more undergraduates become aware of the opportunities and benefits of getting involved with research projects.

Competitive edge

Honors College student Whitney Smith, a linguistics major who will be a senior in the fall, is taking steps now to master the art of defining and developing a research project — even before she decides to pursue a master's degree.

Smith says that being involved in research projects, along with writing her Honors College thesis, makes sense for undergraduates. "Why not do it now?" she asks. "It gives you a definite advantage for grad school and beyond."

For ERI researcher Mando, who plans to become a surgeon, he also sees an advantageous link between undergraduate research opportunities and his plans for the future.

"I don't think it's always age that matters, but rather the experiences you've gone through," he says. "When you get involved in research, you learn discipline and you have the goal of improving someone's life. It makes you more of a well-rounded person." ■

Jennifer Heil Bonacorsi, CAS '94, is a freelance writer from Lake Orion, Mich.

Master of dance

Weaving movement, expression, into stories is part of MTD alumnus' artistry *By Amy Lynn Smith*

One of his earliest memories is putting his feet on top of his mother's as she danced. Though it happened many years ago, the image remains vivid in the mind of Rodney A. Brown, CAS '05. To him, it captures a specific moment and tells a story. That matters a lot to Brown, who is, above all else, an artist who tells stories through dance.

Those early, tentative dance steps ultimately led Brown to a career in the performing arts. Today, he is an assistant professor of dance at The Ohio State University and founder/director of The Brown Dance Project.

This year he was honored for his artistic contributions with a MaTilDa Award for Alumni Achievement in Dance by Oakland University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance (MTD). For Brown, the award holds special significance, as he was the first African-American man ever to graduate from OU's dance program.

Early inspirations

Although music and dance have been part of his life since he was a young boy, Brown's dance skills began to take shape at the Colonel White High School for the Arts in his native Dayton, Ohio.

There, Brown developed friendships with dancers at the respected Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC), a company he had dreamed about joining someday. He eventually received a scholarship to study at Jeraldyne's School of the Dance (JSD), DCDC's official training school and was later asked to audition for their pre-professional second company, DCDC2.

"I'd only been studying dance seriously for about a year," Brown remembers. "But I was accepted, and I learned some of the techniques I'm still using today."

Brown began his studies at Oakland University in 2000. He says he was inspired by Gregory Patterson, an associate professor who now directs the MTD's dance program.

"There were things about Rodney that stood out right away, in his performance ability and, most notably, in his choreographic ability," recalls Patterson.

Exploring possibilities

Though MTD's dance program had attracted him to OU, Brown admits he didn't feel completely connected as a student after arriving. In fact, it was the lure of the vital and diverse arts scene in New York City that had a greater pull on him. He left Rochester for the Big Apple to join the independent study program at the renowned Alvin Ailey School.

And while the Manhattan experience was an inspiration, it all changed on Sept. 11, 2001. The shock of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and its aftermath prompted Brown to re-evaluate both his professional game plan and his aims for the future. He returned to OU to finish his degree and then went on to earn his Master of Fine Arts in Dance from the University of Michigan.

"After my experience at Alvin Ailey, I recognized something about the training OU was giving me that I hadn't seen before," he says. "The way they asked me to approach movement seemed imagined just for me."

Brown says the faculty at OU was always supportive and consistently pushed him to do more.

"They would say, 'Create. Make work. Make work. Make work. Do what you want to do, and try new things'" he recalls. "It was an opportunity to take risks."

Brown says he has always had a penchant for creating dances about stories. Patterson remembers one in particular that Brown choreographed in memory of 9/11 while he was teaching in the dance program at OU.

"Rodney has a unique vocabulary with his movement, and he seems to be able to reach audiences emotionally," he explains. "All of us who saw it were deeply moved."

Firm footing

While working on his master's degree, Brown began exploring stories of people living with HIV/AIDS because the menace was becoming personal in his life. A trip to South Africa after graduation further fueled his determination to educate people about the disease and the people it affects.

He was inspired to establish The Brown Dance Project, an organization that now makes connections between performance, art and education in various contexts. Brown weaves literal narratives of people's personal experiences with HIV/AIDS into choreography, using dance to raise awareness and educate.

"Rodney has something to offer that a lot of dancers don't have," says Angela Gary-Austin, CAS '05, a friend who studied and danced with Brown both at OU and U-M. "He is where he is today because of his drive and determination. He never lets anyone tell him no."

Last year, Brown joined the faculty at The Ohio State University, where he teaches composition education and dance technique, and instructs in the repertory program. He also continues his work with The Brown Dance Project.

"My greatest gratification is the ability to still be God inspired and working," he says. "My work has taken me from Dayton to the international stage — something I would never have thought possible. I've had a blessed trajectory in my career so far."

To watch a video of Rodney Brown's work, visit browndanceproject.org. ■

Amy Lynn Smith is a Birmingham, Mich.-based freelance writer.

Spin doctor

Distinguished Professor looks for new discoveries on the magnetic frontier *By Kevin Knapp*

This story is the 13th in the *OU Magazine* series on Distinguished Professors. Past stories highlighted Sheldon Appleton, Michael Chopp, Ron Cramer, Jane Eberwein, Robert Eberwein, Mike Sevilla, Paul Tomboulian, Ronald Finucane, Judith K. Brown, Gopalan Srinivasan, Eddie Cheng and Sayed Nassar. For links to their stories, visit *OU Magazine* online at **oakland.edu/oumag**.

There's a bit of folk philosophy that claims "there's nothing new under the sun." Obviously, that philosopher was neither a physicist nor an inventor. He might have changed his tune had he met Andrei Slavin, Ph.D., who is both a physicist and inventor.

Dr. Slavin, professor of physics and chair of the Department of Physics at OU, is also an explorer, working at the cutting edge of magnetic research. His work in nano-magnetism and the emerging field of spintronics has made him something of a star in the physics world. He's frequently invited to speak at scientific conferences around the world, most recently in Okinawa, Japan.

Indeed, his groundbreaking research, which he began in 2005, has been cited hundreds of times. An article he co-authored in 2006 on the discovery of Bose-Einstein condensation of spin waves (or magnons) at room temperature was published in *Nature*, the most prestigious scientific journal in the world. In 2008, he published five articles in *Physical Review Letters*, a top international research journal.

Dr. Slavin, who was named Oakland University's 2013 Distinguished Professor, developed his state-of-the-art theory of current-induced magnetization dynamics based on a concept of giant magnetoresistance first proposed by 2007 Nobel Prize recipients Albert Fert and Peter Grünberg. This concept used the fact that electrons carry not only a charge but also a "spin," or intrinsic angular momentum. Electron spins can move collectively, forming a "spin wave" in a magnetic substance.

"Spin waves can effectively replace electrons to carry and process information in magnetic nano-structures," explains Dr. Slavin. "From the practical point of view, the most attractive feature of spin waves is the lack of conductive losses associated with the motion of electrons and the option to control spin waves with magnetic fields."

Riding the wave

Understanding how spin waves can carry, transmit and process information is of particular interest to Dr. Slavin — and also to many in the computer, defense and communications industries. Exploiting the possibilities inherent in spin wave dynamics offers the promise of numerous potential practical applications.

Toward that end, Dr. Slavin and Ilya Krivorotov, Ph.D., a researcher from the University of California-Irvine, recently were granted a U.S. patent for a spintronic equivalent of a transistor, a nano-scale device that can process and amplify information signals without the use of semiconductor materials, which are used almost exclusively today in signal-processing technology.

"Semiconductors cannot be used for military applications or in space because they can be destroyed by gamma rays or by other kinds of ionizing radiation," Dr. Slavin says. "But if you use spintronic devices which are fully metallic, you can develop systems capable of working at any level of radiation."

As such, he says, a fully metallic spintronic generator of microwave oscillations could be used for civilian, military and space-related applications in signal processing.

Kudos and cash

As the practical application of his research is being assessed, Dr. Slavin continues to generate both accolades and funding for his research.

In 2009, for his "contributions to the understanding of linear and nonlinear spin wave dynamics," he was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS), a rarified honor in the field of physics. In a coup for the department he heads, Dr. Slavin became the third member of the OU physics faculty — along with colleagues Bradley Roth, Ph.D., and David Garfinkle, Ph.D. — to receive this distinction.

In 2012, Dr. Slavin was named a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and was cited by that organization's Magnetics Society for "contributions to magnetic excitations and magnetization dynamics induced by spin transfer."

While such professional and academic recognition is undoubtedly gratifying, it's the ongoing flow of external funding that allows Dr. Slavin to move forward with his research. To date, his efforts have pulled in more than $3 million in external funding to OU from a variety of sources. The U.S. Department of Defense has provided more than $1 million, which includes grants from the Army Research Office and the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC). Dr. Slavin has also obtained six grants from the National Science Foundation, totaling more than $1 million. His research efforts have also been supported by collaborations with international scholars.

While his individual accomplishments are clearly noteworthy, Dr. Slavin is also justifiably proud of his 11-person Department of Physics, which he has chaired since 2003.

"This department can compete with any physics department in the country, including the Ivy League, in terms of per-person productivity," he states. "Practically everyone in the department has their own research programs supported by external grants and we publish more than 100 research papers each year."

In being named this year's Distinguished Professor, Dr. Slavin also becomes the third member of his department to receive the honor, following Michael Chopp, Ph.D., and Gopalan Srinivasan, Ph.D.

"To me, it is especially rewarding to know that our department's achievements in research, teaching and service are so highly recognized by Oakland University. We sincerely hope that our internationally recognized research in physics will further enhance the scientific reputation of our great university." ■

Breaking stereotypes

Students opt for 'alternative' vacations to help in community service efforts *By Cara Catallo*

Mention the words "spring break" and most people will quickly conjure up images of sand, sun and fun. Yet when Oakland University senior Nadiya Sorych heads south for spring break, it is part of a humanitarian mission to help the less fortunate.

She's not alone. More and more students today are bypassing the beach in order to help make a positive difference in the world. Known as "alternative spring breaks," these *pro bono* efforts are typically focused on providing community services. It's a movement that has gained in popularity on college campuses across the nation.

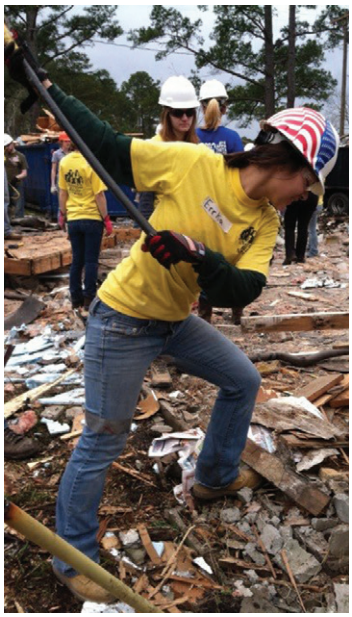
At Oakland University, various groups — including one called Alternative Spring Breaks (ASB) — connect students looking to spend their downtime productively with service organizations seeking much-needed volunteers.

Scott Crabill, Ph.D., interim vice provost for undergraduate education and OU faculty adviser for ASB, says these groups are comprised of students who tend to be more engaged on campus and elsewhere.

"If I can generalize, it's someone who's thinking outside their own narcissistic self," explains Dr. Crabill, pointing out that these students not only volunteer their valuable free time, but actually pay to do so.

Answering a call

For Sorych, that meant spending a week helping others through the OU chapter of Agape University Ministry. The group of students, all with varying backgrounds and majors, traveled to Tupelo, Miss., to repair old homes or build



From the inner city and the Appalachians to the rain forests of Central America, OU students are volunteering their time, labor and skills to make a better life for others.

new ones with Habitat for Humanity. From carpentry to roofing, tiling to window installation, Sorych says that in the three years she's taken these trips to places in Mississippi and Kentucky she's learned so much, and not just about construction.

"You really feel like you're making a difference with your own two hands," says Sorych, a biology major. She heard about Agape through a recruitment email distributed via The Honors College. Now she considers such work a calling.

"I feel like when you do something like that it really makes you a better person. You become addicted to it, that little warm feeling you get around your heart."

Agape adviser Krista Bajoka says that she believes this kind of volunteerism is almost a natural progression for some.

"I think they all came because they all genuinely are going down a certain path in their life and a path that would want them to choose to help other people," she says. "They actually paid to go on a roof and work with other people to make someone else's life better."

Eye opener

Sorych spent her December break reaching out, as well. As president of the OU chapter of Global Brigades, a student-led organization that promotes social responsibility, she joined a team that traveled to Honduras to deliver much-needed medical, dental and public health services. OU Global Brigades faculty adviser Florence Dallo, Ph.D., assistant professor of Wellness, Health Promotion and Injury Prevention, accompanied the contingent and called it eye-opening.

"It was a really good experience to watch the students and how they engage in the process," explains Dr. Dallo. "I do feel like they come back changed. From a personal perspective, they do realize that they have more than many other people. They are blessed with having many amenities and resources. From a career perspective, many of them may now consider international work."

Such experiences enhance an education, says Dr. Crabill, whose ASB group sent teams of students to work at a food bank in Washington, D.C., to assist with disaster relief in North Carolina and to promote literacy in Atlanta this year. He hopes that the exposure somehow translates to the students' academic areas.

"It's about the service, but it's also about learning your role in society outside of getting a job," Dr. Crabill says. "How do you use the education that you've been privileged in obtaining and participate as a citizen in democracy?"

Students do show some awakening, he says, and some find they like the feeling they get in return.

"I think you could only feel good for so long, then you begin to have a transition that 'I'm not doing it to make me feel good, I'm doing it to make the place where I live better,'" Dr. Crabill adds. "That's a shift in maturity. The alternative spring breaks give students an opportunity to have that." ■

Cara Catallo is a freelance writer from Clarkston, Mich.

Friends in the business

Donors Ann and Craig Stinson have the best interests of OU students, business school in mind *By Donna Mirabito*

Alumni Ann and Craig Stinson have fond memories of their OU days, studying business at a beautiful green campus of forests, trails, golf courses and a lake; Hamlin and Vandenberg Halls; and attending basketball games.

Today the Stinsons are active, generous alumni and donors who support the School of Business Administration (SBA) where they gained the experience and academic degrees that helped them achieve their current success.

Ann, SBA '83, worked for many years as a buyer in the retail industry. Craig, SBA '84, rose through the ranks of Arvin Industries to become a senior executive before becoming an executive adviser for two private equity firms and serving on three company boards. He volunteers his time to the business school as chair of its Board of Visitors and served on the search committee for Dean Michael Mazzeo, Ph.D.

In 2008, the Stinsons joined fellow longtime OU supporters Hugh and Nancy Elliott in giving $500,000 to the SBA through a challenge match. A second generous gift from the Stinsons created the Stinson Student Advancement Center, which opened in December 2010. To Craig, the business school is pivotal to the success of OU and its students.

"My wife and I are so proud to be able to give something back to the faculty and students," he says. "Students need mentors, advice and a place to get it. Now they have that at OU."

The sports-smitten Stinsons have also been devoted to OU athletics since their student days. As Craig recalls from the pre-O'rena days of the early '80s, Pioneer Pete fans and the cheerleaders in Hollie Lepley Hall sometimes numbered about the same. However, this did not dampen their enthusiasm.

After graduating, Craig and Ann were married and carried on their loyalty as Golden Grizzlies fans. The couple has two children, Andrew, 23; and Taylor, 18.

Craig assists Athletics Director Tracy Huth as a member of the Athletics Visioning Committee, providing advice and expertise on large student projects such as the proposed $25 million to $30 million student athlete development center.

For their service to OU Athletics, the couple received the Gary D. Russi Community Service Award in 2012. As Craig sees it, athletics is the way most people really stay connected to a university.

"Like many others, we bring lots of family and friends to the games," he says. "We are doing our part to develop the Grizzly Nation."

Campus comfort

When the Stinsons decided to attend OU, the two had been dating since junior high school. Ann applied because of OU's new marketing program and the on-campus experience. In 1979, however, the majority of the university's 11,000 students commuted.

"I surprised a lot of people with my choice," she says. "I wanted to stay close to home, but still have the campus experience."

Craig, who had remained in Michigan during his senior year after his family moved out of state, had applied to several colleges. "I knew that Ann was going to OU, so I applied there, too," he recalls. "Since she was going, I thought it would be a great idea that I would go, too. The rest is history."

When he arrived at Vandenberg Hall in 1979, Craig remembers students living three to a dorm room meant for two. He says he's encouraged by the 540-bed residence hall complex being built across from Vandenberg Hall, which will open in September 2014. "We need more housing and student life," he says.

Lakeside attraction

As students, the couple attended the Ball at Meadow Brook Hall and studied at what everyone then called Beer Lake (now Bear Lake). "On days when the weather was beautiful, Beer Lake would just be full of people," Ann says. "We'd put our blankets out and bring our books, somebody would bring a radio, and we would feel like we were at the beach."

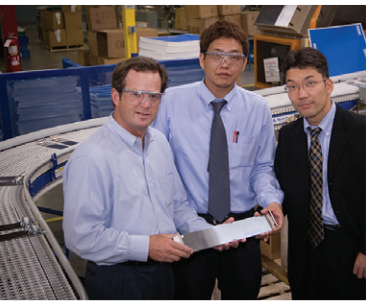
OU's co-op and job placement programs placed Craig as a co-op for two semesters in accounting at Burroughs Corp. in Detroit. At graduation, Arvin Industries hired him as a sales account assistant. By 2002, he advanced to senior vice president and president of ArvinMeritor, Inc.'s Light Vehicle Systems. After he left the company in 2003, Craig became an equity investor and board member, traveling internationally and visiting Germany at least monthly.

Ann was recruited on campus by Winkelman's, the former Detroit women's clothing retailer, for a full- time job after graduation. She began as an assistant buyer and was later promoted to buyer, working there for seven years.

Craig continues his focus on helping OU and the business school position for the future. He was an initial participant in the school's Applied Technology in Business (ATiB) program, providing company projects to develop skill sets outside the classroom to build technological, interpersonal and problem-solving skills. He believes the SBA is on the cusp of national recognition.

As they gaze about the present-day campus, the Stinsons say they see "all the pieces coming together," and both give retired President Gary Russi "a lot of credit for taking us to the next level."

The OU community can be thankful to the Stinsons, too, for helping to take the SBA and OU athletics to the next level. ■



Craig and Ann Stinson

- Donors and Supporters of the Stinson Student Advancement Center, School of Business Administration
- SBA International Initiatives Gift Fund Supporters
- 2012 Gary D. Russi Community Service Award
- Hollie L. Lepley 25th Hall of Honor Class
- Basketball VIP Members since program inception

Craig Stinson

- Chair, SBA Board of Visitors
- 2010 Distinguished Alumni Service Award
- Industry participant, School of Business Administration Applied Technology in Business (ATiB) Program
- President's Club Member
- Athletics Visioning Group Member

Sailing into the Horizon

Golden Grizzlies move to new athletic conference *By Fritz Reznor*

"This move was not possible without the passion, participation, sacrifice and support of all former Pioneers and Golden Grizzlies. The success of years past and through today is to be credited to the men and women of the Oakland community who had the vision of an athletic program that would grow in tune with Oakland University. Our focus will not change with our student-athletes; 'Graduates and Champions' will remain our ultimate goal"

– Tracy Huth, OU Director of Athletics

No more mid-winter, 1,800-mile round-trip flights to North and South Dakota. Gone are the tiresome, all-day bus rides through the cornfields of Nebraska and Iowa.

Oakland University's long-awaited move from The Summit League to a more geographic-friendly athletic conference came to fruition May 8 when OU accepted an invitation to join the Great Lakes-based Horizon League. Oakland will compete in 18 of the 19 sports sponsored by the Horizon League; the lone exception is men's tennis.

"We really don't see a downside to this," Oakland University Director of Athletics Tracy Huth says. "It just made too much sense. There was excitement, but we also had to verify that this was the best thing for us. It was very clear to us the Horizon was not only the best place for Oakland University, it's a top conference affiliation for us to have.

"Moving to the Horizon League allows us to associate and compete with institutions with outstanding academic profiles and values. They emphasize the experience of the student-athlete. We look forward to new and renewed rivalries. It's an opportunity to participate within the proximities of the boundaries of the Great Lakes region, reducing travel and missed class time."

A new rivalry

One void in OU's time in The Summit League was that of a local rival. The move to the Horizon League puts the Golden Grizzlies in the same conference as the University of Detroit Mercy — the campuses are just 26 miles apart — in what Huth says should generate "some spirited Metro Detroit competition. It's going to be great for local interest amongst both schools. With such a rivalry, it will be great for attendance and competition."

Other Horizon League members are Cleveland State, Green Bay, Illinois-Chicago, Milwaukee, Valparaiso, Wright State and Youngstown State. All except University of Detroit Mercy and Illinois-Chicago are former members of the Mid-Continent Conference, the precursor of The Summit League.

Prior to joining the Horizon League, Oakland had been the easternmost member of The Summit League, which included schools in such cities as Fargo, North Dakota; Brookings and Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Omaha, Nebraska; and, as of fall 2013, Denver, Colorado. University officials estimate the change in leagues will cut as much as 25 percent off the athletic department's travel budget.

"If you look at a map to compare the footprint of the Horizon League with that of The Summit League, you will immediately understand why it is so important for our student-athletes that we have made the league change," says Robby Stewart, Ph.D., professor of psychology and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who doubles as OU's faculty athletics representative. "Five of the eight other schools in the Horizon League — University of Detroit Mercy, Cleveland State, Youngstown State, Wright State and Valparaiso — are within a four-hour drive of the OU campus.

"In our future with the Horizon League, we will have less time — and expense — devoted to travel. Our student-athletes will not miss nearly as many classroom sessions and will be able to return to campus sooner."

> *"What once was airport or bus time could now become study time back on campus. Less time away from class and more time devoted to study rather than trying to study on a plane should result in increased academic performance."*
>
> **—Dr. Robby Stewart, Faculty Athletics Representative**

"Not only does this mean less time on the road and away from class for our student-athletes," Dr. Stewart adds, "it means that OU students, families and friends should be able to make the drive to watch more competitions, thereby providing a fan base at away sites."

More viewing opportunities

An added benefit for OU fans is that they will have more chances to watch the Golden Grizzlies via the Horizon League's online network. The league also has a deal with ESPN that airs many conference contests on the cable network's various channels. Conversely, according to Huth, that could play havoc with the dates and times of some OU basketball games.

"Games will be primarily on Thursdays and Saturdays, but there will be instances of some Wednesday night, Friday night and Sunday afternoon games due to the selection of games to be broadcast on ESPN," Huth says. "Every men's basketball game is streamed live in high definition on the Horizon League Network. This will provide lots of opportunities for fans and recruits to watch our games in real time, and it will have some effect on the schedule as well. It will be important for our fans to check our website periodically during the season to confirm game dates and times." ■

On-the-job training

Students earn money, build résumés through summer jobs program *By Katherine Land*

From filing to farming, OU's Summer Student Campus Corps offers an array of work experiences that can help students defray the cost of education while learning valuable skills.

Forget scooping ice cream or babysitting the neighbor's kids. Today's college students are seeking summer jobs that not only help pay the bills, but also help build the professional skills that can help launch their careers.

A big case of wishful thinking? Not so at Oakland University, where the Summer Student Campus Corps provides undergraduate students with internship-style positions on campus. The innovative temporary employment program aims to help students bolster their résumés and earn money for their schooling.

"The campus corps gives me something that is more than a typical summer job to put on my résumé," says Samantha Wolf, communication major and summer corps member, who is working this summer in OU's Center for Student Activities (CSA). "This experience will make me more marketable when I apply for a 'big girl job' after graduation."

Wolf is one of three senior students with diverse academic backgrounds working in CSA. Each one is able to direct her individual project or program, while gaining transferable skills in event planning, marketing, project managing, training, writing and public speaking.

Dynamic experience

Having significant work experience is not only important to students, but is key for potential employers as well. In a highly competitive marketplace, hiring managers are constantly seeking candidates who stand out from the crowd.

"Today's employers are seeking applicants who are academically prepared and who have had dynamic work experiences," says Cindy Hermsen, director of Financial Aid. "Our summer corps program provides meaningful work experience in a professional setting and has the added benefit of helping students pay for school by offering competitive wages and hours throughout the summer months."

Now in its fifth season, the corps program has drawn rave reviews from students, administrators and supervisors alike. The paid positions run from April through August and allow students to work up to 40 hours a week at $10 an hour, or a maximum of $6,800 over 17 weeks.

Positions for the summer 2013 corps range from IT programmers to music archivists to organic farmers and everything in between, including Web designers, advising communications assistant, Alzheimer's research assistant, business systems assistant and communications intern.

Leadership roles

"To me, working under the staff of CSA has been so valuable," said Emily Collins, a psychology major who plans to pursue a master's degree in education leadership. "I think I have had a well-rounded student life experience at OU. Oakland has very unique opportunities for students that other universities simply don't have. We are so lucky to have programs like the campus corps, and have been blessed with opportunities to take on strong leadership roles."

Biology major Erin Chatten agrees. After bouncing around a number of career ideas and academic majors, Chatten said her work with the summer corps has confirmed what she wants to do — work in higher education.

"Since I have been at CSA, the staff has taken the three of us under their wing and worked to mold us into leaders," she said. "I don't know if they know what a significant role they have played in our lives this summer, but this is a great opportunity for us. I don't think that if I went to Michigan State or Central or any other university that I could have had the same experience. OU may be a smaller university, but it is a really involved university."

Taking ownership

The students are among the 80-plus undergraduates having similar experiences working on various projects in the academic, administrative and auxiliary realms.

Campus corps students are often able to take ownership of their roles, and have the responsibility and freedom to manage important projects and events.

"Something that is extremely unique at OU is the ratio of undergrad to grad student opportunities. I think that if we were at a different university, it would be graduate students with our positions," Wolf said.

"It would be grad students doing the exciting work and acting as researchers and leaders, but OU really puts an emphasis on undergrad experiences. OU offers undergrads the chance to perform important work through programs like this one and allows undergrads this responsibility and opportunity."

For more information about the Summer Student Campus Corps, contact the Financial Aid Office at (248) 370-2550 or **finaid@oakland.edu**. ■

Growing the business

OU's incubator ramps up efforts to nurture new companies in the region *By Rene Wisely*

Photos by Sarah Blanchette

Mike Sikorski, hardware engineer with OU INC client iTrack, fabricates a component for a customer's navigation system.

Housed in the historic Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion — the former horse barn of OU founder Matilda Dodge Wilson — OU INC provides a supportive environment for growing new start-up companies.

Even before setting foot in the door, Jerry Atkinson sees subtle evidence of OU INC's success.

Atkinson, the chief executive officer of iTrack, a manufacturer of autonomous navigation systems, says he increasingly has trouble finding a close parking spot near his company's office, located in the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion on Oakland University's east campus.

"It's a good problem to have," Atkinson says with a shrug and a smile.

He should know. As one of its first tenants, Atkinson has witnessed the evolution of OU INC, the university's business incubator/accelerator, since 2006, when it began to provide regional entrepreneurs with an environment in which to start, maintain and grow new businesses.

Not only does the incubator offer business advice, flexible office space, access to laboratories, testing facilities and conference rooms, it also helps analyze the business, including its intellectual property. It also lends a hand in securing funding and offering business development programs and university brain power to help companies launch and grow.

Mission control

Things really began to click for OU INC in July 2011, after its mission was strategically defined. It had just been made part of the School of Engineering and Computer Science and aligned with the Clean Energy Research/Innovation Center. Under new guidance, its operating model was refocused on helping businesses solve problems in the fields of clean energy, medical devices and information technology.

This new emphasis quickly rekindled local interest in this SmartZone Business Accelerator and Clean Energy Research Center, and the buzz started to grow. The incubator has fielded 451 business services inquiries since its inception; nearly half of those came in the 2011-12 year alone.

It also forged partnerships with the City of Rochester Hills, Mich., the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Oakland County and Automation Alley, a technology business association that is focused on driving the growth and image of Southeast Michigan's economy.

This progress so impressed Rochester Hills city officials that they named it "Innovator of the Year" in 2012. This award, presented by the Mayor's Business Council, recognizes the company or individual that has demonstrated the ability to innovate, lead and deliver new technologies, products or services, according to Mayor Bryan Barnett, an OU alum.

"They step up and fill the gap with expertise that the city doesn't have," says Barnett, SBA '98. "Not many cities can boast about having an incubator, so it really sets Rochester Hills apart."

Energy boost

To iTrack's Atkinson, much of the recent success is due to OU INC's executive director, Amy Butler, CAS '77, who has led the incubator since June 2011.

Amy Butler

"She's brought incredible energy to the place," he observes. "I've seen the difference. Today, people are constantly coming in and out of the building. There's activity and things are happening."

Indeed, they are happening for iTrack, as well. The company patented a tracking system that functions where GPS navigation won't. Then OU INC helped the company to secure funding and find new markets for its technology. One recent business win came from defense contractor Northrop Grumman for an airborne drone project.

"We expect to reach $1 million in sales in 2013," Atkinson says.

That's pure music to Butler's ears. "I feel this is the perfect job for me because I'm always helping people," says the director, who, prior to joining OU, ran Michigan's Bureau of Energy Systems, where she aligned the state's energy sector initiatives, promoting economic growth and job creation as part of the transition to the energy economy.

Her background in energy has been invaluable to new client GreenLancer Energy Inc., a Detroit-based company which has a network of freelance energy experts across the globe who customize clean energy systems for any project.

"Amy has done some hand-holding with us, whether it's helping us craft the right language in applying for funding or educating us as to how to negotiate our term sheets," says Michael Sharber, co-founder and CEO of GreenLancer.

Good reputation

Sharber said his experience with OU INC has proven how important the university is for the region and how its presence helps OU's reputation.

"I really didn't know a lot about Oakland University before, but after seeing its commitment to helping businesses succeed and its focus on clean energy, I think more highly of it," he says. "I feel lucky it's in the community."

So, too, does Michael Cavanaugh, general manager of Auburn Hills, Mich.-based Linares Medical Devices, another OU INC client. The company has developed plastic-based orthopedic hardware, shipping containers and energy devices. He believes the company's connection to the university helps boost its credibility.

"The stuff we're coming out with in energy is so mind-boggling that we've asked OU to help us verify tests to show people these things do what we say they do, because nobody's going to believe us," Cavanaugh says. "OU gives us that credibility factor, that prestige."

For more information about OU INC, visit **oakland.edu/ouinc.** ■

Rene Wisely is a freelance writer from West Bloomfield, Mich.

High school students attend the School of Engineering and Computer Science Summer Workshop, which is hosted by OU INC. The workshops are part of an outreach effort to interest them in careers in engineering and science.

A N N O U N C I N G

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Building on a more than 50-year relationship with Oakland University, MSU Federal Credit Union announces a strengthened partnership to be the exclusive financial services provider for OU students, staff and alumni beginning in January 2014.

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Tackling student apathy *By Mike Lerchenfeldt, SEHS '08*

Mike Lerchenfeldt

If we are to address one major issue facing our schools, it must be student apathy toward education and its relationship to parental involvement and poverty.

Twenty percent of American children live in poverty, a major problem facing our institution. Since there is a relationship between economic advantage and student performance, students from disadvantaged households are more likely to develop feelings of apathy.

Many students who struggle lack parental involvement at home. Many do not have the necessary structure and discipline to become successful students. They struggle with organization and time management skills needed to complete assignments in a timely manner.

Our staff consistently contacts the homes of struggling learners to see if the parents are accessing their child's grades online. Unfortunately, for various reasons — or excuses — many are not.

Many parents are not able to be home with their child due to work commitments or other involvements. They may feel that their child's education is a low priority. If a parent acts at home like education is unimportant, or is unable to help the child become a successful student, the child tends to become apathetic toward formal education.

Apathetic students do not pursue due dates or appreciate the significance of obtaining an education. They simply don't care. They may be overwhelmed with the class assignments, their home life, or other commitments in and out of school. Parents of these students either make their choices for them or are not involved enough.

My colleagues and I determined that student apathy could be caused by a lack of connection between the student and the classroom or the teacher. Teachers and education support staff must make personal connections with students outside of class in order to increase engagement and avoid the building of apathy. We should support our students' extracurricular activities and show our excitement when we ask about their passions and goals.

My biggest challenge has been giving each student the attention he or she deserves as the number of students in my classroom rises due to cuts in state funding. I donate numerous hours of my time to help my students before or after class, especially if they return to homes where their parents do not help with homework.

There is only so much that we as educators can do. A child's education begins at home with their parents and continues in the classroom. When a child does begin school, parents need to be there for support and encouragement. ●

Mike Lerchenfeldt teaches math, science and reading enhancement classes at Iroquois Middle School in the Chippewa Valley School District. (mrlerchenfeldt.weebly.com)

He was featured in the article "Teacher Tech" in the Spring/Summer 2012 OU Magazine.

If you've read *OU Magazine* in the past, you know we like to hear from our readers.
Sometimes they comment on stories, sometimes they just drop us a line to share experiences they've had at OU.
Drop us a note. We'd like to hear from you, too, at **oumag@oakland.edu**.

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Alumni Association

OUAA Board of Directors

Board Chair:
John Hruska Jr., SBA '89, BGS '86

Bryan Barnett, SBA '98
Beth Benson, SBA '81
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Adam Kochenderfer, CAS '02
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Teresa Stayer, SHS '84
Johnna Struck, SBA '85
Anthony Thornton, CAS '76

We would like to extend our appreciation to our board members for their hard work, dedication and generous giving of their time and talent to our alumni programs.

Alumni, we want to hear from you! Send us the latest information about you and your accomplishments for future publication in Class Notes. You may also include a photo, either a print or high resolution (300 dpi) digital file.

To submit new information, go to **oualumni.com** and click on "Update Your Record." You can also mail your update to: Oakland University Alumni Engagement, John Dodge House, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester, MI 48309-4497. Class Notes are printed on a space-available basis.

OUAA upcoming events

English alumni mentoring program

The Department of English launched an alumni mentoring program this past fall. It pairs alumni from the English department with OU seniors in English based on their experience and interest. In total, there were 35 mentor and mentee pairs who communicated by email, Skype and face-to-face. "It's fun and helpful for the students," says Annie Gilson, associate professor of English. "The good news is that a number of students who were mentored this year have landed jobs and are now going to be mentors themselves!" To participate in the English mentor program, please contact Annie Gilson at gilson@oakland.edu.

Stay connected to the OUAA

Be social and stay in the loop. You can stay connected to fellow classmates and your alma mater through these online social networks.

"Like" our Facebook Fan Page

- Stay informed about OU campus news and events
- Meet other alumni and friends and view photos
- Participate in sharing your memories and stories for the chance to win prizes

"Connect" on LinkedIn

- Share career tips and explore employment options
- Discover inside connections and past and present colleagues
- Connect with Oakland alumni, faculty, staff and students

"Follow" us on Twitter

- Find the latest campus news
- Stay connected about upcoming events

Visit **oualumni.com** to find OUAA on social media.

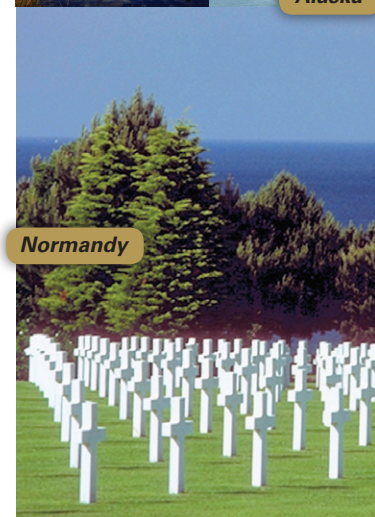
Samba Rhythms

Mt. Rushmore

Alpine

Grand Tetons

Alaska



Normandy

Holland

OU Night at Comerica Park

Wednesday, August 21, 2013

Join fellow alumni and friends for the eighth annual OU Night at Comerica Park. Ticket prices are $35 per person and include buffet and game ticket.

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with an all-you-can-eat buffet on Party Deck 1. At 7:05 p.m., find your seats for the first pitch of the game between the Detroit Tigers and the Minnesota Twins.

Join us on the charter bus for hassle-free transportation to the game. It leaves from OU's campus at 4 p.m. Seating is limited and costs $10 per person (in addition to your ticket). The bus is equipped with air-conditioning, Wi-Fi and a restroom. Please visit **grizzlink.oualumni.com/events** to register.

2014 travel program

Pack your suitcase and your love for learning when you travel with Oakland University Grizzly Getaway Alumni Travel. Choose from extraordinary places to explore and immerse yourself in the history, art, culture and cuisine in faraway corners of the globe. You'll be in good company when sharing your travel experience with fellow OU alumni with a mutual interest in discovery and adventure.

2014 Grizzly Getaways travel schedule:

- Samba Rhythms – March 16, 2014
- Tahitian Jewels – March 25, 2014
- Waterways of Holland and Belgium – April 6, 2014
- 70th Anniversary of Normandy – May 6, 2014
- Shades of Ireland – May 18, 2014
- National Parks and Lodges of the Old West – June 7, 2014
- Cruising the Baltic Sea – June 20, 2014
- Discover Southeast Alaska – August 16, 2014
- Alpine Lakes and Scenic Trains – Sept. 26, 2014
- Flavors of Northern Italy – Oct. 4, 2014

For more information on the Grizzly Getaway Program, please visit **oualumni.com/travel**.

Flavors of Italy

Bora Bora

Amelia Jackson

Casey Kepczynski

Amanda Kauppila

From left, OU alum Nihal Goonewardene, CAS '72, with Dr. Zoran Jolevski, the current Ambassador of Macedonia, and Dave Archbold, director of ISSO.

Scholarship recipients

Through the OUAA Scholarship Program, more and more students are able to achieve their dream of pursuing an OU degree. For the 2013-14 academic year, the OUAA has awarded $60,000 in scholarships to 21 OU students. The OUAA proudly announces the 2013-14 scholarship recipients:

Legacy Scholarship

- Amanda Kauppila of Waterford, Mich.
- Casey Kepczynski of Rochester Hills, Mich.
- Amelia Jackson of Ortonville, Mich.

Frances C. Amos School of Business Administration Alumni Scholarship

- Dariusz Nowak of Sterling Heights, Mich.

Thomas A. Yatooma Alumni Memorial Scholarship for the School of Engineering and Computer Science

- Kendal Novak of Romeo, Mich.

College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Scholarship

- Kelsey Ball of Grand Rapids, Mich.
- Samantha Cassisi of Shelby Township, Mich.

School of Business Administration Alumni Scholarship

- Matthew Listrom of Clinton Township, Mich.

School of Education and Human Services Alumni Scholarship

- Rina Sadik of Sterling Heights, Mich.

School of Engineering and Computer Science

- Daniela Martignani of Rochester, Mich.

School of Health Sciences Alumni Scholarship

- Ayaz Khan of Rochester Hills, Mich.

School of Nursing Alumni Scholarship

- Kristie Harms of Riley, Mich.

Honors College Alumni Scholarship

- Jacqueline Spezia of Corunna, Mich.

Black Alumni Scholarship

- Demisha Jackson of Eastpointe, Mich.

Returning Alumni Scholarship

- Lisa Morris of Northville, Mich.
- Bradley Reichelt of Royal Oak, Mich.

Working Student Scholarship

- Alexandria Faber of Rochester, Mich.
- Alyssa Fedewa of Pewamo, Mich.
- Susan Gleich of Sterling Heights, Mich.
- Katie Lukovich of Clarkston, Mich.
- Samantha Wolf of Livonia, Mich.

The money for these scholarships is provided through generous donations and revenue earned from OUAA events and programs. To make an impact on a student's experience, please visit oakland.edu/give.

Networking events

Networking events offer the chance to catch up with fellow alumni and learn about the advances OU is making in educating students. On April 5, 2013, the School of Business Administration (SBA) presented "Citizenship in the Age of the Internet: A forum on global understanding," featuring student presentations, a consulate-general panel discussion and an alumni networking reception.

Last May, the SBA hosted three networking events around the Metro Detroit area as an opportunity to acknowledge Dean Mohan Tanniru's six years of service as dean. He will transition his leadership of the SBA to a new dean for the 2013-14 academic year.

On April 23, 2013, the OUAA held an evening reception for alumni members who had visited 17 embassies in Washington, D.C. Dean Louay Chamra, School of Engineering and Computer Science, hosted the event, along with staff members from OU's graduate and undergraduate admissions offices. The ambassador of Macedonia attended the reception and shared OU partnership plans with Dean Chamra to the nearly 30 alumni and friends. "I'm so happy that happenstance brought me to Rochester from Tokyo in the fall of 1968," said **Nihal Goonewardene, CAS '72**, event attendee. "It appears that the spirit and generosity of purpose that imbued the OU of 1968 is still true today."

For information on upcoming networking opportunities, check out **oualumni.com** and click on Events.

David McGhee

Maria Willett

Student leadership awards

The OUAA honored graduating senior leaders who demonstrated passion for Oakland University through their service at the 35th annual Student Activities and Leadership Awards on April 8, 2013. **David McGhee, CAS '05**, was the master of ceremonies and keynote speaker.

Two outstanding seniors, Amanda Kmetz and Maria Willett, were recognized with the Promising Future Alumni Award, which represents exceptional leadership and great promise to stay connected and engaged in the life of the university upon graduation. Kmetz plans to become an Alumni Admissions Ambassador so she can share her positive OU experience with future Golden Grizzlies. Willett wants to take advantage of all the opportunities the Alumni Association has to offer by becoming an active member of the Young Alumni Leadership Committee.

John Hruska

Alumni engagement strategic plan announcement

Over the past year, the Oakland University Alumni Association Board of Directors has developed a strategic plan that offers a framework enabling the OUAA to engage alumni and support the university for years to come. This plan will enhance the visibility of OU among alumni and its community partners and will support and help develop programs; present and assist with volunteer initiatives; host opportunities to connect alumni and the community; and assist with cultivating financial support to the university.

The plan consists of four strategic directions:

- Create opportunities that enhance visibility and deliver positive public opinion about OU
- Support networking opportunities for alumni, students and friends
- Assist with philanthropy efforts
- Engage alumni and the community in ways that will enhance recruitment efforts and attract the best, brightest and most diverse students to OU

Please join me in participating in the life of the university in a way that is meaningful for you. Visit **oualumni.com** for upcoming opportunities.

Best wishes,
John Hruska, MBA '89, BGS '86
Chair, OUAA Board of Directors

SAVE THE DATE

The OUAA will honor alumni achievements in business, community service, volunteerism and more at the annual Alumni Awards Banquet on Friday, Oct. 25, 2013. For more information, please visit **oualumni.com/OUAAawards**.

Show your Golden Grizzly pride on Facebook by adding an OUAA cover photo to your profile.

- "Like" the Oakland University Alumni Association Facebook page.
- Under the photo album section, click on the OUAA cover photos.
- Save your favorite image to your desktop.
- Upload your new cover photo to your Facebook page.
- Share your pride with fellow Golden Grizzlies.

Meet the motivators

To help attract talented students to Oakland University, a growing corps of volunteers is involved in the Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program (AAAP). More than 350 alumni who reside in more than 20 different states are volunteer members of the AAAP. "The Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program is a fantastic opportunity for alumni to stay connected to OU," says Denae May, program coordinator, AAAP.

"By assisting in the recruitment efforts of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, our alumni volunteers are engaging prospective students and families both locally and around the United States. The enthusiasm our alumni have for Oakland, as well as their personal success stories, can make a sizable difference for students exploring their college options."

Collectively, these ambassadors have contributed close to 800 volunteer service hours to the university at more than 115 undergraduate recruitment events. Below, we hear from two ambassadors who are helping to spread the message about OU.

Ara

Ara Kachadourian, CAS '97, graduated with a bachelor's degree in communication. Today, he is a wealth manager living in the Los Angeles area. A native of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., he credits OU with giving him a strong educational foundation upon which to build a successful career. He says he is amazed at the growth that OU has made in the past decade with the addition of a law school and the medical school. He wears his OU Black and Gold proudly in southern California, where he attends college fairs on behalf of OU.

"I've been an ambassador at networking events and college nights, speaking with parents and high school students about why they should look at Oakland University. They are frequently amazed to learn about the opportunities in Michigan, in particular, by attending Oakland University. The AAAP experience impacts my life by bringing me closer to home. I intend on being involved with Oakland University as an ambassador and advocate for them in years and decades to come."

Favorite part of being an ambassador

"I love helping and mentoring young people, so anything that I can volunteer to do that, I will. Being an ambassador is especially rewarding when you know that both the students and parents you are talking to appreciate your help and what you have to say."

Memorable AAAP moment

"In the first event that I attended with members of the Southern California Alumni Association, we had the opportunity to cheer on the OU men's basketball team against UCLA."

How OU benefits from AAAP

"More people are able to hear the Oakland University story. It also helps create an engaged alumni association, which is essential to cultivating and promoting strategic alliances."

Elspeth

Elspeth Coats, SBA '91, grew up in Grand Rapids, Mich., and now resides in Rochester Hills, Mich. For two years, she has helped point the way to OU in her role as an alumni admissions ambassador. When attending AAAP events where she talks to parents and students, she says she always leaves those events feeling energized.

How AAAP impacts my life

"I always feel great after volunteering. You don't have to be at an AAAP event to share your love of OU. Tell people wherever you are!"

Memorable AAAP moment

"I love the 'Go for the Gold' programs. I get to talk to so many people that are really asking great questions and interested in Oakland. I also enjoy welcoming freshman students to the residence halls on Move-In Day, handing out water and giving directions. This year I got to speak with a father who was concerned about his son living on campus. I assured him by telling him about all the opportunities that living on campus gives him."

For information on joining the AAAP, go to **oakland.edu/aaap** *or contact Denae May at dmmay@oakland.edu or (248) 370-4749.*

Alumni and friends gather at Winter College

Alumni, faculty and friends traveled to Bonita Springs, Fla., for this year's Winter College gathering, held Feb. 14–16, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa. What was the consensus among those who attended the Valentine's Day weekend event? They loved it.

"Like everything Oakland University does, it was first-class," says **Barbara Gough, SEHS '92,** a former OU instructor of Human Resource Development, who attended with her husband, Allen, for the second time. "The presentations were great and the atmosphere was very friendly. I'd recommend it to anybody."

Following a welcome reception hosted by the OU Alumni Association on Thursday evening, there were five courses for the attendees to experience over the long weekend:

- **Live Long, Live Well**
  Kenneth Hightower, Dean and Professor, School of Health Sciences
- **The Way Forward: Re-balancing the U.S. Economy**
  Jonathan Silberman, Professor of Economics, School of Business Administration
- **Presidential Politics 2013**
  David Dulio, Professor and Chair, Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences
- **The Secrets of Lasting Love**
  Terri Orbuch, Professor of Sociology, College of Arts and Sciences, and Fox-2 TV Detroit's popular relationship adviser
- **Mini Medical School**
  Robert Noiva, Associate Dean for Medical Education and Associate Professor, Biomedical Sciences, Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine

Along with the courses, alumni and guests could attend a special dinner on Saturday evening that featured a comprehensive university update. They were encouraged to take advantage of the resort's spa and golf course, which included special instruction from Bill Rogers, PGA professional, golf and managing director, Oakland University Golf & Learning Center.

The whole experience was well worth the time, says Teresa Stayer, SHS '84 and OUAA board member. She attended each course and thoroughly enjoyed reuniting with fellow alumni.

"Dr. Hightower enlightened us on metabolic disorders, and at lunch we had a fantastic overview of last fall's elections told from both perspectives," she reported. "We were given a hypothetical patient case and were to role-play a doctor going through the differential diagnosis process in the medical school presentation. Additionally, the analysis of the U.S. economy was very informative as well as clearly presented."

While each session was interesting, Stayer adds that her favorite course was The Secrets of Lasting Love. "I've been happily married for 24 years, but I still learned something. The little things do matter!"

Winter College was as enlightening as it was relaxing, agrees Gough, who, with her husband, continues to support OU with a scholarship given to non-traditional students and by sponsoring dinners for the new Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine.

"Winter College is a chance to hear more about how OU is doing, hear future plans, interact with faculty and just have fun," she says. ●

Legacy project improves lives while honoring a lost classmate

One could say that **Ashley Lorano, SEHS '10**, has a knack for turning heartache into hope. After experiencing a deep personal loss, she could have remained saddled with a debilitating grief. Instead, she's turned tragedy into a potent force for good works.

In the span of two years, the 26-year-old Sterling Heights, Mich., native has founded two orphanages in India, thanks to her fundraising efforts with Party with a Purpose, her grassroots charity organization. Lorano was inspired to start her charity following the death of her close friend and fellow OU student, Daniella Saveski, from a rare form of cancer.

"When I lost my best friend, it opened up my heart to all the tragedy and heartache in the world," Lorano recalls. "I wanted to find a way to help others through my pain."

Lorano found a perfect partner in Angel House, a Rochester, Mich.-based nonprofit group that has opened 35 orphanages and housed almost 1,000 children. The organization is committed to rescuing India's orphan population – which reportedly numbers around 25 million – from perils of poverty, disease and exploitation.

Lorano established her first rescue orphanage in 2011 after raising more than $11,000. Her second orphanage opened last December in Hyderabad, India.

Lorano organizes her signature Party with a Purpose fundraisers to bring in donations. Last year, she threw a backyard party attended by more than 200 people and helped raise $16,816, which funded the opening of a second orphanage. To mark their homecoming, the children received postcards with personalized messages from Party with a Purpose supporters, along with purple bracelets in memory of Saveski.

"Working with Angel House has been an immensely rewarding and eye-opening experience," says Lorano. "It's truly a blessing to carry on Daniella's legacy by providing children with resources that many of us take for granted."

She notes that this year's Party with a Purpose event will raise funds to build a playground at JJ's House, a foster and adoption home in Detroit.

Lorano's humanitarian endeavors have drawn praise from civic and community organizations. She was named a Distinguished Volunteer by the Association of Fundraising Professionals and received the Civic Leadership Award from the Twilight Benefit Foundation. Last summer, she was honored as a RARE Everyday Hero by Winning Futures, a nonprofit youth mentoring program. The award celebrates everyday people in the workplace who are changing lives and inspiring others.

For more about Lorano's ongoing charity efforts, visit her Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Party-with-a-Purpose/304323999597245. ■

By Eric Reikowski

MSU-O Is Called A Trend Setter

570 Enrolled In Charter Class At MSU-O

Student Group Maps Plans for A Government

Charter Class memories: a first time for everything

As teenagers fresh out of high school, Oakland University's Charter Class members took on the task of creating their own college experiences — without guidance from upperclassmen — while the school was being built around them.

Fifty years later, with their reunion approaching this fall, Charter Class graduates are looking back with a sense of pride and accomplishment for breaking new ground.

When it comes to OU students, Lynne Anderson Ruth is No. 1. Literally.

"I was interviewed and chosen to be the first student to register," says Ruth, who majored in education. "You know you're a part of something new when your student number is 000001."

Being a part of something so new wasn't for everyone — at least not in the beginning. Charter Class member Mary Stewart Lanier had dreamed of living away from home on an ivy-covered campus. "But I was informed by my parents that I would enroll in a not-yet-existent college and commute," she says. "I thought my life had ended."

"However, it turned out to be so wonderful," says the art history major and former OU switchboard operator. "That fall when I got to school and started my classes, the turnaround was almost immediate. And now, there is not a day that goes by that I don't use something I learned there."

As the class settled in to challenging courses taught by young and enthusiastic professors, the students began to enhance their days with outside interests and create college traditions.

For example, Ruth worked on the committee that helped form the first Student Senate. She also used her love of music to help form the first University Chorus, a group that sang with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

"We did it, or it didn't happen," says Ruth. "It was a great opportunity to create leaders."

The experience was unique, from walking on boards laid over the muddy campus still under construction to seeing farm animals fenced in an area that would become the library, says Al Monetta, a Charter Class member whose $500 scholarship covered his entire first year.

One of the most special experiences the Charter Class members had was getting to know OU founder Matilda Dodge Wilson. Monetta says he exchanged Christmas cards with Wilson until her death, and that her fond interest in the students lasted even after graduation.

Monetta, an education major, had moved to Los Angeles for a teaching job and was living with several other Charter Class graduates when they learned that Wilson was going to attend an event in L.A.

"So about eight of us took her out for dinner," he says. "We had a great time. She was very personable."

Charter Class 50th reunion events are planned for Sept. 13-14, 2013. For more information, visit **oakland.edu/charterclass** or call (248) 364-6130. ●

Join us Sept. 13-14 for the Charter Class Reunion!

CHARTER CLASS

50th Reunion

2013

Career/Accomplishments

1960s

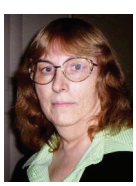
Nancy C. (Rindfusz) Maxwell, CAS '67, retired in June 2012 after 18 years of teaching French at Newtown Middle School in Newtown, Conn. Maxwell holds a master's degree in French from Fairfield University, which included studies at Le Collège de Ste. Geneviève in Versailles, France. During her teaching career, she twice accompanied high school student groups to France, and for 11 years she led middle school student groups to Quebec and Montreal. She wishes to thank retired OU French professor Donald Iodice for his encouragement and recommendation when she was applying to school systems in Connecticut in the spring of 1967. "Professor Iodice doesn't know it, but he changed my life," Maxwell says. She and her husband, Tom, have three grown sons, Tom, in Dallas, Tex.; Scott, in American Canyon, Calif.; and Daniel, a captain in the U.S. Army, most recently in Afghanistan and now stationed in Germany.

Luther Wilson, Jr., CAS '64, retired after 45 years in book publishing. During the last 30 years of his career, he held positions as director of University of New Mexico Press, Syracuse University Press, University Press of Colorado and, again, University of New Mexico Press. He was a Peace Corps volunteer serving in the Dominican Republic from 1965-66 immediately after graduation.

1970s

Ralph H. Pierce, CAS '70, retired in 2010 after 40 years of teaching at Bath Community Schools in Bath, Mich.

1980s



Nancy (Victory) A. Crayne, MBA '86, published her first novel, *Reluctant Spy*, a story of espionage and science fiction. More novels with protagonist Jake Dani are to come.

Lisa M. Flynn, CAS '89, was named interim vice president of medical affairs at Harper University Hospital and Hutzel Women's Hospital in Detroit, Mich., in March 2013. Flynn completed her residency in general surgery and a vascular surgery fellowship at Wayne State University/DMC. She has served as the assistant residency program director of general surgery and is currently the chief of the surgical ICU at Harper-Hutzel Hospital. She has also served two tours of duty in Iraq as chief of trauma surgery and vascular surgery for her units. She is well-published in surgical literature and is currently pursuing a master of science degree in health care ethics at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb.

Lisa M. Flynn

Leslie G. Griffen, CAS '82 and **'70,** retired from his position in business development at the Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City in Kansas City, Mo., in December 2011 and is now focused on giving back.

David E. Walker, CAS '86, published his first novel, *Tessa's Dance*, a remarkable story of a 15-year-old Yakama Indian girl. He is currently working on completing its sequel, *Signal Peak*. Walker worked with the Indian Health Service for four years and, since 2000, has served as a consulting psychologist to the Yakama Nation in central Washington state. He has contributed scholarly works toward tracing mental health practice as an oppressive force in Native America. He is also a singer-songwriter and a poet with three compact discs to his credit, and he performs occasionally under the pseudonyms of David Folks and David Folks Walker. Walker received his doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Detroit Mercy in 1992. He lives in Seattle, Wash., with his family.

Timothy P. Wallace, CAS '83 and '76, recently published a history of the Catholic Church in the U.S. since the Second Vatican Council, entitled *The Smoke of Satan in the Temple of God*.

1990s

Scott M. Dendler, SBA '90, recently moved from Texas to Arkansas and started his own business. He owns and runs a guest retreat in Eureka Springs, Ark., the Serenity Hilltop Retreat.

Kirsten B. (Olsen) O'Donnell, CAS '92, was named to the board of directors of the Florida Sled Hockey Association, an organization that provides opportunities for people with physical disabilities to play competitive ice hockey.

Sharon A. (Anthony) Stark, SON '94 and **SECS '82,** has made use of both of her degrees in her current role as clinical informatics manager for Methodist McKinney Hospital in McKinney, Tex.

Daniel T. Suitor, SEHS '97 and **'93,** received his Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Kansas in March 2013.

Dawn M. (Berger) Surma, BGS '95, married in 1995 and has three children, ages 14, 12 and 7. She established an IT consulting business, Lyric Technology, LLC, in 2011.

2000s

Craig M. Frohock, MBA '00 and **SECS '97,** was appointed general manager, North America, for Meritor, Inc. Frohock will be responsible for the planning, organization and implementation of all sales, business strategies and policies in North America for the aftermarket and trailer business.

Allison N. (Ashley) Geary, CAS '08, is currently a mother, translator and travel writer.

Thomas R. Nafso, SBA '06, has joined Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette's office as an assistant attorney general after spending three years as an assistant prosecuting attorney at the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. He brings with him the experience he has gained from prosecuting hundreds of cases and trying more than 30 felony jury trials, ranging from homicide to narcotics distribution. Nafso graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law in 2009, where he earned his juris doctor and master's in business administration.

Nancy M. Vitale, CAS '01, just launched a new production company called Eyes Up Here Productions, which is based in New York City. Her first project is a short film that Vitale has written called *Running With Sharks*. Vitale continues to serve as producing artistic director for Noor Theatre, which is dedicated to supporting, developing and presenting the work of theatre artists of Middle Eastern descent. This spring, Noor Theatre presented *The Myth Project*. She is married to architect Jason Van Nest, and they live on the Upper West Side of New York City.

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"Music is my passion and it's just who I am."

CAS grad has a passion for poetry and performance of music

He possesses the soul of a musician and poet, but the passions of **Pato Margetic, CAS '07**, didn't fully blossom until his time at Oakland University.

Margetic earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in communication, but he also discovered an inner voice that longed to find a proper means for expression.

"I learned how to engage with people and be more confident expressing myself in public," he says of his time in CAS. "I always had the passion for music and it helped bring it out."

Margetic taught himself to play guitar at age 12 and started setting his own poetry to music a few years later. He also taught himself to sing and harmonize with his music.

While Margetic was studying at OU, Kellie Hay, associate professor of communication and journalism, urged him to take a performance class and incorporate his guitar into every project he could.

"Being a musician is about more than just playing," says Margetic. "When you're performing, you want to get your emotion and the point of the song across, and a lot of that is body language and acting and communication."

The experience was liberating and gave Margetic the confidence he needed to take it to the next level. He has already made strong strides toward his dream of being a successful musician, having released four albums on his own and recently signed a production deal to record music that could lead to a major label release.

The video for his song "Cold" made it to No. 3 on the MTV video countdown, placing him in the MTV artist catalog, and he opened for the rock band Kansas at the 2012-13 New Year's Eve celebration in Atlanta, performing for 100,000 people. He's been making a name for himself in other ways, too. Last year, he was named Michigan's Eligible Bachelor of the Year by *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

A year from now, Margetic hopes to be at the Grammy Awards, even if it's just as an attendee. But 10 years from now? He dreams of having several major-label albums under his belt and touring the world.

"Music really is in my soul," says Margetic. "I wake up every day thinking 'What song am I going to write today?' or 'What song am I going to work on?' Music is my passion and it's just who I am."

Visit **oakland.edu/oumag** to view a performance by Pato Margetic. For his website, go to patomotown.com. ■

By Amy Lynn Smith, a freelance writer from Birmingham, Mich.

Photo courtesy of Pato Margetic

Alumni couple goes against the grain to put bread on the table

One could say that Louise and Jim Westcott are fulfilling a community knead. The couple, both OU alums, opened a Great Harvest Bread Company franchise in their hometown of Lake Orion, Mich., last October. The move meant abandoning the security offered by corporate employment in order to realize a dream.

For **Jim Westcott, MBA '89, SBA '82,** the transition from working as a property manager for 30 years to bakery owner is a big jump — but somehow feels so right. He managed Somerset Collection in Troy, Mich., for 11 years, and, before that, Summit Place in Waterford and Meadow Brook Village Mall in Rochester Hills.

"A friend had mentioned there hasn't been a real bakery in Lake Orion in 30 years and suggested we look into Great Harvest," he says. "One of our challenges is getting people to understand what a good, old-fashioned bakery is about. Everything here is handcrafted. We also wanted to create a comfortable gathering place with music, Wi-Fi, sandwiches and a full coffee service."

To secure the franchise, the Westcotts had to pitch a new product to the Montana-based company. They presented a marketing plan that localized and adapted an existing bread recipe of spinach, Parmesan cheese and red peppers.

"We call it Dragon Bread, since dragons are the mascot of Lake Orion's high school football team," explains **Louise (DePorre) Westcott, SBA '82,** who also has a paralegal certificate from OU and works as director of the National Catholic Council on Addictions.

She says the marketing process took them back to their senior year at OU. They met in a management strategies class and were partners on a project to develop a line of sports equipment.

"It was no coincidence that we were partners," admits Jim, who acknowledges having worked a little behind the scenes to ensure they were paired together.

Now with three children, including sons, Dan and Mike, and daughter, Renee, who will be a senior at OU this fall studying history and Spanish, the Westcotts are looking for ways to keep growing their bakery.

"The key to success is community involvement and getting to know what the community wants," says Jim. "We try to stay very involved."

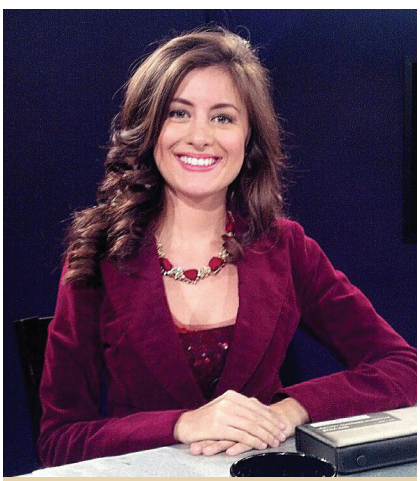
That goes for their commitment to OU as well, he adds. They remain staunch supporters to this day. ■

By Alice Rhein, a freelance writer from Huntington Woods, Mich.

continued from p. 44

Michael C. Zimmerman, CAS '09, published his first novel, *Dracula's Apprentice,* historical fiction that takes place in 18th-century Eastern Europe. Zimmerman lives in Surprise, Ariz., with his wife, Jamie, and their daughter, Lilah. He teaches social studies to 8th graders, and government and economics to 12th graders.

2010s



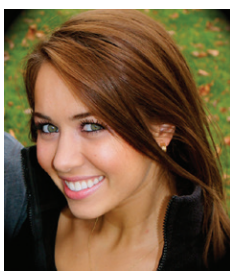
Savana S. Ciavatta, CAS '13, was offered a job in her field of study prior to graduating in spring 2013. She is working at WLNS-TV 6 in Lansing, Mich., as an on-air reporter.

Jeremy R. Duby, MM '10, was named director of bands at Olivet College in Olivet, Mich., in March 2013. Duby is responsible for continuing to build Olivet's strong instrumental music program and multiple ensembles. He supports the music program faculty and admissions staff in recruiting music students to Olivet and serves as director of the athletic band. He has received numerous awards and recognition for his accomplishments in music and education, including a proclamation from the Macomb County Board of Commissioners for his outstanding contributions.

Alex J. Egle, CAS '10, is part of the 361st Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron of the United States Air Force and was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Jessica M. Getchell, SEHS '12, is an art educator with an International Baccalaureate Award Level 1. She also works as an independent consultant for Mary Kay Cosmetics.

Gregory D. Hofelich, CAS '11, earned the title of United States Marine after graduating from recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, S.C. For 13 weeks, Hofelich stayed committed during some of the world's most demanding entry-level military training in order to be transformed from civilian to Marine. A week before graduation, Hofelich endured The Crucible, a 54-hour final test of recruits' minds and bodies. Upon completion, recruits are presented the Marine Corps emblem and called Marines for the first time.



Ameena Sheikh-Walczak, CAS '11, was accepted at Wayne State University Law School in Detroit, Mich., with the Dean's Scholarship, and was also accepted at Michigan State University Law School with a Trustee Scholarship. She was a national- and international-level figure skater during high school and her time at Oakland. Her parents, **Amy Sheikh, MBA '12** and **CAS '10** and Dr. Hamid Sheikh, are very proud of her.

Quincy N. Stewart, CAS '11, is a band instructor at Detroit Central High School. He is holding his own in one of the toughest teaching demographics in the state, due to the excellent training he received at OU in music education as well as performance, especially the jazz band and instruction. He feels he came well-prepared with an OU degree.

Engagements & Weddings

Brian J. December, SEHS '10, is engaged to Kaylee Dobbs and planning to wed on Oct. 19, 2013. They welcomed their daughter, Joanna L. December, on Sept. 19, 2012.

Angela C. Ruth, CAS '02, was engaged to Andrew Haig on Dec. 27, 2012, on top of Shibaozhai Pagoda in Zhong County, Chongqing, China. They married on June 15, 2013, at Indianwood Golf and Country Club in Lake Orion, Mich.

Births/Adoptions

Amy M. (Miller) Rutledge, SBA '08 and **'03**, and **CAS '03**, and her husband, Dan, recently welcomed their first child, Emma, in April 2013. Rutledge works for Oakland University as a Special Instructor of MIS and has co-authored two textbooks, *Practical Computing 3rd edition* and *Exploring Microsoft Office 2013*.

Navjeet Neena (Bhullar) Silles, CAS '08, and her husband are proud to announce the birth of their son, Brodie Alastair Amanpreet Silles, on April 27, 2013. Silles recently started the M.S. program for Exercise Science in Winter 2013.

Melissa (Spurrier) Stewart, SEHS '02, and her husband, Mark, welcomed her daughter, Melia Rose Stewart, on Jan. 20, 2012. She joined big sister Maryn Ann Stewart.

Deaths

1960s

Jill D. (Barlow) Bastian, CAS '68, on Jan. 13, 2013

Fred Korzon, CAS '63, on Feb. 16, 2013

William Woods, Jr., SEHS '63, on Dec. 11, 2012

1970s

Jane L. Anderson, MAT '76, on March 2, 2013

Mary Breidenich, MAT '74, on Sept. 21, 2012

Penelope E. Burmann, CAS '71, on Nov. 18, 2012

Kathryn L. (Watson) Dunstan, CAS '76, on March 28, 2013

Berta Fitzpatrick, CAS '72, on Aug. 27, 2012

Judith A. Jacobs, MAT '76, on Sept. 10, 2012

Marilyn Kaestner, MAT '76, on Nov. 13, 2012

Doris B. Kashtan, MA '75, on Feb. 18, 2013

Donna M. Leszcz, SEHS '74, on Sept. 7, 2012

Jane Maddox, MA '75, on Dec. 16, 2012

Dorothy I. Nesse, MA '75, on Jan. 15, 2013

Thomas A. Persha, SECS '75 and **'69,** on Nov. 5, 2012

Ruth G. Priestley, CAS '73, on March 5, 2013

Edwin J. Rafferty, MAT '73, on Sept. 19, 2012

Donald Reynolds, MAT '70, on Sept. 24, 2012

James L. Thomas, MA '76, on Sept. 7, 2012

James E. Zehnpfennig, SBA '74, on Sept. 12, 2012

Fredrick H. Zeidman, SBA '70, on April 1, 2012

1980s

Lois R. (Reynolds) Blome, BGS '86, on Dec. 23, 2012

Beverly S. Cohen, SEHS '81, on Sept. 30, 2012

Edwin S. Goebel, BGS '81, on Dec. 19, 2012

Robyn L. (Kleerekoper) Gorell, CAS '85, on Jan. 7, 2013

Janine F. Kairis, MAT '83, on March 2, 2013

Ann M. Knight, CAS '82, on Feb. 4, 2013

Diane M. Malkin, CAS '81, on Sept. 22, 2012

Mary L. Meyers, SEHS '82, on Nov. 22, 2012

Helen C. (Colwell) Peters, BGS '80, on June 28, 2012

Carol E. Petoskey, CAS '82 and **'74,** on May 12, 2012

John T. Phelan, CAS '88, on Jan. 7, 2013

1990s

Joseph L. Cornecelli, CAS '93, on Jan. 15, 2013

Patricia M. Dravecky, CAS '90 and **BGS '86,** on Nov. 27, 2012

Neal S. Hoffrichter, CAS '91, on Dec. 6, 2012

John M. Juntunen, MS '91, on Feb. 2, 2013

Thomas H. Lewis, SBA '90, on March 21, 2013

Shelly M. Monitz, SBA '90, on Feb. 19, 2013

Helen M. Praet, MAT '92, on Jan. 26, 2013

2000s

Tracy K. (Spence) Elle, MED '09, on Oct. 12, 2012

Wendy A. Kalitta, SBA '03, on Dec. 10, 2012

BE AN ACTIVE ALUM

Looking to stay connected after graduation? There are many ways to stay in touch with a community of OU alumni that is 96,000 strong. Visit **oualumni.com/activealumni** to discover 14 ways you can stay connected with your alma mater and its network of Golden Grizzlies. Here's one:

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This current issue, along with past issues, can be found at **oakland.edu/oumag**.

Photo by John Sobczak

The world's a stage for puppeteer and storyteller

It goes beyond mere storytelling. **Patricia Roan Judd, CAS '73,** weaves multicultural tales, some of which have traveled halfway around the world for her to share with attentive audiences. In these days of tweets, rushed texts and acronyms, Judd's deliberate delivery is an all-but-lost art.

Known professionally as Roan Judd, the multifaceted performer entertains all ages, retelling both her original works and traditional international folklore she's discovered through word of mouth or uncovered through research. Sometimes, when it's a program for the younger set, Judd enlists the help of Chipotle Coyote or a dragon named Finbar Fury, two of her 15 puppets.

"I'll take them with me when I perform for older kids or adults and offer 'I do use puppets. Would you like to see something?' I've never heard anyone say no," says Judd, a 2000 MaTilDa award recipient.

Whether studying with Tom Aston and the Student Enterprise Theatre or within the Department of English, Judd says her OU experience helped shape her future. At The Barn Theatre, she not only practiced the craft she loved, but she fell in love with another student, Randy Judd. The pair celebrates their 40th wedding anniversary this summer. And she was able to find solace with and guidance from the faculty when as a sophomore she suddenly lost her mother.

"In the liberal arts, everything was humanistic. You didn't slide through the cracks so easily. They immediately were concerned about me," Judd recalls. "The women in the English department nurtured me. Oakland was a smaller university then. *Newsweek* magazine did an article and called it the 'Harvard of the Midwest.'"

At OU, Judd honed an improvisational style that engaged the audience personally, and soon embarked on a career as a mime, first with Aston's OU group Mime Ensemble and later with the troupe she founded, the Mime Workshop/Beyond Storytelling, Inc.

At the advice of a mentor, Judd tried her hand at puppetry again and developed a program of folktales from around the world, which she performs with or without the puppets. She continues to build on that foundation and performs at schools, museums, theatres and other community centers.

"Because of the nature of my business I can do it 'til I drop," says Judd with a smile. "There's really no retiring for people who go into the arts because the arts are who you are."

To learn more about Judd's work, visit www.roanjudd.com. ■

By Cara Catallo, a freelance writer from Clarkston, Mich.

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Development, Alumni and Community Engagement

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The gratitude of the entire Oakland University community is imprinted within each of these Donor Honor Roll pages. We are grateful to you — Oakland University's most committed alumni, donors, and friends — for your continued loyalty, generosity, and trust. Please be assured that your gifts to Oakland University will be used responsibly, for the maximum impact, and in the manner in which they were intended.

Your gifts allow OU to perpetuate a tradition of academic excellence and rigor through research and academic program endowments, faculty chairs, and professorships. Your generous gifts cover expenses for student research projects. You memorialize beloved alumni, family, and friends.

Importantly, your gifts support scholarships that often mean the difference between a student completing his or her degree. Supporting student scholarships creates positive, long-term effects on the student's economic future and on the communities where he or she will live and work.

In a global economy, scholarship funds also enable OU students to study abroad and enhance their understanding of world cultures. OUAA scholarships supported 21 students in study-abroad programs during the summer and fall semesters. Thirteen students each received awards from the James A. Sharp and Tessie Baltrip Sharp Endowed Scholarship program.

As part of its mission, OU engages with the community to better the quality of life in the areas the university serves. We partner with community groups and government, provide access to our programs and campus, and apply our research, technology, and problem-solving expertise to the issues of society and our region. The Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, the Fastening and Joining Research Institute, Eye Research Institute, and OU INC are a few of the many ways we engage with the community.

If you have not visited campus recently, I invite you to—do so. Several construction projects under way promise to reshape the OU skyline by the fall of 2014. Among them are an architecturally stunning Engineering Center; a 540-bed residence hall complex that will house the new Honors College; a University-funded student recreation and athletic field complex, and a 1,240-space parking structure.

In the spring of 2014, we will dedicate the Elliott Carillon Tower, plaza, and fountain made possible through a generous donation by longtime OU philanthropists Hugh and Nancy Elliott. Like you, the Elliotts truly love Oakland University and all that it represents. Like you, they believe in an Extraordinary OU. In the coming months, academic and administrative leaders, faculty, donors, alumni, and community members will share their vision for an Extraordinary OU. I hope you will join the conversation.

For today and for the future Extraordinary OU, thank you for your generosity, loyalty, and trust.

With best regards,

Eric Barritt
Vice President for Development, Alumni and Community Engagement

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"Education has always been an important issue for me. What I did not suspect was the depth of affection I would come to have for the students of this new university."

– **Matilda Dodge Wilson**, founder of Oakland University

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* deceased > new lifetime society member >> increased society level

Hugh and Nancy Elliott's contributions to Oakland University include endowments of scholarships and academic lectures to funding the R. Hugh and Nancy Elliott Hall of Business and Information Technology to the latest development of the Elliott Carillon Tower.

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The Meadow Brook Society recognizes donors who contribute $500,000 or more in cumulative gifts or a planned gift of at least $1 million.

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Former professor James McKay made an estate gift and established the James McKay Doctoral Research Endowment to support the most promising doctoral candidate in the Math Department who has finished course work and examinations and is beginning the dissertation process.

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OU Moment

The courtyard between Anibal and Fitzgerald Halls became a resting place for a newly born fawn and its mother in June. The pair drew onlookers from windows and walkways on campus and on the OU Facebook page — the photo elicited a record 1,000 "likes."

George Gamboa, Ph.D., emeritus professor of biology, estimates that 50 to 100 white-tailed deer live on campus. Could this pair be descendants of those from Matilda Dodge Wilson's estate? Possibly, he says, since deer, especially females, are philopatric, tending to return to or stay in the area where they were born, while males tend to disperse. "So these deer could have descended from those early deer," he says.

We think Matilda would be pleased.

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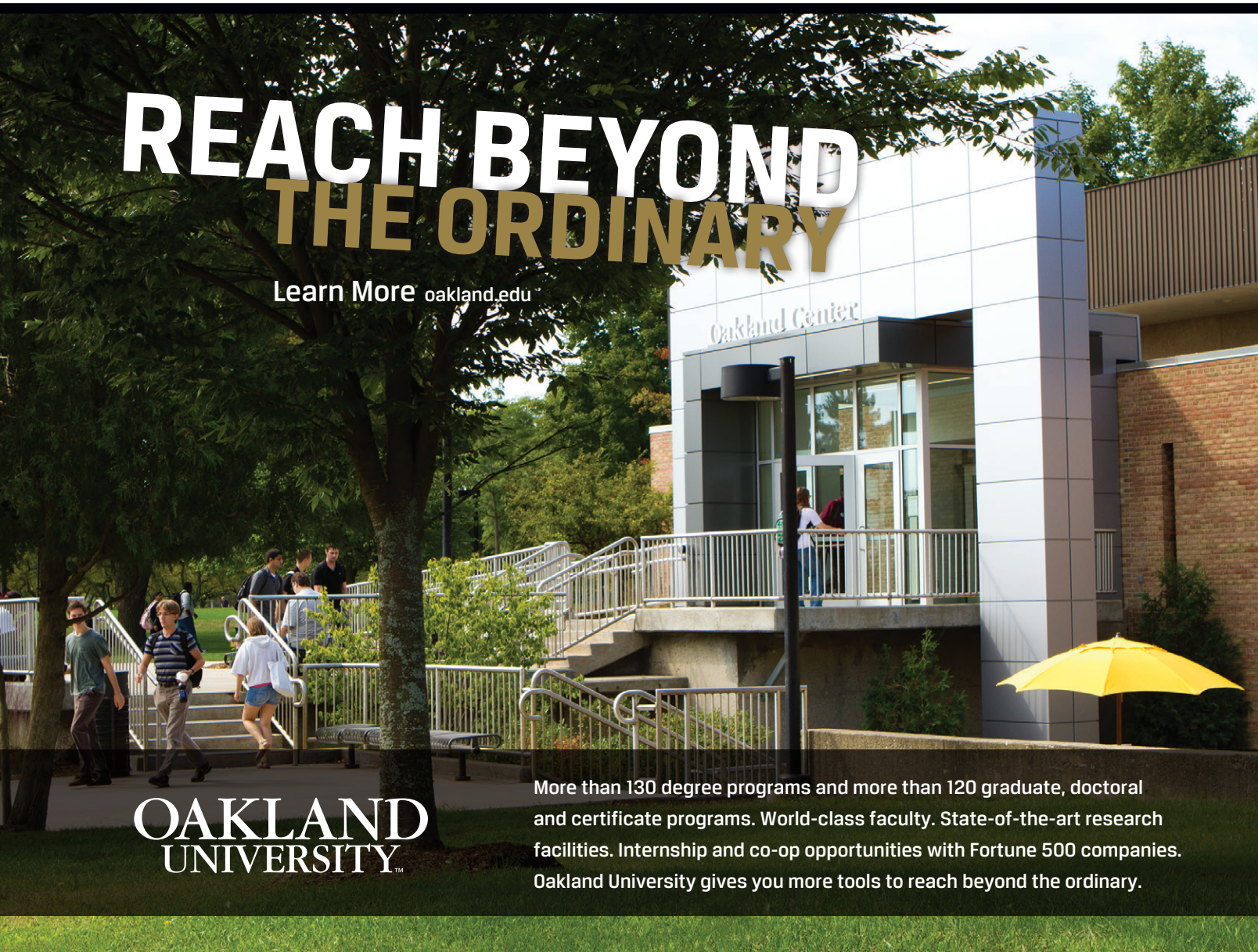
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