A photograph of the Oakland University campus in autumn. The foreground is filled with vibrant, colorful leaves in shades of green, yellow, orange, and red. In the center, a tall, brick clock tower with a blue roof and a clock face stands prominently against a clear blue sky. The tower is surrounded by a green lawn and other trees with autumn foliage. The overall scene is bright and scenic.

# 2017 GRADUATE STUDY AND LIFELONG LEARNING

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## *Annual Report*

OAKLAND  
UNIVERSITY™

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## NOTE FROM THE DEAN



The Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning in collaboration with faculty and academic units are aggressively introducing and pursuing initiatives that strengthen the foundation of academic, graduate student life, graduate student recruitment and institutional outreach programs at the University. Efforts over the last year alone have included the hiring of two student recruiters, introduction of strategically targeted academic scholarships, establishment of new academic and international exchange programs, celebrations of exemplary graduate student work both within and beyond established curricula, and well-received student academic and social engagements.

We eagerly anticipate witnessing and building upon the positive impacts of these efforts in years to come, but already we have received strong indications that growth and continued success is on the way. In a recent student exit survey, more than three quarters of student respondents rated their academic experience at OU as excellent or very good. More than half said their student life experiences at OU had been excellent or very good. We will continue to promote and foster a student-centric learning environment where success and opportunity thrive for a diverse community seeking an advanced graduate education.

Claudia Petrescu, Ph.D.

## STUDENTS

The 2016-17 academic year was full of positive changes that illustrate the continuous quest for advancing graduate education at Oakland University. We launched new opportunities for students, created new support venues for students' research, strengthened the quality of service offered by our office, and increased our partnership with other units on campus. This annual report provides a glimpse into the work done this academic year. It provides a picture of what graduate education means at Oakland University and our efforts to provide an excellent experience to our graduate students.

## OAKLAND UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS OFFERED

17  
Doctoral  
Programs

1  
Education  
Specialist

55  
Master  
Degrees

33  
Pre-master  
Graduate  
Certificates

28  
Post-master  
Graduate  
Certificates

47  
Nationally  
accredited  
programs

Endorsement (1)  
Certification (1)  
Performer's certificate (1)

The Oakland University-Beaumont  
Graduate Program of Nurse  
Anesthesia is among the best  
programs of its kind in the country.

*(U.S. News & World Report, 2016)*

"We recommend Oakland University  
as one of the best to earn an MBA."

*(Robert Franek, Princeton Review Senior  
VP-Publisher, Princeton Review 2017)*

Source: OU Graduate Catalog 2015-17

## FALL 2016 TOP GRADUATE PROGRAMS BY ENROLLMENT

Master's			Ph.D.	
CAS	MPA Public Administration	69	Ph.D. Applied Mathematical Sciences	24
	M.S. Chemistry	32	Ph.D. Biological Biomedical Sciences	19
SBA	MBA Business Administration	281		
	M.S. Information Technology Management	76		
SEHS	M.A. Counseling	166	Ph.D. Educational Leadership	57
	MED Special Education	110	Ph.D. Early Childhood Education	32
SECS	M.S. Mechanical Engineering	134	Ph.D. Electrical and Computer Engineering	64
	M.S. Electrical and Computer Engineering	93	Ph.D. Computer Science and Informatics	57
SHS	M.S. Exercise Science	45	DPT Physical Therapy	143
	MPH Public Health	31	DPT Transitional Physical Therapy	8
SON	MSN Family Nurse Practitioner	65	DNP Doctor of Nursing Practice	25
	MSN Nurse Anesthesia	57		

## THE PROFILE OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS

More than 3,400 graduate students are Michiganders, with a large majority from Oakland and Macomb counties. There are 56 percent are female and 44 percent are male students attending both part-time and full-time. The distribution between part-time and full-time is almost equal. In terms of ethnicity, most of our students (67 percent) are white. However, due to efforts to increase diversity, we began seeing from one year to another an increase in our graduate student diversity as the below graph illustrates.

## PROFILE OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Fall 2016 statistics (from the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment)

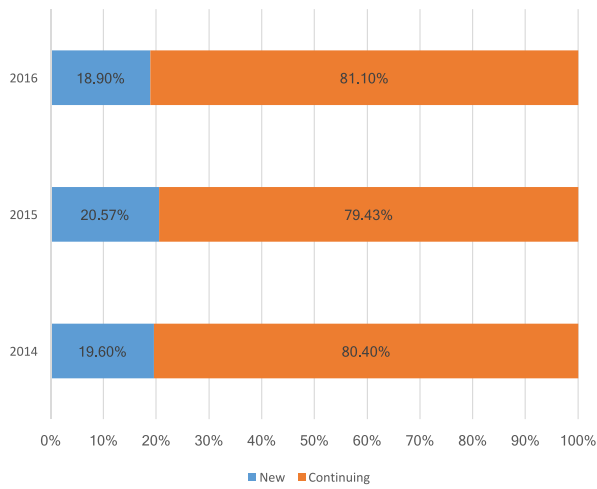
Fall 2016	Total	%	Geographic Distribution	Total	%
Headcount	3,444		Oakland County	1302	38%
Credits	38,063		Macomb County	643	19%
Gender			Wayne County	237	7%
Female	1,941	56.4%	Genesee, Lapeer and St. Clair	180	5%
Male	1,503	43.6%	Other Michigan Counties	286	8%
			County N/A	6	0%
			Total Michigan	2654	77%
Ethnic and Foreign Native			Other States	327	9%
White	2,158	67.2%	Foreign Countries	463	13%
African-American	239	7.4%			
Asian	260	8.1%	Age		
Hispanic	68	2.1%	17-22	180	5%
Native American	22	0.7%	23-24	594	17%
Native Hawaiian	2	0.1%	25-34	1791	52%
International	464	14.4%	35-44	524	15%
Unreported	231		45-54	274	8%
			55 and over	81	2%
Full Time	1,739	50.5%	Average age	31	
Part Time	1,705	49.5%	Median age	28	

## GRADUATE ENROLLMENT: ENROLLMENT TRENDS BY SCHOOLS/COLLEGE

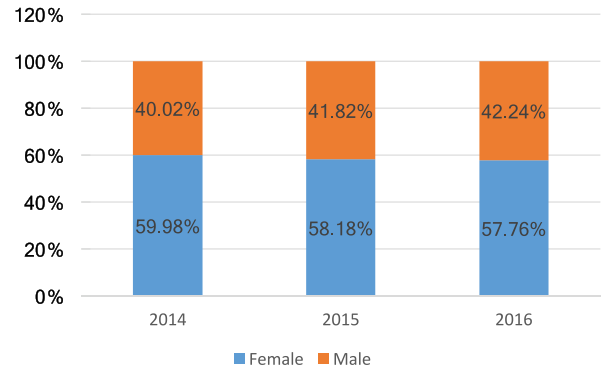


## ENROLLMENT TRENDS BY STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

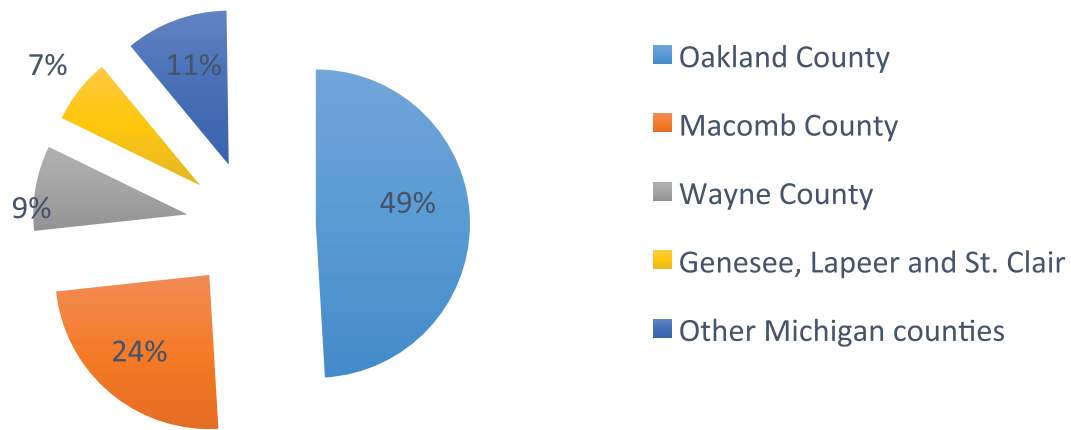
Enrollment by New/Continuing



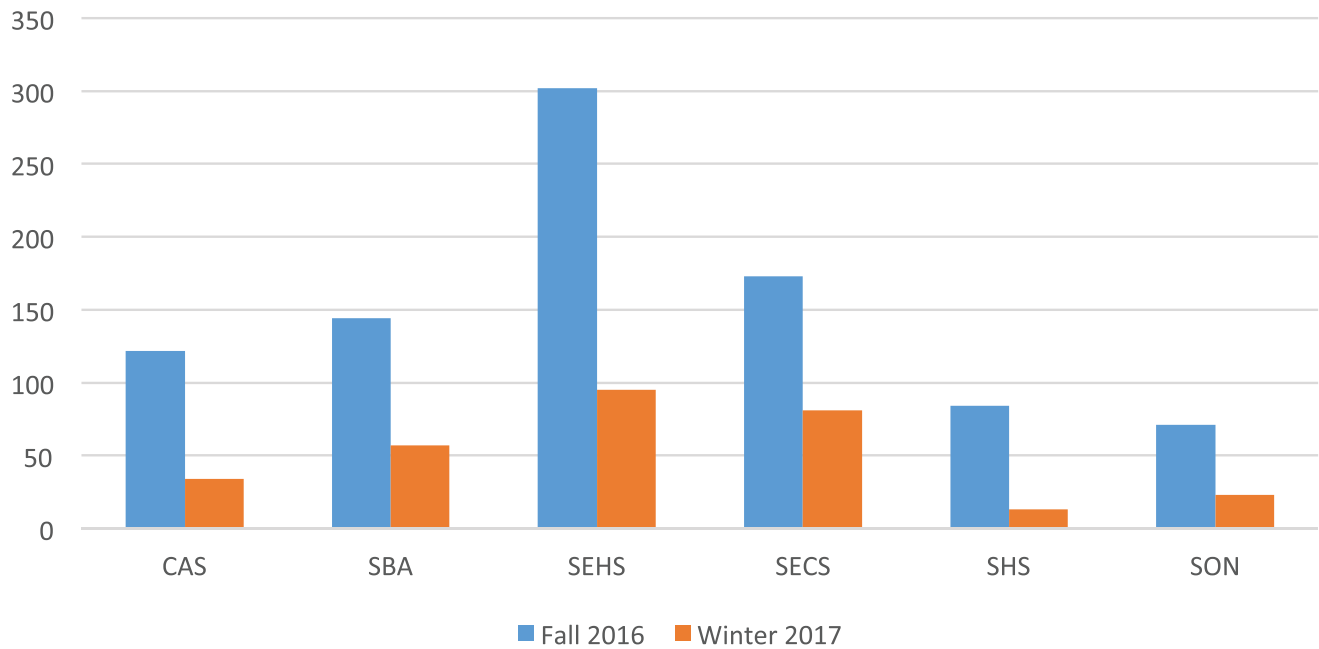
Enrollment By Gender



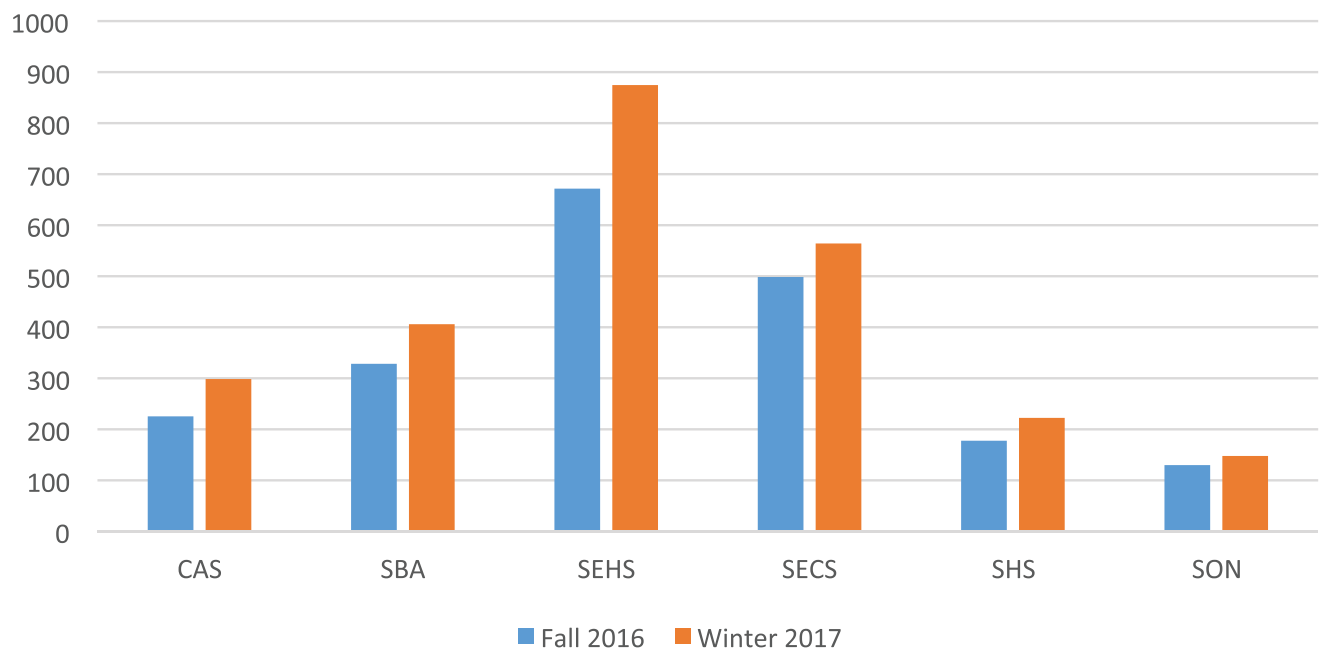
## MICHIGAN ENROLLMENT BY COUNTY



## 2016-17 NEW ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOLS/COLLEGE



## 2016-17 CONTINUING ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOLS/COLLEGE



## GRADUATE STUDENTS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### GRADUATE EDUCATION STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS (examples)



#### School of Engineering and Computer Science

- *A novel aquatic quadcopter "loon copter"*
- *Ad networks and violation of android user's privacy*

#### School of Education and Human Services

- *The impact of a holistic admissions review process on a new medical school*
- *High school student engagement in online and on-ground courses*

#### School of Medicine

- *Genistein promotes early apoptosis in HIV-infected u937 cells*
- *The experiences of homeless individuals utilizing the emergency department: a qualitative study*

#### College of Arts and Sciences

- *Transitory environmental threat alters human mate preferences for physical qualities of the face and body*
- *Oxygen redox chemistry and its impact on the sulfur dioxide reduction in ionic liquids: implications for sensor applications*

#### School of Health Sciences

- *Predictors of self-rated health among Oakland university students*

#### School of Business Administration

- *Role of big data analytics in the agriculture industry*
- *Present and future trends of XBRL reports*

## DISSERTATIONS AND THESES

The following is a sample of the dissertations and theses published in the 2016-17 academic year:

### DISSERTATION TITLES

#### College of Arts and Sciences

*Analytics of Asymmetry and Transformation to Multivariate Normality Through Copula Functions with Applications in Biomedical Sciences and Finance*

By Manoj Bahuguna (Ph.D. in applied mathematical sciences)

Adviser: Dr. Ravindra Khattree

#### School of Education and Human Services

*A Qualitative Content Analysis for the Presence of Propaganda in Select Juvenile Whitman Publications Published During World War II*

By Becky A. Riesterer (Ph.D. in reading education)

Adviser: Dr. Ledong Li

#### School of Engineering and Computer Science

*CAN Crypto Chip to Secure Data Transmitted Through CAN FD Bus by Using AES-128 and SHA-1 with a Symmetric Key*

By Tri P. Doan (Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering)

Adviser: Dr. Subramaniam Ganesan



## THESES TITLES

### College of Arts and Sciences

*Perceived Community Support and a Law Enforcement Officer's Willingness to Engage in Community Partnerships*

By Angela D. Baker (M.S. in psychology)

Adviser: Dr. Virgil Zeigler-Hill (associate professor of psychology)

### School of Engineering and Computer Science

*Effects Analysis of Architecture Changes to Convolutional Neural Networks*

By Charles F. Lucero (M.S. in software engineering and information technology)

Adviser: Dr. Guangzhi Qu,

### School of Health Sciences

*Muscle Damage, Soreness and Stress Over Six Weeks of Pre-Season Training in NCAA D1 Male Swimmers*

By Mario Rusnak (M.S. in exercise science)

Adviser: Dr. Tamara Dawn Hew-Butler

## 2016 GRADUATE OUTSTANDING THESIS AND DISSERTATION AWARDS



*President George Hynd speaking at the 2016 Graduate Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation Awards*

## OUTSTANDING THESIS AWARD 2016 – \$750



Oakland University President George Hynd, Zoe Johnson-Ulrich, Dean Claudia Petrescu and Dr. Jennifer Vonk (psychology)

**Zoe Johnson-Ulrich**, Master of Science in Psychology  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Manuscript Entitled *The Performance of Striped Skunks on Causal and Arbitrary Slat Pulling Tasks*  
Committee Chair: Jennifer Vonk, Ph.D.  
Department Chair: Todd Shackelford, Ph.D.

## OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD (NON STEM) 2016 – \$1000

**Taraneh Haghanikar**, Ph.D. in reading education  
School of Education and Human Services  
Manuscript Entitled *Toward Multicultural Narratology: A Narrative Analysis of Multicultural Children's Literature*  
Committee Chair: Linda Pavonetti, Ph.D.  
Department Chair: John McEneaney, Ph.D.

## OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD (STEM) 2016 – \$1000



Dean Claudia Petrescu, Senior Provost James Lentini, 2016 Outstanding Dissertation (STEM) Award Recipient Xin Xie, Xiaona Li, Dr. Lianxiang Yang (mechanical engineering)

**Xin Xie**, Ph.D. in mechanical engineering  
School of Engineering and Computer Science  
Manuscript Entitled *Development of Michelson Interferometer Based Spatial Phase-Shift Digital Shearography*  
Committee Chair: Lianxiang Yang, Ph.D.  
Department Chair: Brian Sangeorzan, Ph.D.

## THREE MINUTE THESIS – NEW INITIATIVE



Zoe Johnson-Ulrich presenting at the MAGS Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 2017

The Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) organized a graduate research competition modeled after University of Queensland's Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT). The format is challenging. Graduate students have three minutes to present their thesis or dissertation research to an audience.

To select the graduate student who will represent Oakland University for the first time at the MAGS's 3MT competition, nine graduate students from different disciplines participated in the internal 3MT competition organized by the Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning. Graduate student Zoe Johnson-Ulrich (psychology) garnered the top spot and represented Oakland University at the MAGS conference. Zoe was also awarded a \$100 scholarship by the Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning. Second place recipient Mario Rusnak (exercise science) was awarded a \$100 scholarship as well.

## GRADUATE DEAN'S CHOICE VIDEO COMPETITION

The first inaugural Graduate Dean's Choice Video Competition sponsored by the Oakland University Credit Union (OUCU) was held in April. Participants prepared a two-minute video about the life of an Oakland University graduate student. Faculty and staff got to vote on their favorite and the top three choices were awarded cash prizes at the 2017 Graduate Awards reception held on April 12, 2017. There were nine amazing video submissions from different disciplines. Kristine Hilton from the nurse anesthesia program, Joan Carleton from the communication program and Nicholas Bongers from the Ph.D. in educational leadership in higher education program were the recipients of the top three Dean's Choice Video competition awards.

All submissions can be viewed on the Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning website:  
[oakland.edu/grad/current-graduate-students/awards](http://oakland.edu/grad/current-graduate-students/awards)

Ms. Amy Coe and Ms. Tarissa O'Malley, OU Credit Union representatives, participated in the awards ceremony and handed out the prizes.



Tarissa O'Malley, OUCU; Amy Coe, OUCU; Nicholas Bongers, award winner; Kristine Hilton, award winner; Joan Carleton, award winner; and Provost James Lentini

## 2017 GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE



Jonathan Hu representing Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine presenting research on *Repeat Prostate Biopsy Practice Patterns in a Statewide Quality Improvement Collaborative*

The Graduate Student Research Conference (GSRC) was held on March 10, 2017 in the Oakland Center. It was jointly sponsored by the Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning and the Office of Research Administration. The 2017 conference yielded almost double the participation of its inaugural year in 2016, with nearly 100 students either displaying a poster or providing a presentation on their research.

More than 55 presentations covered topics including *Development of an Advanced Wind Turbine Actuator Line Model*, by Murphy O'Dea (mechanical engineering), *Repeat Prostate Biopsy Practice Patterns in a Statewide Quality Improvement Collaborative*, by Jonathan Hu (pictured above) and *Pathological Personality Traits and Vices: Do Moral Concerns Mediate the Association?* by Jennifer Vrabel (psychology).



Poster presentations around the fireside lounge in the Oakland Center

The posters were set up around the fireside lounge where presenters could answer questions as attendees walked around the displays. Some examples of the poster presentation included: *Multiscale Approach of the Bragg Peak Position of Proton*, by Emad Alsyed (biomedical science), *Texting Behaviors and Attachment Styles in Intimate Relationships*, by Jewel Cannon (clinical mental health counseling) and *The Impact of an Authentic Learning Site on Pre-Service Teacher Self-Efficacy*, by Johnnie Blunt (reading education).



The keynote speaker Dr. Kathie Olsen, former deputy director and chief operating officer of the National Science Foundation and chief scientist at NASA, gave a dynamic presentation on her journey through the field of STEM.

The 2018 Graduate Research Conference will be held on March 9, 2018 in the Oakland Center.

*Kathie Olsen, Ph.D. in neuroscience, was the 2017 conference keynote speaker*

## HONORS COLLEGE COLLABORATION TO HOST ITA SHADOW DAY



*Students pose during 2017 Shadow Day in the Honors College*

A new initiative to introduce high school students to graduate education was an event organized collectively between the Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning and the Honors College. 24 high school juniors from International Technology Academy (ITA) in Pontiac, Michigan participated in a Shadow Day on Friday, March 31, 2017. Shadow Day is the first in a series of academic programming promoting scholarly research at various levels of high school, undergraduate and graduate education.

ITA students were paired-up based on academic interests with students from the Honors College to shadow them for a half-day. Students visited classrooms, toured the campus and observed research presentations. They were also informed about the connection between undergraduate studies and research and graduate education.

## COMMENCEMENTS 2016-17

Fall 2016 commencement celebrated the graduation of 411 students.

- 66% were women and 34% were men
- 87% were from the state of Michigan
- 67% were from Oakland and Macomb Counties
- The average age was 31
- The youngest graduate was 23 and the oldest was 65

Out of these graduate students:

- 11% were from the College of Arts and Sciences
- 14% were from the School of Business Administration
- 30% were from the School of Education and Human Services
- 19% were from the School of Engineering and Computer Science
- 14% were from the School of Health Sciences
- 12% were from the School of Nursing



Senior Provost James Lentini, George Corona and Oakland University President George Hynd at the commencement ceremony on December 17, 2016  
(Picture courtesy of Grad Image)

The fall 2016 doctoral and master's commencement ceremony was held December 17, 2016. The commencement speaker was Mr. George Corona (pictured), president and chief executive officer of Kelly Services. Mr. Corona is an alumnus of Oakland University's graduate programs and has a Master of Business Administration degree from the School of Business Administration.

Spring 2017 commencement celebrated the accomplishments of 482 students, including 21 doctoral candidates.

- 55% were women and 45% were men
- 88% were from Michigan
- 71% were from Oakland and Macomb Counties
- The average age was 32.5
- The youngest graduate was 22 and the oldest was 66

Out of these graduate students:

- 14% were from the College of Arts and Sciences
- 22% were from the School of Business Administration
- 35% were from the School of Education and Human Services
- 21% were from the School of Engineering and Computer Science
- 6% were from the School of Health Sciences
- 2% were from the School of Nursing

The doctoral and master's commencement ceremony for the spring 2017 semester was held April 27, 2017. The commencement speaker was Mr. Kenneth Janke, executive vice president, treasurer and head of corporate finance and development at Aflac®. Mr. Janke is also an Oakland University graduate alumnus, having received a Master of Business Administration from Oakland University School of Business Administration.



*Kenneth Janke at the commencement ceremony on April 27, 2017  
(Picture courtesy of Grad Image)*

## GRADUATE STUDENTS' EXIT SURVEY

At the end of the winter 2017 semester, we launched a pilot exit survey. The survey, developed by Cornell University and used with their permission, was adapted to our characteristics. The results of the survey were impressive. The 95 students out of 411 who took the survey (23 percent return rate) provided information about various aspects of their graduate experience at OU (curriculum, advising, mentoring, etc.) The following information is a small snapshot about their graduate experience:

- 75% consider their academic experience at OU excellent and very good
- 56% consider their student life experience at OU excellent and very good
- 61% consider the quality of graduate curriculum at OU excellent and very good
- 59% consider the quality of graduate level teaching by faculty excellent and very good
- 36% consider the opportunities to collaborate across disciplines excellent and very good
- 44% consider the quality of academic advising excellent and very good

The results of the survey will be used to identify areas that need to be addressed by the Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning in collaboration with the academic units.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

### **KING-CHAVEZ-PARKS FUTURE FACULTY FELLOWSHIP (KCP) 2016-17**

The King-Chavez-Parks (KCP) Future Faculty Fellowship Program was established in 1986 by the Michigan state legislature to increase the pool of traditionally underrepresented candidates pursuing faculty teaching careers in post-secondary education.

KCP Fellowships are funded from an annual state of Michigan appropriation to Oakland University. The Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning holds a competition for KCP awards and provides recipients with financial assistance to pursue master's and/or doctoral degrees. A master's recipient can receive a maximum stipend of \$20,000 and a doctoral fellow can receive a maximum stipend of \$35,000.

For the 2016-17 year, the following four candidates received the King-Chavez-Parks Future Faculty Fellowship (KCP) award:

- Tiffany Elliott-Fowler, Ph.D. educational leadership
- Afua Dankwa, Ph.D. medical physics
- Kharananda Sharma, Ph.D. medical physics
- Samantha Brindley, Master of Science in psychology

## **NEW SCHOLARSHIPS: NEW INITIATIVES**

### **IN-STATE TUITION FOR OUT-OF-STATE STUDENTS**

Oakland University approved in April 2017 in-state tuition for out-of-state students in the form of a scholarship for the difference between out-of-state and in-state tuition costs. A similar scholarship was approved one year ago for Canadian and Mexican students. It will not apply for returning students but only for those students beginning fall 2017. In order for the student to be eligible for this scholarship, the student must be a U.S. resident and meet graduate admissions criteria.

### **2017 SUMMER SEMESTER CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP**

The Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning offered a one-time graduate tuition scholarship this year for graduate students taking courses in the summer I semester. The interest was high, with 347 applicants and almost 1,000 credits requested. Thirty-five students received 94 tuition credits in scholarship, as presented in the below table.

## **2017 GRADUATE TUITION SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

<b>SCHOOL/COLLEGE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF CREDIT AWARDED</b>
CAS	2	4
SEHS	18	51
SECS	2	6
SON	4	10
SHS	4	9
SBA	5	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>94</b>

## **FALL AND WINTER SCHOLARSHIPS (NEW INITIATIVE)**

The Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning office is offering 70 scholarships for the fall semester starting with fall 2017, and 30 scholarships in the winter 2018 semester. Each scholarship is \$1,000. This non-renewable scholarship is for all students, with a priority given to those who do not have a graduate assistantship. To qualify for the scholarship, a student must:

- Be admitted to a graduate program starting the fall 2017 semester or be a current graduate student in good academic standing (GPA 3.0 or higher)
- Be registered for classes prior to August 15, 2017
- Be on a payment plan or have tuition paid by August 15, 2017

## **BUILDING A CULTURE OF EDUCATION THROUGH GRADUATE STUDENT EVENTS**

### **DOCTORAL STUDENTS GET TOGETHER**

As part of building a graduate education culture, beginning with fall 2016, the Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning and the Kresge Library organized a monthly get-together of all doctoral students to connect, share experiences and discuss topics of interest. Information about these events can be found at [oakland.edu/grad/events](http://oakland.edu/grad/events).



### **SOCIAL END-OF-SEMESTER EVENT**

Another initiative of culture building is to hold a social event to celebrate the end of the semester, allowing students to socialize and have fun. This academic year we held our events on December 13, 2016 and April 26, 2017. More than 50 students participated in each event.

### **STUDENT ORIENTATION**

Each semester, the Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning holds an orientation for new graduate students in order to present useful and important information regarding their studies at Oakland University, including plans of study, early registration, grade changes, continuous enrollment, CPT, graduate assistantships and support services provided to graduate students. The dates for this academic year were November 7, 2016 and January 26, 2017.

### **GRADUATE ASSISTANT ORIENTATION**

In orientation for the graduate assistants, attendees learn about academic policies and processes that impact their graduate assistantship experience. The dates for this academic year were October 4, 2016 and January 17, 2017.

## **PH.D. BREAKFAST HONORING DOCTORAL CANDIDATES**



*Dean Petrescu speaking at the Ph.D. honors breakfast April 26, 2017*

At the end of each semester, there is an event to honor all candidates for doctoral degrees. During this event doctoral candidates share a meal with their faculty advisers as well as the deans of each college. They also receive a gift from the University. This academic year the events were held on December 16, 2016 and April 26, 2017.

## **SERVICES TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS**

To increase our engagement with prospective students, two recruiters joined our staff: Sherry Quinn and Todd Steele.

**Sherry Quinn** is an enrollment management professional with more than 10 years of experience leading undergraduate and graduate admissions and recruitment/marketing efforts at both public and private higher education institutions. In addition to stabilizing and growing enrollment in targeted graduate programs, she is also an experienced business analyst that collaborates with administrative and academic units on recruitment best practices plus leveraging the use of technology solutions and the internet. Sherry is a graduate of the HERS Leadership Institute at the University of Denver.

**Todd Steele** has more than 15 years of experience in domestic and international recruitment in higher education, as well as experience with marketing and operations in private industry. While serving as director of graduate programs, he developed university and corporate partnerships to increase enrollments and diversify revenue streams. Todd also increased student satisfaction service levels, streamlined services and student support, implemented key metrics and helped create partnerships which yielded a multi-million dollar non-traditional revenue stream for Kettering University.

Since joining the Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning in January 2017, Todd and Sherry participated in more than 15 recruiting events, both on and off campus. Examples of external events they attended include: Lawrence Technological University Future Fair, Grand Valley State University Graduate and Professional Fair and General Motors Jumpstart Education Fair. Examples of internal events they attended include: Engineering and Computer Science Day, Human Health Day, Go for the Gold and Graduate Open House.

Information about the recruiting events can be found on [oakland.edu/grad/events](http://oakland.edu/grad/events) and listed in the OU events calendar [oakland.edu/calendar](http://oakland.edu/calendar).

## PROSPECTIVE STUDENT SERVICES: NEW INITIATIVE

Prospective students interested in learning about graduate programs and about the benefits of education, or who need advising about selecting an Oakland University graduate program to fit their personal and career goals, can now connect with one of the graduate recruiters, Sherry or Todd, to schedule a phone or in-person appointment.

To connect with Todd or Sherry is an easy process; students can call (248) 370-2700 or visit [oakland.edu/grad](http://oakland.edu/grad) and complete the inquiry form. Specific directions for meeting requests may be submitted in the comments box. A graduate recruiter will follow up with students within one to two business days.

## ENGAGING WITH AND LEARNING FROM PROSPECTIVE OU GRADUATE STUDENTS

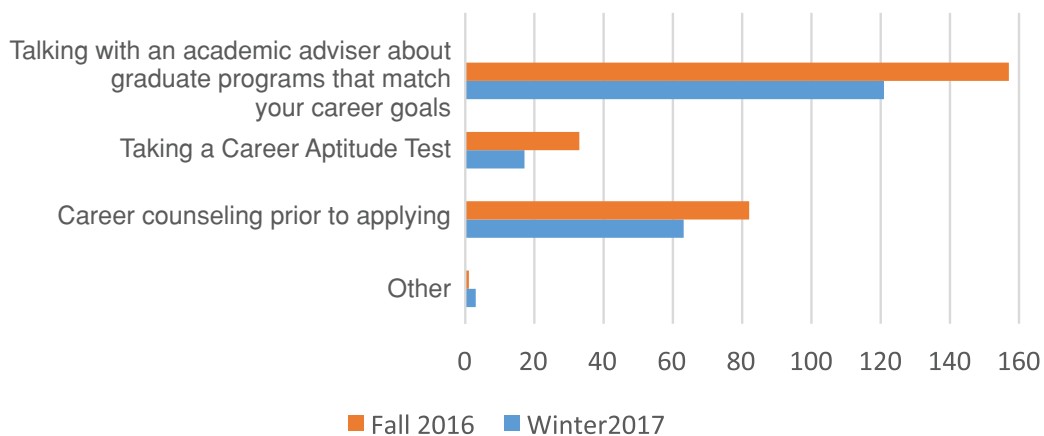


Graduate Open House, March 14, 2017

The Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning held open houses in October 2016 and March 2017. These events allowed prospective students to receive information on different programs and meet faculty and ask questions about the admissions process as well as financial aid. The October event yielded an attendance of 280 while the March event had 240 in attendance.

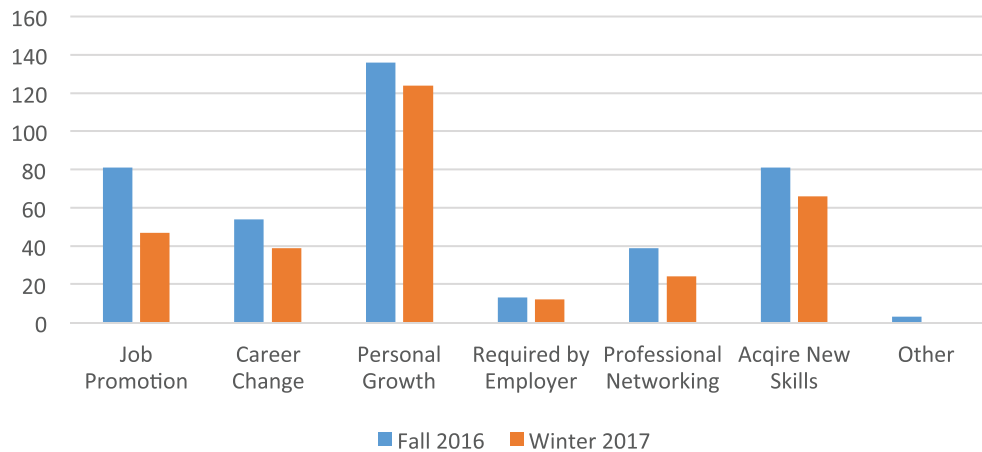
Guests were asked to participate in an exit survey in order to gauge interest in graduate degrees and to better serve future attendees. Attendees were asked why they wanted to pursue a graduate degree. The majority of attendees in both events indicated that the prospective degree was for their personal growth while job promotion (October) and acquiring new skills (March) were the second biggest reason given for pursuing a graduate degree.

## WHAT SERVICES WOULD HELP YOU CHOOSE A GRADUATE PROGRAM AT OU?



The majority of prospective students also indicated that speaking with an academic adviser about their goals would encourage them to pursue a graduate degree. Many also felt that career counseling prior to applying to graduate school would help them choose a graduate degree program.

## WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GRADUATE EDUCATION?



## COLLABORATION WITH UNIVERSITIES THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Oakland University is committed to the development and expansion of international agreements and the globalization of university partnerships. Through the collaborative efforts of the College and schools and graduate education, agreements with international universities are a key initiative of the graduate strategic plan. This plan includes the programmatic expansion of existing agreements as well as the creation of new agreements. This past academic year has included the signing of several international agreements that positively impact research and teaching opportunities and international enrollment growth, including:

- Memorandum of understanding between School of Business Administration and Amrita University, India
- Memorandum of understanding between School of Business Administration and Anna University, India
- Student exchange agreement between School of Education and Human Services and Federal University of Paraiba, Brazil
- Graduate articulation agreement in engineering and computer science programs between Oakland University and Guangxi University of Science and Technology, China
- Graduate articulation agreement in engineering and computer science programs between Oakland University and North University of China

The intent of these agreements is to create a more culturally vibrant and diverse learning environment with expanded international recruitment opportunities and prospective global university partners in research and academia.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND GRADUATE CURRICULUM

### GRADUATE COUNCIL

The Graduate Council is a permanent standing committee of the University Senate and is charged with making recommendations to the University Senate regarding proposed and existing graduate programs, including recommendations for program suspension or discontinuance. The Graduate Council also recommends to the president all candidates for graduate degrees.

During the academic year, the Graduate Council approved two new programs: the combined bachelor/master degree in psychology, housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, and the doctor in education in organizational leadership, housed in the School of Education and Human Services.

The Council also approved two new certificate programs: graduate certificate in human diversity, housed in the School of Education and Human Services and the graduate certificate in business analytics under the School of Business Administration.

There were also modifications to the following existing programs: Master of Science in systems engineering, Master of Arts in communication and to the following academic policies: receiving a degree during Ph.D. studies, grading system, English proficiency requirement, test ban, a departmental name change (Department of Biomedical Sciences to Department of Foundational Medical Studies), rubric merge between School of Engineering and Computer Science, requirements for combined bachelor/masters degree.

In addition, the Council helped implement the first annual participation in the Three Minute Thesis competition as well as the Dean's Choice Video awards, sponsored by the Oakland University Credit Union.

### THREE TO FOUR DIGIT COURSE RENUMBERING PROJECT

Over the last several years it has become increasingly apparent that the current numbering scheme is no longer meeting the needs of the University. A summary of the course numbering concerns was presented to the Graduate Council and the University Committee on Undergraduate Institutions (UCUI) with a request for development and guidelines for a new course numbering scheme. The goal was to establish guidelines that created a new numbering scheme that would:

- Be comprehensible and transparent to students, faculty and the outside world
- Allow departments/programs to more clearly indicate course levels, sequencing and logic of curriculum
- Be consistent across all departments and programs at the University

In support of the decision to expand OU courses to a new 4-digit course numbering scheme, the Graduate Council and UCUI endorsed a set of guidelines, which included the recommendation to establish reserved course numbers for certain types of courses. A committee was formed to lead the implementation of the course renumbering project. The committee consists of the chairs for Graduate Council and UCUI along with curriculum administrators for Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning, Undergraduate Education, Registrar and the College of Arts and Sciences.

### PROGRAM REVIEW

This academic year, we implemented a new graduate program review model based on the HLC Pathways' criterion. The purpose of the new model was to engage all program faculty in an analytical discussion about the needs of the graduate program and its future. Two departments and three programs were part of the pilot:

- Master and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Biological Sciences. Program coordinator and program review lead: Dr. Douglas Wendell, Ph.D.
- Ph.D. in medical physics program in the Department of Physics. Program coordinator and program review lead: Dr. Brad Roth, Ph.D.

The pilot program review process led to a high level of faculty engagement, and strong collaboration between the Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning and the CAS deans' office. Trend data, students' needs and curricular changes were all incorporated into a SWOT analysis. The ultimate outcome was a plan of action tied to CAS's annual and strategic plans. The 10-page report maps the program's future, developed a plan of action and as well as supports the University's HLC review process.

## FACULTY

### 2017 OUTSTANDING GRADUATE MENTOR AWARDS

To recognize faculty work with graduate students, each academic year students are asked to nominate faculty for the Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award. This year, 21 faculty were nominated. The below table lists the nominees and their academic departments.

The recipient of the award for 2017 was Dr. Ledong Li from the Department of Reading and Language Arts. Dr. Li and all of the nominees were honored at the 2017 Graduate Awards Reception held April 12, 2017. Dr. Li was also honored at the University-wide awards celebration held by the University President.

Robert Anderson, Ph.D. in English	Subramaniam Ganesan, Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering	Zissimos Mourelatos, Ph.D. in mechanical engineering
Ashley Branson, Ph.D. in counseling	Laila Guessous, Ph.D. in mechanical engineering	Thomas Raffel, Ph.D. in biological sciences
Cynthia Carver, Ph.D. in organizational leadership	Tamara Hew-Butler, Ph.D. in exercise science	Julia Smith, Ph.D. in educational leadership
Stephanie Crockett, Ph.D. in counseling	Dae-Kyoo Kim, Ph.D. in computer science and engineering	V. Thandi Sule, Ph.D. in organizational leadership
Deborah Doherty, Ph.D. in physical therapy	Ledong Li, Ph.D. in reading and language arts	Randal Westrick, Ph.D. in biological sciences
Robert Fink, Ph.D. in counseling	Khalid Mahmood, Ph.D. in computer science and engineering	Lisa Welling, Ph.D. in psychology
Erik Fredericks, Ph.D. in computer science and engineering	John E. McEaney, Ph.D. in reading and language arts	Mohamed Zohdy, Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering

## ENGAGEMENT WITH GRADUATE PROGRAM COORDINATORS

To support the work of the graduate program coordinators and to engage in a productive dialog with them, the Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning organized one brown bag event each month. The topics covered this academic year were:

- International Conditional Admittance Update
- Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning Website
- Graduate Academic and Student Services
- Readmitted Students, Program Transfers, Credit Updates, Grade Changes, Petition of Exceptions, Course Waivers and Substitutions, Transfer Credits, Time Extensions
- Graduate Assistantship Process
- Positions, Timeline, Teacher's Assistants, Summer Hiring
- Graduate Graduation Process
- Degree Audits, Plans of Study, Graduation Application, Thesis Dissertation, Proquest Software
- Graduate Assistantships Process, Positions, Timeline Summer Hiring
- Admissions Deadlines, Recruiting and Marketing

## ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

For the first time in its history, the Office of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning organized an alumni lunch in September 2017 as part of homecoming week. More than 50 graduate alumni working on campus have attended the event. This was the first effort to connect the office with its alumni and to build a relationship.



*Dr. Ledong Li (center), recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Mentor Award, with two of his colleagues, Dr. John McEneaney and Dr. Tanya Christ*

## REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

- Graduate alumni make up 31% of all OU alumni
- Out of the 88% of all OU alumni living in the U.S., 30% are graduate alumni
- Out of the 72.71% of all OU alumni living in Michigan, 30% are graduate alumni
- Out of the 56% of all OU alumni living in Oakland and Macomb counties, 55% are graduate alumni
- Out of the 0.51% of all OU alumni living overseas, 75% are graduate alumni



