

Holiday Wishes

December 15, 2011

Colleagues,

By any measure, 2011 was a tremendously successful and historic year for Oakland University. As we prepare for the holiday season and the coming new year, let us take a moment to reflect on all we've accomplished in the last 12 months.

In the spring we engaged about 500 students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and business leaders to help chart the university's course as part of the Creating the Future II Summit. We also welcomed the charter class of the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, added creative writing and biomedical science bachelor degrees to our growing list of academic programs, welcomed students to attend classes in the new Anton-Frankel Center in Mount Clemens, and garnered tremendous national and international visibility as a result of the Republican presidential candidate debate.

Fall enrollment figures marked our 14th consecutive year of student population growth, and to help meet the needs of this continuing trend, we've stayed ahead of schedule and on budget with construction of the Human Health Building, which will house our schools of Nursing and Health Sciences. In addition, we received very encouraging news regarding a \$30 million commitment the state has made to help us build a new engineering center on campus.

Most importantly, you – our outstanding faculty and staff who have done so much in your daily efforts to help raise the profile of this young and thriving institution – showed the very same level of creativity, ambition and dedication that we've come to appreciate so much over the years. We simply couldn't have seen the success we did in 2011 without your tremendous contributions.

As we have in recent years, we'll face economic, legislative and competitive challenges in the coming year. I'm confident that your continuing commitment to your work and Oakland University as a whole will carry us through with the very same level of success we've seen this year. In the meantime, I wish you and your family joy and peace this holiday season, as well as all the best in 2012.

Best wishes,

Gary