

OU alum saves a life through bone marrow donation advocacy

In 2013, a simple swab changed the lives of one Oakland University alumnus, his fellow intern and an 11-year-old girl in need of a bone marrow transplant.

Jonathan Gusilar graduated from OU in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in biomedical diagnostic and therapeutic sciences (BDTS) with a specialization in medical laboratory science.

Gusilar organized a Be The Match® bone marrow drive during his senior year at OU, setting the foundation for another life-saving event that would come a year later.

While organizing the 2013 bone marrow drive at the ASCLS-MI Annual Meeting and Exhibits in East Lansing, Mich., Gusilar recruited fellow intern Nick Serocki to “man the booth during the drive.”

“I later found out that Nick wasn't on the registry so I gave him the facts and urged him to sign up,” Gusilar said. “I remember saying to him that I have been on the registry for more than five years and I haven't gotten a single phone call.”

Only a few months later, Serocki received a call from the National Marrow Donor Program® that he

was a possible match to an 11-year-old girl who needed a transplant. After multiple tests, surveys and blood samples, Serocki was found to be a perfect match and would undergo the bone marrow transplant.

“There are few moments that we are able to change someone else's life, to become a hero to somebody,” Gusilar said. “These moments are mostly unexpected. One simple action can make a huge difference in another person's being.”

“A simple swab of the inside of your cheek can save a life.”

Early childhood education center on campus supports OU student learning

Books, toys and open-ended, hands-on materials used to stimulate and support young minds display their vibrant colors and textures within the Lowry Center at Oakland University — a facility that not only teaches children, but provides unique learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students.

Serving 150 children, Lowry is a thriving learning center that fosters the cognitive, creative and physical growth and development of children 18 months to 5 years old. Classes run throughout

the academic year, from September to June, to accommodate undergraduate and graduate students involved with the center through the School of Education and Human Services.

“Our purpose is to educate children, and be a training site for teachers and other occupations, facilitate research and provide community service,” said Dr. Julie Ricks-Doneen, faculty director of the Lowry Center.

Lowry is an inclusive facility, serving children who have a wide

range of developmental and learning needs in a child-centered, active learning curriculum to cultivate growth in all developmental areas.

The stimulation and learning opportunities at the Lowry Center provide support for a strong self-esteem, inclusion with diversity, growth in trust and autonomy, and the development of a sense of curiosity and desire to learn.

To learn more about the Lowry Center for Early Childhood Education and the programs and services it provides, visit oakland.edu/lowry.



Medical students learn how to identify and help victims of human trafficking

OUSB kicked off its first Lunch n' Learn of the school year with a presentation by Assistant Attorney General Kelly Carter on the topic, "Human Trafficking: A Medico-Legal Problem in Michigan." OUSB medical student Theresa Yankovich, class of 2017, is doing her Capstone research on this subject and presented alongside the assistant attorney general.

Assistant Attorney General Carter educated medical students about human trafficking and discussed telltale signs of what to look for in patients so they could improve their ability to identify victims and recognize and report cases of human trafficking. She distinguished between two forms of human trafficking – sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

Following the assistant attorney general's discussion, Yankovich gave examples of techniques to use to gather more information about a patient's well being.

Yankovich said to call the authorities at the patient's discretion and to report the trafficker only if the victim is in agreement and ready to accept help and identify the controller. At all times, hospital personnel need to be aware of the situation and any action being planned.

Fast Facts: Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is also known as modern-day slavery and is defined as the recruitment, transportation, harboring, or receipt of people for the purpose of slavery, forced labor, and servitude. More people are enslaved today than at the height of the trans-Atlantic slave trade (Polaris Project, 2012)

- Human trafficking is estimated to be a **\$33 billion industry** affecting **162 countries**
- **12.3 million men, women and children** are trafficked globally for purposes of forced labor or commercial sex
- **122 products** have been identified by the US Department of Labor as products produced by forced labor
- **160 cases a month** of girls being sold online or through escort services have been identified in Michigan (2011 data, MI Women's Foundation)

The National Human Trafficking Resources Center operates a 24/7 hotline at: 1-888-373-7888.

Health Sciences professor to oversee grant project promoting healthy lifestyles in Pontiac

Oakland University and the Oakland County Health Division, on behalf of the Healthy Pontiac, We Can! (HPWC) coalition, have been awarded funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

The Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) award is part of a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services initiative to support public health efforts to reduce chronic diseases, promote healthier lifestyles, address health disparities and control health care spending. The three-year, \$1.95 million grant will fund a citywide approach to making Pontiac a healthy, vibrant place to live, work and play.

Jennifer Lucarelli, Ph.D., assistant professor of Health Sciences and chairperson of the HPWC coalition, will oversee the project as the principal investigator. "Healthy Pontiac has been working since 2011 to

bring together the community around health and wellness," Dr. Lucarelli said. "This award is truly an acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication of the community to making it easier to live a healthy lifestyle, and we look forward to expanding our reach."

This funding will increase access to healthy foods and promote physical activity, as well as strengthen culturally relevant health programs for Pontiac's Hispanic residents. Funded activities include:

- Expanding Gleaners' Fresh Food Share Program, which delivers boxes of fresh produce to residents in community locations
- Launching pop-up produce markets at community sites that provide low-cost produce for sale and accept SNAP/EBT benefits
- Implementing a healthy cafeteria promotion campaign at McLaren Oakland Hospital and local schools
- Creating a non-motorized master plan for Pontiac that creates safe and accessible walking/biking routes that connect to public parks, fresh food markets, schools, commercial centers, neighborhoods and public transportation.
- Introducing enhanced physical education opportunities in schools serving Pontiac children

"This unique opportunity allows expansion of Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's vision for a healthier Pontiac and a healthier Oakland County," said Kathy Forzley, Oakland County Health Division manager/health officer.

"HPWC partners continue to come together with a shared goal of reducing chronic disease and health disparities. Healthy Pontiac, We Can! is a premier example of a coalition's impact on public health and the strength of partnership."

State and National Headlines

More employers demand college degrees, study finds

Landing a job that leads to a middle-class living may be getting harder for the two-thirds of American workers who aren't college graduates, as more employers demand bachelor's degrees from applicants, according to a new report.

The higher threshold is impeding job seekers looking for positions that haven't historically required a B.A., according to Boston labor analytics firm Burning Glass Technologies.

Los Angeles Times
September 9, 2014

U. of Illinois battles to keep in-state university students

Dive Brief:

The University of Illinois is considering raising the amount of financial aid funneled to in-state students to keep them from attending out-of-state schools.

Spending in the university's proposed 2014-2015 budget would increase 1.6%, to \$4.52 billion. Tuition would increase 1.7% for new students.

According to school officials, the main reason that in-state residents who are accepted to the university's Urbana-Champaign campus choose not to attend is tuition cost.

Dive Insight:

Urbana-Champaign enrolls about 1,000 fewer freshman who are state residents than it did 10 years ago, according to the Chicago Tribune. Also, last fall only 45% of state residents who were offered admission to

the university ended up enrolling, compared to 58% in 2006. Some ideas for boosting revenue for in-state-student financial aid: Increase enrollment in the pricier programs, such as the College of Engineering, or increase the number of international students, who may have higher tuition rates than in-state students. This fall, the Urbana-Champaign tuition charged to new in-state undergraduate students is \$12,036 and up. Student aid in the proposed budget is set at \$84 million, up from \$21.7 million 10 years ago. Combined state and federal aid is expected to total \$347 million for the 2014-2015 school year for the university's students.

Education Dive
September 4, 2014

NJ: Governor signs higher education agreement with Mexico

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) traveled to Mexico last week and signed an agreement with Mexican officials to advance cooperation on higher education. While the agreement does not create obligations for either party, it encourages collaboration on a number of higher education issues, including academic exchanges, teacher training and online education. Christie also worked to strengthen economic ties between New Jersey and Mexico during his trip.

The Inquirer
September 4, 2014

Maine university officials urge legislators to boost funding

University of Maine System trustees might have to increase tuition rates

if no additional state money is forthcoming, one UMaine official said.

Officials advise panel keeping college affordable. Higher education officials told a special legislative commission Thursday that a top priority for keeping college affordable for students was making sure the state didn't cut the state appropriation for higher education and increasing the amount of financial aid available for students.

The Commission to Study College Affordability and College Completion is developing a strategic plan on increasing affordability and increasing the number of students staying in school through graduation. The report is due to the Legislature's Education Committee by Dec. 3.

Centralmaine.com
September 19, 2014

N.J. university receives funding to train future Newark teachers

Montclair State will be getting \$6.2 million in federal funding to continue the "Newark-Montclair Urban Teacher Residency Program," which is aimed at training STEM teachers to work in Newark public schools, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently announced.

The program, which was started with a \$6.3 million federal grant in 2009, allows participants to earn Masters degrees in early childhood education, teaching students with disabilities, and mathematics and science certifications.

Masters students receive tuition, fees, and a living stipend from the grant money, and "preferential advancement" from Newark Public



Office of Government and
Community Relations

123 Wilson Hall
2200 North Squirrel Road

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

ROCHESTER, MI
PERMIT NO. 17

October 2014 *NEWSLETTER*

**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT
and
COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

**(248) 370-3682
oakland.edu/govrel**

**Rochelle A. Black
Vice President
black@oakland.edu**

**Michelle Lange
State Relations Director
lange2@oakland.edu**

**Claudia DiMercurio
Executive Assistant
dimercur@oakland.edu**

**Jacqueline Racchi
Executive Secretary
racchi@oakland.edu**

State and National Headlines *CONTINUED*

Schools in the hiring process, MSU said in a release about the grant. The participants are required to teach for at least three years in Newark public schools. The new teachers receive “intensive” induction support and mentoring, the school said.

districtadministration.com
October 3, 2014

Jared Hunt column: State gets high return on higher ed

West Virginia’s economy reaps \$4 for every \$1 spent on educating kids after high school, according to a new study by researchers at West Virginia University.

The state Higher Education Policy Commission asked WVU’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research

to study the economic effect of the state’s public college and technical school graduates.

The study, released Wednesday, found that those students are expected to generate nearly \$6 billion for the state’s economy over the next 20 years. That’s more than four times the \$1.4 billion spent to educate them.

The \$1.4 billion spending figure includes \$404 million in state appropriations, \$92 million from state-supported scholarship programs and the rest coming from tuition, gifts and other sources.

Charleston Daily Mail
October 2, 2014