

New Master of Public Health program debuts this fall

This fall, Oakland University and the School of Health Sciences will debut the new Master of Public Health Program, designed to produce highly skilled graduates in a growing field.

"The Master of Public Health Program will improve the health of individuals and communities by strengthening the foundational skills, core capacities, diversity, preparation and responsiveness of public health professionals," Ken Hightower, dean of the School of Health Sciences, said this spring when Oakland's Board of Trustees approved the program.

"It will accomplish this under the guidance of highly accomplished scholars. We have an abundance of expertise in our program director, Dr. Patricia Wren, and her faculty members."

Students can complete the 44-credit

program in as little as two years, and will be prepared for careers in international health organizations, federal government agencies, state and local health departments, voluntary and philanthropic organizations, corporations and worksite wellness sites, local hospitals and non-profit organizations.

"We have received considerable interest from current students across a range of majors to working health professionals and mid-career workers seeking job training," said Patricia Wren, Ph.D, MPH. "I am confident that we have created an exciting new academic home for all of these individuals."

Graduate study will focus on academic instruction, meaningful research, and community-based, participatory public health service – all while preparing students to help promote collaborations designed to improve the health of hu-

man populations.

The program will reach into the community to promote targeted public health needs assessments, program planning, implementation and evaluation, distribution of health policy information, and health literacy campaigns for key areas in the region.

Collaborative projects will also better position the university to compete for health-related grant funding.

Meanwhile, the master of public health's service-learning component will contribute to the area's expanding health care industry, which is among the most promising economic sectors in southeastern Michigan.

To learn more about enrolling in graduate programs at the School of Health Sciences, visit oakland.edu/shs.

Business students help make Michigan Senior Olympics a success

When Oakland University student Cynthia Sanchez volunteered to help with the 2013 Michigan Senior Olympics (MSO) last summer, she wasn't sure what to expect from the older athletes who'd be participating.

Sanchez was among a group of students, all in a summer statistics class taught by David Doane, professor, quantitative methods, in OU's department of Decision and Information Sciences – who devoted a hot August day to volunteer at the Michigan Senior Olympics' track and field competition. The athletes ranged in age from 50 to 99.

"One of the participants was 99 years old," Sanchez recalls. "It was amazing to see someone his age being so active,

and it was really inspiring to see how much he enjoyed competing."

Most of the students later remarked, like Sanchez, that their favorite part of the day was their interaction with the seniors. "It was a great event, and I did enjoy myself," student Clifton Hermiz says. "Overall, it was a great experience, and I would do it again if I had the chance."

Student Crystal Easo, who worked the high jump that day was in awe of the seniors she observed. "Many of the participants could actually jump over 3 ½ feet, which was impressive," she says. "One participant was actually able to jump over 5 feet, which I thought was inspiring. "It was great to see so many people of the older generation be part of

something competitive and show us all how it's done."

Doane, who has medaled in swimming in the Michigan Summer Olympics, says he's hoping to give even more students an opportunity to be part of this spirit-lifting event next year.

"Senior MSO athletes compete not only in track and field events, but also in cycling, triathlon, tennis, pickleball and other sports," he says. "Volunteers are always needed. Maybe we can start a new partnership between SBA and the MSO."

For information about the 2014 Michigan Senior Olympic events, contact Becky Ridke with the Older Persons Commission at (248) 608-0250.

News YOU can use from



Business, engineering students learn, network at Michigan's first Auto Summit

More than two dozen Oakland University business and engineering students joined original equipment manufacturers, suppliers, government and non-profit organizations, and academic institutions at the Detroit Regional Chamber's (DRC) first-ever Michigan Automotive Summit at Cobo Hall last week.

The action-packed agenda included high level speakers who highlighted Michigan's automotive capabilities and expertise, discussed industry growth opportunities, and touched on the necessity to capitalize on – and maintain – the state's role as the epicenter of the global automotive industry.

As guests of the DRC, Oakland University students heard from keynote speakers Michigan Governor Rick Snyder; President and CEO, Center for Automotive Research, Jay Baron; and President, Michigan International Speedway Roger Curtis. They also took part in panel discussions focused on research and development, career opportunities for young professionals in the auto industry, and Michigan's business climate.

OU students also participated in a leadership lunch session featuring General Motors Chairman and CEO Dan Akeron, and a post-event networking featuring Nigel Francis, senior vice president, Automotive Industry Office, Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

"Thanks to the Detroit Regional Chamber Oakland University students got a chance to attend a significant event in Michigan where they heard from high-level executives about issues critical to the automotive industry and our state," says Janell Townsend, associate professor, marketing, who coordinated the student participation with the DRC.

"The Automotive Summit showed there is true commitment from the industry leaders to continue to build on recent successes," says Chrysler Project Manager and MBA student John Borth. "We

are looking towards a brighter future with new challenges in the areas of safety, mileage and future technologies."

Political Honor Society lands national journal project

From a national pool of candidates, Oakland University's political science honor society has been selected to play host to the prestigious Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics for the next three years.

The journal publishes outstanding undergraduate research from around the country on a bi-annual basis, and is operated entirely by undergraduate students from the host university, who review, edit, and produce the journal. Most recently, the journal was housed at Purdue University and the College of Williams and Mary.

"This is a major achievement for the Pi Sigma Alpha Nu Omega chapter," said Terri Towner, assistant professor and faculty advisor for Pi Sigma Alpha. "As a result of working on the journal, OU students will increase their critical thinking, writing, and verbal communication skills. In addition, students will gain valuable leadership experience and cultivate teamwork skills."

Oakland's Nu Omega chapter was selected from programs nationwide to house the journal, and will take custody beginning in fall 2013. OU students and Pi Sigma Alpha members wrote the bulk of the proposal, which included a rationale, available resources, university description, evidence of the department's commitment to the journal, and a summary of other qualifications.

Pi Sigma Alpha President Evan Jones was instrumental in bringing the journal to Oakland, and intends to personally oversee the process to ensure the utmost quality and excellence.

"I think the journal will afford myself and others the opportunity to gain an appreciation for the type of work many professors do as reviewers for profes-

sional journals," Jones said. "I also think that in the process of reviewing and editing other undergraduates' work in my field of study, I will become a better writer and critical thinker. The journal will also offer valuable experiences on the nature of team-based projects."

The bulk of the work will be completed by students registered for PS 306: Special Topics in Political Science this fall. In the course, students will learn to assess manuscripts by criteria such as the work's contribution to Political Science scholarship, support for main conclusions, appropriateness of its methodology, and writing quality.

Editorial board members will edit the manuscripts, check citations and references, and format the articles to fit the layout. Once this work is complete, the journal edition will be published with the students' names on the front cover.

"Not only does this reflect on Oakland's rising prestige, it offers a new way for students to be involved in their major," said history and political science major Jane Dixon. "By allowing students the ability to join the editorial board, they will have an exclusive opportunity that only a select few will be able to enjoy across the country. It contributes to the wider goal of encouraging undergraduate research."

This experience is especially valuable for Dixon, whose future plans include continuing her education and becoming a professor. In the world of academia, research for peer-reviewed journals will become an important part of her career, Dixon said.

Both Jones and Dixon are members of Pi Sigma Alpha and will serve on the journal's editorial board for the academic year.

For more information about the Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics, visit the website. To learn more about OU's Nu Omega chapter or the journal at Oakland, contact Dr. Towner at towner@oakland.edu.

State and National Headlines

Teens See College as Marker of Success

Teenagers say graduating from college is highly important, but teens and their mothers worry about the price tag, according to a report released this month by Ascend at the Aspen Institute.

Researchers for report “Voices for Two-Generation Success: Seeking Stable Futures” conducted focus groups with married and single mothers, teens and preteens this summer to get their thoughts on the importance of education and the affordability of college, as well as on barriers to success, community support and other issues.

Teenagers expressed economic anxiety over their future. Almost all of the older teens said they worried about affording college and knew many people had high debt and student loans. Some said their parents will contribute financially to their educational pursuits. Other teens said they may take out loans or work while in school. Despite concerns, teenagers believe a college degree leads to financial security and success. “Because nowadays you really need a college education to have a steady job that could support you,” a preteen boy from Denver said in the report.

Mothers also said a college education is important for their children and allows them to have a career instead of a job and to work on a passion rather than trying to make enough money to pay bills and get by. “Go all the way in school,” a low-income mother from Denver said in the report. “All the way... It is probably the strongest foundation you can ever have. People can take your money, they can take your house, your car, but you will always have your education to fall back on.”

Inside Higher Ed
September 16, 2013

LA: State seeks to bring back college graduates

Last month the Louisiana Board of Regents launched Operation Recall, a project aimed at using data to identify and target Louisiana college graduates who left the state and invite them to return home to fill high-tech jobs. The board will partner with an information-gathering company to match individuals with jobs in the state. State agencies expect a shortfall of skilled workers over the next several years.

The Advocate
August 29, 2013

Promise Seen in College-Awareness Program for Middle Schoolers

Educators eager for the right formula to motivate low-income students to aspire to college can find promise in a new study that endorses early exposure to college, mentoring, and community service leadership.

University of Michigan researchers found strong evidence that this combination of interventions used by the 22-year-old, non-profit College for Every Student had a substantial impact on college-going attitudes of disadvantaged students. Seventy-five percent of its program participants in the study plan to attend four-year colleges, compared with 5 percent of students in a control group.

While CFES, based in Essex, N.Y., works with 20,000 students (K-12) in 200 schools, the study released this week focused on its effectiveness among a sample of 1,100 middle school students in 21 schools across 10 states. The program’s highest concentration is with students in grades 6-9.

The organization’s annual \$3.5 million budget comes from private donations from corporations, foundations, and individuals, as well as some federal Title 1 funds. Teachers are trained to deliver the services and provide the extra support, along with volunteer

mentors. College students, business representatives, and other community members are often involved. Sessions take place before or after school, in a special period of the day, or during lunch.

College For Every Student
September 16, 2013

Young Adults Take Longer to Begin Careers, Report Says

Economic shifts over the past 30 years have delayed career launches for young adults, according to a report released Monday by the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University.

Young workers now reach financial independence at age 30 on average, an increase from age 26, and young African Americans gain traction in their careers at age 33, according to the report, *Failure to Launch: Structural Shift and the New Lost Generation*.

The declining access to full-time jobs has created a “lost decade” for young people, the report said. Finding employment has been especially different for young men, young adults without higher education and young African Americans. “As a result of increasing human capital requirements for both young and old, the education and labor market institutions that were the foundation of the 20th century industrial system are out of sync with the 21st century economy,” the report said.

Older workers who are college-educated are staying in the labor market longer. In 1987, 42 percent of women 55 and older were employed, compared with 62 percent in 2010. But the growing number of employed older adults has not caused the declining employment of young adults, the report said.

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State and National Headlines *CONTINUED*

Research universities are economic engines for the state

Jefferson City - Missouri universities generated 172 patent applications, 11 start-up businesses and 306 new inventions in 2012. Washington University and the four campuses of the University of Missouri together have generated almost \$40 million in cumulative royalties and licensing income since 2010, according to a new report by the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM).

The four campuses of the University of Missouri System generated \$6.7 million in adjusted gross income from licenses and royalties, nine startups, 33 patents and 74 patent applications in 2012. Washington University earned \$5 million in adjusted gross income, created two start-up businesses, received 22 patents and filed 98 new patent applications during that period.

The AUTM report helps measure the economic impact research institutions have on their communities and states. Nationally, the number of new startups increased 5 percent, and the number of licenses and options executed increased strongly by 5 and 8 percent respectively, for a total of 6,372 new technologies starting development at higher education institutions.

David Russell, Missouri commissioner of higher education, said the research and development that take place on college and university campuses have an economic impact on the state. "Colleges and universities are generating new patents, cutting edge technologies and productive intellectual properties," said Russell. "As a state, we get a huge return on our investment in higher education."

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