

OU partners with HAVEN in an effort to end gender-based violence

Faculty in Oakland University's School of Nursing are leading the campus in an effort to end gender-based violence.

By offering a six-week leadership program open to all OU students, the Violence Prevention Task Force aims to motivate students to play a central role in ending bullying, violence and sexual assault — both on campus and in the community.

The training series, called Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP), promotes both men and women working together in order to create positive change.

“Students should participate if they are interested in learning more about

how they can become effective and active leaders in changing the culture on campus,” said School of Nursing faculty Kelly Berishaj.



“During the program, students will learn bystander intervention skills, which will assist with intervening when an abusive relationship is identified or to provide support and guidance to peers who may be in an abusive relationship.”

Session topics include:

- Leadership Development and Program Introduction
- Defining and Preventing Sexual Assault / Consent and Bystander Intervention
- Flirting and the Dynamics of Sexual Harassment
- Media Literacy and Objectification
- Skills for Violence Free Relationships
- Leadership, Culture Change and Continued Activism

For more information about the MVP session or joining the Violence Prevention Task Force at OU, contact Kelly Berishaj at berishaj@oakland.edu.

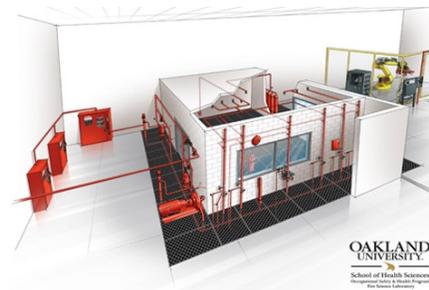
OU Plans construction for cutting-edge Fire Safety Lab

Manufacturing companies have donated more than \$275,000 of new and rebuilt fire suppression equipment for a state-of-the-art Fire Safety Laboratory in Oakland University’s Human Health Building.

“When completed, this fire science lab will be the only such lab in the Midwest,” said Dr. Charles McGlothlin, special instructor and program director for OU’s Occupational Safety and Health program. “The addition of the new Fire Safety Laboratory will give our graduates the advantage of experiencing first-hand the capabilities of various fire suppression systems and devices.”

The lab will be able to sustain live

burns while providing a close-up understanding and analysis of the operation and effectiveness of fire suppression equipment, devices and system design. Fire code enforcement agencies, government agencies, safety consulting firms, insurance companies and a multitude of manufacturers large and small will be able to use the laboratory to provide training and



demonstrations for their employees.

Oakland students enrolled in the Occupational Safety and Health program will be able to utilize the lab to add an emphasis on the science of fire protection to their degree program.

The project is designed and ready to go out to bid once funds are raised for the actual construction of the lab.

“We are working with companies and foundations to generate funding necessary to bring these donated systems to life,” said McGlothlin.

Learn more about the Fire Science Lab and funding opportunities at <http://www.oakland.edu/upload/docs/>



Students make top 10 at MHacks for diabetes app

Innovation and focus helped senior computer science majors Andrew Clissold, Steven Wiggins and Brandon Powell achieve success at nationwide programming competition MHacks, where they ranked in the top 10 for their application TypeOneTwo.

“The team created a great app that services to people with diabetes,” said Sebnem Onsay, Oakland University professor. “I thought it was incredible that they put something like this together in such a short period of time. With all the time pressure (36 hours), they delivered a high quality and most importantly — a working app.

This is no a small achievement. These students who joined MHacks loved programming, they already were feeling confident with their skill set.”

TypeOneTwo, described by the team as “a trifecta of apps for diabetic tracking and analysis,” takes diabetics’ glucose and insulin readings from their diabetic device, aggregates it and graphs it using Google Charts.

The app was created using Swift programming language on iOS, and Java on Android, and is integrated with Facebook’s Parse framework as well as a custom web server written in Go.

With an endless supply of snacks and caffeine, Clissold, Wiggins and Powell built the app during the 36-hour coding marathon, and earned attention from big companies like Google.

“We each brought our own unique skill-set to the table, and that is what enabled us to excel,” Wiggins said. “It was a great opportunity and experience, and we’re super excited for the next one.”

After encouragement from judges, the team is looking to expand the app in the future, and said they plan to participate in the next MHacks, scheduled for Jan. 16-18, 2015.

“Hackathons are a great tool to develop a network,” Onsay said. “I encourage our students to participate more in these type of events if they would like to work for highly popular companies. We are so proud of our OU students. Congratulations to all who took the extra step to go to this event and test their skills.”

\$1.5 million will carry Eye Research Institute into its fourth decade of grant-funded cataract research

For 36 years, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have funded Dr. Frank Giblin’s research on cataracts. This fall he will expand his work with a four-year grant totaling \$1.5 million. “It’s unusual to have a grant for 36 years with the same title and grant number,” Dr. Giblin said.



Undergraduate student, Nahrain Putris, is one of several students who works with Dr. Giblin on cataract-related research.

Dr. Giblin is a professor of biomedical sciences and director of the Eye Research Institute at Oakland University. His research on “Proteins of Normal and Cataractous Lenses” has received more than \$10 million since the grant’s conception in 1977. At that time, there was little known about oxidative stress and its involvement in causing cataracts, a loss of transparency in the lens.

“My first 10 or 15 years, I just really studied and evaluated all the different antioxidant mechanisms that are present in the lens, the main one was glutathione,” Dr. Giblin said. “The lens has one of highest concentrations of glutathione

in the body, so I studied how that works and why it doesn’t work so well in the nucleus, or center of the lens.”

Although the name of the grant has remained the same, Dr. Giblin’s studies have evolved as he has uncovered the mysteries of age-related cataracts and their relationship to proteins in the ocular lens. “One discovery leads to something else,” he said.

His newest NIH grant will continue until the fall of 2018. In that time, he plans to further explore the cause of age-related cataracts in relation to oxygen and study fragments of proteins called peptides that may be involved as well.

A postdoctoral fellow will be hired and Dr. Giblin will collaborate with researchers from universities across the country, including Vanderbilt University, Oregon Health Sciences University and the University of Missouri.

“The grant will study the role of oxygen in causing a common type of human age-related cataract called nuclear cataract, which forms in the center of the lens and can cause blindness,” Dr. Giblin said.

Dr. Giblin’s research expands further than this NIH grant, encompassing various other cataract-related studies where he enlists the help of students. He works on various side projects with OU biological sciences undergraduates Mirna Awrow, Nahrain Putris and Mason Geno.

“It’s experience I never expected to get at an undergraduate level,” said OU sophomore Putris, a biochemistry (pre-med) major and student in the Honors College.

The pioneering efforts of Dr. Giblin’s cataract-related research will provide the University’s Eye Research Institute with the knowledge and funds to continue to grow and expand the studies of ocular diseases.

State and National Headlines

Hiring for Bachelor's Degrees Will Increase in US by 16% This Year

Knowledge Transfer

A new study from Michigan State University's College Employment Research Institute finds employers are recruiting new college graduates at levels not seen since the dotcom frenzy of 1999-2000. The vast majority of employers were fairly confident about the strength of the college labor market this year. Eighty-four percent hired at least one new college graduate during 2013-14. This year, 97% will do so. Of the 18% that did not hire last year, only one-fifth will not be hiring anyone this year.

ashworthcollege.edu

October 21, 2014

Report: More Public Investment in Higher Education Needed

A recent report from the Center of American Progress has advocated for the importance of public investment in the higher education system. The report, "A Great Recession, A Great Retreat," suggests that higher education plays an important role in the economy by offering students the ability for an increase in personal economic growth, as well as offering a high return on public investment through a well-educated workforce. The economy will see further growth through higher employment rates, the report says, by allowing people to stay employed longer, achieve higher earnings, continue business development and drive higher tax revenues.

Education News

November 4, 2014

A Great Recession, A Great Retreat

Center for American Progress

This report explores the financial toll that the recession took on public colleges and universities, finding that state funding cuts led to a cost shift and higher tuition rates. In addition, state disinvestment had the greatest toll on low- and middle-income families and state budget cuts were disproportionately directed to two-year colleges. According to the report, 29 of the 50 states cut their total level of state higher education support between 2008 and 2012. In response to these trends, the authors call for a federal matching grant program, with requirements that states create reliable funding streams for higher education, make college more affordable, increase performance, and remove barriers for completion.

americanprogress.org

October 27, 2014

Trends in State Financial Aid

This paper provides a review of changes to state student financial aid programs in 2013 and 2014. According to the report, seven states either changed or added need-based financial aid programs, including two states that expanded the definition of need. Three states made changes to merit-based aid programs. The report also found that more states are using financial aid to steer students into high-need fields, as well as using aid to facilitate and encourage transfer. The paper concludes with "considerations for what may be on the horizon" that include exploring how well state student aid programs serve an increasingly diverse student body; exploring the relationship between state aid and

college completion or workforce outcomes; and the state role in loan repayment and forgiveness.

www.ecs.org

November 4, 2014

Blueprint for College Readiness: A 50-State Policy Analysis

This report examines state policies for college readiness in high school, higher education, and the bridge between high school and higher education. For high school policies, the report evaluates whether states have adopted college and career readiness standards and assessments; established statewide minimum high school graduation requirements; and created appropriate accountability mechanisms. The higher education policies include statewide admission standards; statewide remedial and placement policies; statewide transfer and articulation policies; and accountability through state college attainment goals. The bridge policies include statewide college and career readiness definitions and state data pipeline and reporting policies. The report includes a profile of state performance on each category and sub-category, as well as examples of state policies in each section.

www.ecs.org

October 2014

Higher education seeks 10 percent increase in Oklahoma funding

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education unanimously approved a budget request for the 2016 fiscal year that seeks an additional \$98.7 million. Chancellor Glen Johnson said the increase is needed to make college accessible to more Oklahomans and prepare them for



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State and National Headlines *CONTINUED*

the jobs of the future.

The Oklahoman
November 7, 2014

University of Wyoming battles faculty turnover

Last year, 30 faculty members left the University of Wyoming after reaching tenure-track status or higher. Most of these university-identified “strong performers” moved on to other universities, taking with them the intellectual capital and grant money they had acquired at Wyoming.

It marked the highest annual exodus of faculty in more than seven years, and a significant increase from 2006, when just nine faculty left. The university has roughly 600 pro-

fessors at three different tiers of seniority. When the 30 faculty decided to decamp last year, that amounted to an overall 5 percent turnover.

The reasons for faculty departures are highly individualized. In interviews with WyoFile, faculty reasons for leaving included salary, lack of support for high-level projects, and the potential to have a broader impact outside the state of Wyoming. Competitor institutions lured away some professors through recruitment, while others put themselves on the market on their own initiative.

www.wyofile.com
November 11, 2014