

Points of Pride

Colleagues,

I just love the following thought from inspirational author H. Jackson Brown, Jr., because it is so creative, vivid and telling:

"Talent without discipline is like an octopus on roller skates. There's plenty of movement, but you never know if it's going to be forward, backwards, or sideways."

Do you know what I love even more than that quote? Learning about how so many members of the OU community are moving in the right direction.

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

CATCHING WAVES

You may have seen in an [Oakland Press article](#) that dozens of OU students have helped a local company ride a wave of the future, and in the process immersed themselves in absolutely energizing learning experiences.



Setting aside the puns, I was thrilled to learn that **43 School of Engineering and Computer Science students** working at Oakland University's OU INC SmartZone Business Incubator have helped Wave Water Works, LLC, develop and refine new technology that creates clean, electrical energy from the motion of waves.

These students are also not only seeing – but helping to envision – how the company's "Oscillo Drive" can be adapted to capture energy from any form of oscillation that produces sufficient mechanical motion.

In case anyone assumes that our students are playing a peripheral role in the development of this revolutionary alternative energy source, let's let them know that our aspiring professionals have contributed about \$1.5 million worth of engineering services to this project over the last two years!

LET IT FLOW



I will readily admit that I am and will always be a physician, but I will just as readily argue that one doesn't need to be a physician to be intrigued and inspired by the work and accomplishments of **Assistant Professor Randal Westrick**.

This distinguished biological sciences faculty member recently received more than \$2 million in National Institutes of Health and American Heart Association research grants to identify genes that might help create therapies to prevent the formation of life-threatening clots in blood vessels. This is very [exciting news](#), particularly when one considers that about 100,000 people die each year in the U.S. alone as a result of such clots.

And by the way, the good news does not end there. Dr. Westrick will use part of his grant revenue to continue offering both graduate and undergraduate students research learning opportunities.

SECOND WIND

Retirement? What is that?

I am sure that **recent graduate Richard Morrow** has had those questions cross his mind more than once.

This [School of Business Administration article](#) explains that even after managing a demanding career in the U.S. Air Force and raising three children, Mr. Morrow made it a priority to complete a bachelor's degree in human resources management here at Oakland.



This is all the more impressive when one learns that his attempts to complete a degree over the years were interrupted at least eight separate times while he maintained his commitment to serve our country.

Honor and determination are some pretty admirable qualities in a person, and I think you will agree that Mr. Morrow has demonstrated both with military precision.

*Is there a point of pride you feel is worth sharing with the campus community?
If so, please [submit your idea](#) for consideration.*

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