

# OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™



MAGAZINE *spring 2016*





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#### MAGAZINE STAFF

Vice President, University Communications and Marketing | John Young

Executive Editor | Donna Mirabito

Art Director | Debra Lashbrook

Photographers | Chuck Cloud, Jose Juarez, Rick Smith, Jason Willis, CAS '12

Project Manager | Nancy Potton

Production Manager | Shelby Olsen, CAS '07

Proofreaders | Laurie DiMauro, Z<sup>2</sup> Productions

Class Notes Coordinator | Shanna Dawson

Writers | Sandra Beckwith; Jennifer Heil Bonacorsi, CAS '94; Cara Catalo; Kevin Ferguson, CAS '16; Oona Goodin-Smith, CAS '16; Fritz Reznor; Susan Thwing; Rene Wisely; with contributions from Oakland's Media Relations and Social Media teams.

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Photo Credit: Jim Koepnick

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**FOCUS**  
MACOMB COUNTY

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

COUSINS' FOCUS ON FAMILY FIRSTS AND THEIR FUTURES

See how Oakland University is making an impact in Macomb County.

### ON THE COVER



Kelly Carter and her daughter, Emma, cheer on the Detroit Tigers at last year's OU Night at Comerica Park. Join OU this year on August 3 at the ballpark when the Tigers play the Chicago White Sox. Visit [oalumni.com/events](http://oalumni.com/events) for details and to register.



## REUNION

September 23-25, 2016

### OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

**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 136 bachelor's degree programs and 137 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 Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine.

# President's Perspective



A



B

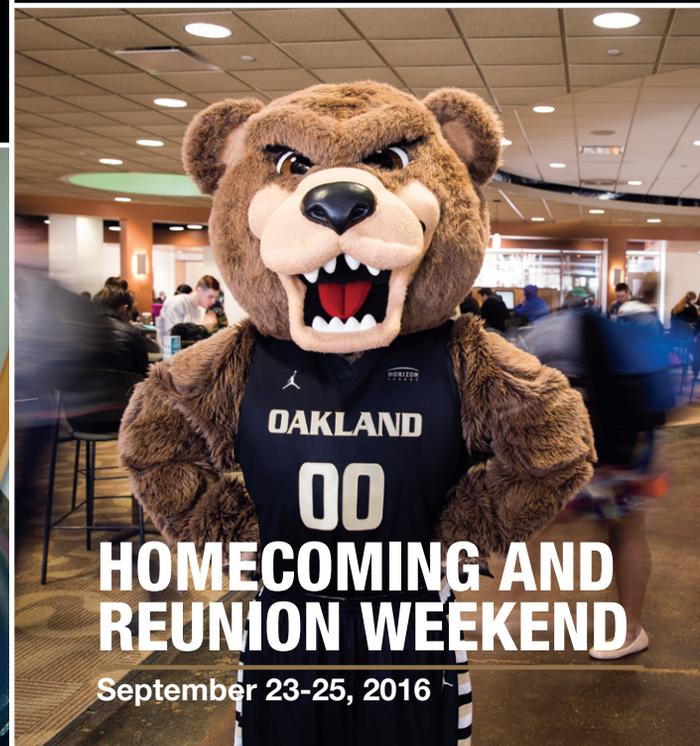


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**A)** Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Angie Schmucker and President Hynd visit donor Adeline Hirschfeld-Medalia, Ph.D., in New York City. Dr. Hirschfeld-Medalia, who founded the Communication and Theatre Program at OU in 1972, created an endowment in honor of her parents that has provided students with scholarships for the last three decades. **B)** Swimming and Diving Head Coach Pete Hovland, now in his 37th year of coaching at OU, will be honored on September 9 when he is inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. **C)** *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the Oakland University-Beaumont Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia 18th out of 115 master's programs in the U.S. **D)** An example of the University's civic engagement is through the internships where students receive hands-on training while aiding government leaders such as Pontiac Mayor Deirdre Waterman during staffing shortages.



D



## HOMECOMING AND REUNION WEEKEND

September 23-25, 2016

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In the past year, I enjoyed meeting with alumni in Washington, New York, Los Angeles and more than a dozen cities where I was traveling to meetings or conferences. Their pride in OU was evident as they heard that their school now has more than 20,500 students, that the OUWB School of Medicine is graduating its second class of physicians and that a seven-story student housing complex is about to be built.

Their enthusiasm was contagious. Returning home, I saw OU with renewed pride and appreciation.

I was proud to see our faculty recognized in April for excellence in teaching, research and service, and to see Chemistry Professor Maria Bryant, Ph.D., and Psychology Professor Todd Shackelford, Ph.D., appointed as this year's Distinguished Professors. Dr. Bryant is a highly respected scholar, researcher, teacher and mentor who invites her students to publish research alongside her. In his six years on campus, Dr. Shackelford has raised the University's international profile in the field of psychology, and has attracted international scholars to interdisciplinary conferences on campus. The list of all faculty recognized is on page 27.

OU is fortunate to possess many talented individuals who contribute to our growth and success.

Many of you may know Angie Schmucker, who has been with OU for 14 years, most recently as executive director of Planned and Annual Giving and interim campaign director. In her new role as vice president for Development and Alumni Relations (DAR), Angie will enhance alumni relationships and raise private support for Oakland University.

Swimming and Diving Head Coach Pete Hovland, with OU since 1979, will be honored on September 9 when he is inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. In February, Pete led his men's swimming and diving program to its 38th consecutive league title and his women's team to its 23rd straight title at the Horizon League championship. We are grateful for Pete's 37 years of talented coaching.

One of our goals for OU is to create a campus that becomes more diverse and attracts high-achieving students with more alternatives. To that end, the University has committed to approximately \$122 million in bonds to finance a new residence hall and an expanded Oakland Center. We are building a seven-story Southern Student Housing Complex measuring nearly 290,000 square feet adjacent to Pawley Hall. More than half of the space will be dedicated to 750 beds. We will also add approximately 60,000 square feet to the Oakland Center to accommodate banquet meeting rooms, offices, kitchen, dining and retail space, and student support and services.

We were pleased to learn that *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked the Oakland University-Beaumont Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia among the best programs of its kind in the country. The publication ranked the master's program 18th out of 115 U.S. graduate programs in nursing-anesthesia.

The program was established in 1991 and educates students to become Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA). CRNAs



provide anesthetics to patients in collaboration with surgeons, anesthesiologists, dentists, podiatrists and other qualified health care professionals.

Within the community, OU has partnered with Campus Compact and more than 350 presidents and chancellors from across higher education to increase our focus on civic engagement. Campus Compact is a nonprofit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education.

During a summit of campus presidents and chancellors earlier this year, I signed the Campus Compact 30th Anniversary Action Statement. The document's strong language about the public obligations of higher education commits campuses to taking specific steps to deepen their engagement for the benefit of students, communities and the broader public. Kevin J. Corcoran, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is working with me, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Jim Lentini and others to create a Campus Civic Action Plan to be shared publicly.

Our commitment to fostering diversity and inclusivity is ongoing. We held the third annual Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Conference in March with world-class speakers and discussions that went "Beyond the Conversation." We continue to successfully build on issues highlighted over the last three years, creating ideas and dialogue in the community.

If you haven't been to campus in a while, the September 23-25 Homecoming and Reunion Weekend presents the perfect chance to show your Golden Grizzly pride. Multi-year reunions are planned for members of the Classes of 1966 through 1969, and several special events are planned to observe the Class of 1966's Golden Anniversary. See you in September!

**George W. Hynd**  
President

# LITTLE PARROTS

**'Dream business' immerses students in language, culture.** *By Susan Thwing*

You first notice the vibrantly colored parrots: stuffed parrot toys, parrot emblems on signs, parrot pictures. The Bright Loritos learning center in Troy, Michigan, is filled with parrots.

The second thing you notice is happy smiles from a diversity of students.

"Loritos means 'little parrots,'" explained Andrea Martinez Chavez, Bright Loritos co-owner with her husband, Ernesto. "And that's what children are. They pick up different languages and culture so quickly like sponges and they give it back to you like little parrots."

OU graduate student Andrea is completing her master's in counseling, and Ernesto is in his last semester of graduate school in OU's Master of Arts in Teaching program.

They founded the small family business, which exposes children to a second language at an early age, six years ago. Bright Loritos has two locations, in Troy and Novi, Michigan.

The business is unique to the Detroit area, as it is the only facility to adopt an immersive approach to language instruction in several languages, on and off-site. Only qualified native speakers teach classes. In addition to Spanish, they offer instruction in Mandarin, French and Arabic.

## The beginning

Ernesto discovered the importance of children learning languages early by chance.

"I was tutoring high school-age students, but received a request from a mother to tutor her 2-year-old in Spanish. I thought it was crazy, but agreed. The 2-year-old picked up on the language so fast; I knew this was a niche I could fill," he said.

Simultaneously, Andrea had started working as a therapist for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She understood the success of play-based methods to motivate students.

The couple began Bright Loritos at home, with the premise of teaching children through play and immersion. They began to purchase educational games for their classes and therapies until one day their house was overflowing with fun educational materials. It was time to find an outside business location.

Luna, their daughter, was born soon after. Now 3 1/2, Luna can speak four languages due to Bright Loritos' programs. It can often be an exciting challenge for her parents.

"It is truly a learning experience for us as well," Andrea said. "Luna speaks languages we do not, so we are learning along with her."

## Pursuing a dream

Ernesto and Andrea started their journey with no English-speaking skills — both were immigrants from Peru only eight and 10 years ago, respectively. They did not have business connections or experience. However, they feel they have given Luna the opportunity they wished they had.

"Our greatest achievement is turning our love and passion for teaching language and culture into a successful, reputable program that provides other children the same opportunity at the age when they are the most able and willing to learn," Andrea said.

For grownups, the need for understanding additional languages also is clear. Four out of five new jobs in the U.S. are created as a result of international trade. It is also thought that studying other languages creates more positive attitudes and less prejudice.

Youth is the best time to start. "The window of opportunity for strong experiences is from birth until about 10. The brain really picks things up faster then," Ernesto said. "If you can start your children young, it is a tremendous gift."

Andrea agrees.

"Our mission is to provide language immersion instruction for children at the age when second-language acquisition has proven to be easiest by following the principles of active learning and play-





based education,” she said. “We aspire to foster a future generation of multilingual world citizens by promoting the appreciation of cultural diversity and intercultural communication.”

For parents who do not speak the languages their child is learning, at-home practice is also available.

“We have developed a website learning center with recordings the family can access and view at home,” Andrea said.

## Dreams come true

Andrea and Ernesto said they feel their OU education is helping with their success.

“I am gaining an understanding of brain development, and my professors are really helping me — as I learn and watch — on how to have a big impact on kids, on how to get through to them and really help them learn. It’s something I am very passionate about,” she said.

Ernesto said he also takes advantage of business resources as well as networking

opportunities from OU to grow the business.

Most of all, Bright Loritos is the realization of a dream.

“I had an idea, and I was motivated to see it happen,” Ernesto said. “I’ve learned how to move it forward and run with it while creating a positive environment for children to grow and learn. My ultimate goal is to reach as many children as possible.” 🌟

*Susan Thwing is a freelance writer from Rochester Hills, Michigan.*



Photo Credit: Tyson Ringer

Helldiver and F-18 in formation flight

# DIVING INTO HISTORY

**Edward Vesely pilots the last flying Helldiver.** *By Alice Rhein*

Of the five World War II Curtiss SB2-C Helldivers that still exist, only one is airworthy. **Edward Vesely, SBA'79**, is one of only two pilots qualified to fly it.

In May 2015, Vesely, the senior director of sales for Welsch Aviation's Houston office, participated in the first "Arsenal of Democracy" flyover event in Washington, D.C., commemorating the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. This year, he will fly in air shows throughout the country, giving spectators the opportunity to see, hear, smell and touch a piece of history. While he calls it an honor, a privilege and a responsibility to fly the Helldiver, his background makes him uniquely suited for the task.

The son of a U.S. Air Force mechanic, Vesely was 11 when his family moved from Ohio to Michigan, where his father took a job with the U.S. Department of Defense assigned to the Warren Chrysler Tank Plant. Living one mile away from (then) Big Beaver Airport at 16 Mile and John R roads, Vesely would ride his bicycle to watch airplanes on the weekends. His "ramp rat" tenacity paid off when he stumbled upon a 1940 Piper J-3 Cub, abandoned and in disrepair, and set about restoring it back to flight in what he called the "ultimate father-son project."

Now a resident of Texas, Vesely and his wife and fellow pilot, Carole, still fly the Cub for fun. "In addition, my wife and I use our

Beech A-36 Bonanza for domestic travel and support for our corporate jet sales business," he said. "When your vocation and avocation merge it can make for a satisfying and rewarding career and life." That certainly seems the case for Vesely, who carved out a career in corporate aircraft sales with his B.S. in business management/economics and lifetime love of aviation.

Vesely started flying light WWII-type aircraft early in his flying career. He and his wife of 36 years met as flight instructors in Pontiac, Michigan, and moved to Houston in 1980, shortly after Vesely received his degree from Oakland University. From there, Mitsubishi Aircraft hired him as a sales/demonstration pilot, followed by the launch of his career as a jet broker for the sale and acquisition of corporate aircraft. During that period, he began volunteering with the Lone Star Flight Museum and its WWII flying collection. This led to the invitation to fly the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) West Texas Wing's Helldiver in 2005.

A carrier-based bomber produced from 1943 to 1945 for the U.S. Navy, the Helldiver was not always loved by its crew. The "Big-Tailed Beast" was considered underpowered, more difficult

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to maneuver and, in the Battle of the Philippine Sea, 45 were lost because they ran out of fuel returning to their carriers. Yet 7,140 Helldivers were produced, and they were heralded for delivering bombs and depth charges with pinpoint accuracy. Helldiver squadrons contributed greatly toward winning the war in the Pacific.

Although he has flown many WWII-era warbirds, including the Grumman F6F Hellcat, Grumman TBM, P-51 Mustang, B-25 Mitchell and S2 Tracker, his favorite is the Helldiver. "As far as the mechanical aspects of the airplane, it is a very enjoyable airplane to fly. Roll is very light, pitch is medium in pressure and the rudder is extremely heavy," said Vesely, his direct voice ticking off the principal axes. "We don't deploy dive brakes, as we have to respect the fact we are flying a one-of-a-kind airplane that is 70 years old." The CAF does, however, allow opportunities for flight enthusiasts to take an historic flight in the Helldiver to experience the thrill of a lifetime facing backward in the gunner's seat.

Vesely said that because of his Oakland University education, his satisfying career in corporate jet sales and extensive volunteer work, he has traveled to five continents and enjoyed associations with people at all levels of society. "These experiences have helped me to recognize the importance of quality education which led me to such a vast array of opportunities," he said.

Through his educational leadership as a board member of Southwest Schools, a local charter school in Houston, and involvement with the CAF in perpetuating living history, Vesely hopes to help the next generation understand the importance of education and the role that history serves. When young people can honor the lessons of "The Greatest Generation" and experience living history, perhaps they will better understand how to avoid errors of the past. "History doesn't come alive until you see it alive," said Vesely. "That is why we fly these aircraft." ➤

*Alice Rhein is a freelance writer from Huntington Woods, Michigan.*



## Alumni Profile

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“When we completed the denture and she placed it in her mouth, her smile was so beautiful that her face lit up the room,” Dr. Fisher recalled. “The difference in the ‘before’ and ‘after’ was so significant that it melted my heart.”

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# SENIOR SMILES

**Mary Fisher's dental practice on wheels improves the smiles of seniors.** *By Sandra Beckwith*

When was the last time you saw a dentist making house calls? Oh, maybe ... never?

**Mary Fisher, DDS, CAS '77**, is one who does. Two days a week, Dr. Fisher turns her family dental practice into a mobile unit that serves residents of nursing homes and assisted and independent-living centers in three Michigan counties. She also visits elderly patients in their homes.



Dr. Fisher, who majored in biology at Oakland University, fell into providing geriatric dental care soon after graduating from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry in 1981.

"At my first job with a private practice, one of the dentists said to me, 'We have a patient at the nursing home with a denture problem. I need you to go over there and fix it.' I soon realized that this was a beautiful way to serve an underserved population," Dr. Fisher said.

She continued her work with older patients when she established her family practice the following year, getting additional specialized training along the way. Working with older patients in her private practice soon led to providing services in one institution, then another and another.

"Word spreads when you're willing to do this type of work," Dr. Fisher said. "This part of the practice really grew by word of mouth."

## Mobile dental unit

Dr. Fisher and three of her staff pack her car with carts, tubs and containers loaded with equipment and supplies and hit the road every Wednesday and Friday. They set up their equipment wherever there is room that day at each facility — it might be in the beauty salon at one location, the activity room at another. They use the same mobile approach for in-home visits, bringing necessary equipment into the patient's residence.

Dr. Fisher and an assistant tackle dental problems, and a dental hygienist and another assistant clean teeth.

Dr. Fisher recently assisted a quite social 94-year-old institutional resident who was self-conscious after losing her upper denture. The woman was so distressed that she not only refused to go to the dining room for meals, she essentially hid in her room while she waited for a solution.

"When we completed the denture and she placed it in her mouth, her smile was so beautiful that her face lit up the room,"

Dr. Fisher recalled. "The difference in the 'before' and 'after' was so significant that it melted my heart. This lovely woman was so grateful that we were able to restore both her smile and her dignity."

While the rewards for Dr. Fisher are clear, she admits that geriatric dentistry isn't for everyone.

"It's a calling," she said. "You either like that population or you don't. Some might say they're slow and crabby, while I see them as people who have lived long enough to gain a lot of wisdom."

Dr. Fisher sees many of her elderly patients as often as four times a year. For some, she noted, a visit from their regular dentist is something of a social occasion. "I think that many enjoy their time with us as much as we enjoy our visits with them."

## Started in research

Dr. Fisher did not plan to be a dentist when she enrolled at OU as a biology major. Anticipating a career in research, she worked closely for four years with Biological Sciences Professor Emeritus Charles Lindemann, Ph.D., in a research lab before deciding that she preferred working with people. Aptitude testing and counseling through the Career Services Department helped her decide to become a dentist.

Today, in addition to serving the geriatric community, Dr. Fisher and her long-time staff provide a full gamut of dental services to entire families, "from 2 to 92." Still, she has a soft spot for the seniors.

"Helping them keep what they've invested in over a lifetime is very satisfying," she said, adding that she feels fortunate to have chosen a profession that she still loves more than three decades later.

Recently remarried, Dr. Fisher and her husband have nine children between them — three from her first marriage and six from his — and enjoy traveling to visit them. The home they share with horses, chickens and dogs in a semi-rural location in Brighton, Michigan, helps Dr. Fisher disconnect from the daily pressures of running a business and recharge. It is a haven for reflection for the dentist with a new sense of gratitude.

"I might not have expressed this a few years ago, but today I can say I'm very grateful for all I've had and experienced," she said.

Most likely her patients, young and old, are equally grateful for her service. ➤

*Sandra Beckwith is a freelance writer from Fairport, New York.*

## WIN-WIN

### Alum's \$200,000 CGA to fund SON scholarships. *By Sandra Beckwith*

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It pained alumnus Dale O'Hara to see his friend Carol Ann Weber, a single parent, struggle to complete nursing school while juggling other responsibilities in her life.

When Weber died before she could get her nursing degree, O'Hara vowed that when he could, he would establish a scholarship in her memory to lessen the struggle for others in similar situations.

He followed through.

In 2007, O'Hara established the Carol Ann Weber Scholarship Endowment for a student in the School of Nursing (SON) that will generate a \$1,000 award for tuition to a deserving nursing student every year.

Touched by the difference it has made for recipients he meets when the scholarships are presented each year, O'Hara has taken his generosity and affection for Oakland University to the next level. The business analyst for a Detroit-area manufacturer made a gift of \$200,000 toward a charitable gift annuity (CGA) to support a scholarship endowment.

"I don't have any children, so I thought I would help other people's children attend my alma mater," he said.

With a CGA, the donor makes a financial gift to the University through a transfer of assets such as cash or stocks and then draws a retirement income from those funds. The donor also receives a charitable tax deduction, which makes this option especially appealing. Specifics that include the rate of return on fund investments and start date for payments to the donor are locked in when the donor and the University sign the contract.



Donor Dale O'Hara with Nicole Hennessy, recipient of the Carol Ann Weber Nursing Tuition Award for 2015-16.

"This means donors can plan for their future knowing exactly how much their fixed payments will be for the rest of their lives," said Colette O'Connor, major gift officer for the School of Nursing.

"It's a win-win-win," O'Hara said. "I can plan for my retirement knowing exactly how much I will receive from the annuity and when, the school benefits from investing the funds, and students will get help paying their tuition."

Upon O'Hara's death, OU will begin awarding the Dale R. O'Hara Nursing Scholarship from the remaining CGA funds.

O'Hara won't be collecting annuity payments any time soon, though. He plans to work a few more years before retiring.

"When I do, I'm going out then in a blaze of glory," he confessed. "The day I retire, I'm getting a limousine and a tuxedo."

His CGA will be waiting for him along with his limo driver. ➤

*Sandra Beckwith is a freelance writer from Fairport, New York.*



## President's Invitational Golf and Gala Marks 15 Years of Scholarship Support

More than 100 golfers and guests were scheduled to attend the 2016 President's Invitational Golf and Gala on June 10 at OU's golf courses. This year marked the 15th anniversary of the event, which has resulted in more than \$1 million raised for scholarships and other causes on campus.

A group of committed OU supporters led by Hugh Elliott created the Invitational in 2002. The long-standing committee was thanked and honored at the event for their many contributions to the University.

Thank you to Pepsi for being the event's Presenting Sponsor since 2002. ➤

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## A GIFT FROM THE HEART

# Giving Challenge is a win for OU, despite loss. *By Susan Thwing*

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Sometimes when you lose, you win. When organizers were planning the first-ever OU vs. UDM Giving Challenge — between the crosstown rivals Oakland University (OU) and University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) men’s and women’s basketball teams — they didn’t know that they would receive a heart-tugging gift.

The Giving Challenge, which took place February 19-27, enlisted alumni and fans to make financial gifts to their respective universities. The wager: The losing team’s mascot would wear the rival team’s jersey at the women’s basketball game.

Although the Grizz wore the UDM Titans’ jersey when OU achieved 436 donors against UDM’s 513, the Challenge resulted in more than \$50,000 raised for OU students, programs and campus needs.

OU alumni and fans selected areas they wanted to support, with options that ranged from academic to experiential and included the Golden Grizzly Athletic Fund to benefit student-athletes.

“The Giving Challenge was a great way to get alumni and fans involved while tapping into the spirit of generosity,” said Kelly Brault, OU’s director of Annual Giving. “While we hoped that OU would beat UDM both on and off the court, this battle was a win for students, and we are grateful to all donors who showed their OU spirit through giving.”

One gift caught everyone’s attention.

Long-time OU supporter and honorary alumnus John Pino, owner of Pino Insurance Agency, made a special gift in honor of his daughter, Michele. Michele, 43, recently underwent a double mastectomy and treatment for breast cancer. Her prognosis is good now, but missing that game was a heart-tug for her family.

“My father was a director of research and an organic chemistry professor at OU from 1966 until he retired in 1986. I grew up at

OU,” Pino said. “My wife and I and our children have supported this school since I can remember. Going to the basketball games has always been a special time for us.”

When John learned that Michele was ill and unable to attend this game, he donated in her honor. “She so wanted to be there, and she has always been our champion,” he said. “We love the local ties we have with this school and we know Michele will carry it forward for our family.”

Brault noted, “John Pino has been a wonderful friend of OU over the years. His office is decked out in OU memorabilia and you will often see him at OU, perhaps cheering on our teams or visiting the School of Education and Human Services.

“I reached out to many of OU’s biggest cheerleaders and John immediately responded, noting that he wanted to be a part of this. He even personally delivered his check to ensure that he was counted.”

Brault added, “I think that another challenge is very likely. While OU did very well and finished fairly close to UDM, I think that we need our chance to win and show how much our alumni and friends believe in us.

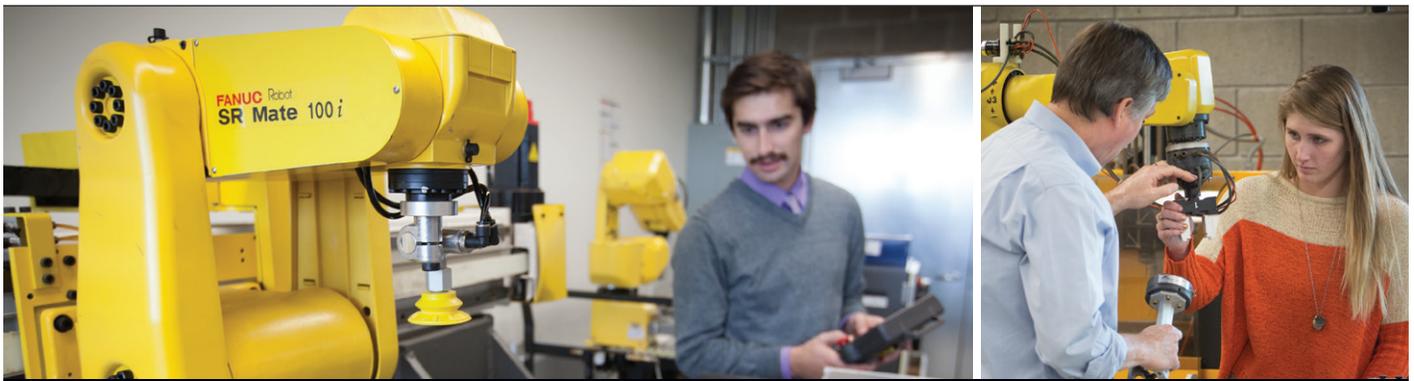
“Forty percent of those who gave were making a gift for the very first time. With funds going to programs all across campus, our students really were the winners.”

Visit [supportou.com](http://supportou.com) to make a gift today. You can also contact OU’s Giving office at (248) 370-4504, or [giving@oakland.edu](mailto:giving@oakland.edu). 🐾

*Susan Thwing is a freelance writer from Rochester Hills, Michigan.*



Michele Beitelshees, Pino Insurance Agency



FANUC America donated equipment to and serves on the OU Robotics and Automation Industrial Advisory Board.

## INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY BOARD IN SECS

# Robotics, automation companies invest in the future with OU students.

*By Cara Catallo*

When Khalid Mirza, Ph.D., came to Oakland University more than four years ago, he was on the ground level of establishing the Industrial Robotics program in the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS).

Recruited from industry, Dr. Mirza knew that answering the call for qualified and skilled engineers was a niche OU could uniquely fill by enlisting industry leaders.

“The foundation for this program is based on the idea that industry is the best guide for us,” said Dr. Mirza, special instructor and Industrial Robotics Lab director in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

“It’s a big component to the program. The area’s proliferation of automotive and other industry make OU ideally located. They need engineers skilled in advanced manufacturing and automation technologies. We’re in the right place at the right time.”

OU created collaborations with those leading the charge.

Dr. Mirza enlisted representatives from companies whose generosity included donations of at least \$50,000 for the program, including research or other projects. Other representatives donated more than \$100,000 in new robotics equipment for the OU robotics lab.

From this group, Dr. Mirza created the OU Robotics and Automation Industrial Advisory Board. The group meets quarterly to map curriculum that will best enable OU students to have the cutting-edge education and experience to meet the future of robotics.

The world’s three leading industrial robot manufacturers — FANUC, ABB and KUKA Robotics — as well as representatives from Comau, Nabtesco Motion Control and most recently, General Motors, belong to the board.

Collaborations such as Nabtesco’s \$50,000 annual funding for research projects better prepare students with hands-on

experience. Companies around OU also provide much-needed internships. Students can clarify their career directions and companies can experience a student’s potential first-hand.

“Collaborations like this will help not only industry, but also our institution,” Dr. Mirza said. “We want to do research which is relevant to the industry.”

Member company FANUC America recognized the program’s strengths early on. General Manager Claude Dinsmoor acknowledged that well-prepared engineers and computer scientists are key to growing the rapidly evolving factory automation business.

“Robotics and factory automation are the center of what we do at FANUC,” he said. “As a board participant, we work closely with the school of engineering on the focus and direction of OU’s Industrial Automation program.”

Thirty years ago, virtually no one was employed in industrial robotics, Dinsmoor pointed out. “Today, there are tens of thousands of people who develop, integrate and use automation systems involving robotics and factory automation. Central to this growth are graduates who understand the critical technologies and currently available tools, who are able to use those tools to solve current and future problems.”

By offering a strong robotics and automation program, “OU provides what is essential to providing the future leaders of automation manufacturers, integrators and end users,” he said.

“FANUC America appreciates the opportunity to participate in the board and looks forward to a bright future of collaboration with OU.”

*Cara Catallo is a freelance writer from Clarkston, Michigan.*

## FUNDING THE FINISH LINE

# Seiferts create scholarship, clearing final hurdles to graduation.

By Oona Goodin-Smith, CAS '16

If there are two things George and Betty Seifert believe in, they are philanthropy and finishing what has been started — namely, college.

“Wherever we go, we try to find a way to get involved and give back to the community,” said Betty about herself and her husband, George. The couple has partnered with Oakland University for the past 30 years.

Committed advocates of higher education, the Seiferts have launched multiple scholarships for incoming freshmen from Oakland County-area schools. When they heard about the financial need of Oakland University students getting ready to graduate, they decided to step in.

“A lot of times, financial aid only covers four years of college,” said George, former president of Ameritech Publishing Enterprises and adjunct professor for several major universities, including OU. “We created the CAS Finish Line Scholarship to help people at the back end who are taking longer to graduate.”

Established in 2011, the CAS Finish Line Scholarship, according to its description, is a variable amount awarded to students “to provide financial assistance to College of Arts and Sciences majors who have made significant progress toward their undergraduate degree but are having serious financial constraints



Betty and George Seifert

preventing them from staying on track with their courses or preventing them from enrolling in the final course(s) toward degree completion.”

For Dunya Barash, a junior studying social work, the scholarship was what allowed her to stay in school after a change in her family’s financial situation.

“It was such a relief,” said Barash, who will now be the first in her family to graduate from college. “It gave me the option to focus on the LSAT and take extra courses before my senior year.”

Tanisha Andrews, another scholarship recipient, echoed Barash’s sentiments.

“It has given me a lot of peace of mind,” the senior criminal justice major said. “Finishing (college) is pushing me to achieve what I want to achieve. I want to run for Detroit councilwoman one day and this has helped me move one step closer to that dream.”

It is not a mistake that the Seiferts’ name is left out of the CAS Finish Line Scholarship fund’s title. The move is intentional, to encourage other donors to contribute to the cause and expand the fund.

“It’s not about us; it’s about the students, and we want to provide them with as much help as possible,” Betty said. “Our interest in this is to get others interested in doing the same.”

“It doesn’t have to be a big amount,” added George. “We hope people see the power of this [fund], and we hope past students return to become financial supporters of the college. Sometimes, it’s a little bit that can change a student’s life.” ➤

*Oona Goodin-Smith, CAS '16 is an OU journalism graduate and USA TODAY college breaking news correspondent.*

“It doesn’t have to be a big amount ... We hope people see the power of this [fund], and we hope past students return to become financial supporters of the college. Sometimes, it’s a little bit that can change a student’s life.”

– George Seifert



“Wherever we go, we try to find a way to get involved and give back to the community.”

– Betty Seifert

# MAKING A SPLASH

**All-American swimmer Devon Nowicki headed for U.S. Olympic Trials.** *By Fritz Reznor*

When Oakland University Swimming and Diving Head Coach Pete Hovland signed local phenomenon Devon Nowicki as part of his 2015-16 recruiting class, he said Nowicki had “the highest ceiling among the top-ranked swimmers in Michigan.”

After a record-breaking freshman year, any visible upper barrier seems practically nonexistent for the 6'5" prodigy who grew up less than 10 miles from the Oakland campus in Lake Orion, Michigan.

Following a rookie season in which he earned All-America honors and set new school and Horizon League records in both the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke, Nowicki was invited to compete in the 2016 Olympic Trials from June 26 to July 3 in Omaha, Nebraska. He will compete with 50 or 60 swimmers in both breaststroke events, with the top two in each advancing to the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in August.

All this falls before Nowicki turns 19 in September.

The former Junior National breaststroke champion said that his freshman season goals were to break school records in both breaststroke events and reach the top 16 at the NCAA Championships.

He did that and more. Nowicki finished sixth in the 100-yard breaststroke at the 2016 NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships. He becomes the seventh Oakland men's swimmer to earn All-America in the school's Division I era and the first since Anders Jensen in 2009. He also finished 31st in the 200-yard breaststroke.



“Now, he said, “I guess it’s on to bigger and better things.”

In February, Nowicki helped the Golden Grizzlies to their 38th consecutive conference championship by winning three individual events and anchoring two winning relay teams at the 2016 Horizon League Championships at the Oakland Aquatics Center. He earned the league’s Freshman of the Year honor and set pool, school and league records by winning both the 100-yard breaststroke (52.48 seconds) and the 200-yard breaststroke (1:55.66).

The two Oakland breaststroke records that Nowicki broke previously belonged to former All-American Scott Dickens, also a freshman when he set the marks back in 2003. Dickens went on to become a three-time Olympian for Canada and one of the top-10 breaststrokers in the world.

Becoming a Golden Grizzly seemed Nowicki’s destiny. He trained under four former Oakland swimmers, starting at age 11 with Colin and Blaine Dolcetti in the Liquid Lightning, a local USA Swim Club. At Lake Orion High School, it was head coach Pat Dodge and assistant Chris Sullivan, a two-time former Oakland All-American, who also trained Nowicki with the AquaClub Swim Club.

Though he was recruited by a number of larger schools, Nowicki said he “fell in love” with Oakland and its close-knit team on his official campus visit.

“They’re a really good group of guys,” he said. “Growing up, I was swimming with club teams, but mostly as an individual. It’s really cool knowing that you have teammates who have your back. I just kind of do what everyone else does and go with the flow.”

“I trust that the coaches know what they’re doing,” he continued. “I put my faith in them and it turned out great this year.”

Hovland and Nowicki realize that finishing in the top two in Omaha is a long shot, so they have established a more attainable goal: get through the preliminary rounds and get a “second swim.”

“Whether or not that’s realistic, that is the goal we’re shooting for,” Hovland said. “It will be a great experience for Devon to go through and hopefully that will be preparation for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.” 🐾

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



Devon Nowicki and Swimming and Diving Head Coach Pete Hovland

ALUMNI PROFILE: MIKE MURRI, SBA '82

# Local television executive engages with community, alma mater.

By Fritz Reznor



## As business partners go, Oakland University would be hard-pressed to find a better one than Mike Murri.

Murri spent his entire career in television in metro Detroit, including the past 34 years at WXYZ-TV Channel 7. He started in sales and was gradually promoted to local sales manager, director of sales and eventually station manager. In April of 2015, he was named vice president and general manager of WXYZ-TV Channel 7 and WMYD TV20 Detroit.

Murri, who grew up just minutes from the Rochester Hills, Michigan, campus, understands the role his two stations play with the local audience. They are “very focused on making the community a priority and being a strong advocate for our viewers,” he said.

Acquiring WMYD TV20 Detroit in 2014 inspired an initiative that hit home: partnering with his alma mater to broadcast Golden Grizzlies men’s and women’s basketball games. TV20 aired 11 games in the 2014-15 season and 15 games last year. The station plans to increase that number in the 2016-17 season.

“When Oakland joined the Horizon League (in 2013), there was a lot of interest locally — particularly with the rivalry with the University of Detroit Mercy — so we were able to work out an opportunity to broadcast a number of games,” Murri said.

“Coach Kampe’s done a tremendous job with that program, and he’s such a high-profile coach.”

“As in any good, solid partnership, it has to make sense for everybody. The feedback has been great, and the community has reacted so positively to having the games on TV20,” he added. “We have a multi-year contract to broadcast both the men’s and women’s games, and I think we’ll continue to build on it.”

Although he was a business major at Oakland, Murri — who owned a DJ business while attending college — said he was always interested in the media industry. Internships at both WXYZ Channel 7 and WJBK Fox 2 cemented his career choice.

“I work in an industry that is continually evolving, delivering relevant and engaging content on multiple platforms,” he said. “My colleagues are passionate professionals who are dedicated to their jobs. I’ve learned that when you love what you do, it really isn’t work.”

Consistent with his community involvement philosophy, Murri is in his third year as a board member of Forgotten Harvest, a nonprofit organization dedicated to relieving hunger in metro Detroit. He is also a member of the organizing committee of the Annual Gourmet Wild Game Dinner & Auction fundraiser to benefit the preservation of Meadow Brook Hall.

Mike and his wife, Mary, have been married for 30 years and live in Rochester Hills, Michigan. They have three children: Lauren, 26; Katie, 23; and Michael, 20. ➤

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



Brian Stuard



Brittini Hutton



Steve Clark

## MOST HONORABLE

# Three individuals, Final Four team inducted into Athletics Hall of Honor.

By Fritz Reznor

Former Oakland University golfer Brian Stuard, runner Brittini Hutton and soccer goalkeeper Steve Clark, along with the 1989-90 women's basketball team that reached the NCAA II Final Four, comprise the newest class inducted into the Athletics Hollie L. Lepley Hall of Honor.

They were inducted at Oakland's annual Black and Gold Awards on April 18 at Detroit's Fox Theatre.

Stuard, winner of the 2005 Summit League individual championship, was the first OU Division I-era player to earn conference Player of the Year honors. The three-time all-league golfer set Oakland records with nine tournament wins and the lowest career and single-season scoring averages.

In 2010, Stuard became the first Oakland University golfer to play on the PGA Tour. He earned his Tour card in 2013 and has won more than \$4 million in his brief career.

Clark, a two-time First Team All-Summit League goalkeeper, was voted the league's 2008 Defensive Player of the Year after setting conference and school records with a 0.54 goals against average, eighth best in NCAA I. He posted 11 shutouts that year and was named first Team All-Region.

He led Oakland to two NCAA tournament appearances, including the Golden Grizzlies' first-ever Division I post-season win in 2007. Clark is in his third season as top goalkeeper with Columbus Crew, Major League Soccer's defending Eastern Conference champion.

Hutton, a three-time All-Summit League performer in cross country, won the

individual title at the 2012 league championship meet and was named the Summit League Athlete of the Year.

A distance runner in track and field, she qualified for the 2013 NCAA East Regional Outdoor Championships in the 10,000-meter run. Hutton holds school indoor records in the 5,000-meter run and outdoor marks in both the 10,000-meter run and the 3,000-meter steeplechase. She runs professionally for both Colorado Springs-based Front Range Racers and Ultimate Endurance of Lubbock, Texas.

The 1989-90 women's basketball team, under head coach Bob Taylor, posted a 27-6 record and won the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference with a 14-2 league mark en route to its second straight NCAA post-season appearance.

The Pioneers, who averaged more than 80 points per game on the year, defeated Indiana University – Purdue University Fort Wayne, St. Joseph's and Central Missouri State, to advance to the NCAA II Final Four, losing to Bentley by four points in a semifinal game. The team's 2,677 points scored that season remain a school record. 🏆

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



1989-90 women's basketball team





**TREY UNIQUE**

**Senior sharpshooter Max Hooper shatters unusual NCAA record.** *By Fritz Reznor*

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The men's basketball team has a long history of prolific and deadly three-point shooters, most notably Travis Bader, NCAA career record-holder in makes and attempts. Others, from Kevin Kovach and Jason Rozycki to Erik Kangas and 2012 NCAA I scoring champion Reggie Hamilton, have thrived in Head Men's Coach Greg Kampe's high-powered offense, launching hundreds of treys during their Oakland careers.

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However, OU alumnus Max Hooper has created the trey unique — for the Golden Grizzlies and college basketball history.

He made 117 of 257 field goal attempts during the 2015-16 season, not one inside the three-point arc. In NCAA I, Hooper ranks fifth in three-pointers made. His .455 percentage is eighth best.

A California native, Hooper played the past two seasons as a graduate transfer after stops at Harvard and St. John universities. During his senior season, he collected more honors: Horizon League Sixth Man of the Year; nominee for the 2016 Allstate Good Works Team for volunteerism and community service; and chosen for the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-District 5 team, the first player in Oakland's Division I era to earn that honor.

In April, Hooper added a Master of Public Administration degree from OU, with a 3.64 grade point average, to his bachelor's degree in psychology from St. John's.

The Golden Grizzlies ended the Horizon League regular season tied for second place, winning 23 games reaching a 13-5 conference mark. They competed in the inaugural Vegas16 postseason tournament, finishing second. In their semifinal win over East Tennessee State, Hooper hit eight of 11 threes and scored a career-high 28 points in his penultimate college game, earning a spot on the All-Tournament team.

Hooper's record may stand for some time. The previous Division I record for most three-pointers taken in a season without a two-point field goal attempt was 84 by the University of Iowa's Devan Bawinkel in 2009-10.

Hooper views it as just a product of the process.

"It was just me playing my role; it wasn't something that I set out to do," he said. "And there was a little bit of luck involved, like maybe having a toe on the (three-point) line. You're not really conscious of it, but you do pretty much know where you are on the court."

Like most shooters, Hooper has a particular practice routine he uses in order to master his craft.

"Earlier in my career, I was focused on quantity. I wanted to make 500 a shots a day," he said. "But there wasn't much moving around. I lowered that to 200 or 300 a day, but in the specific spots where I knew I was going to get my shots. So I began running my workouts accordingly to simulate coming off of picks, or running to a particular spot, sprinting to the pass, shooting off the dribble, off-balance shots. I just put myself in all those possible scenarios so that when I'm in the game, I will have pretty much practiced most any shot."

It paid off in a two-game swing to Wisconsin in January, after the Golden Grizzlies had stumbled to a 3-3 Horizon League start. In wins over Milwaukee and Green Bay, Hooper made a combined 16 of 24 shots as Oakland swept the road trip to trigger a six-game winning streak.

"At that point in the season, our goal was still to win the regular season championship," Hooper recalled, "so they were crucial



**"I began running my workouts accordingly to simulate coming off of picks, or running to a particular spot, sprinting to the pass, shooting off the dribble, off-balance shots."**

games for us. It wasn't so much about me, but about turning our season around at a time when we were struggling. They were obviously my two best back-to-back games of the season, and it helped get us back in the conference race."

Awards are not the only thing Hooper collects: He owns more than 300 pairs of basketball shoes.

"Some kids collected baseball cards," he said. "I collected basketball shoes."

His favorites?

"I have a pair of Air Jordan 12s," Carmelo Anthony's personal edition customized for him when he was with the Denver Nuggets. "There are only a few pair in existence," he said. "They're in my size, too."

Hooper, who feels that his best playing days are ahead, plans to play at the professional level.

"Since I was 4 years old, my goal has been to play in the NBA," he said. He would eventually like to coach college basketball. 🐾

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

## 'FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS'

### Early advocates for veterans sail to success. *By Kevin Ferguson, CAS '16*

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Army veteran **Mike Brennan, CAS '11**, and Marine veteran **Brad Reichelt, SHS '12**, early advocates for student veterans at OU, set the foundation for the support system and friendly atmosphere experienced by today's student veterans. Today, they are successful OU alums. Brennan went on to earn an OU master's degree in Counseling. After earning a master's in public health, Reichelt received the Presidential Management Fellowship and accepted a position with Veterans Affairs in San Francisco.



Mike Brennan

### Setting sail

In 2009, Brennan was an Army Cavalry combat veteran searching for an anthropology degree when he helped the Student Veterans of Oakland University (SVOU) and Veterans Support Services (VSS) office set sail.

Over the years, Brennan was SVOU president and the first Veterans Support Liaison for the VSS office. After earning a bachelor's degree, he became an admissions adviser and was a faculty adviser to SVOU while pursuing his master's degree. He also earned the right to call himself a family man, marrying an OU alumna and bringing a daughter into the world.

Though Brennan started SVOU when OU's student veteran population was not nearly what it is today, he took the initiative to inspire more campus involvement among veterans and to bring them a stronger support system while they continued their education. His efforts built the foundation of the veteran-friendly atmosphere experienced by nearly 300 veterans who attend OU today.

Brennan was in a small office in the Tutoring Center when VSS was founded. Today, VSS has an office in North Foundation Hall

among the Student Affairs Division, staffed with two student employees and up to two OU students who fill Veterans Affairs work-study positions.

VSS hosts a number of events during the year. In addition, VSS instituted the Delphi Undergraduate Student Veteran Award, a scholarship specifically for veterans, in partnership with Delphi Foundation.



Brad Reichelt

### Passing the torch

Brad Reichelt, a former Marine Corps infantryman with multiple Operation Iraqi Freedom deployments, first met Brennan as a student when he stopped into VSS with a question about OU Career Link.

Brennan interviewed Reichelt for Veterans' Support Liaison, which he became in the fall of 2012. Soon, the two were hashing out details on how to successfully operate a veterans' transfer orientation, a semester kick-off event, OU's first veteran-specific scholarship and other events throughout the year to encourage veterans to come together.

Thinking back on his time at the VSS helm, Reichelt recalls Brennan as a voice of counsel.



“Mike is easy to talk to,” he said. “He is a good guy to bounce ideas off. Early on, I may have rushed decisions, if not for his guidance.”

## On the horizon

With a generous Delphi Foundation donation, Reichelt spared no opportunity to use the \$20,000 in the best interest of fellow veterans. Many of the events he spearheaded led to camaraderie among a small, tightly knit group. Gatherings for major sporting events in Detroit or SVOU-partnered events honoring veterans’ holidays fostered community involvement and smoothed the service-member-to-civilian transition.

Reichelt was a graduate student while he put VSS on the OU map. He was proud to have been a point of contact for fellow veterans, fostering several friendships with them, fellow staff and the Oakland faculty. His efforts have made nearly all of the office’s accomplishments possible.



Jeffrey Schuett

Current Veterans Support Liaison Jeffrey Schuett became Reichelt’s golfing buddy while working with him. Reichelt always knew where to draw the line and stay task-oriented, said Schuett, a former Navy Seabee. He credits Reichelt as a work mentor and as someone who “helped me understand fully the benefits available to veterans, post-service.”



OU and the Delphi Foundation celebrate Glen Neville, Jeffrey Schuett and Justin Hoffman for outstanding academic performance, leadership and involvement both on OU’s campus and within its surrounding communities at an April 14, 2014 event.

He also helped Schuett decide to pursue a master’s degree, guiding him on applying for the right programs and introducing him to the best VA counselors.

“Brad was a true friend with a great personality,” Schuett said. ➤

*Kevin Ferguson, CAS '16, was a combat correspondent in the Marine Corps from 2008 until 2012. He studied graphic design and graduated from OU in April.*



Jaws freshmen in Hamlin Hall, 1975.



2014 reunion, South Haven, Michigan.

## ‘FISH’ STORY

Hamlin Hall 40-year blockbuster friendship endures. *By Rene Wisely*

The bond began at a second-floor meeting in 1975 at Hamlin Hall. About 18 men came together to meet their resident assistant (RA), senior **Jeff Bailey, SBA '76**. Bailey encouraged the freshmen to form an intramural football team, one of many sports they played.

“They all seemed to bond quickly and I’m not sure why,” said Bailey, now a senior director of benefits at Target Corp. in Minnesota.

The esprit de corps that began in Hamlin continues to flourish 40 years later through a private Facebook group page and twice-a-year reunions, demonstrating that Oakland University has cultivated great minds and created deep friendships over the years.

Like most good friendships, theirs involves a fish story.

The 18 men needed a uniform for their intramural team. After the Hamlin Hall meeting, **Jim Slaga, SECS '79**, and a few

others headed to an off-campus store to find matching shirts.

The only ones available in that quantity were orange T-shirts displaying the great white shark and its sharp teeth from the original movie “Jaws”.

“Orange became our color and people around campus knew us by the name Jaws,” Slaga said. The group continues to go by Jaws to this day.

Slaga’s wife, **Sue (Sienkiewicz) Slaga, SEHS '79**, ordered new Jaws shirts in 2014 for a summer reunion in South Haven, Michigan, working with Oakland University to use the name. She purchased 50 shirts to supply about 16

original Jaws members, including Resident Assistant Bailey, their spouses, children — dubbed Jaws G2, for second generation — and grandchildren, Jaws G3.

“Our Jaws group has become more like family than friends,” said Sue, who began dating Jim at Oakland. “We’re there for each other for all the milestones like weddings, births and funerals.”

Three other Jaws members married OU alumni. The men, with help from their wives, keep the group going, Sue said.

After their freshman year, the men all wanted to remain together, so they applied to be an engineering special interest group, even though not everyone was

studying that profession. The group moved to the fifth floor of Van Wagoner Hall, where they lived as a unit for the next several years.

The South Haven annual summer reunion started at the home of **Barry Skuza, SHS '78**, while they were still students.

“My mom would cook for us. Everyone would pitch a tent and camp out or sleep on our floor,” said Skuza, Jim Slaga’s roommate for two years. “Sometimes we’d play sports or we’d go to the beach.”

Skuza bought his parents’ home in 1986, and the tradition continues — as does the traditional Christmas gathering hosted by **Ralph Reznick, SECS '79** in Diamondale, Michigan, near Lansing.

“The bond we have is like a fraternity without a fraternity,” said Reznick, whose computer screensaver is a photo of Jaws’ freshman days. “The initial bonding was because we were coming of age at the same time. It was our first time on our own, so we learned together and because of our common values, the friendship took.”

Men’s willingness to continue the friendship over the years is well-known in evolutionary psychology, noted Virgil Zeigler-Hill, Ph.D., OU associate professor and interpersonal relationship expert.

“It is believed that during the course of human evolution, men were more likely to stay with their natal groups as they got older,” Dr. Zeigler-Hill said. “This may have allowed men the opportunity to form stronger coalitional ties with others which may have allowed the formation of larger groups that required less interpersonal maintenance.”

Although Reznick uses his degree every day as an environmental engineer for the State of Michigan, he said he believes his OU experience gave him something even more valuable.

“OU helped create a tight-knit extended family who we know we can count on when we get in trouble, whether it’s a house project or a serious illness. We help each other because we are family.”

And that’s no fish — er, shark — story. 🐡

*Rene Wisely is a freelance writer from West Bloomfield, Michigan.*



Jaws with their children, Jaws G2, in South Haven, Michigan, 2014.



Reunion, 2000.

### THE OU JAWS FAMILY

- Steve Baier, SECS '79, and Diane (Gatenby) Baier, SEHS '78
- Jeff Bailey, SBA '76
- Mike Grosser, SECS '80
- Jeff Kulka, SBA '79
- Kevin Kuzera and Kerri (Venhuizen) Kuzera, attended 1975–77
- Mark Mantarian, SBA '83, SHS '79
- Ralph Reznick, SECS '79
- Burns Rolland, SECS '79
- Rick Rose, SECS '77, and Noreen (Sweeney) Rose, SEHS '77
- Erin (Rose) Madley, BSN RN '11
- Eric Schultz, SECS '79
- Barry Skuza, SHS '78
- Chuck Smith, SBA '79
- Jim Slaga, SECS '79, and Sue (Sienkiewicz) Slaga, SEHS '79
- Dave Staley, SECS '79
- Eric Staley, SECS '03
- Andrea Staley, SHS '09; SHS '05; '12 graduate certificate
- Jeff Vezina, SBA '82
- Mark Walters, SECS '79, and Patti (Velaga) Walters, SEHS '87
- Ashley (Walters) Zavada, SEHS '07



Jaws: the third generation.

# Around Campus



Renderings of an aerial view of the proposed Southern Student Housing Complex from the northwest and a view from the south side.

## Board approves actions leading to expansions, new housing complex

Studies show that students who reside on campus have a greater sense of community and tend to become more fully engaged in academic, student and residential life opportunities. These in turn are linked to higher rates of retention and graduation.

As Oakland University continues its goals of creating a residential campus, becoming more diverse and attracting high-achieving students with more alternatives, it has committed to approximately \$122 million in bonds to finance a new residence hall and an expanded Oakland Center.

Ground will be broken this summer for a seven-story Southern Student Housing Complex measuring nearly 290,000 square feet, adjacent to Pawley Hall. More than half of the space will be dedicated to 750 beds, with the rest containing a 600-seat dining hall, four classrooms, lounges, stores, meeting spaces and more.

In a master facility plan survey, OU students reported that overcrowded conditions were a top concern at the Oakland Center. Nearly 1.7 million visits have been recorded each year to the 140,000-square-foot student union, built in 1958 and expanded three times.

The board approved bonds to finance a \$44-million project that will add approximately 60,000 square feet of banquet meeting rooms, offices, kitchen, dining and retail space, and student support and services rooms to the OC.

Separately, the Board of Trustees in February unanimously approved an architectural and design contract to expand Elliott Hall, home to the School of Business Administration (SBA). The expansion of approximately 64,000 square feet could double the building's size.

"Our expansion plans will focus on enhancing the student experience through experiential learning labs, collaborative learning areas, student support services and additional classrooms," said SBA Dean Michael A. Mazzeo, Ph.D. "This is a significant step forward to our long-term vision for the business school."

The next steps are design planning and town hall meetings to obtain suggestions from faculty, staff, students, donors and community constituents. The building could open by the fall 2018 semester. ➤



Michael A. Mazzeo, Ph.D., dean of the School of Business Administration, left, discussed the vision for an Elliott Hall expansion with James P. Lentini, senior vice president for Academic Affairs and provost.

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## Schmucker named vice president, Development and Alumni Relations



Angie Schmucker

OU President George W. Hynd has named Angie Schmucker vice president, Development and Alumni Relations (DAR). She had most recently served as OU's executive director of Planned and Annual Giving and interim campaign director.

During her 14 years at OU, Schmucker has secured millions of dollars to support academic units and departments. She was responsible for \$11 million in gifts and commitments in 2014 alone.

She also has overseen the establishment of countless new academic scholarships, the Senior Class Gift and the Parent/Family Giving Campaign. She helped launch the Student Philanthropy Committee, the Black and Gold Loyalty Society, the Planned Giving Vision Society, the Oakland Circle and the Pioneer Club for OU retirees.

Schmucker orchestrated and executed the merger of the University's Planned Giving and Annual Giving operations and raised more than \$7.8 million during OU's Innovation and Opportunity capital campaign, which ended in 2009. In 2015, she was named the University's Outstanding Administrative Professional of the Year.

Schmucker has held the prestigious Certified Fund Raising Executive status since 2007, as well as membership in the Planned Giving Roundtable of Southeast Michigan, the Partnership for Philanthropic Planning, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the Association of Fundraising Professionals. She is also a mentor for the nonprofit organization Women of Tomorrow.

"Having invested 14 years of her career in successful fundraising efforts at OU, I am confident that Angie will provide knowledgeable and skilled oversight of DAR's transition into its next chapter of enhancing alumni relationships and raising private support for Oakland University," President Hynd said.

Prior to joining OU, Schmucker held technical, planning and marketing positions with Kelly Services, KeyCorp and Andersen Consulting. ➤

## Michael W. Long, Ph.D., joins OU as mentor-in-residence for intellectual property

Inventions, patents and commercializing OU's research all serve to raise the University's visibility as a research center and increase the potential to generate revenue through licensing and spinoff corporations.

To that end, Michael W. Long, Ph.D., has joined the University as a mentor-in-residence (MIR) for intellectual property (IP) development and commercialization. He works within the Technology Transfer Office in the Research Administration Office.

Dr. Long assists OU faculty conducting research and pursuing applied projects to develop and guide their intellectual property toward commercialization — whether licensing or spinning off a startup. He also explores the intellectual property potential within different campus units and establishes methods by which the commercial potential of faculty or student intellectual property can be evaluated.

Dr. Long earned a Ph.D. from the Wayne State University School of Medicine Department of Physiology and did post-doctoral training with the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center before serving as a professor of pediatrics at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Long has also been a principal investigator on multiple grants, raising approximately \$30 million in funding. The University of Michigan used a number of his patents to spin off a company that Dr. Long then directed. ➤



Michael W. Long, Ph.D.

## University recognizes faculty excellence in teaching, research, service



2016 Distinguished Professor Maria Bryant, Ph.D.

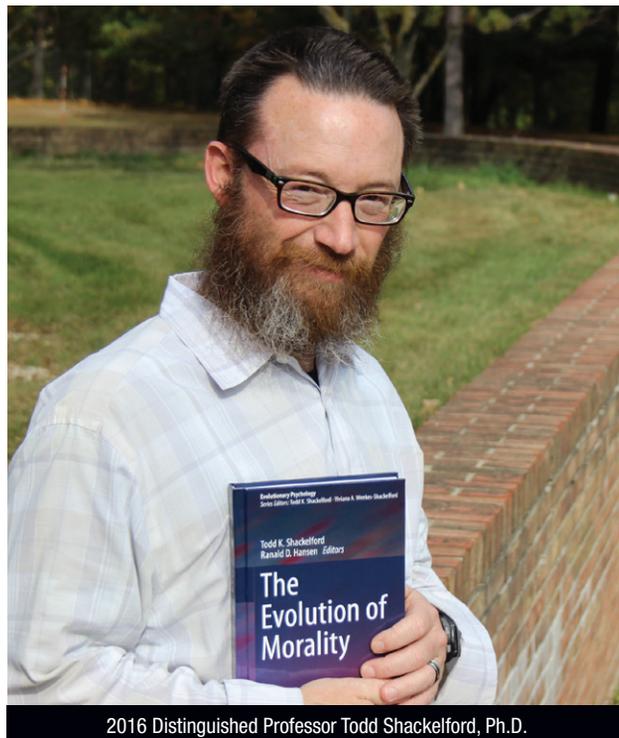
Maria Bryant, Ph.D., a professor of physical/theoretical chemistry and Todd Shackelford, Ph.D., a professor of psychology, were named OU's Distinguished Professors for 2016 by the Board of Trustees. They and several members of OU's faculty were recognized at the annual Faculty Awards Luncheon on April 6.

Dr. Bryant, who joined the University in 1991, focuses her research on theoretically describing weak, non-covalent interactions that are unlike ordinary chemical bonds that require electron density for bonding. She is studying a weakly bound tetragold complex with possible photoluminescent properties and applications in light emitting diodes.

Dr. Bryant has contributed 140 refereed papers to this field and her peer-reviewed journal articles receive thousands of citations. She has successfully raised \$2.3 million in funding, primarily from the National Science Foundation (NSF). An innovative educator, Dr. Bryant improved student learning and sparked an interest in chemistry by developing one of the country's first computational chemistry courses where computer modeling and visualization convey complex concepts.

As a mentor, Dr. Bryant provides students with research and scientific publication opportunities such as contributions to her publication on gold chemistry and their honors and capstone theses on gold clusters and interactions. Through her NSF instrumentation grant, OU acquired its first high-performance computer used in the chemistry labs.

Dr. Bryant's master's and doctoral degrees are from the University of Wroclaw, Poland.



2016 Distinguished Professor Todd Shackelford, Ph.D.

Dr. Shackelford joined the University in 2010, serving as professor and chair of the Department of Psychology. In six years, he has raised the University's international profile in the field of psychology. To support a growing student enrollment, he recruited new faculty and developed Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy programs in the Department of Psychology, and attracted international scholars to interdisciplinary conferences on campus.

His research on sexuality and aggression from an evolutionary perspective has been published in more than 300 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. His work has been cited more than 12,000 times.

Dr. Shackelford mentors several undergraduate, master's and doctoral students each year, regularly publishing with them and chairing numerous master's theses and doctoral dissertations. He is an editor and co-editor of professional journals and a grant reviewer for agencies that include the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Shackelford received his Master of Arts in Psychology from the University of Michigan in 1995 and his doctoral degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1997. ➤

# FACULTY HONOREES

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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**Graham Cassano, Ph.D.,**

Associate Professor of Sociology  
Area of Recognition: Teaching

**Hsiang-Hua (Melanie) Chang, Ph.D.,**

Associate Professor of Chinese  
Area of Recognition: Service

**Ferman Albert Chavez, Ph.D.,**

Associate Professor of Chemistry  
Area of Recognition: Research

**Felicia Chong, Ph.D.,**

Assistant Professor of Writing  
Area of Recognition: Teaching

**Annette M. Gilson, Ph.D.,**

Associate Professor of English  
Area of Recognition: Service

**Shailesh Kumar Lal, Ph.D.,**

Professor of Biological Science  
Area of Recognition: Research

**Li Li, Ph.D.,**

Assistant Professor of Mathematics  
Area of Recognition: Research

**Kanako Taku, Ph.D.,**

Associate Professor of Psychology  
Area of Recognition: Teaching

**Julie Kristen Walters, Ph.D.,**

Associate Professor of Public  
Administration  
Area of Recognition: Service

**Alison Roller Woerner, M.F.A.,**

Assistant Professor of Dance  
Area of Recognition: Research

**Yang Xia, Ph.D.,** Professor of Physics

Area of Recognition: Research

## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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**Venugopal Balijepally, Ph.D.,**

Associate Professor of Management  
Information Systems  
Area of Recognition: Research

**Robert A. Nehmer, Ph.D.,** Associate

Professor of Accounting  
Area of Recognition: Service

**Steven James Stanton II, Ph.D.,**

Assistant Professor of Marketing  
Area of Recognition: Teaching

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES

---

**Lizabeth A. Guzniczak, Ph.D.,** Visiting

Assistant Professor of Education  
Area of Recognition: Teaching

**Jessica Korner, Ph.D.,** Assistant

Professor of Education  
Area of Recognition: Service

**Emery M. Petchauer, Ph.D.,**

Associate Professor of Education  
Area of Recognition: Scholarship

## SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

---

**Yin-Ping (Daniel) Chang, Ph.D.,**

Associate Professor of Mechanical  
Engineering

Area of Recognition: Service

**Tao Shu, Ph.D.,** Assistant Professor of

Engineering

Area of Recognition: Research

## SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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**Jennifer F. Lucarelli, Ph.D.,** Associate

Professor of Health Sciences  
Area of Recognition: Research

## SCHOOL OF NURSING

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**Kathleen Walsh Spencer, D.N.P.,**

Special Instructor of Nursing  
Area of Recognition: Service

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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**Judith M. Venuti, Ph.D.,**

Professor of Biomedical Sciences  
Area of Recognition: Teaching

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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**Amanda Nichols Hess, M.S.I.,** Assistant

Professor of University Libraries  
Area of Recognition: Teaching and  
Research

## OUTSTANDING GRADUATE MENTOR

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**Julia Smith, Ph.D.,** Professor of

Educational Leadership  
Department of Organizational  
Leadership, School of Education and  
Human Services

## 2016 EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

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Honors faculty members whose teaching  
and research efforts have achieved  
singular praise or recognition.

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Excellence in Teaching Award

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**Helena Riha, Ph.D.,** Special Lecturer

Department of Linguistics

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Teaching Excellence Award

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**Anthony Kenneth Tufie (Tuf) Francis,**

**Ph.D.,** Assistant Professor of Education  
Department of Teacher Development  
and Educational Studies

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New Investigator Research

Excellence Award

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**Courtney Brannon Donoghue, Ph.D.,**

Assistant Professor of Cinema Studies  
Department of English

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Research Excellence Award

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**Lianxiang Yang, Ph.D.,**

Professor of Engineering  
Department of Mechanical Engineering

## 2015 UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT AWARD

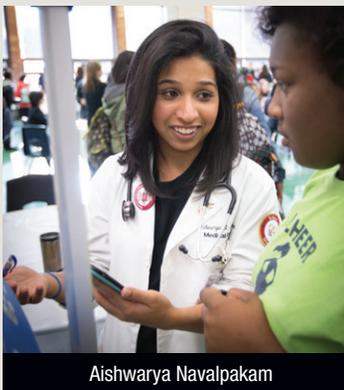
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Graduate and Doctoral Counseling  
Programs, M.A. in Counseling: Community  
and School Emphases and Ph.D. in  
Education: Counseling Emphasis



OUWB School of Medicine students (from left) Craig Profant (holding camera), Mayank Agarwal, Alexandra Gabrielli and Lauren Quinn with classmate and Make-A-Wish volunteer Lauren Singer (right). The students came together to grant the wish of Aylana, who wanted to be a celebrity for a day.

### Medical students recognized locally, nationally for volunteer work



Aishwarya Navalpakam

Balancing heavy academic workloads that include clerkships, three Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine students from the Class of 2017 have merited high-level awards for national and local volunteer work.

**Aishwarya Navalpakam** received the 2016 Excellence in Public Health Award from the U.S. Public

Health Service Physician Professional Advisory Committee. She received the award for researching students' perceptions and knowledge of Human papillomavirus (HPV).

Navalpakam presented her research at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology and subsequently at a press conference and Q&A session broadcast via Twitter.

She participates in local and global public health efforts that include working in Mumbai, India, with a nonprofit organization for children with developmental disorders.

**Lauren Singer** was named Make-A-Wish Volunteer of the Year for Michigan. During her first year of medical school, Singer discovered the group. She volunteered at the 2014 Walk For Wishes – Southeast Michigan in May, at the Wish Ball in November, and served as a wish-granting volunteer. She also introduced Make-A-Wish Michigan to the OUWB student interest group in oncology by organizing volunteer training sessions with her fellow students.

"The beauty of Make-A-Wish is that it takes the illness out of the equation," Singer said. "I volunteer because I see the joy I bring to families and memories they are able to build that help them leave illness behind, if just for a moment."



Jeanne Wigant

**Jeanne Wigant** won a 2016 Hometown Health Hero Award from the Michigan Public Health Week Partnership for volunteering at HOPE Adult Shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness.

The award, part of the annual National Public Health Week observance in Michigan, recognizes individuals and organizations who work to maintain and improve the health of their local communities. Wigant received the award on April 13 at the Capitol Rotunda in Lansing. 🌙



# REUNION

September 23-25, 2016

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

## MULTI-YEAR REUNIONS

### Homecoming features Classes of 1966-69; 50-year honors for Class of 1966

Reserve September 23-25 for this year's Homecoming and Reunion weekend, which includes a Multi-Year Reunion honoring the Classes of 1966 to 1969. Special honors will be given to the Class of 1966 for its golden jubilee.

"Alumni are telling us that they would love a multi-year reunion format," said Alumni Relations Director Sue Helderop. "Many were close to students who were not in their own graduating class."

Homecoming and Reunion promises to be a weekend of fun for alumni to catch up with old friends and acquaint with OU's growing and changing campus.

The Multi-Year Reunion events kick off on September 23 with a brunch and behind-the-scenes tour of Meadow Brook Hall. A presentation of photos and other memorabilia from 1966 to 1969 follows in the afternoon at Kresge Library.

That evening, attendees will enjoy a reception and Alumni Awards Banquet and program, with special recognition for the Class of 1966.

On Saturday, reunion classes will join ongoing homecoming festivities, including campus walking tours, the All-University Barbecue and men's soccer game. The evening concludes with a private reception before joining other reunions for the casual and fun Milestone Reunion Bash at the Oakland Center.

"We make sure there are plenty of opportunities to have fun and connect with other alumni, but we also make sure not to

overschedule," Helderop said. "You can also pick and choose what you attend."

Members of the Classes of 1966-69 will soon receive a formal invitation. Information is also available now at [oualumni.com](http://oualumni.com) under the "Things to Do" tab, under Multi-Year Reunion.

Alumni can also email [OUAA@alumni.edu](mailto:OUAA@alumni.edu) or call (248) 364-6130 with any questions about the events.

For a preview of reunion events, check out pictures from the Class of 1966 50-year reunion at [oualumni.com](http://oualumni.com) under the "Things to Do" tab, under Multi-Year Reunion. ➤

*By Jennifer Heil Bonacorsi, CAS '94*



The OUAA invites members of the Classes of 1966-69 to email photos for a special presentation during Homecoming and Reunion weekend: [OUAA@alumni.edu](mailto:OUAA@alumni.edu).

# THE THIRD DEGREE

**Daughter carries on Legacy family's OU journey.** *By Rene Wisely*

**Dan Leming, SBA '16, '13, and his wife Teresa, SBA '08, regret graduating from Oakland University. Not because they disliked it — because they loved it so much.**

Because of different family situations, the couple spent more than two decades working on their degrees, so it became a second home to the Shelby Township, Michigan, residents.

Dan was the first to start singing OU's praises, in 1995.

He enrolled full time after graduating from Lake Orion High School, getting in two years toward a degree in Information Technology.

"It is a great school," Dan said. "I chose it because it was close to home, had small classes and was relatively inexpensive."

"Then life happened," Teresa said. Dan got custody of his two children and married her 15 years ago this June, becoming an instant family.

Teresa was Dan's first OU convert, followed by his second daughter, Sidney Leming, who finished her freshman year in the Honors College in April and is majoring in applied statistics.

"I had been going to University of Michigan-Flint, but that was no longer working after we married, so we both started at OU part time while working full time — actually, we both had two jobs at the time — and raising the girls," Teresa said.

She liked her experience and in particular, the dedication of the professors.

"I do love that school," she said. "It has such a great environment for Sidney, too."

Life's roller coaster ride continued to push off graduation for the Lemings. Teresa gave birth to a third daughter, Sophia,

in 2004. A couple of months later, Dan was diagnosed with cancer. He received another cancer diagnosis in 2014, taking classes the entire time.

Teresa was first to graduate, in 2008, majoring in management. She uses her degree every day as operations manager at Rochester Hills' Carlex, which provides foreign language teaching aids to educators.

As does Dan. He is an IT manager at Tyler Technologies in Troy. After earning his bachelor's degree in 2013, he started on his master's in information technology management, graduating with honors on April 29, 21 years after beginning his quest. He also accepted an invitation to join Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honors society.

"It is bittersweet because it's the end of an era," Dan explained.

However, daughter Sidney will keep him visiting campus, as will his season tickets to the men's basketball games.

Sidney recently enrolled in the Exploring Caribbean Music course and will play in a steel drum concert.

"I love that she has all these fun opportunities," Dan said.

The fun, and her family's dedication to getting their degrees, helped put OU on her college radar. "I started coming to OU for the basketball games and I always thought the campus was nice," she said.

When it came time to choose a school, Oakland was her top choice. Now it is her turn to carry on the Leming legacy. 🐾

*Rene Wisely is a freelance writer from West Bloomfield, Michigan.*

## The OU Legacy

A Legacy student is an individual whose parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle received a degree or academic certificate from OU. You are a part of a Legacy family if your child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece or nephew is also a graduate or current student.

Be sure to complete and submit the Legacy Identifier Form at [oualumni.com/legacy](http://oualumni.com/legacy) so that you can stay informed of special Legacy student and family opportunities.

For questions about the Legacy program, please call the Alumni Relations Office: (248) 364-6130. 🐾



Dan and Teresa Leming have three OU degrees between them. Daughter Sidney (top left) is an Honors College sophomore this fall and her sister, Sophia, 11, cheers the Golden Grizzly men's basketball team with her family.

## ARTS AT OU

### Popularity reaches peak with third season

By Jennifer Heil Bonacorsi, CAS '94

Programming for the fourth season of Arts at OU is underway following the success of the 2015-16 season, deemed the most popular yet. The quality and variety of arts at OU drew hundreds of alumni to the series, exclusively sponsored by Oakland University Credit Union.

"Alumni don't have to ever leave campus. We have so much going on to pick and choose from," said Director of Alumni Relations Sue Helderop. "The events have provided really fun evenings that showcase the University and our students."

#### DURING 2015-16:

- "Oklahoma!" opened the series with more than 90 alumni enjoying the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance musical theatre production in Varner Studio Theatre. An elegant dinner followed at the Oakland Center.
- Alumni heard a concert in November by the award-winning Oakland University Brass Band, followed by a post-concert reception in Varner Hall.
- Nearly 600 alumni attended the festive and ever-popular Meadow Brook Hall Holiday Walk, followed by a dessert reception.
- "Breakfast at Tiffany's" dinner and movie sold out in February. OU's Cinema Studies faculty and students provided their insights into the film and 60 alumni enjoyed a short film produced by OU students.
- A grand finale featured the Oakland Symphony Orchestra and Oakland Symphony Chorus in performance at Detroit's Max M. Fisher Music Center. Nearly 90 alumni enjoyed VIP seating, access to the conductors and an exclusive pre-concert reception. ➤

Stay tuned to the "Things to Do" tab at [oualumni.com](http://oualumni.com) for the 2016-17 series announcement.



## FOR YOUR BENEFIT

As a graduate of OU, you are automatically a member of the OUAA and qualify to receive the benefits available through the association without membership fees. Not only does the OUAA keep you connected to your alma mater, it also provides you with services and benefits that include access to savings with several local and national companies, including OU Athletics, Meadow Brook Hall, OU Art Gallery, OU Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Kresge Library, OU Recreation Center, Oakland University Credit Union and Liberty Mutual.

Visit [oualumni.com](http://oualumni.com) and select the "For Your Benefit" tab for more information. ➤



## Join fellow alums for summer fun



### OU NIGHT AT COMERICA PARK: AUGUST 3, 2016

Cheer on the Detroit Tigers at the 12th annual OU Night at Comerica Park. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with an all-you-can-eat buffet at the ballpark. At 7:10 p.m., find your seats for the first pitch of the game against the Chicago White Sox. Join us on the charter bus

from campus for hassle-free transportation to the game. Visit [oualumni.com/events](http://oualumni.com/events) for details and to register.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR MACOMB COUNTY GATHERINGS

- Grizzly Gathering in Mt. Clemens: June 24
- Grizzly Gathering at Jimmy John's Field: July 10



## Leadership OU – more than Mentoring

OU alumnae are giving back to the lives of students in powerful ways. Junior and senior students in the Leadership OU program have identified ways in which their mentors have positively influenced their lives.

Angelica LeDonne, an OU senior studying communication, wants to thank her mentor, **Krista Malley, SEHS '09**, for “being a listening ear and also for our walks and talks. That’s how we spend our time together and it is so much fun just to have good quality time and someone to laugh with.”

In addition to being an alumna, Malley also works in OU’s Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs, making it convenient for her and LeDonne to connect on a regular basis.

Dema Iskander, an OU senior studying communication and criminal justice, says her relationship with her mentor **Tara Michener, SEHS '12**, has “gone past the mentor/mentee phase and we actually consider each other friends now.”

Over the course of their friendship, Michener set up a series of informational interviews with professionals working in Iskander’s potential career field. “I appreciate the immensely large network Tara has helped me to create and I am forever grateful.”

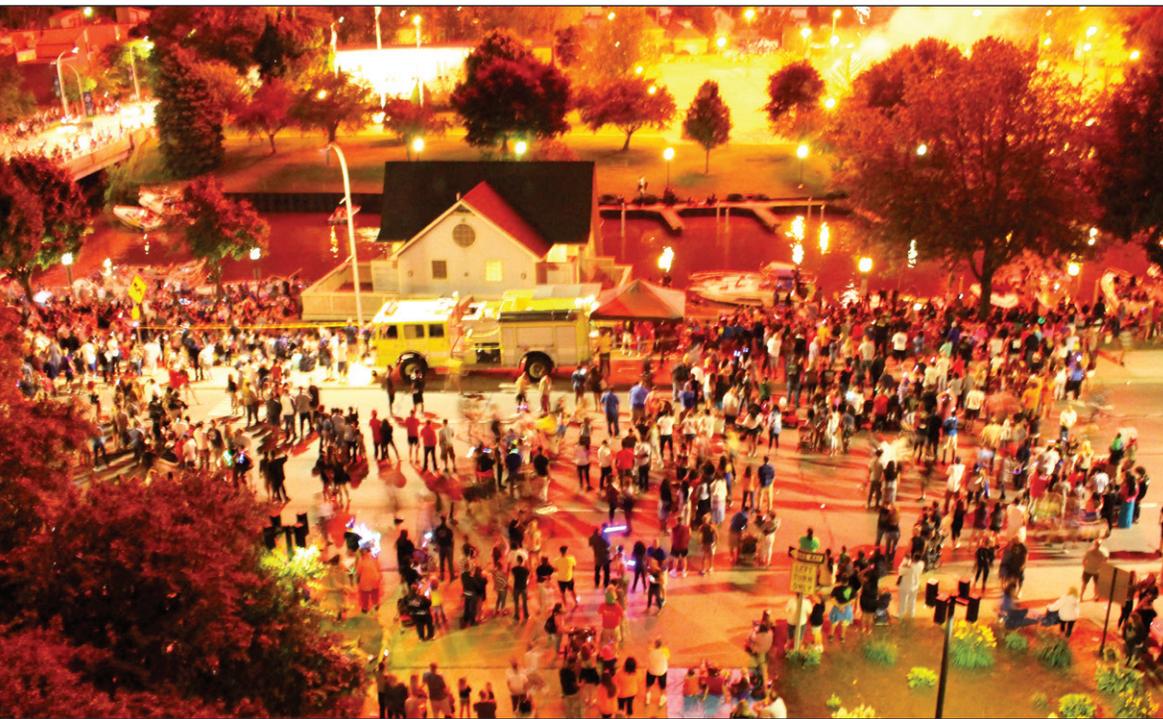
The OUAA recognizes the value of engaged alumni and will continue to facilitate those relationships. The Leadership OU program is in search of talented alumni to serve as student mentors. If you or someone you know would make a good fit, please contact Hallie Bills at (248) 364-6121 or via email at [hjbills@oakland.edu](mailto:hjbills@oakland.edu).



Mentor Tara Michener, SEHS '12 (left) and senior Dema Iskander



Senior Angelica LeDonne (left) and mentor Krista Malley, SEHS '09



## Grizzly Getaway Travel

Pack your suitcase and your love for learning when you travel with Oakland University Grizzly Getaway Alumni Travel. Choose from among several extraordinary places to explore and immerse yourself in the history, art, culture and cuisine of faraway corners of the globe.



Southern Grandeur  
Oak Alley, Louisiana



Mediterranean Radiance  
Portofino, Italy



Baltic & Scandinavian Treasures  
Stockholm, Sweden



Costa Rica

### UPCOMING TRIPS

- **Pacific Northwest and California:**  
August 29 – September 5, 2016
- **Spotlight on London:**  
September 8 – 14, 2016
- **Oktoberfest – Vienna & Bavaria:**  
September 9 – 18, 2016
- **Flavors of Northern Italy:**  
September 17 – 25, 2016
- **Spain – Barcelona & San Sebastian:**  
October 20 – 29, 2016
- **Tropical Costa Rica:**  
November 5 – 13, 2016
- **Tanzania Safari:** March 9 – 19, 2017
- **Southern Grandeur Steamboat Cruise:** April 23 – May 1, 2017
- **The Colorado Rockies:** August 2017
- **Baltics & Scandinavian Treasures:**  
August 22 – September 2, 2017
- **Alaskan – Discovery:** September 2017
- **Mediterranean Radiance:**  
October 7 – 17, 2017
- **Reflections of Italy:** October 2017
- **Antarctica:** November 2017

For more information about upcoming trips, please contact Amanda Fylan, assistant director of Alumni Relations, at (248) 364-6128 or [fylan@oakland.edu](mailto:fylan@oakland.edu). 

# Class Notes



Jay Korinek

## 1960s

**Jay Korinek, CAS '67**, won the 2015 arts educator award, presented by the Dearborn Community Arts Council.

Korinek retired as a professor from Henry Ford College and hosts the talk show, "The New WHFR Journal" on WHFR-FM.

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



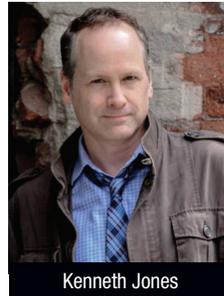
James T. Selecky

## 1980s

**Lyonel Coats, CAS '86**, was appointed by Blueprint Medicines to its board of directors. Coats is the president and chief executive officer and a member of the board of directors at Lexicon Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Prior to his involvement with Lexicon, he held several different leadership roles at Eisai Inc.



Lyonel Coats



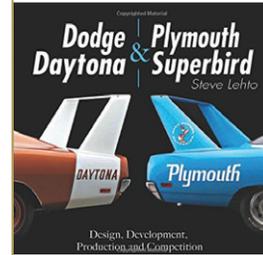
Kenneth Jones

**Kenneth Jones, CAS '86**, saw the world premiere of his play "Alabama Story" produced by Salt Lake City's Pioneer Theatre Company in January, 2015.

At least three regional theatres will

produce the play in 2016. These include Florida Studio Theatre in Sarasota, Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre on Cape Cod, and Peninsula Players in Door County, Wisconsin. Jones is a playwright, lyricist and librettist who also advocates for other new plays and playwrights at [ByKennethJones.com](http://ByKennethJones.com).

**Steven Lehto, CAS '89**, published his new book, "Dodge Daytona and Plymouth Superbird: Design,



Development, Production and Competition," chronicling the "Aero Wars" between Ford Motor Co. and the Chrysler

Corp. from 1969 to 1970. He held a book-signing at Pasteiner's Auto Zone Hobbies in Birmingham, Michigan, on March 19.



## 2016 Downtown Rochester Events Calendar

**Farmers' Market**  
Saturdays, May 7 - October 29

**Princess & Pirate Ball**  
August 7

**Trick-or-Treat Downtown**  
October 22

**The Big, Bright Light Show**  
November 21 - January 1, 2017

**Mini Market Thursdays**  
June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

**Rockin' Rods 'n Rochester**  
August 14

**Farmers' Market Trick-or-Treat**  
October 29

**Friday Night Carriage Rides**  
November 25, December 2, 9 & 16

**Sidewalk Sales**  
July 14 - 16

**Art & Apples Festival®**  
September 9 - 11

**Holiday Expo**  
November 14

**Small Business Saturday**  
November 26

**Explorers Club**  
July 14 - August 6

**Oktoberfest**  
September 22 - 24

**Festival of Trees**  
November 18 - 20

**Kris Kringle Market**  
December 2 & 3

**Movies in the Moonlight**  
July 16, 23, 30 & August 6

**Rochester Posed**  
October 6

**Lagniappe**  
November 21

**Christmas Parade**  
December 4

**Farm to Table Dinner**  
July 24

**Fire & Ice Festival**  
January 20 - 22, 2017



For more information, contact the Rochester DDA at 248/656-0060 or visit [DowntownRochesterMI.com](http://DowntownRochesterMI.com).

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

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## 1990s

**Sonya G. Bellafant, CAS '93**, joined the Legal Aid Society in Columbia, Tennessee, as a staff attorney. She has extensive experience with legal aid programs, having worked for three different nonprofit law firms in Michigan. Bellafant also has experience with several corporate legal departments. She will have a general caseload, with some concentration on health and benefits. Bellafant is a graduate of Michigan State University College of Law and earned a degree in journalism at OU.



**Elaine (Yaryan) Heath, CAS '90**, was named dean of Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. She is a professor of evangelism at Southern Methodist

University's Perkins School of Theology in Dallas. Prior to Southern Methodist, she was an assistant professor and director of the doctor of ministry program at Ashland Theological Seminary. Heath is an ordained minister and has pastored at the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church.

**Angela (Lagnemma) Jeruzal, CAS '96**, was hired by Eisbrenner Public Relations as their account supervisor. Prior to this she was a communications, public relations and marketing consultant. She also previously held a position as director of marketing and business development at Hamilton Anderson Associates.



**Yasmin Moore, CAS '90**, was appointed associate creative director and copywriter at J.R. Thompson in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Moore, who earned a Bachelor of Arts in communication arts, has several years of experience in marketing and advertising at agencies in Detroit, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, as well as at boutique agencies. She has worked in traditional advertising in television, print

and outdoor, as well as digital, CRM and publishing. In her new role, Moore will work with art directors, copywriters, account representatives and marketers to create a distinct vision for clients. She will assist with advertising strategy and planning and fine tuning the agency's creative vision and process.

**Robert Scope, SBA '93**, was named one of five new managing directors by UHY Advisors. Scope has been with this firm and its predecessors since 1994. He specializes in attestation services, assists with the firm's internal national audit training and is frequently called upon to speak at professional education events.

**James Sharkey, SBA '97**, was named senior director of global sales and marketing for Pressure Systems International (PSI). He previously was with Meritor for 23 years.

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## 2000s



Peter D. Coyl

**Peter D. Coyl, CAS '06**, was named district manager over Dallas Public Library's J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, one of the largest public library

facilities in the United States. He supervises the seven subject-specialty floor managers and assists with coordinating library-wide programming and events. Coyl is also active in the American Library Association and chairs the GLBT Round Table.

**Scott Ferguson, CAS '03**, is joining Waterton, a U.S. real estate investor and operator, as assistant vice president to oversee regional operations. He will oversee onsite operation teams at Presidential Towers, Pensacola Place, One East Delaware and River North Park. Ferguson was previously district manager at the Related Companies.



Scott Ferguson



**Jennifer Laam, CAS '08**, recently published her second book, "The Tsarina's Legacy." Laam earned a master's degree in history from OU and her bachelor's degree from the

University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. She has lived in Los Angeles and the suburbs of Detroit, traveled in Russia and Europe and worked in education and nonprofit development. She currently resides in Northern California.

**Jennifer (Sousa) Llewellyn, SEHS '00**, was named

manager of Michigan Works!, Oakland County's workforce development program, where she oversees eight service centers.

Llewellyn began as an intern at Michigan Works! in Troy, Michigan, and advanced in administrative positions to oversee a \$3-million budget and 19 employees. In 2014, she was highlighted in County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's "Elite 40 Under 40."

**Rashawndra D. Outlaw, SECS '02**,

received a Modern Day Technology Achievement award at the 2016 Black Engineer of the Year Award (BEYA) Science, Technology,

Engineering, and Math (STEM) Conference. She has been recognized for her outstanding work at General Motors and the impact she has had on the automotive industry in creating new opportunities for women and minorities.



Jennifer (Sousa) Llewellyn



Rashawndra D. Outlaw

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2010s

**Alexander S. Rusek, CAS '10**, is an associate attorney at White Law PLLC in Okemos, Michigan, whose practice focuses on business law and litigation, estate planning, appellate law and criminal law. Rusek recently joined the Michigan State University College of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Fry Krisp Food Products, Inc., advisory board. In March, the Ingham County Bar Association presented him with a "Top 5 Under 35" award.

**Meghan Carr, SBA '15**, was named marketing coordinator for Farbman Group/NAI Farbman, a commercial real estate firm based in Southfield, Michigan. Carr, who earned a bachelor's degree in general management, had been natural foods assistant lead at The Kroger Co. Carr is a community volunteer, donating time to breast cancer fundraising, food pantry food drives, adopt-a-family and adopt-a-veteran programs.



During their graduate education at OU, husband and wife **Sunil M. Kandel, CAS '15**, and **Ranjeeta Thapa, CAS '16**, had two children, published nine peer-reviewed publications and each earned doctoral degrees in biomedical sciences, medical physics. On April 28, they chose to be hooded together at graduate commencement ceremonies. Sunil, who graduated in July 2015, delayed going through commencement in part so he could be hooded with Ranjeeta, now a post-doctoral student at the University of Michigan. Her mentor at OU was George Wilson, Ph.D., of the Beaumont Health System and Sunil's mentor was Physics Professor Brad Roth, Ph.D.

**Lin Tairi, SBA '14**, general manager of a Clinton Township, Michigan, McDonald's restaurant, received the company's Ray Kroc Award for globally top performing restaurant managers. She has worked for McDonald's for 11 years, with the initial goal of gaining work skills and paying for college. Tairi received the award, a cash prize and trophy in Orlando, Florida, on April 13.

DEATHS

1960s

**Allen Hortop, SEHS '66**, on March 7, 2016

1970s

**Capt. Frank C. Foster, CAS '78**, on February 15, 2016

**Arthur B. Haynes, CAS '73**, on October 4, 2015

**Alice L. Upton, CAS '72**, on February 3, 2016

1980s

**Theresa J. Becker, CAS '84**, on December 3, 2015

**Martha (Bade) McCann, SEHS '83**, on June 9, 2015

**Kevin P. Takacs, CAS '81**, on July 21, 2015

1990s

**Eleanor M. Peters, SON '97, '79**, on February 10, 2016

**María L. Rosales, SBA '98**, on November 26, 2015

**Melinda G. Young, BGS '95**, on April 8, 2016

2000s

**Micah J. Greene, SEHS '07**, on February 23, 2016

**Joanne E. Wagerson, CAS '00, '87**, on December 8, 2015

2010s

**Frank Barylski, SBA '10**, on December 11, 2015

OBITUARY

Trustee emeritus **Howard Sims, 82**, on March 31. He served on the OU Board of Trustees for two terms, in 1981 and in 1988. He provided leadership and service to the OU community until 1996. Trustee Sims was a leading Detroit architect whose work is represented by the Cobo Center; Millender Center apartments; Detroit Wayne County Port Authority Public Dock; and Terminal and the Wayne County Community College District's main downtown campus, among others.

Alumni,  
we want  
to hear  
from you!

Send us the latest information about you and your accomplishments for future publication in **Class Notes**. You may also include a photo, either print or high resolution (300 dpi) digital file.

To submit new information, go to [oualumni.com](http://oualumni.com) and click on "Update Your Record."

You can also mail your update to: Oakland University Alumni Engagement, John Dodge House, 507 Golf View Lane, Rochester, MI 48309-4488. ☺



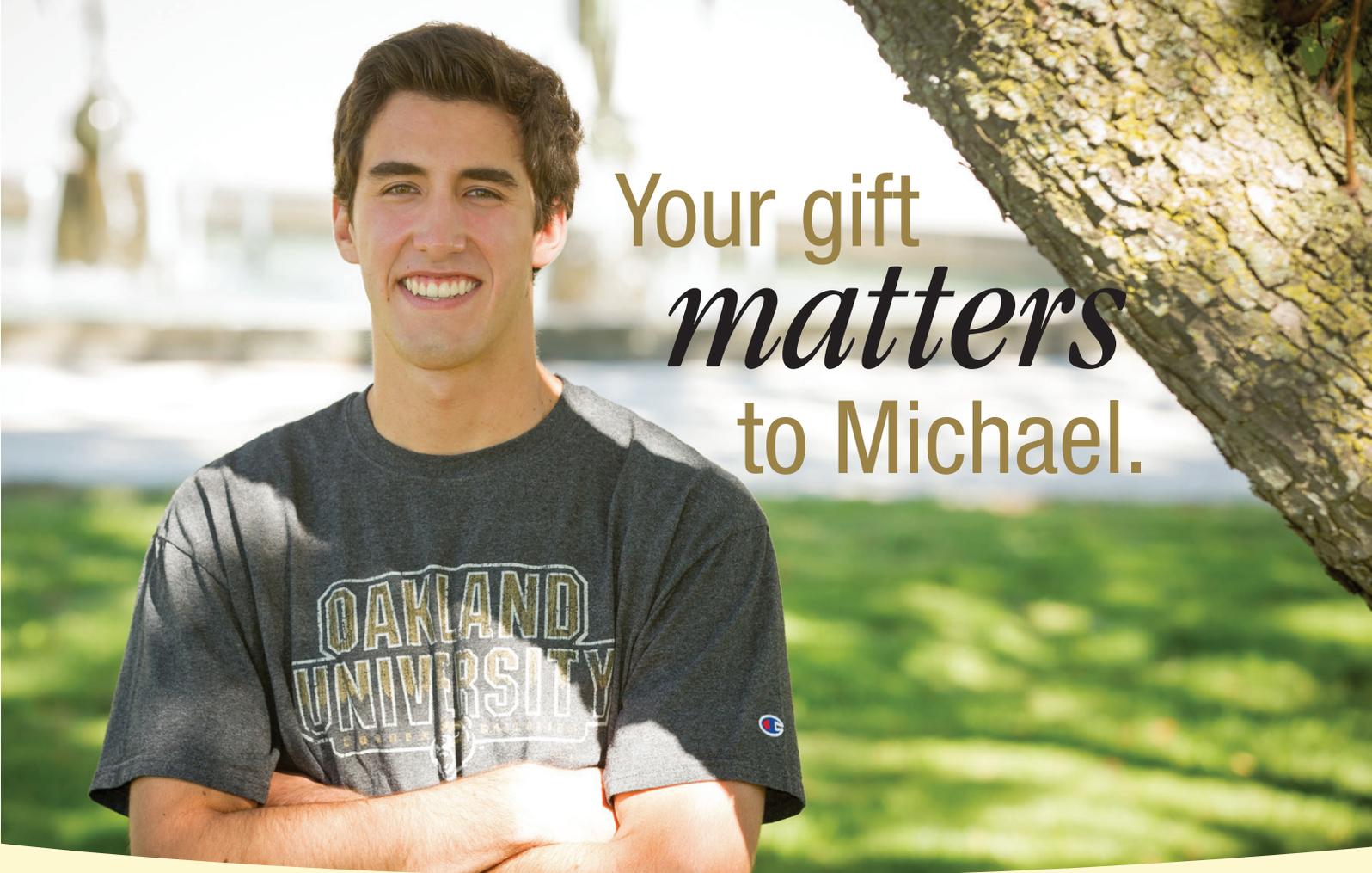
## A first-class second class graduates from Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine

On May 13, the second class of the Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) School of Medicine graduated at the O'rena. Before family, friends and community, 68 students recited their class oath, pledging to provide compassionate, evidence-based care and maintain, improve and honor the noble traditions of the medical profession, and advocate for a better world.

Classmates chose Woodrow J. Sams (above) to address the graduates. Sams is completing his medical residency in emergency medicine at the University of Michigan.

He and his classmates learned of their residency placements on March 18 at Match Day, described by OUWB Founding Dean Robert Folberg, M.D., as "a day every medical student looks forward to and every physician never forgets." Graduates are studying more than a dozen specialties across the country at prestigious locations such as Stanford University, Yale University, Northwestern University, Wayne State University and Beaumont Health System.

Among the graduates are four Oakland University alumni: Gerta Mane, Amanda Rose Mann, Roslyn Oakley and Kerolos Shenouds. Respectively, they will pursue careers in ophthalmology, emergency medicine, pediatrics and otolaryngology. ➤



# Your gift *matters* to Michael.

**Name:** Michael Culver

**Year:** Senior

**Major:** Mathematics and Physics

**Hometown:** Clarkston, Michigan

*“Oakland was the best choice for me for a number of reasons, foremost of which was support from the Presidential Scholarship.”*

## **Career plans?**

I'd like to be a university mathematics professor.

## **What is the best thing about OU?**

I really love the professors here. They're at the top of their field, and we get the chance to talk with them in their offices — maybe about homework assignments, or maybe about the latest developments in quantum physics.

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

I love the philosophical nature of mathematics and physics, the way you can toy with mathematical constructs to uncover secrets of the physical universe. I also love the practicality and the ways in which mathematics and physics students are taught to think, which is invaluable to future employers.

## **Tell us about working while going to school.**

As a freshman, I was an instructor at Mathnasium in Birmingham. I worked as an undergraduate researcher with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics during my junior year. Most recently, I've had the opportunity to interface with OU's Department of Biological Sciences working in mathematical biology.

*Learn how your gift matters to other OU students like Michael.*

Visit [supportou.com/yourgiftmatters](https://supportou.com/yourgiftmatters).

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# HOMECOMING AND REUNION WEEKEND

September 23-25, 2016

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TO RISE.  
GATHER TO CELEBRATE**

