

Contributors

Jonathan Benefiel is a mathematics major in The Honors College. He plans to graduate in 2009 then work towards an MAT in mathematics.

Chris Brockman (1971, Philosophy) cut his classical music teeth on the hill at the Meadowbrook Music Festival. He subsequently became music and dance critic for the Lansing *State Journal*. He currently teaches writing for Vance-Granville (NC) Community College.

K. Bill Byrne spent thirty years in training and marketing in the automotive industry, the bulk of that time with Volkswagen of America. He teaches Rhetoric 150 and 160 at Oakland University as a Special Lecturer.

Carla Butwin is a junior majoring in studio art with a specialization in painting. She is also a member of The Honors College. Upon graduating she plans to attend graduate school to receive her MFA, and go on to become a professor and professional artist. Her hobbies include any art form, reading, poetry, playing the piano, and animals.

Alice Carleton is a dancer, singer, writer and poetess. She returned to school last year and won a scholarship, and was 1 of 10 recipients out of 1,600 applicants in the U.S. and Canada. Her latest endorsement for her memoir is Nikki Giovanni.

James W. Dow is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology. He has worked in Mexico with the Ñāhñu (Otomí) Indians. He is a founding member of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion. He has authored many books and articles on religion, many of which can be seen on his web page at <http://personalwebs.oakland.edu/~dow>. He also enjoys sailing and working with amateur radio.

David A. Dulio is Associate Professor of Political Science. He teaches courses in American politics, with a specialty in campaigns and elections, political parties, and Congress.

Sherman Folland is Professor of Economics. He publishes numerous articles focusing on health economics. With two colleagues, he is also

author of the leading textbook in that field, *The Economics of Health and Health Care*.

David Garfinkle is Professor of Physics. He does research on Einstein's theory of relativity and has recently written a book on black holes and dark matter called *Three Steps to the Universe* (Chicago, 2008).

Kellie Hay is Associate Professor of Communication and Journalism. She teaches classes in cultural studies, critical ethnography, and the poetics of culture. Her current research is focused on cultural citizenship and the U.S. Patriot Act.

Alice Horning is Professor of Rhetoric and Linguistics. She teaches courses in Composition and Reading in Rhetoric and in the history of the English Language, Psycholinguistics and Language Acquisition in the Department of Linguistics. Her research focuses on the psycholinguistics of literacy.

Serge Kruk spent the close to fifteen years in the industrial world of software development, designing communication protocols. A few years of graduate work at the University of Waterloo enticed him to academia and he joined the Oakland community in 2000. With a group of deeply committed colleagues, he has spent the last few years on the sisyphaen task of improving the Mathematics remedial classes offered at the University.

Pamela Light is a graduate of OU with a Bachelors Degree in English and Film Studies (1983) and a Masters Degree in English (1985). She is chairperson of the English Department at Rochester College.

Cynthia Miree-Coppin has been at Oakland for 9 years and is an Associate Professor of Management. Her research explores different aspects of strategic management and higher education pedagogy. Miree-Coppin has published in the several journals including the *Journal of Operations Management*, the *Journal of Small Business Strategy* and *Journal of The Academy of Business Education*.

Brian Murphy (born in Detroit in 1939) concluded, in August of 2004, a 35-year career as a member of the English Department, which included a 17-year term as Director of OU's Honors College. In February 2007, his play *The Importance of Being* received a "staged reading" by the Medicine Show Theater in New York.

Jude V. Nixon is Professor of English and director of The Honors

College. He is the author of *Gerard Manley Hopkins and His Contemporaries: Liddon, Newman, Darwin, and Pater* (1994), editor of *Victorian Religious Discourse: New Directions in Criticism* (2004), co-editor of volume 6, *The Sermons and Religious Writings*, of the 8 volumes *The Collected Works of Gerard Manley Hopkins* (OUP, 2010), and co-editor of *Science, Religion, and Natural Theology*, volume 3 of the 8 volumes *Victorian and Science and Literature* (Pickering & Chatto, 2010).

Gerald Rice is a 2006 graduate from OU with a BA in English. He lives in Michigan with his wife and daughter and spends his free time writing short stories and his first novel. His works have appeared in the *Journal* on two other occasions.

Gary Shepherd, a faculty member of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology since the fall of 1976, retired in August 2008. His primary research interests were and continue to be focused on the emergence and development of new religious movements. He and his brother, Gordon Shepherd, have co-authored three books and a number of research articles on topics related to this topic, which, in 2006, garnered them the Thomas Robbins Award for Excellence in Research on New Religious Movements under the auspices of *Nova Religio* and the American Academy of Religion.

Gordon Shepherd is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Central Arkansas and, with his brother Gary, has taught summer courses at Oakland since 1984. Shepherd and Shepherd have co-authored several books and numerous articles on topics in the sociology of religion. Currently they are collaborating on a book for the University of Illinois Press entitled *Talking with the Children of God: The Leadership Organization of a Heretical Religion*.

Rachel Smydra is a member of the English Department for the past 16 years. She has taught upper-level writing courses in both the traditional and online environments. For the past four years she has been a member of the Academic Conduct Committee. Her latest publication, "Chick Lit's Repackaging of Plagiarism: The Debate Over Chick Lit's Influence on Authorship and Publishing," appears in the 2007 edition of *Plagiarism*.

Peter F. Trumbore is Associate Professor of Political Science. He teaches courses in international politics, including U.S. foreign policy, human rights, and international terrorism, and does research on international conflict, conflict resolution, and foreign policy.

Mary Wermuth has three degrees from OU and over thirty years of teaching in the Rochester Community Schools. She found herself qualified to be the founding mother and Dean of Humanities of the International Academy which now has almost four campuses. She has written books on Michigan history and is compiling a family history in her spare time. She travels extensively with student and community music groups, enjoys camping and backpacking, makes quilts and raises Christmas trees on the family farm in North Oakland County.