

OU broadens foreign studies

Oakland University has established a Center for International Programs to expand study and travel opportunities. It will have two units:

- A Study Abroad Office to coordinate student and faculty exchanges.
- An Intercultural Communication Program to assist business executives in their foreign trade.

"LOTS OF energy and effort have gone into international studies since Oakland University opened in 1959, but those efforts need to be coordinated and brought to the attention of the public," Carlo Coppola said. Coppola will direct the new center.

The Rochester resident holds a Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of Chicago, where he specialized in South Asian literature.

He is co-founder and editor of the Journal of South Asian Studies, established in 1963 and considered by many scholars to be the foremost journal in the field.

Coppola is also professor of Hindi-Urdu and linguistics, and chairman of the OU Area Studies Program.

OU HAS OFFERED a major with specializations in Africa, East Asia (China and Japan), South Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Coppola will seek money from outside sources to help introduce components to the program, which is now being refitted into International Programs.

Center units will include the Study Abroad Office headed by Margaret Pigott, rhetoric, and the Intercultural Communication program headed by William Schwab, linguistics.

The Schwab program will assist business executives dealing with Japan, Germany, France, Latin America (both Spanish-speaking and Brazil), China and other countries as needed.

The department of modern languages and literature will assist the center in offering language and translation services, the director said.

THE CENTER WILL seek outside money for another project: the introduction of non-language and non-literature small disciplines courses taught in French, Spanish and German, Coppola said. Such courses would not be feasible unless subsidized by outside help.

He will seek to internationalize the curriculum by introducing a non-European, non-United States focus to as many courses as possible. He cited as an example the use of an Asian rather than a European model for the teaching of psychology.

The Center for International Programs is housed in the College of Arts and Sciences.

"We have a long-time commitment to international studies, and the center's charge is to do it — and do it well."

Junior squirrel perfects his skill

By Timothy Nowicki
special writer

Young animals are most often associated with summer. We think of birds nesting and raising young and of caterpillars metamorphosing into butterflies during warm weather.

Last weekend, however, I had an opportunity to see a young great horned owl and a young fox squirrel. The owl was still in the nest, but during the previous week its nestmate had departed.

The adults had begun nesting in February, had completed their duties as parents and were forcing the young to live on their own.

THE YOUNG squirrel was exploring our backyard with his mother. He was the same color as the adult but much smaller.

I could also identify it as a youngster by the way he jumped along the ground. There was too hesitation in his movements in contrast to the smooth, confident coordination of the adult.

I noticed the squirrel's inexperience in another way, too. When he climbed a tree to follow his mother, he was very deliberate and cautious. It was comical to compare the swift grace of the adult — with perfect coordination between front and back feet — to the youngster.

The young squirrel would reach forward and grab hold with his front feet. Then a noticeable instant later, the back legs seemed to bounce upward more than necessary before they grabbed hold of the tree, thus allowing the front feet to reach forward again.

It was like a human child raising his feet high as he walks, in order to make sure he doesn't stumble on the ground.

ALTHOUGH THE squirrel is only 2½ months old, his basic abilities to climb are evident. He just needs practice to perfect his skill.

The same will be true of his ability to open acorns or walnuts to get the rich meat inside.

Young squirrels can open the hard coverings, but only after practice and experimentation can they open them with minimal effort.

I felt proud when I saw this young fox squirrel in my yard because I had known him, so to speak, when he was just a twitch in his parents' eyes.

Often while eating lunch in January, I would watch his parents run up and down our trees in a spiral path like a barber's pole. They went up and down at full speed, separated by only a tail length.

Then in late February I watched the parents begin building a stick-leaf nest in the crotch of our red maple tree. This was the youngster's world —

all I saw him exploring our back yard with his mother the other day.

Timothy Nowicki works for an area manufacturing firm, teaches nature study classes and leads field trips for local nature groups.

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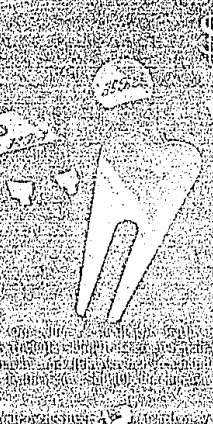
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Development set for area airports

Three area airports will receive funding from the Michigan Aeronautics Commission for development projects. The commission approved a total of \$4.2 million for airport development projects in six counties.

Planned projects include:

- Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Wayne County — An allocation of \$1,454,000 for apron reconstruction, taxiway construction and rehabilitation, security inspection area construction and new snow removal equipment. The project includes \$916,000 federal, \$453,000 state and \$485,000 local funds.

- Willow Run Airport, Wayne County — An allocation of \$925,300 for access road improvements, taxiway edge lighting and building demolition. Of primary concern is the condition of the access roads on the west side of the airport.

The project includes \$660,000 federal, \$5,300 state, and \$259,000 local funds.

- Oakland-Pontiac Airport, Oakland County — An allocation of \$428,000 to apply a runway surface treatment. The project includes \$255,200 federal and \$42,800 local funds.

Projects are also planned for W.K. Kellogg Regional Airport, East Lansing; Calvin Campbell Airport, Indian River; Ford Airport, Iron Mountain; Oceana County Airport, Hart; and Grrosse Ile Municipal Airport, Grrosse Ile.

Federal and state dollars for airport development are from restricted, user-generated funds, with revenues coming primarily from aviation fuels and passenger tax-

es, and from aircraft registration fees.

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