

Oakland University

Board of Trustees

Report of the President

February 6, 2023



In Memory: Maggie Allessee



- **Legendary philanthropist dedicated to the arts, health care, education and nonprofits**
- **Received Honorary Doctor of Humanities, recipient of the OU Alumni Association's Honorary Alumna Award, and SON Board of Visitors' Legend Award**
- **Director, OU Foundation; member of Campaign Steering Committee and MTD Committee; and, inspired MTD's MaTilDa Awards**
- **Funded OU's first endowed chair at the School of Nursing, and, founded the annual Nightingale Awards**

Welcome New Trustees

OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY™



Colleen Ochoa Peters



Stefen J. Welch

Colleen Ochoa Peters



- **Founder of Meaningful Impact Consulting**
- **Supports “Vision to Learn”**
- **Vice President, M1 Concourse Checkered Flag Foundation**
- **Bachelor of Arts in Communications, Oakland University**
 - **Former Chair, OUAA Board of Directors**
- **Master of Arts Degree in Philanthropic Studies, Indiana University**
- **Appointed for a term from December 22, 2022 to August 11, 2030**

Stefen J. Welch

- **Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Detroit Pistons**
- **Bachelor of Arts in Communications, Oakland University**
 - **Oakland University Alumni Association Community Service Award**
- **Master of Arts in Community Development, University of Detroit Mercy**
- **Appointed for a term from December 22, 2022 to August 11, 2030**



Agenda

- I. OU Pride – Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, President**
- II. OU Libraries – Polly Boruff-Jones, Dean, OU Libraries**
- III. OU History – Graeme Harper, Dean, Honors College**

Mark Stone: Performance



- Professor of Music, World Music and Percussion, and Arts Area Leader, OU/Pontiac Initiative
- Performed with preeminent musicians from Uganda, Ghana, South Africa, India, Trinidad, Ecuador, and the United States

Fall Commencement

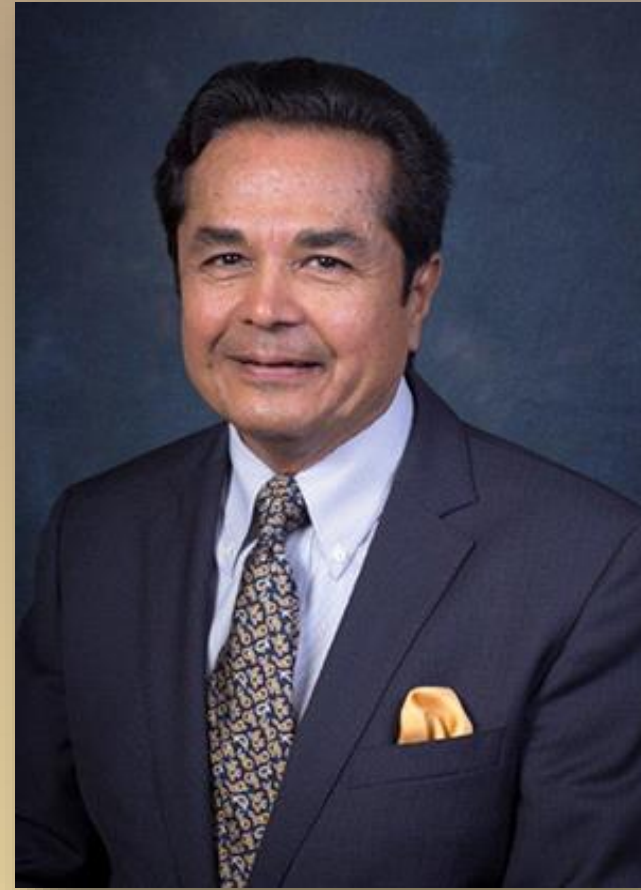
- Honored the accomplishments of nearly 2,000 students during commencement ceremonies held over two days at the O'rena.
- Of those completing degrees, undergraduates represented 77% and graduate students made up 23% of the total.



Honorary Degrees



Ewa Matuszewski
Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*



Jayprakash "Jay" B. Shah
Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*

Honorary Degree: Ewa Matuszewski



- **CEO and co-founder of Rochester-based MedNetOne Health Solutions**
- **Named a Crain's Detroit Business Healthcare Hero and a Notable Woman in Healthcare**

Honorary Degree: Jayprakash "Jay" B. Shah



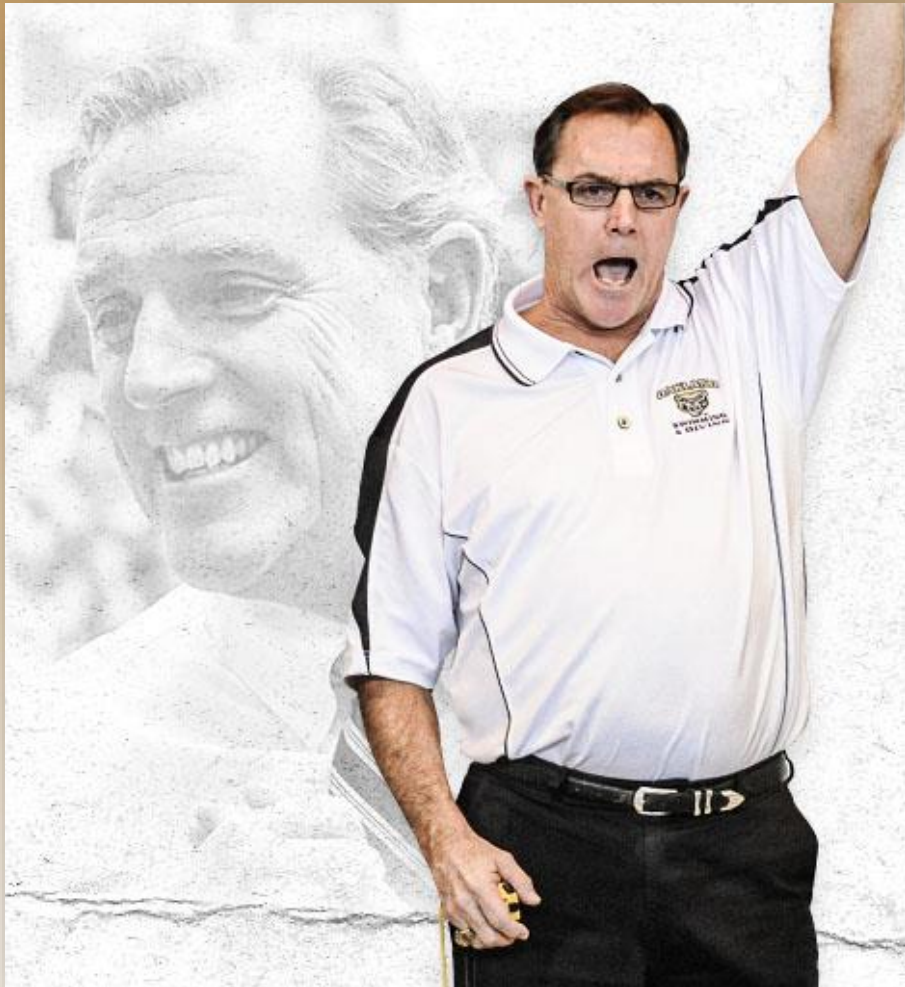
- **President, Jay Shah Associates, a management consulting firm**
- **Appointed in 2010 to Oakland University Board of Trustees**
 - **Chair, Facilities Committee with oversight of \$250M building projects, including the Engineering Center**

In Appreciation: Pete Hovland



- **OU Head Coach, Swimming & Diving will retire in May**
- **Joined the program as an assistant with the men's team in 1979, took over as head coach in 1981**
- **Men's team has won a conference championship for 44 consecutive years**
- **Women's team has won 28 consecutive titles with Pete as head coach for 21 of those the titles**

In Appreciation: Pete Hovland



- **30 Conference Coach of the Year awards, including the last two women's Horizon League Coach of the Year awards**
- **Tied for second-longest tenured coach (42 seasons) among current NCAA Division I coaches**
- **Michigan Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2016 Inductee**
- **2020 Summit League Hall of Fame inductee**

OU Strategic Goals



- **Student Success**
- **Research**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**



Community Engagement

History Comes Alive



- Six lectures during the academic year (3 each during fall and winter semesters)
- On January 10, Derek Hastings presented lecture, “Everyday Life in the Face of Destruction: The Case of the Nazi Ghetto at Lodz, Poland”
- On February 15: “The Tulsa Race Massacre and the Fight for American History,” a lecture by Scott Ellsworth
- Appreciation to the OU History Department, and Professor James Naus

Keeper of the Dream



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- **Guadalupe Avalos**
- **Tamia Smith**
- **Kyle Griggs**
- **D'Zariah Hopkins**
- **Krystal Davis**
- **Zoe Rosario**
- **Mena Hannakachi**

KOD Keynote Speaker: Hill Harper

- **Best-selling author and award-winning actor.**
- **More than 650 people attended, including students, faculty, staff and visitors from the region**





- On January 27, the Klein Center featured filmmaker dream hampton (Producer, "Surviving R. Kelly")
- The center cultivates conversations that transform the way we think about social issues for the purpose of coming up with humane and inclusive solutions.



Cis Maisel Center for Judaic Studies & Community Engagement

OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY™



Cis Maisel

- On Feb. 1, more than 500 attended a lecture by Rabbi Telushkin entitled “The Life and Teachings of Menachem Schneerson”
- Event exemplifies the center’s mission to foster dialogue and a deeper cross-cultural understanding

Appreciating OU's Legacy & History



**60th Anniversary of
the Naming of
Oakland University**

**The Historical
Context of OU's
Mission**



Polly Boruff-Jones
Dean, University Libraries

Graeme Harper
Dean, Honors College



**Polly Boruff-Jones, MLS, MPA
Professor, Dean of University Libraries**

Vision

Oakland University Libraries are the intellectual center of Oakland University. As leading advocates for knowledge equity, we advance student success and transform lives by inspiring discovery, creativity, research, and learning in an evolving information environment.

Mission



Oakland University Libraries acquire, preserve, and disseminate knowledge through expertly curated collections. We offer engaging learning experiences and innovative, safe, and welcoming spaces for our diverse community. The University Libraries' services and resources support student success, facilitate research, and promote lifelong learning.

Values

OU Libraries are committed to fostering:

- *Collaboration*
- *Community*
- *Creativity*
- *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility*
- *Lifelong Learning*
- *Respect*
- *Stewardship*
- *Sustainability*



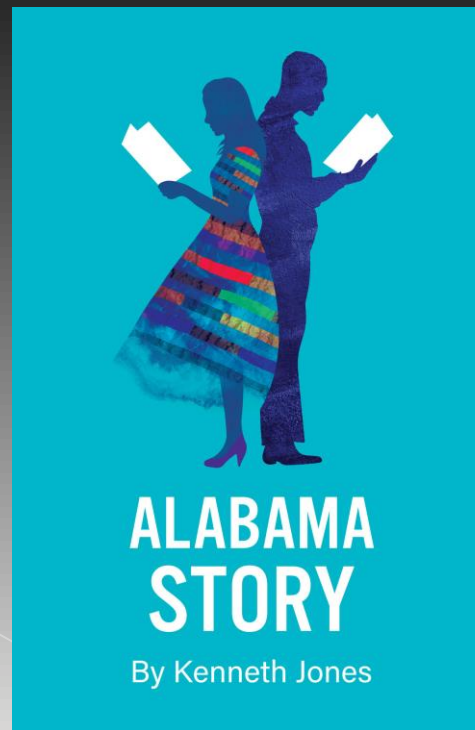
60th Anniversary

- ❖ **Kresge Library Opens**
 - October 1961
- ❖ **Kresge Library Dedication**
 - May 1962
- ❖ **Kresge Library Rededication**
 - May 2022
- ❖ **Diamond Jubilee**
 - September 2022



Fundraising

- Board of Advocacy
 - Formed in October 2018
 - 12 members
- Fundraisers
 - August 2021 - “Alabama Story”
 - September 2022 - Diamond Jubilee
- Current Focus:
 - Space enhancement
 - Affordable Education Materials - OER & textbooks
 - Archives & Special Collections - Digitization



Digital Projects

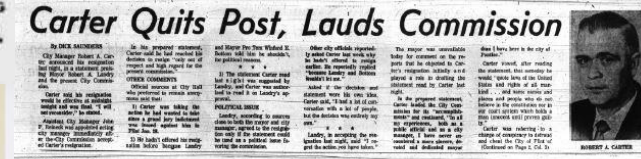
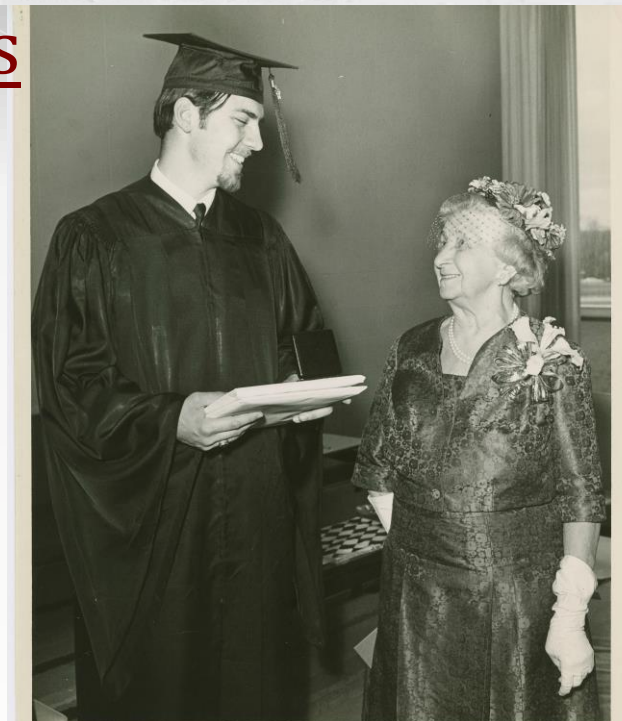
- ❖ Pontiac Oral Histories
 - Faculty, student, library team
 - Fox 2 News on February 18, 2022

- ❖ Oakland University photographs

- ❖ Oakland Press
 - Pontiac Press, 1953-1972
 - Pontiac Daily Press, 1919-1953
 - Pontiac Daily Press and Gazette, 1919
 - Pontiac Press Gazette, 1906-1919



Free Press Photo by IRA ROSENBERG
Mrs. Johnetta Brazzell records the recollections of Thomas C. Holland, father of Pontiac's mayor.



THE PONTIAC PRESS
Home Edition
VOL. 100 NO. 2 PONTIAC, MICHIGAN, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1966—48 PAGES

State Asked to Probe Big Value Store Blaze

The Lenten Story
Set \$134,000 as Estimated Total Damage
50 Fire Fighters Battle Flames For Over 4 Hours During Night

NOT BY BREAD ALONE
Lent begins today. The world is dazed from the Anglo-Saxon "Lenten" meaning from the period of the New Testament. It commemorates Christ's 40 days of fasting in the desert in preparation for His death on the cross.

30 In City Election
Polls to be held in the city on Feb. 21.

Hopefuls Set Record
The city record for the number of hopefuls in the city was set at 100 in the 1965 election.

In Today's Press
Central Michigan University has a new record for the number of students who have graduated.

Mackie to Run for Congress
Dem Foreign Policy Is Rapped

Endorses Steadler for Dem Governor Bid

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility

- ❖ IDEA Committee
 - IDEA Book Club
- ❖ Equitable and Inclusive Cataloguing
 - Brothers and sisters >> Siblings
 - Primitive societies >> Indigenous peoples, Prehistoric peoples
- ❖ Events
 - Discussion Panels
 - The Human Library
 - Atheist, Disabled, Feminist, Heroin Addict/Alcoholic (over 30 years sober), Homeless, LGBTQIA, Mental Illness, Muslim, Police Officer, Suicide Survivor, Vegan, Veteran
 - Friday, October 20th, 4th Floor of Kresge, 4:00pm-7:00pm



Student Success

- ❖ Information Literacy
 - Range of formats to reach all learners
 - On-campus and in the community
- ❖ Research Assistance
 - Interactions up 200%, AY21-AY22
 - 24/7 research help, partnerships across the state / world
- ❖ Affordable Course Materials Initiative ([ACMI](#))
 - OER
 - Textbooks on Reserve



ACMI

"..having to pay the incredibly high cost of classes along with all of the bills I am paying for my mom...the incredibly high price of textbooks has been breaking for me. The sad part is I know I am not the only student that has been experiencing a situation"

◎ Open Educational Resources (OER)

- Stipends for course conversions
 - Round 1- overall savings for students \$14,000-\$40,000
 - Round 2 - overall savings for students \$31,000-\$51,000
- Courses marked in Banner
- 1900+ students in fall 2022

◎ Textbooks on Reserve

- 122 books currently in collection

65%
of students
reported that they
skipped buying or
renting a textbook.






MEDICAL LIBRARY
News & Events

- ❖ Director Trey Lemley joined OUWB Medical Library, fall 2022
- ❖ Medical Library Renovations planned
- ❖ Interviewing for two Medical Library faculty positions

New Initiatives

- Sustainability Committee
 - Little Free Library
 - Sustainability Collection
 - Seed Library
- Website Redesign
 - Accessibility & usability
 - Technology innovations
- Matilda Wilson Legacy
 - Women & leadership
 - Women & philanthropy
 - Sponsored by WERG



 **Libraries**

KNOWLEDGE UNBOUND

Thank you!

Questions?

The Cherished Gift of a University

January 3, 1957

February 15, 1963

60 Year Anniversary

ROUGH DRAFT

12-28-56

THE MATILDA WILSON COLLEGE OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

This proposal envisages the establishment on the Meadowbrook Farms of the Matilda Wilson College of Michigan State University to serve primarily the needs for higher education of the able youth of Oakland County and adjacent areas. It is contemplated that this would be a four-year college with the possibility in the future of the addition of graduate programs in selected fields.

January 3, 1957 - begins in late December 1956 (December 28 and 30).

Here the Tom Hamilton document – presented to John Hannah, Woody Varner and James Dension . . . and, later, to Matilda Wilson.



1883-1967

Cornerstone Ceremony

Matilda R. Wilson Hall
Oakland University

PROGRAM

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Introductions | Durward B. Varner, <i>Chancellor of University</i> |
| Remarks: | |
| Representing the Community | Harold A. Fitzgerald, <i>President of the Oak- land University Foundation</i> |
| Representing the Legislature | Arthur J. Law, <i>State Representative from Oakland County</i> |
| Representing the University | Warren M. Huff, <i>Chairman of the Michigan State University Board of Trustees</i> |
| Response | Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson |
| Prayer of Dedication | The Reverend Dr. Allan MacLachlan Frew, <i>Minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Detroit</i> |



October 19, 1965



MSU Vice-President **Thomas (Tom) Hale Hamilton**, MSU **President John Hannah**, and MSU Professor, **Dr. Stanley Idzerda**, Director of the nation's first honors college – here working also in **1957**

News Bureau
ED 2-1511 Ext. 3061

Department of Information Services
Michigan State University, East Lansing
11/9/56

RELEASE: Immediate

EAST LANSING, Mich.--Establishment of an Honors College at Michigan State University for students of superior ability was approved Friday (Nov. 9) by the university's governing board.

Believed to be the first such college of its kind in an American public university, the new college will provide special opportunities for students who show promise of high achievement in all fields.

“**. . . The first such college of its kind in an American public university.**”

Honors College Assembly
April 17, 1957

You have been invited to this meeting at which we will discuss the completion of plans for the new Honors College because its success or failure will depend almost completely upon you.

Honors College students helped create Oakland University – this was a national first, and it was unique, worldwide.

Public Bureau
RD 2-1511 Ext. 3061

Department of Information Services
Michigan State University, East Lansing

REFERENCE VERTICAL FILE

RELEASE: AT 12:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JAN. 3, 1957

RECEIVED

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson are giving their 1,400-acre estate near Rochester to Michigan State University as a site for a branch college to serve Oakland County and adjoining areas, it was announced Thursday. They are supplementing the gift of Meadow Brook Farms with a cash endowment of \$2,000,000 to underwrite the construction of academic buildings. The value of the total gift is estimated conservatively at \$20,000,000.

The announcement was made by Mrs. Wilson at a luncheon given at the Bloomfield Hills Country Club for a number of industrial, business, educational and political leaders from Oakland County and for representatives of Michigan State University.

1956 – Matilda Wilson College proposal

1957 – The Gift – January 3

1958 – Groundbreaking – 65-year anniversary this year

1959 – Opening of our university

1963 - Name change to Oakland University – 60-year anniversary in 2023

February 9, 1963 / Announced to campus on February 15, 1963

Charter Class Commencement – 60-year anniversary this year

Matilda Wilson receives Honorary Doctorate – 60 years this April (2023)

1970 – Full Autonomy



**Our
Founding
Year in
Perspective**





Auburn Heights/Hills
1950s

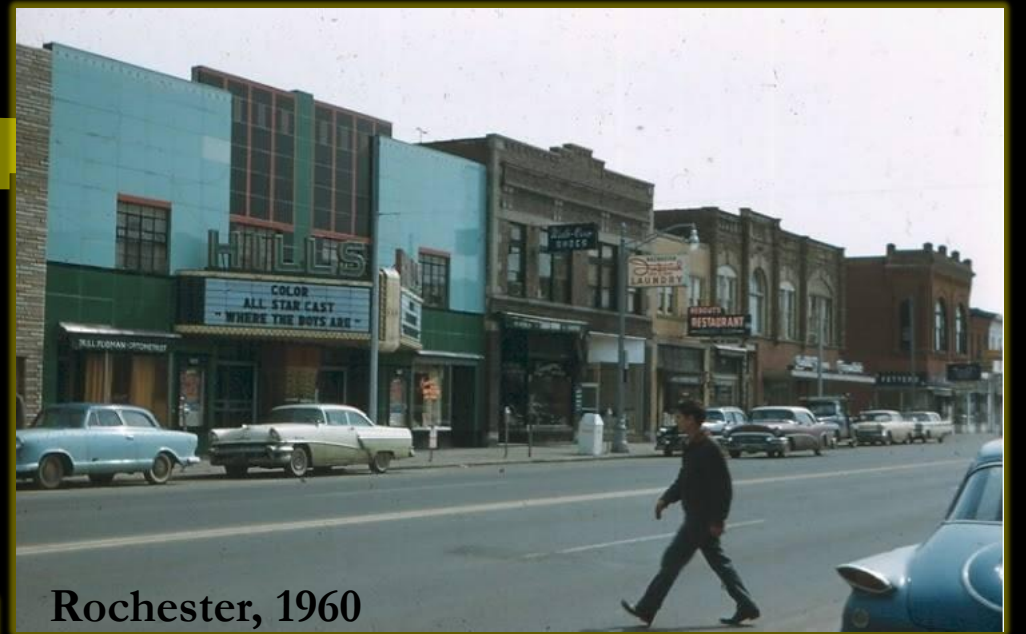


Avondale Selected As School Name

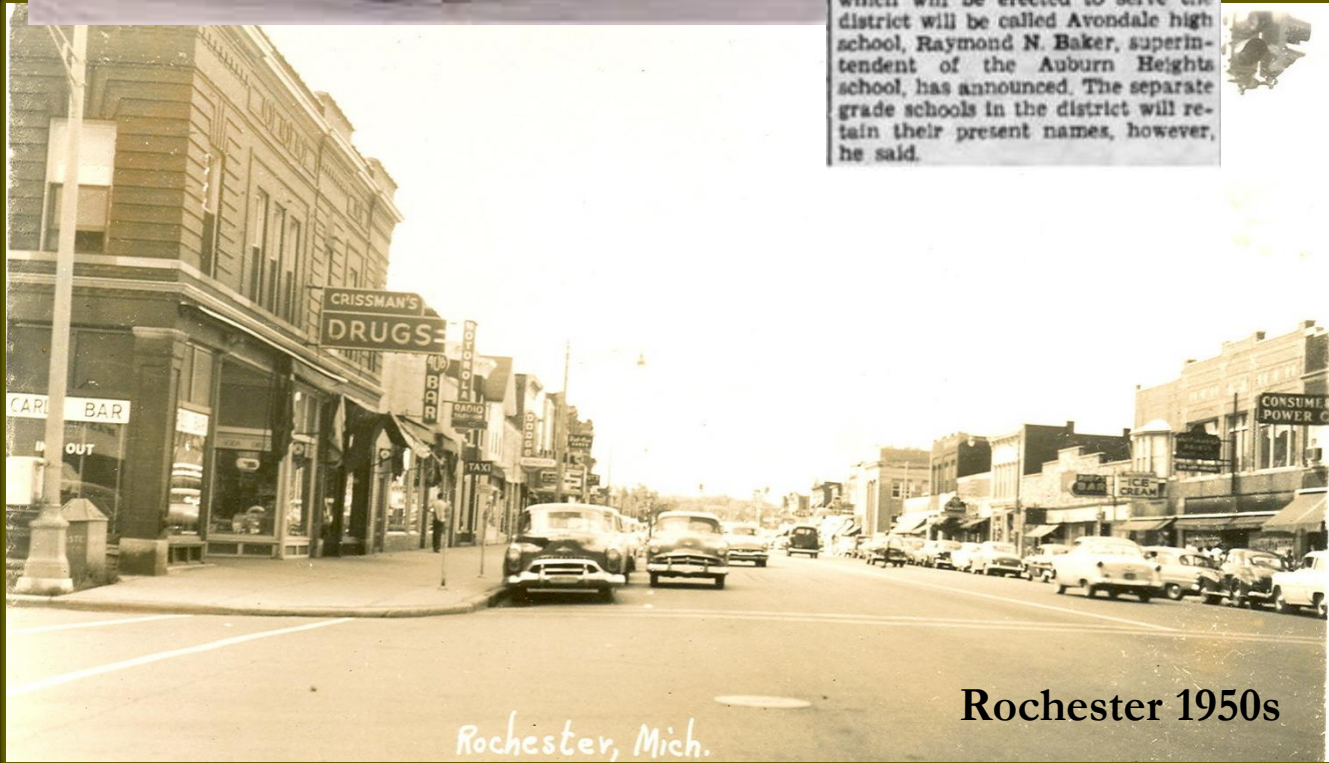
Student Contest Decides Rural Ag District Name

Name of Rural Agricultural School District No. 10, fractional, of Avon, which includes the schools of Stiles, Stone, Elmweed and Auburn Heights, will be changed to "Avondale" as a result of a name-selecting contest held among the students of the four schools.

The new central high school which will be erected to serve the district will be called Avondale high school, Raymond N. Baker, superintendent of the Auburn Heights school, has announced. The separate grade schools in the district will retain their present names, however, he said.

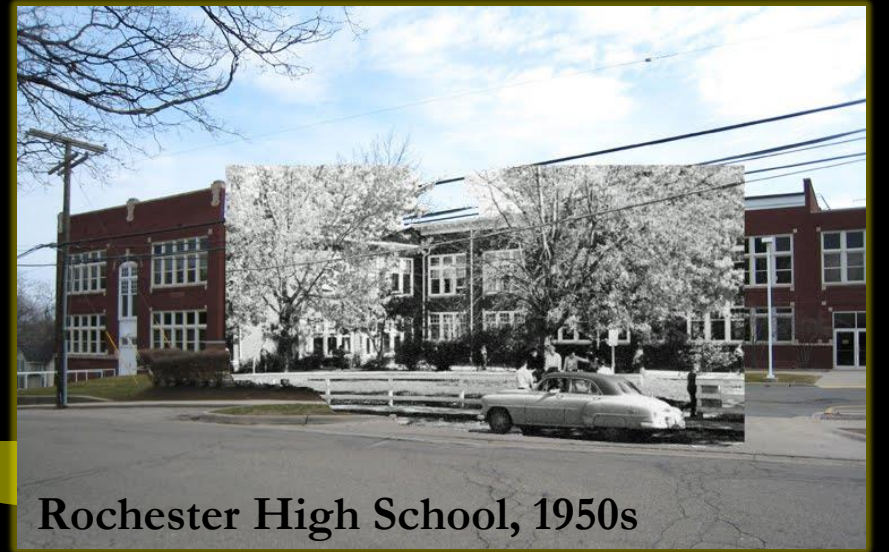


Rochester, 1960



Rochester, Mich.

Rochester 1950s



Rochester High School, 1950s

Michigan Higher Education 1947 - 1967

100,000 students were enrolled in higher education in Michigan in 1947

January 3, 1957 - Our University is founded

150,000 students were enrolled in higher education in Michigan in 1957

February 15, 1963 - we become Oakland University

350,000+ students were enrolled in higher education in Michigan in 1967

THE OAKLAND OBSERVER

Vol. IV — No. 21

Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan

Friday, February 15, 1963

NEW NAME, 'OAKLAND UNIVERSITY' GIVEN TO CAMPUS BY TRUSTEES

Michigan State University Oakland this week became Oakland University.

Chancellor D. B. Varner announced to students, faculty and staff on Monday that the Board of Trustees had approved the request for a name change Feb. 9. Announcement was withheld until the proposal could be discussed with Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson in Scottsdale, Arizona, and announced to faculty and students. Mrs. Wilson was donor of her estate, Meadow Brook Farms, for the university campus, as well as \$2 million for the first academic buildings.

"The name was changed in order to help Oakland establish its own clear and separate identity," Varner emphasized.

NAME CHANGE INVOLVES SIGNS, LETTERHEADS, CATALOGS AND MORE

By Wolf Metzger

50,000 new letterheads and 10,000 envelopes are among immediate changes necessitated by last week's surprise action of the MSU Board of Trustees in East Lansing which changed the university name Saturday.

After a special session of Oakland University administrators Tuesday, officials disclosed that about \$500 will be needed to complete the change.

Loren Pope, director of university relations, and Dr. John C. Galloway, professor of art, were appointed to design the new letter headings. The new stationery will be here for office use within the next week. According to Varner, the present supply of stationery is low and will be used for inter-office memorandum pads.

The big Michigan State University Oakland sign at the five-points intersection will be removed as soon as possible, and George Karas, director of the physical plant, will be responsible for constructing a new one. Other signs denoting the former name will also be removed, though not replaced immediately, Varner said.

For the time being, file cards will accompany official university correspondence, giving notification of the name change. Varner also said that the remaining 1,600 copies of the current university catalog will receive new covers until the publication of a new catalog in July. Two other informational brochures are to be replaced shortly.

February 15, 1963

— OU

“establishes its
own clear
identity”.

Chancellor Woody Varner

February 9, 1963
February 15, 1963

SUCCESS, CHARTER GRADS

THE OAKLAND OBSERVER

Vol. IV—No. 28

Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan

Friday, April 12, 1963

Diplomas to Number 148; 13 Fellowships Given

Oakland University's charter class of 148 is achieving an outstanding record for attracting both job offers and awards for graduate study.

So far, more than 45 of the nation's leading industries as well as federal agencies have made job offers to 30 seniors. The prices have ranged from \$5,400 to \$8,200 a year, with most of them clustering around \$7,000 to \$7,200 a year. Some of this group of seniors have turned down job offers in favor of graduate study.

Of the 43 planning to go to graduate schools, 13 have already received fellowship awards or teaching assistantships which are given to outstanding students. These range in value from \$1,350 to nearly \$6,000 a year. Another five seniors are hopeful that the mails will soon bring notification that they too have joined this select group.

The 7 seniors who plan to go into public school teaching are now in the midst of considering job offers from more than a score of school systems, with salaries ranging from \$4,700 to \$6,000.

The academic awards include four of the highest prestige which are competed for by thousands of college seniors across the nation. They are: one Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, three National Defense Education Act Fellowships, and one National Science Foundation Fellowship. Indeed, Robert Richardson of Pontiac, a Russian major, achieved a distinction shared by only 70 college seniors in the nation of winning both a Wilson and an NDEA Fellowship. He accepted the latter since it is worth \$20,000 for four years of graduate study at Harvard University, compared with \$3,000 for one year for the former.

Woodrow Wilson,
National Science
Foundation, Harvard
graduate scholarships

30% awarded
prestigious
fellowships and
awards

60th Anniversary of the Charter Class: Establishing a tradition of excellence at Oakland University

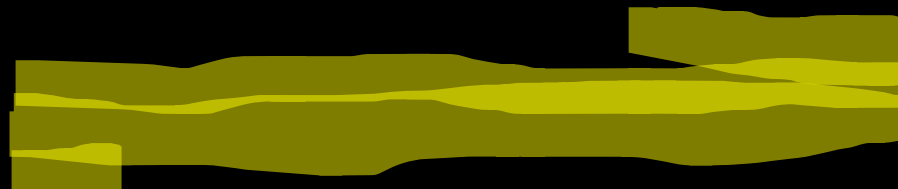


January 3, 1957 – February 15, 1963

January 3, 1957, the temperature peaked at **32 degrees** in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

It had been clear overnight – with very light snow and drizzle. The cloud came in around 6.30 am, and stayed the entire day. **Peak sun of the day on January 3, 1957, was at 12.36 pm.** Those who might find this intriguing, might note it was right then, at 12.30 pm, that Matilda Wilson announced her gift, **creating Oakland University.**

February 15, 1963, following Matilda's approval the previous weekend, this day became the **day of our naming.** The temperature was only **14 degrees** here at the **newly named Oakland University;** and yet, it is reported, **the snow was melting.**



"It is difficult to put into appropriate words the gratitude all of us feel towards Mr. and Mrs. Wilson for the generous gift of what has been their home for many years, and for the additional endeavor to get this new educational project underway," President John A. Hannah, of Michigan State, said after the announcement. "It is a gift which surely comes from their hearts, for no one lightly gives into the care of others a property which means what Meadow Brook Farms has meant to them."

Matilda Wilson and the *Blue Bird*, 1951

Photo courtesy of Meadow Brook Hall



OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
Act 35 of 1970

AN ACT to establish an institution of higher education having authority to grant baccalaureate degrees, known as Oakland university; to provide for the board of control, the organization of such board and the vesting of assets in such board; and granting and confirming the powers of such board.

History: 1970, Act 35, Imd. Eff. July 1, 1970.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

390.151 Oakland university; establishment, location; board of control.

Sec. 1. There is established a state institution of higher education having authority to grant baccalaureate degrees, known as Oakland university to be located in Oakland county. The institution shall be maintained by the state and its facilities shall be made available equally and upon the same basis to all qualified residents of this state. The institution shall be governed by a board of control which shall be a body corporate. The board of control shall have general supervision of the institution and the control and direction of all expenditures from the institution's funds. Until changed by resolution of the board, the body corporate shall be known as the "board of control of Oakland university", hereinafter referred to as "the board" with the right of suing and being sued, adopting a seal and altering the same.

History: 1970, Act 35, Imd. Eff. July 1, 1970.

Courtesy of www.legislature.mi.gov

1970: Our Autonomy is Complete

“Throughout history, the greatest advances in human welfare have been made through the efforts of those who sought, not to gain selfish advantage for themselves, but to improve the lot of their fellow men and those to come after them.

“One of the most magnificent exemplifications of this high tradition of altruism is to be found in the gift by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson of their Meadow Brook Farms estate and \$2,000,000 . . . [In today’s money, in cash alone: \$20,829,537.37; the total value of the Wilson gift today would be \$104,147,686.83]

“The true dimensions of their benefaction will never be known, for their action opens an **opportunity of unlimited proportions** . . . for those who will be students there in the years to come In return, they can anticipate nothing more than the **unending gratitude of those who are and will be the beneficiaries**, and the satisfaction which comes from making possible richer and more satisfying lives for others. **They expect no more; they deserve no less.**”

(Resolution from Michigan Legislature regarding the Wilson gift, 1957)

