

# OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

MAGAZINE *fall 2014*



Aspiring to rise | Homecoming, dedications in photos | President Hynd's research

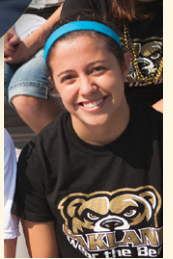




# OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™



MAGAZINE *fall 2014*



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Oakland University is an equal opportunity and affirmative action institution.



President George W. Hynd

**Oakland University** is a doctoral, research-intensive university located in Oakland County, Michigan. The University has 135 bachelor's degree programs and 135 graduate degree and certificate programs. Dedicated to delivering a distinctive undergraduate experience that is complemented by the strength of its graduate offerings and research accomplishments, Oakland University is organized into the College of Arts and Sciences and the Schools of Business Administration, Education and Human Services, Engineering and Computer Science, Health Sciences, Medicine, Nursing and The Honors College.

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## ON THE COVER

Aerial photographer and videographer Alex MacLean captures Oakland University's changing footprint aboard a helicopter Oct. 4-5. MacLean, who also did Harvard University's aerial camerawork, flew to Michigan from Boston, Mass., to take the photos for the University's Marketing and Communications department. Many shots have already been used in OU commercials and marketing campaigns.

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## CORRECTION

A summer 2014 *Oakland University Magazine* wrap-up of men's and women's track and field results should have stated that the women's team placed last at the Horizon League Outdoor Championships.

Dear friends of Oakland University,

I'm delighted to introduce myself to the readers of *Oakland University Magazine* as president of Oakland University during a time when the University has a record-breaking 20,519 students enrolled for the fall semester.

True, I may be new here, but OU's liberal arts foundation, wonderful research capabilities and incredible staff and Board of Trustees have already made the University community feel like home to me.

Why? Maybe it was fate or just incredibly good luck that allowed me to join the OU team only a few weeks before the Fall Homecoming. What a fantastic opportunity it was for me to experience firsthand the pride, spirit and dedication to this University expressed by Pioneers and Golden Grizzlies alike.

If you were there, you know how energizing and uplifting Homecoming and its surrounding events were. Even as we celebrated traditions and hailed our returning alumni friends and families, we also watched the future of OU unfolding before our eyes. The Oak View residence hall, which is also the new home of The Honors College, and the new Engineering Center were officially dedicated.

Of course, the splendid centerpiece, the Elliott Tower, was also dedicated amid much fanfare by the Oakland University Brass Band. Provost James Lentini made the dedication of the carillon bell tower that much more special by composing a piece he titled "Ulysses' Sail," which was not only beautiful to hear but paid tribute to Oakland's history and mission.

As I listened to the students, faculty members and alumni I met describe how OU has helped shape their lives, careers or aspirations, it just confirmed to me that I'd made the right choice in accepting the position of president.

I believe this is a historic time for the University. I can think of no other place I would rather be, nor any other community of faculty, staff and students with whom I would like to work to advance the pursuit of academic excellence. I see many great achievements ahead of us.

Again, I am grateful and delighted to become a part of this exceptional institution. I look forward to our efforts to share its remarkable story with the state, the nation and, of course, the readers of *OU Magazine*.

Sincerely,

George W. Hynd  
President





Student leaders speak to visitors during the grand opening of the Engineering Center. Doctoral candidate Jared Oluoch (left), president of the National Society of Black Engineers. Sindy Zaki (above), outgoing president of the Society of Automotive Engineers student chapter, graduates in December with an electrical and computer engineering degree.



Brian Neumeyer and the Oakland Robotics organization roll the Engineering Center dedication plaque out on Mantis, a robot which recently won the Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition. This is the second year Oakland Mechatronics has taken home first place.

# ENGINEERING CENTER GRAND OPENING

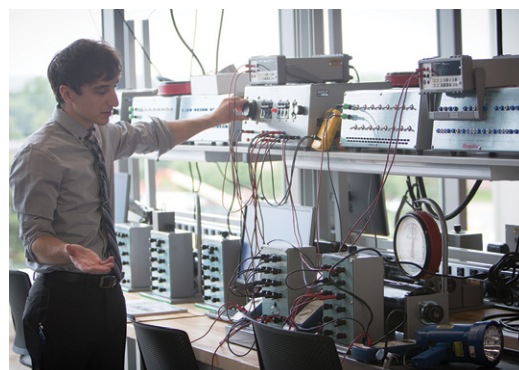
September 12, 2014



Attendees gather to socialize in the atrium of the 127,000-square-foot Engineering Center during the grand opening. The building, besides being spaciouly designed, includes lecture halls designed for 50, 100 and 200 people.



Auburn Hills Mayor Kevin McDaniel (center) joins the festivities with Provost James Lentini (left) and President Hynd.



Lab demonstrations were part of the grand opening, including one from Anthony Ferro, a master's student in embedded systems.



Moustapha Diab (above, left), president of the Aerial Systems Club, talks to an interested student during the open house and grand opening of the Engineering Center.

(From left) SECS Dean Louay Chamra, Ph.D., Desirae Tibaud, OU Trustee Ronald Robinson, Lucas Fuchs, OU Trustee Jay Shah, Brian Neumeyer, Parker Bidigare and Tyler Gnass with the unveiled Engineering building dedication plaque after it was fittingly wheeled out on Mantis.







# CLASS OF 1964 REUNION CONNECTS OLD FRIENDS, KICKS OFF HOMECOMING

James Anderson, SECS '64, walked the halls of the new Engineering Center during the Class of '64's 50th Reunion weekend for a glimpse at what the School of Engineering and Computer Science has grown into. He was stunned, he says.

"We went into the labs, and students would give presentations on what they were working on," shares Anderson, a reunion committee member. "They had a machine shop that most industrial companies would die for.

"I ran into the dean and told him that after a couple of minutes in that building, I was thinking about coming back to school."

The annual OU Alumni Association Awards Banquet to honor Oakland's most distinguished alumni kicked off on Sept. 19. The day also marked the dedication the Elliott Tower and the first day of Fall Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. Tours throughout the campus, talks by former administrators, luncheons at Meadow Brook Hall, awards ceremonies in the Oakland Center and a grand reception were all in store for the Class of '64 during the three-day reunion.

The reunion committee helped put together and provide narration for a video montage that featured photos from the class's days at the University.

Many alumni said that seeing a classmate they had not seen in years was most important of all, says committee member Gary Laidlaw, CAS '64.

"To see what some of these people have done and what they've accomplished is so interesting," Laidlaw says. "It's pretty

rewarding to hear what people's life experiences have been — that was key."

Jim Wolfe, CAS '64, adds that in the '60s, graduating classes were tightly knit, and professors and administration were always very visible. Many students had close relationships with school founders Alfred and Matilda Dodge Wilson, he remembers.

"It was a different time, a different experience, than it would be for other classes," Wolfe explains. Wolfe remembers when he and his wife, Kathleen Pyorala Wolfe, SEHS '64, helped with the groundbreaking at Fitzgerald Hall in 1961 and when they helped cart books to a new library at OU.

"We were asked to call professors by their first names, we would babysit for some and being invited to professors' houses for dinners was quite common."

Save the date to return to campus for the 2015 Homecoming & Reunion Weekend on Sept. 18-20, 2015. More information will be forthcoming.

The OUAA Facebook page features a Homecoming & Reunion Weekend photo gallery. ➤





Four bells chime, signaling 4 p.m., as the Elliott Tower dedication gets underway on Friday, Sept. 19.



Carillonneur Dennis Curry plays the carillon's 49 bells.



Elliott Tower donors Hugh and Nancy Elliott speak about their hopes for the tower as a meeting spot for students.



A pipe and drum corps walks under the arch of the Elliott Tower and concludes the program to applause.



Student leaders wearing "Meet Me at the Tower" shirts commemorating the event.

# ELLIOTT TOWER DEDICATION

September 19, 2014

## 'An Icon of the University'

A bell tolled four o'clock, followed by a jubilant burst of bells, to start dedication ceremonies for the campus landmark Elliott Tower. Spirited music from the OU Brass Band, carillonneur Dennis Curry and the Red Thistle Pipes & Drums added a collegiate atmosphere, as did "Ulysses' Sail," an original work composed by Provost James Lentini for the dedication.

Before more than 1,000 guests, speakers called the Tower an "icon of the University" and a "center of unity that draws students from all parts of campus."

Longtime OU friends Hugh and Nancy Elliott, the Tower's donors, were the special guests.



Student Congress President Annie Meinberg talks with OU President George Hynd during the dedication ceremonies. Both were speakers at the event.



The OU Brass Band plays "The Home of Legends," by Paul Lovatt-Cooper.

**"We are delighted to dedicate the tower to OU and the OU community today,"** Hugh Elliott said. **"This is Nancy's dream."** To the students in the audience, Nancy Elliott said, **"I want you to be proud of your University, to come back after you graduate and brag about your University. I want you to enjoy it all."**



# OAK VIEW HALL DEDICATION

September 20, 2014

Another perfect blue autumn sky graced the dedication of Oak View Hall, OU's new student housing complex. OU constructed the new facility after housing rental agreements increased by nearly 40 percent over the last four years.

The 500-bed student housing complex features a small cafe, space for student meetings, and private and group studying. Oak View Hall houses two types of suites, the Freshman Suite and the Upperclassman Suite.

Oak View Hall is the new home of The Honors College. Graeme Harper, Ph.D., is the dean of the College, which has 900 students. 🍂



(From left) Alumni Patrick Cassady, DJ Block, Emily Richard Kot, and Kot's mother, Christine Richard enjoy Oak View's surroundings and food.



A blue sky backdrop for the outdoor ceremony.



(From left) Honors student Scottie Shermataro; founding Honors College member Mary Wermuth, CAS '65, '69 and SEHS '81; President Hynd.



Graeme Harper, Ph.D., was appointed the first dean of The Honors College in 2013.

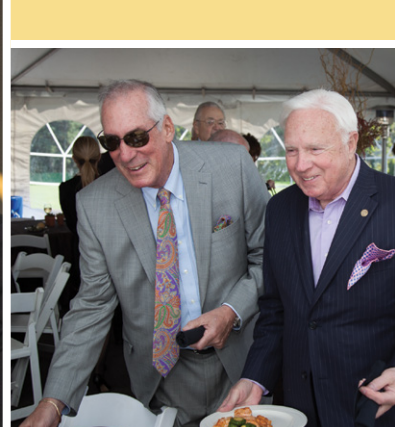
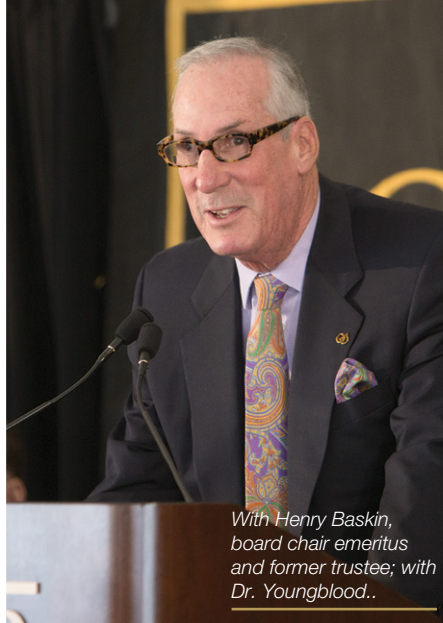


Among the dedication guests was Brian Murphy, Ph.D., professor emeritus of English and The Honors College director from 1985 until 2001.



Guests sample Oak View Hall's food.





## FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES SAY THANKS TO TWO OU LEADERS

For 45 years Michael Kramer had been out in front, president of several organizations.

Serving as OU chair, vice chair and trustee was, he says, “way beyond” what he had done before.

“I fell in love with the place when I arrived at OU,” he recalls. That was in 2008.

This past summer, at the end of his second (and final) term as chairman of the Board of Trustees, memories came forward: The Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) Medical School coalition. Building the Human Health Building and Oak View Hall. Obtaining state funding for the Engineering Center. Solving parking issues. Chairing the presidential search committee.

He observes, “I was fortunate to be involved in a wide range of issues.”

Former trustee and Chairman Emeritus Henry Baskin concurs. “I often wondered when he slept — he was always in a meeting. He was 100 percent committed to the OU mission, from PR to finance ... from deanships to the provost and the presidential search. Michael is one of the brightest and best OU ever had. He is extremely bright; he gets it.”

During his tenure as board chair, Kramer worked closely on several projects with trustees Monica Emerson and Jay Shah. Their terms expired this summer.

“There’s no question we are losing two valuable resources in Monica and Jay,” he says. “Monica, among her many good qualities, was a person who enlightened the University with regard to diversity. This included hiring Pat Dolly (senior adviser to the president on diversity, equity and inclusion), who is taking the lead in diversity.” Emerson is principal of Inclusive Performance Solutions, a diversity and inclusion consultancy company.

Kramer adds, “Jay Shah’s background was as an engineer. He spearheaded the new projects for us and was very active and made great suggestions.” Shah is vice president and principal at Detroit’s Somat Engineering Inc.

Michael Kramer truly dedicates his time, talent and treasure to the University, says Eric Barritt, vice president of Development, Alumni and Community Engagement. “He is a donor and a natural fundraiser who creatively energizes others in the best interests of OU. Mike’s co-chairing of the 50th anniversary of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Meadow Brook this summer was a perfect example of his abilities.”

In 2011, Kramer and his wife, Zina, made a \$50,000 gift to create the Michael and Zina Kramer Scholarship for a student entering the OUWB School of Medicine. Their previous charitable work with schools in metro Detroit revealed some valuable lessons about the importance of an education, and in part, laid the groundwork for this scholarship.

“I have seen how an education changes a life forever,” Kramer says. “If our \$50,000 helps ease the financial burden of medical school for one student, then that’s the impact we’re going for.”

Kramer, an equity member of the Dickinson Wright PLLC law firm in Troy, Mich., will continue as an OU trustee until 2016. He would like to see more full-time students on campus, branding to distinguish the University, connecting with Detroit and other communities and expanding public-private partnerships.

“It’s been a good run,” he says. “And I’m looking forward to adding value for the next two years.” 🍷





*With Provost James Lentini; ovation from trustees; with OU President Emeritus Donald O'Dowd, Ph.D.; with CAS Dean Kevin Corcoran, Ph.D.*

## “This Is OU” could just as easily be “This Is Betty Youngblood.”

The OU alumna, CAS '65, who spent the past year as OU's interim president, reflects that “people in higher education sometimes talk about presidents as cheerleaders. It's so easy to be a cheerleader for Oakland.”

Now vice president for organizational development and strategic planning at OU, Dr. Youngblood clearly remembers board chair Michael Kramer's call. “He said, ‘we need an interim president, and the board would like to ask you to serve in that capacity. Are you willing to do so?’”

Within seconds, she replied. “The answer, simply, is yes — this is Oakland University. My ties are so strong to Oakland that anything that Oakland needs — yes. There was never any question.”

Early on, she remembers thinking, “I love this university. Despite many challenges at the time, it was very important to unite and energize the campus community, to seek the participation of all faculty, staff and students, and to work together to ensure that the University gained momentum and moved decisively forward. Nothing else, nothing else was acceptable.”

Betty helped the campus stabilize, recalls Kevin Corcoran, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “More than that, however, she brought an openness, energy and enthusiasm to the job that conveyed the message that everything was more than OK — things were moving forward.

“Dr. Youngblood's friendly greeting and powerful handshake have always been a ‘pick me up.’ Her unwavering commitment

to the students, alumni, staff and faculty — in actions big and small — is really a wonderful model to us all. As they say, ‘actions speak louder than words.’ Betty's actions shouted!”

Dr. Youngblood characterizes the past year as one of organizational opportunities with the arrival of the new provost and deans, working closely with the Board of Trustees, meeting with donors, and visiting with community college leaders and state legislators.

In July, the board named George Hynd, Ed.D., OU's sixth president. Dr. Youngblood will carry forward the development, implementation and maintenance of a comprehensive strategic plan that is consistent with the University's priorities.

Attorney David Baker Lewis, SBA '65, a classmate and longtime friend, says that Dr. Youngblood continues to “personify the human values that have distinguished Oakland University from its founding: a commitment to research in an academic setting, a dedication to excellence in teaching and a deep passion for service.”

Dr. Youngblood, who says she has always loved her work, would compare her career in education to her “incredible, life-changing experience” as an MSU-O student. “The liberal arts component was one of the reasons I proudly tout my OU education,” she says. The curriculum opened a path to new academic interests and changed her career choice. “My high school plan,” she says, “was to become a secondary school English teacher.

While taking courses about India and political science, Dr. Youngblood realized she wanted to become a college professor. Political scientist and faculty member David Potter, Ph.D., taught the advanced India courses as tutorials. “You couldn't encounter anything more rigorous,” Dr. Youngblood says. “Assignments would be ‘read these two books for next week.’ Then I would meet with Dr. Potter and there would be many questions about those books.”

Dr. Youngblood was the first OU student to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in South Asian area studies. She traveled to India to continue her research toward a master's degree in South Asian area studies and a doctorate in political science from the University of Minnesota.

After teaching political science for a decade at colleges in Texas and Georgia, Dr. Youngblood accepted executive administration roles in Delaware, Illinois and Wisconsin, where she became vice chancellor and chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Superior. She subsequently became president of Western Oregon University and in 2002 returned to Michigan to become president of Lake Superior State University. Dr. Youngblood came full circle to OU in 2011 as associate vice president for outreach and executive director of Oakland University-Macomb.

Reflecting on his classmate's contributions to higher education, Baker Lewis says, “Dr. Youngblood has comprised a proud legacy of which she and her fellow alums from Oakland rightfully can be proud.” ➤





# PRESIDENT GEORGE HYND

## Early Work with MRI Impacts Treatment of Reading Disabilities in Children

*President Hynd gives an interview on WXOU, the University's student-run radio station, after he arrives on campus.*

President George Hynd comes to OU with outstanding credentials as a leader at nationally recognized colleges and universities, including senior vice provost and dean at Arizona State University and dean at Purdue University. He was most recently provost and executive vice president of academic affairs at the College of Charleston. Prior to his administrative roles, Dr. Hynd was a distinguished research professor at the University of Georgia.

The innovative research he conducted on the neurobiological origins of reading disabilities, ADHD and childhood behavioral disorders set a foundation for genetic research and further investigations in brain-behavior relationships in children and adolescents.

All good research, Dr. Hynd says, is based on curiosity that can never be sated.

"That's what draws people into academia — being curious about a question they basically spend a career trying to answer."

His curiosity was first piqued while Dr. Hynd was studying toward a master's

degree in general-clinical psychology at Pepperdine University. He was teaching fifth and sixth grades at a Los Angeles elementary school and was curious about why his students, of obvious ability and with the best efforts of talented teachers, were unable to sound out words and grasp the relationship between sounds and symbols necessary to master reading.

At the time, Dr. Hynd recalls, researchers like renowned neurologist Macdonald Critchley were saying that the cause of reading disabilities would never be found — and the idea that they could be understood in the context of

variation in early brain development was unfathomable.

However, the research of an Oakland University professor would later help Dr. Hynd answer some questions about brain development in children with reading disabilities. Early on in his research, he read the work of psychologist Keith Stanovich, then of OU's School of Education.

"Keith Stanovich and the research he did with his colleagues helped identify the problems these children experienced in learning to read. This allowed me as a



neuropsychologist to image the brain to find out where those processes took place and subsequently allowed geneticists to look at some genes that specifically code during fetal development for those regions of the brain,” Dr. Hynd says. Dr. Stanovich today is emeritus professor of applied psychology and human development at the University of Toronto.

Upon earning his master’s degree, Dr. Hynd was offered a job as a school psychologist in a small village in the Territorial Government of Guam. While testing a young girl with autism, he experienced what he calls “a genuine epiphany” that he needed to learn a great deal more to better serve children like her.

Dr. Hynd earned a doctorate in psychology from the University of North Colorado, concentrating his research on attributes of memory (acoustic, associative and orthographic) that help children develop the cognitive structures necessary to learn to read.

When magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans became available in the late 1980s, Dr. Hynd focused his research on brain structures that might be implicated in reading disabilities. The planum temporale, a structure located on the left and right sides of the brain, serves as the foundation for perceiving sounds and establishing sound-symbol associations so necessary for fluent reading. This structure develops most dramatically during the third trimester of pregnancy.

The asymmetry of this structure seems to be associated with the development of fluent reading and language skills. Perhaps most intriguing — and reassuring to parents and educators — was research that later revealed educational intervention has an effect on altering brain metabolic processes that are associated with fluent reading abilities.

Citing the work of some of his colleagues, it appears that this effect is visible using functional MRI that measures blood oxygen levels, Dr. Hynd says. When children were put through rigorous training, their language cortex — the structure that children employ to read words — showed altered brain metabolic processes associated with improved reading.

“Not only could they read better,” he says, “but their brain was now responding a little bit more like normal. Kids who have reading disabilities typically do not have brain damage. They are born with variation in brain structures necessary for fluent reading. Typically, it’s not poor mothering or poor teaching.” The prevailing view is that they are born with a genetic predisposition that impacts brain development in ways that may be associated with difficulty in learning to read.

Dr. Hynd’s work encouraged research that identified certain genes related to how the planum temporale develops. “This explains why reading disabilities might run through some families,” he says.

He was also interested in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and hypothesized that a structure governing motor control in children with ADHD differed from those who did not have ADHD. Further MRI research and studies confirmed his hypothesis that the caudate nucleus was implicated in children with



*President Hynd meets with a student from the Oakland Robotics student organization during the grand opening for the Engineering Center.*

ADHD. At least 15 subsequent studies have followed this line of investigation.

Doctoral students who were engaged in Dr. Hynd’s NIH-funded research pursued related research in clinical child neuropsychology. He chaired 69 dissertations and published extensively on theoretical and clinical issues in child neuropsychology, authoring, co-authoring and editing 11 books; authoring or coauthoring 57 book chapters and publishing 153 refereed journal articles.

In addition to serving as OU’s president, Dr. Hynd holds the title of full professor of psychology at Oakland University. Doubtful he will have time to teach, Dr. Hynd says he would welcome the opportunity to discuss research. “I guess you can tell I get pretty excited about talking about research.” 🐾

## About President Hynd

**Born:** Portland, Oregon; grew up southern California.

Has lived in Finland while a Fulbright Fellow in child neuropsychology at the University of Jyväskylä and in the Territorial Government of Guam as a school psychologist.

**Eagle Scout?** Yes

**Married:** Dr. Alison R. Hynd, a child neuropsychologist who has worked with preschool children with autism and language delays.

**Children:** Four; a son in Oregon and daughter in Hawaii from a prior marriage, and two daughters in Charleston.

**Grandchildren:** Three 🐾





## JEFF KONYA SEES GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES WITH OAKLAND ATHLETICS

**New marketing campaign emphasizes pride, increased visibility**

**The “wait-and-see” approach is not Jeff Konya’s style.**

Within days of stepping on campus in August 2014 as the new director of athletics, Konya launched a strategic marketing campaign designed to take Oakland University Athletics to new heights through increased visibility and taking advantage of its strong school spirit and mascot name.

“There is no other athletic moniker like ‘Golden Grizzlies,’ whether you’re talking professional or intercollegiate,” he says. “We’re unique, and that is a strength. And we want to take ownership of that.”

According to Konya, the effort will consist of a multicomponent package that includes traditional advertising such as signage and print marketing as well as social networking.

“It will be a coordinated effort with the fans, our students and other constituents of Oakland University, all speaking the same language,” he explains. “We want to be consistent, using Oakland University, using Golden Grizzlies, and using the tagline, ‘See the Bear. Be the Bear. Wear the Bear.’”

Konya, who succeeded interim Athletic Director Robby Stewart, grew up in Royal Oak, Mich., and is well aware of the challenges Oakland faces in name and location recognition. He is taking

steps to address that by maximizing opportunities that can enhance the visibility of the University.

The department negotiated a television package with TV20 to show 10 home basketball games — eight men’s and two women’s — this year. Furthermore, all men’s and women’s home basketball games will be aired on the ESPN3 platform and Comcast Channel 900. Some home games are scheduled for Sundays at 7 p.m., positioning the Golden Grizzlies in prime time up against few — if any — other college basketball games on the air and allowing students to return to campus and come to the game.

Already, the Athletics website name has been changed from [ougizzlies.com](http://ougizzlies.com) to [goldengrizzlies.com](http://goldengrizzlies.com). The program also has all social media outlets covered, and can be found on Facebook, Twitter (@GoldenGrizzlies) and Instagram (@Golden\_Grizzlies). Students can display how they “Wear the Bear” by sending selfies to Twitter or Instagram, which posts them directly to the site’s home page.

Konya says the visibility extends to a new basketball court contest (see sidebar). “There is a silhouette of the state of Michigan on each of the court options so that when we have home games on national, regional or local television, everybody is aware that Oakland sits in the proud state of Michigan.”

The Golden Grizzlies’ marketing campaign is nothing new for Konya, who spent the last four years as athletic director at California State University, Bakersfield. CSUB Athletics fundraising ranked first nationally among NCAA I-AAA institutions in 2012, and this past fiscal year, CSUB Athletics set all-time institutional record highs in scholarship fund dollars raised (more than \$600,000) and overall fundraising (more than \$2 million).



*Students show their Grizzly pride on the hill at the Oakland Soccer Field during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend.*



"The overall objective," he says, "is for Oakland University to become Top 10 in our NCAA classification, which is FBS without football, or NCAA I-AAA. I believe one of our central functions as athletic administrators is to make sure our coaches, student-athletes and staff have the infrastructure and tools to go out and perform, not only in competition, but in the classroom. By combining all of these elements, we'll have the foundation in place."

"The key is to be able to sustain it," Konya quickly adds. "There are a lot of institutions in our classification that have had a meteoric rise, then the quick fall. And that's not what we want. We want a strategic plan in place, with mile markers."

For a program that has taken giant leaps over the past 20 years, it's the next step in the growth and advancement of Oakland University Athletics. ➤

*By Fritz Reznor*

## Julie (Pagel) Dombroski joins OU coaching staff

After spending the last 14 years playing and coaching women's basketball at other NCAA Division I programs in the state, Julie (Pagel) Dombroski is returning to the university closest to her home. The Utica, Mich., native, who grew up 12 miles from the Oakland University campus, is the newest member of Oakland head women's basketball coach Jeff Tungate's staff.



*Julie (Pagel) Dombroski*

A 2004 graduate of Michigan State University, Dombroski finished her playing career as one of just three players in Spartan history to rank in the school's top 20 in career scoring as well as its top 10 in career rebounding and steals.

Dombroski joined the University of Detroit Mercy coaching staff for three seasons before returning to her alma mater in 2007. She spent the past seven seasons as the Spartans' director of basketball operations and technology, helping MSU to two Big Ten regular season championships and NCAA Tournament appearances all seven years.

Tungate says Dombroski will work with Oakland's post players, help with the team's defense and serve as the program's recruiting coordinator.

"Having grown up in Utica, Julie brings a real sense of loyalty to this community," Tungate says, "and it's important to her to help mold a successful program to support the community."

"Second, she brings the experience of being at the highest level, having been a very good player at Michigan State and having coached at Michigan State. She brings that type of experience of what it takes to compete at the highest level."

"Julie has a great work ethic," Tungate adds, "and she hates to lose."

In her senior season at Utica High, she led her team to the 1999 MHSAA Class A state championship with a perfect 27-0 record. She was First Team All-State and finished fourth in the Miss Michigan basketball voting.

Dombroski and her husband, Jason, have a five-year old son, Gibson. ➤

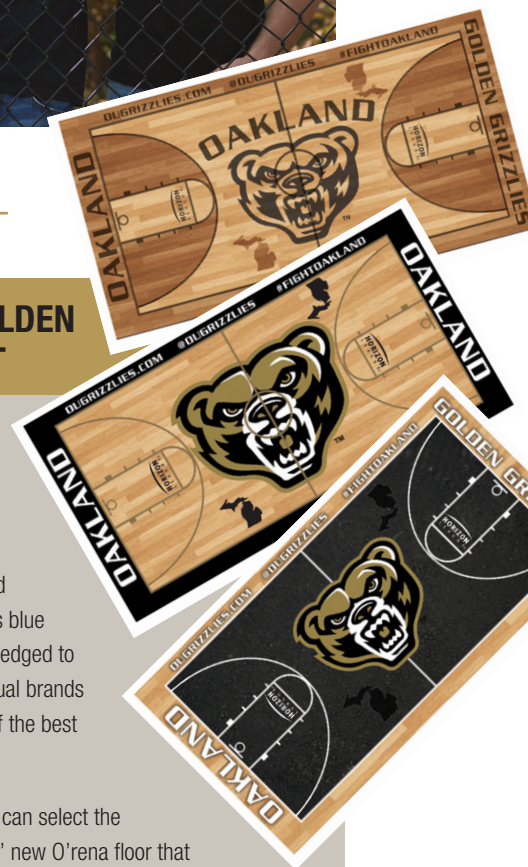


*Three members of Oakland's Grizz Gang student organization "Wearing the Bear."*

## SELECT YOUR GOLDEN GRIZZLIES COURT

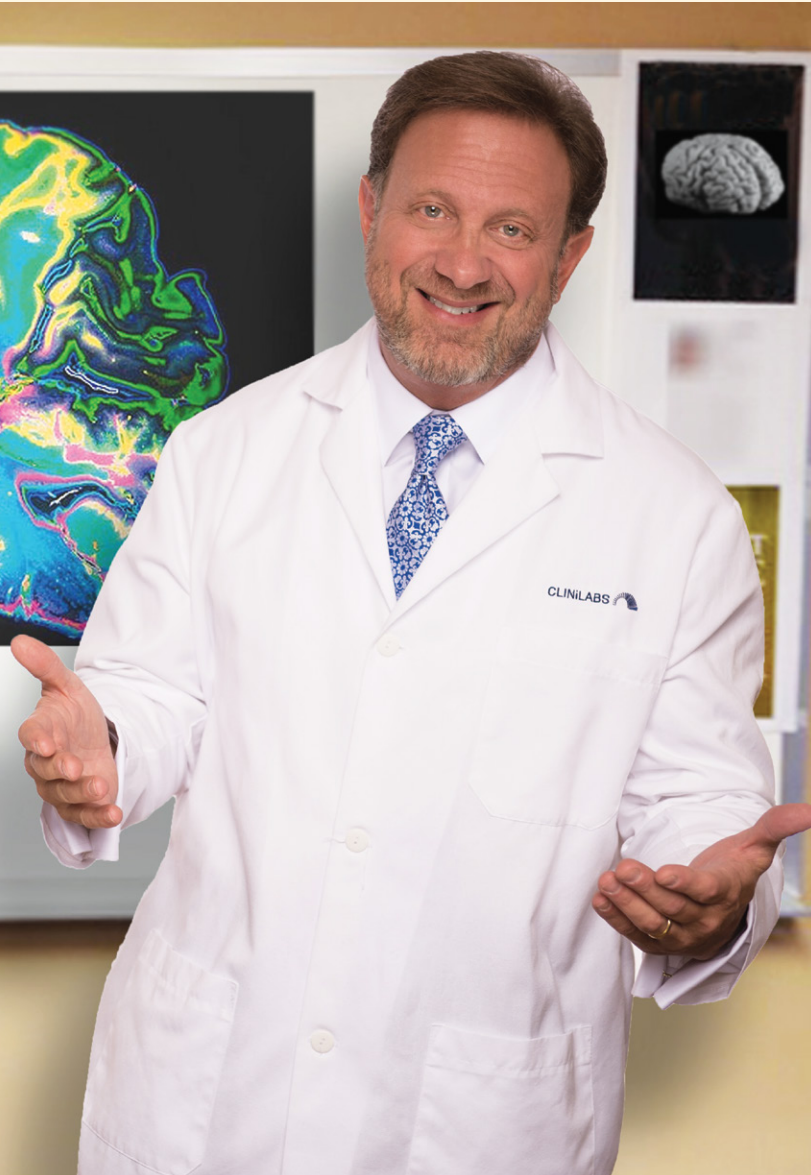
One of college basketball's most noteworthy marketing campaigns occurred under Jeff Konya's leadership at Cal State Bakersfield and featured the implementation of CSUB's blue basketball court. It is acknowledged to be one of the nation's top visual brands in the marketplace and one of the best overall designs.

Now, Oakland University fans can select the design of the Golden Grizzlies' new O'rena floor that will be in place for the 2015-16 season. Voters can go to [goldengrizzlies.com](http://goldengrizzlies.com) and choose from one of three designs — the Classic Court, the Contemporary Big Logo or the New School Blacktop. Voting ends on Jan. 31, 2015. ➤





# HE MAKES SURE YOU ENJOY SWEET DREAMS



*"As I walked down a hall during my freshman year looking for a lab where I was supposed to observe, I heard Professor Harold Zepelin talking to students about sleep studies with lab animals. I drifted into the room, started listening, and was hooked."*

## Are you sleeping better than you used to?

You might have **Gary Zammit, Ph.D.**, CAS '80, '79, to thank for that.

Dr. Zammit became a renowned expert in sleep medicine for one simple reason: He was captivated by a conversation he overheard in one OU professor's lab while looking for another.

"As I walked down a hall during my freshman year looking for a lab where I was supposed to observe, I heard Professor Harold Zepelin talking to students about sleep studies with lab animals. I drifted into the room, started listening, and was hooked," Dr. Zammit recalls.

Now a clinical associate professor at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, N.Y., Dr. Zammit created and leads two thriving businesses in New York City. The Sleep Disorders Institute he founded in 1990 is the largest accredited sleep center in N.Y., while a newer business, Clinilabs, Inc., is a contract research organization focusing on clinical drug trials for sleep and other disorders.

The clinical trials industry is heavily regulated, so as Clinilabs' president and CEO, Dr. Zammit concentrates on making sure that all processes and procedures comply with government and industry requirements.

One way he does this is through a flagship "Culture of Quality" program that includes meeting with each employee.

"We talk not only about what they will do to contribute to the organization's need for top quality work, but also about what support they need from me, their CEO, so that they can deliver on their promise," he says.

The married father of three admits that running two successful companies means he has to make sacrifices. There's little time for hobbies; his free time is devoted to family.

But it works.

"I love it," he says. "I wouldn't trade my worst day now for the best day doing something else."

Todd Shackelford, Ph.D., chair of OU's psychology department, says alums like Dr. Zammit remind instructors of their impact on students.

"Gary is an inspiration to professors because he's such an excellent example of what students can accomplish, but it's clear that his OU instructors inspired him, as well," Dr. Shackelford says.

You just have to hope Dr. Zammit gets enough sleep. 🐼

*By Sandra Beckwith, a freelance writer in Fairport, N.Y.*





# RETIREMENT BRINGS NEXT CHAPTER, MORE EDUCATION, FOR SEHS GRAD

At the end of a 35-year teaching career, **Robert Berridge**, MA '10, SEHS '82, saw, like many approaching retirement, a chance to chase long-awaited dreams. But instead of slowing down, he became more ambitious.

He went back to school and has since embarked on what he hopes will be another 35-year career — this time, in counseling.

Berridge, 63, always knew he wanted to be a teacher or a community counselor, he says. He chose teaching initially because it offered greater chances to experience the world beyond rural Michigan.

He taught men at a maximum-security prison for the criminally insane in Lima, Ohio; was a student teacher at an international school in Majorca, Spain; and instructed Inupiaq Eskimos north of the Arctic Circle and Hanwitchen-Athabaskan Indians along the Yukon River in Alaska.

"I did well because I really cared, and they understood that," recalls Berridge of working with the inmates. "I was the only teacher who never had a student miss. I had lifers who came."

That sense of being invested carried through the rest of Berridge's teaching career, particularly in Alaska, where even as a young outsider he became the person everyone looked to whenever something traumatic happened.

"It soon became evident I'm very comfortable with problems and being nonjudgmental," says Berridge, who never completely let go of his dreams of becoming a counselor.

"I knew that when I turned 60 years old, I wanted to get my degree and then start my own private practice, which I'm doing," Berridge says. "I got the degree just a month before I turned 60. It's just wonderful when you make your dreams come true."

Having earned degrees from Western Michigan University and Wayne State University, Berridge says he knew how important it would be to choose the right school and was willing to go wherever he needed.

"Oakland University was the only one that hit on a lot of points," he says. "Nothing was a close second."

While at OU, Berridge was inspired and impressed by how Assistant Professor of Counseling Mary Rose Day, Ph.D., communicated her passion for counseling.

"She was so authentic in her message: 'Be real. And if real doesn't feel nice to someone, that's OK,'" Berridge recalls. "She would say, 'You are an expert, but never an expert on them. You always keep checking: you reflect; you ask.'"

Berridge added those tools to those he'd gathered throughout his teaching career.

Today, Berridge and his wife, Carolyn, a counselor and social worker, run St. Clair Counseling in a historic 1844 farmhouse in downtown St. Clair, where they specialize in counseling children and adults, couples and people struggling with addictions or grief.

Now, Berridge finishes most sessions by asking clients to rate the session and to say one word to describe how they feel about it.

"I can't tell you how many people use the word 'home,'" he says — and that's always a good place to be. ➤

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



# LIKE A RIDE IN THE PARK



Buying a new car should be easy.  
With OU Credit Union, it is.

With a streamlined preapproval process and ReadyLoan Checks, OU Credit Union eliminates the stress of financing your new vehicle so you can focus on the excitement of your new ride!



## ReadyLoan Check

Negotiate your best deal using an OU Credit Union ReadyLoan Check. First, apply for an auto loan with OU Credit Union and get approved. Then, find the right vehicle, fill out your ReadyLoan Check for up to your preapproval amount, and drive it home the same day! The loan will not accumulate interest until your ReadyLoan Check is used at the dealership.

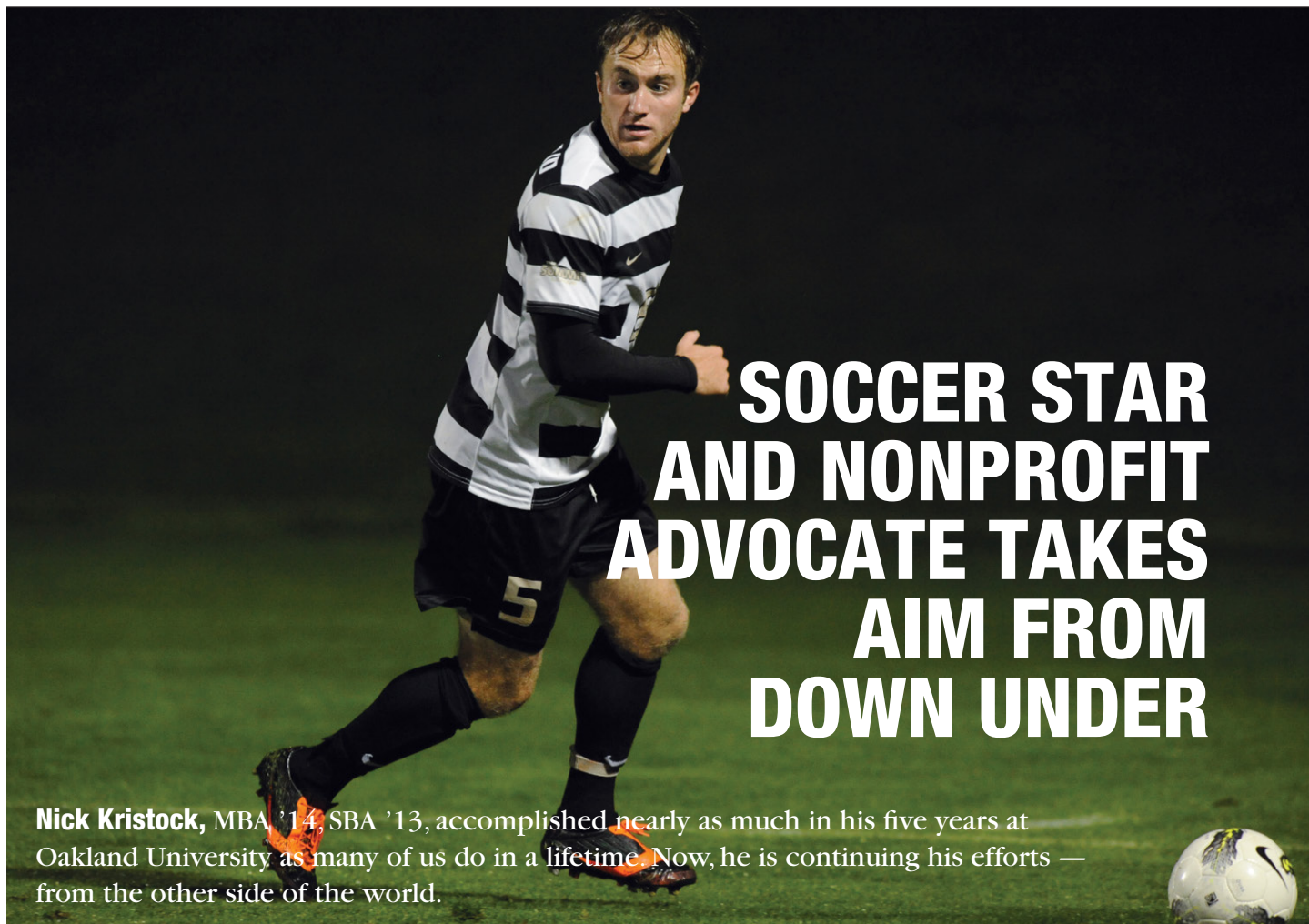
**Go online, give us a call, or visit a branch to  
get preapproved today!**



## Auto Loan Features:

- **No application or processing fees:** Apply for your auto loan with the freedom of no added fees.
- **Low rates:** Save money with our low interest rates.
- **No Prepayment Penalty:** Make payments as often as you'd like without receiving a fee.
- **100% financing:** No down payment is required for qualified members.
- **GAP insurance:** Guaranteed Auto Protection (GAP) gives you financial protection if your car is stolen or totaled in an accident at rates much lower than at the dealership.





# SOCCER STAR AND NONPROFIT ADVOCATE TAKES AIM FROM DOWN UNDER

**Nick Kristock, MBA '14, SBA '13**, accomplished nearly as much in his five years at Oakland University as many of us do in a lifetime. Now, he is continuing his efforts — from the other side of the world.



As a student-athlete on the Oakland men's soccer team, Kristock helped lead the Golden Grizzlies to two conference titles and was a member of the 2010 squad that reached the NCAA championship tournament. In 2013, he won the Senior CLASS Award that is given annually to the most outstanding senior student-athlete in NCAA I men's soccer and based on excellence in the areas of classroom, community, character and competition.

That same year, Kristock was named the Student of the Year by OU's Center for Student Activities, and received the University's Human Relations Award from the Board of Trustees. He was the first student-athlete in school history to win the prestigious award.

Kristock also founded and served as president of the nonprofit organization Gigs For Good that funds Christian missionaries around the globe and founded Mission 50K, a service-based movement promoting volunteerism.

Today, Kristock is in Australia playing soccer professionally — along with former OU teammate Sean Magee — for the Logan Lightning Football Club in the Brisbane Premier League and is signed through the 2015 season.

"After my career at Oakland, I knew that I still had a passion to play competitively," says Kristock, who grew up in Novi, Mich. "The soccer here is completely different from home. It is a much more physical game out here, with less emphasis on technical ability and more emphasis on athleticism."

Kristock is also coaching for the club within the youth system. "The youth at this club are always anxious to meet the top team players, and it is a privilege to give back to an organization that has treated me so well."

Kristock plans to work with global and regional nonprofits next year in the Brisbane league, as well. He wants to see where he can make the biggest impact, he says.

"Oakland taught me everything I know about connecting with people and being an influence along their journey, subsequently impacting my own journey," he says.

"I came to Australia for discovery. I wanted to learn about the world and witness the beauty it has to offer ... to meet new people and see how I could improve their life ... (and) to uncover things about myself that I never knew existed. I have accomplished all these things and more, and my five years building relationships at Oakland University gave me every necessary tool and motivation to do it." 🍷

*By Fritz Reznor*





(Left) The Grizz visits with excited fans during the OUAA Family Festival, held in the Recreation Center. Kids enjoyed the festival's bounce house and bungee run, face-painting, music, lunch and more during the Homecoming & Reunion Weekend. (Above) Students sit in a pickup at the Student Congress Tailgate before the men's soccer match begins.



The Detroit Pistons Drumline visits the OU Student Congress Tailgate and the Homecoming Barbecue before the Grizzlies men's soccer game.



Retired professors, such as Associate Professor of Anthropology Richard Stamps (center), could meet with former students at several alumni-gear events.

# ASPIRE TO RISE. GATHER TO CELEBRATE.

## FALL HOMECOMING & REUNION WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2014

Former and current OU students, faculty, family and friends gathered to celebrate 57 years of student leadership, school spirit and service and to bring in the new school year. The following photos depict various moments during the weekend's 72 events.



Alumni who worked at the Oakland Post over the years pose for a photo while reminiscing.



(Left) Robert Wiggins, chair, Teacher Development & Educational Studies, and Robert Maxfield, Ed.D., interim dean of the School of Education and Human Services, talk to a student at the Homecoming Barbecue.



Students from the Music, Theatre and Dance program perform during the "Black and Gold" extravaganza. "Black and Gold" is part of the 2014 Arts at OU series sponsored by the Oakland University Credit Union.

Students and their families enjoy free food, games and giveaways during the OU Student Congress Tailgate party held on the upper deck of the P29 parking structure.







OU Football Club players get ready to huddle near the 40-yard line during the Homecoming game against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. OU, undefeated this year, won 27-26. This is the Grizzlies' second season.



(From left) OU volleyball players Melissa Deatsch, Brooke Wadsworth and Jessica Dood congratulate each other Sept. 20 during the Golden Grizzlies' 3-1 victory over Robert Morris University.

## FALL HOMECOMING & REUNION WEEKEND

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

2015

SEPTEMBER 18-20



(From left) Grizzly fans Sarah Moen, Meghan Reynolds, Serena San Cartier and Arnesha Jennings cheer on their significant others and fellow classmates during the men's soccer game Sept. 20.

(From left) Current student Scottie Shermetaro with Class of '14 alumni Samantha Wolf, Robbie Williford, Ivanna Stefanyshyn, Taylor Thompson and Jibran Ahmed.



(Below) OU soccer fans cheer at the Oakland soccer field while OU soccer players pass the ball during the Grizzlies' tough 1-2 overtime loss to the University of the Incarnate Word.





# FOUNDING PHILOSOPHY INSPIRES BRAND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

OU founder Matilda Dodge Wilson's financial status afforded her access to an abundance of opportunity. She believed in her responsibility to create opportunity for others.



*Aspire to Rise was inspired by OU's founder, Matilda Wilson, whose donation of \$2 million and 1,400 acres made MSU-Oakland possible. On May 2, 1958, Mrs. Wilson joins MSU President John Hannah (center) and Connor Smith, chair of the state board of agriculture, as they turn the first shovels of earth for Foundation Hall, MSU-O's first building. Alfred Wilson is second from left on the platform.*

An admirer of industrialist Andrew Carnegie's philanthropy, Mrs. Wilson adopted a quote from him that is part of the 1956 document proposing MSU-Oakland:

"The opportunities to here develop an institution of higher learning of great significance to the region, the state, the nation and the world are almost without bounds. Here again in the words of Andrew Carnegie, there will be erected 'ladders upon which the aspiring can rise.'"

By 1959, the new MSU-Oakland campus was attracting industrious, energetic, diligent and sensible students "free of nonsense and showing good judgment" — just like today's Oakland University student.

"OU was and is about making opportunities available to all," says John Young, associate vice president, University Communications and Marketing (UCM). "It's about providing our students with an education of quality so that together, we put success within reach."

Thus, the founding philosophy became the inspiration for "Aspire to Rise," OU's new brand identity campaign.

The inclusive process to define OU's brand identity began in 2011 with the formation of the President's Faculty Advisory Committee, Young says. They examined internal and external research, which "clearly told us that we needed to strengthen awareness of OU by being authentic and by building on known core attributes that lead to a quality academic reputation."

Establishing a strong brand became a priority, recalls Mandy Summers, the University's director of marketing, to "help us solidify what we stand for in the minds of students, alumni and the community."

In 2013, the University hired Ologie, a branding agency with several national accounts. In partnership with UCM and a multidisciplinary core team, Ologie met with a diverse group of OU stakeholders — including students, faculty, donors and alumni — to define OU brand attributes and develop the brand strategy.

Based on these findings and external market research recommendations, Ologie developed initial creative concepts for "Aspire to Rise," which Summers says "embodies the spirit and motivation of our students, as well as the historical underpinnings of the University."

"UCM is using this foundation to build cohesive, integrated communications and marketing and advertising initiatives," she adds, noting that the campaign is rolling out creatively with new messaging, photography and font choices.

"We are telling OU's story several ways," says Summers. "We use traditional media — such as radio, TV, print and billboards — as well as digital media, the OU website and grassroots social media."





Actual OU students, faculty and facilities give the campaign authenticity. Bria Brown, Jeff Cox and Josh Pokrefky were among the students who participated in campaign photo shoots and commercial filming.

Visitors to the OU website will find custom-designed landing pages that intuitively guide them to pages based on their needs — with a call to action, says Melinda Booth, assistant director of Marketing. “For example, if someone searches for admissions criteria, they will be directed to a page on how they can apply to OU.”

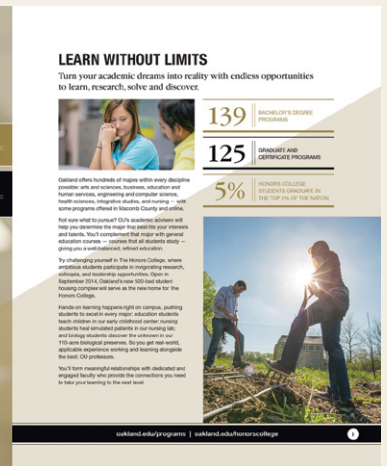
At the grassroots level, social media is playing an ever-growing role in telling the OU story, says Colleen Campbell, manager of Digital Public Relations. “OU,” she notes, “has more than 100,000 followers on social media and a potential reach of millions.”

The official OU hashtag, #ThisIsOU, is about encouraging students, alumni and faculty — anyone with a story of OU — to cover every aspect of the OU experience, Campbell says. “The response has been great. Within a year, we already have thousands of posts on Instagram using that tag.”

Campbell’s group broadens the definition of social media to include in-person networking to generate physical awareness. This summer, for example, they created a #ThisIsOU human hashtag on the Lower Fields and conducted “sidewalk chalking” around campus.

A Social Media Street Team of students, alumni and faculty volunteers use a “bubble up versus top down” marketing approach to tell the OU story to their own personal networks.

“The Street Team is out and about living the OU life,” Campbell says. “Their stories make the brand promise tangible and add a level of authenticity to the traditional marketing campaign. We know that people trust personal recommendations over marketing and advertising. So our influencers are running the conversation. We capitalize on that and make them the stars (what we call #OUFamous). And it’s taking on a life of its own.”



To learn how to join OU's Social Media Street Team, visit [oakland.edu/social#social](http://oakland.edu/social#social).



### Grizz Gang fosters lasting student connections to OU

Anthony Gallina, SBA '08, is a self-proclaimed Oakland University addict. Gallina in 2008 was one of the founding members of the Grizz Gang, Oakland's official athletics spirit squad. Since its creation, the group's membership has nearly doubled, raising it to the status of the largest student organization, with nearly 900 members.

Gallina, 29, is now the Alumni Admissions Ambassador Program coordinator for the University's Undergraduate Admissions Office. He's also the student adviser to each new class of Grizz Gang leadership.

"I've had so much fun being a fan, and I've never let any small bit of it go away because it's too much fun," he says. "And even now as a staff member, seeing other staff members on campus — and of course fellow alums — it's infectious. Even if you're not a student, you still want to be."

It's not hard to spot Grizz Gang members at any given sporting event. Students with painted faces, golden wigs and Oakland attire regularly attend basketball, soccer, swim meets, volleyball games and more,

making noise and rooting for the Golden Grizzlies.

Jean Ann Miller, CAS '77, OU's director of student activities and leadership development, says the student organization is highly visible on and off campus. "The Grizz Gang partners with several other student organizations and departments for different events, so they have a lot of exposure and impact," explains Miller.

Oakland's Athletics Department notes the Grizz Gang as being part of the reason the men's basketball team has the third best home record in the country. That's something Ryan Mostiller, SECS '10, who took over when Gallina graduated, can attest to.

"When I was at OU, the student section was right behind the opponent's bench. We were never really mean, but we were loud and annoying, and had times where players turned around and yelled at us," he shares. "We always got in their heads."

While most students join because they love sports, many participate because it's a chance to be part of something special,



says Gallina, who buys season tickets for men's basketball games each year with three former Grizz Gang members, including Mostiller.

"Even if I wasn't the (former) president and was just a student that showed up to games, I still helped cheer the Grizzlies on to that shootout in soccer or that overtime three-point shot, or that buzzer beater when I rushed the court. Those memories help create lifelong fans that are proud of their alma mater, and the Grizz Gang helps create that."

To find out how the Grizz Gang helped Gallina find love, go to [oakland.edu](http://oakland.edu). For more information about the student organization, email the Center for Student Activities at [csa@oakland.edu](mailto:csa@oakland.edu) or call (248) 370-2400. 🐾

## 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. Here is one alumna who is helping to spread the good word about OU.



**Ellen Bristol**, CAS '88, graduated from The Honors College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. Today, she lives in the Grand Rapids, Mich., area, where she is the director of communications and marketing at Metro Health, a health-care system.

#### How the AAP benefits OU

I live on the west side of Michigan, so being part of AAP gives me the opportunity to tell people here about OU and the great educational opportunities available there. I'm excited to share that experience with potential students and encourage them to give OU a look. Years ago, I chose OU because it offered the breadth of studies found at many large

schools and the personalized experience found at smaller schools. I think that still rings true today. I also like to encourage students to consider The Honors College at OU. It continues to offer students unique opportunities and great programming.

#### Favorite part of being an ambassador

Meeting potential students. It's exciting to see the spark in their eyes as they consider their futures. And, their enthusiasm is contagious. Who doesn't get excited seeing them take that heady look into the future as they wonder what's in store for themselves?

For information on joining the AAP, go to [oakland.edu/aap](http://oakland.edu/aap) or contact Anthony Gallina at [gallina@oakland.edu](mailto:gallina@oakland.edu) or (248) 370-GRIZZ. 🐾



## CAS grad remembered for devotion to family, career

John F. Mills, CAS '72, who died on July 26, was a devoted family man, a distinguished attorney and an accomplished musician. He was also a highly involved alumnus of Oakland University.

He had another special quality of making everyone around him feel like they were his favorite, shares his brother Rick, one of his seven siblings. "We all looked up to John, and counted on him to handle any family situation," says Rick, CAS '74. "He never let us down."

Mills, 69, died at his home in Troy, Mich. His passion for everything he was involved in is what many friends and family remember most fondly about him, including Gary Laidlaw, CAS '64, who served with Mills on the OU Foundation board. Laidlaw remembers when he and Mills helped form the alumni group Friends of Oakland University in the mid-1960s.

"When I graduated, there weren't enough people to have an alumni group, so we formed the Friends of Oakland," says Laidlaw. "The thing with John is that whenever you met with him, he was always excited about things — he did things with a passion, and that was true of his OU commitment."

That commitment will be continued, as Mills and his wife, Kathy Mills, CAS '76,

have a deferred gift planned for the University.

Mills' distinguished 30-plus-year career as an attorney earned him the Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in family law, an award he received just four days before his death.

His specialization in family law grew from his adoption with his wife of the couple's two sons, Dan and Rob. His extensive work in the field helped him shape the state's adoption laws.

Intensely devoted to his family, Mills was "always there to support our sons," says Kathy Mills. "He would change his work schedule when necessary to attend school (or) sports-related events."

While away from his job, he was often found working on capital campaigns for the University.

Longtime Oakland colleague Phil Williams, SECS '64, was vice chairman while Mills was chairman of the OU Alumni Association. Williams describes Mills as a "dynamic guy, and a very hard worker."



The pair worked together in the early '70s on the expansion of the Kresge Library to include the alumni wing, which nearly doubled the library's size.

Mills was also a member of Oakland's President's Campaign Planning Committee and the President's Club Executive Committee. He received the Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 1982.

A lifelong musician, Mills played saxophone, clarinet and guitar. From his adolescent years until his death, he formed or joined many bands, including the AnTekes, which regularly played at Peabody's Restaurant in Birmingham. ➤

## Permanent endowment helps event, professor's legacy, live on

It has been more than 50 years since the late Maurice Brown, Ph.D., became an Oakland University English educator. But year after year, he makes an impact on the student community.

His wife, OU Distinguished Professor of Anthropology Emerita Judith K. Brown, Ed.D., has made sure the annual Maurice F. Brown Memorial Poetry Reading — established in 1988 — never stops, by providing a permanent endowment to fund the event.

Maurice Brown, a Harvard graduate and Oakland's first American Literature professor, taught in the Department of English from 1961 until his death in 1985. He was hired during the University's third year. Poetry readings in his honor have been held for the past 26 years, and past readings have featured two U.S. poets laureate, among other talented writers.

The idea for the readings came from Maurice Brown's former colleague, English Professor Emerita Jane Eberwein, Ph.D. — who also established the Maurice F. Brown Collection of Contemporary Poetry at the Kresge Library, according to Dr. Brown.

Dr. Eberwein says what Maurice Brown's colleagues valued most about him was that he cared about "what was happening now. So the contemporary poetry reading is very fitting, and I hope it serves as a longtime reminder of a very special man."

Edward Haworth Hoepfner, Ph.D., professor of English, has been organizing the event practically since its inception.

Since the reading has become so significant within the Oakland community, creating a permanent endowment is that much more special, Dr. Hoepfner says. It is open to all Oakland University students and to members of the Rochester community.

Adds Hoepfner, "Those of us who work to pull it together each year are indebted ... to Judy Brown, for her longstanding support: she has been a gift to us." ➤





*OU Engineering students Lucas Fuchs (left) and Hudhaifa Jasim (right) give demonstrations of M-1 robots to visitors at the Engineering Center grand opening. M-1 robots are equipped with vision technology, which makes them useful in a wide spectrum of industries, such as pharmaceutical, agricultural, small-part assembly and automotive.*

## FANUC America donates robotics equipment to OU Engineering programs By Eric Reikowski

FANUC America Corporation of Rochester Hills, Mich., recently made a substantial gift-in-kind donation of cutting-edge equipment to Oakland University that company leaders said will help boost OU's impact on the regional economy.



*FANUC America's General Manager Mick Estes (left) and Director of CERT Education Paul Aiello visit the lab where the M-1 robots are housed.*

The robotics supplier's donation of robots, software and 2D iRVision will support development of an Industrial Robotics and Automation program within OU's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Engineering students will be trained for high-demand jobs, many of which are in metro Detroit, home to world-class robotics and automation companies.

FANUC America General Manager Mick Estes says the company is excited to

expand its longstanding support for similar programs.

"Working together and sharing industry-leading innovative technology is what will make the difference in narrowing the skills gap in manufacturing," Estes says. "The staff at the OU School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) brings the highest degree of professionalism and tremendous personal passion to the task.

"They provide students the opportunity to learn and apply their knowledge and skills using the latest innovations in engineering and manufacturing technology, and we are pleased to be a part of this effort."

SECS Dean Louay Chamra, Ph.D., says the school looks forward to showcasing state-of-the-art equipment in its robotics labs.

"The donated equipment will educate the next generation of engineers in order to provide the talent needed in industrial robotics and advanced manufacturing," Dean Chamra says.

Oakland's partnership with FANUC America — the world's largest

manufacturer of industrial robotics — is a "win-win" for industry and academia, according to Khalid Mirza, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor of engineering.

"Our School of Engineering and Computer Science is committed to building a strong and relevant program in Industrial Robotics and Automation," he says. "We have formed an advisory board so that industries can directly provide us expertise and support for curriculum development, program development and strategic planning.

"We are proud to have FANUC America join the board and look forward to a successful and mutually beneficial relationship. The FANUC America headquarters in Rochester Hills is located right next to OU and gives us a unique opportunity to work closely with them."

FANUC America is the leading supplier of robotic automation in the Americas.

To learn more about the School of Engineering and Computer Science, visit [oakland.edu/secs](http://oakland.edu/secs).



## CAS grad finds meaning in giving, donates first paycheck to OU

Samantha Wolf, CAS '14, is all about the meaning behind things.

So it's fitting that only months after graduating, the recently hired communications professional donated her first paycheck — \$741.96 — somewhere meaningful: her alma mater.

"I not only got scholarships to help me pay for school, but I was able to become super involved on campus," says Wolf, 22. "Those experiences have helped me get my job and will help me in the future. I felt like I had to show my thanks to OU."

Wolf, who spent two years as president of Student Congress working on a project to expand the Oakland Center, designated her donation for that potential expansion, because the student building "had such a huge impact on me."

She graduated in April with a major in communication and a minor in applied leadership skills and international relations and accepted a position at Rock Connections in August. Her employer, a sister company of Quicken Loans, has also pledged to match her gift.

During a June donor celebration at OU, Wolf noted that it was donors themselves who established her scholarships. She received numerous alumni scholarships that "allowed me to not only devote my time to the community but also to the University.

I want other students to have the same experiences I had," she adds.



Samantha Wolf

Wolf joins nearly a third of OU alumni who have graduated in the last decade, says Kelly Brault, director of annual giving. This group of alumni is growing, and their participation at any amount is critical to the University's future, she explains.

"Although what Samantha did is phenomenal, it's not something that we really expect everyone to do. Our biggest hope is that she will inspire others to invest in OU," Brault says. "I'm not talking about a million-dollar gift — most alumni start by giving \$25 or so. Participation is what is really important to us. *U.S. News & World Report* uses alumni participation as one of its factors for ranking universities. They see it as a bit of an alumni satisfaction rating."

Wolf shares that there are other ways for alumni to participate, such as by showing up to sports games, to Homecoming, employing OU interns or even wearing an Oakland University T-shirt.

To find out how to join Samantha in giving as an Oakland University alumnus, visit [supportOU.com](http://supportOU.com).

## DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER

A PERFECT MIX OF HISTORIC AND HIP.

### HOLIDAY 2014/WINTER 2015 EVENT SCHEDULE

#### Downtown Rochester Festival of Trees

Saturday, November 22, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, November 23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Rochester Community House

A holiday spectacular, featuring trees, wreaths, stockings, tablescapes and much more!

#### Lagniappe

Monday, November 24, 6-9 p.m.

The official kick-off to the holiday season, including horse-drawn carriage rides, plus Santa and his real reindeer.

#### The Big, Bright Light Show

Monday, November 24 through Sunday, January 4, 2015

Nightly, 5 p.m. - Midnight

A Downtown Rochester tradition, featuring over one million points of dazzling light!

#### Kris Kringle Market

Friday, December 5, 4-10 p.m.; Saturday, December 6, Noon -10 p.m.

An open-air market, featuring handcrafted gifts, fresh greens and specialty foods.

#### Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade

Sunday, December 7, 2 p.m.

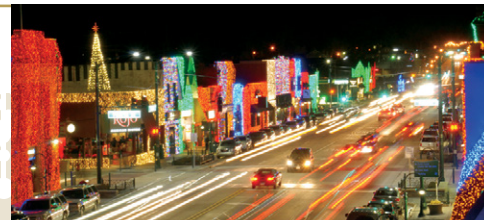
Michigan's largest Christmas parade.

#### Downtown Rochester and Oakland County 2015 Fire & Ice Festival

Friday, January 23, 6 - 9 p.m.; Saturday, January 24, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.;

Sunday, January 25, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Winter events, ice sculptures, carriage rides, ice skating and even fireworks!



[www.DowntownRochesterMI.com](http://www.DowntownRochesterMI.com) | [twitter.com/rochesterdda](https://twitter.com/rochesterdda) | <http://www.facebook.com/DowntownRochester> | 248/656.0060

**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY IS A PROUD PARTNER OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER.**





The 2014 Nightingale Award winners and runners-up at the San Marino Banquet Center in Troy, Mich.

### OU seeks Nightingale Award nominees

Oakland University's School of Nursing will accept nominations for the 27th Annual Nightingale Awards for Nursing Excellence® until Feb. 2, 2015.

Nominees are considered for six categories: administration, advanced nurse practice, education and research, long-term care and rehabilitation, nursing in the community and staff nurse practice.

Nightingale Award events have raised \$1,786,170, supported 5,780 Oakland University students and helped fund 38 nursing scholarships since they originated in 1987.

To nominate a nurse for the Nightingale Award, visit [oakland.edu/nursing](http://oakland.edu/nursing) or email [johnson2@oakland.edu](mailto:johnson2@oakland.edu). ➤



Oakland University men's basketball coach Greg Kampe (right) and University of Detroit Mercy men's basketball coach Ray McCallum unveil the Metro Rivalry Cup Sept. 30 in Troy, Mich.

Students from the OUWB School of Medicine's class of 2018 prepare to recite the Declaration of Geneva during the school's White Coat Ceremony.



### New class welcomed to OUWB School of Medicine

Following a week of orientation, just over 100 incoming students of Oakland University's William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) received their white coats in August during a traditional ceremony marking the beginning of their journey through medical school.

The students were cloaked in their white coats and stethoscopes by their mentors, Beaumont Health System physicians who volunteer to guide the class throughout their four years at OUWB.

As friends and family members looked on, the class of 2018, and the doctors

in attendance, recited the Declaration of Geneva, which is a revision of the doctor's mantra, the Hippocratic Oath, to pledge their dedication to the field of medicine.

For more than 100 years, the white coat has been worn by physicians, symbolizing the trust between patient and doctor.

OUWB will celebrate the graduation of its inaugural class on May 15, 2015.

For more about the ceremony and the University's medical school, go to [oakland.edu/medicine](http://oakland.edu/medicine). ➤

### New rivalry emerges between Oakland, UDM athletic programs

Geography and attendance highs within local sports programs have set the stage for the Metro Series, a new rivalry between the Oakland University and University of Detroit Mercy athletic programs that kicked off this fall.

The Golden Grizzlies and the Titans, whose schools sit just 26 miles apart, are the lone NCAA Division I schools in the metro Detroit region in the Horizon League.

Points for head-to-head victories throughout the academic year will decide the winner of the series, and the winner will take home a trophy, the Metro Rivalry Cup.

Competing teams will include men's and women's track and field, basketball, cross country, golf and soccer, along with softball and women's tennis.

In the event of a tie in the first year, the school with the most Horizon League All-Academic selections from all sports will be named the winner. After the inaugural season, the winner from the previous year will keep the cup in the event of a tie.

Last season Oakland University and University of Detroit Mercy had attendance highs at the men's basketball games, and an overtime thriller in the O'rena on ESPNU during Rivalry Week. The Golden Grizzlies had an attendance record of 4,065, and the Titans featured a crowd of 6,976 in Calihan Hall, the third largest attendance since the 1999-2000 season.

To learn more about the series, visit [goldengrizzlies.com](http://goldengrizzlies.com). ➤





## 2014 Alumni Awards Banquet

OU's alumni and student leaders were recognized at the 20th Annual Alumni Awards Banquet on Sept. 19 during Fall Homecoming & Reunion Weekend.

**The student Leadership OU Class of 2014-15.** OU alumni in the community provide leadership, mentoring and networking during the year-long program. (From left, first row) Taylor Mobey, Megan Bastuba, Jenae Curley, Shaqela Chapman, Joey Kirma, Emily Benoit. (Second row) Nicholas Klanke, Farha Hanif, Michelle Ristovski, Katie Rose, Sam Cassisi, Jordan Belanger. (Third row) Justin Walukonis, Walter Lashar, Anthony Coleman.

**Alumni receiving awards** were (bottom l to r) Jennifer Valoppi, Alumni Community Service Award and Barbara Gough, Spirit Award; (top l to r) Stacie Behler, Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award; Michael Medvinsky, Outstanding Young Alumni Award; Bill Rogers, Honorary Alumni Award; Ken Hightower, Ph.D., Honorary Alumni Award; Paul Woodruff, accepting the Pioneer Award in honor of The Honors College Group; Lynn Gross, Distinguished Alumni Service Award and Allen Gough, Spirit Award.

## LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Do you know a Legacy student who is planning to attend OU next fall? Legacy students are defined as individuals whose parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle graduated from Oakland University.

The OUAA now offers a \$12,000 renewable Legacy Award (\$3,000 per year for up to four consecutive years) for which your Legacy student may qualify. Applications, as well as detailed information on eligibility criteria, are available online at [oualumni.com/ouaascholarships](http://oualumni.com/ouaascholarships).

Eligible students must apply for the award by Monday, Jan. 5, 2015. This award is not automatic — all completed applications

will be forwarded for review and selection by an alumni and student committee.

For more information, contact Erin Sudrovech, associate director of alumni and community engagement, at (248) 370-6136 or [sudrovec@oakland.edu](mailto:sudrovec@oakland.edu).



## Sign up for career development webinars

The career development webinar series features the nation's top career authors and subject matter experts in resume-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 [oakland.edu/careerdevelopment](http://oakland.edu/careerdevelopment).

**Jan. 7, 2015:** Grab Your Keys and Drive Your Career, presented by Los Ellis

**Feb. 4, 2015:** Proven Strategies to Build a Network That Works for You, presented by Mike Fishbein

**March 4, 2015:** Stuff Your Resume with Keywords to Highlight Your Experience, presented by Jay Block

**April 1, 2015:** Use Your Strengths to Create a Rewarding and Satisfying Career, presented by Tom Roth

**May 6, 2015:** 5 Steps to Building a Powerful and Profitable Network, presented by Beth Bridges

**June 3, 2015:** What You Don't Say in an Interview Could Hold You Back, presented by Carole Martin ➤

## Winter College 2015

Reconnect with OU in an entirely different way next February: spend a weekend at the 5th Annual Winter College in sunny Florida, Feb. 5-7.

Oakland University President George W. Hynd will host Winter College 2015, which will return to the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa in Bonita Springs, Florida. OU faculty members will lead interactive classes and share topics of their expertise, leaving plenty of time to relax on the beach, play golf, and enjoy the camaraderie of friends old and new.

The Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa is located on 26 acres overlooking Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve. The resort recently was honored with Florida Green Lodging's Three Palm eco-friendly certification and named among *Travel + Leisure's* 500 World's Best Hotels.

For more details and to register today, please visit [oakland.edu/wintercollege](http://oakland.edu/wintercollege). For questions and event information, please contact Millie Tompkins at (248) 370-4916 or [tompkins@oakland.edu](mailto:tompkins@oakland.edu).

Winter College participants are responsible for hotel fees, travel expenses, and incidentals and meals not included in the Winter College schedule. ➤



## Join fellow alumni for Golden Grizzlies basketball!

Golden Grizzlies basketball is just around the corner. More details are on their way, but mark your calendar to join fellow alumni and friends during one of these special events after the New Year:

### ALUMNI NIGHT AT THE O'RENA

**SEHS Night at the O'rena** – Sunday, Jan. 18

**SBA Night at the O'rena** – Thursday, Jan. 22

**CAS and OSH Night at the O'rena** – Monday, Jan. 26

**Legacy and Alumni Admissions Ambassadors Night at the O'rena** – Wednesday, Jan. 28

**SON Night at the O'rena** – Sunday, Feb. 22

**SECS Night at the O'rena** – Wednesday, Feb. 25

We're also planning alumni gatherings prior to the Horizon League conference games at the University of Detroit Mercy on Saturday, Jan. 10, and the University of Illinois Chicago on Wednesday, Feb. 4. Stay tuned for further details. ➤



## Arts at OU

The Oakland University Alumni Association presents the Arts at OU series, designed to engage alumni and community members through the arts at Oakland University. The 2014-15 series schedule highlights collaborations with the OU Art Gallery; Music, Theatre and Dance; Cinema Studies; and Meadow Brook Hall. For more information about Arts at OU or to register for an event, please visit [oakland.edu/alumni/artsatou](http://oakland.edu/alumni/artsatou).

### EXCLUSIVE HOLIDAY WALK AT MEADOW BROOK HALL

**Monday, Dec. 15, 2014, from 5-9 p.m.**

### STUDENT PRODUCTION OF *PIRATES OF PENZANCE* IN VARNER RECITAL HALL

**Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015, at 6 p.m.**

### OAKLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE AT DETROIT SYMPHONY HALL

**Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at 6 p.m.** ➤



## 1960s

**Dennis Parle, CAS '64**, retired from the University of Houston after 38 years of teaching and administering. The university's Board of Regents designated him Professor Emeritus of Spanish.

**Martin Reisig, CAS '67**, was named 2015 Detroit Area Lawyer of the Year for mediation by Best Lawyers in America. Reisig has had a long and distinguished



Martin Reisig

legal career as a practicing attorney for 44 years, a professor of advanced mediation at University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and as a highly respected arbitrator and mediator in southeast Michigan. He was honored to be included in this year's Michigan Super Lawyers for alternative dispute resolution. Reisig also maintains Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating of AV and is affiliated with the American Settlement Centers.

## 1970s

**Coleta (Morlock) Fukuzawa, CAS '72**, is an administrator for a Danish genealogy group and assists others in researching their ancestors. She recently retired from Beaumont Hospital, and is a proud grandmother of two.

**William K. Hunt, CAS '75**, became the first graduate from Oakland University and the first clinical psychology graduate from the University of Vermont clinical psychology program to become a prescribing psychologist. Hunt is also the first African-American clinical psychologist in New Mexico, and in the United States, to gain prescription privileges.

**Louise A. Reichert (Sipes), CAS '72**, had her book, *The Prisoner's Prayer Book*, published by Principia Media. Reichert, who is active in prison ministry, is retired and lives in Marquette, Mich.

**William J. Riley, CAS '73**, is a Sheriff's deputy in Wayne County, Mich. Riley is also an author and a factory representative for Trikke Electric Vehicles.



Gary A. White

**Gary A. White, SEHS '76**, who taught art in the Walled Lake (Mich.) School District for seven years, retired as director of human resources at Minnesota's Walker Art Center in 2013. He joined the art center in 1993. White earned a master's degree in counseling psychology from Oakland University before moving back to Minnesota. He continued his career in human resources at several high-tech firms, including the Toro Company and the Federal Reserve Bank. He has two sons and six grandchildren.

## 1980s

**Catherine (Beadle) Stier, CAS '86**, is an award-winning author and researcher



Catherine Stier

with a specialty in picture books. Stier's recent WWII historical fiction picture book, *Welcome to America, Champ!* made the prestigious Bank Street College of Education's 2014 Best Children's Books of the Year list, the second time one of her titles has received this honor. Stier now lives and works in San Antonio, Texas.

## 1990s

**Della Cassia, CAS '97**, was director of marketing and public relations as well as managing editor at *Technology Century* magazine. She chaired the Engineering Society of Detroit's public relations committee and its social media task force. In addition to her OU degree, Cassia holds an English teaching certificate from the University of Michigan.

**Joanne C. Gerstner, CAS '93**, has joined the Michigan State University School of Journalism faculty as a sports journalist in residence. Gerstner will teach classes and serve as a mentor for MSU's growing sports journalism

specialization. She is working on a book about young athletes and concussions, set to be released by Oxford University Press in 2015. Gerstner frequently travels the country as a panelist and guest speaker on media coverage of athletic concussions.

**Jeffrey J. Hill, CAS '93**, was promoted to professor at Morehead State University in eastern Kentucky. Hill began teaching at Morehead State in 2002 and was promoted to associate professor in 2008. He teaches a wide range of beginner through advanced production courses in the Department of Communication, Media and Leadership Studies. He helped create, and is the director of, the film studies minor program at the school. Hill's production portfolio includes short documentaries on folk artists, sorghum farmers, banjo players and coffee entrepreneurs — which have aired on television in Kentucky and at international film festivals.



Jeffrey J. Hill

**Surendra S. Khambete, SECS '94**, founded Indratech, a technology-based company that offers an effective and sustainable replacement for cushioning products. Indratech is located in Auburn Hills, Mich.

## 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 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. ➤





*Hannah Radeback-Larson and her Golden Grizzly family after her graduation from Kearsley High School in Flint, Mich.*

**Aimee (Williams-Radeback) Larson, SEHS '99**, and her husband, **Gary Larson, SEHS '99**, proudly announce that their daughter, Hannah Radeback-Larson, will attend Oakland University this fall, enrolled in the same Human Resource Development program that they both completed. Hannah's grandparents, **Phillip Williams, SECS '64**, and **Barbara Williams, SEHS '66**, also graduated from OU, making Hannah a third-generation OU student.



*Nancy L. Martens*

**Nancy L. (Ward) Martens, SON '90**, founded ElderCompass in 2010 to assist families and professionals who advocate for seniors and elders.

ElderCompass provides customized senior care plans for elder advocates. The Navigation Plans guide and assist with senior life-related concerns including safety, medical, lifestyle, and financial and legal issues. Martens also provides educational presentations and will be the Keynote speaker at Walsh College this fall in collaboration with the Oakland County Health Department. Martens is married with three children.

**Jeanette E. (Young) Menig, CAS '93**, was promoted to human resources director for the city of Troy, Mich. Menig oversees recruitment and selection, benefits, safety and training, and labor relations for the city.

**William A. Proctor, SECS '93**, works for Benefit Outsourcing Solutions as a senior software developer. Proctor has been married for 17 years and has three children and two grandchildren.

## 2000s

**Benedetta G. (Giaimo) Benavides, CAS '03**, has been assisting with the further development of the first and only Community College of Qatar, located in Doha, where she was recently promoted to project coordinator. Benavides previously taught American government and career planning.

**Jessica L. (Pike) Cataldo, SHS '09**, completed her master of public health degree in April 2014 from the University of Illinois in Chicago. Cataldo's capstone research project, "Race versus Place: Examining Health Disparities in Marion County, Indiana," earned two awards at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health's 9th Annual Student Research and Practice Awards Day, including the Award for Master's Level Research and Towards Health Equity Research Award.

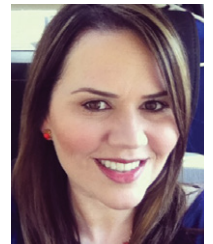
**Steven J. Christensen, SBA '03**, previously spent 11 years with J.P. Morgan's Private Wealth Management, where he served as vice president to the fiduciary officer before serving as vice president to the investment advisor. Christensen earned a bachelor of arts degree from Michigan State University and an MBA from Oakland University. Christensen is securities-licensed, holding both the Series 7 and Series 63, and is an accredited holder of the

Certified Trust and Financial Advisor designation.

**Jennifer J. Decker, CAS '02**, received the 2014 School Bell Award for excellence in media coverage from the Indiana State Teachers Association. Decker also collaborated with two of her colleagues to earn a first-place multimedia Associated Press award.

**Erika S. Eraqi, SBA '07**, went from an entry-level employee to a senior account director at Detroit-based Jack Morton Worldwide in just six years. Eraqi is now the head of the Cadillac account, where she supervises a multimillion-dollar budget and directs nine employees. Eraqi also organizes events for Cadillac customers.

**Angela C. (Ruth) Haig, CAS '02**, became the assistant director of Alumni Giving at Cranbrook Schools in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., in January of 2014.



*Angela C. Haig*

**Stephanie J. Ridella, CAS '08**, a third-year student at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, won the National Law Review Winter 2014 student writing contest for



*Stephanie J. Ridella*

her paper, "The Madwoman in the Attic: Mental Illness and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008." Ridella's winning paper discusses the limitations of

the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with regard to mental illness and employment discrimination, and how the 2008 amendments to the law might correct some of those limitations. Ridella received her Juris Doctor in May and has certificates in labor and employment law and public interest law. She is also a student editor of the Illinois Public Employee Relations Report. Ridella earned a master's degree in history from Loyola University Chicago.



Nicole Sorgeloos

**Nicole M. (Foy) Sorgeloos, SEHS '02**, is a part of the Happy Kids-Happy Pets team, whose boxed sets of collectible cards and CDs won the 2014 Family

Choice Award for Best Toy in the Pet Category.

**Elliot T. Stephens, CAS '02**, is a civil rights attorney in Mount Clemens, Mich.

## 2010s

**Kristin M. Miller, CAS '10**, serves as director of community relations at Moving Forward Towards Independence. Miller works to create lifelong independence for adults with cognitive disabilities through vocational



Kristin M. Miller

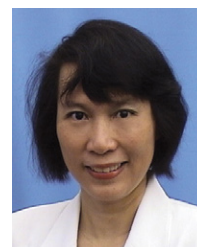
employment programs and supportive funding. Prior to completing her undergraduate studies in social work, Miller developed community

**Stephanie S. Paetzke, CAS '12**, a double major while at Oakland University, achieved a master's degree in social work from Michigan State University in 2014, before working for the Great Start Collaborative of Oakland County as an Ages and Stages Questionnaire development specialist and local leadership group coordinator.

engagement programs specifically for youth and families focused on healthy living and personal empowerment.

Paetzke is happily building a house in Marine City, where she lives with her fiancé and one-year-old son, Grayson Thomas.

**Irene J. Su, SON '12**, who earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, accepted a position as director of nursing at Baker College's Allen Park campus. Previously, Dr. Su worked as a faculty educator



Irene J. Su

for the Veterans Affairs Healthcare System in Ann Arbor, where she was responsible for the Post-Baccalaureate Nurse Residency Program, National Nursing Education Initiative Scholarship and the VA Nursing Academy Program.

## ENGAGEMENTS, MARRIAGES AND ANNIVERSARIES

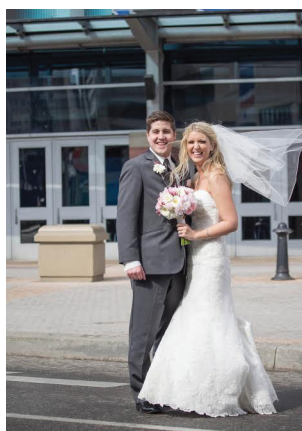


Tara (Taylor) and Pete Kalinowski

**Alana M. Greenberg, SON '12**, daughter of Ruth and Ralph Greenberg, married Leonid Shamban, son of Esfir and Miron Shamban, in August 2014.

**Tara (Taylor) Kalinowski, CAS '09**, and Pete Kalinowski were married on Sept. 21, 2013, at Meadow Brook Hall. Tara is a college English professor, and Pete plays drums for a band named Rocky Loves Emily and for Kensington Church in Troy, Mich. The two met in 2010 when Emily organized a charity concert. One of the seven bands that attended was Pete's.

**Rachel L. (English) May, CAS '12**, daughter of Eugene and Lorrie English, and Elliott J. May, son of Dave and Nancy May, were married on May 3, 2014, at Old St. Mary's Church in Detroit



Rachel L. (English) and Elliott May



Samantha (Prakobkij) and Hubert Tymosiak

by Father Wayne Epperley. They honeymooned in Kauai, Hawaii, and will settle in Grosse Pointe, Mich., in the fall.

**Donald B. Roe, CAS '64**, and his wife **Mary Jo (Hawkins) Roe, SEHS '64**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 2, 2014. Roe and Hawkins planned their wedding for two weeks after graduating from OU. Roe and Hawkins have two daughters and six grandchildren. Roe is still actively practicing law in Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Hawkins is retired from the financial services firm she founded.

**Hubert Tymosiak, CAS '13**, and Samantha (Prakobkij) Tymosiak were married on June 21, 2014.





*Charles Alexander Haig*

## BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

**Angela C. (Ruth) Haig, CAS '02**, and her husband, Andrew Haig, announce the birth of their son, Charles Alexander Haig, on Aug. 5, 2014.

## DEATHS

### 1960s

**Miriam (Freifield) Foxman, CAS '65**, on June 27, 2014.

**Ann (Auten) Mazur, SECS '68**, on Nov. 5, 2013.

### 1970s

**Christine E. Albert, CAS '76**, on May 1, 2014.

**Dolores (LaFond) Bonikowski, SBA '73**, on Oct. 12, 2013.

**Shelley F. Czeizler, CAS '79**, on June 23, 2014.

**Barbara E. Dalley, CAS '72**, on June 27, 2014.

**Joan M. Denbroeder, SEHS '72**, on July 2, 2014.

**Mary L. Edgar, SEHS '76**, on July 21, 2014.

**John Eley, SBA '72**, on April 17, 2014.

**Robert L. Fisher, BGS '77**, on July 4, 2014.

**Dennis C. Hunt, CAS '77**, on Nov. 11, 2013.

**George L. Jackson, CAS '70**, on July 12, 2014.

**Gary C. Keurajian, BGS '79**, on May 7, 2014.

**Margaret J. Lewis, SEHS '76**, on June 3, 2014.

**John F. Mills, CAS '72**, on July 26, 2014.

**Thomas D. Neil, SEHS '78**, on March 2, 2014.

**Raymond J. Stoesser, SBA '73**, on April 2, 2014.

**Zelma (Feingloss) Sussman, SEHS '72**, on July 29, 2014.

**Barbara (Walker) Sutherland, SEHS '79**, on March 24, 2014.

**Joseph S. Szymanski, SBA '76**, on Jan. 10, 2014.

**Margaret J. Trombley, SEHS '73**, on May 4, 2014.

**Gloria Weatherspoon, SEHS '78**, on Aug. 29, 2013.

**Michelle Wegner, SEHS '79**, on July 29, 2014.

**Peggy A. (Petz) Wenk, SHS '75**, on July 26, 2014.

**Gregory W. Zygiel, CAS '74**, on July 8, 2014.

### 1980s

**Thomas D. Allen, CAS '80**, on Sep. 27, 2014

**Loretta J. Balowski, CAS '87**, on May 11, 2014.

**James M. Hopkins, CAS '82**, on May 19, 2014.

**Madeline F. Jasman, SEHS '80**, on Dec. 19, 2013.

**Alice C. Joshi, SBA '86**, on April 6, 2014.

**Philip Keila, SHS '84**, on July 19, 2014.

**Gregory Marchenia, SECS '86**, on April 18, 2014.

**Eugene E. Nabors, SBA '83**, on Nov. 1, 2013.

**Igor W. Rudniski, CAS '80**, on April 18, 2014.

**Douglas J. Smart, BGS '87**, on July 28, 2014.

**Penelope Weaver, SEHS '87**, on April 4, 2014.

**Dennis E. Wolfe, CAS '82**, on April 28, 2014.

### 1990s

**Vicki J. Bulman, SEHS '96**, on July 28, 2014.

**John M. Curtis, CAS '96**, on Feb. 3, 2014.

**Martin J. Drouillard, SEHS '92**, on July 21, 2014.

**Douglas Godwin, BGS '93**, on May 2, 2014.

**Diane C. McCord, SEHS '90**, on July 14, 2014.

**John K. McLeod, BGS '91**, on July 27, 2014.

### 2000s

**Jeffrey P. Mackin, CAS '02**, on June 11, 2014.

**Consuella J. Smith, SEHS '06**, on Oct. 6, 2013.

**Kevin R. Van Tiem, SECS '03**, on June 8, 2014.

**Leesa M. Wells, SEHS '04**, on Jan. 31, 2014.

## FACULTY AND STAFF DEATHS

**Wayne Blizman**, on Sept. 27, 2014. Blizman began lecturing in 2003 as part of the Oakland University School of Business Administration faculty. He has served as director of the Entrepreneurship Institute, of Students in Free Enterprise and most recently of Ideas 2 Business Lab at the Maccomb-OU INCubator until his passing.

**William Marshall**, on Sept. 27, 2014. Marshall, who joined the Oakland University staff in 1967, served as director of the Oakland Center until his retirement in 1995.

**Frank Lepkowski**, on Oct. 28, 2014. Lepkowski joined the Oakland University faculty in 1985, and has served as associate dean and interim dean of the University Libraries. He was most recently Humanities Librarian until his passing.

PLAN YOUR NEXT EVENT **AT THE OC**



## *Oakland Center*

If you're looking for the perfect location for your next business party, corporate conference, wedding reception, holiday party or any special event, look no further than Oakland University's Oakland Center.

The OC boasts 18 different meeting rooms of various sizes, including banquet rooms and the cozy Fireside Lounge. We offer a total of 7,000 square feet of flexible meeting space and can accommodate groups as large as 600 or as small as 16.

Full catering is available on-site for your convenience.

For more information, call us at (248) 370-3245 or visit our website at **[oakland.edu/oc](http://oakland.edu/oc)**.





## OU Moment

A photographer clicks the shutter while gazing down 151 feet at the Sept. 19 dedication ceremony commemorating the opening of the monumental Elliott Tower, made possible by a \$6.7 million gift from longtime OU friends Hugh and Nancy Elliott. This moment was captured between speeches from top OU leaders and friends, bagpipers who played as they walked under the arch of the tower, and the OU Brass Band's call-and-response musical performance with University Carillonneur Dennis Curry playing the tower bells. Another highlight was a commissioned carillon work, "Ulysses' Sail," composed by Provost James Lentini, DMA. The water feature at the foot of the tower was crafted by the same company that designed Las Vegas' famous Bellagio resort fountains. Mrs. Elliott hopes the Elliott Tower will become a place for students to meet and socialize. ➤





# Your gift *matters* to Marianna.



**Name:** Marianna Stepp

**Year:** Senior

**Major:** Human Resources Development

**Hometown:** Rochester Hills, Mich.

**Sport:** Women's Golf Team

*"Your gift matters to me because being a student-athlete is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I'm thankful for those who support the Women's Golf Team because without them I wouldn't be where I am today."*

## **Career plans?**

After college, I plan to pursue a career in human resources. Ideally, I would like to begin my HR career in the golf industry.

## **Why did you pick OU?**

I chose Oakland because I wanted to play golf at a Division I school. I'm so happy I picked OU because I feel as if I am part of something bigger. At Oakland, I knew I could make a difference for myself and others because it's just the right size.

## **What do you love most about your major?**

I love the professors. I feel like I have personal relationships with them.

## **What is your favorite OU tradition?**

I love the student-athlete events, such as our "Grizz Madness" and the "GESPY Awards." It's so much fun when we're all together, and it's great to see what others have accomplished over their four years.

*Make a gift that matters today and in the future.*

Email [giftplan@oakland.edu](mailto:giftplan@oakland.edu) to receive our new booklet, "Your Gift, Your Legacy" — or to learn more about specific giving options, visit [oakland.edu/giftplanning](https://oakland.edu/giftplanning).

To learn more about Marianna and other students like her, visit [isupportou.com/yourgiftmatters](https://isupportou.com/yourgiftmatters).



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