



*Inside*

Stephan Sharf tribute | COMPASS | Meet the new deans

## OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | Fall 2013



Room  
with  
a view



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*Oakland University is an equal opportunity and affirmative action institution.*

## Corrections

*In the summer 2013 issue of OU Magazine, a photo caption for the story on the Donald C. Hildum Scholarship (page 11) incorrectly identifies the gentleman pictured as Donald. In the same issue, the listing of OU's development team (page 79) inadvertently omits Kelly Conway, who is the longtime development officer for the College of Arts and Sciences. OU Magazine regrets these errors.*



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*OU's art gallery is a campus jewel and cultural linchpin for the region.*

## ON THE COVER

*The OUAG exhibit "The Roving Eye: Aura and the Contemporary Portrait" featured Konstantina (2008), a digital chromogenic print by Pierre Gonnord, who lives and works in Madrid. In his portrait subjects, Gonnord sees another concept of beauty "beyond the opacity" of their masks and under the skin of their faces. He chooses "unclassifiable, timeless" individuals from the anonymity of large cities to suggest things repeated since the beginning of time.*





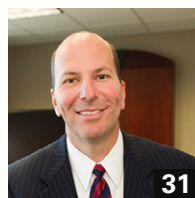


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## Behind the stories

With the remarkable pace and scope of progress now under way at OU, it's easy to focus only on these major physical developments. But other aspects of OU have also helped to elevate its profile. Take the Oakland University Art Gallery, which is featured in our cover story. The gallery has gone from strength to strength, attracting notice both for quality and its bold attitude. Likewise, the OU-William Beaumont School of Medicine, only into its third year, is drawing notice for its distinctive, patient-focused approach, as our story on COMPASS explains.

But OU could not be a school in ascendance without the support of donors. Sadly, we bid farewell in this issue to our great friend Stephan Sharf, whose generosity was overshadowed only by the ambitious visions he held for OU. Thanks to his transformational giving, his imprint on the OU campus will last for generations to come. It's to his eternal credit that he — like the alumni and friends of OU — recognized and supported the qualities that make OU the special place that it is.

— Kevin Knapp, Editor





# President's perspective



## Topping the 20,000 mark

By Betty J. Youngblood, Ph.D., interim president



Betty J. Youngblood, Ph.D.

Many of you know that OU has been growing at a steady pace.

If you have been following the stories in *OU Magazine*, you're aware of the numerous physical upgrades to the campus, such as the Human Health Building, which opened last year, and the new Engineering Center and Elliott Carillon Tower that are now under construction.

You may also have noted academic expansion, with the addition of many new programs at the university — including a master's degree in public health and programs in graphic design and criminal justice — and the founding of the Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) School of Medicine, Michigan's first M.D.-granting medical school in almost 50 years. The OUWB welcomed its third class, bringing the school's total enrollment to 223.

All of this, of course, is aimed at attracting and retaining talented students and providing the best possible education for them.

In light of all this, I'm happy to report that for the first time in its history, OU enrollment has topped 20,000. It's our 15th consecutive enrollment increase.

More than just a bragging point, it's a significant achievement, truly a watershed moment for OU as it moves forward.

It stands as recognition that OU is well on its path to achieve its goal of being a widely recognized, world-class university.

### Here is a quick look at the numbers:

- Freshman class enrollment totals 2,569 first-time students, or 3.8% more than in 2012. This is the university's largest freshman class ever.
- Retention is up. The number of continuing undergraduate students is up 3.7% from last year. Retention of last year's (2012) first-time students stands at 78%, compared with 70% for the 2011 cohort.
- Enrollment has increased in many academic programs, with the School of Engineering and Computer Science leading the way with a 16% increase over 2012.

Of course, OU continues to grow physically, as well. We currently have more than \$166 million in construction projects underway on the campus.

In addition to the projects mentioned earlier, we are building a new student housing complex, which will house 504 students, a new parking structure, a new outdoor tennis/track and field complex and a new facilities management building.

I'm pleased to say that all are within budget and on track for completion prior to fall semester 2014.

These are indeed exciting times at OU. As the university continues to evolve, I'm encouraged to know I can count on your support as we continue to move forward. ●



# Remembering Stephan Sharf

OU salutes a remarkable friend, a great humanitarian By Kevin Knapp

*"Without a lot of fanfare, he supported key parts of the community with gifts as well as personal time. He offered all of himself and his talents as a volunteer or director, or as a mentor for those whose task it was to reach out within the community and seek support for a wonderful cause. And he always saw to it that the outcome was successful."*

**Bill Rogers**, director of OU's Golf and Learning Center and a longtime friend

*He arrived in this country as a penniless immigrant from war-torn Germany. Through sheer will, sharp intellect and common sense, he rose through the ranks and became a leader in the automotive industry.*

Along the way, Stephan Sharf shared both his wisdom and his wealth with others with the hope of making this a better world. The man who lost so much in Berlin under the Nazis and then gained so much in his adopted land of America was also a man who gave prodigiously to causes and organizations that he was passionate about.

When he passed away on August 31 at age 92, Sharf was one of Oakland University's most devoted and visionary supporters. Indeed, he was a true force in ushering OU's transformation from a regional university into a larger, more influential institution of higher learning.

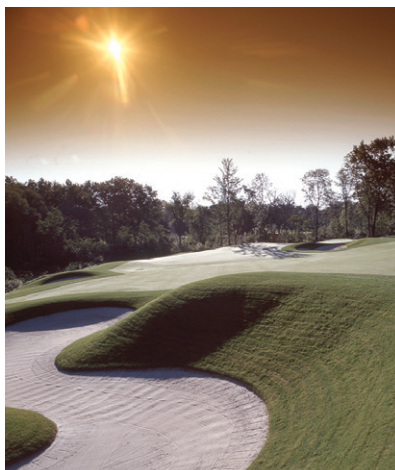
"My dream is to bring industry and university hand-in-hand working together," the retired Chrysler executive said last year in a profile in *OU Magazine*. "I would like to see such a close relationship between OU and industry and share and apply what they learn."

## **Transformational giver**

Sharf did more than simply dream about it, however. His transformational giving — which totaled more than \$21 million to OU — ensured that his forward-looking vision would become a tangible reality. Indeed, much of the progress taking place at OU today is due to both his generosity and insight.







Over the past four decades, Sharf contributed not just financially but also shared his leadership abilities and his vision of how OU could raise its profile in the world of higher education. He served as a trustee from 1987 to 1994, board vice chair from 1992 to 1994, and a member of the OU Foundation from 1985 to 2006.

A lifetime member of the OU President's Club, Sharf also received an honorary doctor of science degree from OU in 2007. He was chair of the Meadow Brook Music Festival and a member of OU's Steering Committee. He also was a member of the Future Task Force for both the School of Business Administration (SBA) and the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS).

His \$7 million estate gift in support of an endowed deanship position and an endowed scholarship fund for the Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) School of Medicine was one of the first lead gifts for the new school and helped set the stage for other significant gifts that have helped shape its growth.

"Steve's gift made a lasting contribution to not only the medical school, but to a future generation of physicians and the people whose lives they will impact," says OUWB Dean Robert Folberg, M.D.

Today, the legacy he leaves behind as a benefactor to OU for the past four decades can clearly be seen in

physical form — for example, the world-class R&S Sharf Golf Course; the new Steve Sharf Clubhouse at the OU Golf and Learning Center; and Patti Finnegan's, the clubhouse pub and grille that bears the name of his second wife. The seventh hole of the R&S Sharf Golf Course was dedicated to his wife Patti, in honor of the

hole-in-one she scored there in 2003. The 12th hole and a nearby garden were created to honor the memory of his first wife, Rita, who passed away in 2001.

#### Student supporter

What is less obvious, however, is the profound effect his enduring generosity has had on the lives of numerous OU students over the years. Among his many gifts to OU, Sharf was responsible for funding numerous scholarships for promising students in the School of Business Administration, the School of Engineering and Computer Science, and other schools. Each one of those scholarships touched lives in ways that some today

consider life-changing.

"The scholarship was a massive help to me," says William Gross, a finance major from Sterling Heights, Mich., who received the Stephan and Rita Sharf Endowed Scholarship for 2013. "It meant the difference between me working 40 to 50 hours at my job or being able to spend

*"I will be able to go to into class focused on academics instead of financial worries. I'm really grateful to Mr. Sharf for making a huge difference in my life."*

**Susan Gleich**, a junior from Sterling Heights, Mich.





*"Steve and his beloved wife Patti Finnegan Sharf were utterly dedicated to the success of the university, and that dedication will benefit students, faculty, staff and our community for generations to come."*

**Eric Barritt**, vice president, OU Development, Alumni and Community Engagement

that time on my studies and being with my family. I really owe a lot to Mr. Sharf."

Susan Gleich, a junior from Sterling Heights, Mich., who is majoring in English with plans to enter law school upon completion of her bachelor's degree, says the Sharf Scholarship Endowment she was awarded this year has allowed her to concentrate fully on reaching her goals.

"I hope Mr. Sharf never underestimated the personal effect of his generosity," she says. "This year, I won't have to worry about covering \$1,000 of my tuition. I will be able to go into class focused on academics instead of financial worries. I'm really grateful to Mr. Sharf for making a huge difference in my life."

### **Community's friend**

In fact, Sharf's dedication to OU has made and will continue to make a huge difference in the lives of all members of the OU community. He was also a generous contributor to the community at large, as a longtime supporter of Junior Achievement, the Boy Scouts, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and other worthwhile organizations.

"Mr. Sharf was among the most generous donors Oakland University has had the good fortune to know, and his long legacy of gifts has touched just about every area of the university," says Oakland University Interim President Betty J. Youngblood, Ph.D. "His generosity and love of Oakland University honestly knew no bounds."

An engineer by trade, Sharf was a keen supporter of OU's SECS, on whose advisory board he served. He earmarked \$6 million of his historic pledge to support the

school by funding scholarships, research and other discretionary expenditures.

"Mr. Sharf's gift will continue to transform the lives of countless engineering students," says SECS Dean Louay Chamra, Ph.D. "His generous gift places the school on the path to realize greater achievement in engineering and computer science education."

Eric Barritt, vice president, OU Development, Alumni and Community Engagement, says that Sharf's legacy will continue to resonate in the numerous improvements to student life, educational quality, research and campus growth.

"Steve and his beloved wife Patti Finnegan Sharf were utterly dedicated to the success of the university, and that dedication will benefit students, faculty, staff and our community for generations to come," he says.

Bill Rogers, director of OU's Golf and Learning Center and a longtime friend of Sharf's, says he will always remember Sharf as a humble man with a lofty goal.

"Steve Sharf was a great humanitarian, and he wanted the world to be a better place," Rogers says. "Without a lot of fanfare, he supported key parts of the community with gifts as well as personal time. He offered all of himself and his talents as a volunteer or director or as a mentor for those whose task it was to reach out within the community and seek support for a wonderful cause."

"And he always saw to it that the outcome was successful."

Steve Sharf, a remarkable man, will dearly be missed. But at OU, he will never be forgotten. ■





## Hightower Bridge opens

The Benjamin K. Hightower Bridge to Better Health, located outside the Human Health Building, was opened in September. The bridge was donated to OU by SHS Dean Kenneth Hightower, Ph.D., and serves as a memorial to his son, Benjamin, who lost his life at a young age. Dean Hightower also sees it as a symbol for the SHS and the research it fosters.

"The School of Health Sciences and Oakland University helps students surpass societal barriers of racial, economic, cultural and health disparities to become excellent citizens," says Dean Hightower, who attended the commemoration alongside his wife, Diane, and son Adam. "The Benjamin Hightower Bridge reflects Benjamin's attitudes of achievement by overcoming obstacles."

The Benjamin K. Hightower Bridge to Better Health is one of the first named gifts for the HHB, which was completed in 2012. ●

## Dean named 'esteemed woman'

Oakland University's Kerri Schuiling, Ph.D., professor and dean of the School of Nursing (SON), has been recognized with an Esteemed Women of Michigan Award. Dean Schuiling was among 25 women who were honored at the Fourth Annual Esteemed Women of Michigan awards luncheon, hosted by OU, the Crittenton Foundation, Chrysler Group LLC and the Dr. Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic.

The awards spotlight remarkable individuals who inspire others to pursue challenges, achieve excellence and help improve the quality of life in their

communities through their professional, personal and volunteer work.

Dean Schuiling is certified as a nurse-midwife and women's health care nurse practitioner, and is a fellow of the American College of Nurse-Midwives and a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, one of the nursing profession's most prestigious honors. She was the first credentialed midwife at Spectrum Hospital in Grand Rapids, Mich., as well as the first private practice midwife credentialed at Boulder Community Hospital in Boulder, Colo. Dean Schuiling has served as dean of Oakland's SON since 2011. ●



*Kerri Schuiling, Ph.D.*

## Credit union launches

The university welcomed the creation of Oakland University Credit Union (OUCU) as a trade name identity for financial services. A new OUCU branch has opened in the Oakland Center, and several ATM locations on campus offer financial education services and more. MSUFCU will begin operations at its Auburn Hills, Mich., branch as Oakland University Credit Union.

As part of this new partnership agreement, MSUFCU made a nearly \$5 million commitment to OU over 10 years, including an endowed student scholarship, an annual Dean's Choice Grant Program, a variety of signature

sponsorships, in-kind marketing and other discretionary support. ●

## Football kicks off at OU

Football finally came to Oakland University. The OU Football Club played its first season in the National Club Football Association (NCFA). The Golden Grizzlies faced off against club teams in the Great Lakes Conference, which includes the University of Michigan-Flint, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Columbus State Community College, Wright State University, University of Miami and The Ohio State University.

Home games are played at the Auburn Hills Civic Center Fields, located at Featherstone and Cross Creek Parkway, just west of Squirrel Road, within walking distance of the OU campus. For information about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact the team at [oufootballclub@gmail.com](mailto:oufootballclub@gmail.com) or view the Facebook page at [facebook.com/ouclubfootball](https://facebook.com/ouclubfootball). ●

## Professor earns teaching award

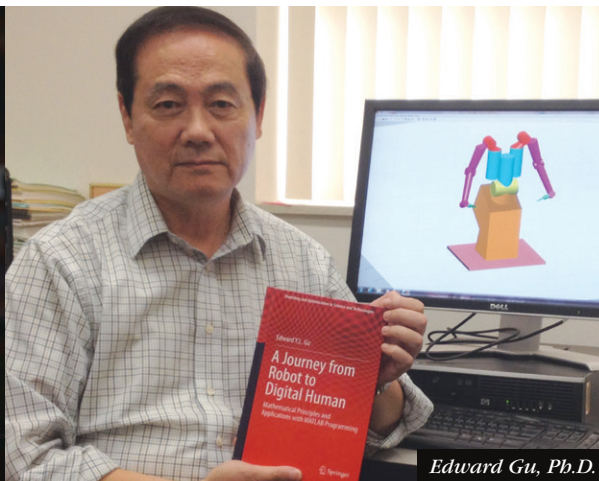
Gadis "Buck" Dillon, Ph.D., OU professor of accounting, was awarded the Accounting Teaching Excellence Award for 2013 from the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA). The award recognizes educators who excel in teaching accounting and promoting the certified public accounting profession.

Dr. Dillon has actively promoted interest in the accounting profession at OU, serving as a faculty adviser to students. In 1991, he helped students establish a chapter of Beta Alpha Psi (BAP), the national accounting fraternity. In 1996, he was recognized as a National





Gadis "Buck" Dillion, Ph.D.



Edward Gu, Ph.D.



Outstanding Faculty Advisor for his work with the fraternity, and he served on the National Council from 1997 until 2000. He also helped launch a student chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA), serving as its faculty adviser since 2007. ●

### Rachner heads SECS fundraising

Richard Rachner is the new director of development for the School of Engineering and Computer Science. Rachner will work closely with SECS Dean Louay Chamra and department chairs to develop strategies to increase major gifts to the school.



Richard Rachner

Previous to his appointment OU, Rachner held the position of senior director of major gifts for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Western Michigan University, and before that he was the director of major gifts and planned giving at the Society of Automotive Engineers in Troy, Mich. ●

### OU remains 'military friendly'

For the fifth consecutive year, Oakland University has been named a "Military Friendly School" by *G.I. Jobs* magazine, a distinction reserved for the top 15 percent of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide.

OU's Office of Veterans Support Services assists veterans and their dependents to help ease the transition

from the military to college by working with the university's Student Veterans of America chapter to create events and programs that will help integrate veterans into college life.

OU is also a charter member of the Michigan Educators Veterans Support Consortium and participates in numerous veterans support programs across the state and nation.

For more information on services for veterans or their dependents, contact [veterans@oakland.edu](mailto:veterans@oakland.edu), visit the Veterans Support Services website at [oakland.edu/veterans](http://oakland.edu/veterans) or call (248) 370-2010. ●

### Professor publishes robotics book

Oakland University engineering professor Edward Gu, Ph.D., has written a book exploring the rapidly developing technologies within the robotics field. *A Journey from Robot to Digital Human* illustrates concepts and methods by linking conceptual and visual learning, and is intended for use as an undergraduate- or graduate-level textbook, or as a reference guide for researchers and scientists.

Dr. Gu's book provides readers with a set of diverse tools for theoretical modeling and control of complex robotic systems. He also explores emerging technologies used in the development of digital human modeling and motion generation.

Dr. Gu has nearly 20 years of industry experience, having worked in research with both General Motors and Chrysler Corporation. His book is available on Amazon.com, at Barnes & Noble bookstores, or through the publisher, Springer. ●

### Winter College for 2014

Registration is open for OU's 2014 Winter College, being held at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa in Bonita Springs, Fla. From February 13-16, OU alumni, family and friends can relax and reconnect while listening to thought-provoking faculty talks and engaging in lively discussions. Attendees will also enjoy fine cuisine and great entertainment throughout the weekend.

Interim President Betty J. Youngblood, Ph.D., will give an update on OU. This year's speakers are faculty members Louay M. Chamra, Ph.D., dean, School of Engineering and Computer Science; Kevin J. Corcoran, Ph.D., dean, College of Arts and Sciences and professor of psychology; Cheryl K. Riley-Doucet, Ph.D., RN, associate professor, School of Nursing; Todd A. Estes, Ph.D., associate professor and chair, Department of History; and Michael A. Mazzeo, Ph.D., dean, School of Business Administration.

Visit [oakland.edu/wintercollege](http://oakland.edu/wintercollege) for more information and to register, or contact Executive Events at (248) 370-4900.

Room reservations may also be made by contacting Hyatt Reservations directly at 1 (888) 421-1442 and mentioning Oakland University. ●







# OAKLAND UNIVERSITY CREDIT UNION



## The Official Credit Union of Oakland University

Formerly the OU Branch of MSU Federal Credit Union, Oakland University Credit Union is a trade name of MSUFCU and is now the official financial services provider of Oakland University!

OUCU offers a brand new branch location in the Oakland Center, on-campus ATMs, and a wide range of products and services designed specifically for the OU community. OUCU is a full-service financial institution and offers everything from savings options and checking accounts to low-rate auto and home loans.

As a member of Oakland University Credit Union, you will enjoy:

- On-Campus ATMs
- Branch in the Oakland Center
- 24/7 Account Access via ComputerLine and the OUCU Mobile app
- FREE Checking
- Debit & Credit Cards featuring exclusive OU designs

Give us a call, go online, or visit one of our local branches to become a member and start experiencing the OUCU difference today!

**Download the  
OUCU Mobile app!**



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[www.oucreditunion.org](http://www.oucreditunion.org)





## IT degree program in Macomb



Julie Trube

A new Bachelor of Science in information technology (IT) degree program at the Anton/Frankel Center in Mount Clemens, Mich., continues Oakland University's commitment to increasing access to bachelor's and master's degrees among Macomb County residents and workers.

By adding a major in a growing field such as information technology, OU continues to support Macomb County in developing and delivering an educated and technically skilled

workforce prepared to help businesses drive the innovation necessary to thrive.

With a degree in information technology from Oakland University, students will be well-prepared to launch their careers. Oakland University's program provides students with technical strength and comprehensive understanding, as well as hands-on experience in real-world settings through internships and industry-sponsored projects.

Career options for those holding a Bachelor of Science in information technology include database developer, information retrieval specialist, interactive system designer, multimedia specialist and systems analyst. IT occupations are embedded in many industries, including core IT, health care, manufacturing and finance. Southeast Michigan has about 1,400 core IT firms, nearly 45 percent of the state's firms.

"A larger workforce is needed to meet the growing demand for information technology professionals in the business and industrial communities in Macomb County," says Louay Chamra, Ph.D., dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science. "I'm confident that establishing the bachelor's degree program in information technology in OU's Anton/Frankel Center will help educate the talent needed for the continued economic development of Macomb County and Southeast Michigan by helping businesses remain innovative and globally competitive."

According to the Workforce Intelligence Network of Southeast Michigan, information technology is Southeast Michigan's most rapidly growing occupation. Job postings for information technology occupations in Southeast Michigan increased faster than key regions across the country, including Silicon Valley.

Last year, Michigan employers posted more than 40,000 IT-related jobs across industries such as health care, manufacturing and finance. That growth is expected to continue over the next five years.

To enroll in or obtain more information about this program or any of the more than 25 degree programs Oakland University offers at its three locations in Macomb County, visit [oakland.edu/macomb](http://oakland.edu/macomb) or call (248) 370-3910 or toll-free at (855) 222-6909. ●

*By Julie Trube, interim executive director of OU in Macomb County.*

## Engineering the future

Experts predict that by the year 2020, nearly 50 billion devices will be connected to the Internet. The most successful businesses will be those that adapt to this evolving technological landscape.

To help OU students and engineers from the industry learn about leveraging these opportunities to gain a competitive edge in the marketplace, the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) is offering a new course, Competing in the Connected World.



Gregg Garrett, SECS '97

The course will be taught by Gregg Garrett, founder and managing director of CGS Advisors, LLC. Garrett is a graduate of OU's industrial and systems engineering program and winner of the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Service Award, the highest honor given to Oakland alumni. He is an adviser to several Fortune 100 companies and is a contributing writer for *Connected World* magazine.

For more on undergraduate and graduate programs in ISE and engineering management, as well as its partnerships with industry, visit the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department website at [oakland.edu/ise](http://oakland.edu/ise). ●

## Program boosts skills, careers

Project managers are employed among a growing number of fields in today's workforce. To capitalize on this trend, Oakland University's Project Management Principles and Best Practices Certificate program provides instruction on a broad range of topics for experienced professionals, as well as those seeking to establish a career.

In addition, the certificate course teaches the core knowledge tested on the Project Management Institute's certification exams (although those exams are not part of the course). Consisting of 35 contact hours, the program is a registered education provider with the Project Management Institute and focuses on several areas, including:

- All 10 of the Project Management Institute's nine knowledge management areas (project integration, scope, human resource, time, cost, quality, risk, communication, procurement and stakeholder management)
- The institute's five process groups (initiating, planning, executing, monitoring and control, and closing)
- Establishing of a comprehensive baseline project plan
- Use of best practices (practical and theoretical)
- Examination and use of specific project tools

The course is offered through OU's Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) unit. For information, contact program director Gene Fliedner at (248) 370-4281 or [fliedner@oakland.edu](mailto:fliedner@oakland.edu). ●



## CAS alumnus supports excellence in student research

*"Students who demand the most from themselves, seek out the most challenging courses and the most demanding professors, will stand the best chance of success in their chosen profession."*

– Mike Kenny, CAS '78



The statistic is alarming. Experts say that as many as 5.1 million Americans today may have Alzheimer's disease, the irreversible, progressive brain disease that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills.

Combating this devastating illness requires extensive research into its cause or causes. Among those seeking answers is OU biochemistry major Hanna Trzeciakiewicz. This undergraduate student is helping Senela Martic, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, investigate the role of the tau protein that is commonly associated with neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease. What they learn could one day help to unlock the mysteries of the disease.

Mike Kenny, CAS '78, and his wife Beth, knew they could help make a real difference in the lives of student researchers, faculty investigators and perhaps those who would benefit from the outcomes of these projects. The Michael P. and Elizabeth A. Kenny Merit Scholarship for the Sciences, offered through the College of Arts and Sciences, is now providing funding that is enabling Trzeciakiewicz to be part of this exciting research project. The scholarship is awarded annually to a promising undergraduate student in the departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry or Physics.

Bradley Roth, Ph.D., director of the Center for Biomedical Research, says that gifts such as the Kenny Scholarship are absolutely vital to supporting two primary missions of the university: educating students to be the researchers of tomorrow, and advancing knowledge to solve society's problems.

"Hanna is an example of the kind of undergraduate student OU is trying to attract, with a strong academic background and a desire to work with OU faculty on their research," he says. "The project she and Dr. Martic are addressing is one of the most pressing problems our country faces as the population ages: Alzheimer's disease and dementia."

The recently established Kenny Scholarship is the latest gift by the Kennys, who began showing their appreciation to OU in 2010 by supporting the Undergraduate Research in Science Gift Fund, which provides financial assistance to undergraduate science students during summer research projects with OU faculty members.

"Students who demand the most from themselves, seek out the most challenging courses and the most demanding professors, and accept constructive criticism as motivation for deeper understanding and better performance ... will stand the best chance of success in their chosen profession," Kenny explains.

Kenny's own drive and determination were apparent during his academic career at OU, where he triple-majored in political science, history and philosophy. Since then, he has gone on to achieve great success as a lawyer on the national landscape. He is a trial and appellate lawyer, working principally in the areas of complex commercial litigation — especially antitrust — financial services, trade secrets, business and class action.

His skill as a lawyer has landed him on several prominent lists, including the Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business, Best Lawyers in America, Georgia Super Lawyers, and 2013 Atlanta Antitrust Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers.

This October, Mike Kenny was awarded a 2013 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award by OU in recognition of his outstanding career achievements.

"A liberal arts education provides a foundation for success," says Kevin J. Corcoran, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "Mike's education, combined with his remarkable drive, has created a very successful and impressive career. Now, his desire is to give back to his alma mater by investing in and nurturing talent in the sciences. We're fortunate and grateful that Mike and Beth want to attract bright and promising students like Hanna to OU and help them to achieve their full potential." ●



## Endowed professorship continues the ERI vision



*Dr. V. Everett Kinsey*

Back in 1968 at the invitation of Woody Varner, Oakland University's first chancellor, V. Everett Kinsey, Ph.D., arrived at OU to organize a new eye research facility. Along with Venkat N. Reddy, Ph.D., Dr. Kinsey co-founded the Eye Research Institute (ERI) and served as its first director.

Under his leadership, the ERI gained national and international prominence as a center for eye research. For the last 45 years, the ERI has conducted basic research

into the underlying causes of eye diseases that result in blindness or loss of vision. Today, the ERI still reflects Dr. Kinsey's philosophy that fundamental research in a clinical specialty should be supported and encouraged.

Dr. Kinsey devoted much of his career to the study of blindness in premature infants. His determination that excessive oxygen administration was often the cause won the prestigious Lasker Award in 1956. Dr. Kinsey became director emeritus of the ERI in 1975 and passed away in July 1978.

Twenty-five years after Dr. Kinsey's death, his widow, Irene Kinsey Stare, made a bequest to OU to create the V. Everett Kinsey Endowed Professorship that will fund vital research projects by ERI professors.

"I would like to see Dr. Kinsey's work carried on and his name continue to be associated with the Eye Research Institute," Mrs. Stare said of her gift in 2004.

Mrs. Stare had been a longtime ERI supporter when she worked with ERI director Frank Giblin, Ph.D., to identify the need for this professorship. Shortly before her death last March, Mrs. Stare made a significant addition to the bequest, which increased her total donation to more than \$3 million.

"We are so thankful for the generosity of Mrs. Stare," Dr. Giblin says. "Her gift will significantly enhance the visibility of the institute and Oakland University. The annual award arising from the professorship will help support the work of an ERI professor having an established expertise in vision research."

Angie Schmucker, OU executive director of planned and annual giving, adds, "Mrs. Stare's bequest honors Dr. Kinsey's vision and pioneering research, and the endowment ensures that his name will be associated with the ERI for generations to come." ●

## Delphi supports veterans with OU gift

When the Delphi Foundation sought to lend its support to U.S. military veterans in a direct and significant way, its officials naturally turned to Oakland University.

With OU being recognized as a "military friendly school" for the fifth consecutive year by *G.I. Jobs* magazine, Delphi was confident in selecting the university's Veterans Support Services as the recipient of a Delphi Foundation \$19,000 gift intended to offset certain costs associated with higher education.

The Delphi Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit charitable organization that is affiliated with Delphi Corp. of Troy, Mich., a global supplier of electronics and technologies for automotive, commercial vehicle and other market segments.

"One of Delphi's guiding principles is to support worthwhile causes in communities where we live and work. OU was a candidate for our outreach efforts, since it's practically in our backyard," says Debra Alexander, Delphi vice president, global total rewards. "The foundation members felt strongly about supporting the men and women who have put their lives on the line for our country, so the Veterans Support

Services was a natural fit. It was a win-win situation for both OU and Delphi."

Delphi Foundation officials met with OU to explore ways to help military veterans in a meaningful way. The result of those meetings was a foundation grant to the Veterans Support Services, which works to help vets make the successful transition from military to academic life.

Part of the foundation's gift will be applied toward four awards of \$3,500, which will be granted to eligible veterans based on criteria such as academic standing, current active/reserve status or honorable discharge, and demonstrated leadership qualities. The awards for the 2014 academic school year will be presented next spring. The funds are earmarked to pay for expenses — such as housing and books — that fall outside the scope of what is covered under the G.I. Bill.

"There's a perception that vets have all their school costs taken care of through the G.I. Bill, but that's only partly true," says Bradley Reichelt, the veterans' liaison with Veterans Support Services. "A lot of the expenses are paid out of their pockets."

## DELPHI Foundation

As nontraditional students, vets are usually older than their contemporaries, he says, and many already have started families. The financial boost offered by an award like Delphi's makes a huge difference to the veteran-student. Additionally, Delphi will offer each recipient a paid internship at one of its facilities in Southeast Michigan as part of the award.

"Other companies have approached us before about helping veterans," Reichelt explains, "but no one has taken the time to get our opinion and follow up with a solid commitment. Delphi took the steps to make sure it was done right, so we're very thankful and pleased with the outcome."

Reichelt adds that individuals can lend their support by donating to the Veterans Affairs Gift Fund (30276) at [oakland.edu/aufd](http://oakland.edu/aufd) during the 2014 All-University Fund Drive. ●





Brian Stuard



Dave Morgan



Saddi Washington



Travis Bader



Nick Kristock

## Sports notes

### Stuard's success in PGA

Brian Stuard, SBA '05, had a breakout year on the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) Tour in 2013 with four top 10 finishes and \$1,032,028 in earnings to finish 79th on the PGA money list. His highest finish was fourth place at the Puerto Rico Open in March. Stuard finished 154th on the PGA money earnings list in his rookie season of 2010, then spent the next two seasons on the Web.com Tour before rejoining the PGA Tour in 2013. ●

### Morgan named soccer coach

Dave Morgan was named the interim head coach for Oakland University's women's soccer team shortly before the 2013 season began. He replaced Nick O'Shea, who stepped down after 19 seasons as head coach. Morgan had spent the previous seven seasons as a member of the Golden Grizzlies' coaching staff, helping the team to four NCAA postseason tournament appearances during that time. ●

### Washington promoted as coach

Saddi Washington, an assistant coach for the men's basketball program for the past seven years, has been promoted to associate head coach. He fills the spot vacated by Jeff Tungate, who took over as head coach of the OU women's basketball program. ●

### Bader named All-American

Senior sharpshooter Travis Bader, CAS '12, who led NCAA I in 3-point field goals last year, has been selected to the *Collegeinsider.com* Lou Henson Pre-season Mid-Major All-American men's basketball team. Bader finished fifth in the nation in scoring last year with 22.1 points per game en route to earning Mid-Major All-America honors.

He enters his senior year needing to make 101 3-pointers to break the NCAA career record held by former Duke star and current Los Angeles Clipper J.J. Redick. A fifth-year senior from Okemos, Mich., with a 3.45 grade point average in the graduate communication program, Bader twice has been named to the Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association Scholar-Athlete team. ●

### Kristock a soccer finalist

Senior defender Nick Kristock, SBA '13, is one of 10 NCAA I men's soccer players named as finalists for the 2013 Senior CLASS (Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School) Award. The award honors the top student-athlete in each of 10 NCAA I sports. Nominees must be classified as a senior and have notable achievements in four areas — community, classroom, character and competition. Last spring, Kristock became the first OU student-athlete ever to be awarded the university's Human Relations Award, given to the student who has made an outstanding contribution to intergroup understanding and conflict resolution. He also was named the Oakland University Student Leader of the Year. ●

## Grizzly tracks

Brittini Hutton, CAS '13, has joined American Distance Project and will compete for Adidas/Boulder Running Company, a Colorado Springs-based nonprofit organization that develops American distance runners for international competition. Hutton was the 2012 Summit League cross country individual champion ... Former OU swimming standout Chris Sullivan, SECS '06, has joined the Golden Grizzlies' coaching staff. Sullivan was a two-time All-American in the 100-yard

freestyle and 100-yard butterfly his senior year ... Senior Erika Polidori, who led the Golden Grizzlies' softball team in batting average, hits, runs scored and RBIs last spring, was a member of the Canadian Senior Women's National Team that took fourth place in the U.S. World Cup of Softball during the summer. She scored the game-winning run in a 2-1 win over Japan ... Brandon Weems has been hired as an assistant coach for the Oakland University men's basketball program. A former small college All-American, Weems had previously coached at the University of Kentucky for three years, including the Wildcats' 2012 NCAA I national championship season, and spent last year as an assistant coach at Drexel University ... Sophomore Karin Tomeckova set national records in the 100- and 200-meter backstroke at the Slovakian Grand Prix last summer. She was named The Summit League Newcomer of the Championship last season after winning both backstroke events and swimming on three winning relay teams at the league championship meet ... Nicki Hopkins is the new director of basketball operations for the OU women's basketball program. She was a four-year letter winner at the University of Buffalo ... Sophomore Evan Bowser qualified for the U.S. Amateur Golf Championship for the second year in a row by shooting back-to-back rounds of 69 at the U.S. Amateur qualifier... Claire Paszkiewicz joined the Golden Grizzlies' volleyball program as an assistant coach. The Bloomfield Hills, Mich., native was a standout setter at Xavier University and went on to serve two seasons as a graduate assistant coach at her alma mater. ●

Compiled by Fritz Reznor

Photos courtesy of OU Athletics Communications



## Tungate takes over

**OU alum looks to revitalize women's basketball program** *By Fritz Reznor*

It's a simple goal: to develop a basketball program that will make OU alumni proud to wear the Black and Gold. After all, Jeff Tungate, CAS '93, is one of them.

"With Oakland being my alma mater and my wife also having graduated from here, it's obviously a very special place, says Tungate, the new OU women's head basketball coach. "I don't take lightly that we represent a lot of proud alumni. It's important that we put out a product that our alumni are proud of, that they can say, 'I went there! I'm an Oakland University graduate!'"

A former baseball standout at OU in the early 1990s, Tungate spent the past six seasons as associate head coach of the highly successful Oakland men's basketball team. He was named head coach of the women's team in July. He says he intends to incorporate some of the style of play that helped the Golden Grizzlies' men's team to consecutive NCAA postseason appearances the past five years.

"We're going to look to play fast, get up and down the floor, and score in transition," he says. "We're going to play a style that's fun to watch. I think people like watching high-scoring

games, and we're going to try to have as many possessions in the game as we can."

From the outset, Tungate and his coaching staff are working to create and instill a positive, winning culture, both on and off the floor, after the Golden Grizzlies suffered back-to-back sub-.500 seasons for the first time in the 39-year history of OU women's basketball.

"We're trying to make them the best players that they can become, and make them the best people that they can become," he says. "We encourage them to meet a high standard, we hold them accountable. We want to make sure that they enjoy the game of basketball and that we build a good, solid team with good chemistry."

His goals for the program include winning Horizon League championships, and even loftier ambitions.

"We want to build this into a top 25 program," Tungate says. "I think Oakland is a very special place. It's a great location, it's got great community support, great fan support, a great alumni base, great tradition, and we want to build on that tradition." ●



# Guided by COMPASS

Med school program gives students hands-on experience, skills for interacting with patients *By Amy Lynn Smith*



*The “a-ha!” moment* came to third-year medical student Sara Singer just after she’d counseled a patient at a community health event about cutting back on sodium intake to reduce her high blood pressure.

“But my doctor said not to eat salt,” the patient had protested.

The confused exchange was brief but instructive, recalls Singer today. “Sure, I know that salt and sodium mean the same thing, but not everyone does,” she says. “That moment taught me a lot about my own communication skills as a medical professional. It really opened my eyes to the realities of delivering health care.”

Chalk up another one to the benefits of real-world experience gained by students at the Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) School of Medicine.

The school aims to transform medical education by emphasizing a holistic, patient-focused approach to health care. Underscoring this philosophy is an initiative that encourages students to leave their desks behind — temporarily — and go into communities to work directly with those populations under the supervision of physicians.

Known as COMPASS (Caring, Outreach, Medical Mentors, Physicians, Advocacy, Scholarship and Skill), the

outreach program is designed to guide the medical school community in keeping true to OUWB's patient-centered vision.

### Difference makers

"We want to teach our students to be physicians with good bedside manners, someone their patients can really trust," says Jean Szura, director of service learning for OUWB. "One way we do that is by engaging students with the community across diverse populations."

The school emphasizes patient-physician communication early in each student's education, she says, a feature that distinguishes the OUWB approach.

"We start teaching these kinds of clinical skills in the first semester, so students are very comfortable talking with patients," explains Nelia Afonso, M.D., assistant dean, Community Integration and Outreach, and the lead physician for COMPASS. "You may learn everything about a disease in the classroom, but you can't fully put it into practice until you see how it really affects an individual."

For example, after students have completed the Art and Practice of Medicine course that teaches such basic skills as administering vaccines or taking blood pressure, they can volunteer at community health events under a physician's supervision.

Opportunities to volunteer vary, from health fairs to elementary school health presentations to serving breakfast to the homeless. Students have also provided instruction on using portable defibrillators at schools, where cardiac arrest is a potential danger for student-athletes who may have undiagnosed heart disease.

Other activities may not seem related to health care at all, such as playing Bingo with senior citizens or planting trees. Dr. Afonso says they all contribute to community engagement.

"COMPASS is like a clearinghouse for community activities," she says. "Students pursue their own interests within the program, along with faculty and staff, so it provides many opportunities to explore service learning."

### Dose of reality

One event took place on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, when Americans typically are urged to engage in community service. Joe Vercellone, a second-year student from Birmingham, Mich., was among those who spent the day at Chandler Park Academy in Harper Woods, Mich.

"I did a couple of health education programs that day," he says. "It was a chance to step away from the books and

*"We're excited about the chance to engage our students in a sustained effort where they can create real change."*

**Jean Szura**, director of service learning for OUWB

reconnect with the reason we went to medical school in the first place: to help people."

An ongoing COMPASS initiative is the Brightmoor Health Outreach Collaborative, serving residents who are trying to revive and rebuild their blighted Detroit neighborhood. Thanks to a three-year grant from the Jewish Fund and corporate donations from Comerica Charitable Foundation, OUWB has joined Beaumont Health System, Covenant Community Care and other organizations to provide health services to Brightmoor residents for the next three years.

"Four times a year, we will spend a week in this community, where health services are greatly needed," says OUWB's Szura. "We're excited about the chance to engage our students in a sustained effort where they can create real change."

Indeed, this is what COMPASS is really all about, she adds, and why the program will continue reaching out into the community with a variety of programs.

For Sara Singer, the head start that COMPASS provides to OUWB students such as herself is a welcome dose of reality.

"Everyone comes into medical school because we want to care for people, but usually in the first two years you're mostly studying in class," she says. "The great thing about COMPASS is that it allows us to interact with and serve real people early in the program." ■

Amy Lynn Smith is a Metro Detroit-based freelance writer.





# Meet the new deans

**OU recently welcomed two deans to the campus community** *By Jennifer Heil Bonacorsi and Margarita Bauza Wagerson*

*As fall classes began for their first full OU semester, the new deans shared their views on leading their respective schools.*



**Kevin J. Corcoran, Ph.D.**, stepped into the role of dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at OU on July 1. He is the former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Northern Kentucky University.

## **The College of Arts and Sciences has an incredible range of programs. How do you manage that?**

You manage by trusting people and by setting a direction. We are focused this year on emphasizing the college as the heart and soul of the university. We're also emphasizing engagement. Traditionally, athletics and the arts are what brings the community onto campus. We'll keep doing those things, but let's also keep looking for other opportunities to bring people onto campus, and use the talent that we have on campus in service to the community. We certainly also have to think about improving our graduation rate, and that includes enriching educational experiences.

## **What attracted you to OU?**

There aren't many schools that are growing. And OU is definitely growing. It's a school that's doing interesting things and is doing them in interesting ways. That's exciting.

## **What are some of those interesting things?**

The CAS has introduced three new programs — cinema studies, graphic design and criminal justice — that, taken together, are less than five years old. Already they have a total of more than 400 majors. We emphasize developing programs that meet both a societal and community need and that are very attractive to students.

## *College of* **Arts and Sciences**

**Kevin J. Corcoran**

## **Your outlook is not just about getting students through college and into their careers.**

Exactly. We're looking at how we can start people with internships earlier, and how we can do less traditional kinds of internships. We have Spanish majors working with high schoolers in Pontiac. We have writing faculty teaching at the Baldwin Center, with students mentoring teens in writing. Students learn and the community benefits. These are the kinds of experiences that help students understand that they really know something and can make a difference. It's not just about doing well on a test.

## **You want to bring the real world to the campus.**

And take the campus to the real world, right? I think they're both very real, they're just different realities. ■



**Michael A. Mazzeo, Ph.D.**, joined Oakland University's School of Business Administration as dean in mid-August from the Michigan State University Eli Broad College of Business. A veteran university administrator with more than 30 years of experience, he is also a published researcher and an expert in finance, corporate restructuring, and mergers and acquisitions.

### **What are the strengths of OU's School of Business Administration?**

This business school holds dual accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International for its business and accounting programs. Its programs are current, relevant and externally vetted. Its faculty and students are top-notch. It has an engaged Board of Visitors and is surrounded by a business community that offers great opportunities. A low student-to-faculty ratio allows students to receive individual support and be intimately engaged in academics and programs.

### **What do employers look for in business school graduates?**

Employers want proficient professionals who can get the job done. Half the student experience at the business school involves developing academic proficiency. The other half occurs through professional experiences such as internships, consultancies and professional development programs that prepare graduates for successful careers.

### **How is OU's business school addressing those needs?**

We are preparing students for careers — not just their first position after graduation. Our focus is on graduating skilled, knowledgeable business professionals in much the same manner a medical school prepares doctors — with an intense focus on curriculum, hands-on experiences, internships and career placement. I want our students to know that from the time they are admitted to OU's business school to the time they graduate, they will evolve from a college student to a professional ready to launch a successful career.

We can't go wrong if we look at providing more opportunities to keep our students engaged on campus, build more robust professional development programs, enhance support services, and provide more hands-on experiences for students.

For today's business professionals considering graduate degrees, it's important we continue to offer strong graduate programs as well as explore additional career enhancement opportunities. The world is moving toward a more custom education environment for graduate students and professionals. ■



## *School of* **Business Administration**

**Michael A. Mazzeo**

*Jennifer Heil Bonacorsi, CAS '94, is a freelance writer from Lake Orion, Mich.  
Margarita Bauza Wagerson is a freelance writer from Birmingham, Mich.*



# Be here now

Campus jewel and cultural linchpin, OU's gallery monitors the pulse of contemporary art By Susan Thwing



Dick Goody, director of the Oakland University Art Gallery (OUAG)

Oakland University Art Gallery is located at 208 Wilson Hall and is open Tuesday – Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit [ouartgallery.org](http://ouartgallery.org). You can also visit the gallery's Facebook page or follow it on Twitter.

*Art museums around the world* are the repositories of works by the Old Masters. Rightfully lauded for their enduring beauty and influence, these venerable masterworks were, in fact, once brand-new paintings or sculptures. Without history or legacy and fresh from the studios, these pieces were simply the contemporary art of their day. Were they not noticed, appreciated and collected, however, these masterpieces of visual art would be lost to us today.

That, says Dick Goody, director of the Oakland University Art Gallery (OUAG), is precisely why it is so important that we take an active interest in the art of our time.

"For me, directing the gallery is about bringing people and art together in a place where they can put their finger on the pulse of what's happening right now," he says.

Case in point: the OUAG's exhibition last spring that explored the work of international contemporary artists who work in portraiture. The show, titled *The Roving Eye: Aura and the Contemporary Portrait*, was designed to reclaim portraiture as a practice central to the artist, rather than the amateur.

"The portrait has been around since the beginning of time, and we tend to take its significance for granted," Goody says of the show. "The wonderful thing about the exhibition is that it brings the genre up to date. Here, one has the opportunity to see how international contemporary artists working in various disciplines are responding to the challenge of making images of people in the context of the millions of throwaway smartphone portraits taken every day across the planet."

## Distinguishing features

Like all OUAG exhibitions, it was accompanied by a full-color catalog, which showcased the work of the 18 international artists. In London, soon after the show closed, it was announced that two of the artists, David Shrigley and Lynette





Yiadom-Boakye, had been shortlisted for the Turner Prize, the United Kingdom's most prestigious art prize.

The gallery's focus on the contemporary and its exhibition catalogs — meticulously designed, inspiringly produced collections of the exhibited artworks — have created a niche for the gallery in southeastern Michigan.

"Catalogs create an infrastructure within themselves, but, more important, they help provide valuable context for art that has never been seen in Michigan," Goody says. "They furnish a lasting legacy for artists, both locally and on a national level."

To Marc Schwartz, who serves on the boards of Art Detroit Now and Modern and Contemporary Art at Detroit Institute of Arts, the OUAG plays an important cultural role, serving as "the voice of art in the northeast quadrant of Detroit."

"It's the only real national and international contemporary art that residents of the area can experience," Schwartz says. "Dick Goody has a long history of bringing what very few others can to the regional art scene. Because of the OUAG, we have exposure to artists we might not experience otherwise. What you'll find at the gallery is not the usual thing. Dick always adds a mix or a twist. It's a unique program and is quite remarkable."

"We show regional artists alongside those working within the international arena," says Goody. "For example, this month a celebrated Detroit artist, Gilda Snowden, is

having a 40-year retrospective, and in January we are organizing an exhibition of contemporary sculpture from New York. Many of the students seeing our exhibitions have never been to a gallery before. It empowers them to keep looking and explore the great art that's coming out of Detroit right now.

"We play a leadership role in the art community, bridging the gap between the city and the suburbs."

### **Artful advantage**

The gallery's four to six annual exhibitions — which include a roster of painting, sculpture, photography and portraits — also provide OU students with both an artistic and competitive edge.

Twice a year, each graduating studio art student is able to present his or her work at the gallery, an advantage that students at many other universities simply can't hope to have. It's an enriching experience: creating the objects, engineering and installing the exhibition, and then having their work critiqued and reviewed.

"They learn from their senior thesis exhibition how to make a strong body of work, how to think like a professional artist, and about the contextual and curatorial aspects of organizing an exhibition," Goody explains. "They leave here better prepared for what's ahead in the art world." ■





*WXOU news director Lauren Bartbold keeps the campus community informed.*

## OU student radio station wins top honors with frequency

After 46 years, Oakland University's distinguished broadcasting station, WXOU-FM (88.3), is still delivering a strong signal to the campus community. It's also celebrating a legacy of award-winning broadcasting.

For the second year in a row, WXOU has won Station of the Year from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Foundation. OU student broadcasters also took first place in the Current Events Program category, and received first place, second place and honorable mentions in several categories.

"Receiving this award was even sweeter the second time around," says Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities and Leadership Development. "We're really happy that WXOU is being recognized statewide for the quality of its work and its community service."

While winning awards is gratifying, says Patrick Cymbalski, student manager of the station and first-place winner in the Air Check category, it is the positive atmosphere and dedication of WXOU's student workers that he finds most compelling.

"The friendly environment of the station is what first got me interested in broadcasting," says Cymbalski, a French major from Romeo, Mich. "Early on, it became my place to meet people, broadcast and relax."

In addition to providing information, entertainment and a voice to the campus community, the station offers a springboard to those who intend to pursue careers in broadcasting. One notable example is Lauren Podell, CAS '08, now a television news reporter with WDIV-TV Local 4 News in Detroit.

"WXOU is where it all started for me as a freshman," she says. "It paved the way for my television career. In radio, it's just you and the microphone, and my time at WXOU couldn't have prepared me more, now that it's just me and the camera at WDIV."

WXOU began in 1966 as an AM radio station. Over time, OU students lobbied successfully to change it to an FM station. A successful mix of up-to-date broadcast technology and the dedication of students, faculty, alumni and donors

have made the station what it is today. WXOU is well-known for its coverage of OU sports — especially men's and women's basketball.

Christine Stover, CAS '02, adjunct instructor in communication and journalism and faculty adviser to WXOU, says the station continues to offer students a valuable opportunity to explore their creativity in a supportive environment and share with the campus community.

"The atmosphere of WXOU is and always has been that of a family," she explains. "I was a volunteer DJ when I was a student at OU, and I had good mentors. Now I try to provide that same mentorship to the current members of WXOU."

An OU gift fund (30095) has been established to help the radio station continue to grow by improving the station equipment and broadcast tower, she adds. For more information, visit the website at [wxou.org](http://wxou.org). ●

*By Rachel Montgomery, student writer*



# Ambassador spotlight

To help attract talented students to Oakland University, a growing corps of volunteers is involved in the Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program (AAP). More than 350 alumni who reside in more than 20 different states are volunteer members. Below, we hear from two alumni who are helping to spread the good word about OU.



**Marcia Huff, CAS '79,** earned a degree in biology but launched a career in graphic design that evolved from creating banners and ads for the OU student programs she helped organize. Today, she works in the advertising department for furniture maker Herman Miller in Grand Rapids, Mich.

#### How AAP impacts my life

"I enjoy talking about OU at college fairs here on the west side of the state. OU gets a lot of competition from Grand Valley State University, which is similar to OU in size and is often compared to it. I always emphasize that OU has great access to bigger events that occur in the community, due to its proximity to Metro Detroit."

#### Memorable AAP moments

"I like to tell students about the positive impact that student life had on me and the amazing academic experience that awaits them at OU. My involvement with dorm activities, student meetings and a job on campus helped shaped my life."

#### April Jackson, SEHS '93,

received her Bachelor of Arts degree in human resource development with a concentration in training. She currently is employed at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, where she oversees the training for health care reform.

#### How AAP impacts my life

"I hope to make a difference by increasing awareness of Oakland University, not just for its academic programs, but its social aspects, as well. College is a stepping stone, a place where students can build lifetime relationships. I hope to bring my experiences to the table to help encourage students to attend."

#### Memorable AAP moments

"I enjoy attending open houses, Move-In Day on campus and orientation. My own children also get to see the excitement we have for OU, so my husband and I hope to have two more future alumni."

For information on joining the AAP, go to [oakland.edu/aap](http://oakland.edu/aap) or contact Denae May at [dmmay@oakland.edu](mailto:dmmay@oakland.edu) or (248) 370-4749. ●



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##### The Big, Bright Light Show

Monday, December 2 through  
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##### Kris Kringle Market

Friday, December 6, 4 – 10 p.m. and  
Saturday, December 7, Noon – 10 p.m.

##### Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade

Sunday, December 8, 2 p.m.

##### Downtown Rochester and Oakland County 2014 Fire & Ice Festival

Friday, January 24, 6 – 9 p.m.,  
Saturday, January 25, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. and  
Sunday, January 26, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



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Alumni, we want to hear from you! Send us the latest information about you and your accomplishments for future publication in Class Notes.

You may also include a photo, either a print or high resolution (300 dpi) digital file.

To submit new information, go to [oualumni.com](http://oualumni.com) and click on "Update Your Record."

You can also mail your update to: Oakland University Alumni Engagement, John Dodge House, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester, MI 48309-4497.

Class Notes are printed on a space-available basis.



## OCAA honors nine at annual awards banquet

OU alumni were honored for their achievements in business, community service, volunteerism and more at the 19th annual Alumni Awards Banquet, held on October 25, 2013. Congratulations to the award recipients, whose accomplishments can be viewed online at [oualumni.com/OCAAawards](http://oualumni.com/OCAAawards).

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

**Bernard Kent, CAS '71**

Financial adviser, JD, CPA, PFS

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Dr. Joseph A. Helpern, CAS '88**

Professor and vice chair for research in radiology, Medical University of South Carolina

**Michael Kenny, CAS '77**

Partner, Alston and Bird, LLC

### ODYSSEY AWARD

**Jeffrey Frankowiak, SEHS '04, '06, '12**

Principal, Waterford Kettering High School

### SPIRIT AWARD

**Thomas Mittelbrun, III, SBA '88**

Benefits director, Electrical Workers' Joint Boards of Trustees, of the National Electrical Contractors Association and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 58

### OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

**Alexis Anne DeCapua Collins, CAS '05**

Dance Educator, Detroit Country Day School

**Rick Williams, SBA '06**

Co-owner, Burn Rubber Shoes, and founder and creative director, The Distinct Life

### ALUMNI COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**Judith Hoppin, SEHS '78**

Volunteer clinical supervisor, Adult Career Counseling Center, Oakland University

### HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD

**Dr. Judith K. Brown**

Distinguished Professor emerita of anthropology, Oakland University

Nominations for the 2014 Alumni Awards Banquet are being accepted through March 31, 2014. Visit [oualumni.com/OCAAawards](http://oualumni.com/OCAAawards) to download a nomination form. For more information, contact Erin Sudrovec at [sudrovec@oakland.edu](mailto:sudrovec@oakland.edu) or (248) 364-6136. ●

2013 Alumni Awards Banquet





## Updates and events

### Alumni event follow-up

Alumni and friends gathered for summer fun at the OUAA Golf Challenge and OU Night at Comerica Park events. On July 15, 144 golfers played a round on the R&S Sharf Golf Course in support of the OUAA Scholarship Program. The annual OUAA Golf Challenge event raised more than \$32,000 through corporate sponsors and raffles. The OUAA Scholarship Program awards \$90,000 annually to deserving OU students.

Save the date for the 2014 OUAA Golf Challenge on July 14, 2014.

The Detroit ballpark was packed with 400 cheering OU fans on August 21 as the Tigers defeated the Minnesota Twins at the Ninth Annual OU Night at Comerica Park. Guests enjoyed an all-you-can-eat buffet before the game on a party deck overlooking the city. A raffle of autographed Tigers memorabilia — including an Austin Jackson bat, Rick Porcello baseball and Max Scherzer jersey — helped to raise funds in support of the OUAA Scholarship Program.

For information on upcoming events, visit [grizzlink.oualumni.com](http://grizzlink.oualumni.com). ●

### Stay connected to the OUAA

Visit [oualumni.com](http://oualumni.com) to find OUAA on social media. ●



### Arts@OU schedule

The Arts@OU series engages alumni and community members through the arts opportunities available at Oakland University. The 2013-14 series schedule will highlight student productions and collaborations with Oakland University Art Gallery, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Meadow Brook Hall.

**Exclusive Holiday Walk at Meadow Brook Hall**  
Tuesday, December 17, 2013, from 5 - 9 p.m.

**Student production of *Sweet Charity* in Varner Studio Theatre**  
Wednesday, March 26, 2014, at 6 p.m.

**Oakland Symphony Orchestra performance at the DSO**  
Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about Arts@OU or to register for an event, please visit [oualumni.com/alumni/artsatou](http://oualumni.com/alumni/artsatou). ●



### Career development webinar schedule

The career development webinar series features the nation's top career authors and subject matter experts in résumé writing, job search, social media, networking, personal branding and career exploration. Participation is free and webinar recordings will be archived to revisit at a later date. For details on each webinar and to register, please visit [oualumni.com/careerdevelopment](http://oualumni.com/careerdevelopment).

**January 9, 2014** | Career Entrepreneurism, presented by Ben Casnocha

**February 5, 2014** | Career Exploration, presented by Richard Bolles

**March 5, 2014** | Networking, presented by Dr. Ivan Misner

**April 2, 2014** | Leadership, presented by Al Duncan

**May 7, 2014** | Twitter, presented by Susan Whitcomb

**June 4, 2014** | Job Search, presented by John Boyd ●



## Leadership OU: opportunity for exceptional Oakland students

Ten Leadership OU students are working closely with alumni mentors to prepare for life after graduation.

On October 25, the program kicked off with the Alumni Awards Banquet, when students got to see prominent alumni recognized for their contributions to OU or their communities. The OUAA selected the juniors and seniors from among several who applied.

Maria Willett looks forward to creating an awareness of the OUAA among the undergrad students. "When you're an undergrad, you think about here and now," says Willett, graduate assistant and student outreach coordinator for the Office of Alumni Engagement. "How are you going to get that next job? Do you want to go to grad school?"

Students will attend seven sessions — two on campus, four in Rochester, and one in Detroit — where they will hear prominent OU alumni speak about their areas of expertise. These events will be more discussion than lecture, due to the small size of the program and the opportunity to interact with the alumni speakers.

Students will be paired with alumni mentors for one-on-one sessions about leadership and professional development during the six-month program.

"A portion of each session is built on developing leadership," Willett says. "Depending on the session, each alum may discuss his or her specific role or job. All speakers will focus on the importance of leadership, mentoring and networking."

OU students who attained junior or senior status and a GPA of 3.0 or higher were eligible to apply. They will also receive a \$250 tuition stipend upon successfully completing the program in April 2014.

For more information, contact [mjwillett@oakland.edu](mailto:mjwillett@oakland.edu). ●

*By Rachel Montgomery, student writer*



Front row from left to right: Brittany Kelley, Mirabeth Braude, Alex Poznanski, Taylor Eberbart and Scottie Sbermetaro. Back row from left to right: Erin Feeney, Waseem Kazi, Luke Winkel, Nusrat Zaman and Vincent Jarbo.



*Discover Southeast Alaska*



*Flavors of Northern Italy*

### 2014 Grizzly Getaways travel schedule

**Samba Rhythms** – March 16-29, 2014

**Tahitian Jewels** – March 26-April 5, 2014

**Waterways of Holland and Belgium** – April 6-14, 2014

**Normandy, 70th Anniversary of D-Day** – May 6-14, 2014

**Shades of Ireland** – May 18-27, 2014

**National Parks and Lodges of the Old West** – June 7-16, 2014

**Cruising the Baltic Sea** – June 20-29, 2014

**Discover Southeast Alaska** – August 23-30, 2014

**Alpine Lakes and Scenic Trains** – September 26-October 5, 2014

**Flavors of Northern Italy** – October 4-12, 2014

For more information on the Grizzly Getaway program, please visit [oualumni.com/travel](http://oualumni.com/travel). ●



*Shades of Ireland*



*National Parks and Lodges of the Old West*





## A lasting legacy

The OUAA is staying in step with student needs by revamping the criteria and awards for its Legacy scholarships, starting with the 2014-15 academic year.

The biggest news is that Legacy scholarships for incoming freshmen, formerly one-time awards of \$3,000 each, are now renewable for four years, up to \$12,000. Legacy scholarships for transfer students have also been introduced and are renewable for two years, up to \$6,000.

A student who is eligible for a Legacy scholarship is now defined as an individual whose parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle received a degree or academic certificate from OU.

Joe Gardella, CAS '77, OUAA scholarship committee chair, says the changes are the product of a collaborative effort.

"We put a lot of thought into what would make the highest impact, and multiyear scholarships made the most sense for helping students and also bringing more recognition to the OUAA," says Gardella. "There was a lot of input — from the leadership of the OUAA staff, admissions, financial aid, academic leadership, the Office of the President — and everyone embraced the change."

The richer scholarship opportunity becomes a greater benefit for alumni, and is also more likely to bolster the university's retention and graduation rates.

"By adding the renewable aspect, we can help students make OU their home for the next four years," adds Emily Stepanian-

Bennett, SEHS '08, who has the unique perspective of not only working as visit coordinator in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, but is also an alumna volunteering on the Legacy scholarship selection committee.

"It's always exciting to watch alumni tour the campus with their students and react to the university's growth, and want to share their college experiences."

The Legacy application deadline for incoming freshmen is extended to January 6, 2014. The Legacy application deadline for transfer students is March 3, 2014. For complete details and to apply, go to [oalumni.com/OUAAScholarships](http://oalumni.com/OUAAScholarships). ●

*By Jennifer Heil Bonacorsi, CAS '94*

### Additional OUAA awards

The OUAA will also continue to offer the following scholarships for upperclassmen and returning alumni:

- The Frances C. Amos School of Business Administration Scholarship: \$5,000 (nonrenewable).
- Thomas A. Yatooma School of Engineering and Computer Science Memorial Scholarship: \$3,000 (nonrenewable).
- Returning Alumni Scholarship: \$3,000 (nonrenewable).

The application deadline for these awards is March 3, 2014.



### Winter Homecoming save the date

It's time to come home to OU! Save the date for Winter Homecoming Weekend on January 24-25, 2014. For more information, visit [oakland.edu/comehome](http://oakland.edu/comehome). ●



Oakland University™

**HOMECOMING**





## Career/Accomplishments

### 1960s

**Carol (Werdehoff) Aebli, CAS '68**, is happily retired after working as a medical librarian, first for the state of Michigan at Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital and then for the Borgess Medical Center, Kalamazoo, Mich.

**William Stamps, CAS '66**, joined the El Kalah Shriners of Salt Lake City, Utah, in January 2013. He begins a new life phase as he and wife, Sandi, become volunteers at Shriners Hospital for Children. Stamps expects to put his 25 years' experience as a special education teacher to good use working with handicapped children.

### 1970s

**Gail A. (Eckhardt) Elias, SBA '76**, was named one of *Vision Monday* magazine's Most Influential Women in Optical for 2012. She was also named Volunteer of the Year for 2013 by Winning Futures.



**Joyce C. (Sapp) Greene, CAS '75**, was named the 2012 Library of Congress Federal Librarian of the Year. Greene is an employee of the Department of Defense's George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. She has been at the Marshall Center since 2009 and a federal employee for more than 15 years.

**David T. Maccagnone, CAS '72**, is a finalist for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Michigan and Northwest Ohio Region. Maccagnone is the CEO and one of three co-founders of Multi-Bank Securities, a broker-dealer licensed in all 50 states with a focus on institutional investors, specifically small-to-medium-sized credit unions and government entities.

**Robert Thornton, CAS '77**, was promoted to senior program officer for The Skillman Foundation.

**Timothy G. Wiedman, CAS '76**, has received tenure and promotion to associate professor of management and human resources at Doane College in Crete, Neb. After completing a successful management career, Dr. Wiedman has spent more than 20 years as a full-time business professor.

### 1980s

**James (Jay) L. Dunstan, CAS '80**, was named chairperson of the Royal Oak (Mich.) Downtown Development Authority.

**John L. Engle, SBA '86**, was promoted to senior vice president, global products and services, for the Cincinnati office at dunnhumbyUSA, a global leader in building brand value for consumer goods and retail companies. Prior to his tenure at dunnhumbyUSA, Engle served as vice president, business systems for Entertainment Publications, Inc.



John Engle

**Walt W. Frederiksen, SBA '85**, celebrated his 20th anniversary as senior director of advertising for Little Caesar Enterprises, Inc. He appeared in an episode of AMC's reality series, *The Pitch*. Frederiksen thanks his marketing professor, Dr. Terri Spinelle, and other OU professors who inspired and motivated him to pursue a field and career he truly loves.

**Beth (Fisk) Gotthelf, CAS '80**, has been appointed as the director of innovation and external relations for Butzel Long PC. She is an attorney and shareholder at the firm.

**Kenneth J. Jones, CAS '86**, left Playbill.com in April after 15 years as a writer and editor. In May 2013, his new play, *Alabama Story*, was presented in a staged reading as part of Alabama Shakespeare Festival's Southern Writers'



Kenneth Jones

Project in Montgomery, Ala. He is a New York City-based dramatist and freelance writer.

**Peter E. Millet, CAS '85**, was appointed interim president of Stillman College, a private liberal arts college in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Dr. Millet is an educator, administrator and licensed clinical psychologist. Since July 2012, he has served as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at the college. He is also a tenured professor in the Department of Psychology. Dr. Millet has been an invited speaker both nationally and internationally.



Peter E. Millet

**Timothy P. Wallace, CAS '83 and '76**, currently serves as chair of the social studies department at Marian High School in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Wallace was the recipient of the University of Detroit Mercy Outstanding High School Teacher Award in 1998, the University of Chicago Outstanding High School Teacher Award in 2000, and a scholarship in the field of history. He is a member of Phi Alpha Theta's National History Honor Society and the author of *The Smoke of Satan in the Temple of God: The Church in the United States Since the Second Vatican Council*.

### 1990s

**Suzanne E. Chandler, SEHS '94**, was hired as senior account executive for Event Source Inc.

**Deanna L. (Aleck) Kahler, CAS '92**, published her first book, *From Pain to Parenthood: A Journey Through Miscarriage to Adoption*.



Deanna Kahler

**Michelle L. (Windeler) McCullough, CAS '94**, was promoted to vice president and COO of Weldaloy Products, Co. McCullough previously had been information systems manager and human resources manager. She is pursuing an MBA through Michigan State University.

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## Communication grad delivers the message for the Messenger



Plato was right: necessity really is the mother of invention. **Michelle Borders, CAS '95**, and her husband, Kevin, know that to be true after a basement flood led to the creation of a device designed to help prevent similar disasters.

The couple owns MyEnviro.com, a Naples, Fla.-based company that sells Kevin's invention, the Messenger. Michelle puts her OU degree in communication to work in running

the marketing side of the firm.

While their story ends well, it began with a natural disaster. Kevin's parents in Michigan had gone on vacation. While they were away, their basement flooded. Miles away, there was no way for them to know about the trouble unfolding at home.

The incident planted an idea with Kevin, who had previous experience working in information technology for the Big Three automakers. He developed a device to monitor a home's humidity, temperature and power. Homeowners are notified via text or email if readings fall outside specified limits. By adding water sensors to the device and placing it near toilets,

refrigerators or sump pumps, the Messenger will alert homeowners to the potential threat of water damage.

The project started out simply enough on their garage workbench. Later they turned to a Texas company for design help and an Oregon firm to create the website for managing the system. Sometimes a great invention is not enough, however; the Messenger needed a messenger to spread the word.

"When we started out, I wrote numerous press releases and news articles. I spoke on radio, TV and did PowerPoint presentations," Michelle says. "My degree in communication from OU really prepared me well for that."

Their company was recognized in 2011 by Collier County's Economic Development Council, which saw it as a business capable of growing and creating jobs. The company later won the council's Excellence in Industry Award for Innovation. As a result of this attention, a firm called Conditioned Air now distributes the product under its brand, My Comfort Monitor.

"Success may not come in the way or time frame that you want it to," says Michelle, "but if you give 100 percent, you will find that you get back everything you put into it." ■

*Mary Gunderson-Switzer is a freelance writer living in Warner Robins, Ga.*





## Educator explores new methods for teaching stressed students

In today's overbearing world, **Marjorie "Midge" Kinder, MAT '80**, works to reach and motivate even the most challenged students.

Kinder is the creator of Wellness Works in Schools, a Lancaster, Pa.-based mindful awareness program geared to help inner-city children and adolescents find balance and calmness in a stress-filled world.

Created 13 years ago, the Wellness Works concept combines Kinder's OU education in early childhood development and special needs with the yoga and meditative practices she learned and honed after her time at OU, a place she says nurtured her sense of inquiry.

Kinder's grassroots effort — along with a staff of six teachers that includes her daughter, Wynne, as lead instructor and her husband, Rick, as the business head — emulates the work of Jon Kabat-Zinn at the University of Massachusetts Center for Mindfulness and Dan Siegel at the UCLA Mindful Awareness Research Center.

"Everyone's at risk for becoming disconnected from their own inner resources. This is really a practice of connections," explains Kinder.

Everyone has the tools to find their center and calmness, she says, even within disruptive atmospheres. Kinder discovered this firsthand when she was a young teacher in difficult and stressful settings.



"I became really fascinated with the individual's ability to manage oneself and how that could be cultivated," Kinder says. "I began to explore all kinds of natural practices, using them on myself."

She explored teaching natural processes of self-management, calming, and soothing the central nervous system. A yoga instructor for years, she began to offer mindfulness workshops in Lancaster.

"An inner-city principal came with other school officials to a workshop, and afterward she approached us, saying she would pay us to write a curriculum," Kinder says.

Kinder did, and before long she found herself walking into a classroom filled with reluctant students, with an eye toward helping them. Over the years, Wellness Works has conducted programs for 7,000 students and more than 1,000 classroom teachers.

"We have nothing to give you that you don't already have," she says she likes to remind students. Often, reaching those students means modeling fresh approaches.

"It's a whole different perspective. I think these kids are often told they are such a deficit, but you have skills that no one's ever taught you how to use. You are your own textbook." ■

*By Cara Catallo, a freelance writer from Clarkston, Mich.*

*Photos by Lynn Johnson of National Geographic*

**Mursalata Muhammad, CAS '94** and **'92**, received the Champion Leadership Skills Award from the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Chamber's Center for Community Leadership at a presentation in June at Fredrick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. Muhammad was recognized for her work on GRCC's Alpha Beta Omega World Leaders Society, which works to improve academic success among African American male students.

**Kirsten B. O'Donnell, CAS '92**, has been named to the board of directors of the Florida Sled Hockey Association, a 501(c)3 organization that provides recreational and competitive ice hockey opportunities for adults and children with physical disabilities.

**Rayissa T. (Slywka) Palmer, CAS '96**, moved to Toronto and started a home staging business, Chique & Unique Home Staging. She stages homes for sales, homes and offices for the holidays, private events and parties and special events. Last September, her company was chosen to stage an event for the Toronto International Film Festival for its media day event, Bask-it-Style. Palmer recently earned her real estate license and is going into partnership with her mother.

**Rebecka A. Vigus, SEHS '90**, is an author for and owner of Lilac Publishing. She has released her second book in the Macy McVannel series: *Crossing the Line*. She is busily working on book three in the series. *Sanctuary* will be released in the spring of 2014.

## 2000s

**Anetria L. Cole, CAS '09**, hosted an open casting call for her production *Bronzeville Gold*. She received the MaTiDa Special Gittlen Achievement Award in Playwriting from Oakland University for *Bronzeville Gold* and was the first African American female to win the prestigious award. Cole was also honored by the Northern Oakland County Branch with a Presidential Award in recognition of her gifts as an author, playwright and thespian and was a finalist in the Midwest Region Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Playwriting Contest. A full-length production of *Bronzeville Gold* will be



Anetria Cole

presented June 6-8, 2014, at Oakland University's Varner Recital Hall.

**Michelle (Krzeminski) Kane, SEHS '00**, published her second novel, *The Gospel According to Gaby*, to benefit HAVEN, a nonprofit emergency shelter for women and children left homeless due to physical, sexual and emotional abuse. As a child, Kane saw firsthand the toll domestic abuse took on her mother and decided to help other women in similar situations through her writings. Her novel, geared toward teen readers, touches on the plight of a teenage girl dealing with the loss of her parents and an attempted date rape by a boy at her new school.

**Katherine A. Kunze, SEHS '09**, developed a love for the outdoors during her time at OU and wants to teach that to the next generation. She experienced the great outdoors this summer working for an Iditarod sled dog kennel in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

**Gregory M. Lacey, CAS '08**, recently published two books, *The Conservative Collection* and *James Madison and the Virginia Resolution*. Lacey graduated with a Juris Doctor degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in September. He is a staff officer in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.



Greg Lacey

**Kristi L. Law, SEHS '07**, is one of 50 teachers profiled and celebrated in *American Teacher: Heroes in the Classroom* by Katrina Fried, with a foreword by Parker J. Palmer. The book is a collection of narratives that takes readers into the classrooms of 50 extraordinary educators whose creative and unconventional methods are transforming the lives and futures of their students. Profiles of teachers are accompanied by letters from students and captivating portraits by distinguished photographers from all over the country.

**Michael J. Lerchenfeldt, SEHS '08**, published an article titled "Tackling Student Apathy" in the April 2013 issue of the *Michigan Education Association (MEA) Voice* magazine.

**Joseph Opron III, CAS '06**, accepted a position as attorney-adviser for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

**Justin M. Walker, SBA '06**, was promoted to vice president of delivery for GalaxE.Solutions, Inc.

## 2010s

**Brady A. Christensen, SECS '11**, was married shortly after graduation and has worked as a programmer for DTE Energy, Data Consulting Group and now General Motors. He has taken up the hobby of kiteboarding and has a personal blog where he teaches others the basics of the sport. You may see him from time to time flying his power kites at Oakland University.

**Sandra Ries Douglas, CAS '13** and **SBA '91**, was named director of MBA programs for the University of Pittsburgh Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business. She has more than 20 years of management expertise from her time at global technology companies, including Hewlett-Packard and Electronic Data Systems. She is a member of the Mentium Corporation, an organization that provides mentoring support to women and underrepresented groups looking to break into executive positions.

**Christopher S. Flemming, SECS '12**, met his wife, who also graduated from OU, through mutual friends on campus and married six months before graduating. The Flemmings just moved into their first house. He currently works as an electrical engineer for Continental Automotive, right down the road from OU's campus.

**Audra I. Lord, CAS '12** and **'93**, spent several months teaching English in Ayutthaya, Thailand, as part of a diplomatic initiative of the New Zealand government. She currently lives in Wellington, New Zealand.

**Jessica A. Luther, CAS '12**, was appointed as campaign associate for an upcoming endowment campaign for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

**Helena C. (Poston) Sanchez, CAS '10**, recently passed her professional licensure exam for her Master of Social Work degree.

**Nichole A. Seguin, CAS '13**, started a new, full-time job as editor of both the *Chelsea Standard* and *Dexter Leader* newspapers after graduating. Seguin

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oversees the news and features content for each publication and paginates the issues every week.

**Jennifer L. Sharrard, SON '13**, is a registered nurse in a critical care unit at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich. Sharrard is also attending the University of Michigan, beginning the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program.

**Kari L. Woloszyk, SHS '12**, is currently a University of Michigan School of Public Health and School of Urban and Regional Planning dual degree master's student, class of 2014.

## Engagements & Weddings

**Debra (Lynn) Miller, SBA '87**, married Randall Miller.

**Natalia M. (Blasco) Murasky, CAS '06** and **SBA '06**, married Tom Murasky on August 17, 2013, at Pine Knob Mansion in Clarkston, Mich.



**Elizabeth C. (Hafeli) Smagala, SON '12** and **BIS '11**, married Bradley Smagala in February 2013 at St. Hugo of the Hills in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. He works as an orthopedic sales representative for Arthrex, and she works as a registered nurse in a critical care unit. Four of Smagala's bridesmaids are Oakland University alumnae.

**Stephanie L. (Vogel) Willis, SHS '11**, was married on April 19, 2013, to Brad Willis. She is currently employed by the Oakland University Department of Campus Recreation as the coordinator of wellness and educational outreach.

## Births/Adoptions

**Michelle L. (Martin) Meyer, CAS '02** and **Steven R. Meyer, CAS '02**, welcomed their second son, Declan Micah Meyer, on July 28, 2013. Steven Meyer is a Ph.D. candidate and is employed by Oakland University as director of advancement services and budget for Development, Alumni and Community Engagement.

## Deaths

### 1960s

**David Boykin, CAS '63**, on May 3, 2013

**Thomas Kegel, CAS '69**, on Sept. 6, 2013

**Candace (Neiger) Vaughney, SEHS '69**, on April 17, 2013

### 1970s

**Dorothea Becker, SEHS '77**, on Aug. 15, 2013

**Loralee E. Brown, SEHS '72**, on Aug. 10, 2013

**Duane E. Depue, SEHS '72**, on May 20, 2013

**Hans R. Gudding, SBA '77**, on May 5, 2013

**Elsie M. Kotler, SEHS '72**, on Feb. 20, 2013

**Ann K. Martin, SEHS '79**, on May 15, 2013

**Ann (Smith) McCarthy, CAS '72**, on Aug. 4, 2013

**Gary Moss, CAS '77**, on June 21, 2013

**Darlene K. Prielipp, SEHS '77**, on May 29, 2013

**Virginia (Vogel) Shields, SEHS '75**, on Aug. 13, 2013

**Gerald T. Sloan, CAS '70**, on Jan. 5, 2013

**Beulah A. Upthegrove, CAS '72**, on Aug. 16, 2013

**Debra R. Wreford, CAS '78**, on May 1, 2013

### 1980s

**Marlene K. Lupiloff-Brazz, CAS '80**, on Oct. 12, 2012

**Donna Buffa, CAS '86**, on Feb. 11, 2013

**Rita T. Cisneros, BGS '89**, on May 25, 2013

**Celeste B. Grosvenor, BGS '85**, on April 18, 2013

**Vincent G. Jamerino, SHS '83**, on May 28, 2013

**Judith M. (Borchardt) Lundell, CAS '82**, on June 20, 2013

**Audrey G. Mack, CAS '83**, on Dec. 11, 2012

**Richard C. Maltz, CAS '82**, on Aug. 18, 2013

**Keith J. McCormick, SECS '82**, on Aug. 7, 2013

**Kathleen A. (Preston) Neustadt, CAS '86**, on Aug. 27, 2013

**Susan M. Norczyk-McInerney, CAS '83**, on Aug. 24, 2013

**Susan L. (Engel) Palmer, SON '81**, on June 1, 2013

**Douglas R. Szwed, SBA '81**, on June 7, 2013

**Matthew Tomilo, SBA '86**, on May 24, 2013

**Tim M. Walsh, CAS '82**, on July 7, 2013

**Benjamin M. Zamarron, CAS '85**, on April 29, 2013

### 1990s

**Joyce C. Chin, SEHS '91**, on March 29, 2013

**Susan M. Frey, SEHS '94**, on June 14, 2013

**James G. Hunter, SEHS '90**, on May 7, 2013

**Bonnie Matuszczak, CAS '94**, on Oct. 1, 2012

**Leslie E. Wissing, SON '93**, on Jan. 6, 2013

### 2000s

**Michelle L. Jasper, CAS '01**, on April 8, 2013

**Amanda J. (Brockway) Zachary, SEHS '05**, on Aug. 18, 2013

### 2010s

**Marina R. Belyatsky, SBA '10**, on June 17, 2013

## Online or print? *You decide.*

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This current issue, along with past issues, can be found at [oakland.edu/oumag](http://oakland.edu/oumag).



## When it comes to financial planning, Lesser is more for clients

As he sees it, his job is serving as the chief financial officer for the families who enlist his services.

"I'm part psychologist, part financial adviser to the family," says **John Lesser, SBA '92**, the president of Plante Moran Financial Advisors in Southfield, Mich.

He explains: "Many of the individuals I work with are entrepreneurs in the second half of life who sold their businesses for large sums of money. Entrepreneurs are typically swinging for the home run when they get up to the plate, so they're never satisfied with a single or a double. My job is to help them understand that most successful people hit that financial home run only once in their life, so they need to invest their fortune more conservatively than they'd probably like."

His leadership role today at one of the nation's largest independent registered investment advisers requires him to spend less time as a family financial therapist and more time guiding and developing staff. For Lesser, watching a colleague's career blossom is as rewarding as observing quiet growth in a client's portfolio.

"There's nothing more satisfying than seeing someone you've hired become a firm partner," he says.

At the same time, finding individuals who are a good fit for the firm's culture is one of his biggest challenges.

"We're always looking for people who understand that working with us can be more than a job — it can be a career," he says.

It's one reason why Plante Moran hires so many Oakland University graduates.

"We have a very high retention rate among OU grads," he says, adding that the Applied Technology in Business program, in particular, "has been fantastic for us."

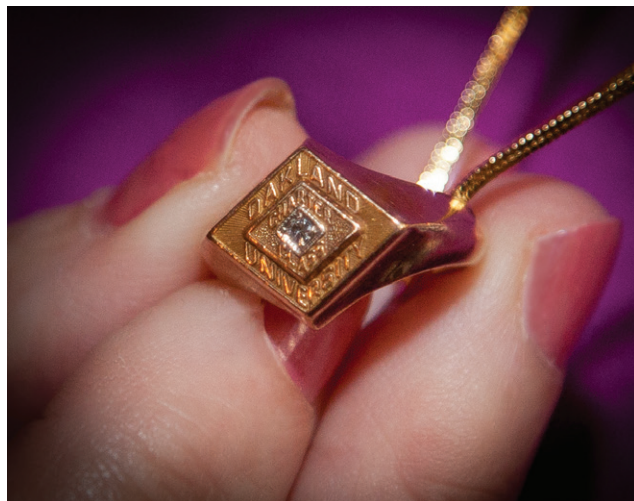
Lesser is a great example of that. He started with Plante Moran in 1992, immediately after graduating with an accounting and finance degree. He had just sold his prized possession — a motorcycle — to buy an engagement ring for his high school sweetheart and fellow OU grad, **Cindi Matovski, SBA '94**. Married that summer, they now have two teenage sons.

"Two decades later, I have a successful and rewarding career," Lesser says, "but I'm most proud of the relationships I have with my wife and sons. We're a very close-knit family." ■

*By Cara Catallo, a freelance writer from Clarkston, Mich.*



# OU Moment



CHARTER CLASS  
*50th Reunion*  
2013

*Oakland University's Charter Class celebrated its 50th reunion in splendid style at Meadow Brook Hall and other campus locations the weekend of September 13 - 14. Nearly 100 people attended, including 65 alums (such as Charter Class member Mary Puzerski Sloan, above right, with her husband, Jeff Lichty) who shared their memories of OU's earliest days. Sixteen early faculty members and their guests also were invited to a special dinner to celebrate their visit to OU. Attendees visited the university archives and toured historic landmarks nestled amid OU's modern additions. Some Charter Class members preserved their memories in an oral history recording that will be added to the university archives. To view historic photos and a "Charter Class Then and Now" video, visit [oualumni.com/charterclass](http://oualumni.com/charterclass). ●*





# Your gift *matters* to Maria.

**Name:** Maria Arellano

**Major:** Graphic Design

**Year:** Junior

**Hometown:** Guadalajara, Mexico

**Career plans?**

Web development and advertising, or Imagineering design for Walt Disney World.

**What do you like best about your major or area of study?**

I love my major because of the flexibility and the many different career paths available. I have especially benefited

from the opportunities for professional development prior to graduating.

**How are you funding your education?**

I am currently funding my education through several scholarships and my personal savings. My scholarships range from the ones I received when I applied to OU to scholarships based on performance. Scholarships have given me the opportunity to get involved at OU and fully live my college experience without having to work full time to fund my education.

**What is your favorite OU tradition?**

My favorite OU tradition is Meadow Brook Ball. I think it's amazing that we have the opportunity to experience the history of our university and to celebrate in Matilda Wilson's home!

**Why is OU special?**

We get the best of both worlds! I think this university is special because the class sizes are intimate and personal, yet the university itself is immense. I love that I get to be a part of something bigger than myself!

To learn about more **students like Maria** who your gift will impact, visit

**[oakland.edu/giving/yourgiftmatters](https://oakland.edu/giving/yourgiftmatters)**



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# COME HOME TO OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24 – SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2014

## WINTER HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

### HONORARY CHAIRS

The Honorable Ruth A. Johnson, SEHS '77, Michigan Secretary of State  
Michael Klieman, BGS '83, vice president, Wiegand Mack Sales & Services



**Reunite with old friends ... check out how your old  
classrooms have changed ... see how we've grown.**

Come Home to OU will include alumni receptions ... fraternity and sorority  
alumni reunions ... campus open houses ... tailgating ... OU men's basketball  
with halftime mitten toss ... OUAA Family Festival and more.

Look for more details at [oakland.edu/comehome](http://oakland.edu/comehome).