

OU's Orchard Ridge campus growth shows public confidence

By CORINNE ABATT

When the Orchard Ridge branch of Oakland Community College opened its doors in 1967, there were about 1,800 enrolled. Good, considered that few if any really knew what the college was about.

Two other campuses, Auburn Heights and Highland Lakes had opened previously. Counting the Oak Park-Royal Oak branch there are now four.

Orchard Ridge provost Dr. S. James Manilla, says about the fall enrollment of more than 7,000. "We're almost at capacity. Seventy-five hundred would be comfortable for us."

In the intervening years the community college concept has been refined and expanded to the point where it has a dramatic impact on the lives of those around it.

Manilla says 200,000 individuals have taken courses since the college started.

The idea of a two-year college as a pit stop for those who couldn't make it any place else has faded says Manilla. In its place is the image of a center for higher education where all ages are welcome to take both credit and non-credit courses, everything from highly technical training to judo and ballet. There is a busy day-care center for mothers to leave toddlers. The number of credit hours being taken is up 18 per cent this fall over the same time a year ago, another sign of growth.

In courses for adult lifelong learning, "that's where the thrust is coming," Manilla says.

The student body has changed, too.

The average age was 19 when we opened, now it's 27, equally divided between males and females. This is indicative of our student clientele," he says.

Students come for three reasons: retraining, first time entry into the job market and upgrading.

"BUT, LIFELONG learning is what everybody's talking about and now we're concentrating on community-based education. Instead of everyone coming to the campus, we are taking education to them in the community—to clubs, industry, apartment buildings, churches, wherever the population is centered."

Along with the change in the average student age have come obvious changes in attitude.

"It is completely changed from the days of student unrest in the late '60s and early '70s. When I first came here we had bombings by the Weathermen of Detroit in the spring of 1971 and black-white confrontations."

"That's all past. Now our students are interested in getting through, getting skills, getting jobs."

While this is a nationwide phenomenon of the mid '70s, Dr. Manilla attributes the calmness and balance in some measure to the heterogeneous age mix.

Both groups, young and older students, have a greater appreciation for the other as they react intellectually. These interactions are just great and the attitudes of both groups have changed because of them."

He notes a change in his attitudes. "We have a participatory democracy form of management. Those directly affected must be involved."

He says faculty and administrators both have a voice when decisions are made.

"This creates high morale. It has given the institution stability and helped to create a healthy environment, a good learning environment. Our faculty is very much involved."

HE CITES EXAMPLES of faculty-student participation in beautifying the campus—the sign facing 1400, a project initiated by Man and Environment students and landscaping done by students and faculty.

"We have a very heterogeneous student population—rich, poor, young, old, black, white—that concept is the base of the community college—hopefully we reflect the community. And we have given opportunities to so many who wouldn't otherwise have had them."

On December 1, Dr. Manilla will leave Orchard Ridge to take over the presidency of Harrisburg Area Community College, Harrisburg, Pa.

He did not seek the position. The Pennsylvania college administrators found him. He looks forward to the challenge and comments on one of the most satisfying aspects of the time here.

"There are so many success stories. Young people who wouldn't have gone on if we hadn't been here. Many are doctors and lawyers and in other professions."

He likes those success stories. Who wouldn't?

Prisk wins award

A Clarensville school board member who pursues a photographic hobby won \$50 in the national Kodak community service photo awards competition.

Dr. Samuel Prisk, who lives in Livonia and maintains a dental practice in Redford Township, won the award of merit from Kodak for his photo of a small brother and sister in Halloween costumes trick or treating for UNICEF funds.

Prisk, of 20209 Gillman, also won a certificate and enlargement of his prize photo.

THE CONTEST was open to photos of a person or group involved in serving the community by helping others.

Prisk, on the school board for 15 years and winner of another four-year term in June 9, has taken many pictures over the years of community service projects.

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Architect:
Ralls Hamill Becker Carre, Inc.
33000 Schoolcraft Road, Suite U-1
Livonia, Michigan 48150

Schedule of Work:
The work is to be performed as shown on the C.P.M. Schedule, which is on the Drawing.

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Proposal	Item	Specification Div.
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Proposal 2	Site & Earth Work	281
Proposal 3	Foundation	321
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Proposal 6	Structural Steel	5A3
Proposal 7	Carpentry	6E1
Proposal 8	Roofing	7J1
Proposal 9	Caulking & Weatherstripping	7T1
Proposal 10	Glass & Glazing	8A1
Proposal 11	Acoustical Treatment	9E1
Proposal 12	Flooring	9N1
Proposal 13	Painting and Finishing	9T1
Proposal 14	Demountable Partitions	10T1
Proposal 15	Hollow Metal	11
Proposal 16	Mechanical	13
Proposal 17	Electrical	18

Plans are available for examination at the following location: Ralls Hamill Becker Carre, Inc. 33000 Schoolcraft Road, Suite U-1, Livonia, Michigan 48150. All proposals shall remain firm for a period of 45 days after official opening of bids. The owners reserve the right to reject any or all bids in whole or in part and to waive any informality therein.

Dr. Mervyn B. Ross, Secretary
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Public September 22, 1975

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Parents of Teens	7:30 p.m.	Sat. Sept. 27
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