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**Oakland University**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
 NEWSLETTER

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**From the Dean****College creates department focused on writing**

In planning the future of Oakland University's College of Arts and Sciences I have outlined three conceptual and three structural features (see "Plan for the College" article in the **Fall 2007 newsletter** ([http://www4.oakland.edu/view\\_newsletter.aspx?id=626](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_newsletter.aspx?id=626)) for more details). In this edition, I will talk about how our plans to sharpen the focus on writing are taking shape. **Full Story...** ([http://www4.oakland.edu/view\\_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4691](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4691))



Ronald A. Sudol, Dean

**Students contribute to this issue**

Providing our students with an opportunity to perform professional work is an example of our overall goal to engage undergraduates in research and creative endeavors. In this issue of the CAS newsletter, six students from Holly Gilbert's journalism class contributed to, or collaborated on, articles in addition to those written by professionals.

**CAS News****OU Symphony Chorus makes Orchestra Hall debut**

Sounds from the OU Symphony Chorus filled Detroit Orchestra Hall as they performed Verdi's *Requiem* alongside the Pontiac Oakland Symphony at an April 9 performance. The OU students who sing in the chorus began practicing in January to prepare to perform this masterpiece of choral literature.

**Full Story...** ([http://www4.oakland.edu/view\\_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4703](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4703))

**New Islamic Studies minor helps build understanding of major world religions**

Passion, planning and pooled effort helped Oakland University's religious studies program realize its goal of implementing a minor in Islamic Studies. Although the minor was approved in 2004, the program lacked the dedicated leadership and course offerings necessary to bring it to fruition. A generous gift from a coalition of Detroit area Muslim donors in 2006 changed that. **Full Story...** ([http://www4.oakland.edu/view\\_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4708](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4708))

**Oakland University signs partnership agreement with college in Israel**

A delegation from Oakland University traveled this April to the Max Stern Academic College of Emek Yezreel College in the central Galilee region of Israel to sign an agreement establishing a partnership between the two institutions. Oakland University President Gary Russt and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Vininder Moudgil signed three agreements on April 7 with the Max Stern Academic College that will allow for future student and faculty exchange programs and research collaboration. **Full Story...** ([http://www4.oakland.edu/view\\_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4704](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4704))

**OU pre-med concentration welcomes science and non-science majors**

A successful career in medicine can be based on three things: a love for learning, a true intellectual curiosity about medicine and a strong desire to help others, writes Carl Bianco, MD, in *How Becoming a Doctor Works*. Bianco, an emergency physician, says there are no required majors for acceptance into medical school, though the most common is biology. "OU's pre-medical concentration — previously called pre-professional — identifies a group of courses that are required and/or recommended as preparation for medical school," says Kathleen Moore, associate dean of OUs College of Arts and Sciences and professor of chemistry. These courses can be incorporated into any degree program. **Full Story...** ([http://www4.oakland.edu/view\\_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4707](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4707))

**Yalta trip enriches Chekhov play**

It is one thing to produce a play, but another to capture its essence. While Oakland's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance presents around 12 productions in an academic year, all of which pay close attention to scenery, costumes, lights, sound and equipment, only rarely does producing a play involve a study-abroad component. But that is exactly the opportunity two OU students and three faculty members had last December when they traveled to the Ukraine for an in-depth, hands-on study for the play *Chekhov in Yalta*. **Full Story...** ([http://www4.oakland.edu/view\\_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4705](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4705))

**Women's Studies program changes with the times with new name, focus**

Since differentiation by gender is a major organizing principle of nearly every human society, it's only natural to study its impact and effects. The discipline known as Women's Studies is relatively new — just over 25 years old — and it's still evolving. What started at Oakland University in 1979 as a concentration and became a major 2000, the Women's Studies program recently announced a name change to better reflect the role gender plays in society. **Full Story...** ([http://www4.oakland.edu/view\\_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4706](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4706))

**CAS Alumni - Fully Equipped****Variety key for alumnus who doesn't set limits**

Being successful is all about finding the right balance, and Robert Gebbie manages to maintain it in a myriad of ways. "It's hard to run a balanced life as a student, but Oakland University made it possible for me," says Gebbie (CAS '76) who earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics at OU. Gebbie was attracted to the many opportunities OU offered and the freedom given to pursue his interests, which is "rare for college students today," he says. **Full Story...** ([http://www4.oakland.edu/view\\_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4694](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4694))

**Liberal studies key to alumna's success**

As a woman who thrives on reinventing herself often, Madeleine McLean Longano (CAS '76) says her strong liberal studies education is key to her success and happiness in her many pursuits since graduating from Oakland University with a major in Italian and Art History. Before coming to OU, Longano spent two years studying art in Italy. At the end of her European experience, Longano headed home to Romeo, Michigan, where her mother's passion for OU influenced her decision to earn her bachelor's degree there. **Full Story...** ([http://www4.oakland.edu/view\\_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4695](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4695))

**Spotlight on Students**

**Math student credits OU with helping him discover his passion**

Jonathan Benefiel describes his Oakland University experience as one of his own making. A senior who plans to graduate from OU in Winter 2009 with a BS in Mathematics, Benefiel is an Honors College student, Academic Skills tutor, math workshop leader and international traveler. By taking matters into his own hands on more than one occasion, Benefiel says he has strengthened an already strong educational experience. [Full Story...](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4692) ([http://www4.oakland.edu/view\\_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4692](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4692))



**Undergrad research opportunities change student's life**

A self-professed geek who lives to talk about organic chemistry, Kim Keala Williams says the undergraduate research opportunities at Oakland University changed her life. Williams, an OU senior who will graduate with a BS in Biochemistry this May, was initially reluctant to attend college after graduating from high school because she had a good job in a national marketing firm. Since it was close to home, she decided to give Oakland University a try — and she's thrilled she did. [Full Story...](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4693) ([http://www4.oakland.edu/view\\_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4693](http://www4.oakland.edu/view_news.aspx?sid=182&id=4693))



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[Coordinate map of Auburn Hills Entrance \(https://www.google.com/maps/@42.672702,-83.220234,16z\)](https://www.google.com/maps/@42.672702,-83.220234,16z)

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