

# More local graduates head to OCC

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

More and more high school seniors are seeing Oakland Community College as the place to begin their higher education, according to an OCC study.

Last fall about 23 percent of the 12,013 Oakland County students who graduated the previous June opted to attend OCC, according to the recently released report.

That compares to about 16 percent of the county's graduating seniors who opted for OCC in 1985, according to the study.

OCC set a school enrollment record for a fall semester in September when 28,221 students signed up. The school also set an attendance mark for a winter semester when 26,612 students enrolled last month.

"The growing numbers reflect an increased awareness of the solid advantages in convenience, affordability and excellence in instruction and counseling" offered at OCC, said Chancellor H. Stephen Nicholson. The chancellor also said the record numbers are the result of the school's concentrated effort to reach students and their families through open houses, workshops and other recruiting efforts.

**ABOUT 43 PERCENT** of the seniors who graduated last year from Oakland County high schools enrolled at four-year institutions, according to the annual report from Grand Valley State College, which tabulates figures for each of Michigan's 83 counties.

Michigan State University attracted most of those graduates, 1,161, followed by the University of Michigan with 829 students.

The following is a breakdown of other schools and the number of June graduates from Oakland County each attracted last fall:

Oakland University, 560; Wayne State, 442; Central Michigan, 320; Eastern Michigan, 359; Ferris, 259; Grand Valley State, 85; University of Michigan-Dearborn, 82; U of M-Flint, 40; Lake Superior State, 26; Michigan Institute of Technology, 60; Northern Michigan, 74; Saginaw Valley, 24; and Western Michigan, 510.

School had the highest percentage of June graduates enrolling at OCC, according to the study, which covered the period between 1985 and 1989. Holly High School had the lowest percentage of students enrolling at OCC, with about 8 percent.

OCC enrollment from the county's private schools is also up, according to the study, although the comparison year was 1984, rather than 1985.

While more graduating high school seniors are attending OCC, most attending the college are older, career-oriented students, according to a student profile compiled in 1988.

**THE AVERAGE** OCC student is 27 years old attending college part-time to improve job skills or increase employment opportunities, said George A. Cartsonis, director of OCC communications and graphic services.

"Eighty-seven percent of our students are Oakland County residents, while 58 percent of them are women," he said. "Seventy-nine percent attend part-time, with 43 percent of the credit hours offered at night."

About 11 percent of the students take classes for personal development or enrichment, he said.

While OCC helps thousands develop skills that will plug them into the job market, it also gives a significant number of students the background they need before transferring to other schools, Cartsonis said.

Roughly 39 percent of the students work toward associate degrees and eventually transfer, he said.

Of the 2,066 students who transferred from OCC in 1988, some 324 went to Wayne State University, according to Cartsonis. Two hundred thirty-six transferred to Eastern Michigan University, 216 went to Oakland University, 148 went to Michigan State University, 122 went to Western Michigan University and 109 went to the University of Michigan at Dearborn, he said.

One hundred ten students transferred to Lawrence Technological Institute, Cartsonis said, while 109 went to Walsh College.

Ironically, more students transferred to OCC from other institutions, he said. OCC had 2,382 students transferring into the school in 1988, compared to 2,066 who went away, he said.

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Peace is possible in the Holy Land, according to three panelists with diverse backgrounds who discussed the Palestinian-Israeli conflict during a public forum at Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills Monday night.

But not without compromise and both factions putting aside decades of prejudice, according to the panelists, an American Arab, an American Jew and an American Episcopal priest who is dean of a college in Jerusalem.

More than 100 people jammed Stately Guild Hall for a civil, but sometimes tense, two-hour discussion.

Israel must end terrorist acts against Palestinians in occupied territories and reconsider its objections to the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), said Nabeel Abraham,

an instructor of anthropology at Henry Ford Community College whose parents were born in Jerusalem before it became part of Israel.

Palestinians must reject violence, accept the proposed Israeli peace plan — which calls for elected representatives rather than the PLO — and enter into negotiations without preconditions, said David Gad-Harf, executive director of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit.

**BOTH SIDES** must renounce terrorism and commit to serious negotiations before frustration enables extremist factions to gain control and seek violent solutions, said the Very Rev. John Peterson, dean of St. George's College in Jerusalem.

Questions, for the most part, seemed to focus on historical events that contributed to today's impasse. Here are some examples:

• Are not today's developments, including Palestinian uprisings, a natural consequence of the Holocaust in Nazi Germany and the deaths of 6 million Jews? asked a high school student. Isn't the key issue for Jews the lessons learned in World War II?

Abraham's response: "The Holocaust and the repression of Palestinians on the West Bank are separate issues. The Holocaust does not give Jews the right to put its military boot on the backs of Palestinians."

Peterson had a different answer. Although he does not excuse repression or terrorism from either side, Peterson said, "the founding of Israel as a Jewish homeland has everything to do with the Holocaust."

• Did Israel not precipitate the 1967 war with neighboring Arab states by conducting bombing raids prior to the formal outbreak of hos-

tilities? asked another high school student.

"I don't know that Israel conducted bombing raids," responded Gad-Harf. "But if they were (conducted), it was probably because Arab nations were amassing troops and the Israelis conducted strategic bombing as preventive measures."

• Had the Arabs, rather than Jews, won the 1967 war, would they be willing to withdraw to prewar boundaries? asked a woman, apparently referring to demands voiced in Arab countries that Israel withdraw from occupied territories.

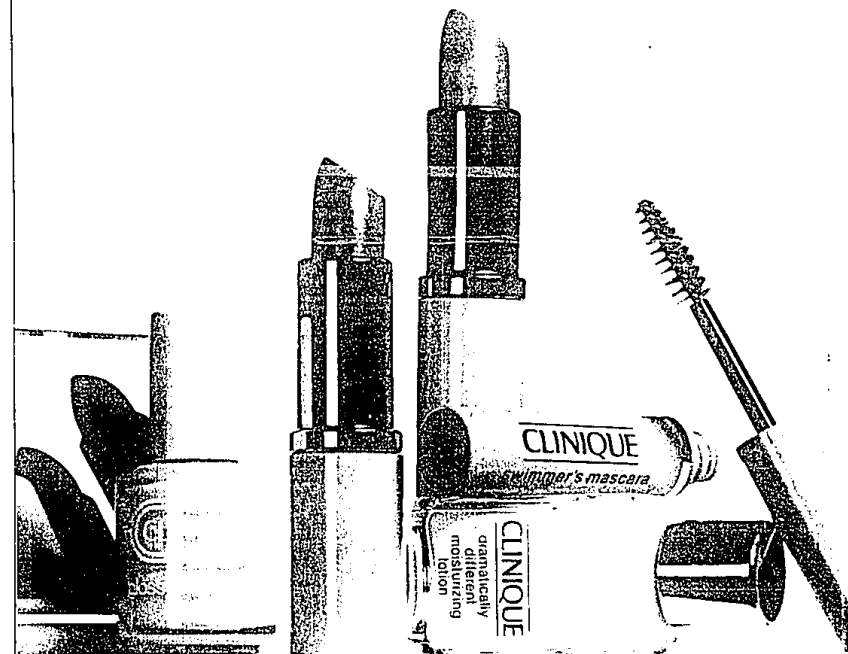
If the Arabs had won, the Jews would have been driven out of the area, responded Abraham.

"You are smiling because you made me say something you wanted to hear," he said to the woman. "But I'm a realist and I think that would have happened (if the Arabs won)."

Please turn to Page 10

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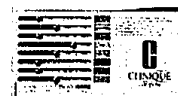
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### Oakland Community College: How many of our students attend?

High School	1985	1989
Adams High School	418	463
Entered OCC	82	84
Percent	20	18
Andover High School	339	308
Entered OCC	41	59
Percent	12	19
Athens High School	432	429
Entered OCC	75	100
Percent	17	23
Avondale High School	192	188
Entered OCC	34	56
Percent	18	30
Farmington High School	327	275
Entered OCC	78	79
Percent	24	29
Groves High School	347	261
Entered OCC	50	50
Percent	14	19
Harrison High School	327	231
Entered OCC	48	68
Percent	15	29
Lahser High School	323	293
Entered OCC	33	53
Percent	10	18
North Farmington High School	340	363
Entered OCC	57	113
Percent	17	31
Rochester High School	415	425
Entered OCC	56	109
Percent	13	26
Seaholm High School	387	304
Entered OCC	44	64
Percent	11	21
Southfield High School	320	361
Entered OCC	62	88
Percent	19	24
Southfield Lathrup High School	415	347
Entered OCC	55	72
Percent	18	21
Troy High School	375	461
Entered OCC	52	91
Percent	13	20
Walled Lake Central High School	318	336
Entered OCC	49	79
Percent	15	24
Walled Lake Western High School	297	292
Entered OCC	57	56
Percent	19	19
West Bloomfield High School	384	344
Entered OCC	91	130
Percent	24	38

Source: Oakland Community College

\*Estimated