

From the Office of the
President

Points of Pride

Colleagues,

There's a word that threads all of this week's Points of Pride together, and to make sure I had exactly the right one, I consulted the Webster's New World College Dictionary, Fifth Edition. Here is what I found:

persist per-sist
verb

1. to refuse to give up, esp. when faced with opposition or difficulty; continue firmly or steadily
2. to continue insistently, as in repeating a question
3. to continue to exist or prevail; endure; remain

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

A RAPID RISE

After graduating from our Executive MBA program in 2013, **Casey Kandow** worked his way through three job promotions in just three years – an astounding feat to say the least. He now serves as chief operations officer of McLaren Greater Lansing.



If this kind of upward mobility alone weren't enough to grab attention, Mr. Kandow also shared three secrets of success that I could not endorse more than I already do – hard work, mentorship and education. Although our intrepid alumnus had to supply the hard work, I think we can be proud of the fact that he found the other two ingredients right here at OU.

A big part of the reason I became president of Oakland University is because I want to work with faculty, staff, advisors, supporters and everyone in this community to ensure that all of our students enjoy the benefits of these three secrets of success. And while we're on the topic, I hope we can agree that they actually shouldn't be secret at all!

ON A CAMPAIGN

For students who would like to find out what it means to get the most out of their higher education experience, **Nu Omega – the OU chapter of the Pi Sigma Alpha national political science honor society** – sets an impressive example.



Last year alone, the group hosted presidential election debate watch parties and other election-related events; handed out free pocket versions of the U.S. Constitution; participated in the Michigan Truth Squad event as part of its ongoing Elephant in the Room series; collected donations for the Hope Hospitality and Warming Center in Pontiac; and still far more.

In light of all that these students do, Pi Sigma Alpha recently presented Nu Omega with its sixth "Best Chapter Award" in seven years. In sports they would call that kind of track record a dynasty, but I think we can simply call it fantastic.

HONORED ONCE MORE



It's one thing for Oakland University to be confident that it is providing students the absolute best in academic programs, but it is another thing altogether to get a vote of confidence from students themselves.

This year, **450 highly accomplished students** chose Oakland University for their college education and, specifically, enrollment in the Honors College. Smart

students make smart choices, and clearly OU is a smart choice for learners aiming to succeed.

And if sheer numbers leave any room for doubt regarding Oakland's rising reputation and widening visibility, I think it is also telling that the Honors College has broken its own new student enrollment records for five years in row!

*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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