

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

In the fall of 1960, OU's second year, former chancellor D.B. "Woody" Varner gave the new faculty a concise report on the status of the institution: "We move from the distinguished position as the nation's newest university to what we now hope may objectively be described as one of the nation's better universities, young though we are."

After 15 years, that assessment still stands.

Today there are 400 full and part-time faculty including eight members of the original charter faculty of 25.

The distinguished records of the university's 7,500 alumni are a tribute to the faculty's effort in the classroom. In their research and scholarly pursuits, the faculty have attracted substantial outside support and have been awarded most of the prestigious fellowships funded by the federal government and private foundations.

UNIVERSITY RANKS HIGH IN SUPPORT

The internationally known Institute of Biological Sciences last year ranked in the top 24 schools and research hospitals in terms of annual financial support from the National Eye Institute. In fiscal 1973-74, Oakland University received more than \$2,000,000 in outside project support from such institutions as the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, the U.S. Office of Education, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the U.S. Office of Naval Research.

The university's programs for the disadvantaged, early childhood education, and reading education have been cited in Washington as programmatic models as has Oakland's federal University Year for ACTION (UYA) program. The only public college or university in Michigan to receive a UYA grant, Oakland places 40 volunteers a year in community service roles through ACTION.

ENROLLMENT GROWTH

When the 570-member charter class enrolled in 1959, most of its number came from southeastern Michigan, although one student each from Turkey, Vietnam and Lebanon were attracted to the new institution.

Today, with a record fall enrollment of more than 10,000 students, a wide geographic base is represented. Approximately 90 percent of each new class comes from the tri-county area of Oakland, Wayne and Macomb, but during the recent winter term there were undergraduates from 20 states and 20 foreign countries and graduate students from 16 states and five foreign countries.



Highland Dancers of District III, Dearborn Bagpipe and Drum School



Alexander "Sandy" McPhee, director of the Dearborn Bagpipe and Drum School.

UNUSUAL CURRICULUM

The university's initial curriculum was developed in part by a blue ribbon committee that had been asked to develop an ideal university for this age. Its members included the late Henry Luce of *Time* magazine, Lee DuBridge, former president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, former Ford Foundation director Henry Heald, and historian Henry Steele Commager. Curriculum panels were established for the liberal arts, engineering, continuing education, education, and business.

Oakland has maintained the liberal arts emphasis and a distinctive program of non-Western studies that were among the committee's recommendations. Today there are more than 60 undergraduate programs of study, there are master's degrees offered in 20 areas, and the institution is authorized to grant a doctorate in engineering.

More than 24 new programs many of them in the applied social sciences areas, have been added to the curriculum in recent years.

The major academic units are a College of Arts and Sciences, School of Economics and Management, School of Education, School of Engineering and School of Performing Arts. An organized faculty for a School of Nursing has been authorized.

PART-TIME STUDENTS SERVED

The university has long recognized that a part-time student, whether seeking credit or noncredit programs, is an increasingly large segment of the community which must be served.

Credit evening courses are now available on campus and at six off-campus sites. It is possible to obtain a degree entirely through night classes.

Continuing Education has been an important thrust of the university since its founding. From the 300 adults who signed up for classes held in the chicken coop on the Meadow Brook Farms estate before the first campus structure was complete in 1959, the Division of Continuing Education has grown to a diverse program of noncredit evening courses, conferences, and other special programs which drew more than 15,000 persons last year.

Enrichment of community cultural life through programs of the highest caliber has also been an OU goal. The Meadow Brook Festival has just concluded its 11th season. The Meadow Brook Theatre opens its 9th season this fall. Additional thousands come to campus each year for the Academy of Dramatic Art, Student Enterprise Theatre, and Department of Music productions or to visit the Meadow Brook Art Gallery and other special art exhibitions. Meadow Brook Hall, the Wilson's Tudor-style mansion, has been adapted as a conference and cultural center. More than 50,000 persons toured the hall or attended conferences there during the past year.

COMMUNITY LEADERS LEND SUPPORT

Community leaders have lent support to the university throughout its 15 years. Most of the 1959 student scholarship money came from the 59-member OU Foundation. The foundation, now with 73 members, continues to aid the university as do the alumni and the Macomb Scholarship Committee. Others serve on special committees that aid the university's academic units or its cultural programs.

CAMPUS IS VALUED AT \$57 MILLION

Since 1959, twenty buildings have been constructed. When combined with the Meadow Brook Farms estate structures, the value of the entire campus is \$57,855,617. The first year's total operating budget was \$794,000 while the 1974-75 total operating budget will be \$27,935,986.

The Meadow Brook estate buildings, the 1400-acre Meadow Brook Farms, and \$2,000,000 were given by Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Wilson to M.S.U. in 1957 to start a new university. Today, the total acreage, exclusive of right ways, is 1504 acres. OU opened in 1959 under the direction of D. B. Varner, now president of the University of Nebraska, and as a branch campus of Michigan State University. In recognition of its maturity and growing national reputation, Oakland received its independence and its own board of trustees in 1970. Donald D. O'Dowd, chief academic officer since 1961, became president of OU in that same year.

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COME SEE US ON
SEPTEMBER 29th!