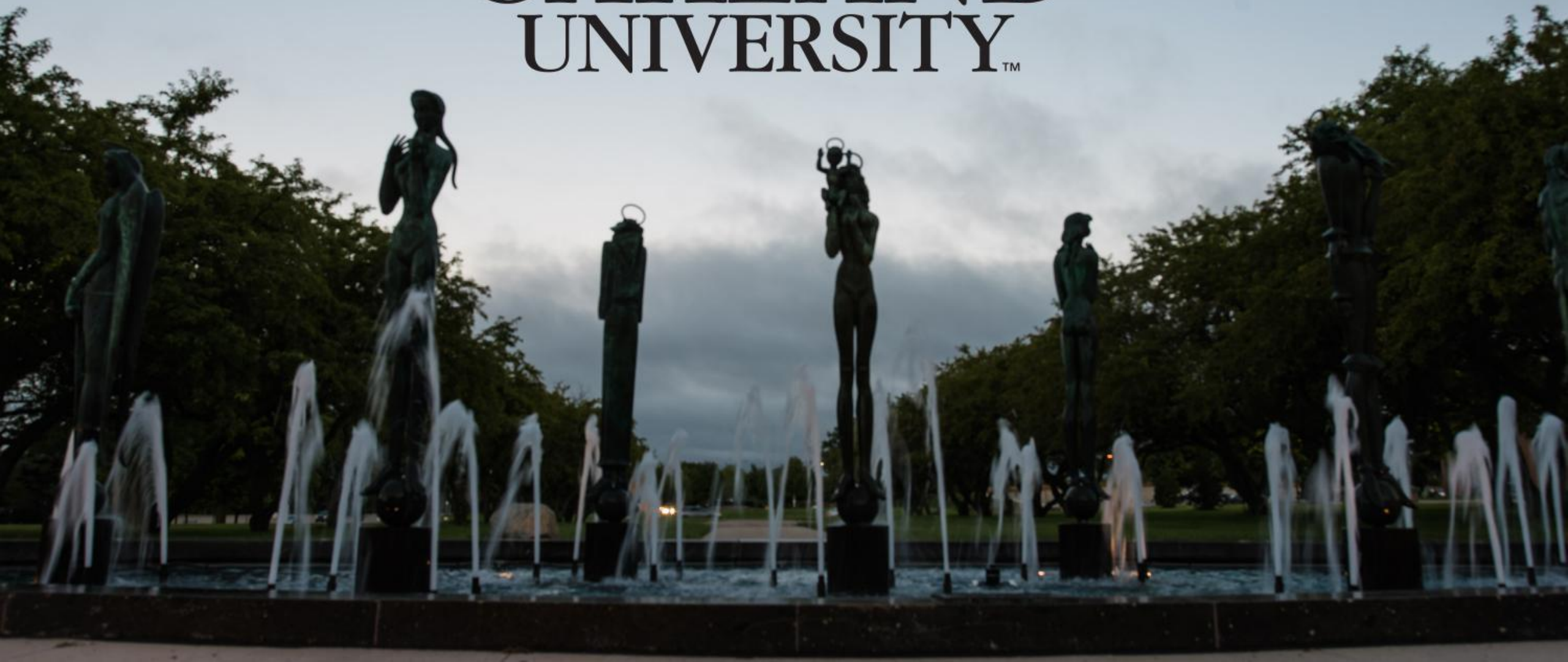


OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™



State of the Honors College

Dean Graeme Harper

Special Board Action

The Honors College

Dean: Graeme Harper BA MLitt DCA Ph.D. FRSA FRGS FRAI (FRSM)



We are Breaking Records!



Fall 2025 – a record 761 Honors College freshmen



Fall 2025 Honors College Freshmen

Every interest / Every major / All OU Schools and CAS

- **32.8%** above a 4.0 GPA
- **52%** above a 3.9 GPA
- **Highest GPA:** 5.46

Representing

- **267** high schools
- **15** states
- **12** countries
- a **30% increase** in enrollment over 2024

2025

Intended Major	State	High School	GPA
Musical Theatre (Audition	TX	Leander High School	5.46
Mechanical Engineering	SC	RIVER BLUFF HIGH SCHOOL	5.37
Economics, BS	IN	North Central High School	4.83
Musical Theatre (Audition	TX	Flower Mound High School	4.75
Musical Theatre (Audition	PA	Allderdice High School	4.74
Health - IDH - Health Scier	MI	Divine Child High School	4.73
Nursing - Basic-BSN track (	MI	Herbert Henry Dow High School	4.63
Nursing - Basic-BSN track (	MI	Saint Mary Catholic Central High School	4.52
Mechanical Engineering	MI	Benjamin Franklin High School	4.5
Biomedical Sciences	MI	ADLAI E STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL	4.47
Graphic Design	CA	Thousand Oaks High School	4.47
Biomedical Sciences	MI	Notre Dame Preparatory	4.45
Nursing - Basic-BSN track (	MI	Bishop Foley Catholic High School	4.45
Data Science	MI	Midland High School	4.43
Musical Theatre (Audition	NC	Holly Springs High School	4.42
Physics	MI	Saint Mary Catholic Central High School	4.41
Undecided / Explor		International Academy	4.4
Computer Science		Lake Orion High School	4.38



State	High School	GPA
MI	Rochester Adams High School	4.26
MI	Parkway Christian School	4.25
MI	St Clair High School	4.25
MI	ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL	4.25
MI	ALMONT HIGH SCHOOL	4.25
MI	Henry Ford II High School	4.25
MI	Fitzgerald High School	4.25
MI	Powers Catholic High School	4.23
MI	Utica Academy for Intl Studies,Adlai E Stevens	4.23
MI	INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF MACOMB	4.23
MI	Riverview Community High School	4.22
MI	International Academy	4.22
MI	International Academy	4.21
MI	Bullock Creek High School	4.21
MI	First Colonial High	4.21
MI	Linden High School	4.21
MI	Adlai E Stevenson High School	4.21
MI	Lake Orion High School	4.21
MI	Adlai E Stevenson High School	4.21
MI	INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY	4.2
MI	Lutheran High School North	4.2
MI	DWIGHT D EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL	4.2
MI		4.2

This year, in total, a record 2400
Honors College students are
enrolled here at Oakland University

100%





100%



We are the **only** Honors College in the nation **to have led both** a major division of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) – the At Large Division - and the NSFMIH, the national honors organization focused on social responsibility (this year in its 10th Anniversary Year)

ADVANCING
HONORS
EDUCATION FOR
TODAY AND
TOMORROW

EDITED BY GRAEME HARPER

Excellence, Innovation and
Ingenuity in Honors Education



Edited by Graeme Harper
Foreword by Gregory R. Garrett

The **largest number of books, published anywhere in the world, about honors education,** come from The Honors College here at Oakland University.

Library of Congress

Diversity, Equity
and Inclusion in
Honors Education



Honors Education and
the Foundation of Fairness

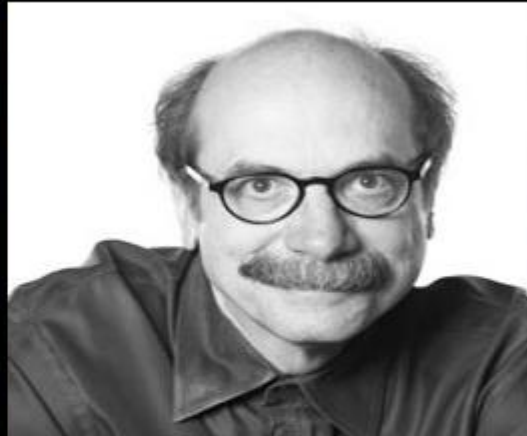
Honors Education
around the World

Edited by
Graeme Harper





Nobel Prize Winner
Jody Williams



CEO of IDEO
David Kelley



Billionaire, "Math for America"
founder, Jim Simons



Sir Andrew Motion
Former Poet Laureate
of the United Kingdom

Honorary Esteemed Fellows of The Honors College

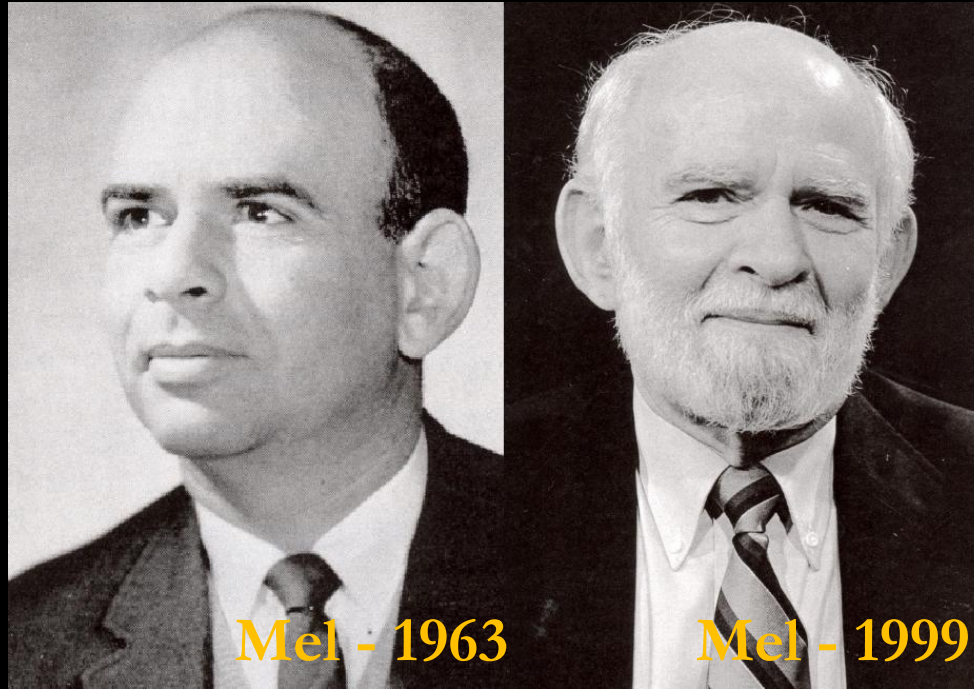
- Celebrating Excellence -

Our Honors College record success has been

48 years *and* **67 years** in the making!

The Honors College

Founded 1977 – 48 years ago



Dr. Mel Chernobin – Inaugural leader of The Honors College (1976-1979)

NEWSLETTER

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AT MSUO: A somewhat unique concept of curriculum development has been organized for program planning at MSUO. Implementation of this concept is still in progress. What makes our approach unique is the pattern of involving people in the planning process. Groups comprising the curriculum construction operation include lay citizens, professional educators, nationally recognized experts in the four academic fields to be offered, and selected junior and senior honor students presently attending Michigan State University. All of these people, spearheaded by the MSUO Program Development Committee chaired by Mr. James Zeder, have shared the responsibility for developing an excellent academic program at MSUO.

In 1958, 67 years ago, Oakland University became the first university in the nation ever to create its curriculum by asking Honors College students.



EDITORIALS

ABUNDANCE INTO EXCELLENCE

Although the American experiment has been a smashing success politically and economically, a big question remains about its mass culture. Can such a sprawling, classless society support the high standards of quality and achievement that aristocratic ages bequeathed us? Can the masses take the place of the Medici?

Old Ben Franklin, that homespun democrat who lifted himself by his own bootstraps to walk with kings and talk easily with philosophers without ever losing the common touch (see pp. 104-120), would be interested to know whether his example has endured. Lord knows there is more than enough triviality and vulgarity around us in this TV age, whether you count Shirley MacLaine's movie cancan for Khrushchev or not. But mass culture is not all trivial. The statistics of consumption are pretty impressive, beginning with the boom in high-grade paperback books. Americans have bought no fewer than one million paperback copies of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. Twice as many people (28,000,000) play musical instruments as did 20 years ago. Three times as many concerts have been held in the U.S. as in all the rest of the world put together. In a quarter century the number of symphony orchestras has risen from 30 to 160. The Metropolitan Opera's Saturday afternoon broadcasts reach 15,000,000 listeners each week. The nation now has some 703 opera groups, 650 professional and semipro orchestras. More than 6,000 amateur painters study by mail, 55,000,000 Americans visit art galleries and museums, and so on.

Of course, consumption is not creation and quantity is not quality (nobody knows how many of those who bought the *Iliad* understood or even read it and the Sunday painters may be making some hideous messes). But nevertheless this widespread public exposure to culture is likely to bear creative fruit in the long run. It may be bearing it already. Here are a few examples of American creative excellence from the past fortnight's news:

- Choreographer Jerome Robbins, now on a four-month tour of Europe and Israel with his "Ballets: U.S.A.," is being hailed as the modern Diaghilev. The Manchester Guardian calls it "the best foreign ballet by far that London has ever seen."
- Richard Strauss's middle-aged masterwork *The Woman without a Shadow* (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*) is such a huge complex

of mythology and symbolism that few European producers (as Strauss himself predicted) would dare stage it. Now the San Francisco Opera has produced it—for the first time in America—in blazing costumes, Daliesque sets and striking effects that are hailed as an artistic triumph.

- A new college with a credo Athenians would respect was opened at Oakland, Mich. by Michigan State University, staffed mostly by brilliant young Ph.D.s, and dedicated by its 39-year-old dean Robert Hoopes to teach the art of living and pure knowledge: "We are not interested in producing well-rounded men, but men with sharp, abrasive edges, rebels with clear minds and uncowed consciences, critics of society, not adjusters to it."

- Some 23,000 of our schools, shocked by the softness and inadequacy of our teaching methods shown up by Russia's first Sputnik, are turning away from the "social adjustment" psychology to more rigorous curricula and methods, with special attention to "enrichment" or "acceleration" for gifted minds.

- Broadway is launching what looks like another first-rate season with the best production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* in many years, possibly ever. *Merle Twoin Tonight*, a marvelous performance which proved the ability of off-Broadway productions to challenge Broadway's dominance, is now touring the country. Another off-Broadway classic, Bertolt Brecht's *Three-penny Opera*, is now in its fifth year.

- American literature and criticism—which suffered so long from an inferiority complex before Europe—are both independent and robust. "Despite all the lamentations about the state of poetry in America today," writes Pulitzer prizewinning Poet Stanley Kunitz in *Harper's*, "the general level of quality, I dare say, is higher than it has ever been in our literary history. . . . I don't envy the anthologist of the future when he tries to cut the lyrics representing this century down to what he considers a reasonable number. My guess is—my wild guess, if you will—that only the Elizabethan age will make a better showing."

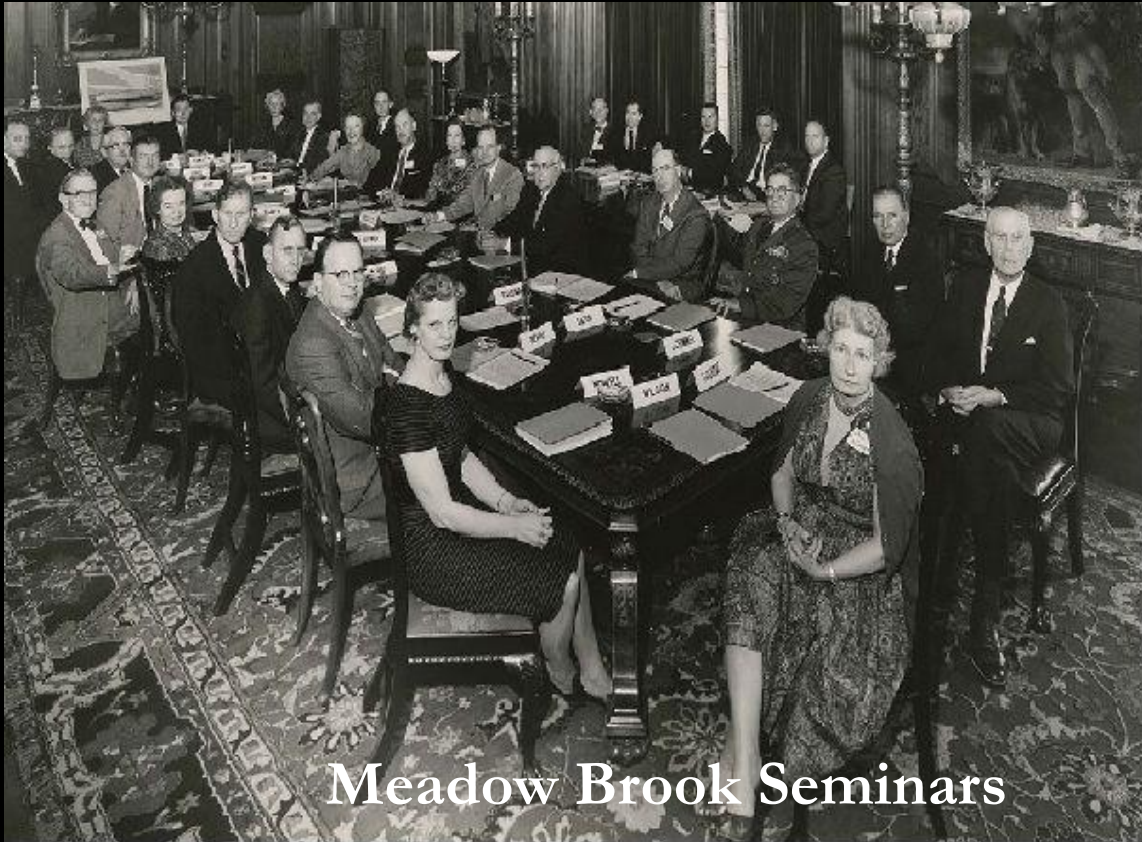
Ben Franklin was fond of speculating how things would be a century after his death. He would doubtless welcome these signs that the classless society he helped create is learning how to transform abundance into excellence.

LIFE Magazine

October 5, 1959

Editorial on the founding of Oakland University

Every year I remind Honors College freshmen:
“Remember where you are.”



Meadow Brook Seminars

1959



Meadow Brook Seminars Reimagined

2025

1. Strength in OU's distinctive past:
The Honors College 1928 Dodge Victory



(Sponsor: Frank Rewold and Sons)



Honors College “vehicles” Side-by-Side

(Double Robotics)



2. Strength in OU's Present & Future: The Honors College robot and personal assistant.

The Honors College excellence continues
here at Oakland and it grows . . .

Fall 2024 / Winter 2025 Honors College Graduates

- 11% graduated with a perfect 4.0 college GPA
- 57% graduated with a 3.9+ college GPA
- 88% graduated above a 3.75 college GPA
- 96% chose to go to Graduate School and, of those
- 99% got into one of their Top 3 graduate school choices



In 2021 Honors College graduates **were uniquely** congratulated by the Vice-Chair of the Nobel Prize Committee, **Dr Henrik Syse – for their research and for their service to others.**

These are some of our graduates . . .

To the graduating class of 2024, congratulations once again! Let's continue to make every moment count in the next chapter of our lives.



President Pescovitz with fall
2024 Presidential Scholar
graduate,
Emma Cismas

Now at Weill Cornell Medical
College, **Cornell University**

Distinguished Achievement
Award and the Meritorious
Achievement Award

Brian Neumeyer
Systems Engineer



Alexis, '22 – “I am currently working on a **PhD in Physiology** at Michigan State University. Recently I won an oral presentation award at the Michigan Physiological Society Annual Meeting in June.”

Brady, '24 – “I’ve been working fairly consistently as an **actor and musician** since graduation! My biggest accomplishments have included being a part of the show Million Dollar Quartet at Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre, as well as the principal role in a SAG commercial for DTE Energy.”



Malik Meri

4.0 – focus on Nutrition

Teaching Assistant with The Honors College.

Accepted into Dental School.

Jenna Meri, 2023 graduate, now in Medical School (OUWB)

Malik is 1 of 9 members of his family to be members of The Honors College at OU.

Natalie, '23 – “After graduating I spent some time interviewing and finally landed a great **full time job** at an organization called CAOM. . . . while I was interviewing for the role, the vice president and head **actuary** specifically mentioned my honors college thesis.”

Janee, '22 – “I'm an M2 at Oakland University William Beaumont School of **Medicine** (OUWB)!”

Michaela, '22 – “I just started my first year of medical school! I am attending Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine, **Maryland's first DO school and first new medical school [in the State] in almost 100 years.** Being only one off 3 Michigan residents in my class, I'm proud to represent the Golden Grizzlies.”

Deema, '25 – “I am currently **pursuing my JD** at the **University of Michigan Law School**, where I was awarded a **Dean's Scholarship!**”



Annie – Health Sciences



Megan - Business



Nahrain – Pre- Med



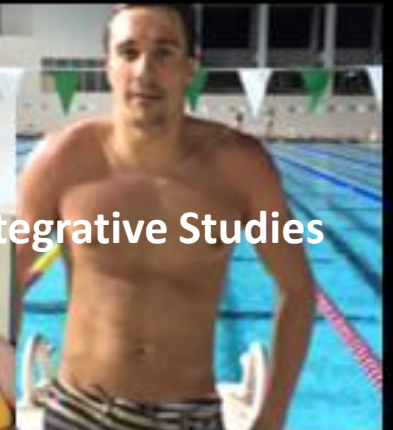
Alex – Political Science



Jack - Bioengineering



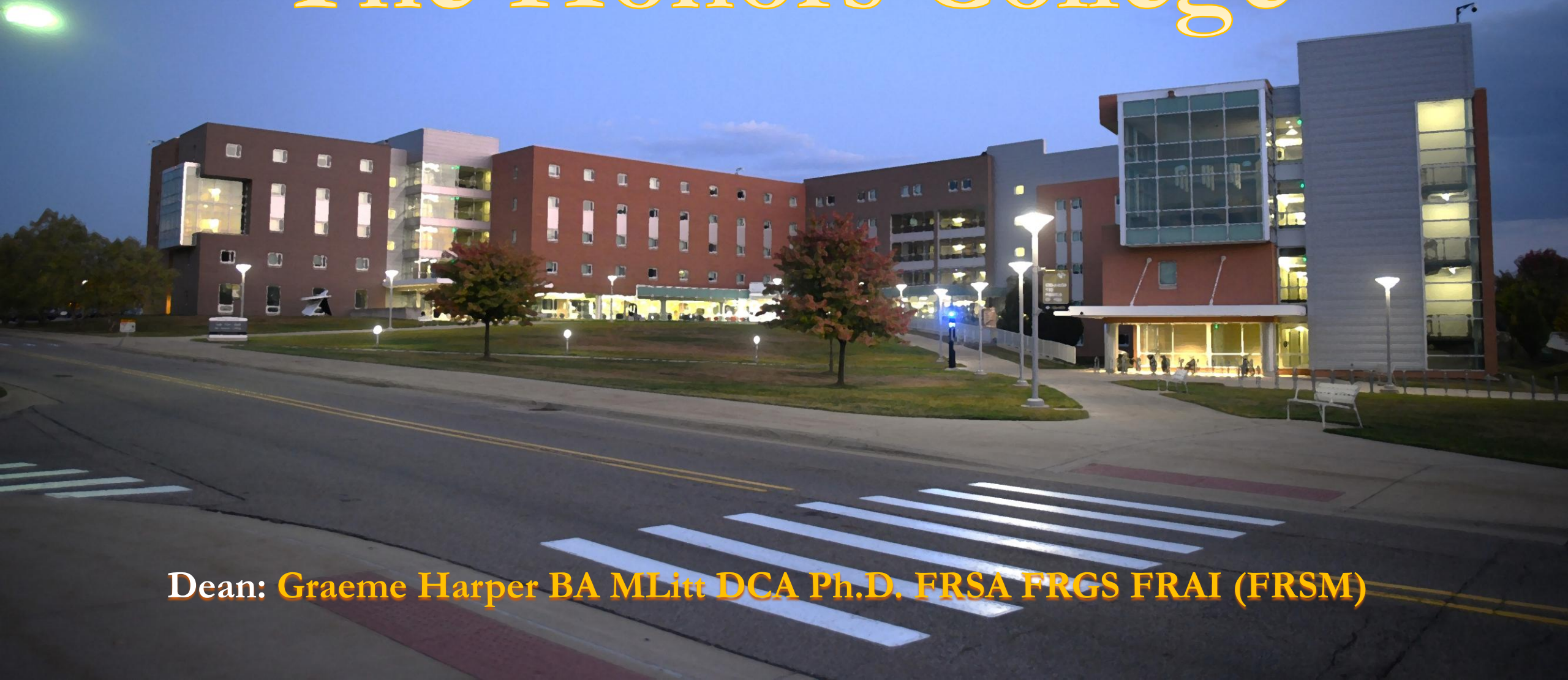
Coach Aaron- Integrative Studies



We are Breaking Records!

Target: # 1 in the nation

The Honors College



Dean: Graeme Harper BA MLitt DCA Ph.D. FRSA FRGS FRAI (FRSM)

The Honors College



OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY™

Donna and Walt Young



A Legacy of Support and Impact

- Walt – 50+ years of experience leading organizations**
- Donna – HRB Singer, Nursing School Librarian, volunteer work with children**
- OU Service – Foundation Board, Women & Philanthropy Group, Study Abroad Endowment**

Special Board Action

Renaming the Honors College



DONNA AND WALT YOUNG HONORS COLLEGE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY™