

# OU gets new dean of engineering from Wayne State U.

After a nationwide search, the new dean of Oakland University's School of Engineering and Computer Science comes from just down the street.

Michael P. Polls, professor and chairman of the Wayne State University Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering since 1987, started his new job at OU this month.

Polls will also be a tenured pro-

fessor of engineering.

"Our selection caps a national search and we are delighted to find the top candidate right here in Michigan," said OU President Sandra Packard. "Dr. Polls brings experience and vitality to his position, and I know he will be able to provide leadership for the School of Engineering and Computer Science and for the Center for Robotics and Advanced Auto-

mation housed within that school."

Polls replaces Howard Witt, who has been engineering dean for five years and a faculty member for 26 years. Witt has asked to return to the classroom.

"Dr. Polls is a firm believer in extensive collaboration between the School of Engineering and Computer Science and the private sector. We look forward to an in-

crease in OU's research and outreach activity under his leadership," she said.

Polls said he believes "we are seeing a quiet revolution in engineering and computer science education: more and more, the master's degree is becoming the preferred degree for engineers and computer scientists continuing in technical careers."

"Working with the school's fac-

ulty, I hope to make Oakland the university of choice for individuals working for the automobile companies and their suppliers who are seeking to pursue a master's degree."

OU's new dean holds a doctorate and master's in electrical engineering from Purdue University. His undergraduate degree in electrical engineering is from the University of Florida at Gainesville.

He served as program director from 1983 to 1987 for the National Science Foundation, Systems Theory and Operations Research Program. He is a frequent contributor to engineering journals and co-author of chapters in five books on engineering.

He and his wife, Claudette, live in Grosse Pointe Park with their three children.

## MALLS & MAINSTREETS

### Games from page 8A

rollout of multiple stores in high-traffic strip malls, aggressive TV advertising and market support, and then use sophisticated inventory control and management information systems to help things along."

FuncoLand went public last August when they were ready to expand. They raised an additional \$13 million through a second offering, providing them with the funds to open stores in Dallas, Chicago, Milwaukee and New York.

"Stock started out at \$5 and is trading at \$14 and \$15 today," Pomije boasted. "Not bad

for a 37-year-old entrepreneur from Minnesota who started selling used video games from a mail-order catalog, in his basement."

FuncoLand is Pomije's second business attempt; he began with his lessons learned from his first. He founded Protecronics Inc., buying and selling the Commodore computers gathering dust on the shelves of manufacturers and retailers. He was forced to file for bankruptcy when both the supply and demand dried up — after he made \$12 million from the venture in two years.

FuncoLand stores opened a few months ago at West Oaks in Novi, Summit Crossing in Waterford, Burlington Square in Taylor, Fairlane Meadows in Dearborn, Nine Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington, and Clinton Valley Center in Sterling Heights.

"I love to play video games myself," Pomije said. "And I sympathize with parents who have to pay \$50 or \$60 for a new game. That's crazy. Using their children's old games as a source of value, parents can shop at FuncoLand and get new games for just half that investment."

### Smoking from page 8A

ning smoking in public buildings."

New York and Vermont have such laws. Smoking is prohibited in most indoor spaces, including malls. Michigan, through the Clean Indoor Air Act of 1978, bans smoking in all government buildings, hospitals, nursing homes and day care centers. However, private businesses such as office buildings and shopping centers are exempt.

"If a mall wants to ban smoking, it's entirely up to them," said Cindy Peruchietti, administrative assistant to the public health committee of the state House of Representatives. "They are not mandated to do so under the law. Restrictions of the act became a question of how far government wanted to interfere in private business."

At the Somerset Collection in

**"If a mall wants to ban smoking, it's entirely up to them. They are not mandated to do so under the law. Restrictions of the act became a question of how far government wanted to interfere in private business."**

*Cindy Peruchietti*  
administrative assistant to the public health committee of the state House of Representatives

Troy, spokeswoman Colleen Creagh said management is considering a smoking ban and the issue is under discussion.

"But there are no plans for a ban in the near future," she said.

Somerset shopper Frank Bruni was glad to hear that.

"I need a cigarette while my

wife is spending my money," he said with a wink. "I'm retired. I like to walk around the malls for exercise, stop, relax, have a smoke and watch other people go by. I think smokers should have one half of the mall and let the non-smokers have the rest. That's fair, don't you think?"

### Show from page 8A

sed blouses were very beautiful though."

Karen Friendly, of Dearborn, a legal secretary, said she fell in love with a green Dana Buchman suit shown, modeled with a cream ruffled cut-off collar blouse and red vest. "Something new for work," she said. "Feminine yet professional looking."

Health reporter Jane Brody re-

minded everyone that well-balanced meals and exercise were "the true basics" of fashion. She challenged the busy crowd to "live healthfully" by eating nutritional home-cooked meals and exercising once a day.

"Does cutting the grass, painting the house, dusting and running up and down the stairs all day, count as exercise?" Emily

Rozen of Detroit asked.

"Yes," Brody smiled. "But you really need a more sustained activity that gets your heart rate up 20-30 minutes at a shot."

Brody insisted that in the long-run, whether it seems to or not, living healthfully is actually a time and money saver, not time-consuming and expensive as many believe.

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