




MAGAZINE *summer 2015*

A photograph of a female graduate in a black gown and cap, smiling and looking upwards. Her hands are raised, holding the green and white lining of her cap. The background is dark and out of focus.

*‘Each of you is —
and will always be
— a pioneer.’*

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

MAGAZINE *summer 2015*

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Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine charter class makes history; first graduates of Master of Public Health program.

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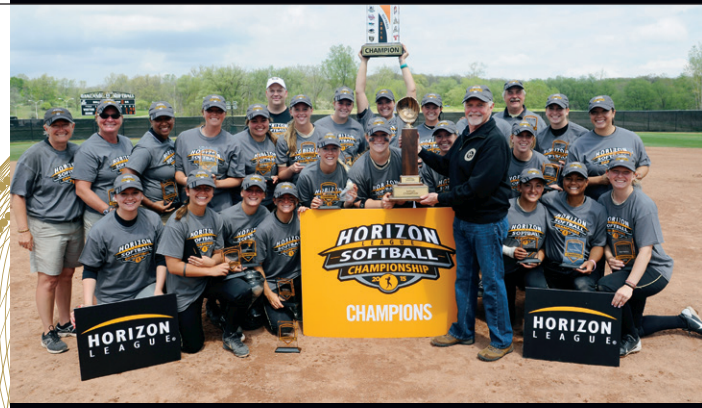
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Horizon League Champions

Men's and women's swimming and diving and softball teams all take top honors in the league.



ON THE COVER



Her four years of medical studies complete, Christina Awad proudly receives the green doctoral hood signifying she is a Doctor of Medicine. On May 15, Dr. Awad and 46 classmates were the first physicians to graduate from the Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) School of Medicine. Dr. Awad, who plans to become an Air Force flight surgeon, is completing her preliminary medicine residency at the University of Maryland's Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore. See page 8.

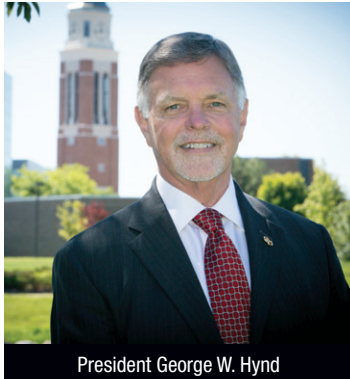


Oakland University is a doctoral research university located on 1,443 acres of scenic land in the cities of Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills in Oakland County, Michigan. The University has 135 bachelor's degree programs and 135 graduate degree and certificate programs. Oakland is a nationally recognized public university with more than 20,500 students. Academics include programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Business Administration, School of Education and Human Services, School of Engineering and Computer Science, School of Health Sciences, School of Nursing and School of Medicine.



Dear Alumni and Friends of Oakland University,

As Oakland's former Student Congress President Annie Meinberg so wonderfully phrased it, my "freshman year" with OU has been one of the most memorable experiences of my life. This first year was highlighted by the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine accreditation, their highly successful Match Day and graduation of the charter class.



President George W. Hynd

It was an honor to participate in the May 15 ceremony where 47 graduates — who achieved residency placement at locations of their choice — were hooded by Founding Dean Robert Folberg and their faculty mentors. We are grateful to the physicians in this charter class for their thoughtful input into the OUWB

School of Medicine curriculum and facilities design. We encourage them to share their medical school experiences out in the world and come back to share their stories with us.

This year, I was also humbled and proud to be formally inaugurated as OU's sixth president. I am grateful for such a warm, enthusiastic welcome. From our Board of Trustees to local leaders to fellow academics and Gov. Rick Snyder, the list of those who shared their good wishes motivates me to work with the Oakland community in the interest of enhancing the lives of the individuals we serve.

As I enter my "sophomore" year at OU, I am committed to enhancing Oakland's status as a first-choice destination for college-bound high school graduates in the metropolitan area we serve. My focus will be on making our presence widely known and respected as a metropolitan university with a global perspective. This means we will continue to serve as a resource for neighboring communities by participating in initiatives that foster the development, exchange and application of knowledge and talent.

A perfect illustration of OU as a metropolitan university is our partnership with the Oakland County Health Division on behalf of the Healthy Pontiac, We Can! (HPWC) coalition. OU Assistant Professor of Health Sciences Jennifer Lucarelli, Ph.D., chairs the coalition.



Jennifer Lucarelli, Ph.D.

In 2014, the coalition received a substantial funding increase with a three-year, \$1.95-million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Dr. Lucarelli is principal investigator for the grant, which she says is intended to reduce chronic disease and mortality rates by adding more produce markets, bringing in the Gleaners Fresh Food Share program, expanding the Healthy Bites program to cafeterias and storefronts, creating a non-motorized master plan for the city and increasing the amount of physical activity during the day in Pontiac Schools.

Extending Oakland's beneficial impact globally includes preparing our students to live and work in a global economy through study abroad. To that end, one of my goals for the University is to substantially increase our students' access to study abroad scholarships. Longtime Oakland friend Patti Finnegan Sharf, who travelled much of the world with her late husband and OU friend Steve Sharf, responded and committed \$550,000 toward scholarships for study abroad programs.

Closer to home, I have an invitation for our faculty, staff, friends and especially for our alumni. Of more than 100,000 of you, 70 percent choose to stay here in Michigan and contribute to the economic health of our state. This fall, I invite you to come home to OU Sept. 18-20 to celebrate nearly 60 years of Pioneer and Golden Grizzly spirit.

The 2015 Homecoming & Reunion Weekend is a chance to reconnect with your classmates, professors and friends with food, music and activities at the Elliott Tower, a Milestone Reunion Brunch, a dance at sunset, and so much more.

I'll be there, "wearing the bear." Will you?

Sharing the Golden Grizzly spirit,

George W. Hynd
President



**ASPIRE TO RISE.
GATHER TO CELEBRATE.**

HOMECOMING & REUNION WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 18 – 20, 2015



PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION CAPTURES PRIDE, COMMUNITY AT OU

Carillon bells rang and robed dignitaries could be seen throughout Oakland University's campus April 29 — the day that marked the official welcome of Dr. George W. Hynd, the University's sixth president, into the University family.

Kevin Grimm, Ph.D., associate professor of English and president of the Oakland University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors, says that while many things have changed at OU, including the University's mascot, "at heart, I believe our identity remains the same. We are a community, and I mean that in the most inclusive sense."

A sense of community was indeed felt during the event as those closest to the University prepared for the official rite of passage.

Leading up to inauguration day were several planned activities, including a student celebration, in which student leaders visited with President Hynd and gave him a reminder of his days in a garage band in the form of a signed poster. Retired faculty also met during the week for a luncheon in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms, and faculty offered "Lightning Talks" in the center's banquet rooms.



“On behalf of Oakland’s more than 100,000 alumni, I offer our trust and strongest confidence in President Hynd’s leadership. Today is a great and brand new day.”

— **Anthony Thornton**, CAS '76,
chair, Oakland University Alumni
Association Board of Directors

The day of the inauguration ceremony began with celebrations that included a staff breakfast and a carillon concert in front of the Elliott Tower before the reception. Afterward, a procession of faculty and administrative representatives led by a pipes and drums band and Richard Rozek, Ph.D., interim dean and associate professor of the School of Health Sciences, made its way to the Athletics Center O'rena.

Representatives from 24 Michigan colleges and local dignitaries attended the momentous occasion as the OU Brass Band performed. After the ceremony, Oakland staff held a post-inauguration reception in the Oakland Center. The week was capped by the first official spring Commencement presided over by President Hynd.

In the words of Mark Schlusell, chair of the University Board of Trustees, the inauguration also marked an opportunity to reflect on Matilda Dodge Wilson’s vision for a center of higher learning that welcomed preeminent scholars, diligent and aspiring students, and support staff dedicated to the mission of liberal arts education to do more.

“This vision has not changed. What has changed is that over the last 58 years, Oakland University has been growing evolving, improving,” says Schlusell. “We

are in the process of defining precisely who we are, where our greatest strengths and assets lie, and exactly where in a great sea of potential we will set anchor.

“I believe that in leading this University, President Hynd will help all of us mentor our students to become successful graduates and exemplary citizens.”

Anthony Thornton, CAS '76, chair of the Oakland University Alumni Association Board of Directors, spoke on behalf of more than 100,000 alumni. Thornton used levity to encapsulate why he has remained active with OU since graduating.

“That reason can be summarized with a single word — pride,” says Thornton. “The outstanding faculty and staff here helped us realize that the only limits to our success are defined by the limits of our imagination.

“So why not take the money and run, so to speak? Why not grab the diploma and bid a fond farewell to this place? Why spend nearly 40 years remaining involved? I come back to that one word — pride.”

President Hynd — who comes from various administration roles at the College of Charleston in South Carolina, Arizona State University, Purdue University and the University of Georgia — believes Oakland is a hidden gem in Michigan.

Continued

"It is ... clear to us that he understands that the staff here wish to serve this institution with a mission-centered focus. In simpler terms, we want to be part of something wonderful, and all of us are confident that we will be."

— **Petra Knoche**, CAS '02, assistant director, International Student and Scholars Office; president, Administrative Professionals Assembly



"There is no question that our founder's vision and today's curriculum will continue to enable aspiring learners and educators to impact the world around them in remarkably beneficial ways," says President Hynd. "We have a wonderful story to tell about our rich and vibrant history, and the contributions our students are making to society."

"Today, I am resolving to commit us to an exciting, engaged and vibrant future as one of Michigan's, and our nation's, finest universities. Today, I humbly ask you to join me." 🐾



"(He) brings to our community a clear appreciation for our core identity and a genuine enthusiasm for working with all members of this community to lead OU forward."

— **Kevin Grimm, Ph.D.**, associate professor of English; president, American Association of University Professors, OU chapter

"I'm really proud to say that I have a whole community of people whom I call family right here at OU, and I'm delighted to include President Hynd and his leadership in this group."

— **Annie Meinberg**, former president, Oakland University Student Congress



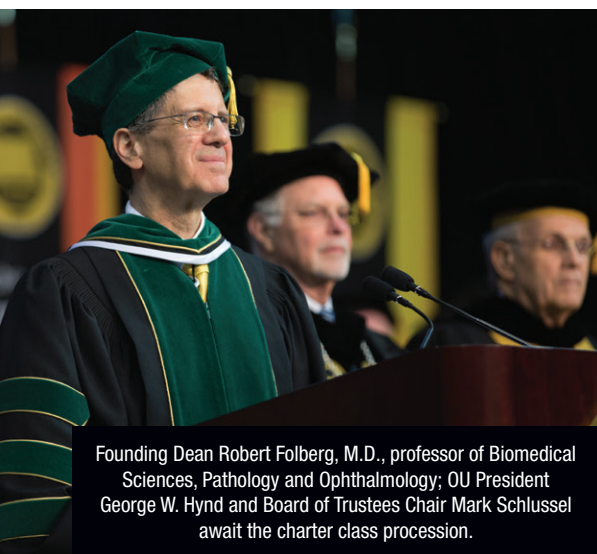
"Today, I am resolving to commit us to an exciting, engaged and vibrant future as one of Michigan's, and our nation's, finest universities."

— George W. Hynd, president, Oakland University



OUWB Medical School charter class makes OU history

OU history was made on May 15 as 47 fourth-year students of the Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) School of Medicine received the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Likely one of Oakland's greatest accomplishments, the Commencement is the result of a relationship begun in 2008 between the University and the Beaumont Health System.



Founding Dean Robert Folberg, M.D., professor of Biomedical Sciences, Pathology and Ophthalmology; OU President George W. Hynd and Board of Trustees Chair Mark Schluskel await the charter class procession.

Representing OUWB's student body, Saad Sahi, M.D., told the audience that he was grateful for the opportunity to help shape an institution.

"I have had the opportunity to work with and to learn from some of the most inspiring doctors I've ever met, Dr. Sahi says. "I've received more guidance, support and encouragement than I could have ever anticipated.

"Most important, I have been allowed my ambition and my ideals; allowed to create my own path; allowed to feel as if I can truly impact the world of medicine. ... I've had the distinct privilege of spending the last four years with the charter class — not only as friends and classmates, but also as part of something bigger than ourselves," he adds.

Also speaking at the ceremony, President George W. Hynd commended the charter class for agreeing to do more than simply become students at a medical school.

"Remarkably, each one of you has provided critical input into the curriculum and facilities design for the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine.



Chris Jaeger, Ashley J. Guthrie and Stephanie Ann Goike await the awarding of the M.D. degrees.

“You have set a high bar for the academic performance of all of the classes that will succeed you.”

— George W. Hynd, president, Oakland University

“You have also contributed to the establishment of medical student governance at the school. You have formed local chapters of national organizations and rose to leadership positions within them. You created the first medical student interest groups, and it should be known that these will benefit all students who follow in your footsteps here. You have created the school’s alumni association.

“And commendably, you have set a high bar for the academic performance of all of the classes that will succeed you. Have no doubt: Each of you is — and will always be — a pioneer.” 🐾



Twelve graduate from new Master in Public Health degree program

Twelve students earned OU’s first Master in Public Health degree from the School of Health Sciences during spring Commencement.

The program is growing steadily, says Patricia Wren, Ph.D., associate professor and program director. She says program leaders have deliberately chosen to grow the new degree slowly and modestly in the future, and plan to enroll 16 new students in the fall.

Dr. Wren says MPH courses seamlessly integrate teaching, research and service in a way that yields student success and improves health outcomes for the region.

Using an innovative teaching model, the program incorporates service-learning

opportunities and community-based participatory research throughout the curriculum, partnering with local nonprofits, corporations and healthcare agencies. 🐾

TRIUMPHANT YEAR FOR OAKLAND ATHLETES

By Fritz Reznor

In just the second year in their new conference, the Golden Grizzlies have won the 2014-15 Horizon League all-sports championship, symbolized by the McCafferty Trophy.



This first league all-sports trophy in 40 years of Oakland University Athletics league competition should wipe away any concerns about how the Grizzlies would fare after leaving the Summit League.

In addition to winning the overall competition by a large margin over runner up and defending champion Milwaukee, both the men's and women's programs won their respective competitions and received trophies in recognition of that accomplishment.

In the inaugural head-to-head, all-sports Metro Series with University of Detroit-Mercy, Oakland won convincingly by a 36-10 score.

The Golden Grizzlies finished in the top three in 13 of the 18 Horizon League sports. Oakland took home both regular season and league tournament titles in volleyball, men's soccer and softball, along with first-place finishes at both the men's and women's swimming and diving championships. In golf, the men's and women's teams finished second in their respective sports.

The Golden Grizzlies also put the "student" in student-athlete. They have been at the head of the Horizon League class in academic achievements, placing the most student-athletes on the league's Honor Roll in each of the four semesters since joining the conference.

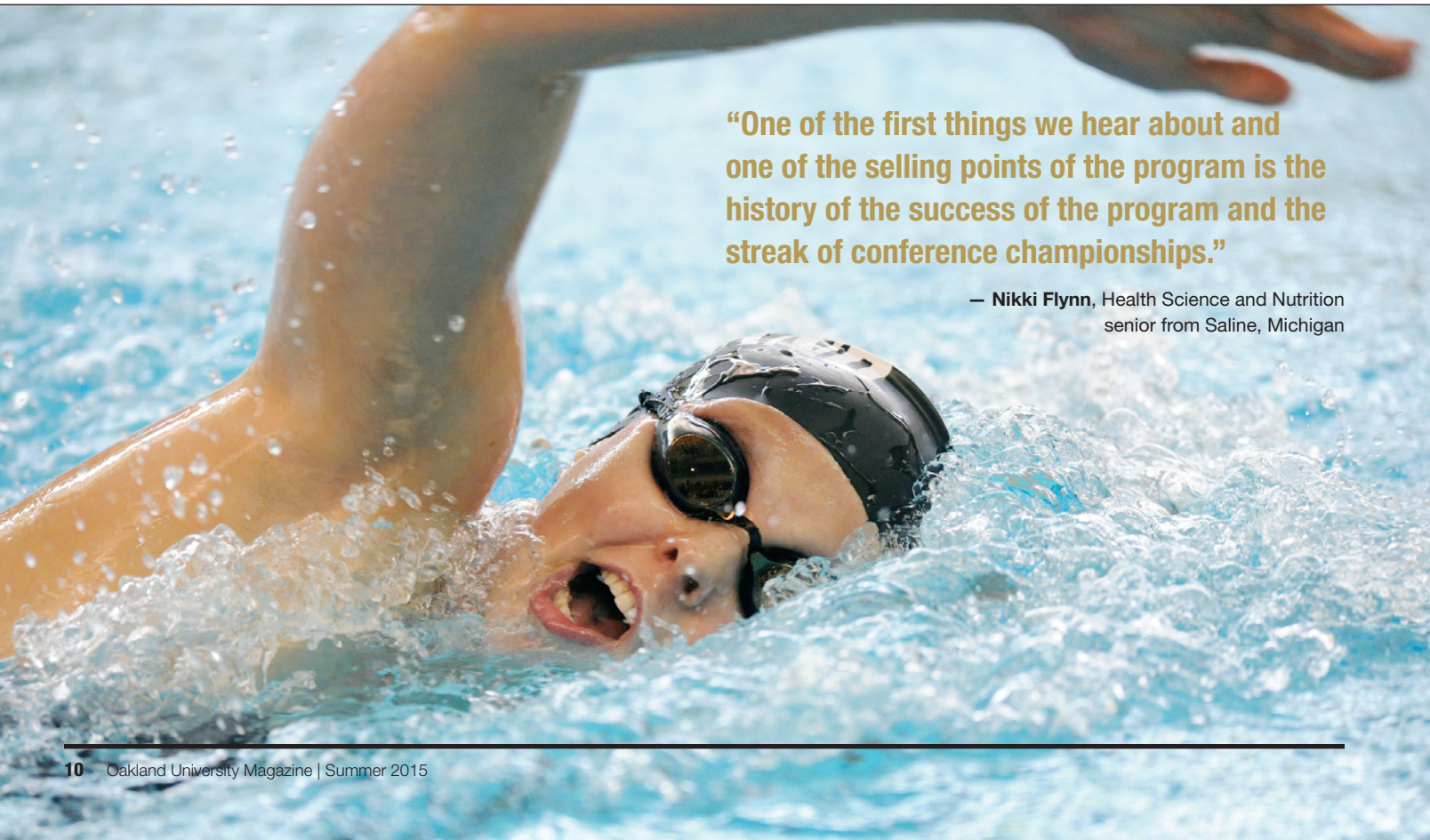
Oakland also has claimed three of the league's four post-graduate scholarship winners during that time: Miche'le Lipari (men's soccer) in 2014, and Spencer Marentette (baseball) and Julianne Boyle (women's soccer) in 2015.


That balance of academic and athletic achievement is exactly what Athletic Director Jeff Konya says he hopes to see in Oakland Athletics.

"When you combine that with our 3.21 grade point average and all the academic accolades on top of all the athletic success, it really suggests that Oakland is performing both the 'student' and 'athlete' part of the student-athlete experience." 🏊

"One of the first things we hear about and one of the selling points of the program is the history of the success of the program and the streak of conference championships."

— Nikki Flynn, Health Science and Nutrition senior from Saline, Michigan





Senior Colby Haan leads members of the men's and women's swimming and diving teams in a victory cheer.

Decades of dominance

Swimming and diving teams continue remarkable championship streaks *By Fritz Reznor*

"Dynasty" is often overused and too quickly assigned to short-term success. But for the flourishing Oakland University swimming and diving teams, the description fits like a pair of watertight goggles.

And not just because of their most recent success in the 2015 Horizon League championship meet, when the Golden Grizzlies won the men's title by nearly 190 points and the women's competition by more than 230 points.

It's because their success is measured in decades. The men's team has won 37 consecutive league titles, and the women's team, 21. The streaks cover four conferences at two levels of NCAA competition, starting in the NCAA II Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (up through 1997) — an era when Oakland win five NCAA II men's national championships and five women's national titles. Since joining Division I, the championships have been in the Mid-Continent Conference, The Summit

League and, for the past two seasons, the Horizon League.

The winning streaks have been mostly under the watch of head coach Pete Hovland, who arrived at Oakland in 1979 and has been the head coach of the men's program since 1981 and the women's program since 2001. He has been named conference Coach of the Year 24 times — 14 for his men's teams, 10 for the women's team — and was inducted into Oakland's Hollie L. Lepley Hall of Honor in 2012.

While Hovland claims that the conference winning streaks are not something he and his staff constantly dwell on — "It's probably something that I'll reflect on once I walk away from coaching and look back on it," he says — current team members and alumni of the programs are certainly aware of them.

"I'm not naïve," Hovland says. "I know it's important to them because we use it in recruiting to some extent; that you're coming to a championship program, a

program that has a winning culture. Competitive kids are looking for a championship environment to go to, and those are the kind of hooks you throw out into the water in hopes of grabbing some of these top recruits."

That was what attracted Nikki Flynn, a senior from Saline, Michigan, majoring in Health Science and Nutrition, to choose Oakland to pursue her athletic career.

"One of the first things we hear about and one of the selling points of the program is the history of the success of the program and the streak of conference championships," she says. "We hear it from the upperclassmen and from the alumni."

"It's just part of the tradition," says Aaron Helander, a junior Biology/Pre-Med major from Dixon, Illinois. "Oakland's always won, and you're just expected to do it. We know if we put in the work, it will pay off at the end of the season. It's about trusting in our coaching and our conditioning."

Continued

Flynn, the 2015 Horizon League champion in the women's 100- and 200-meter freestyle events, has friends from her Ann Arbor club team who chose to continue their swimming careers at other universities. "But if you want to win championships," she says, "you come to Oakland."

Extending the winning streaks in the Horizon League is certainly the primary focus for Hovland — there is even a "countdown clock" on the Aquatic Center scoreboard that displays the days until the next league championship meet — but that is not his long-term vision for his swimming programs.

"Keeping things 'steady' is not in my DNA," he says. "When we were transitioning from the Summit League into the Horizon League, I told my staff that we were going

to have to step up our game. We're going to have to be better coaches, better recruiters ... everything we do. Status quo is not going to be acceptable. I tried to put it in a positive way, that this is a new challenge, we're excited for it, and we should really use it to rejuvenate, regenerate and motivate us to get us to another level."

Those efforts are being realized, as evidenced in recruiting. Oakland is now beating out teams from such "power conferences" as the Big Ten, the Big 12 and the Southeastern Conference for high-profile recruits. And Hovland is hoping that translates to more than conference titles.

"For me, as important as the conference championship is, I like to look at our

program a little more globally," he says. "I like to compare our program to those that are similar to us around the country: the top mid-major programs, like the Ivy League and the service academies."

While both the men's and women's programs have been ranked in the top 10 among mid-majors in various seasons, Hovland says he would like that to occur "every single year with both programs. My ultimate goal is to be ranked in the top 30 in the country among all universities and having athletes compete at the NCAA Championship Meet on an annual basis."

If the program's record is any indication of forward progress, it's a finish line that doesn't seem too far away. ➤



Golden Grizzlies Softball

Storybook season, complete with happy ending *By Fritz Reznor*

Not much was expected of Oakland's softball team in the 2015 season. The Golden Grizzlies' combined record for the previous five seasons was 67-150-1. They had never finished higher than seventh place in conference play. Not surprisingly,

Horizon League coaches picked them to finish seventh again in the league's pre-season coaches' poll.

But third-year head coach Connie Miner and her team felt differently.

"I expected to be picked low; that's how these things work," Miner says. "We hadn't proved ourselves on the field. But I knew we were better than that. Our kids were upset about it, and they used it as a motivational tool."

The turnaround team of 2015 with President George W. Hynd.

The team had a solid nucleus of returning players in senior outfielder Courtnee Johnson, senior second baseman Jackie Kisman, junior shortstop Sarah Hartley and junior pitcher Erin Kownacki. A big addition was transfer first baseman Sara Cupp, a 2013 All-Horizon League and All-Region performer with a year of eligibility remaining after graduating from Detroit last spring and missing the 2014 season due to surgery.

On April 1, the Golden Grizzlies stood at 11-15 and 2-2 in Horizon League play. They lost their series opener at Youngstown State.

Then the season turned around.

"I started calling the season a storybook, and they were writing the chapters," Miner says. "I said, 'It's your book, write it.' Each week was another chapter. We'd discuss what had happened and what we needed to work on. And then it was on to the next chapter."

Oakland went on to win eight consecutive league games to jump to the top of the standings. They split their final eight games and finished tied for first place — Oakland's first regular season conference title since 2001. They hosted the Horizon League Tournament and went on to win the championship game 7-3 over Wright State, thanks to a big three-run, sixth-inning home run by Cupp.

A subsequent NCAA Tournament bid was the program's first since 2003. Although the Golden Grizzlies lost in the NCAA Regionals to the University of Michigan and Pittsburgh, the team ended with a record of 27-24 — the third most wins in school history.

"It's been a really fun journey," says Miner, who was voted 2015 Horizon League Coach of the Year. "This group did everything we asked, and more. They really believed in what we were doing and in each other." 🍷

Fritz Reznor is a freelance writer from Pleasant Ridge, Michigan.

Photos courtesy of OU Athletics Communications.



COACHES UNITE

Kampe enlists marquee college coaches for unique 'Beat Cancer' fundraiser *By Fritz Reznor*

When Chimene Anderson called on Greg Kampe last spring, she hoped the OU men's basketball coach might participate in a cancer awareness effort for the American Cancer Society (ACS).

By the time she got to his office, Kampe had his own idea. Cancer had robbed him of too many who were close: former player Nik Dragicevic at age 30; coaching colleague Dan Peters, and Detroit Tiger Dave Bergman, a close friend. A current player was losing his mom, and another his dad.

"I told Chimene that I didn't want to help with cancer awareness because everybody's aware of it. We need to beat it. And that's how we came up with the 'Beat Cancer' theme."

Kampe hit on the idea of parlaying long-time relationships with coaches who are "rock stars" in the business. "Who better to beat cancer than the guys who have to win for a living?"

His coaching "recruits" included Michigan State's Tom Izzo; Michigan's John Beilein; Kentucky's John Calipari; North Carolina's Roy Williams; UCLA's Steve Alford; Arizona's Sean Miller; Tennessee's Rick Barnes; Memphis's Josh Pastner; and West Virginia's Bob Huggins, who had lost his mother to cancer.

Kampe also tapped into long-time relationships to create two days of events at Detroit's MotorCity Casino and the Oakland Hills Country Club.

On Sunday, May 31, 10 winners of the month-long, online auction and their two guests arrived in Detroit. They enjoyed a strolling dinner at MotorCity Casino, met the coaches and spent the night at the casino's hotel.

The next morning, Kampe escorted the coaches to the Beaumont Hospital-Royal Oak cancer ward, where they interacted with patients and handed out souvenirs from their respective universities. In the afternoon, the 30 participants and the coaches met at Oakland Hills for lunch, 18 holes of golf with their assigned coach, and dinner.

Kampe's effort raised more than \$165,000 for the American Cancer Society.

"We are so excited with the success of this," says Anderson. "One hundred percent of the proceeds will go toward advancing our mission to help save lives."

For Kampe, with 535 career coaching wins, this may have been his biggest victory of all. 🍷

Fritz Reznor is a freelance writer from Pleasant Ridge, Michigan.

Greg Kampe (right) and University of Michigan basketball coach John Beilein (center) meet bidders before the "Beat Cancer" golf outing.



Michigan State University men's basketball coach Tom Izzo tees off.
Photos by Kelly Love

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE MOTIVATES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

By John Turk

It was a busy, stressful time. **Marlene Mullin, DNP, RN, SON '07**, was in the midst of coursework with the charter class of Oakland University's Doctor of Nursing program when she learned her father had been diagnosed with deep vein thrombosis.

She got worse news when her father's pulmonologist called and told her that her father could also have lymphoma. "I started reading everything I could. It was such a difficult time for my family."

Dr. Mullin learned through research that deep vein thrombosis can develop into pulmonary emboli and that it can also be associated with a cancer diagnosis. Researching and lecturing on the condition has since become one of her greatest passions. Her research, along with her work helping the homeless in Oakland County, Michigan, and efforts to improve the nursing field, earned her a Distinguished Alumni Award at the 27th Annual Nightingale Awards for Nursing Excellence.

Interim School of Nursing Dean Gary Moore, Ph.D., RN, who was Dr. Mullin's research advisor, says he admires Dr. Mullin's drive and expertise. "She had a solid conceptual grasp of advanced nursing issues, and was always ready to provide input to help improve both the program and the profession."

Dr. Mullin earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Madonna University, and a master's degree in the field from Wayne State University. Since 1979, she has practiced nursing at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and Troy, Sinai Grace Hospital in Detroit and at Providence Hospital in Southfield.

Although Dr. Mullin recently took a break from nursing in the workforce, she stays active in other ways. She is a past president of the Metro Detroit chapter of the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners (MICNP), and has served as chair of the Legislative Outreach and Mentoring committees since 2012. In her role on the Legislative Outreach Committee, Dr. Mullin regularly meets with state leaders in support of a bill that aims to obtain full practice of authority for nurse practitioners in the state.

She has also been on the Board of Directors of the HOPE Warming Center since 2009, and has helped in efforts that range from close care to assisting in the opening of a new specialty shelter for the organization.

In Dr. Mullin's words, knowledge comes with responsibility. "If you have knowledge, personal connections and unique opportunities, you need to use them for good to make a difference in the lives of others. ... I'm just motivated to make a difference."

In the eyes of many, from her parents to those who might not know her first name, she already has.

Learn more about Oakland University's Doctor of Nursing Practice program at oakland.edu/nursing. ➤



"If you have knowledge, personal connections and unique opportunities, you need to use them for good to make a difference in the lives of others."

– Dr. Marlene Mullin

STUDY ABROAD DONOR ENCOURAGES 'INVESTIGATING THE WORLD'

By John Turk

Hearing Patti Finnegan Sharf describe the places she has visited is like listening to the plot of a good adventure book. As a young woman, she bicycled across Europe with friends, hitching a ride once the group reached the hills of Bavaria. She swam in the Amazon. In Africa, Finnegan Sharf taught young children who she says were “glad to have someone educate them, even if it was on dirt floors.”



Student Khayriyyah Muhammad Smith (left) meets donor Patti Finnegan Sharf and fellow students Ian Lancaster and Justin Jones to describe their upcoming studies in France and Japan. Finnegan Sharf created a planned endowment for OU's Study Abroad programs.



These and other journeys, Finnegan Sharf says, are more than vacations — they are eye-opening experiences that foster an appreciation of one's own and other cultures. Finnegan Sharf recently created a \$550,000 planned endowment for Oakland University's Study Abroad programs.

Over the next five years, \$50,000 of the gift will be available for immediate use. The rest will be donated through Finnegan Sharf's estate to go towards a permanent endowment to help students in perpetuity.

"Opening one's experiences is important to making them aware of the world and really appreciating what they have," says Finnegan Sharf, whose late husband Stephan Sharf pledged more than \$21 million to the University in the past 15 years. "My hope is that when the students come back, hopefully they'll educate others here and help over there."

Her aspirations align with the University's mission to increase enrollment in study abroad programs. President George Hynd's long-term goal as part of the University's strategic plan is a 300 percent increase.

"Oakland University has had a commitment to understanding the non-Western world since our founding," President Hynd says. "With nearly 30 different study abroad programs today, our focus is to continue on that path. Patti's gift will significantly help the University expand its global reach to better prepare our students for careers in a global environment. We thank her for that."

Finnegan Sharf recently met three students ready to embark on summer study abroad programs made possible with her gift.

Justin Jones, majoring in Environmental Science and Japanese Language and Literature, will stay in the Japanese city of Hikone for eight months. Jones says he jumped for joy on discovering he received Finnegan Sharf's scholarship.

"To get the scholarship literally means everything to me," says Jones, who adds that he plans to use his time in Japan to

"Opening one's experiences is important to making them aware of the world and really appreciating what they have."

— Patti Finnegan Sharf

increase his understanding of the Japanese language. "I want to walk away with a deeper understanding of Japanese culture and a broader outlook on society as a whole."

Khayriyyah Muhammad Smith, an International Relations and French major, will travel to Paris for two purposes: write her Honors College thesis on French political parties and how they attract youth, and brush up on her French.

"There's not really a lot of primary research for my (thesis) topic since it's such a new thing, so I'm going over there to be able to do interviews with youth for this political party, and that's really exciting," she says, "because I never thought I would be doing international research."

The third student, Ian Lancaster, will travel to Orléans, France. He says he cannot wait to become immersed in the culture. "I have a proclivity toward languages," says Lancaster, who speaks French and also knows some German. He will collect data in different areas in France for a philosophy research paper.

Finnegan Sharf says she gets excited by students who are truly interested in their endeavors. "I want students to have that kind of enthusiasm, and to incite people to investigate the world." 🍷

Share your OU travel abroad memories and good photos on social media and at OUMag@oakland.edu.



"Establishing this program at OU could have more of an impact on students there than it would somewhere else. It's an opportunity for our parents to have a more lasting legacy at a school where they already made a difference."

— Clifford Harding III

(Left) Clifford Harding, Jr., Ph.D., made his way to OU from the University of Pennsylvania and founded Oakland's Biology Department in 1964 with Professor of Biology Walt Wilson, Ph.D. The pair were technically the first two Biology professors at Oakland. Four years later, Dr. Harding also assisted in the inception of what is now known as the Eye Research Institute.

SONS OF OU PIONEERS ENDOW SCIENCE LECTURE SERIES

By Sandra Beckwith

The adult children of two leaders in Oakland University's science community have endowed a lecture series designed to help students become more aware of scientific research topics.

The Clifford V. and Drusilla R. Harding Eye Research and Biology Endowed Lecture Series builds on the reputation and recognition that the Hardings brought to the University. Clifford Harding Jr., Ph.D., founding chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, recruited the first faculty for the Biology Department in 1964 and guided its design. He also worked closely with then-Chancellor Woody Varner to plan and develop the University's Eye Research Institute. In these and other roles, Dr. Harding played a pivotal leadership role in the sciences in the early days of Oakland.

Drusilla Harding, Ph.D., a pioneering and accomplished research scientist who stepped back from her career to raise the couple's two sons while the family lived in Rochester, was an adjunct faculty member in the Biology Department.

"Our late parents were very successful scientists who spent their careers at a number of prominent institutions, but we felt that they probably made the greatest impact at OU. That's why we selected this institution over any others," says Clifford Harding III, the couple's older son. "We also felt that establishing this program at OU could have more of an impact on

students there than it would somewhere else. It's an opportunity for our parents to have a more lasting legacy at a school where they already made a difference."

While the Hardings taught at OU, their family lived in the nearby faculty and staff subdivision, described by son Richard as "a unique neighborhood" that enhanced their educations by exposing them to thought leaders who helped shape their futures.

"Because our next door neighbor was a language professor, I was allowed to participate in a summer trip to Russia and Poland when I was only 16 and still in high school. Not many of my classmates had that kind of opportunity," says Richard Harding, an internal medicine physician in Connecticut.

"We had many opportunities to make friends with people who were intellectually and culturally active at a level that was unusual for their age. It was a good group of people to grow up with," echoes Clifford, a medical doctor and professor at Case Western Reserve University.

The first lecture will be presented by Frank Giblin, Ph.D., professor of Biomedical

Sciences and director of Oakland's Eye Research Institute, on Sept. 11 in the Oakland Center.

"I knew Dr. Harding as a lens research colleague and have fond memories of him as a soft-spoken, kind gentleman of science. I'm very honored to give the first lecture," Dr. Giblin says.

Future speakers will come from outside OU as a way "to provide something important that doesn't exist at OU," says Clifford Harding.

"Our goal is to honor my parents' accomplishments at OU with an annual event that enriches the academic experience by bringing in someone who is working in a research area that is relevant to both the Biology Department and the Eye Research Institute, our parents' legacies," says Clifford.

Both brothers are looking forward to attending the first lecture. That one, and all subsequent lectures, are free and open to the public. 🍷

Sandra Beckwith is a Fairport, New York-based freelance writer.

#OUBucketList

Oakland seniors step up to new tradition during Tower Climb *By John Turk*

Members of the Class of 2015 were invited this spring to ascend the steps to the top of the 151-foot Elliott Tower — one of the University's largest symbols of philanthropy — and leave a legacy in scholarships to future classes.

Matching their graduating year, 53 students donated at least \$20.15 to the Senior Class Gift Tower Climb. For many, the trip up the Tower's spiral staircase fulfilled an item on their "OU bucket list."

The students' gifts, totaling nearly \$1,400, were matched by the President's Office. More than \$2,700 will go to the Class of 2016 in the form of two scholarships.

Melanie Templeton, 22, who graduated this spring with a bachelor's degree in Biology, was one of the first to travel to the top of the carillon Tower and stood just feet from the 49 bronze bells. Templeton says she made her donation for the experience and to pay it forward.

"The school gave so much to us — I had a scholarship — so it was important for me to give back," she says. "I think the tradition will definitely grow."

Some students went to the top of the Tower with Oakland University Carillonneur Dennis Curry and played a few notes on the keyboard. For Kelly Goolsby, SEHS '15, watching Curry play was her favorite moment of the Tower Climb. "The bells were right above us," says Goolsby, 21. "It was really cool. It's the first year this was available to us, so it was just a great opportunity."

The Student Philanthropy Committee and the Office of Annual Giving coordinated the two-day event. Director of Annual Giving Kelly Brault says she believes the Senior Class Gift Tower Climb will become a new tradition on campus. "The Tower Climb involved students in a way that hadn't happened previously," she says.

"Many students approached us and told us they already plan to participate when they're seniors."

Adrienne Penney, assistant director of Annual Giving, adds that since the University's beginnings, philanthropy has played a key role in Oakland's success, starting with founder Matilda Dodge Wilson and more recently with Elliott Tower donors Hugh and Nancy Elliott.

"Gifts of all sizes can add up to make a big difference at Oakland University," Penney says. "We hope the Senior Class Gift Tower Climb will help reinforce that idea among our newest alumni. Plus, they get to make some really great memories before they leave Oakland."

To learn more about the Senior Class Gift Tower Climb or to donate to Oakland University, visit supportou.com.



PLAN YOUR NEXT EVENT AT *The 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 Oakland Center 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.



STUDENTS SHAPE THE HEART OF HER WORK AND GIFT

By Donna Mirabito

Jean Ann Miller befriends, encourages and inspires OU students and maintains relationships with hundreds of alumni, as she has for 32 years. The director of the Center for Student Activities and Leadership Development champions and supports campus programming and can usually be found behind the scenes of almost every student event on campus.

The residence halls community is also special to Miller, CAS '77, who spent “half of her OU life” in the Department of University Housing in roles ranging from hall director to assistant director.

The “proud black and gold graduate of Oakland University” has always put students at the heart of what she does.

“The students — they are the reason why I come to work every day with a smile on my face and in my heart.”

Last December, Miller demonstrated a personal dedication to OU students with a \$25,000 commitment to the University as

part of the All University Fund Drive (AUFD).

“Oakland University has been my ‘home away from home’ since I attended OU as an undergraduate,” she says. “This gift reflects the legacy of opportunities for current and future OU students to experience and enjoy while they attend OU.”

Miller’s gift will be used to support the Center for Student Activities Student Organization Gift Fund, Women of OU Critical Difference Scholarship, Women’s Basketball, Meadow Brook Hall, and the Department of Psychology. Miller will select the funds every year, and they may vary

from year to year. This year, funds will go to six scholarships and student organizations such as Alternative Spring Break, Student Organic Farmers, and WXOU.

Angie Schmucker says Miller’s gift is very personal to her and reflects areas that are “near and dear to Jean Ann’s heart.”

Her gift “puts the focus on students and demonstrates her belief in the organization and love of these particular funds,” adds Schmucker, executive director of Planned and Annual Giving. “She sought us out and asked us if this could be done. We were happy to design it to meet her needs.”



EARLY MEADOW BROOK THEATRE VOLUNTEERS COME FULL CIRCLE

By Sandra Beckwith

When **Thom, SECS '74, '70**, and **Maryann (Chorzempa) Foxlee, CAS '71**, retired about a decade ago, they didn't expect to pursue new theatre careers immediately. But that's what happened when Maryann decided that one good turn deserves another.

While she and Thom raised four children, Maryann, a high school English and drama teacher, believed drama programs helped her students build self-esteem and confidence. After receiving free student tickets from Cheryl Marshall, managing director of Meadow Brook Theatre on the Oakland University campus for years, Maryann decided to show her appreciation by volunteering for the theatre again after she retired.

Note that word "again."

Maryann and Thom, who met at OU as students, volunteered as ushers in the late '60s. Maryann was in the last class to meet OU founder Matilda Wilson, whose birthday was honored every year with a party and a prank. It was tradition then for OU students to "borrow" the Michigan State victory bell to ring at OU for every year of Wilson's age.



Thom and his fellow swim team members used a University vehicle to capture the bell — and got caught. When questioned about the vehicle, they said they received permission from “Woody.” Skeptical officials thought they meant Chancellor Woody Varner, but when the pranksters clarified that “Woody” was the swim team captain, who had permission from George Karas, the director of the Physical Plant, they were released.

Decades after that adventure, Maryann is back on campus as a member and past president of the Meadow Brook Theatre Guild, and Thom, a retired product manager and strategist for the Ford Motor Company, is president of the board of directors.

“When I joined the theatre board, I was able to use the knowledge and skill sets developed during my decades in the auto industry, although I was applying it to a totally different field,” Thom says.

He introduced branding, business management, strategic planning and best practices to guide the organization.

While she was Guild president, Maryann helped coordinate a wide range of volunteer activities that include hosting “Luncheon on the Aisle” and “Spotlights Market Fine Art and Gift Show” as well as other events that connect the theatre with the community. She continues to serve as an active volunteer.

“I can’t even begin to tally how much they’ve done for the theatre. If we need something done, I know who to call,” says Marshall.

There is no question that the theatre remains a constant in their lives, decades after they were student ushers, even presenting them with connections outside the region.

“We have been so fortunate to meet such wonderful MBT actors over the years and to see so many of them appear in TV shows, films and Broadway productions,” says Maryann. In fact, last year, they met up with Charis Vaughn, who was in *Shout! The Mod Musical* at MBT, when they saw her perform a scene from *The Lion King* on a Mediterranean Disney Cruise.

The Foxlees recently collaborated on a book celebrating the theatre’s golden anniversary this year. *Fifty Years of Meadow Brook Theatre* documents the theatre’s early days as well as its spinoff from OU in 2003 to become the “Theatre Ensemble,” a nonprofit professional theatre. (The Theatre now rents the space.)

Today, thanks to a strategy that focuses on family-friendly, quality productions, a talented and dedicated staff and the ongoing work of countless volunteers like the Foxlees, Meadow Brook continues to thrive as Michigan’s largest professional theatre.

“Artistic Director **Travis W. Walter, CAS ’02**, implemented the slogan ‘Meadow Brook Theatre — Michigan’s Answer to Broadway,’ and we all work hard to make sure we live up to that,” says Maryann. 🍷

Sandra Beckwith is a Fairport, New York-based freelance writer.

TO PURCHASE *FIFTY YEARS OF*
MEADOW BROOK THEATRE, PLEASE CONTACT
THE MBT BOX OFFICE AT (248) 370-3300.

OU introduces LGBTQ Studies minor

Undergraduate students can now earn a minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer or Questioning (LGBTQ) Studies.

Coordinated by the Women and Gender Studies program, the minor combines historical, social science, interpersonal and institutional investigations of sexualities, sexual identities and gender identities in U.S. and global contexts.

Professor of Sociology Jo Reger, Ph.D., director of the Women and Gender Studies program, says the minor combines well with many University programs of study, including education, business, health sciences, social sciences and liberal arts.

"It offers students an opportunity to study not only a changing population but also opens the door to academic inquiry into the ways sex, gender and sexuality shape our



world. It is both academic and pragmatic for today's world," she explains.

In offering the minor, OU keeps pace with other universities in terms of program offerings. Universities in Michigan offering some form of LGBTQ or Queer Studies include the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Grand Valley State

University, Michigan State University and Wayne State University.

For more information, visit the website or contact the Women and Gender Studies office at (248) 370-2154. ➤

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McIntosh appointed vice president for Student Affairs

Following a national search, Glenn McIntosh has been appointed vice president for Student Affairs. He had served as interim vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management since May 2013.

McIntosh founded the Center for Multicultural Initiatives in 1994 and served as its director until 2001. Concurrently, he founded the Academic Advising Resource Center and served as the center's director from 1998-2001. From 2001-2013, he was the assistant vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students.

McIntosh also established the University's national and regional award-winning Trustee Academic Success Scholarship program.

Prior to joining Oakland University, McIntosh held a number of administrative positions at Wayne State University, Eastern Michigan University and Bowling Green State University.

A native Detroit, he earned his master's degree in Community and Agency Counseling from Wayne State University and his bachelor's degree in Sociology and Business Administration from Central Michigan University. He is a licensed professional counselor. ➤

Claudia Petrescu named dean of graduate education



Claudia A. Petrescu, Ph.D., is OU's new dean of graduate education, effective August 10.

Dr. Petrescu joins OU from Eastern

Michigan University, where she took an active role in teaching, research and curriculum development, most recently as a professor of public administration and nonprofit management.

Her work has included serving as faculty associate for policies and procedure, and as assistant to the Dean of College of Arts and Sciences for strategic planning.

Dr. Petrescu is a former co-director of the Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Communities — a position through which she developed an institutional research infrastructure for EMU, identified grant opportunities for faculty, developed grants and supervised the university's Autism Collaborative Center.

Her Ph.D. is from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Dr. Petrescu also holds a Master of Social and Public Policy from Duquesne University and a Master of Economics from Babes-Bolyai University in Romania. ➤

Dr. Reger will edit esteemed academic journal



Jo Reger, Ph.D., professor of Sociology, has been selected as editor of *Gender & Society*, a top-ranked, peer-reviewed journal in the fields of sociology and women studies. The journal is ranked second for Women's Studies journals and 16th for Sociology journals.

According to Dr. Reger, *Gender & Society* is not only known for its research, but also for the ways it mentors young scholars through the peer review process.

"The journal is highly sought after by academics seeking to publish in the field," she says. "We receive approximately 600 manuscripts a year and will only be able to publish about 7 percent."

Three OU faculty members will serve as managing editors of the journal. They are Linda Gjokaj (Sociology), Elizabeth Paré (Sociology), and Lacey Story (Women and Gender Studies).

Dr. Reger started her position as editor in May and will continue to be editor for four years. The first issue edited by Oakland staff will be published in February 2016 and will feature cover art by artist and Associate Professor of Cinema Studies Andrea Eis, BFA. ➤

School of Business Administration earns top rankings, student honors

The School of Business Administration (SBA) is accruing recognition on the national front.

In Oakland's first year competing, six students took first place in best overall performance and best documents at the 51st International Collegiate Business Strategy Competition at California State University in Anaheim, California.

Taking high honors were Accounting seniors Laura Tack and David Sullivan; Finance junior Jon Kashat; Accounting junior Jonathan Strong; Finance seniors Phillip Johnson and Leah Slazinski and faculty advisor Joy Jiang, Ph.D., associate professor of Management.

Two recent national rankings feature the SBA. *The U.S. News and World Report's* "Best Grad Schools" 2016 edition includes the SBA within the Best Part-Time MBA Programs specialty. Oakland's MBA program is one of five programs ranked in Michigan.

In its 2015 College ROI Report, the marketplace data firm Payscale recognizes the SBA as a "Best Value College for Business Majors in Michigan" for annual return on investment and 20-year return on investment, when compared to other investments such as stocks or bonds. ➤



Graduates of OU's Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program have a nearly perfect pass rate on the national licensure board exam and 100 percent job placement following graduation.

School of Nursing and Focus: HOPE enter partnership

OU's School of Nursing has relocated the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program, Certified Nursing Assistant and other healthcare-related certificate and professional development programming to the Focus: HOPE offices at 1360 Oakman Boulevard in Detroit.

"The Focus: HOPE classroom, laboratory and office space will provide us with approximately 10,350 square feet of new space," says Gary Moore, Ph.D., RN, interim dean, School of Nursing. "This new location will serve approximately 200 of our students in a variety of programs."

Other benefits of hosting the program at Focus: HOPE include the opportunity for

students to use onsite child care, remediation services, social services, secure parking, an onsite cafeteria and a career services office.

The five-year agreement approved by the Board of Trustees follows the expiration of an agreement with the program's former home at the Riverview Institute.

"We look forward to maintaining a presence in Detroit and offering a high-quality education that leads to an in-demand job," Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost James P. Lentini says.

A grand opening will take place in November. ➤

Forensic nursing program bridges health care and criminal justice

Enthusiasts of health care and criminal justice can bridge the gap by studying forensic nursing at Oakland University this fall.

"This program is the first university-based forensic nursing program in the state of Michigan and one of the few programs in the country," says Kelly Berishaj, program coordinator and special instructor at OU.

"It offers nurses the opportunity to receive a Master of Science in Nursing - Forensic Nursing or a graduate certificate in forensic nursing."

Forensic nurses provide essential care and services to patients who are victims

of violence and trauma. They evaluate and treat patients for physical and psychological injury as well as collect evidence, such as DNA and blood, needed to prosecute a crime.

Graduates may practice in a variety of forensic nursing areas such as sexual assault, interpersonal violence, child/elder maltreatment, death investigation, and emergency preparedness and disaster management.

"Forensic nursing is a complex and evolving specialty that challenges the mind, body, and spirit of the nurse," Berishaj says. ➤





“My favorite aspects are the student connections, and for them to see faculty and staff serving them in the cafeteria. I think a lot of my student ambassadors were surprised to see me, staff and faculty members out of our element.”

— **Dawn Aubrey**, CAS '92, interim assistant vice president of Student Affairs and director of Admissions, who attended Midnight Breakfasts as an OU undergraduate and has missed only one since joining the OU staff in 1998.



On a (Cinnamon) Roll as Midnight Strikes By John Turk

While midnight on a weekday might not seem like the most appealing time to eat a large breakfast, Oakland University students have been doing it at least once a year for nearly 30 years.

Every year, University Housing invites students to meet in East Vandenberg Hall at the stroke of midnight to celebrate the student tradition of ending a semester and having fun before finals.

This year, a record 1,226 students filled the upstairs and downstairs cafeterias on April 8, says event organizer Kelly Garnett, CAS '07, '01, assistant director of Housing Enrollment and Marketing. “There were 600 people in the first 10 minutes.”

Garnett, who helped organize the event, says, “I love this event because students have an opportunity to gather purely for social fun, and we try to plan it so it comes near the end of the semester.”

Nearly 50 OU staff and faculty members served students at the “Heroes and Villains-” themed event. Upstairs, volunteers served “Wonder Woman’s Broccoli Quiche,” “Captain America’s Cinnamon Rolls of Freedom,” and other “hero” food, while

volunteers downstairs served “villain” food: “Green Goblin’s Snow Cones” and “Doctor Doom’s French Toast Casserole.”

Students sang along — and some danced — as dueling pianos played everything from the “Cheers” theme song to Lil’ John and The East Side Boyz hit “Get Low.” A magician traveled from table to table performing card tricks, while a palm reader on the lower level told students what their futures held.

Freshman Engineering major Alex Martin joined the event with a group of friends. The breakfast just happened to fall the night before a final in his chemistry class, he says. “After this, I’m going to bed. I already put my studying in — we ate a lot.”

Garnett says the breakfast is a chance for students to let off steam before finals, and a satisfying opportunity for staff members see students happy and enjoying themselves.

“It makes us feel like a big family, which we feel like in Housing all the time ... but when you’re eating waffles in the middle of the night for no reason, it feels even more like a family.” 🍌

“Homecoming & Reunion Weekend is a time for you as members of the OU family to come back to campus and participate in a variety of activities that are meaningful to you. Whether you are here often or haven’t been back to campus for a while, we hope you leave feeling proud of OU, knowing that it respects its rich heritage as it grows and moves into the future.”

— Sue Helderop, director, Alumni and Community Engagement

COME SEPTEMBER, COME HOME TO OU!

The entire OU community — alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends — will gather Sept. 18-20 for the 2015 Homecoming & Reunion Weekend celebration that features sports, music, food and lots of family fun.



Two new events open the weekend on Friday, Sept. 18.

At 11:30 a.m., the entire campus community, OU alumni and families are welcome for food, music and fun activities at the Elliott Tower.

On Friday evening, distinguished alumni award recipients will be honored at the Alumni Awards Banquet at 6 p.m. in the Oakland Center. At approximately sunset (7 p.m.), everyone is welcome to enjoy another new Homecoming weekend event: “... Against the Sunset,” a dance in the Varner Courtyard.

A new event, the Milestone Reunion Brunch (for classes '65, '70, '75, '80, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05, '10 and '15), promises to be a time to remember, share and recognize classes celebrating anniversaries. The class of '65 will be recognized for its 50th anniversary and the class of '90 will be recognized for its 25th anniversary.

Saturday, Sept. 19, is filled with activities for alumni, friends and families. Alumni are welcome to 50th anniversary celebrations for the School of Engineering and Computer Sciences (Engineering Center) as well as the Lowry Center for Early

Childhood Education (Pawley Hall). Both events run from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Milestone Reunion Brunch runs from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center.

The popular OUAA Family Festival, Homecoming BBQ and men's soccer game (OU vs. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee return for Saturday afternoon.

Saturday evening ends with *Black and Gold*, a performing arts extravaganza produced by the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance.

On Sunday, Sept. 20, don't miss the OU women's soccer team play Duquesne. An alumni baseball game is also planned.

The full schedule of weekend activities is at oakland.edu/homecoming.

While you are on campus, check the Homecoming welcome centers at the Oakland Center and the outdoor welcome stations in front of South Foundation Hall and in front of the O'rena for complete information about events and activities. ➤



FAMILY TIES Mom, son graduate in same class

Whether they're Grizzlies or Pioneers, some families choose to make attending Oakland University a tradition. These Legacy families are classified by whether members in two different generations have earned degrees or academic certificates from the University. The Fabian family of Rochester, Michigan, takes the meaning of "Legacy" to another level.

Ryan Fabian, SBA '15, and his mother, **Anita Fabian, SON '15**, both walked the Commencement stage at the Athletic Center O'rena in May. And both couldn't be more proud to have gone through the college experience together. Following graduation, Anita received her state nursing certification and plans to search for work in her field.

"I just thought it was a precious moment; something great to look back on," says Anita of her graduation during the same time as her son. "It just made the whole experience that much more special. I wouldn't trade it for the world."

Ryan, 23, who studied operations management at the School of Business Administration, graduated as an active member of OU's Greek life and president of the Oakland chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He was hired after graduation by suspension component producer Rossini International.

Besides being able to watch his mom go through her own college experiences, a major connection he feels to the University is its close-knit community, he says. "It's a feeling where you're not one of a million students — you can get that close connection to teachers. You're able to matter in class. Having that experience and being able to connect with teachers and classmates in a way that matters was a big thing for me."

But Ryan and Anita have another connection to OU that is, in large part, the reason they chose to study at Oakland. Anita's husband, **David Fabian, SECS '87**, worked his way to a great job at General Motors after graduating, Anita says. He is now an operations manager at Faurecia. Two of David's brothers are also OU alumni and are succeeding in their fields.

"Seeing my family go through OU and get great jobs showed me that OU is definitely a big factor," says Ryan. "It obviously isn't just some random school if it helped my dad get where he's at."

Anita added that her 16-year-old son also plans on attending Oakland.

Oakland University offers many different scholarships, special events and special seating during Commencement for its Legacy families. An example is Legacy Night at the O'rena during basketball season, where the OU Alumni Association hosts current Legacy students and their families, and offers a pregame dinner on campus followed by a Golden Grizzlies basketball game.

To learn more about OU's Legacy programs, visit oualumni.com/legacy. 🐾

Leadership OU

Alumni mentor juniors, seniors

After Taylor Mobey, 21, experienced Leadership OU, the Oakland senior knew she wanted to return to her alma mater to give students a head start at preparing for the workforce.

"It was probably the best thing that happened to me at OU," says Mobey, who is studying Human Resources. "I'm the first in my immediate family to attend college, so I got a lot of knowledge from people in different career fields that I didn't have before."

Hosted by alumni and community partners, Leadership OU is designed to develop professional growth among junior- and senior-level students. Every month for most of two semesters, 15 students receive advice on leadership, mentoring, and networking. Students meet regularly with alumni mentors matched to fit their career paths and visit professionals in other fields for presentations on workplace readiness.

Mobey's mentor, **Jennifer Sousa Llewellyn, SEHS '00**, is a human resources professional who directs Troy Michigan Works! with a focus on the area's school district. Mobey says Llewellyn "really helped me figure out what I wanted out of my life, taught me how to build my network of people and helped me gain confidence."



Although her Leadership OU program has ended, Oakland senior Taylor Mobey still keeps in touch with mentor Jennifer Sousa Llewellyn, SECS '00.

That confidence helped Mobey secure an internship at EdEn Inc., a grant-writing firm in Rochester, Michigan, where she would like to work after graduating in May 2016.

Mobey anticipates an additional opportunity: "When I'm out of school, I'd love to come back and help someone like my mentor helped me."

To be considered for Leadership OU, students must have junior or senior status and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above. Alumni who would like to be mentors should contact Student Engagement and Outreach Coordinator Hallie Bills at (248) 364-6121 or hjbills@oakland.edu.



Golfers show support 'fore' OUAA Scholarships

Oakland alumni and friends golf together each year to support the Oakland University Alumni Association (OUAA) Scholarship Program.

This summer, the annual OUAA Golf Challenge raised more than \$30,000 and involved more than two dozen individual and corporate sponsors.

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In addition to private visits to the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay, our city tour will include the 12th-century cathedral of Notre-Dame-de-Paris, Sainte Chapelle, the Eiffel Tower, and the exquisite Luxembourg Gardens, among other highlights. Pricing is \$2,995 for seven days and five nights, including airfare from Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

UPCOMING TRIPS

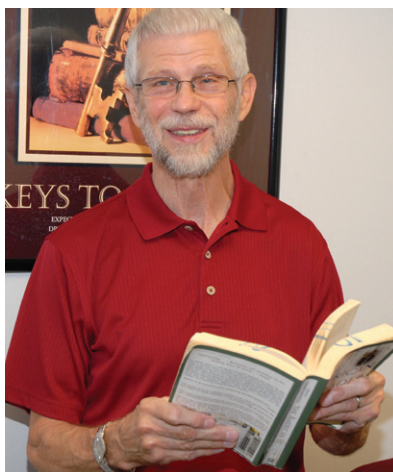
- **Death Valley:** Feb. 21-26, 2016
- **Cuban Discovery:** Feb. 25-March 4, 2016
- **Paris – City of Light:** March 16-22, 2016
- **Machu Picchu:** March 14-19, 2016
- **Palms in Paradise:** April 24-May10, 2016
- **Portraits of the Past:** May 9-20, 2016
- **Danube River Cruise:** May 25-June 3, 2016
- **Alaska:** July 22-29, 2016
- **Oktoberfest – Vienna and Bavaria:** Sept. 9-18, 2016
- **Flavors of Northern Italy:** Sept. 17-25, 2016

For more information about upcoming trips, please contact Amanda Fylan, assistant director of Alumni and Community Engagement, at (248) 364-6128 or fylan@oakland.edu. 🌞

1960s

James T. Selecky, SECS '69, has semiretired and resigned as an owner and managing principal at Brubaker & Associates Inc. Selecky remains associated with and will work part time for Brubaker.

1970s



Chris Brockman, CAS '71, published his fourth book, *What to Think About: Philosophy for a Thoughtful Younger Generation*, written from a rationalist, humanist perspective. Previous books include *What about gods?*, a classic of religious skepticism for children; *Growing Up in Boom Times*, a memoir of growing up in Oakland County; and *I Used to Be Old*, a themed poetry collection on the joys and challenges of getting older. He is an English instructor at Vance-Granville Community College in Henderson, North Carolina.



Joseph Dwan, CAS '75, was recognized with the prestigious Fellow of the American Association for Respiratory Care designation. In 2009, Dwan retired as director of Respiratory Care for Kaiser Permanente's Northwest Region. He then published a book titled *Adult Critical Care Review*, and began

traveling the country teaching board-prep seminars. Dwan is board certified in respiratory Adult Critical Care, Neonatal and Pediatrics, Pulmonary Function, and Sleep Disorders. He sits on several professional boards, including the Oregon Society for Respiratory Care, the AARC House of Delegates, and the Oregon Respiratory and Polysomnographic Licensing Board. Dwan and his wife live on a small ranch in Oregon.



Nelson E. Fabian, SBA '70, recently concluded a 31-year career as the executive director and CEO of the National Environmental Health Association. During that time he

built the Denver-based national association into a strong voice for environmental and public health. He worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and an international array of other nongovernmental organizations on issues as disparate as pandemic flu, food safety, bioterrorism response and environmental sustainability. Fabian's new pursuit is to help cities across America and Canada with a new budgeting process that aligns spending with community priorities. He has created a new organization, the Center for Priority Based Budgeting, to aid his efforts.

Coleta A. (Morlock) Fukuzawa, CAS '72, is an administrator for a Facebook Danish American genealogy group. She also assists others in researching their ancestors. Fukuzawa worked at Beaumont Hospital in clerical administration before retiring. She has a blog that mainly deals with vintage actors, actresses and television shows. She also promotes local events and volunteers at the Troy Historic Village. Fukuzawa has three children and two grandchildren.

Joan R. Miller, SEHS '76, '68, formerly a teacher at Clinton Valley mental hospital, recently wrote a biography concerning the life and times of Michigan's 12th governor, Moses Wisner. It was

published with the help of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Miller also recently wrote a paper about her research and final accomplishment of re-creating the 8,000-year-old slippers found in Mammoth Cave, which was published by the *Archaeology Journal of the Southeast*. Since retirement, Miller has enjoyed volunteering at the Cranbrook Science Museum Collection Department, the Port Huron Art and Science Museum, the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Museum and the Mammoth Cave National Park Archaeology summer program. Miller now gives presentations and runs discussion groups at the Rochester Hills Older Persons' Commission senior center.



Robert A. Anderson

1980s

Robert A. Anderson, CAS '80, was recently appointed vice president for Alumni Relations and Development at Albion College.

Before his appointment, Anderson served as acting associate vice president and chief development officer for the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor. Anderson holds fundraising certifications from the Indiana University School of Philanthropy and the Association of Healthcare Philanthropy Madison Institute.

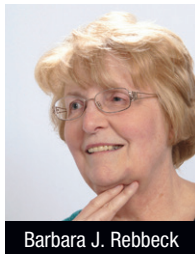


Allan Benedict

Allan Benedict, CAS '80, is pleased to announce the 15-year anniversary of his company, A&K Research, Inc., a national marketing research and consulting firm located in Northville,

Michigan. The success and longevity of the company would not have been possible without the support of his wife, Kathleen, and his two sons, Allan (2014 CMJ College Promoter of the Year at college radio station The Syndicate) and Ryan (junior aerospace major at the University of Michigan College of Engineering).

Barbara J. Rebbeck, SEHS '85, is a past president of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English and a former director of the Oakland Writing Project. She taught English for almost 30 years at schools in Wyandotte, South Lyon, Farmington and Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, among others. She retired in 2005 and began to write. Rebbeck just published her first novel, *NOLA Gals*, which celebrates the victory of hope over prejudice through the lives of two young girls in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.



Barbara J. Rebbeck

1990s

Bradley N. Boodt, CAS '90, was elected to a three-year term on Holland & Hart LLP's Management Committee. The five-person committee oversees the management and strategic direction of the entire law firm, which has more than 470 attorneys in 15 offices across the Mountain West and Washington, D.C. Boodt will serve as the committee's regional office representative.



Bradley N. Boodt

2000s

Curtis A. Glatter, CAS '00, an inventor and musician, has won various awards throughout the years, including the 2010 New York City World Maker Faire Editor's Choice Award, the 2011 Detroit Maker Faire Editor's Choice award and was named a top innovator of 2010 by oninnovation.org. He has also been heard as a composer and musician on several record labels and radio stations. Glatter earned a medical billing certification from Ross Medical Education Center as has been certified to teach English as a second language by the Washtenaw (County, Michigan) Literacy Association. For more information about Glatter's media and ambitions, email him at cgindetmi@gmail.com.

Samir Hanna, CAS '09, was recently selected to be an administrative law judge (ALJ) for the State of Michigan. Judge Hanna is also the current program manager for MACC Legal, a nonprofit focused on seeking revitalization of Detroit's East Side. Prior to becoming an ALJ, Hanna was the director of the Fellowship Law Center, PLLC, where he saved his clients more than \$500,000 in unemployment insurance appeals.



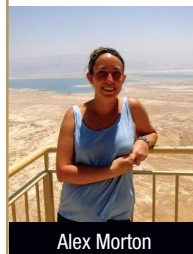
Robert J. Ray

Robert J. Ray, SBA '05, was promoted to senior wealth strategy associate for the Levy, Bocknek & Ray Wealth Consulting Group of UBS Financial Services Inc. He has also been recognized for his commitment to assisting clients with wealth management services and helping them reach their financial goals.

Jaime (Lenderman) Sinutko, SON '09, '00, is the dean of Chamberlain College of Nursing's Troy, Michigan, campus. She has more than a decade of experience as a nurse educator and nearly 15 years of experience as a registered nurse. Prior to joining Chamberlain, Dr. Sinutko was an inaugural director of nursing and associate professor at Rochester College School of Nursing, where she led the Michigan Board of Nursing approval process and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accreditation for the online Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and traditional BSN programs. Dr. Sinutko's previous experience in academia includes special lecturer and project manager at Oakland University School of Nursing.

Vincent Stevens, BGS '06, director of financial planning of Brotherhood Oath Mentoring Services (BHO) helps provide the necessary life skills and support to young boys and men aged 8 to 23 throughout the metro Detroit area. BHO fosters learning and intellectual excellence by working with professionals, educators, and innovators to create a safe, fulfilling and academically enriching environment,

which will ensure young men contribute to the community in a positive manner.



Alex Morton

2010s

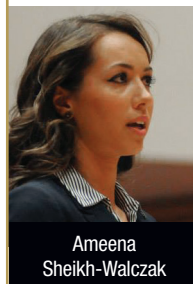
Alex Morton, CAS '14, of Muskegon, Michigan, was accepted into the Peace Corps and departed for Paraguay last March. There, Morton is a community service volunteer; she lives and works at the community level to organize projects focusing on education, youth development, health, environment and business. Morton will work with municipalities, cooperatives, schools, nongovernmental organizations, neighborhood commissions and other organizations to help the community evaluate and address its needs.



Jane Owen

Jane Owen, SEHS '10, became president of Vistage Michigan. As president, Owen is responsible for growing Vistage Michigan by adding quality chairs and supporting their

development in order to continue to enhance the lives of Vistage's CEO members, increase Vistage Michigan brand awareness, and create and improve processes that are efficient and sustaining.



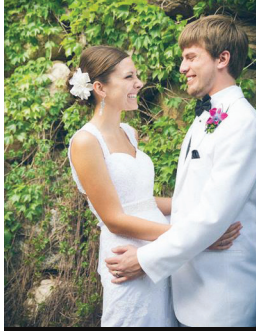
Ameena Sheikh-Walczak

Ameena Sheikh-Walczak, CAS '11, an Honors College graduate and second-year student at the Wayne State University School of Law, was part of a team that in March was awarded

second place at the 31st annual Cardozo-BMI Entertainment & Communications Law Moot Court Competition, a national event held each year in New York City. Sheikh-Walczak was also named a winner of the Wayne State University Law Moot Court's Arthur Neef Competition Finals last November.

ENGAGEMENTS, MARRIAGES AND ANNIVERSARIES

Kelsea M. Schodowski, CAS '12, on May 18, 2013, married Chandler Macocha, an aerospace engineer who graduated from the University of



Kelsea M. Schodowski

Michigan. Kelsea, an Oakland University Honors College alumna, gives piano lessons as her second job, which is her true passion. The couple lives in Clarkston, Michigan, with their cat, Salem, and they each have full-time jobs to fund their trips abroad and fixing up their home.

Get connected with OUAA social media

Be social and stay in the loop. Keep in touch with fellow classmates and your alma mater through these online social networks:

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- Matilda Mondays
- Transformation Tuesdays: See how campus has changed.
- Swag-Pack Wednesdays: Participate to win OU gear and prizes.
- Throwback Thursdays: Stroll down memory lane.
- Submit your OU photos to be highlighted on the OUAA page.

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- Share career tips and explore employment options.
- Discover inside connections and past and present colleagues.
- Connect with Oakland alumni, faculty, staff and students.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

- Find the latest campus news.
- Stay connected with upcoming events.

Visit oualumni.com/social.com to find OUAA and OU on social media. ➤

DEATHS

1960s

Ann H. (Mastro) Buckley, SEHS '65, on Dec. 14, 2014.

Gladys (Czeizler) Cifelli, SEHS '67, on Dec. 12, 2014.

Marion A. (Hughes) Hackett, SEHS '68, on Dec. 13, 2014.

James J. Krause, SBA '69, on April 12, 2014.

Marilyn Wiener, CAS '64, on Feb. 2, 2015.

1970s

Ruth A. Aiello, SBA '74, on Jan. 13, 2015.

Darlene G. Allen, SEHS '72, on Oct. 9, 2014.

Peter M. Betzing, SBA '78, on June 20, 2014.

Carol A. (Hamel) Bonjernoer, SEHS '78, on Dec. 7, 2014.

Isabelle E. Cordier, SEHS '73, on July 19, 2014.

Gary S. Grubacich, CAS '73, on Jan. 12, 2015.

Gregory B. Iwasyshyn, CAS '74, on May 3, 2014.

Gayle (Baird) Maurer, CAS '74, on Jan. 19, 2015.

Robert H. Roeder, SEHS '78, on April 11, 2014.

Doris R. Sharkey, SEHS '75, on Feb. 4, 2015.

Burton D. Sherrard, CAS '74, on Dec. 15, 2014.

Victor W. Swiderski, CAS '72, on March 20, 2014.

Deborah A. Wujek, SEHS '79, on Dec. 11, 2014.

1980s

Robert L. Becker, SBA '80, on July 27, 2014.

Debra P. (Barriger) Burnside, SBA '85, on May 20, 2014.

Mark A. Chadwick, CAS '81, on Dec. 5, 2014.

Robyn J. (Peters) Golabek, SON '82, on March 14, 2015.

Mary Gordon, SEHS '88, on Jan. 31, 2015.

Janet N. Hacha, CAS '85, on Jan. 27, 2015.

Darrin W. Harris, SBA '88, on May 6, 2014.

Marguerite Kerwin, SEHS '88, on Aug. 20, 2014.

Shirley J. Patterson, SEHS '83, on July 7, 2014.

Steven A. Redding, SBA '81, on Nov. 4, 2014.

Sheila K. Stephenson, CAS '82, on Jan. 16, 2015.

Loran W. Walker, CAS '86, on Nov. 25, 2014.

Gregory S. Weber, CAS '89, on Dec. 29, 2014.

1990s

Linda R. Kolnierz, SEHS '94, '78, on Jan. 8, 2015.

Marilyn J. (Macleod) Langley, SEHS '98, on July 29, 2014.

Kathleen Pranger, SEHS '90, on Feb. 8, 2015.

Constance E. Ratliff, SON '95, on Feb. 21, 2015.

James W. Schmaltz, SECS '91, on Sept. 29, 2014.

Charles F. Slabe, SECS '95, on March 12, 2014.

Joanne S. Spencer, SEHS '91, on Nov. 30, 2014.

Frances E. Wooley, SEHS '97, on Jan. 12, 2015.

2000s

Karen L. (Smallwood) Fitzgerald, SEHS '00, on Jan. 30, 2015.

Elizabeth D. Hardy, CAS '02, on Nov. 4, 2014.

Courtney L. (Bartoy) Jones, CAS '05, on Oct. 30, 2014.

2010s

Amy Marie Peters, SON '14, on Feb. 13, 2015.

FACULTY AND STAFF DEATHS

V. John (Jack) Barnard, Ph. D., professor emeritus of History, on April 19, 2015, in Hyannis, Massachusetts, at 82 years old. Professor Barnard — an Ohio State University, Oberlin College and University of Chicago graduate — joined Oakland University's Department of History in 1964. He served two terms as department chair (1974-84 and 1987-90), was president of the faculty union from 1987 to 1989 and retired in 1997 after 33 years on the department's faculty. Professor Barnard also authored two books, *Walter Reuther and the Rise of the Auto Workers* and

American Vanguard: The United Auto Workers during the Reuther Years, 1935-1970, which earned the State History Award from the Historical Society of Michigan in 2005.

Peter Binkert, Ph.D., professor emeritus of Linguistics, on Feb. 10, 2015. Dr. Binkert started with the Oakland University Department of Linguistics faculty in 1970 and retired in 2014. He served as department chair, during which time he helped grow the department from 12 student majors and four faculty members in 1988 to more than 70 undergraduate and graduate majors and seven full-time faculty members in 2008.



Susan M. Cree, on May 28, 2015. Cree joined Oakland University in 1988 and served as an office assistant in University Human Resources and the School of Education and Human Services. She retired in 2004.

Larry Chunovich, trustee emeritus, on April 14, 2015. Chunovich was appointed to the Oakland University Board of Trustees in 1987 and provided leadership and service to the University community until 1994. A Memorial Scholarship has been established to honor Trustee Chunovich. Checks should be made payable to Oakland University, with Chunovich Legacy Scholarship in the memo and sent to Gift Accounting, John Dodge House, 2200 North Squirrel Road, Rochester, Michigan 48309.

Daniel Fryer, senior Windows systems engineer, on June 11, 2015, at 43 years old. Fryer joined Oakland University in 2003 and worked in the University Technology Services Department until his passing.

Rajwant Malhotra, M.D., on April 28, 2015, at 67 years old. Dr. Malhotra was a professor in the Department of



Pathology at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. Dr. Malhotra taught in the M1 and M2 curricular years and was a mentor for students who took pathology internships at Beaumont. She was a physician at William Beaumont Hospital. Dr. Malhotra's husband, Yash, and children Anu and Shelly, survive her.

Memorial tributes may be made to Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine or Gleaners Food Bank.

Patrick (Pat) McNeill, on May 15, 2015. McNeill joined Oakland University in 1966 and served as an Audio Visual Engineer for Classroom Support and Instructional Technical Services until his retirement in 2005.

Daniel R. Pieper, M.D., on May 2, 2015, at 50 years old. Dr. Pieper was an associate professor of Neurosurgery at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine and director of neurosurgery, residency program director and chief of skull base surgery, Beaumont Hospitals.

Dr. Pieper's expertise and compassionate care in the treatment of cerebrovascular, skull base and craniofacial surgery was internationally recognized, and he was one of the leading authorities in the treatment of tumors affecting hearing, such as acoustic neuromas.

His additional professional roles included neurosurgeon, Michigan Head & Spine Institute, clinical professor of surgery and director of the Neurosurgery Training Program, Michigan State University; and gamma knife neuroscience director, Providence Hospital.

Alumni,
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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 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. ➤

Noted composer performs with OU Symphony, choral students

During a residency at Oakland this spring, noted choral music composer and National Medal of Arts winner Morten Lauridsen took time to both work and perform with OU's music students.

Preceding a concert at Detroit's Orchestra Hall, a lecture and Michael Stillwater's documentary of Dr. Lauridsen's reach as a composer were featured at Varner Recital Hall.

In "Shining Night: A Portrait of Composer Morten Lauridsen," former National Endowment for the Arts Chair Dana Gioia says, "Morten Lauridsen seems to me one of the few living composers who I would call great. He's one of the few composers who I have conviction will be performed 100, 200 years from now."

The concert in Detroit included choral and instrumental arrangements of Dr. Lauridsen's "O Magnum Mysterium," his "Lux Aeterna," and more, with OU professors Gregory Cunningham and Michael Mitchell conducting. The composer accompanied the Oakland performing groups on piano and spoke after intermission. ➤

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO PREPARE OUR NEWEST GRADS



Marianna Stepp

May 2015 graduate

Human Resource Development
School of Education and Human Services

What's next?

Summer internship in human resources at Comerica Bank, and grad school (likely OU) in a few years, after getting more experience in the HR field.

Scott Shermetaro

May 2015 graduate

Mechanical Engineering
School of Engineering and Computer Science

What's next?

Attending University of Virginia School of Law; considering both corporate and patent law.

Meet and support other students like Marianna and Scott at
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SEPTEMBER 18 – 20, 2015

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