

SEPTEMBER 2015

The Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society Comes to OUWB

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (AΩA) has approved the establishment of a chapter of its professional medical association at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB). The chapter will be known as chapter Delta Michigan. The society, which was founded in 1902, recognizes and advocates for excellence in scholarship, honorable conduct and dedication to serving others.

Alpha Omega Alpha inducts medical students based on their leadership, character, community service and professionalism. The Charter Class members are Alexandra DePorre, Jonathan Goike, Ashley Guthrie, S. Brandon Luczak, Lauren Mecca, Kelly Morga, Jacquelyn Pastewski and Elizabeth White.

“We are delighted that OUWB medical students will have the opportunity to be recognized for excellence through selection to AΩA”, said OUWB Founding Dean

Robert Folberg, M.D.

According to its website, more than 50 Nobel Prize winners in physiology or medicine, and in chemistry, have been members of the AΩA.

Visit alphaomegaalpha.org to learn more about the medical honor society.



Pictured on the right are the first Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society members from OUWB's Charter Class:

Seated left to right:

- Alexandra DePorre (residency at University of Michigan,

Anesthesiology)

- Kelly Morga (residency at University of Michigan, Anesthesiology)
- Jacquelyn Pastewski (residency at Beaumont Health System, General Surgery)

Back row from left to right:

- S. Brandon Luczak (residency at Beaumont Health System, Orthopaedic Surgery),
- Jonathan Goike (residency at Ohio State University, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation)
- Lauren Mecca (residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital Weill Cornell, Pathology).
- *Not pictured, Elizabeth White (residency at University of Michigan, Internal Medicine)*



NEWS YOU CAN USE

SEHS professor receives prestigious Fulbright Specialist Award

Oakland University's Chaunda L. Scott, Ed.D., a native of Minneapolis, Minn., recently received a prestigious Fulbright Specialist Award that will take her to Cape Town, South Africa, to assist in the development of diversity education curriculum in higher education.

The Fulbright Specialist Program, which is very competitive, promotes linkages between U.S. scholars and professionals and their counterparts at host institutions in more than 140 countries worldwide.

Dr. Scott, an associate professor and graduate coordinator of the Master of Training and Development Program in the Department of Organizational Leadership in the School of Education and Human Services, also serves as the diversity and inclusion specialist for the Office of the Dean in the school. She will leave for Cape Town in October.

In South Africa, Dr. Scott will provide a series of professional development higher education workshops in the focused areas of diversity education and workforce diversity education for administrators and faculty. She will also replicate the Diverse Voices Conference model, which she founded 17 years ago.

The Diverse Voices Conference is a student-centered conference

that provides a forum for OU students, faculty, administrators and community members to discuss the value of human diversity. Dr. Scott is founder and president of the Diverse Voices conference.

Dr. Scott's expert knowledge in the areas of diversity education and workforce diversity education will assist South African higher education administrators and faculty in developing a diversity education curriculum, along with supporting diversity education initiatives.

SE Michigan Economic Outlook reports show confidence still high, but declining

Although Southeast Michigan's economic outlook remains above average, local businesses and consumers are becoming slightly less optimistic, possibly due to the fluctuation of international financial markets and interest rate policy uncertainty. The quarterly Southeast Michigan Economic Outlook reports, compiled by Oakland University's School of Business professor Ronald Tracy and colleagues, also show slight growth and a lower unemployment rate this year.

The three reports – from business executives, consumers and economics experts – provided input on Southeast Michigan's economic state.

For the third quarter of 2015, the business panel outlook for the state continues to remain well above the neutral range for the

end of 2015 and 2016. However, while still high, confidence in the local economy has been decreasing since its peak of 65.3 during the second quarter of 2014, and now sits at its lowest point since then, 59.8. Hiring experienced a modest decline of 1.5 and sales confidence declined significantly, by 4.3, while profits saw an insignificant decline, business executives said.

Consumers, like business professionals, are still very positive – thanks to an unemployment rate that dropped to 6.1 percent in June 2015 from 6.8 percent four months earlier – but confidence has dropped by 1.7 from last quarter. Consumer confidence has decreased 1.2, but consumers' confidence in their current conditions has grown – by 0.2 in the category "Getting along financially" and by 1.1 in the "Buying major household items" category.

Economics experts – from Oakland University, University of Michigan Flint, The Center for Automotive Research and others – expect Michigan's economic growth to plateau in 2016, even with the decline of unemployment and light vehicle sales forecasts climbing to 17.35 million vehicles. "Not an unlikely forecast seven years after the bottom of a recession (2009)," the professors wrote in the report. On a positive note, economists saw a decrease in the region's inflation rate – down to 0.25 percent from 1 percent last quarter – which would equate to a 2.5 percent growth in real wages.

STATE AND NATIONAL HEADLINES

Beefing up cybersecurity critical for higher ed

Dive Brief:

- Higher education institutions are particularly vulnerable to security breaches because they have a range of personal data in one place and relatively weak cyber security, thanks to the premium placed on information-sharing.
- Campus Technology reports that hiring a chief information security officer who is adept at networking and communication — and giving that hire a place in the c-suite — is critical.
- University Business highlights protections from cyber insurance, through which institutions can get retroactive protections and coverage for losses, liability, and regulatory consequences of security breaches.

Dive Insight:

The act of purchasing insurance forces institutions to review their policies and get strong protections in place. In some ways, that knocks out two birds with one stone, as part of the problem on many campuses is surely that policies are not strong enough. The pace of attacks, however, is almost unreal. Policies are not enough. A dedicated security officer, especially at large institutions, would require further expansion of the administration but the position could pay for itself by avoiding damages. The key is letting that role have real power, not just the ability to take the fall in the event of a problem.

Education Dive
September 11, 2015

Disparities Among Asian-American Students in California

A new report from the Campaign for College Opportunity, a nonprofit group, breaks down how Asian-American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students are faring in higher education in California. The group is the fastest growing racial and ethnic segment in California. It is also heavily reliant on public colleges -- 87 percent of Asian-Americans first enroll in a California community college or a California State University or University of California campus, the report found.

There are wide disparities in the college attainment levels among the group. The report said that looking at Asian-Americans as one monolithic group can lead to inaccurate assumptions, particularly that Asian-Americans are doing well in earning degrees. For example, 70 percent of adult Indian-Americans in California hold at least a bachelor's degree, according to the report, compared to only 10 percent of adult Laotian-Americans.

Inside Higher Ed
September 15, 2015

RI: Raimondo announces increase in state need-based grants to college students in R.I.

Last week Rhode Island Governor Raimondo announced that the state will award \$10.1 million in need-based grants to students this academic year through an initiative called Rhode Island's Promise. More than 6,000 students have

already received grants for the fall semester. Grants range from \$100 to \$4,000 and can be applied to the cost of tuition, student fees, and books; housing costs are not eligible. Unlike in prior years, grant recipients must be Rhode Island residents and attend a public or private institution in the state, as this effort seeks to increase the impact of state grants by offering larger awards to fewer students.

Providence Journal
September 10, 2015

IA: Iowa regents OK midyear tuition increase for UNI, ISU

The Iowa Board of Regents approved a roughly \$100 tuition increase to students at the University of Northern Iowa and Iowa State University last week. The increase will be effective for the spring semester and ends a tuition freeze for in-state undergraduate students that had been in effect for several years. Board members and students at the affected institutions said the increase would help offset rapid student population growth and decreasing state appropriations. The original proposal included the University of Iowa, the other public university in the state, but board members reconsidered after hearing from student leaders at that institution.

Quad-City Times
September 9, 2015



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State and National Headlines *CONTINUED*

These Groups Are Hoping To Help First-Generation College Students Make It To Graduation

For students aiming to be the first in their families to earn a college degree, there are many obstacles to getting into school - but the challenges don't end when they arrive on campus. However, several groups are seeking to change that with mentoring and career development programs that specifically aim to help these students finish school.

Only 11 percent of first-generation, low-income college students graduate with a four-year degree, according to research from the Pell Institute, and first-generation students are twice as likely as those with parents who graduated from college to drop out of school. There are racial disparities to consider too, since Latinos represent the highest proportion of first-generation college students. African-American students are also overrepresented among the first-generation student population.

One group working to address this graduation gap is America Needs You, a New York-based nonprofit that provides mentoring and career development training for low-income first-generation college students.

Huffington Post
August 10, 2015