

## SBA Business Brigades to inform, assist communities in Panama

Oakland University's Business Brigades chapter is planning a trip to Panama this spring, set for Sunday, April 28 through Saturday, May 4.

Business Brigades seeks to create economic growth and opportunity for communities in the developing world. The group is a subchapter of Global Brigades – the largest global health and sustainable development organization – and serves under-resourced communities in three main ways:

- Supporting access to financial resources through the creation of a community-based credit and savings cooperative
- Providing financial literacy education
- Offering micro-enterprise development and counseling

During the trip, student volunteers will work with communities in rural Panama to provide financial education and micro-enterprise counseling.

"I absolutely believe this experience is a life-changing opportunity for students of all majors," said Laura Collier, an OU graduate and representative for Global Brigades. "Not only are students able to apply their classroom knowledge to real world challenges, but they're also making a difference directly in these communities.

Collier added that the goal is to continue expanding Global Brigades programs on campus, targeting all four countries the organization serves: Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua and Ghana.

Business Brigades is the fourth Global Brigades program launched at OU. The campus also has initiatives in Medical Brigades, Public Health Brigades and Architecture Brigades.

In 2011, OU's Medical Brigades chapter traveled to rural Honduras and provided free health care to people in the mountain top community of Hoya Grande. This past year, the Medical Brigades and Public Health Brigades chapters were in Honduras providing health care services.

School of Business Administration students may be eligible to receive a scholarship from the SBA to cover 50 percent of the program costs. To learn more about the scholarship, contact SBA Dean Mohan Tanniru at [tanniru@oakland.edu](mailto:tanniru@oakland.edu).

## OAAA supports students with several 2013-14 scholarships

The Oakland University Alumni Association is continuing its efforts to keep a college degree within reach of students. To support this goal, there are several 2013-14 OAAA scholarships are now available.

High School seniors, current Oakland students, transfer students and alumni returning for an additional degree may be eligible to apply for an OAAA scholarship. Applicants are evaluated based on academic performance, leadership and service to the university or community, along with two letters of recommendation.

A total of 13 different scholarships are being sponsored through the

OAAA.

These include the Working Student Scholarship, Returning Alumni Scholarship, Black Alumni Affiliate Scholarship and Legacy Scholarship, as well as awards for students in the School of Health Sciences, School of Nursing, School of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Business Administration, School of Education and Human Services, College of Arts and Sciences and the Honors College.

OAAA scholarships are nonrenewable and range from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

"These scholarships go a long way toward helping current and future OU

students pursue an education that will serve them throughout life," said Erin Sudrovec, associate director of Alumni Engagement. "The awards are supported by generous alumni who have stepped up to ensure that other students have access to the same path of opportunity."

To date, the OAAA has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships, which are funded through generous donations and revenue generated through OAAA events and programs.

For additional information on OAAA Scholarships, contact Erin Sudrovec at (248) 364-6136 or [sudrovec@oakland.edu](mailto:sudrovec@oakland.edu).

# News YOU can use from



## **OU offers IT program at Mount Clemens center**

Oakland University will expand its footprint in Macomb County next fall when the institution begins to offer a four-year degree in information technology through the Anton-Frankel Center in Mount Clemens.

"This is a major that's in high demand, not only in Macomb County but in southeastern Michigan," said Louay Chamra, professor and dean of the school of engineering and computer science at Oakland University.

"This is a great opportunity for the people in southeastern Michigan and the community of Macomb County ... We've tried to offer classes in such a way that (students) get the whole bachelor's degree in information technology at the Anton Frankel Center."

Information technology covers a broad range of computer-related disciplines, such as data mining and data analysis, Chamra said.

Nearly every major industry employs persons with IT training, he said, and a recent graduate with a bachelor of science in IT could expect to earn \$55,000 to \$65,000, the dean said.

"IT is an integral part of any company, Chamra said.

The introduction of an IT program at the Anton-Frankel Center is the latest foray by Oakland University into Macomb County. Since the university opened the facility in 2010 in

the former Towne Center II building in downtown Mount Clemens, programs and enrollment has grown annually.

About 700 students pursue degrees or course work in several subject areas including business, public administration, criminal justice and social work.

The Anton-Frankel Center is part of what the university calls Oakland University-Macomb, which also includes higher education opportunities at the Macomb University Center and the Macomb Intermediate School District, both in Clinton Township.

"The goal is to bring a high-quality Oakland University degree ... to the people of Macomb County," said Betty Youngblood, executive director of OU-Macomb.

Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel welcomed the news of Oakland's expanded offerings.

"OU is really making its mark," Hackel said. "I think it adds a lot more value to Macomb County." Combined with Macomb Community College and other institutions of higher learning, Hackel said he's confident the county will produce graduates with the skills business and industry demand.

"People do want to invest in Macomb County and this region," Hackel said.

## **OU's American Chemical Society wows at statewide competition**

The Oakland University American

Chemical Society Student Chapter celebrated a recent victory at the "Battle of the Chemistry Clubs." They were among the 12 chemistry groups from around the state who traveled to Michigan State University to participate in the competition, which was hosted by the ACS Younger Chemists Committee at MSU.

The OU student club took second place with a score of 90 out of a possible 100 points, just behind a group from Kalamazoo College. The OU team consisted of members Dan Kurtz, Teresa Serwick, Candi Gokey, Brandon McCullough and Suzi Neal.

Team OU nearly scored first place in the final round of Chemistry Jeopardy, but a minor slip up in the delivery of their answer cost them the win. The talented group performed remarkably well in all other rounds as well, being the only team to receive a perfect score in the semifinal round.

"In short, while we did not win the event, we truly outperformed the other groups competing," said Charlene Hayden, faculty advisor and chemistry professor.

The OU ACS Student Chapter is open to all undergraduate students who plan to major in chemistry or a chemistry-related field, such as biochemistry or biology. The group's mission is to encourage informal networking and share information about chemistry and career choices in the sciences.

For more information on events or to join the group, visit the ACS GrizzOrgs page.

# State and National Headlines

## **College Degree Required by Increasing Number of Companies**

The college degree is becoming the new high school diploma: the new minimum requirement, albeit an expensive one, for getting even the lowest-level job. Consider the 45-person law firm of Busch, Slipakoff & Schuh here in Atlanta, a place that has seen tremendous growth in the college-educated population.

Like other employers across the country, the firm hires only people with a bachelor's degree, even for jobs that do not require college-level skills. This prerequisite applies to everyone, including the receptionist, paralegals, administrative assistants and file clerks. Even the office "runner" — the in-house courier who, for \$10 an hour, ferries documents back and forth between the courthouse and the office — went to a four-year school. "College graduates are just more career-oriented," said Adam Slipakoff, the firm's managing partner. "Going to college means they are making a real commitment to their futures. They're not just looking for a paycheck."

*UBdaily*  
February 21, 2013

## **Colleges Prepare For Automatic Federal Budget Cuts**

Colleges and universities are bracing for steep spending reductions in student aid and research funding due to the looming sequestration process. Financial aid offices are scrambling to offset the drop. University researchers say they're already seeing delays in federal grant

making. MONTAGNE: The big federal budget cuts called sequestration start on Friday, but they're already being felt on college campuses. Curt Nickisch of member station WBUR reports has this report from Boston, the city at the center of a cluster of higher education institutions.

*NPR*  
March 1, 2013

## **LA: UL System approves 10 percent tuition increase**

This week the University of Louisiana (UL) Board of Supervisors approved a 10 percent tuition increase for the upcoming fall semester. However, the tuition increase remains contingent upon institutions meeting certain performance goals outlined in the Louisiana GRAD Act. Preliminary studies indicate all nine UL institutions will pass the GRAD Act requirements, but final approval will be given in June.

*The Times-Picayune*  
February 26, 2013

## **MA: Gov. Patrick calls for tax increase, greater funding for higher education**

Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick (D) stated this week that he will seek a state tax increase in order to provide \$152 million more in funding for the state's public colleges and universities. The University of Massachusetts System has stated that if the governor's plan is adopted, the system will freeze tuition and fees.

*The Republican*  
March 5, 2013

## **Public Higher Ed Per-Student Spending Drops To 25-Year Low**

The amount being spent per student by public colleges and universities has fallen to its lowest level in at least 25 years, a result of state budget cuts a new report warns are rapidly eroding the nation's educational edge over its international competitors.

The report, by the Boulder, Colorado-based State Higher Education Executive Officers, or SHEEO, shows that state and local financial support for public universities and colleges fell 7 percent last year, on top of a 9 percent drop the year before. And while enrollment also fell slightly—a result, the organization's president said, not of lower demand, but of higher tuition—it's still higher than in 2008, when the steep budget cuts began.

The result is that the amount being spent, per student, is \$5,896, the lowest level in the 25 years since it's been tracked by SHEEO. And a much higher proportion of that is being charged to families in the form of tuition than is being covered by states

*The Huffington Post*  
March 7, 2013

## **Nixon Reverses \$8.5M in Cuts to Higher Education**

Gov. Jay Nixon has reversed an \$8.5 million cut to public colleges and universities because of improving state revenues.

Nixon announced Monday that he is releasing the money to be distrib-



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## March 2013 *NEWSLETTER*

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### State and National Headlines *CONTINUED*

uted to higher education institutions. He also released several hundred thousand dollars that had been withheld from foster care programs, child-care subsidies and the State Historical Society of Missouri. The governor had placed spending restrictions on about \$15 million of items in the state's \$24 billion operating budget when he signed it last June.

After Monday's decisions, Nixon still has a block on nearly \$6 million of spending. The governor says he's waiting to see if tax revenues continue to improve before making a decision on those other items. Revenues are up 9.5 percent so far this fiscal year.

*CBS St. Louis*  
February 4, 2013

**NH: Governor's budget includes funding increase for public colleges and universities**

New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan (D) released a state budget blueprint Wednesday that boosts public higher education funding to \$75 million in 2014 and \$90 million in 2015.

If Hassan's plan is approved, funding would almost return to 2011 levels, after which the state cut funding to public higher education by nearly 50 percent.

*Associated Press*  
February 14, 2013