



Michael Giangrande, best known as a science professor at Oakland Community College, will sing in two operas this summer.

# Center stage for scientist

## OCC prof will sing in 'Boheme,' 'Traviata'

By Tim Richard  
Staff writer

**A**T 36 Michael Giangrande had a great science teaching post at Oakland Community College.

For the past six years, he also has studied singing and continued to teach.

This summer he will have two operatic roles on stage — and after that?

"Right now I'm a novice," said Giangrande in his Southfield campus office, "but I'm going to continue to try. My ambition is to get on that stage."

The Metropolitan Opera may be a dream, but Giangrande said, "I would jump if a big contract came."

"I have no great hopes of that. I wouldn't gamble on traveling the world," said Giangrande, who acquired another mouth to feed March 12 when wife Patti gave birth to daughter Emily Ann.

"But I will get every part I can in amateur productions . . . I would love to do commercials."

**THE TENOR**, 42, will be on stage in two productions of the Center for Creative Arts in downtown Detroit — from mid-June to early July, about 10 performances of each.

In Puccini's "La Boheme," he will be Schaunard, one of the bohemian pals of Rodolfo. Schaunard's baritone role has been scaled up an octave for him.

In Verdi's "La Traviata," he'll be

*'I like science. I've found my niche here at OCC. Now that I'm comfortable here, I earn enough to make a living and pursue other things — performance on stage.'*

— Michael Giangrande

In the chorus and will understudy the lead role of Alfredo. "If anything happens, I'll step in, but I don't think anything's going to happen."

Giangrande's parents immigrated here from Italy in the 1930s. "They always had Italian music on the radio and phonograph, and what is Italian music but opera?" he recalls.

"My father played piano, guitar and violin fluently. He performed gigs around the area — a piano bar man."

**WHY DIDN'T** young Michael become a musician from the start? He learned in violin and accordion came to naught.

"I was interested in music since day one. I was in high school right after Sputnik (the first Soviet satellite in 1958), and the trend was science."

"That took all the effort I had. I became tunnel visioned. And I was told there was no way to make a living on stage."

"I don't like to do two things at once. I couldn't have sung that in-

tensely and studied science — it was an invitation to schizophrenia. I see other people trying to do two things at once. To really become (at singing) might require more magnitudes of effort."

"And I like science. I like science because it gives me the ability to earn a living."

"I like teaching over research. I've found my niche here at OCC. Now that I'm comfortable here, I earn enough to make a living and pursue other things — performance on stage."

**SCIENCE** — that meant a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry and a doctorate in biophysics from Wayne State University and post-doctoral fellowships in solar energy, biochemistry and magnetic resonance.

Science — it means jobs at Henry Ford Hospital and Mercy College of Detroit.

Science — it brought him to OCC as a part-time instructor in 1977 and full-time since 1978, a department

tal chair, membership on the academic senate and other college committees.

Science — it has meant authorship of seven papers in the physical sciences and presentations at national scientific societies.

"My area is basically chemistry and physics, with some anatomy and physiology," he said. At the Southfield campus, in the shadow of Providence Hospital, about 60 percent of his students are in health careers such as nursing, respiration therapy, diagnostic sonography and medical tech. Others are "a fair sprinkling."

**THE ITCH** to be on stage got scratched when he visited a counselor and had the good luck to sign on with teacher Joseph Mazzoli.

"He insisted I train classically — scales, classical Italian arias. It takes five to 10 years to develop a singer."

"Last fall I auditioned at the Center for Creative Arts" — and won his roles.

In the United States there are only a handful of places where one can sing opera, let alone earn the \$8,000 fees Luciano Pavarotti gets. The Michigan Opera Theatre in Detroit, Minneapolis and San Francisco are "outlets" — places where one can get discovered. MOT pays \$4 per rehearsal for 50 or 60 hours of work.

Meanwhile, Michael Giangrande would be happy to be tapped for dinner theater or a local production of "My Fair Lady" because "my ambition is to get on that stage."

# Oakland opens 2nd wave pool

The ocean surf will pay a second visit to Oakland County beginning May 22.

Red Oaks Waterpark in Madison Heights, on 13 Mile between John R and Dequindre, is the site of the county parks department's second wave-action pool and waterslide.

"The three-flumed waterslide offers spirals, twists and turns on a 361-foot-long ride that climaxes with a plunge into a splash-down pool," said Ralph Richard, parks manager.

**THE WAVE POOL** is 180 feet long and 100 feet wide.

It features eight different wave patterns. They alternate three-foot waves with calm, soothing waters. Other features are an artificial

turf tanning deck, picnic areas with tables and grills, concessions, bathhouses with lockers, and showers.

There are Red Cross swim lessons, free parking and rental rafts.

Michigan's first wave pool and waterslide also opens May 22. It's at Waterford Oaks County Park, west of Pontiac on Scott Lake Road. It will start its 12th season.

**BOTH WATERPARKS** offer one-ticket prices and all-day use from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Richard said. Admission is \$5 a person. Children under 8 are admitted free, but must be accompanied by a person age 15 or older.

Twilight rate after 6 p.m. is \$3 a person. Weekday discount rates are available for groups of 20 or more.

# OCC registering for many classes

Spring semester registration at Oakland Community College will be held all day Tuesday, May 5, according to an alphabetical schedule. Classes begin the following day.

Applications for spring semester are still being accepted. Prospective students should contact an admissions counselor at the campus of their choice for a schedule of classes and admissions procedures.

Campuses, locations and counselor phone numbers are: Auburn Hills, 853-4200; Highland Lakes, Union Lake, 360-3000; Orchard Ridge, Farmington Hills, 471-5500; and Southeast, Royal Oak, 967-5700.

One may register up to the first class meeting. Classes are offered Monday through Saturday during May and June.

Residents may choose from more than 100 courses covering business, fitness, dance, art, personal development and special interests. Among the more unusual are Land Use and Zoning, Jeopardy Tennis, Conversational Chinese and Tarot Reading.

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**ENRICHMENT** courses for K-12 students and young adults are offered at OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus.

Registration is in progress and will continue up to the first class meeting in any of 35 classes ranging from pottery, Arabic, ballet and the ACT test.

Listings and registration information are available from the college at 471-7595.

**REGISTRATION** for non-credit short courses is in progress at OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus. A listing and registration information is available from the community services office at 471-7520.

# Plan to close state liquor stores hit

**AP** — A planned overhaul of Michigan's wholesale liquor operations is being criticized by some liquor store owners and unionized workers. They fear the phasing out of state liquor outlets will lead to layoffs.

The Liquor Control Commission says the new system eventually could save as much as \$30 million a year. It calls for shutting down 60 state-owned retail stores and replacing them with five wholesale warehouses.

The state would contract with private trucking companies to move the liquor from the warehouses to drop points, where individual stores would pick up their booze supplies.

**STATE LIQUOR** outlets would be phased out gradually, taking up to five years. Thirteen outlets in the Grand Rapids area would be first to close.

The plan would help the state save money by reducing inventories and eliminating the need to lease some buildings, said Walter Keck, the commission's business manager.

The new system also would need about 200 fewer employees, said LCC spokesman Daniel Sparks said.

"We're going to try and do as

much of this as is possible by attrition and transfer," Sparks said. "We're trying to avoid layoffs. But I can't tell you that there won't be any. Reality says there probably would be some."

**THE MICHIGAN** State Employees Union said it will fight to prevent layoffs.

"No one is very pleased about this one," said union President John Denniston. "Some of these people have lots of years in. Where are they going to go?"

Dave May of May's Market in Ludington is circulating petitions against closing the liquor stores.

"It would be more of a problem for us picking up our liquor," May said.

The restructuring plan doesn't need legislative approval, but Sen. Gilbert DiNello, D-East Detroit, said retailers have been complaining to lawmakers.

"They want to make their operation more efficient," DiNello said. "But it makes me question whether the state should be involved at all. Why not ship the liquor directly to the retailer and bypass the state altogether?"

"We need a lot of answers on this."

## FARMER'S MARKET

Country hitchens call for overflowing market baskets, giant cookie jars and cast iron cookware. Someone's always trying out a recipe (usually borrowed from Grandmother), and the mood, colors and aromas are irresistible. Let us show you the ways this room can be the heart of your country home.

**MARKETPLACE™ FAIR SCHEDULE**

Sherry Woodard, Inward Bound Book, Cleveland, Ohio, Tuesday, May 5, 10:30-3:30 p.m.

Billy Davis Restaurant, Fairlane, Monday, April 27, and Tuesday, April 28, 1:30 p.m.

Chief Brad Smith, Holly Hotel Oakland, Wednesday, April 29, Thursday, April 30, and Friday, May 1, 12:30 p.m.

Chief Kyle Cunningham, Art New's Modern Grill, Northland, Sunday, April 26, 1:30 p.m. Fairlane, Thursday, May 7, 1:30 p.m.

Devlin Cinema, Midway Newspaper, Fairlane, Sunday, April 26, 1:30 p.m. Northland, Saturday, May 9, 1:30 p.m.

Chief Tom Mackintosh, MacKintosh Restaurant, Twelve Oaks, Monday, April 27, 1:30 p.m.

Kim Carson, WCVZ radio, Eastland, Saturday, May 2, 1:30 p.m.

Chief Mark Davis, Punchinello, Twelve Oaks, Sunday, May 3, 1:30 p.m.

Chief David Herpin, Omni International Hotel, Fairlane, Tuesday, May 5, 1:30 p.m.

Joe Weaver, WDBK TV, Twelve Oaks, Monday, May 4, 12:22 p.m.

Chief Gary Grayson, Clarkson Cafe, Oakland, Wednesday, May 6, 6:30 p.m.

Kathy Adams, WJHK TV, Fairlane, Friday, May 8, 12:22 p.m.

Bruce Rick, WJHK TV, Twelve Oaks, Friday, May 8, 12:22 p.m.

Bethanne Kusk, WCVZ, Fairlane, Saturday, May 9, 1:30 p.m.

Chief Craig Seibert, Tidewater Grill, Eastland, Saturday, May 9, 1:30 p.m.

Chief Dale Attaway, Restaurant Douglas, Fairlane, Monday, May 4, 1:30 p.m.

Chief Donald Tolington of the Midway Cafe, Oakland, Wednesday, April 29, 6:30 p.m.

Philatragg's cooking seminar, Roseanna Robinson, Philatragg representatives, will feature a new cookbook and china in a seminar about Twelve Oaks store, Sunday, May 3, 1:30 p.m. in the Marketplace™.

Vegetable trays: Carrot, pepper, tomato and artichoke: 2.50 each.

Child's garden set includes a variety of super seeds, as well as standard vegetable varieties. Also includes plastic bucket, net markers and more \$10.

Garden basket of worms and slugs: 19.95 + \$10.

Boundaries Waters™ porcelain painted cast iron cookware with hard-coated handles. 7 pc. set includes 1 and 2 qt. covered soupers, 8 qt. covered Dutch oven, and 10 inch open skillet with three-stack cooking. Country glassware (tinie) dinner set in white blue. Cookware: 15.99. Ginger jar: 11.99. Milk bottle: 10.99.

Father's apron and matching belt. Imported. \$17. Cool & weatherproof garden nook, \$20. Cool aluminum garden bench with rugged handles. Locking wheels and fork. Heavy-duty. \$4 each.

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