

New Gift Commitments

November 5, 2010

Colleagues,

I am pleased once again to share news of very generous donations made to Oakland University in recent months. With great pride and appreciation, I can tell you that our community of donors continues to expand.

Developers **Gabe Anton** and **Stuart Frankel** have donated a building in downtown Mt. Clemens valued at nearly \$2 million to house OU programs in Macomb. Named the OU Anton / Frankel Center, the building will allow Oakland to bring new educational opportunities to Macomb County.

Longtime donor **Stephen Sharf** has made a visionary estate gift of \$4 million to provide support for the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine deanship position currently held by Founding Dean Robert Folberg. While Mr. Sharf made his gift in 2008, we are pleased for the opportunity to publicly announce the gift now with final accreditations in place and student recruitment and fundraising efforts under way.

In a similar show of support to the university, the **Kresge Foundation** has contributed \$75,000 toward the development of the Human Health Building. In addition, the foundation recently awarded \$40,000 to Meadow Brook Hall and \$10,000 to the OU Art Gallery.

A total of \$400,000 was raised through the Elliott-Stinson Challenge Match, a program in which **R. Hugh Elliott** and alumni **Craig and Ann Stinson** demonstrated tremendous support in conjunction with the celebrations of the SBA's 40th Anniversary.

Marilyn Williamson, a former OU faculty member and chair of the English department, and her husband, **Jim McKay**, have contributed \$300,000 to establish the James H. McKay Endowed Chair in Applied Mathematics. McKay is a charter OU faculty member and a former professor and chair of Mathematical Sciences, serving the university for 36 years (1959-1995). The endowment is established to support the growth of mathematical sciences at OU. Regrettably, Marilyn passed away on Feb. 21, 2010.

Seth Wolins has given \$20,000 and **Pearl Maddox** has given \$15,000 to the Systems Evolution Center in the SECS. Their support will help the Systems Evolution Center, led by OU Professor Pat Dessert, in its efforts to develop enhanced educational materials for K-12 students through the fun of auto racing. These gifts also will support an educational effort with potential to change the way mathematics is taught to thousands of children in urban schools.

The **E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation for the Blind** has awarded \$80,000 to Andrew Goldberg, an Eye Research Institute associate professor. Goldberg was chosen in 2008 as one of three outstanding new investigators by the Ziegler Foundation in the area of eye research. He was awarded a three-year, \$240,000 research award to support his research into photoreceptor architecture and genetic retinal disease.

OU alumni and friends showed their support for student scholarships by attending the first Grizzly Gala, chaired by OU alumna Lynn Gross, SBA '87. Proceeds from the event raised \$23,000 for the Oakland University Alumni Association scholarship fund and OU students.

I hope you'll join me in expressing sincere appreciation to all of these donors, given the great benefit they are bestowing upon the university and, most importantly, upon our students. To learn more about how support in a variety of forms is helping to advance our academic mission, I strongly encourage you to view Provost Moudgil's recent communication on [research funding](#).

Thank you,

Gary