



Tuesday, July 17, 2001

OU Recreation Center staff saves life

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

OU Recreation Center staff members acted quickly to help save a man's life after he suffered a heart attack while playing racquetball at the center.

Paul Angott, 54, was playing racquetball May 4 when he experienced chest pain and shortness of breath before collapsing on the court.

Building Supervisor Scott McColley and OU student Mike Thom first arrived at the scene and checked Angott, who was unconscious but breathing. Building Supervisor Michelle VanTrump then summoned EMS through the OU Police Department, which also dispatched an officer. Campus Recreation Facility Coordinator Joel Nieuwsma called Terri Eudy, assistant director of campus recreation, aquatics and safety training, for assistance.

Eudy said Angott was unconscious but breathing when she first saw him. However, when he later stopped breathing and had no pulse, she performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation then CPR. Terry Ross, an off-duty OU police officer, joined Eudy and assisted with CPR.

Eudy then used a recently installed Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit to administer three shocks to Angott, whereupon his breathing and circulation were restored.

"I was calm and focused on opening his airway and then performing CPR after he went into cardiac arrest, then employing the AED unit," Eudy said. "The most poignant part for me was looking up at his friend, who was teary-eyed, after we had revived Paul. That part got to me emotionally."

Emergency medical technicians from Auburn Hills Fire and Rescue and EMS arrived shortly after Angott started breathing again and took him to St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland in Pontiac, where an emergency angioplasty was performed.

"I was incredibly lucky," said Angott, a 1970 OU alumnus. "Saving my life took a total team effort, from my racquetball partner (Dave Meyers) who bolted to get help, to the students who instantly alerted the front desk, called 911 and summoned Terri Eudy. Eudy and Ross were instantly there to keep blood flowing to my brain and heart and to use the AED unit.

"You have seconds to react to a situation like this and can't fumble around with it. Everyone did exactly the right thing. There were no weak links in that team."

Eudy gave credit to her student staff in the Recreation Center for acting calmly and quickly.

"Our student staff took care of him until we arrived," she said. "This is a student-run building, and the way the students who were on the scene reacted, it says a lot about their courage and integrity."

The AED units, which had been installed in the Recreation Center just last February, played a major role in reviving Angott, said Eudy.

"So many people expressed their gratitude to OU for buying the AED units and providing the training to our staff," she said. "We might not have been so lucky if we didn't have the units."

The following week, Angott elected to have triple bypass cardiac surgery performed at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. The surgery was a success, and within three days he returned home. He expects to receive his doctor's permission to resume his regular activities such as racquetball and tennis by August.

"I feel wonderful," Angott said. "I can drive again, and in fact, I flew to a business meeting in Cleveland afterwards. Just last week, I went to a wedding reception and danced all night."

The **Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross** recently honored Eudy, Ross and Thom for their lifesaving efforts.

SUMMARY

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