

Thursday, December 1, 2011

December News



We are so very proud of our students and always happy when their hard work and dedication to their discipline is recognized by people outside of the department. So we were thrilled to hear that so many of our voice students were successful at the 2011 Michigan National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition at Eastern Michigan University, held on Saturday November 5. Universities from all across the state send more than 250 singers to compete in specific age divisions. MTD's **Jacob Skipworth** was awarded first place in the Senior Men division; **Constantine Novotny** first place in the Junior Men division; **Ashley Ault** first place and **Colleen Miner** third place in the Musical Theatre Women division; and **Molly Bruner** third place in the Sophomore Women division. Congratulations to all.

Back on campus, all the voice students attended a master class with baritone **Lucas Meachem**, who also gave a recital on the evening of Saturday, November 12, which earned him three standing ovations. It was a truly joyous occasion, with the audience not only in awe of the opera singer's talent but won over by his charm.



Theatre students were kept busy this semester and not only with their classes and performances. The cast and crew of *The Women of Lockerbie* ran a clothing drive to benefit the Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac, calling the effort "Clothing from Lockerbie," to commemorate the 11,000 pieces of clothing the real Lockerbie women washed and returned to the families of the victims of the Pan Am 103 incident. Every day the laundry basket that was placed outside the Studio Theatre to receive donations was emptied and the donated clothes stored in Professor **Karen Sheridan's** office. By the end of the collection period, Karen was crossing her office through pathways among the bundles, but the donations were taken to the shelter in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The "Lockerbie" run was enhanced by the visit of playwright **Deborah Brevoort**, who spoke to an audience at noon on Saturday, November 19 and attended the Friday, November 18 performance of her play, which was shadow-signed by TerpTheatre. The shadow-signing is in itself a

wonderful performance experience and that evening's performance was among the first to sell out.

The department's collaboration with TerpTheatre will continue next year and in October 2012 the first theatre production of the year will be *Police:Deaf :: Near:Far*, a powerful play which explores many aspects of the Deaf community, including education, language, cochlear implants, interpreters, empowerment, and the relationship between Deaf people and law enforcement. Deaf actors will perform and audition dates will be announced soon.

Also upcoming for the theatre department is the spring tour of *Captain Louie* which is perfect for elementary school students. If you are interested in having *Captain Louie* at your student's school please, contact mtd@oakland.edu for more information.

Although the performance semester is winding down, the dance program is still very busy rehearsing and performing, with the annual fall Oakland Dance Theatre and OU Repertory Company performances during the weekend of December 1 through December 3, and *From Floor to Ceiling: Water*, an evening of movement, light and sound, on the weekend of December 8 through December 10. [Check the performance brochure for full details.](#)

And as always we welcome your alumni news. We heard recently that **Walt Szymanski** (B Mus 1986) was appointed director of Jazz Studies at the Universidad de San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador, making "an indelible impression on the entire school already," according to our source, professor emeritus **David Daniels**. If you are currently spreading OU's influence overseas, please let us have the information!



Meanwhile, closer to home, the departmental office is once again staffed with two-full time secretaries. **Muriel Mader** has been joined by **Jaime Finn**, who has her crucial and complex duties well in hand. Jaime previously worked in the School of Education and Human Services, and before that at Northwestern in Chicago. **Crystal Bell** is also often busy in room 207, as part of her new duties as a College of Arts and Sciences secretary. We are delighted to welcome both Jaime and Crystal.

Photos: Top: NATS honorees, left to right: Molly Bruner, Jacob Skipworth, Colleen Miner, Ashley Ault and Constantine Novotny.

Middle: Lucas Meachem coaches Patrick Peavy with Stan Zydek at the piano.

Bottom: Office staff Jaime Finn, Muriel Mader, and Crystal Bell.

SUMMARY

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Meadow Brook Music Society Concert Series



One of the holiday's highlights for many people in the metro Detroit area is Meadow Brook Hall's Holiday Walk, running this year from November 25 until December 22 and celebrating its 40th anniversary. **Get all the details, including ticket information here.**

And for the second time, MTD is partnering with Meadow Brook Hall to produce the Meadow Brook Music Society Chamber Music Series, with the opening concert of the series on December 11, when The Hall is in its full holiday glory.

The concerts are held in the Meadow Brook Ballroom, the design of which was inspired by the architecture of late Medieval English manor house great halls. Matilda Dodge Wilson threw spectacular parties there, and today it is available for weddings. A wonderful venue for any occasion, it has marvelous acoustics, making a musical experience particularly magical and dramatic. "The two-story ballroom of Meadow Brook Hall makes an unforgettable atmosphere for enjoying the chamber music concert," says Shannon O'Berski, Marketing & Communications Manager at The Hall.

The December 11 concert features the Oakland Chamber Players performing works by Vaughan Williams, Brahms, Chausson and Paray. Performing will be tenor **Drake Dantzler**, alto **Alta Dantzler**, violinist **Elizabeth Rowin**, violinist **Velda Kelly**, violist **James Greer**, cellist **Nadine Deleury**, and pianist **Mary Siciliano**. The 5 pm recital will be immediately followed by a wine-and-cheese afterglow offering an opportunity for audience members to meet the performers. Tickets for the afterglow are \$15 and must be reserved ahead of time. Tickets for the performance are \$20 for the general public and \$10 for OU staff, faculty and students and may be purchased ahead of time or at the door. For more information or to order tickets, call Meadow Brook Hall at (248) 364-6263 or visit meadowbrookhall.org, click on "Calendar" and then the specific concert date. Please note that tickets for this event are not available at the Varner Box Office or from StarTickets.

Future events in the series include the Oakland Chamber Players with classical guitarist Bret Hoag on Sunday, January 29, and an Oakland Chamber Players concert presentation by Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings on Sunday, March 4. Mark your calendars!

Photo: The ballroom at Meadow Brook Hall, site of the December 11 Meadow Brook Music Society Concert.

SUMMARY

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Thursday, December 1, 2011

Michelle Hathaway: A Life in Theatre

by Gillian Ellis



"Opera singers love tight corsets. They tell me it gives them something to push against." Who knew? The singers themselves, presumably, and MTD's new Costume Shop Supervisor, **Michelle Hathaway**, who has brought her varied theatrical and personal experiences to her new academic home here at OU.

Michelle taught high school drama in rural southeastern Colorado for seven years. Facing the prospect of working on a master's degree so she would be in compliance with the No Child Left Behind requirements, she followed her heart and decided to "go back to what I really loved." She quit her job and bravely packed her stuff and journeyed with her two daughters across country to Baton Rouge, where she enrolled in the MFA program at Louisiana State University to focus on Costume Design and Technology. She graduated from there in 2010.

No doubt the safer option would have been to work on an education degree, but Michelle's school produced only one show a year and she says there was little community support for the program. "It wasn't football." In reality, Michelle's heart was in the theatre but she spent much of her time teaching English. At 18 she had entered college as a musical theatre major believing she was "going to Broadway," but she found the auditioning process to be an unpleasant reality check. She shifted focus and graduated with a BA in Theatre and Communications making her final project a lighting design.

In the years after college, Michelle taught herself to sew. Her great grandmother had been a seamstress who made, among many other things, a quilt for each member of her very large family, but she had not wanted to teach Michelle to sew. Nevertheless, because of their shared vocation, Michelle feels a great connection to her ancestor and she treasures not only her quilt, but her great grandmother's "industrial strength" sewing machine, although she refrains from using it in case she breaks it!

Although she started "just making clothes for the family," Michelle felt the craft really called to her and by the time she had to make a decision about graduate school, she knew what she really wanted to do. During her three years at LSU she worked exclusively for the theatre program and was not allowed to take paying gigs, but the school kept her plenty busy. "You don't have time to do anything else," she said. "They run a 12-show season, six main stage LSU shows and six shows at the Equity house on campus, the Reilly Theatre." In addition to these projects, Michelle worked on student shows, operas, and dance productions.

After graduation she accepted a Professional Internship with the Disney organization in Florida. She says the operation is "massive" and "fascinating on many levels." During her time there, Michelle worked with each of the workroom teams in turn. She experienced Pattern Making, which requires the production of a spec sheet so the stitching team knows how to put the pattern pieces together; the CAD Team, which uses software to produce patterns to individualized sizing; the Cut Team, which cuts and bundles the fabric; and the Millinery Team, which, of course, creates hats. She was never allowed to sew. Michelle says Disney has five stitching teams in Orlando, each of them specializes in a certain kind of costume, and they are union shops. Michelle also spent a lot of time verifying old patterns and enjoyed the detective aspect of that work.

Ultimately she thinks of herself essentially as a pattern maker and “first hand,” meaning a costumer who can cut, fit, alter, tailor, and manufacture any costume piece. Michelle says, “I like design, but I want to *make* my designs. I don’t want to hand them off to someone else.” She loves the feel of fabric in her hands. And she sees costume construction as a historical journey of sorts. She is intrigued by the process of discovering how costumes were made and worn. It’s “the easiest form of time travel available to man” she says.

“I honed skills I didn’t know I had,” says Michelle of her time at Disney, but she missed “the interaction with students and the collaborative interaction of the theatre.” And with this recognition in mind she chose to seek out a job in academic theatre, applying across the country.

She has found her new home at Oakland, where she says, “Everybody, campus wide, is so incredibly helpful and kind, including the people in human resources.” We know that the MTD students will benefit enormously from her curiosity and skills, and see in her life and experience an inspiration for their own futures.

Read more about [Disney Professional Internships here](#). And enjoy Michelle’s work at her [website and online portfolio here](#)

Photo: Michelle in the costume shop at work on a costume for Così fan tutte.

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Music Meets Athletics

by Gillian Ellis



If you watched the recent (November 28) OU Grizzlies men's basketball game against Tennessee on television, you would definitely have understood that the Grizzlies were supposed to lose. The ESPN commentators made that quite clear. But in fact, the Grizzlies scored first and held their lead throughout the game, emerging victors 89-81. Yeah!

Viewers nationwide may have been surprised at the win but here on campus plenty of people have enormous confidence in our OU athletes. "We expected to beat Tennessee," said **Kenneth Kroesche**, associate music professor and director of the Golden Grizzlies Band, in a tone that suggested he was a little surprised anyone would assume differently. "We beat them last year on the road."

This was Oakland's first nationally televised home game and at the press conference afterwards (as reported by Dan Fenner of *Rochester Patch*) **Greg Kampe**, the Grizzlies head coach, said "This wasn't about our team or me tonight. This was about showing Oakland University to the world and to the United States of America. Our student section was unbelievable, the fans were unbelievable — they wouldn't let us lose. We've won so many games in this building over the last few years because of the atmosphere that's been created here." The university is justly proud of that spirit and so is MTD, because that atmosphere is "orchestrated" by the Golden Grizzlies Band. Ken Kroesche says, "It is more than a musical organization. It is the number one spirit organization on campus. We set the tone for what happens at those basketball games."

In fact, the Golden Grizzly Band plays at more than just athletic events. Ken says, "We are the university's band" and as such they are called on to play at several events throughout the year, including at the president's new student convocation where the program is fanfares and processions rather than popular songs.

But popular songs prevail at the basketball games where the band plays from a selection of around 35 songs, including *OU Fight*, the official OU fight song, which was written by **Michael Mitchell**, associate music professor and head of the music program at OU. Many universities have fight songs that are more than 100 years old, but Mike says that the need for OU to have its own song didn't emerge until 1998 when the university moved up to Division 1 of the NCAA. You can hear the **Golden Grizzlies play the fight song [here](#)**

Much of the day-to-day running of the band is in the hands of two very competent graduate assistants, **Anthony Case** and **Doug Engle**. Both men are OU music grads and enrolled in the master of music program. Anthony is working on a masters in conducting and Doug on a masters in music education. In addition to organizing music, rosters, and instruments — "There are so many variables," says Anthony — they also conduct the band during many games. The band plays *OU Fight* many times during a game, including whenever the team enters or leaves the arena, but Anthony says some other crowd favorites include AC/DC's *Back in Black*, Ozzy Osbourne's *Crazy Train*, and the perennially popular *Hey Baby!* which usually has the crowd up and dancing.

More than 100 students play in the Golden Grizzly Band, though with men and women's events to cover, usually only around 30 musicians play at any one game. About half of them are music major or minors, meaning that 50 percent are drawn from the other schools on campus. The band is probably the music department's most public face. Indeed, Ken Kroesche points out, aside from the athletes themselves, the band is the university's most prominent representation in the world outside of the university, especially when they accompany the team to Summit Conference finals and to the NCAA finals, which they have done the past two years. "It really is madness," says Ken.

"It's your chance to be a rock star for three days," he adds, noting that the NCAA picks up the tab for a charter plane, hotels and meals for the 30 band members lucky enough to accompany the team. "It's a lot of fun. If you don't have fun on a band trip it's your own fault!" Ken jokes. Of course, it's also a big responsibility to so publically represent the school, especially for the grad assistants.

Doug and Anthony are aware of the responsibility and happy to have it. "It is a great honor just to be a grad assistant," says Anthony. "Getting a chance to direct a college band at my age is phenomenal. I am continually trying to prove to my professors that they made the right choice when they gave me this opportunity. I know it helps build my résumé, but more importantly it opens my eyes and provides me with many tools for my

future career.”

Anthony is also grateful to the people the band works with in Athletics, especially Tim Dameron who works in ticketing and marketing. Anthony says, “He is really great to work with. He gets the whole idea of the band and has helped us improve our organization.”

In fact, says Anthony, “It takes a dynamic team to pull off what we do.” Kind of like basketball – and life!

Photo: Grad assistants Doug Engle (left) and Anthony Case.

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NSF grant to help OU welcome more women faculty in the sciences

By **Dave Groves**, contributing writer

A team of Oakland University faculty and administrators recently embarked on a four-year initiative that has an ambitious goal to increase the number of women faculty members in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. At present, women represent a much higher percentage of Ph.D. graduates in these disciplines than is reflected in the faculty ranks at universities across the country, including OU.

The Women in Science and Engineering at OU (WISE@OU) project, supported by a \$518,000 National Science Foundation grant, will employ a comprehensive and proven strategy that includes an institutional assessment in the first year, and reform of faculty recruitment processes and advancement of career development initiatives for women in the second through fourth years.

"We've got the right people in the right places to accomplish a very ambitious agenda, so that's what we've set for ourselves," said Dr. Kathleen Moore, associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences.

In addition to Dr. Moore, the leadership team includes Dr. Fatma Mili, professor of computer sciences; Dr. Brad Roth, professor of physics; Joi Cunningham, director of Office of Inclusiveness and Intercultural Initiatives; Dr. Jo Reger, associate professor of sociology; and Dr. Julie Walters, associate professor of political science.

At present, just 18 percent of Oakland's faculty in the STEM disciplines are women. That number has grown slowly despite a number of advancement efforts the university has implemented over the years.

"This kind of growth is much harder to achieve than it sounds; otherwise it would have been done long ago," Dr. Mili said. "The hurdles are subtle, cumulative and persistent."

To Oakland's advantage, Dr. Mili added, "Our ADVANCE proposal was strengthened by letters of support written by 70 percent of women STEM faculty. Their very enthusiastic expressions of interest and support to the WISE@OU program made the proposal much stronger and created a very compelling case for funding it."

Based on the success of other initiatives funded by the NSF's Increasing the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Careers (ADVANCE) program, including recent efforts of sister universities such as Wayne State, Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, the WISE@OU team expects STEM faculty diversity to increase significantly as result of this project. This will be welcome news for many reasons.

"The wellbeing and advancement of diverse faculty in STEM translates into the recruitment, retention and success of diverse students," Dr. Mili explained. "It also leads to diversity in research ideas and educational approaches."

Dr. Moore noted that because Oakland is relatively young and growing, it has an advantage relative to efforts to increase diversity among STEM faculty – before a lack of momentum begins to protect the status quo.

"We are a dynamic institution," she said. "We're not set in stone, so I think there is great opportunity to have a very significant impact in terms of reaching these goals."

Part of the efforts to advance career development for women faculty will be the creation of mentoring relationships and increased educational opportunities focused on writing and submitting research grants – a critical part of career success in the STEM disciplines. Dr. Moore said the ADVANCE initiatives will benefit all faculty through efforts to improve family and life policies at OU.

In addition to addressing its own faculty diversity issues, Oakland intends to share the strategies and interventions it finds successful with other educational institutions looking to achieve the same goal.

"There are three necessary ingredients for change to be effective and sustainable; supportive administrators who fully comprehend the needs and benefits of these initiatives; buy in from all constituencies, which includes willingness to self-examine and eagerness to improve and change processes; and STEM women faculty with the awareness, the coherence, and the commitment to help each other and invest in this initiative," Dr. Mili explained. "We have all three ingredients at OU."

Moore said the initiative would not have been possible without the strong endorsement of the university community as a whole, including the OU chapter of the American Association of University Professors and the Office of Grants, Contracts and Sponsored Research.

"We really had a strong outpouring of support, and that was critical to the success of our application," Dr. Moore said.

While the WISE@OU team's primary goal is to broaden the diversity of STEM faculty here, a secondary effect will have beneficial impacts far beyond the Oakland campus. That, Dr. Moore said, is because the female student population at OU will see clearly that should they be interested in the STEM disciplines, they need not worry about obstacles preventing them from making their career goals a reality.

"It's really important that they see by way of our current faculty that there are opportunities for them to succeed in STEM careers," Dr. Moore said. "In that sense, what we're doing could have an exponential impact for women looking to work in the sciences."

SUMMARY

The Women in Science and Engineering at OU (WISE@OU) project will employ an institutional assessment, recruitment process reform and enhanced career development initiatives.

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Students prepare for final exam week, set for Dec. 5-10

As the fall semester draws to a close, the campus community is advised to prepare for several important events, including final exam week and graduation.

Regular classes will conclude at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, and will be in recess for a study period on Sunday, Dec. 4. Final examinations are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 5, and will conclude at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10.

To view the final exam schedule, [click here](#). Grades must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12. Winter commencement exercises will follow on Saturday, Dec. 17.

Click here to view the university's [academic calendar](#). For more information, contact the Office of the Registrar at (248) 370-3450, or view the website at [oakland.edu/registrar](#).

SUMMARY

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Welcome Visiting Scholars

The School of Business Administration at Oakland University welcomes these Visiting Scholars from China:

Dr. Wang from Northwestern Polytechnical University in China, plans to explore the way in which HR processes are associated with organizational outcomes through their influence on employee attitudes and behaviors. Her focus is on how employees perceive HR practices and react to these practices. She is working with Dr. Ken York of the SBA's management faculty. Expected duration of her visit will be one year.

Mr. Peng Hao is a doctoral student from Tainjin University in China. Peng plans to complete papers at Oakland University that will lead to a doctoral degree. He will be working closely with Professor Singhal on topics in financial engineering and market micro structure with special emphasis on short sales. To make his visit to Oakland University a successful one, Peng plans to focus on high quality papers in association with faculty at Oakland University that are likely to be published in reputed journals. He is working with Dr. Rajiv Singhal, finance faculty in the Department of Accounting and Finance.

Dr. Ping (Sharon) Shuai, an associate professor from management school, and her colleague Professor Wenjia (Winnie) Chen, a lecturer from College of Fine Arts, of Shanghai University, are both visiting Michigan to explore setting up a platform for Shanghai University to accomplish three objectives: 1) identify functions and programs that will serve as a gateway to American and Chinese students interested in studying abroad, 2) look at opportunities to bridge research interests between American and Chinese professors, and 3) explore linkages between industry in Michigan and China, possibly to support student education (global team projects) and applied research. Shuai is working with the School of Business Administration (under the coordination of Dean Mohan Tanniru) and Wenjia is working with the department of art and art history at Wayne State University (under the coordination of Department Chair Dr John Richardson).

SUMMARY

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Friday, December 2, 2011

Lecture: "MALDI Imaging of Proteins and Lipids in Ocular Tissues: New Insights into Ocular Disease"

12:00pm Lake Michigan Room, OC

Presented by: Kevin L. Schey, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry/Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, Co-Director Proteomics Laboratory, Mass Spectrometry Research Center, Vanderbilt University

SUMMARY

12:00pm Lake Michigan Room, OC

Kevin L. Schey, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry/Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, Co-Director Proteomics Laboratory, Mass Spectrometry Research Center, Vanderbilt University

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Friday, December 2, 2011

Music ensemble to perform in Meadow Brook Hall's historic ball room

The Oakland University Department of Music, Theatre and Dance is once again partnering with Meadow Brook Hall to present the second annual Meadow Brook Music Society "Chamber Music Series" in the hall's dramatic two-story Tudor Revival ballroom.

The first of three events planned this season features the Oakland Chamber Players performing works by Vaughan Williams, Brahms, Chausson and Paray. The players include tenor Drake Dantzler, alto Alta Dantzler, violinist Elizabeth Rowin, violinist Velda Kelly, violist James Greer, cellist Nadine Deleury and pianist Mary Siciliano, piano.

The event will take place at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11. Tickets for each performance are \$20 for the general public and \$10 for OU staff and students.

Two additional events in the series include the Oakland Chamber Players with classical guitarist Bret Hoag on Sunday, Jan. 29, and an Oakland Chamber Players concert presentation by Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings on Sunday, March 4.

A wine-and-cheese afterglow will be held immediately following each of the three concerts, providing an opportunity for guests to meet the performers. Tickets are \$15.

For more information or to order tickets, call Meadow Brook Hall at (248) 364-6263 or visit meadowbrookhall.org, click on "Calendar" and then the specific concert date.



SUMMARY

The Oakland Chamber Players will perform works by Vaughan Williams, Brahms, Chausson and Paray at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11.

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SBA welcomes leader in energy and transportation as research professor

A leader in the behavioral aspects of energy and transportation, Walter McManus joins OU's School of Business Administration as a Research Professor in Decision and Information Sciences effective December 1. With grant funding from the Energy Foundation, a partnership of major donors interested in solving the world's energy problems, McManus plans to work with SBA faculty and OU's Clean Energy Center to advance research in strategy and economics, particularly as it pertains to energy management.

McManus brings a record of research accomplishments in consumer behavior and market competition in the transportation sector to OU. Prior to joining OU's SBA, he was Research Economist at the University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute, and Director of the Automotive Analysis Division. His business experience includes positions as Executive Director of Forecasting and Analytics at J.D. Power and Associates and nine years with General Motors in forecasting, marketing analysis and strategy, and new-product development. His academic career includes posts as Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Florida (1983-88) and Associate Professor of Economics at Baruch College (1988-89). McManus graduated from Louisiana State University (BA 1977) and earned a doctorate in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles (PhD 1983).

He has conducted and managed complex cross-disciplinary research projects throughout his career. Subjects have included the assimilation of immigrants into the US labor market, the importance of researchers' prior beliefs in controversial research topics, the behavior of consumers and firms in the automotive industry, the impacts and effectiveness of energy and environmental policies, and the adoption and diffusion of new technologies.

His research interests include economics and public policy; behavioral and human dimensions of transportation and energy; adoption and diffusion of new technologies; and the automotive industry

SUMMARY

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Union leader: As membership declines, the middle class shrinks

The difference between the rich and poor today is the largest since the 1920s, a labor leader says.

Changes in the economy seem to contribute to a decline in the amount of middle-income earners, with the biggest reason being declining union membership, according to former Michigan AFL-CIO President Mark T. Gaffney.

"I think we are at risk of heading towards a permanent underclass that will be less skilled," he said.

Gaffney spoke at Oakland University about the relationship between declining unions and the shrinking middle class as a part of the 2nd annual fall lecture series sponsored by the School of Business Administration economics advisory board.

He was first introduced to organized labor in 1975 when he worked on car ferries crossing Lake Michigan between Ludington and Wisconsin. He worked on Great Lakes iron ore freighters and was member of two unions, the National Maritime Union and the United Steelworkers of America from 1977 to 1981.

As president of the state federation, Gaffney represented 750,000 active and retired union members in more than 40 affiliated unions. He now serves as a representative for Teamsters Union Local 214.

One reason average incomes have declined is due to dwindling union membership during the past 30 years, Gaffney said.

In 2010, the union membership rate — the percent of wage and salary workers who were members of a union — was 11.9 percent, down from 12.3 percent a year earlier; the number of wage and salary workers belonging to unions declined by 612,000 to 14.7 million, U.S. Census figures show.

He rattled off more statistics:

- Every year, union membership decreases by 3.5 percent.
- Now, more public workers are union members than private sector workers.
- Women make up 48 percent of union members.
- Fewer than one in 10 workers is in a union.

Manufacturing is the base of unionization. It has always been dear to Gaffney's heart.

"Each job in the factory supports seven other spin-off jobs," he said. "The jobs provide solid benefits for middle-class people."

Unions began in America as guilds — their job was to protect work not necessarily to bring people into their organizations, Gaffney said. The guilds were there to protect existing work, bring apprentices into that work and keep people out of the market.

Union growth was at its highest peak in Michigan in the 1930s and '40s.

The wealthiest control two-thirds of the nation's wealth and the top one percent holds 40 percent of the wealth, Gaffney said. The number of hourly workers is decreasing, while CEO pay has increased 250 percent in last 30 years.

"Wal-Mart is the largest employer in today's economy — it is a drag on the labor economy," he said.

Wages have been largely flat, while productivity has been rising, Gaffney said. The invention of computers in the worksite has changed the way retail stores work and all the profit that they make goes straight to management and shareholders.

"It solidifies the concern we should have with rising profits in corporations and the lack of increase in our wages," said senior philosophy major Jennifer Sepnick.

Last year, in the Bank of America, six people made a billion dollars in bonuses, Gaffney said.

General Electric made \$14 million in profit in 2010, and has not paid taxes in five years, Gaffney said. Today, businesses pay about 6 percent in taxes compared to what they paid in the past — 27 percent.

"The middle class folks struggle, while corporations pay less and less taxes," he said.

In the 1970s, the middle class made up about 53 percent of the income, according to Heidi Shierholz, an economist with the Economy Policy Institute. In 2010, that figure had dropped to 46.3 percent.

To deal with the economy in the 1970s, workers had three coping mechanisms, Gaffney said: Women joined the work force, people embraced the debt by mortgaging homes and using credit cards, and people worked more hours.

Now, he said, workers are unable to capture their share of the value and gains in productivity, so it goes to wealthier people.

"If we have a government that cannot do anything to help us, we will remain in a stagnant condition, especially with reducing wages and charging people more for health insurance," he said.

"We have to have a fair tax system and bring jobs back. We need to stop the wage reductions and help individual families become consumers again to help move the economy forward."

By: Mayuri Munot
OU News Bureau

SUMMARY

The difference between the rich and poor today is the largest since the 1920s, a labor leader says.

Changes in the economy seem to contribute to a decline in the amount of middle-income earners, with the biggest reason being declining union membership, according to former Michigan AFL-CIO President Mark T. Gaffney.

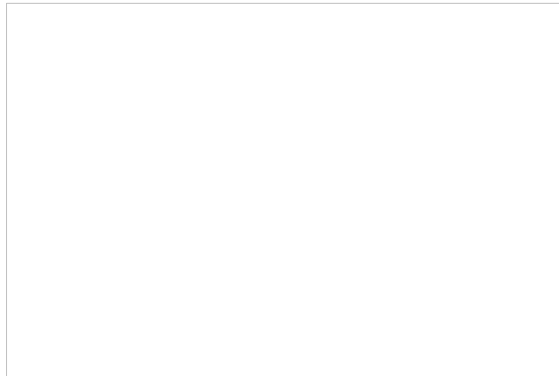
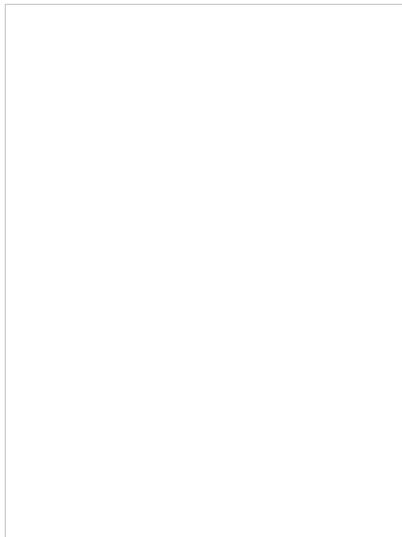
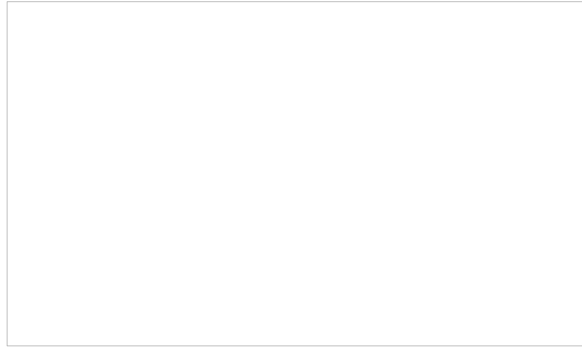
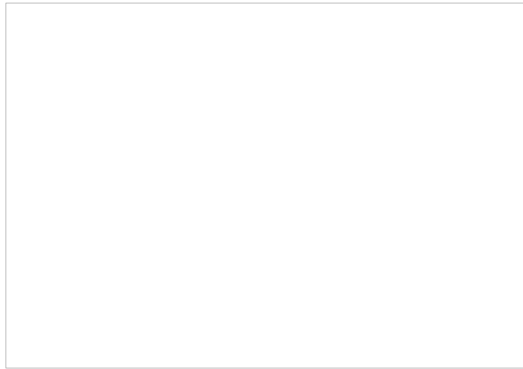
"I think we are at risk of heading towards a permanent underclass that will be less skilled," he said.

Gaffney spoke at Oakland University about the relationship between declining unions and the shrinking middle class as a part of the 2nd annual fall lecture series sponsored by the School of Business Administration economics advisory board.

Sunday, December 4, 2011

RRCM 20th Annual Institute

On November 17-18, 2011, over 300 Michigan literacy educators trained in Reading Recovery and several school district administrators participated in the annual Reading Recovery Council of Michigan Institute at the Somerset Inn in Troy. The theme of the institute - *A Legacy of Literacy: 20 Years of Reading Recovery in Michigan* – recognized the work of Reading Recovery educators who have taught 95,000 of Michigan's most challenged first grade literacy learners in Reading Recovery since its establishment in Michigan in 1991. Institute attendees participated in 30 sessions related to literacy teaching and learning in Reading Recovery, with three of the sessions designed specifically for administrators. [\[See RRCM 20th Annual Institute Program Agenda\]](#)



On Thursday, the keynote address was presented by Lyn Sharratt and Bill Hogarth, senior administrators, York Region School District (Toronto, Canada). Under Sharratt and Hogarth's administration, the 140,000-student school district fully implemented Reading Recovery in each of its elementary schools. Their work is featured in a book by Lyn Sharratt and Michael Fullan, *Realization: The Change Imperative for Deepening*

District-Wide Reform (2009) published by Corwin Press. On Friday, Mary Rosser, Director of Reading Recovery and Literacy Partnerships at the University of Maine, gave the keynote address *Language, Literacy and Learning: How Teacher Knowledge Contributes Towards Achievement, Acceleration, and Success for ELL learners*. Professor Rosser challenged the audience to consider each student's home and family culture and their literacy learning strengths to provide optimum support for children's learning.

Planning for the annual institute began over a year ago with Maeghan McCormick, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader, Jackson County Intermediate School District Reading Recovery Site serving as Institute Program Chair and Dr. Mary Lose, Associate Professor and Director of the Reading Recovery Center at Oakland University serving as advisor to the RRCM Board and the Institute Planning Committee.

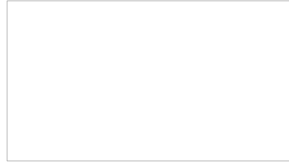
SUMMARY

Created by Kasey Kaplan (kkaplan@oakland.edu) on Sunday, December 4, 2011
Modified by Kasey Kaplan (kkaplan@oakland.edu) on Sunday, December 11, 2011
Article Start Date: Sunday, December 4, 2011

Monday, December 5, 2011

Alumni needed to volunteer at commencement

The Oakland University Alumni Association has recently started a volunteer tradition and serving at Commencement is one way to meaningfully engage the graduating class, their families and guests. On Commencement day, volunteer assignments are focused on ensuring a warm welcome of our guests—many stepping foot on the campus for the first time. Alumni volunteers serving on December 17, 2011 will stand out in the crowd with their commencement OUAA volunteer attire to welcome guests, answer questions, and to ensure that everyone has a commencement program. Nearly 10,000 guests are expected to attend the three Commencement Ceremonies to celebrate the accomplishments of our new graduates. For more information and registration, please click [here](#).



SUMMARY

Created by Karen Coronado (kacorona@oakland.edu) on Monday, December 5, 2011
Modified by Karen Coronado (kacorona@oakland.edu) on Monday, December 5, 2011
Article Start Date: Monday, December 5, 2011

Monday, December 5, 2011

Energy Management program to energize students in new economy

In transitioning to a new energy economy, a growing number of regional business and community organizations are developing processes, products and services necessary to adapt to changing regulatory, tax, supply-chain and demand environments. As a result, the emerging clean energy sector is poised to expand significantly in coming years.

Oakland University's School of Business Management and School of Engineering and Computer Sciences have responded to growing demand in this field by partnering to create an Energy Management Certificate Program that focuses on innovative means of reducing energy costs, boosting bottom line performance and becoming more competitive.

Students in this six-week course will learn to better understand energy usage, implement cost- and energy-saving strategies, apply sustainable principles and practices, and acquire practical skills to evaluate efficient energy choices.

Students also will benefit from the expertise that a diverse group of engineering and business faculty experts bring to the program. To learn more about the accomplished educators involved, those interested can visit the energy management website listed below.

Oakland's program is ideal for engineers and technicians; facility, maintenance and energy managers; design professionals; green sales representatives; architects, contractors and subcontractors; and any business professional or individual interested or involved in the green energy field.

Classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays from Friday, Jan. 21, through Saturday, March 10. Friday sessions may be taken on-line to accommodate superseding work commitments.

The course's \$2,000 registration cost includes all materials and lunches. To learn more, check program dates or to register, visit oakland.edu/energymgmt or contact Maureen Callaghan at mpcallag@oakland.edu or (248) 412-3235.

SUMMARY

OU's Schools of Business Management and Engineering and Computer Science offer a certificate program focusing on managing energy issues for sustainable enterprises.

Created by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Monday, December 5, 2011

Modified by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Monday, December 5, 2011

Article Start Date: Monday, December 5, 2011

Monday, December 5, 2011

Foreign Languages Poetry & Short Story Competition -Deadline Feb. 6. 2012

Foreign Languages Poetry & Short Story Competition

Sponsored by the DMLL, Hispanic American Leadership Organization, and the Languages and Spanish Grammar Clubs.

Entries must be submitted in: Chinese, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish
to Professor Cecilia Saenz-Roby (saenzrob@oakland.edu)
by Monday, February 6th 2012

Short Stories: 2 pages/700 words maximum
(Times New Roman #12-double space)

Works will be considered for publication in
"NUESTRAS VOCES" (DMLL journal)
<http://oakland.edu/nuestrasvoces>
and winners and participants will be honored during the "NOCHE LITERARIA"

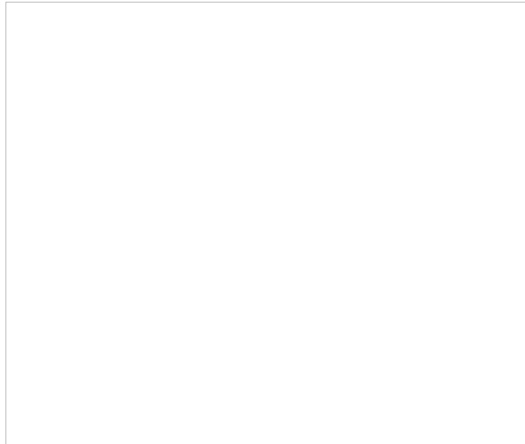
For any questions, email saenzrob@oakland.edu

SUMMARY

Created by Hsiang-Hua Chang (chang23@oakland.edu) on Saturday, January 29, 2011
Modified by Hsiang-Hua Chang (chang23@oakland.edu) on Tuesday, December 6, 2011
Article Start Date: Monday, December 5, 2011
Article End Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Monday, December 5, 2011

Lean Diversification Program pilot class earns Black Belt Certificates



The Lean Black Belt class and instructors.

As the fall semester winds down at Oakland University, so too does the new OU Lean Diversification Program at the Macomb-OU INCubator.

After weeks of class, students have been flooded with terms like kaizen, kanban and hoshin kanri. Through their study of the Lean philosophy, terms like these have become a regular part of their vocabulary.

Other areas of study have included Lean culture, the role of leadership, problem solving techniques and process improvement.

To help illustrate these concepts, classes were structured with a combination of lecture, discussion, quizzes and interactive activities.

Homework and online sessions were also used to supplement and reinforce the material learned in class.

The three instructors – Lean professionals Janie Farner, Ravi Lote and Debra Setman– worked together, combining their different areas of expertise to give students a diverse understanding of Lean.

The program also had a unique atmosphere. A small class size, personal, one-on-one instruction and a relaxed environment have helped students confidently learn and actively engage in the course.

"The instructors have been inspirational and insightful on real world situations and the application of Lean," said Jessica Morales, a participant of the program. "I would encourage anyone, in any position, within any company to participate in such an ambitious and beneficial program."

The students also conducted Lean assessments at two local companies. There, they toured the facilities, interviewed senior management and presented the findings of their assessment to the company management.

"The assessment team was very perceptive, and their findings were spot on," said Pete Thomopoulos, project manager of ABB Inc., one of the companies evaluated by the Black Belt students. "The assessment reinforced opportunities and benefits for ABB by applying more Lean processes to the way we do business."

The students finished the course by doing a Lean project within their own companies. They took what they learned in the classroom, and with the support of the instructors, worked to implement Lean in their workplace.

"The participants had the opportunity to do a hands-on, graded project within their own companies," Farner said. "This is a vital piece of the learning because it allowed them to apply what they have been learning in the classroom to a real situation. It is only through 'doing' that they will be able to digest how the theory translates into the, often unpredictable, reality of being an internal Lean consultant."

The students successfully completed the program and received a Lean Black Belt Certificate, presented to the students at a dinner ceremony Thursday, Dec. 2, after giving their final projects. By earning this certificate, they have learned the skills to be able to analyze and resolve various conflicts in their organizations and work independently on Lean projects.

This program also gave students the knowledge of how to smoothly and successfully diversify into new areas of industry if applicable by preparing the organization internally first.

"The Lean Black Belt class offers monumental breakthroughs to management systems and beyond," Morales said. "I have learned how to organize and improve not only my work environment but furthermore, my personal life as well. The Lean program provides a direction, which can take companies to a higher level of management and business operation starting from leadership and cascading to empowerment of employees."

For more information, visit oakland.edu/diversify.

SUMMARY

As the fall semester winds down at Oakland University, so too does the new OU Lean Diversification Program at the Macomb-OU INCubator.

Created by Rachel Zynel (rezynel@oakland.edu) on Wednesday, November 9, 2011
Modified by Rachel Zynel (rezynel@oakland.edu) on Monday, January 23, 2012

Article Start Date: Monday, December 5, 2011



Prashanth Nagaraju gives his Lean presentation.

Monday, December 5, 2011

Meadow Brook Ball to feature diamond-studded theme, sold-out crowd

After a jump in popularity last season, Oakland University's Meadow Brook Ball continues to be among the most anticipated campus events. Tickets for the diamond-themed affair went on sale last week and inclement weather did not prevent students from lining up outside the Oakland Center as early as 4 a.m., hours before the box office opened.

Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities and Leadership Development, said that tickets sold out quickly. "You needed to be in line by 7 a.m. to get a ticket," said Miller, adding that time-saving measures were in place to help streamline the process. "Everything went smoothly. The students were very patient and orderly."

This year, those who didn't get a ticket had the opportunity to enter a lottery where 10 couples tickets were up for grabs.

The Meadow Brook Ball is the oldest tradition at Oakland, beginning in the 1970s. It is the only formal event at the university, and it is only open to current students. This year's theme, "Diamonds are a Grizzly's Best Friend," was chosen by a committee of about 30 members. The estate will be decked out in diamonds for an evening of sophistication and elegance, according to Sarah Paszko, president of the Meadow Brook Ball Committee.

"This year's ball will have a DJ king for a night of dancing, a character artist, a live statue for photo ops, a harpist to help set the mood, a sleight-of-hand expert to entertain the guests and a photo booth," Paszko said. "It's an amazing opportunity for students to get dressed up and attend a ball at the prestigious Meadow Brook mansion."

The Meadow Brook Ball is set for 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturday, February 4, 2012 at Meadow Brook Hall. For more information about the ball, contact the CSA office at (248) 370-2400 or csa@oakland.edu. For more information about The Hall, [visit the website](#).

SUMMARY

Tickets have already sold out for the popular Meadow Brook Ball. This year's theme is "Diamonds are a Grizzly's Best Friend."

Created by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Monday, December 5, 2011
Modified by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Monday, December 5, 2011
Article Start Date: Monday, December 5, 2011

Monday, December 5, 2011

OUAA Chicago Gathering 2011



The Oakland University Alumni Association is headed to the Windy City again this December! Chicago area alumni are invited to attend an evening gathering to network with area alumni and offer input on how you'd like engage in a regional alumni network. There is no cost to attend, but registration is encouraged. We have space available again at Elephant & Castle for OU alumni and the Alumni Engagement staff. Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

SUMMARY

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Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Campus community to hold revised hours for holiday recess

Oakland University classes will recess for the winter holiday at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10. The university will be closed Friday, Dec. 23 through Monday, Jan. 2.

During the holiday recess, several Oakland facilities will have revised hours of operation.

Kresge Library

Dec. 16, Open until 8 p.m.
Dec. 17-18, Closed
Dec. 19-22, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Dec. 23-Jan. 2, Closed
Jan 3, Open at 7:30 a.m. (normal hours resume)

Recreation Center

Dec. 10-23:
5:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. Monday -Thursday
5:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. Friday
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday
11 am – 7 p.m. Sunday
Dec. 24-25, Closed
Dec. 26-30, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Dec. 31-Jan 1, Closed
Jan. 2, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Aquatic Center

Dec. 10-23:
5:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. / 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday
5:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. / 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Friday
9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Saturday
11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Sunday
Dec. 24-25, Closed
Dec. 26-30, 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 31-Jan. 1, Closed
Jan. 2, 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Oakland Center:

Dec. 11, Closed
Dec. 12-15, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Dec. 16, 7 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Dec. 17, 8 a.m. -8 p.m.
Dec. 18, Closed
Dec. 19-21, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Dec. 22, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Dec. 23 – Jan. 2, Closed
Jan. 3, 7 a.m. – 12 a.m.

For more information on Oakland events and dates, [view the calendar](#). To view the Academic Calendar, [click here](#).

SUMMARY

OU classes will recess for the winter holiday at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10. The university will be closed Friday, Dec. 23 through Monday, Jan. 2.

Created by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Tuesday, December 6, 2011
Modified by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Tuesday, December 6, 2011
Article Start Date: Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Graduate Students Twardy and Channappanavar Publish in the Journal Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science

Assistant Professor and CBR member **Susmit Suvas** studies **immunology**: how the immune system fights infections. He is assisted in this work by two graduate students in the **Biomedical Sciences: Biological Communications PhD program**: Brandon Twardy and Rudragouda Channappanavar. This team recently published in the November issue of the journal **Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science (Volume 52, Pages 8604-8613)**. The purpose of their study is "to determine whether **substance P** in **herpes simplex virus-1** infected **cornea** regulates the severity of **herpetic stromal keratitis lesions** in a mouse model." The herpes simplex virus-1 is responsible for, among other things, many cold sores, and can persist in the body by hiding from the immune system inside nerve cells. Herpetic Stromal Keratitis lesions are herpes simplex virus infections of the surface of the cornea of the eye, specifically of the stroma—a transparent layer of the cornea consisting largely of collagen fibers plus a few fibroblast cells responsible for repairing and maintaining the collagen. Substance P is a neuropeptide (a short chain of amino acids) that plays a role in the perception of pain. Suvas and his team "determined a significantly higher level of [substance P] in the corneas with severe [herpetic stromal keratitis lesions] in comparison with mild lesions." They conclude that "[substance P] present in the corneal stroma of the eyes with severe [herpetic stromal keratitis] lesions are actively involved in orchestrating stromal tissue damage by exerting its action on both stromal keratocytes and infiltrating immune cell types." Suvas's laboratory is supported by a grant from the **National Institutes of Health**.

SUMMARY

Graduate students Brandon Twardy and Rudragouda Channappanavar publish a report about herpes simplex virus in the Journal Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science

Created by Brad Roth (roth@oakland.edu) on Wednesday, December 7, 2011
Modified by Brad Roth (roth@oakland.edu) on Wednesday, December 7, 2011
Article Start Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

OU program ideal for aspiring financial service professionals

Concerns over the current economic climate, preparing for retirement and finding the right financial products and services have many Americans seeking professional financial guidance. This has created new opportunities for financial service professionals who can provide integrated analyses of clients' needs and compile comprehensive financial plans.

To help answer growing demand, Oakland University's School of Business Administration offers the Certificate Program in Personal Financial Planning. Starting the week of Monday, Jan. 9, the program will present techniques and knowledge used to assist clients in accumulating, conserving and transferring personal wealth.

This board-registered program will allow students to exchange information with colleagues from a wide range of professions and businesses, as well as with instructors who represent the full spectrum of the financial services industry.

Experienced faculty will bridge the gap between theory and real world practice through lectures, discussions, case studies and guest expert presentations. Students will also be able to connect to many Personal Financial Planning courses remotely using a web-based online educational system.

Graduates of the program will earn a Certificate in Personal Financial Planning and will be eligible to sit for the CFP® Certification Examination. Candidates need to have a bachelor's degree to be awarded the CFP® designation.

The deadline to register for the winter certificate program is Friday, Jan. 6.

Individuals who are ready now to prepare for the certification examination can register for an instructor-led, comprehensive Exam Review Workshop hosted by the SBA and Keir Educational Resources. The review will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Feb. 16-19. Participants can register for the Exam Review Workshop through Thursday, Jan. 19.

To learn more about or to register for either program, visit oakland.edu/pfp or call the program office at (248) 370-3128.

SUMMARY

To help answer growing industry demand, the School of Business Administration will offer the Certificate Program in Personal Financial Planning starting Monday, Jan. 9.

Created by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Wednesday, December 7, 2011
Modified by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Wednesday, December 7, 2011
Article Start Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

OU ranked as one of Michigan's safest college campuses

StateUniversity.com, an online college information clearinghouse, has ranked Oakland University as the second safest campus among Michigan's four-year institutions. The ratings are part of a nationwide study the website conducted based on campus crime reports from 450 colleges and universities.

According to a press release issued by the website, the safety ratings consider the likelihood that any individual student will be victimized by aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, theft, larceny, motor vehicle theft, forcible rape or murder on his or her campus. Occurrences of violent crime more negatively impact a campus' safety rating than non-violent crime.

Oakland University Police Chief Samuel Lucido said that because no academic or campus community endeavor can be successful without a strong sense of safety and security, protecting faculty, staff, students and visitors on campus has always been the university's highest priority.

"Studying, enhancing and communicating campus safety procedures is an ongoing process that we simply never take a break from," Lucido explained.

"We're fortunate that an extremely dedicated team of professionals from across the university has helped put our extensive public safety system in place, but we know that constant vigilance and efforts to improve the system are critical to protecting the welfare of everyone on this campus."

Just an abbreviated list of protocols and initiatives in place include:

- Immediate emergency reporting by phone, text message or e-mail
- More than a dozen dedicated emergency telephones throughout campus
- An online behavioral concerns reporting system
- A multi-tiered campus emergency communication system
- Comprehensive and widely distributed emergency preparedness guides
- The Nightwatch university housing security program
- Campuswide distribution of desktop emergency response guides
- Sexual assault awareness programs offered by numerous university offices
- Self-defense education programs
- Campus violence response presentations
- Ongoing emergency response training scenarios

Authors of the **StateUniversity.com** study note that there is virtually no correlation between a college's size, academic reputation and safety rating.

"Among the top 50 safest schools, you won't see many well-known national universities commonly found atop college ranking lists," the press release states. "In fact, the large state universities and prestigious colleges that are 'household names' in many parts of the country are scattered all over the list."

The 2011 rankings for the state of Michigan are available by [clicking here](#).

SUMMARY

StateUniversity.com, an online college information clearinghouse, has ranked OU as the second safest campus among Michigan's four-year institutions.

Created by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Modified by David Groves (groves@oakland.edu) on Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Article Start Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Honors College students forge global connections

Honors College students at Oakland University were awake extra early recently, working live across the world with students and faculty in Seoul, Korea, and Adelaide, Australia.

Beginning at 6 a.m. at Oakland, the virtual workshop event was lead by Dr. Graeme Harper, director of the Honors College. Through this connection, OU students were able to explore writing, researching and learning in a global environment, while forging new connections with students and faculty at the Sogang University in Korea and Flinders University in Australia.

"Video link technology can spectacularly bring the world together," Dr. Harper said. "But just as importantly, we can conduct real-time global research. It sometimes means that we need a little more coffee when we're working in the mornings like this, but this kind of virtual global connection always leads to substantial developments for students and faculty."

The next step for students is to participate in a unique global publication project, where original critical and creative writing produced at the three universities will be published in English and then translated into the languages of the participating students.

"We'll see our students' work published alongside the work of students from Australia, writing in English, and students from Korea, some of whom will be writing in Korean and some in Chinese," Dr. Harper added.

Images from this event will be included in a global video titled, "Making Our World," set to debut this spring as part of the international Creative Universities initiative. In the video, seven different zones of the world will be linked to create original creative and critical works together, in many forms.

"By spring, Oakland students will be researching and creating work right here, but with their peers, globally. They'll be making friends along the way, and getting their own research out there too," Harper said. "That's just the beginning of what we can achieve."

To learn more about the Honors College, [view the website](#).



Dr. Harper, director of the Honors College, coordinates a program for OU students to work live with students from Australia and South Korea.

SUMMARY

Honors College students at Oakland University were awake extra early recently, working live across the world with students and faculty in Seoul, Korea, and Adelaide, Australia.

Created by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Thursday, December 8, 2011
Modified by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Thursday, December 8, 2011
Article Start Date: Thursday, December 8, 2011

Friday, December 9, 2011

Dinner recognizes business student achievements of 2011

The School of Business Administration is recognizing nearly 200 undergraduate business students at **aspecial invitation-only dinner** in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms Friday, Dec. 9.

Sponsored by the OU Branch of the **MSU Federal Credit Union**, this inaugural event honors students who have excelled in academic and leadership activities in 2011. Those being recognized include:

- Dean's List honorees -- Those receiving grades of 3.60 or higher in each of the consecutive fall and winter semesters of the previous academic year.
- Scholarship recipients -- Those who received scholarships for academic excellence from the SBA or OU.
- Applied Technology in Business students -- Those accepted into the SBA's ATiB program
- SBA Scholars
- Student organization presidents

The evening includes a dinner a formal program, where SBA Dean Mohan Tanniru and Karen Markel, faculty director, strategic initiatives and undergraduate business programs, and associate professor, management, will welcome and recognize honored students.

SUMMARY

The School of Business Administration is recognizing nearly 200 undergraduate business students at a special invitation-only dinner in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms Friday, Dec. 9.

Created by Claudette Zolkowski-Brown (zolkowsk@oakland.edu) on Friday, December 9, 2011
Modified by Claudette Zolkowski-Brown (zolkowsk@oakland.edu) on Friday, December 9, 2011
Article Start Date: Friday, December 9, 2011

Friday, December 9, 2011

Ghana, Africa joins OU's summer study abroad line-up

Oakland University is now offering a new and unique cultural arts study abroad program to Ghana, West Africa, through the Center for International Programs and the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance.

The 26-day summer program – which runs July 9 through Aug. 3, 2012 – will focus on studying the rich visual and performing art traditions of Ghana.

"The program will take place at the Dagara Music Center, located just outside the capital of Accra," said Mark Stone, coordinator of OU's World Music and Percussion program. "At the center, students will study African music, dance, history and language. We will also travel to visit castles of Ghana's coast and Kakum National Park, as well as travel to cultural sites in Northern Ghana."

"Oakland University is prioritizing the internationalization of the campus," said Professor Brian Connery, director of OU's Study Abroad/International Education program. "International study allows students to broaden horizons, become citizens of the world and develop personal resources."

The Ghana program is one of 22 programs offered in 19 countries through Oakland University's Study Abroad office. These faculty-led programs include study in Beijing, China; Costa Rica; Hydra, Greece; and Oxford, England. Semester-long exchange programs include Nagoya, Japan; Orleans, France; Dunedin, New Zealand; and Oldenburg, Germany.

Oakland University also offers study abroad programs through affiliates AHA International and JCMU (Japanese Center for Michigan Universities) to 19 countries, including, Argentina, Australia, Austria, China, England, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Morocco and Spain. Programs run for weeks, a month, a semester or a full-year.

"OU programs are economical, provide the comfort of familiar faculty and students, and are OU credit hours with no transfer problems," Connery said. "Scholarships are available to help make programs more affordable, and financial aid may be applied to international programs."

Applications are now being accepted for summer 2012 programs.

"The summer programs are appealing because they are shorter and cheaper," Connery said. "They also allow steady progress toward completion of a degree."

Most study abroad programs are at the 200-300 level for second- to third-year students.

"Guest students are welcome to participate in programs and can transfer credit back to their home university," Connery said.

To schedule an advising appointment, call Connery at 248-370-2889. For additional OU Study Abroad information, visit oakland.edu/ie or on [Facebook](#).



SUMMARY

OU is now offering a new cultural arts study abroad program to Ghana, West Africa, through the Center for International Programs and MTD.

Created by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Friday, December 9, 2011
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Friday, December 9, 2011

Take 5 with Cora Hanson

By **Katie Land**, news editor

*Composed of a diverse array of faculty, staff and administrators, the Oakland University community is unique, creative, and dedicated. As part of a continuing effort to explore the various roles and lives of our Golden Grizzlies, the **News @ OU website** presents a new interview series. We invite you to share these stories and "Take 5" with OU.*

"Take 5 with Cora Hanson"

Cora Hanson is the manager of Environmental Health and Life Safety. In her role, Cora oversees many issues on campus such as occupational safety, health, fire and life safety systems, environmental compliance, training, crisis management and more. Additionally, Cora serves on several committees and works as a liaison to a variety of organizations and departments. Since joining the Oakland University community about ten years ago, Cora has worked to ensure that the campus community moves along safely and smoothly. In recognition of her dedication and quality work, she was also named the OU Employee of the Month in 2010.



1) What are the unique challenges you face in your field?

It is always a challenge to balance the dynamic between the every day issues and those that come up in an emergency situation. We try to be proactive in our programming, but the nature of my work is very responsive, and it is difficult to anticipate every scenario. We respond to a constantly evolving regulatory environment. Opinions change and policies change very quickly, so we have to stay on top of it. I try to be prepared to changing procedures and work to find funding to implement these changes. At Oakland, I have seen that the whole of our community is concerned with health and safety, so knowing that we always have support certainly makes my job easier.

2) Do you have any tips to help people stay safe and healthy throughout the winter season?

As far as general health goes, I recommend that everyone follow the "Stop the Flu at OU" procedures and wash hands, get a flu shot, and stay home when you are sick. There are many issues to focus on this time of year, everything from safely shoveling snow to the proper way to deep fry a turkey. Especially at this time of year, when everyone is rushing around, remembering to slow down a little, can help us all to be a little safer! But, health and safety are important throughout the year, and it is my job to inform and help everyone remember this.

3) Do you have any special holiday traditions?

I'm a Christmas nut, so the list of family holiday traditions could be endless. I love to cook, bake and entertain and I always get my family to traipse into a field to cut down our own Christmas tree (whatever the Michigan weather!) Over the past few years, my parents have begun to host a Polar Express Screening Party for the kids, and we have several Christmas Eve traditions. Since my family is very close and lives very near each other, we are able to spend a lot of time together.

4) Where is your favorite vacation or travel spot?

We visited Hatteras Island in the Outer Banks last year and it was really beautiful. I would love to return, but Hurricane Irene has since been through and I know there was a lot of damage to the area. To me, any kind of travel is good travel. Really, the first day of a vacation is the most exciting... there is so much anticipation. Anything is possible! Before we had children, my husband and I were able to travel overseas and throughout Europe. My favorite of those trips was to Munich, it was such a phenomenal experience. I also have a family connection there, so it was a really incredible trip. We travelled all through Bavaria. I would love to go back with the kids.

5) What is a typical workday like for you?

There are no typical workdays! There are always projects and tasks to get done, but the day is really dictated by what needs to be addressed, and that can change at a moment's notice. I could teach a training class, or work with a student intern, but then things come up. Construction and renovation projects usually have several issues attached to them that need a response. Also, everyone in my office is a first responder for Oakland University, so we on call all day and all night. The various situations could be fire, flood, a chemical spill, air control or several others. I also act as a liaison with Hazmat, the fire department, and any other community organization we may need to interact with.

SUMMARY

Cora Hanson is the manager of Environmental Health and Life Safety.

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Article Start Date: Friday, December 9, 2011

Saturday, December 10, 2011

Business leader honored for decades of entrepreneurial success

Oakland University plans to recognize an exemplary leader, philanthropist and honorary alumnus who over three decades has guided the small business he founded to its current status as a tier one supplier to the automotive, aerospace, solar, appliance and military manufacturing industries across the globe.

The School of Business Administration will present Hugh Elliott, CEO of Elliott Group International, an honorary doctorate of science at its commencement ceremony Dec. 17. The gesture pays tribute to the incredible entrepreneurial success Elliott has seen, all while emphasizing quality, integrity, social responsibility, and global and cultural diversity in the corporate climate.

A nomination form submitted on his behalf proclaims, "This is an individual who honed his leadership skills through a respected service record in Vietnam, where honor, loyalty and willingness to care for one's fellow man weren't platitudes given in a speech, but the difference between life and death for soldiers in the 2nd Infantry."

That same sense of dedication is evident in a progressive and effective business management style that emphasizes success with a personal touch.

"You cannot always cut costs to make a profit," Elliott explained. "You also must focus on growing people. I'd rather have the profits going to my employees' salaries and bonuses so they can take care of their families."

A manufacturer of adhesive products used for a variety of manufacturing purposes, Elliott Group International maintains product quality that is consistently used as a benchmark by competitors. The company's revenue is estimated at \$972 million in sales since its inception.

While seeking to continually advance product quality and innovation, Elliott has enlisted university researchers in partnerships that also provide unique educational opportunities for students.

"Turning out good business students who can successfully lead in today's global environment isn't an option, but imperative," he said. "The only way the U.S. – Michigan – will be able to stay competitive in the global workplace is to make students realize the importance of education in a culturally diverse environment. We have to start seeing how jobs and communities need to be built together."

Working toward that goal, Elliott made a significant gift to Oakland's School of Business Administration and Information Technology building, which bears his and his wife's, Nancy, names. He also has made a number of contributions to university athletics programs, academic scholarships and endowments.

"We strive to provide students with the knowledge, skills and globally minded perspectives they'll need to lead a constantly evolving business world, and critical to this process is fostering mutually enriching partnerships with business and industry leaders," said SBA Dean Mohan Tanniru.

"In every sense of this mission, Hugh Elliott exemplifies the pinnacle of what future business leaders can hope to achieve. I can't think of anyone more deserving of an honor we present to individuals whose careers represent the most telling case studies in business success."

Not surprisingly, given his extensive level of community and university involvement, Elliott has won a number of recognitions prior to his nomination for the honorary doctorate degree. These include being named as a finalist for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in Michigan, winning the Gary D. Russi Community Service Award, induction in the OU Athletics Hall of Fame and being named an OU Honorary Alumnus. He also was bestowed the honor of "des Chevaliers du Testevin" by the French Government in 1995.

SUMMARY

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Article Start Date: Saturday, December 10, 2011



Monday, December 12, 2011

Graduates to be honored at commencement ceremonies Dec. 17

Oakland University will honor its August and December graduates at three commencement ceremonies on Saturday, Dec. 17, in Oakland's athletic arena (The O'rena). The ceremony schedule is as follows:

9 a.m. – College of Arts and Sciences
School of Education and Human Services
Bachelor of Integrative Studies

1 p.m. – All masters and doctoral candidates

5 p.m. – School of Business Administration
School of Engineering and Computer Science
School of Nursing
School of Health Sciences

Speakers for the 9 a.m. ceremony will be OU alumni Robert Schostak, CAS '78 and Kaniqua Daniel, CAS '05. Schostak is CEO of Schostak Brothers and Company Inc. and currently serves as chairman of the Michigan Republican Party. Daniel is a communications specialist for the POH Riley Foundation.

The speakers for the 1 p.m. ceremony will be OU alumni Bryan Barnett, SBA '98 and Donna Weinstein, Ph.D, SEHS '09. Barnett is the mayor of Rochester Hills, a position he has held since 2006. Dr. Weinstein is a graduate of OU's doctoral program in counseling and a part-time lecturer for the department .

R. Hugh Elliot, businessman and longtime OU supporter, will receive an honorary degree at the 5 p.m. ceremony. His generous gifts to Oakland have made him the namesake of the Hugh and Nancy Elliot Room in the O'rena and Elliot Hall of Business and Information Technology. Denise Ann Taylor, SBA '91, business development executive at Now Hire, will be the alumni speaker.

Vocal Performance major Taylor Boykins will perform the national anthem at all three ceremonies.

Web users can [view the live commencement stream online](#) on the OU homepage. The camera will be active only during commencement exercises.

Doors to the O'rena will be open for guests half an hour before each ceremony. All guests must have tickets and should be seated 15 minutes prior to the processional.

Those planning to attend graduation should review the campus map and parking information. Parking is free and open to the public, except where indicated. In case of inclement weather, information will be available by calling (248) 370-2000 or by tuning in to WWJ or WJR radio stations or Fox2, WDIV-TV or WXYZ-TV.

Each ceremony will be interpreted in sign language. Guests with other special needs should call the Office of the Provost at (248) 370-2190.

For additional information regarding commencement ceremonies, call (248) 370-2190 or view the [commencement website](#).

SUMMARY

Oakland University will honor its August and December graduates at three commencement ceremonies on Saturday, Dec. 17, in Oakland's athletic arena.

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Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Google Street View showcases Oakland University's campus

Forget a bird's eye view - individuals from across the globe can now get peak at Oakland University from the ground floor, thanks to Google Street View.

The Street View feature of Google Maps allows viewers to explore locations throughout the world, utilizing 360 degree street level imagery, showcasing areas of public interest, such as universities.

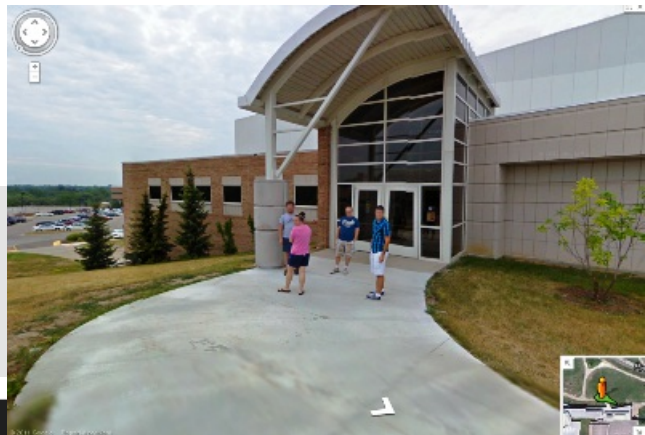
OU was offered a highly-coveted place in the Street View Partner Program. Other universities that received this coverage include San Diego State University, Cornell, Penn State, and Penn State Stadium.

Typically, the Street View imagery is collected from a vehicle, but in OU's case, a human powered bicycle was outfitted with a camera, creating a unique look at the roads, paths, and trails around campus.

Soon, the Street View feature will be fully integrated into Oakland's website, which will enable users to tour and explore the campus virtually from anywhere in the world in Google Maps and Google Earth.

Out of town, out of state, or international visitors will be able to utilize this program in a variety of ways, from campus touring to finding classes, parking and much more.

For now, Oakland's Street View can be viewed by searching for Oakland University on Google Maps, and dragging the figure icon to a location on campus. [Click here](#) to see more.



SUMMARY

Forget a bird's eye view - individuals from across the globe can now get peak at Oakland University from the ground floor, thanks to Google Street View.

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Article Start Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

OU to honor outstanding businessman and philanthropist

Oakland University plans to recognize an exemplary leader, philanthropist and honorary alumnus who over three decades has guided the small business he founded to its current status as a tier one supplier to automotive, aerospace, solar, appliance and military manufacturing industries across the globe.

On Dec. 17, 2011, the School of Business Administration will present Hugh Elliott, CEO of Elliott Group International, an honorary doctorate of science. The gesture pays tribute to the incredible entrepreneurial success Elliott has seen, all while emphasizing quality, integrity, social responsibility, and global and cultural diversity in the corporate climate.

A nomination form submitted on his behalf proclaims, "This is an individual who honed his leadership skills through a respected service record in Vietnam, where honor, loyalty and willingness to care for one's fellow man weren't platitudes given in a speech, but the difference between life and death for soldiers in the 2nd Infantry."

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"Turning out good business students who can successfully lead in today's global environment isn't an option, but imperative," he said. "The only way the U.S. – Michigan – will be able to stay competitive in the global workplace is to make students realize the importance of education in a culturally diverse environment. We have to start seeing how jobs and communities need to be built together."

Working toward that goal, Elliott made a gift to the Oakland's School of Business Administration and Information Technology building, which now bears his and his wife Nancy's names. He also has made a number of contributions to university athletics programs, academic scholarships and endowments.

"We strive to provide students with the knowledge, skills and globally minded perspectives they'll need to lead a constantly evolving business world, and critical to this process is fostering mutually enriching partnerships with business and industry leaders," said SBA Dean Mohan Tanniru.

"In every sense of this mission, Hugh Elliott exemplifies the pinnacle of what future business leaders can hope to achieve. I can't think of anyone more deserving of an honor we present to individuals whose careers represent the most telling case studies in business success."

Not surprisingly, given his extensive level of community and university involvement, Elliott has won a number of recognitions prior to his nomination for the honorary doctorate degree. These include being named as a finalist for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in Michigan, winning the Gary D. Russi Community Service Award, induction in the OU Athletics Hall of Fame and being named an OU Honorary Alumnus. He also was bestowed the honor of "des Chevaliers du Testevin" by the French Government in 1995.

SUMMARY

Hugh Elliott, CEO of Elliott Group International, will receive an honorary doctorate degree recognizing his incredible entrepreneurial and community-minded success.

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Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Graduate student Amy Siebert publishes paper on breast cancer

In 1993 **Science Magazine** named p53 its "**Molecule of the Year**" because of its ability to suppress tumors in humans. The development of many **breast cancers** is affected by **hormones** such as **estrogen**, so it is natural to ask if these hormones act by increasing the amount of p53. Graduate student Amy Siebert, in the **Master of Science in Biology** program, was lead author on a paper about "**Effects of Estrogen Metabolite 2-Methoxyestradiol on Tumor Suppressor Protein p53 and Proliferation of Breast Cancer Cells**," published in the December issue of the journal **Systems Biology in Reproductive Medicine** (Volume 57, Pages 279-287). Coauthors include graduate student Amy Sanchez in the **Biomedical Sciences: Biological Communication PhD program**, Assistant Professor **Sumi Dinda** of the **School of Health Sciences**, and Professor **Virinder Moudgil**, of the **Department of Biological Sciences**, who is Oakland University's **Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost**. The abstract of Siebert's paper is given below.

An endogenous **17 beta-estradiol** (E(2)) metabolite, **2-methoxyestradiol** (2-ME(2)), has been reported to exhibit **estrogen receptor** (ER)-independent **anti-angiogenic** and anti-tumor effects. Several mechanisms have been proposed for 2-ME(2) actions, but there is a lack of evidence for a common pathway for all of the cell-types sensitive to this metabolite. We have examined potential alterations in p53 in response to 2-ME(2), E(2) and the **microtubule** disruptor **taxol** in T47D breast cancer cells. Cells were cultured for six days in medium depleted of endogenous steroids or effectors. Semi-confluent cells were treated with 2-ME(2) (1 nM - 10 mu M), 10 nM E(2) and/or 1 mu M taxol and subjected to **SDS-PAGE** and **Western blot** analysis, quantitative analysis, or **laser-scanning confocal microscopy**. Western blot analysis revealed a concentration-dependent biphasic trend in p53 levels. Addition of 10 nM - 1 mu M 2-ME(2) induced significant up-regulation in p53, and this response gradually diminished to levels comparable to the control upon treatment with higher concentrations (2.5 - 10 mu M). The observed **upregulation** of p53 induced by 2-ME(2) is inhibited by concurrent treatment with 1 mu M taxol. Cell quantitation revealed a significant decrease (50 - 90%) in cell number upon treatment with 1 - 10 mu M 2-ME(2) with minimal effect at lower concentrations. No additional effect on cell proliferation was observed when taxol was combined with 10 nM or 1 mu M 2-ME(2). In a concentration dependent manner, treatment with 2-ME(2) for 24 h differentially influenced cellular localization of p53. These results may aid in further understanding the relationship between steroid receptors, tumor suppressor proteins, and effects of hormone metabolites on breast cancer cells.

SUMMARY

Graduate student Amy Siebert publishes paper on breast cancer.

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Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Oakland University Fall 2011 grades now available

Fall 2011 grades are now available by logging into the **SAIL/portal** using a valid e-mail address and password.

As a reminder, Oakland University sends official university business information to students through their OU e-mail account, providing a more efficient and cost-effective notification of items like bills, grades availability, schedule of classes, news, campus events and more.

For more information about student records, academic calendar and more, view the Registrar's website at **oakland.edu/registrar**.

Winter 2012 classes begin Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012.

SUMMARY

Fall 2011 grades are now available by logging into the SAIL/portal using a valid e-mail address and password.

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Wednesday, December 14, 2011

OU's annual Come Home to OU festival set for Jan. 27-29

By Eric Reikowski, media relations assistant

As temperatures turn colder and snow begins to fall, Oakland University's spirit-filled homecoming celebration is rapidly approaching.

Set for Jan. 27-29, the annual Come Home to OU festival features honorary alumni co-chairs David Baker Lewis, SBA '65, and Cameron Brunet-Koch, Ph.D. CAS '78. Lewis is chairman and founding partner of Lewis & Munday, P.C. and formerly served as director and trustee of the Oakland University Foundation. Dr. Brunet-Koch is president of North Central Michigan College and also has served as director of CIPO and assistant director in the Department of University Housing at OU.

"Homecoming is a wonderful opportunity for alumni and friends to reconnect with the university community," said Glenn McIntosh, dean and assistant vice president for Student Affairs. McIntosh also co-chairs the Come Home to OU planning committee. "The event is now in its fourth year and has grown into a cherished campus tradition."

This year's homecoming includes a wide array of events and activities, starting with an Alumni Welcome Reception from 5-8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 27, at Meadow Brook Hall, where alumni can reconnect with friends and former classmates while enjoying appetizers and a cash bar. This event is free, but attendees must pre-register at grizzlink.oualumni.com/events.

Later that evening, participants will be treated to a Friday Night Live Comedy Show from 7-9 p.m. in the Campus Recreation Center Pioneer Room. Performer Nick Pike will deliver a fast-paced mix of juggling, acrobatics and laughs. The night will conclude with the time-honored tradition, "Guard the Grizz," along with the "Snow Bowl" intramural flag football game from 9 p.m. to midnight. A "Car Smash" event is also planned, with all the action taking place outdoors near the Campus Recreation Center.

Festivities will continue on Saturday, Jan. 28, with a variety of academic unit open houses to take place throughout the morning. Additionally, the Varsity "O" Reunion of all varsity alumni athletes will be held from noon to 2 p.m. in the Oakland Center to commemorate 47 years of spirited competition and tradition at OU. Other receptions and activities are scheduled, including the OU Student Body Tailgate Party from noon to 3 p.m. in the P-16 parking lot. The Alumni Association Family Festival will run from 1-3 p.m. in the Campus Recreation Center; Center for Multicultural Initiatives and Black Alumni Social from 1-3 p.m. in the Oakland Center Oakland Room; the OU Housing Reunion from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Vandenberg Hall Cafeteria for hall directors, resident assistants, and housing personnel; and the first-ever Retired OU Faculty and Staff Reception from 2-3 p.m. in the Recreation Center Pioneer Room.

Additionally, men's and women's basketball games will take place in the OU Athletics Center (O'rena) from 3:30-8 p.m., followed by OU's annual Casino Night from 8 p.m. to midnight in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms. Presented by the Student Program Board and University Housing, the evening is packed with food, music, games and novelty acts, along with a chance to win various prizes.

The weekend will round out with the Golden Grizzlies Homecoming 5k Run/Walk on Sunday, Jan. 29. Early registration for this event (before Sunday, Jan. 22) is \$10 for OU students and \$15 for the general public. Late registration is \$15 for OU students and \$20 for the general public. On-site registration starts at 7:30 a.m. and the race will begin at 9 a.m. The race begins and ends at the Athletics Center, with an awards ceremony taking place in the O'rena immediately following the race. For an entry form, visit the runmichigan.com race calendar. For questions, contact Paul Rice at rice@oakland.edu.

For a complete listing of homecoming activities and further information about specific events, visit the [Come Home to OU website](#).

SUMMARY

OU's spirit-filled homecoming celebration is set for Jan. 27-29, with the annual Come Home to OU festival.

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Thursday, December 15, 2011

PACE to promote continuing education courses, programs

By Eric Reikowski, media relations assistant

Oakland University's Office of Strategic Programs recently launched a new unit for professional and continuing education (PACE) programs. While such programs have been offered at OU for some time, PACE represents a coordinated effort to centrally house continuing education (CE) courses and programs. The university hopes this new approach will help raise the profile of PACE and strengthen Oakland's ties to the surrounding community.

"We want people to know there's a continuing education program at OU," said Adrienne Bass, director of strategic programs. "The university has a huge pool of faculty who are experts in their field and we want to leverage their knowledge to help bridge the gap between the research, corporate and non-profit worlds."

A diverse range of professional development courses are offered through the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Business Administration, School of Education, School of Engineering and School of Nursing. Offerings are constantly evolving to fit the educational and training needs of the community across all economic sectors. Popular offerings include programs in paralegal studies, financial planning, career development, animal assisted therapy and nursing. Secondary education teachers can obtain professional development credits and attend Advanced Placement program conferences.

A number of partnerships have been forged with the goal of bringing OU faculty experts together with industry professionals, students and the general public.

An initiative with St. Joseph Mercy Oakland was launched in an effort to improve local health care services, health education and quality of life in Oakland County. As part of this ground-breaking joint venture, research experts from the university and the hospital will provide training to scores of St. Joseph Mercy Oakland doctors, nurses, residents and medical students.

The Macomb-OU INCubator and Pawley Lean Institute have partnered to offer the Lean Diversification Program, which is supported by a \$450,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration. Led by industry experts, the program will provide companies with the techniques necessary to make strategic decisions about diversification and, most importantly, develop employees to be key contributors and analytical thinkers in growth strategies.

Additionally, PACE has teamed with the Older Persons Commission of Rochester to bring a series of public lectures on topics of interest to the community. OU faculty members provide insightful and informative talks on a diverse range of topics, including science, politics, economics and the environment.

"The PACE program is looking to create more high-quality, customized programs that businesses and non-profit organizations can use to develop employee skills, expand operational resources and enhance overall effectiveness," Bass explained. "We would love to partner with alumni and other professionals who are interested in teaching and using their knowledge to benefit the community."

Through the website, individuals can view the course catalogue, register for classes and find information on PACE programs and policies. Classes are offered at various times and locations, both in person and online.

To learn more about PACE, view the website at oakland.edu/pace.

SUMMARY

OU's new unit for professional and continuing education (PACE) programs promote continuing education courses and programs.

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Friday, December 16, 2011

International book collection on display at OU, Jan. 10-20

This January, Oakland University will host a special exhibit of books on loan from the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).

The collection, "Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities," will debut at an open house from 4-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at OU's Educational Resource Lab and will remain on display until Friday, Jan. 20.

The exhibit came together through the efforts of Linda M. Pavonetti, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Reading and Language Arts and vice president of IBBY. IBBY sends this travelling display to a variety of international locations each year. So far, the collection has made stops in Bologna, Italy, California and Chicago before visiting Oakland. From OU, the books will travel to New Delhi, India.

"Many of OU's students have had limited exposure to international books. Because of that, there is a perception that the US has cornered the market for children's publishing. This exhibit may be the first step in understanding that we all need to help children learn - no matter the situation or difficulties. One of the best ways of doing this is through high quality books for all children in their native languages," Dr. Pavonetti noted.

Featuring a variety of materials and illustrative styles, the collection offers rare books that present an often tactile reading experience. Some books are presented in Braille with embossed pictures, others are made of cloth, and still others have attached pieces that are meant to be handled.

Designed to promote understanding and knowledge as well as to foment ideas for the publication and promotion of new books in the field, the stories in this collection feature special needs topics, characters and designs.

"The importance of this type of collection is clear to anyone who has ever tried to find reading material for children who are visually impaired," said Dr. Pavonetti. "Books printed in Braille, BLISS, or other tactile languages are rare and expensive. They are generally not available in libraries or bookstores. Parents and teachers of hearing impaired students also understand the need for books that mirror other children who deal with the same problems their children face on a daily basis."

The award-winning books in this exhibit have been selected from more than 130 nominees submitted by IBBY National Sections and friends of the Haug School in Oslo, Norway, where the collection of more than 3,500 books is housed.

Truly an international collection, the books hail from several nations around the globe, including Japan, Finland, France, Spain, England, Australia, United States, South Africa, Italy, Quebec, Mexico, China, Switzerland, Poland, Germany, Korea, Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Iran.

OU's exhibit is sponsored by the Department of Reading and Language Arts. The Human Development and Child Studies department, OUCARES, and the ERL all worked to plan the event.

For more information about OU's reading and language arts programs, [view the website](#). To learn more about the ERL, visit oakland.edu/erl.

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Friday, December 16, 2011

Latest SBA Insight: Experiential learning complements strong curricular foundation

Message from the Dean

Over the last few years, in building a student-centered environment, the SBA has expanded the experiential learning opportunities available to its students. Our goal was -- and continues to be -- to provide students with a range of experiential opportunities to practice leadership, connect theory and practice, gain competitive differentiating skills and build on career-enriching foundations right from their freshman year. And, to do so in a way that complements the AACSB-International accredited academic education they receive in the classroom.

This **issue of *SBA Insight*** offers a taste of the how students are integrating hands-on experiences with the SBA's strong curriculum. You'll read about the established and respected Applied Technology in Business (ATiB) minor that has launched many alumni careers; our newest addition of the Ideas 2 Business Lab, which offers critical support to OU and Cooley Law School students, faculty and staff in launching new ventures; our commitment to helping students develop professionally through the ACHIEVE program; as well as the global experiences that help our graduates succeed in the world market.

While we are expanding the opportunities for students to excel in multiple ways, our commitment to providing hands-on experience to our students has remained steady throughout our history. Using participation in active student organizations, teamwork in class projects, and engagement in community and business internships, SBA has integrated hands-on experiences with strong curricular foundations to deliver an outstanding business education.

In fact, last year, more than 82 percent of our students had career jobs within a few months of graduation — a phenomenal testimony to the quality of students enrolled at the School of Business Administration.

It's also a testament to the leadership and involvement of the SBA faculty, staff and alumni who provide the structure, support and mentorship that make these opportunities possible, meaningful and successful.

SUMMARY

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Macomb Business Climate Survey offers a positive economic forecast

A recent survey of more than 500 Macomb County area businesses revealed that more business owners and managers are feeling upbeat about the Macomb County economy.

Data from the 2011 Macomb Business Climate Survey indicates that 82 percent of respondents feel that business conditions are as good as or better now than they were a year ago. Positive momentum is expected to grow, as evidenced by 88.9 percent of respondents anticipating as good as or better conditions in the coming year. In addition, more than half of Macomb Area businesses expect their particular business conditions to be better in 2012.

The survey asked owners and managers of widely varied businesses to forecast and provide feedback on topics such as expected revenues, employment growth, rates of compensation and their bottom lines. The survey also tracked the trends in responses by comparing the results with previous surveys.

Data collected in the survey will be used to provide public and private sector decision makers with information valuable in planning and policy development.

Survey results may also point to good news for area residents looking for work. More than a third of Macomb County area businesses are expecting to hire in 2012. The majority of positions will be new rather than recalls from layoffs. Also good news for workers is the fact that more businesses are predicting higher rates of pay for employees.

Of the firms looking to hire, one in five reported a difficulty in finding applicants with the right skill sets. This was especially true for manufacturing firms looking to hire for positions requiring specialized skills rather than college degrees.

A full report on the data will be complete and available to the public in January. This is the fourth time the survey has been completed. The most recent previous survey was completed in December 2010.

The Macomb Business Climate Survey is conducted and compiled by Oakland University in collaboration with the Macomb Chamber Alliance, Leadership Macomb and the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development.

SUMMARY

The 2011 Macomb Business Climate Survey indicates that 82 percent of respondents feel that business conditions are as good as or better now than they were a year ago.

Created by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Friday, December 16, 2011
Modified by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Friday, December 16, 2011
Article Start Date: Friday, December 16, 2011

Friday, December 16, 2011

Middle School Boys Start Own Foundation to Support OUCARES



Kathy Sweeney, Director of OUCARES; Skyler Knapp; Cullin Irvine; Corbin Knapp and Kevin Knapp, Skyler and Corbin's father.

For the last couple of years, Skyler Knapp and his older brother, Corbin, have been attending **Film Camp** at **OUCARES, the Oakland University Center for Autism Research, Education and Support**. Although Corbin is on the autism spectrum, Skyler is not – but he comes to camp because he enjoys sharing the experience with his brother.

Skyler's love for his big brother and his experiences with OUCARES inspired him to do something big. So, Skyler and his good friend Cullin Irvine, decided to start their own foundation.

Cullin and Skyler co-founded the Look Up Foundation to support OUCARES and raised funds selling stretch bracelets at their middle school and collecting other donations. The two boys raised \$403.00 which they presented to OUCARES this week.

In the spirit of the boys' interests, OUCARES will use the funds to establish a Siblings Club for the siblings of children involved at OUCARES. This club will be a valuable addition to OUCARES initiatives to promote quality of life for children with ASD and their families. OUCARES Director, Kathy Sweeney says she is looking forward to working with Skyler and Cullin, "This was such an unexpected gift to OUCARES and we are deeply moved at the efforts of these two young boys."

SUMMARY

Two middle school boys started their own foundation to support OUCARES.

Created by Cathleen Spayde (spayde@oakland.edu) on Friday, January 6, 2012
Modified by Cathleen Spayde (spayde@oakland.edu) on Friday, January 6, 2012
Article Start Date: Friday, December 16, 2011

Friday, December 16, 2011

Rapper and activist Common to deliver address at KOD celebration

With the 20th anniversary of the annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration approaching, Oakland University prepares to welcome distinguished lyricist Common as the keynote speaker.

Best known as a hip hop artist and poet, Common has grown into an actor, author and role model, offering a message of love and self-respect. His introspective rhymes have pushed boundaries with their incisive social commentary, and his lyrics promote family ethics, racial understanding and pride in one's self.

Common is successful across many fields, and has released seven albums, three children's books, a memoir, appeared in several television shows and films, and created a youth organization.

As an author, Common has combined hip-hop with literature. His three children's books are titled "The MIRROR and ME," "I Like You But I Love Me," and "M.E. (Mixed Emotions)." His first book for adults was released in 2011, "One Day It'll All Make Sense," a provocative and touching memoir.

The Common Ground Foundation was launched in 2007, and is an organization dedicated to the empowerment and development of America's urban youth.

Whether inspiring audiences through his music, his books or his foundation, Common continues to break new ground and remains one of hip-hop's most innovative, positive voices.

Oakland's Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards celebration honors the legacy of the late civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The celebration recognizes students who exemplify Dr. King's vision, and reward their efforts in promoting interracial acceptance and understanding.

Established in 1993, Keeper of the Dream provides scholarships up to \$5,000 for students who have demonstrated strong citizenship, scholarship and leadership in breaking down cultural stereotypes and promoting interracial understanding. Since its inception, more than 50 students from a wide variety of academic majors have been awarded scholarships.

This year's celebration is set for 11 a.m. on Monday, January 16, 2012, in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms.

For more information about the Keeper of the Dream event, please call the Center for Multicultural Initiatives at (248) 370-4404 or visit the **[Keeper of the Dream website](#)**.

SUMMARY

Common, rapper, author, and activist will serve as the keynote speaker for the 20th anniversary of the annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration.

Created by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Friday, December 16, 2011
Modified by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Friday, December 16, 2011
Article Start Date: Friday, December 16, 2011

Monday, December 19, 2011

Engineers can boost productivity with an OU engineering '4-pack'

In today's competitive, global economy, organizations need to innovate and adapt in order to succeed. Engineering professionals need to increase their productivity and skill sets to remain valuable and increase chances for advancement.

Oakland University's Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) department has developed a flexible and directed graduate certificate program specifically designed to meet these needs. The personalized Productivity Improvement Graduate Certificate Program, or '4-Pack,' is open to engineers from any field.

By leveraging their strengths, improving relevant skills and availing themselves of specific career opportunities, engineers can choose four program courses specifically suited to individual career needs and goals.

A mechanical engineer looking to implement a continuous productivity improvement process at a tier-one automotive supplier, for example, might enroll in:

- Lean Principles and Application;
- Production Systems and Workflow Analysis;
- Statistical Quality Analysis;
- and Foundations of Systems Engineering I.

More generally, and in consultation with ISE department faculty as well as company supervisors (if desired), the certificate student can select from a list of more than 15 courses. A complete list of program course requirements and course descriptions can be found at oakland.edu/ise/cert.

All courses are offered in two hours sessions, two nights a week. Classes begin in January, May or September, though there is limited course availability in May. Program graduates receive an Oakland University graduate certificate in productivity improvement.

For further information or an initial consultation, contact Professor Robert Van Til at vantil@oakland.edu or (248) 370-2211, or visit oakland.edu/ise.

SUMMARY

This flexible and directed graduate certificate program allows engineers to choose four program courses specifically suited to individual career needs and goals.

Created by David Groves (groves@oakland.edu) on Monday, December 19, 2011

Modified by David Groves (groves@oakland.edu) on Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Article Start Date: Monday, December 19, 2011

Monday, December 19, 2011

OU music intensives offer young learners new insights, inspiration

The Department of Music, Theatre and Dance at Oakland University invites students who wish to expand their musical horizons and experience music in a university setting to take part in daylong music intensives scheduled in January and February. Each of these fun, hands-on workshops feature distinguished musicians and educators who'll work with students individually and in groups to provide a distinct learning experience that is both enlightening and inspirational. The intensives include:

Woodwinds Day – Flute and Clarinet Master Classes – Saturday, Jan. 7

Designed for high school students, this event is hosted by OU Associate Professor of Clarinet George Stoffan, who will be joined by Detroit Symphony Orchestra musicians Sharon Sparrow, principal flute; Jeffery Zook, piccolo and flute; and Shannon Orme, bass clarinet. Special guest will be Christopher Hill, principal clarinetist of the South Dakota Symphony, clarinetist with the Dakota Woodwind Quintet and renowned clarinet mouthpiece designer. For more information, call (248) 370-2030 or e-mail to stapleto@oakland.edu. To register, visit oakland.edu/woodwindsday12.



Voice Day – Saturday, Jan. 14

Dr. Adam Rubin, M.D., laryngologist, and Dr. Cristina Menaldi, speech and language pathologist, will present the best strategies and tips for developing and maintaining a healthy singing voice. Students will interact in a team-taught voice master class by the husband and wife singer/teacher team, Drs. Alta and Drake Dantzler, as well as receive complimentary tickets to the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance's performance of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. To register, visit oakland.edu/voiceday12. For more information, call (248) 370-2030 or e-mail to stapleto@oakland.edu.

Percussion Day – Featuring Joe Reilly – Saturday, Jan. 28

Students will enjoy a full day of activities focusing on percussion from around the world, including solo and ensemble coaching, drumming in the classroom, South Indian rhythmic structures, a jazz drum-off and drum clinic, native drum and song, Ghanaian percussion, a kalimba clinic and a drum circle. For more information, e-mail to stapleto@oakland.edu or call (248) 370-2030.

Piano Day – A Day in Verner Hall in Celebration of the Piano – Saturday, Feb. 4

This intensive will offer enriching artistic experiences tailored to students aged 10-18, including private diagnostic lessons from OU piano faculty, a workshop with a 20th century music specialist, choreography of JS Bach's keyboard dances, a Showcase Concert by OU piano students, an honors recital by selected participants, and the presentation of cash prizes and awards. There is a \$30 application fee. For more information or to register, visit oakland.edu/pianoday, e-mail to happel@oakland.edu or call (248) 370-3020.

SUMMARY

Students who wish to expand their musical horizons and experience music in a university setting are invited to take part in daylong music intensives in January and February.

Created by David Groves (groves@oakland.edu) on Monday, December 19, 2011

Modified by David Groves (groves@oakland.edu) on Monday, December 19, 2011

Article Start Date: Monday, December 19, 2011

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

...and the award goes to...OU's new Vegan Diet for Better Health course!

By Eric Franchy, Strategic Programs Marketing Assistant

This Fall Oakland University was excited to introduce a new course under the School of Nursing called, "A Lifestyle Change to Improve Health: the Vegan Diet." Thanks to the course excitement continues to grow, as Oakland University has recently been honored with PETA's Compassionate Campus Award.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is a non-profit organization dedicated towards implementing and protecting rights for all animals. The organization takes efforts worldwide to prevent animal cruelty and promote the fair treatment of animals. PETA is guided by the simple belief that animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, or use for entertainment. Visit <http://www.peta.org/> for more details on PETA.

Marilyn Mouradjian, MSN, RN (shown right being presented with the PETA Compassionate Campus Award by SON Dean Schuiling), developed and leads the new vegan program. She had long since wanted to take a proactive approach and address diet as it relates to health; as opposed to the traditional strategy of diet related to disease. The main focus of the program is on the benefits the vegan lifestyle offers. Her favorite thing about the course, "Enthusiasm. Such enthusiasm by the students."

Research has found the vegan lifestyle to offer a large array of benefits to those practicing. From weight reduction, to energy boosts and even the prevention of many major diseases; veganism contributes to an overall better state of health.

The vegan lifestyle is an extension of vegetarianism; that eliminates the use of any animal products for dietary practices, environmental purposes, and to promote healthy living. This means avoiding the use of some products allowed in vegetarian practice such as cheese, milk, and eggs. When asked, Mouradjian smiled and said, "Yes, we still eat cake...Vegan French Silk Pie is actually a crowd favorite."

She points out that practicing a vegan lifestyle doesn't mean anything has to be given up. Foods still taste great and offer the same (and often better) nutrients. More and more a correlation is being found between animal proteins and cancers, heart disease, and type II Diabetes. In the long run, statistics are showing the practice to provide cost savings in addition to the health benefits; through the reduction of medical bills for doctor visits and pharmaceuticals (which also have side effects). There are vegan bodybuilders and marathon runners. Former President Bill Clinton and past heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson are now practicing vegans.

Mouradjian envisions the program being offered more frequently, once or even twice a semester. She would like to be able to offer CEU's for RNs and to see more health care professionals join the course and add to the discussion on the vegan lifestyle and its implications.

The current class is composed of a well dispersed 17 students. Participants are experiencing the course from all around the US and several other countries, including: Canada, Germany, New Zealand and the UK. Mouradjian explains that having this cultural diversity adds to the course content by providing students with a variety of meal options that they (and her) would have previously been unaware of. The interactivity is a large part of the course, adding to the weekly Powerpoints, links, recipes and other supplemental material.

Vegan Diet for Better Health is set for a second session starting January 9, 2012. It is completely online, running for seven weeks at a very affordable cost of \$200. Students can log on from wherever they choose at whenever is convenient for them to do so. The vegan course is open to anyone interested in learning about the benefits the vegan way of living has to offer.

For more info on the Vegan Diet course, visit <http://www.oakland.edu/pace/SON#Vegan%20Diet%20Course>.



SUMMARY

Oakland University has recently been honored with PETA's Compassionate Campus Award for its new Vegan course.

Created by Eric Franchy (ebfranch@oakland.edu) on Wednesday, December 21, 2011

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Article Start Date: Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Campus community to hold revised hours for holiday recess

Oakland University classes will recess for the winter holiday at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10. The university will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, through Monday, Jan. 2.

During the holiday recess, several Oakland facilities will have revised hours of operation. Classes for the winter 2012 semester will begin at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012.

Kresge Library

Dec. 16, open until 8 p.m.
Dec. 17-18, closed
Dec. 19-22, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Dec. 23-Jan. 2, closed
Jan 3, open at 7:30 a.m. (normal hours resume)

Recreation Center

Dec. 10-23:
5:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. Monday -Thursday
5:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. Friday
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday
11 am – 7 p.m. Sunday
Dec. 24-25, closed
Dec. 26-30, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Dec. 31-Jan 1, closed
Jan. 2, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Aquatic Center

Dec. 10-23:
5:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. / 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday
5:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. / 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Friday
9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Saturday
11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Sunday
Dec. 24-25, closed
Dec. 26-30, 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 31-Jan. 1, closed
Jan. 2, 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Oakland Center:

Dec. 19-21 – 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Dec. 22 – 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 23-25 – Closed
Dec. 26-30 – Bookstore open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (use north doors)
Dec. 31 – Closed
Jan. 1 – Closed
Jan. 2 – Bookstore open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (use north doors)
Jan. 3 – 7 a.m. to midnight

For more information on Oakland events and dates, [view the calendar](#). To view the Academic Calendar, [click here](#).

SUMMARY

OU classes will recess for the winter holiday at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10. The university will be closed Friday, Dec. 23 through Monday, Jan. 2.

Created by Katherine Land - Deleted (land@oakland.edu) on Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Modified by David Groves (groves@oakland.edu) on Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Article Start Date: Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Dean's Circle students help make a happier holiday for area seniors

Members of the School of Nursing's Dean's Circle delivered 110 holiday baskets to the Older Persons Commission (OPC) in Rochester to benefit area seniors in need. With an initial goal of collecting items to fill 12 holiday baskets, students, faculty and staff from units across campus donated items making up the more than 100 gift baskets filled with holiday meals and extra items to make the holiday a little brighter.

Laure Unkart, department head of volunteer services for the OPC, was overwhelmed by the generosity and number of baskets collected and delivered by the students. "The gift baskets were delivered by Oakland University and local Girl Scout Troops to seniors in need of a little extra holiday cheer," she said. "Every year the seniors look forward to the baskets and more importantly a visit, as sometimes that may be the only person they see that day."

A leadership development student organization, the Dean's Circle offers nursing students an opportunity to learn from nurse leaders, network within the profession and to become active members of their community.

"The members of the Dean's Circle are ambassadors for the SON, both on campus and in the community," said Pam Marin, assistant dean and Dean's Circle facilitator. "They partner with SON faculty and staff by supporting outreach programs and events."

Nursing students are invited by the SON to submit a membership application each winter semester. For more information, students can visit www.oakland.edu/studentnursingorganizations or call the advising office at (248) 370-4083.



From left, Dean's Circle students Deborah Sanders and Elise Fournier, SON instructor Diane Noack and Dean's Circle student Lisa Polley helped collect and distribute more than 100 gift baskets to area seniors in need.

SUMMARY

Members of the School of Nursing's Dean's Circle delivered 110 holiday baskets to the Older Persons Commission (OPC) in Rochester to benefit area seniors in need.

Created by David Groves (groves@oakland.edu) on Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Modified by David Groves (groves@oakland.edu) on Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Article Start Date: Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Oakland University Celebrates Its Sixth Year of Advanced Placement (AP*) Summer Institutes

The Office of Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) in partnership with the College of Arts and Sciences at Oakland University will host two AP* Summer Institutes on July 9-12, 2012 and July 30-August 2, 2012; at the main campus in Rochester, Michigan. The AP Institutes are ideally suited for secondary education department chairpersons, gifted and talented teachers and curriculum coordinators involved with the Advanced Placement at their high school.

These four-day conferences are endorsed by the College Board,* and provide exceptional training for both experienced and teachers new to AP.* New teachers will have the opportunity to become better informed about the fundamentals of the AP* program. Experienced teachers can participate in the program as a means to experience the latest trends in their areas of expertise.

AP* Institute sessions are led by College-Board credentialed AP* instructors who are prominent in their field of expertise. As a part of their college-board credential, instructors have attended AP* workshops; read and graded AP* exams; and taught AP* courses in their respective schools for many years.

Institute instructors will provide knowledge on key elements of AP,* including, but not limited to: Structuring AP* courses, preparing students for the AP* exam while keeping instruction engaging, reviewing released AP* exams and diagnosing scores, and receiving appropriate AP* textbooks and resources. The courses are approved for SB-CEUs through the State Board of Education.

Meals-included plans and special rate hotel lodging are available for OU participants. Please visit the website for more details on the OU Summer Institutes and for registration updates: www.oakland.edu/pace/cas

**College Board approved program.*

SUMMARY

PACE in partnership with the College of Arts and Sciences introduce the sixth year of the AP* Summer Institute

Created by Michelle Irvine (mlirvine@oakland.edu) on Wednesday, December 21, 2011

Modified by Kristen Pierce (kdpierce@oakland.edu) on Wednesday, August 22, 2012

Article Start Date: Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Wednesday, December 21, 2011

PACE to promote continuing education courses, programs

Oakland University's Office of Strategic Programs recently launched a new unit for professional and continuing education (PACE) programs. While such programs have been offered at OU for some time, PACE represents a coordinated effort to centrally house continuing education (CE) courses and programs. The university hopes this new approach will help raise the profile of PACE and strengthen Oakland's ties to the surrounding community.

"We want people to know there's a continuing education program at OU," said Adrienne Bass, director of strategic programs. "The university has a huge pool of faculty who are experts in their field and we want to leverage their knowledge to help bridge the gap between the research, corporate and non-profit worlds."

A diverse range of professional development courses are offered through the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Business Administration, School of Education, School of Engineering and School of Nursing. Offerings are constantly evolving to fit the educational and training needs of the community across all economic sectors. Popular offerings include programs in paralegal studies, financial planning, career development, animal assisted therapy and nursing. Secondary education teachers can obtain professional development credits and attend Advanced Placement program conferences.

A number of partnerships have been forged with the goal of bringing OU faculty experts together with industry professionals, students and the general public.

An initiative with St. Joseph Mercy Oakland was launched in an effort to improve local health care services, health education and quality of life in Oakland County. As part of this ground-breaking joint venture, research experts from the university and the hospital will provide training to scores of St. Joseph Mercy Oakland doctors, nurses, residents and medical students.

The Macomb-OU INCubator and Pawley Lean Institute have partnered to offer the Lean Diversification Program, which is supported by a \$450,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration. Led by industry experts, the program will provide companies with the techniques necessary to make strategic decisions about diversification and, most importantly, develop employees to be key contributors and analytical thinkers in growth strategies.

Additionally, PACE has teamed with the Older Persons Commission of Rochester to bring a series of public lectures on topics of interest to the community. OU faculty members provide insightful and informative talks on a diverse range of topics, including science, politics, economics and the environment.

"The PACE program is looking to create more high-quality, customized programs that businesses and non-profit organizations can use to develop employee skills, expand operational resources and enhance overall effectiveness," Bass explained. "We would love to partner with alumni and other professionals who are interested in teaching and using their knowledge to benefit the community."

Through the website, individuals can view the course catalogue, register for classes and find information on PACE programs and policies. Classes are offered at various times and locations, both in person and online.

To learn more about PACE, view the website at oakland.edu/pace.

SUMMARY

OU's new unit for professional and continuing education (PACE) programs promote continuing education courses and programs.

Created by Michelle Irvine (mlirvine@oakland.edu) on Wednesday, December 21, 2011
Modified by Michelle Irvine (mlirvine@oakland.edu) on Wednesday, December 21, 2011
Article Start Date: Wednesday, December 21, 2011

Thursday, December 22, 2011

Welcome Week 2012 promises great sights, sounds and school spirit

By Eric Reikowski, staff writer

The Oakland University community will ring in an exciting new semester with another edition of the fun-filled extravaganza popularly known as Welcome Week.

Festivities will begin with a tailgate party outside the Campus Recreation Center at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3. At 7 p.m., the fun will move inside the O'rena for the men's basketball game against conference rival Oral Roberts University. The first 250 fans will receive free OU basketball T-shirts.

Celebrations will pick up again from noon-1 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4, with a performance by Pan-Jazz and Ngoma, OU's World Percussion Ensembles. Attendees can enjoy free tropical refreshments and giveaways while learning about upcoming events at this spirit-filled gathering in the Oakland Center Pioneer Food Court.

Additionally, a series of open houses featuring Oakland University's Student Congress, Student Program Board, Student Video Productions, The Oakland Post, WXOU campus radio and Center for Student Activities will be held from noon-1 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 5, in the lower level of the Oakland Center. Refreshments and giveaways will be provided.

Golden Grizzlies are invited to celebrate the '80s from 7 p.m. to midnight on Friday, Jan. 6, at an indoor "drive-in" featuring the beloved retro flicks "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" and "Back to the Future." Participants are welcome to bring their blankets, pillows and pajamas to the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms for an evening of activities including a costume contest, music, prizes, food and giveaways.

Welcome week will conclude on Saturday, Jan 7, with an action-packed doubleheader pitting the women's basketball team against Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and then the men's basketball team against Western Illinois University from 6-8 p.m. in the O'rena.

Welcome Week is planned by Oakland University's Student Congress, Student Activities Funding Board, Student Program Board, Student Video Productions, The Oakland Post, WXOU campus radio and the Center for Student Activities. Additional sponsors include Oakland's Athletics Department, "Focus on the Finish" Committee and the Grizz Gang.

For more information on Welcome Week at OU, [view the flyer](#).

SUMMARY

Festivities will begin with a tailgate party preceding the men's basketball game against conference rival Oral Roberts University on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

Created by David Groves (groves@oakland.edu) on Thursday, December 22, 2011
Modified by David Groves (groves@oakland.edu) on Thursday, December 22, 2011
Article Start Date: Thursday, December 22, 2011

Monday, December 26, 2011

Winter 2012 ESL workshops

The ESL Center offers free grammar, conversation, drama and multi-skills workshops to all ESL students. Winter 2012 ESL workshops will begin on Monday, January 23rd. All workshops are held in the Oakland Center according to the schedule below.

Winter 2012 ESL Workshops Schedule (.pdf)

In addition to these free workshops, Audra Lord, the ESL Graduate Assistant, will be available for free one-on-one tutoring sessions during the semester. Please contact her if you have questions about the workshops or if you would like to make an appointment with her.

Audra Lord
335 O'Dowd Hall, Oakland University
Rochester, MI 48309-4401
(248) 370 - 2827
ailord@oakland.edu

Winter 2012 office hours:
Mondays & Wednesdays: 3:30 - 5 p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 2 - 5 p.m.
Fridays: By appointment

(Additional office hours available by appointment)

SUMMARY

Created by Angela Super (super@oakland.edu) on Monday, December 26, 2011
Modified by Angela Super (super@oakland.edu) on Friday, February 24, 2012
Article Start Date: Monday, December 26, 2011
Article End Date: Thursday, February 23, 2012

Monday, December 26, 2011

Winter 2012 orientation for new students

All new ESL students are required to attend orientation before classes begin. These orientation sessions will give you the information you need to become acquainted with your new academic environment, life in the Oakland area and in the United States in general. The orientation presentations will answer questions you may have as well as direct you to other sources of information and services available to you both on and off campus.

International Orientation for Academically and Conditionally Admitted Students

Date: Tuesday, January 3

Time: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: Gold Rooms A, B and C of the Oakland Center

You can find more information about this orientation [here](#).

Orientation for Continuing Education Students

Date: Tuesday, January 3

Time: 9 - 11 a.m.

Location: 156 South Foundation Hall

SUMMARY

Created by Angela Super (super@oakland.edu) on Monday, December 26, 2011

Modified by Angela Super (super@oakland.edu) on Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Article Start Date: Monday, December 26, 2011

Article End Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Thursday, December 29, 2011

January News



Some of the news we have for you this month is timely, but some of our other bits and pieces are items that have slipped by unnoticed . . . until now. Our faculty, students, and alumni are busy and accomplished, and they are often too engaged with "the doing" to find time for "the telling."

Kenneth Kroesche, Associate Professor of Low Brass, is a featured euphonium soloist on *Christmas Cards*, a holiday CD recently released by the Five Lakes Silver Band where he serves as principal euphonium. [Visit the band's website here](#). Ken is also conductor of the Capital City Brass Band, which also recently released a Holiday CD, *Christmas Through the Ages*. This past April, the group was the Third Section Winner at the 2011 North American Brass Band Championships in Grand Rapids. And the Band was chosen through a national selection process to perform at the Association of Concert Bands National Convention in Muskegon, Michigan last May. [Visit the band's website here](#).

Tom Suda, Special Instructor in Theatre, collaborated with the OU School of Nursing in securing an \$8000 grant to pilot a study to determine whether a caring practice teaching innovation would be effective in improving undergraduate nursing students' caring abilities, professional values, and self-rated quality and safety competencies. Tom produced and coordinated four video presentations featuring MTD acting majors, **Abby Alexander, Amanda Carnat, Jackie Bery, Mac Gibson, Jake Wood, and Evan Heuker**. **Anetria Cole** wrote the scripts and **Robert Arbaugh** directed. Both are graduates of MTD's BFA Acting program. The students also performed a live presentation where the nursing students reacted spontaneously to live situation scenarios. The School of Nursing found the project to be highly successful.

Karen Sheridan, Professor of Theatre, recently directed and produced *The Women of Lockerbie*. After one of the play's performances, playwright **Deborah Brevoort** spoke with the audience and cast, commenting that she believed it to be one of the best of more than 200 professional and student productions she had seen. Ms Brevoort talked about the maturity and quality of the student work, complimenting the actors, director, and student designers. After giving her a long, warm standing ovation, the audience departed and the playwright stayed to talk more with the students and faculty. It was a proud and exciting experience.

The Women of Lockerbie was invited to bring a scene to be included in the Evening of Scenes event at the Region 3 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, which was held at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana in early January. [Read more about KCACTF Region 3 here](#).

Our students did extremely well this year at KCACTF. At the time of publication, Elizabeth Fritch and Natalie Sparbeck, Jake Wood and Amanda Ryskamp, and Allie McCaw and Sam Rohloff had all made it to the finals of the Irene Ryan Acting Competition, meaning that three of the 16 finalists were from OU. We are also happy to announce that **Ashley Byzskowski** has moved into the final round for the Regional Design competition with her scene design treatment for Hamlet and **Rachel Buechele** has moved into the final round for the Allied Design and Technologies competition with her puppets from Pageant Play. [Watch our Facebook page for updates](#).

Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, MTD's dance company in residence, received a National Dance Project grant for a national tour of New Dance Fest, a repertory program. EDE's artistic director, **Laurie Eisenhower**, is in her last year as Professor of Dance at OU, but the company will remain in residence after her retirement. Over the years, many full-time and part-time dance faculty have danced with EDE, and MTD students have enjoyed both dance and administrative internships with the group. Our relationship with EDE continues to be a very important and valued facet of our dance program. [Read more on the EDE blog](#).

Michael Mitchell, Associate Professor of Choral Music, was commissioned by **Kent Wattleworth**, an OU alum (MM 2002) and the choral director of Chippewa Valley High School, to compose a choral piece to be premiered at the Central Division Conference of the American Choral Directors Association in March in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The piece, titled *Gloria, Pax, Alleluia*, combines traditional Latin texts with words of Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King Jr., John Lennon, and Jimi Hendrix.

And we have some alumni news. **John Paul White's** former student **Joel Frederiksen** (MM, 1990) who has an international career, released a new album this past year that has done very well in the US. *Rose of Sharon* reached the top 10 on the Billboard Classical Charts and was an Amazon Best of Year pick. You can read a *New York Times* [review of Rose of Sharon here](#). The CD is a varied collection of America's music from 1770 to 1870 and classicstoday.com called it a, "Masterpiece . . . this . . . effort to bring this music to life has a genuine air of sincerity and reverence—and if nothing else, it's certainly enlivening and entertaining. Frederiksen is an amazing musician and a uniquely gifted singer, and for

that reason alone you shouldn't miss this." The CD is available for purchase [here at Amazon](#).

Chris Rozanski (BFA, Musical Theatre, 2008) is currently on an international tour of a play based on the children's story *Henry and Mudge*. It is produced by TheatreworksUSA. Chris's mentor, Associate Professor of Musical Theatre Fred Love, had the chance to see this delightful musical show at Centre in the Square, Kitchener, Ontario, along with 500 Canadian Pre-K to third-grade children. Fred noted, "Mr. Rozanski, playing the 182 pound canine buddy, stole the show." You can read more [about the show here](#).

We also heard from Emeritus Professor of Music, **David Daniels**, with news of his latest publication, *Arias, Ensembles, & Choruses: An Excerpt-Finder for Orchestras*. The book is a collaboration with New York City conductor John Yaffé, which came about somewhat serendipitously. "Yaffé appeared on the OU campus in 1979 to conduct the premiere of an opera by **Mark Gottlieb** (BM, 1986), a composition student of the late **Stanley Hollingsworth**. Yaffé and I met very briefly at that time, but it was 30 years later that our paths crossed via the internet. He mentioned something about Mark, and I realized that I knew him. He's been a superb partner in preparing this book; he lives not far from Lincoln Center, and the Met Opera gave him full run of their library for his research." The book is available for [purchase on Amazon here](#).

And finally, our new costume shop supervisor, **Michelle Hathaway**, has asked us to spread the word that she was teased so much, especially by her family, for wearing an LSU apron in the photo that ran in our last e-newsletter that she has made herself a more suitable black and gold apron. Go Grizzlies!

Photo: The cast and crew of The Women of Lockerbie. Photo by Rick Smith.

SUMMARY

Created by Gillian Ellis (gellis@oakland.edu) on Thursday, December 29, 2011
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Friday, December 30, 2011

Most Cited Biomedical Research Papers: 2007-2011

The end of the year always brings lists of top accomplishments. In that spirit, below is an analysis of the most highly cited papers by Oakland University biomedical researchers. Rather than considering papers published only in 2011, all papers published in the last five years are analyzed: 2007-2011. Data is taken from the **Web of Science**, as of December 30, 2011. Only papers with Oakland University listed among the institutions of the authors are found by the search (so, for instance, if a young faculty member arrived in 2010, her highly cited 2008 paper published at her previous institution would not be included). And the winner is:

Shen ZH, Huang MC, Xiao CD, Zhang Y, and Zeng XQ, 2007, **Nonlabeled Quartz Crystal Microbalance Biosensor for Bacterial Detection Using Carbohydrate and Lectin Recognitions**, Analytical Chemistry, Volume 79, Pages 2312-2319.

The paper has accumulated 70 citations in just five years, or an average of 14 per year. Congratulations to lead author **Zhihong Shen**, a graduate of the **Biomedical Sciences: Health and Environmental Chemistry PhD Program** and her advisor, Professor and CBR member **Xiangqun Zeng**, of the **Department of Chemistry**.

To be fair to OU's non-biomedical researchers, note that by far the most highly cited paper published in the last five years is **Multiferroic Magnetoelectric Composites: Historical Perspective, Status, and Future Directions** (Journal of Applied Physics, Volume 103, Article 031101), coauthored by Distinguished Professor **Gopal Srinivasan** of the **Department of Physics**. This paper has an astounding 478 citations since its publication in 2008. Runner-up goes to Professor **Ken Elder**'s 2007 paper **Phase-Field Crystal Modeling and Classical Density Functional Theory of Freezing**, with 87 citations.

Following Shen's paper, the next eight most highly cited biomedical papers published between 2007 and 2011 are all coauthored by Distinguished Professor **Michael Chopp**, of the **Department of Physics**. Chopp, who has an **h-index** of 84, is probably the most highly cited researcher at Oakland University. Top among these papers is **Therapeutic Benefit of Bone Marrow Stromal Cells Administered 1 Month After Stroke**, which appeared in the **Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism** (Volume 27, Pages 6-13, 2007), with 67 citations.

SUMMARY

What is the most highly cited biomedical research paper published by an Oakland University author between 2007 and 2011?

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OU Researchers End 2011 With New Advances

Three research groups close out 2011 with publications advancing their field.

Distinguished Professor and CBR member **Michael Sevilla**, of the **Department of Chemistry**, published "**Radicals Formed in N-Acetylproline by Electron Attachment: Electron Spin Resonance Spectroscopy and Computational Studies**" in the **Journal of Physical Chemistry B** (Volume 115, Pages 14846-14851, 2011). Lead author is former undergraduate Chemistry major **Jeanette Kheir**, who was supported by a Thompson Undergraduate Research Award, established by Ronald and **Janet Bennett**. Sevilla's laboratory is funded by a grant from the **National Institutes of Health**.

Professor and CBR member **Xiangqun Zeng**, of the **Department of Chemistry**, published a paper about the "**Immobilization of a Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2 Mimotope-Derived Synthetic Peptide on Au and Its Potential Application for Detection of Herceptin in Human Serum by Quartz Crystal Microbalance**," in the journal **Analytical Chemistry** (Volume 83, Pages 8928-8936, 2011). First author is Yuqin Shang, a graduate student in the **Biomedical Sciences: Health and Environmental Chemistry PhD program**. Zeng's research is supported by an **OU-Beaumont Multidisciplinary Research Award** and by a grant from the **National Institutes of Health**.

Eugene Surdutovich, of the **Department of Physics**, and his coworkers published another of their series of papers about the interaction of high-energy ions with biological tissue. Their article "**Calculation of Complex DNA Damage Induced by Ions**" appeared in **Physical Review E** (Volume 84, Article Number 051918, 2011). Coauthor on the paper is undergraduate Physics major **David Gallagher**.

These accomplishments indicate that biomedical research and education is robust and growing at Oakland University. The new year promises additional advances.

SUMMARY

Three research groups--led by OU faculty members Michael Sevilla, Xiangqun Zeng, and Eugene Surdutovich-- close out 2011 with publications advancing their field.

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