Oakland University has continued to grow since its beginning. When it first opened in 1959, only 570 students were enrolled. The charter class graduated in 1963 with 125 students receiving diplomas. Today, more than 17,000 students attend classes at OU each fall, and there are nearly 70,000 alumni.

Oakland University was created in 1957 when the late Alfred and Matilda Wilson donated $2 million and their 1,500-acre estate to Michigan State University to start a new college in Oakland County. Named Michigan State University Oakland, the college enrolled its first students in 1959. The name changed to Oakland University in 1963. In 1970, the Michigan Legislature recognized the maturity and stature of Oakland University by granting it autonomy, and Michigan's governor appointed OU's first Board of Trustees.

Oakland University is a growing, top-rated academic institution offering students a personal, high-quality education through flexible class schedules, new facilities, student services, classroom technologies, labs, internships, co-ops, research opportunities with corporate partners, and degree and certificate programs.

OU students work side by side with faculty mentors and research investigators on projects funded by prestigious organizations such as the National Institutes of Health and U.S. Department of Education as well as numerous partners in business and industry. Under the tutelage of faculty and community mentors, students gain valuable knowledge and experience in teaching, nursing, solving business problems, performing on stage and so much more.

Oakland offers diverse academic programs, including 114 baccalaureate programs and 82 graduate and certificate programs through its five professional schools – the Schools of Business Administration, Education and Human Services, Engineering and Computer Science, Health Sciences, and Nursing – and the College of Arts and Sciences. Oakland University also offers a challenging and enriching Honors College.

Thanks to the reputation it is gaining within the region and beyond, Oakland University has been recognized by several national organizations.

The Princeton Review named Oakland University in its first edition of “The Best Midwestern Colleges, 150 Great Schools to Consider.” The book showcases the top schools in 11 states based on academic excellence and student surveys about academics, campus life and the student body. Oakland University appears with Indiana University, Notre Dame, Northwestern, University of Chicago, University of Michigan and University of Wisconsin.

The Princeton Review is a New York City-based company known for its test preparation courses, admission and education services, and books. It has conducted surveys since 1992, when it first published its annual “Best Colleges” – the only guide offering college rankings based on student ratings of their schools and reports of their experiences at them. One of 190 books developed by The Princeton Review and published by Random House, this book offers two-page profiles with more detailed information on each college. No school has ever paid a fee to be in the book.

The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education categorizes Oakland University as a “Doctoral/Research University-Intensive.” Produced by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, the classification reflects OU’s strong commitment to graduate education through its doctoral programs as well as its extensive undergraduate programs. Oakland University offers students opportunities to work directly on research projects with expert faculty who bring current knowledge right to the classroom.

This classification places OU among other public and private institutions such as San Diego State University, Pepperdine University, University of San Diego, University of Colorado at Denver, DePaul University, Ball State University, University of Maryland-Baltimore, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Dartmouth College, Hofstra University, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Wake Forest University, Baylor University, College of William and Mary, and George Mason University.

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1905 and chartered in 1906 by an Act of Congress, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is an independent policy and research center whose charge is “to do and perform all things necessary to encourage, uphold, and dignify the profession of the teacher and the cause of higher education.” The Foundation is a major national and international center for research and policy studies about teaching.

Oakland University is ranked one of the nation’s most underrated schools in the 2004 edition of “The Unofficial, Unbiased Guide to the 328 Most Interesting Colleges,” published by Kaplan Publishing/Simon and Schuster. Oakland appears on a list of the 20 most underrated schools in the United States, according to a national survey of public and private high school guidance counselors. Universities were judged on classroom experience, campus environment and student life. The list also includes the University of Arizona, Duke University and the University of Chicago, among others.

Kaplan Inc. is one of the nation’s premier providers of educational and career services for individuals, schools and businesses. Kaplan offers preparation for 35 standardized tests, including entrance exams for secondary school, college and graduate school as well as English language and professional licensing exams. Kaplan also provides private tutoring and college and graduate admissions consulting services.

“U.S News and World Report” consistently recognizes Oakland in its annual report about “America’s Best Colleges.” Oakland has been listed among national-doctoral universities since the 2002-03 edition. Prior to appearing on the national list, “U.S. News and World Report” ranked Oakland among the top universities in the Midwest.

Oakland University’s Beaumont Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia has been recognized as sixth in the United States in the 2004 edition of “U.S. News and World Report’s America’s Best Graduate Schools.”

The program, which provides an exceptional educational environment
for training certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), started in 1991 as a collaborative initiative to address the nurse anesthesia shortage. Currently, there are 86 graduate programs of nurse anesthesia in the United States with four in Michigan.

U.S. News began its annual rankings of American colleges and universities in 1983 with the fall of 1987 marking the first publication of the newsstand book, “America’s Best Colleges.” “America’s Best Graduate Schools” came on board in 1994. In 1983, rankings were purely reputational, based on an opinion survey of 662 college presidents. Since then, rankings have been modified more than a dozen times to include measures such as selectivity, strength of faculty and SAT scores.

Oakland University is located in Oakland County - the third most affluent county in the United States and the fastest growing county in Michigan. Oakland County houses facilities for nearly 200 Fortune 500 companies, including five world headquarters. More than 400 internationally owned companies also are located here.

Oakland County’s rolling hills, wetlands and woodlands provide beautiful neighborhoods and plenty of year-round recreation. The surrounding community also offers an abundance of entertainment, cultural and other social opportunities. Together, all this makes Oakland County a great place to live, work and go to school.

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**Oakland Quick Facts**

**Enrollment**
- 17,737 (13,701 undergraduate; 4,036 graduate) as of fall 2006

**Academic Programs**
- 114 baccalaureate degree programs
- 91 graduate degree and certificate programs

**Student-to-Faculty Ratio**
- Low student-to-faculty ratio

**Faculty with Doctoral Degrees**
- 91 percent

**Class Size**
- Fewer than 35 students per undergraduate course

**Academic Calendar**
- Two 15-week semesters (September-December and January-April)
- Two eight-week summer sessions (May-June and July-August)

**Research Grants and Funding**
- OU received more than $9.5 million during the 2004-05 academic year.

**Employment Rate**
- 89 percent of OU graduates are employed within six months of graduation (this is the overall employment rate - 87% for undergraduates and 96% for graduates).

**ACT Scores and GPA**
- The average high school GPA for freshmen is 3.2.
- The average ACT score is 22.0.

**Alumni**
- Nearly 70,000 alumni

**Kresge Library**
- Includes 719,000 volumes, 1.1 million microfiche, about 3,500 periodicals and more than 100 computers

**Campus Highlights**
- 1,441 acres of wooded hills and meadows
- 48 major buildings
- Six co-ed residence halls including the Scholars Tower, Wellness Hall and University Student Apartments
- Six student apartment buildings
- High-tech Business and Technology Building (Elliott Hall)
- State-of-the-art Recreation and Athletics Center
- Everything within a 10-minute walk
- Accessible to individuals with disabilities
- Lighted walkways and emergency blue-light phones
- Meadow Brook Hall, Art Gallery, Theatre and Music Festival
- Close to Pontiac Silverdome, the Palace of Auburn Hills, Great Lakes Crossing and downtown Rochester

**Student Activities**
- More than 140 student organizations including 12 with Greek affiliations
- An active student government
Gary Russi has served as Oakland University’s president since 1996, and he held the position of interim president from 1995 to 1996. Under his leadership Oakland completed its first strategic plan. The 10-year plan paved the way for Oakland’s unprecedented growth—in stature and size—and is helping the university realize its 2010 vision.

In April 2005 Russi announced the university’s first-ever comprehensive campaign, “Innovation and Opportunity—The Campaign for Oakland University,” with a goal of raising $110 million by 2010. The Campaign for Oakland University is designed to propel the university to the next level in providing a comprehensive liberal education, raising funds for professorships, scholarships, research endowments, academic programs, and improved facilities. As of December 2005 the university has raised more than $67 million toward that ambitious goal.

Oakland University is a top-rated academic institution that is widely recognized as a university on the rise. With a steadily growing student population that topped 17,000 in fall 2005, Russi has worked with the Oakland community to maintain the highest caliber of academic quality and to build an infrastructure that retains the best features of a small campus setting while offering a large array of programs and services.

Under Russi’s leadership Oakland has introduced more than 40 new academic degree programs since 1995. Full-time faculty number over 470 for the fall of 2005, with 50 new positions approved for 2007. These new programs and faculty members have drawn a greater number—and an even more talented group—of students to the university. Average high school GPAs and ACT scores of incoming freshmen continue to rise.

Russi’s commitment to experiential learning with flexible class schedules, high quality facilities and classroom technologies, a wide array of student services and research opportunities is helping Oakland grow into a distinctive university focused on delivering a unique and progressive undergraduate education.

In addition, during Russi’s tenure, Oakland has invested—often with state support—more than $190 million to enrich environments for teaching, researching, learning, and living. Capital improvements include a $43-million Science and Engineering building, a $37-million Recreation and Athletics Center, the $17.5-million R. Hugh and Nancy Elliott Hall of Business and Information Technology, a $32-million School of Education and Human Services building and $20-million new student apartments. This trend will continue with the Campaign for Oakland University’s goal of further capital enhancements to support the university’s growth.

Russi joined Oakland University in 1993 as Vice President for Academic Affairs where he was responsible for all academic programs, academic support services, research and several university-wide administrative services. In 1995 he assumed the role of Interim President. He held both positions until he was named President in 1996. Russi is also a professor for Oakland’s School of Health Sciences.

Prior to joining Oakland, Russi was Vice President for Research and Strategic Planning at Drake University where he served as the university’s chief research administrator and promoted institutional direction and support for faculty research endeavors. While there he was instrumental in focusing university staff resources and budgets to strengthen faculty research. Russi was also very involved there, as he is at Oakland, in supporting and promoting undergraduate student research projects. As Vice President for Research and Strategic Planning, Russi also led and managed the application of the state-of-the-art information technology in the university’s administrative, educational and research activities.

Russi’s administrative career at Drake University began in 1973 as a project coordinator in development and fund raising where he authored, co-authored and/or managed 42 funded grant or contract projects ranging from $200 to $900,000. From there he progressed through a variety of administrative positions, including Department Chair for the Clinical Externship Program, Director of University Planning, Vice Provost for Planning and Budgeting, and Executive Assistant to the President.

Russi participated in the American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows Program in Academic Administration from 1982-1983 where he served as Special Assistant to the Executive Vice President and Provost of the University of Nebraska.

His experience also includes several senior management positions in the U.S. Army from 1969-1992.

Russi’s teaching and research experience began in Southwestern Oklahoma State University where he was an undergraduate research assistant in chemistry from 1967-1969. His professional teaching and research career began in 1969 when he joined Kansas University as a teaching/research assistant in pharmacology and toxicology. During his tenure at Drake University he held the positions of assistant professor, associate professor and professor of pharmacology and toxicology.

Russi has achieved numerous honors and awards for his many achievements, including the George Wibby Athletic Award from Oakland University (2002), Distinguished Alumni Award from Southwestern Oklahoma State University (1998), Honorary Member of Golden Key National Honor Society at Oakland University (1993-present), Merck Research Award at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (1969) and Rho Chi Society Undergraduate Research Award at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (1969).

Russi currently serves as Co-Chair of the Oakland County Business Roundtable and Vice Chair of Oakland County Automation Alley, as well as Chair of the Board of Directors of the the Rochester Hills Strategic Planning Process. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Crittenton Hospital and the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, and he serves as Chair of the Presidents Councils of State Universities of Michigan and the Mid-Continent Athletic Conference. In addition, he holds the position of Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Michigan Virtual University.

Russi earned his Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacology from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 1969 and his Doctor of Philosophy degree in pharmacology and toxicology from the University of Kansas in 1972.
A longtime member of the Oakland athletics family, Tracy Huth was appointed Oakland’s interim director of athletics in September after holding positions as the staff's senior associate AD and associate AD for the past seven years. Prior to that Huth served five as the assistant athletics director for compliance and student services. In his new position as interim AD Huth will also have oversight of the men’s and women’s basketball programs. Huth, who has been on the Oakland staff since 1987 when he started as the women’s swimming & diving coach, retired from coaching in 1998 to focus on his position as assistant AD. In March of 2006 Huth was also appointed by the NCAA to a four-year term on the NCAA Swimming & Diving Committee.

As head swimming coach at Oakland, Huth established the OU swimming & diving program as the top NCAA Division II program in the country. Under his guidance, Oakland finished in the top three nationally for nine straight seasons, posting three straight second-place finishes after winning five consecutive national championships. He was named the NCAA Division II Women’s Swimming Coach of the Year three times for his accomplishments. During his days swimming for Oakland, the Yakima, Washington native earned a rare 24 All-America honors in his four seasons of competition, claiming 13 national championships. In three of his four years at OU he was named the NCAA Division II Swimmer of the Year. He is also a two-time inductee into Oakland’s Hall of Honor, once as a swimmer and once as a coach.

Huth graduated from Oakland in 1985 with a bachelor’s degree in secondary education/social studies. In 1996 he went on to earn his master’s of education from Wayne State University. Huth resides in Clarkson, Michigan with his wife Renea’. They have two children, Kara and Chance.

Simon Dover joined the Oakland athletics staff as the business manager in November of 1998. In the summer of 2000 he was promoted to Assistant Athletic Director for Finance and Administration and in January of 2006 was promoted to Associate Athletic Director for Internal Operations. Dover is responsible for managing the multi-million dollar athletic budget, contract negotiations, financial aid for student-athletes and as is an active part of the departments planning initiatives. Dover oversees the facility/event management and athletic training operations. Dover’s also has supervisory responsibility for Men’s and Women’s Soccer, Cross Country and Track.


Dover, a 1988 graduate of Oakland with a bachelor’s degree in accounting, received his masters of finance degree in 1998 from Walsh College. He is a member of Collegiate Directors of Athletics and the College Athletic Business Managers Association. Dover resides in Rochester, Michigan with his wife Janice and their two children, Harrison and Haley.

Jim Norton is in his second year as Associate Director of Athletics for External Relations at Oakland University. In this position Norton will be responsible for securing private gifts, marketing, promotions, licensing and media relations.

Before joining Oakland, Norton worked at Indiana State University for seven years where he also served as an associate director of athletics. During his time at ISU the Sycamores tripled their annual giving totals and completed a $3 million capital campaign.

Norton went to Indiana State following a four-year stint at Central Michigan University, where he served two years as Assistant Director of Admissions and two years as an Athletic Development Officer. While at CMU, he was responsible for coordinating a capital campaign that helped fund a 10,000 seat football stadium expansion and a new indoor athletic complex.

The Jenison, Michigan native earned a bachelors degree in English in 1991 from Central Michigan University and followed that, in 1997, with his Masters in Higher Education Administration. He is a member of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, National Association of Athletic Development Directors, and National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators.

Holly Kerstner has joined the Oakland University athletic department staff as the Assistant Athletic Director for Student Athlete Services, a position recently created to help student-athletes succeed in the classroom as well as in competition. Kerstner will also serve as the department’s Senior Women’s Administrator.

Kerstner will oversee the Grizzly Center for Graduates and Champions, the new academic center for student-athletes which will provide tutorial support and other resources to assist them in the classroom. She will also serve as the administrator of the Grizzly tennis, volleyball and softball teams. Additionally, Kerstner will oversee the Lifeskills program which aids student-athletes in making the transition between university life and post-graduation responsibilities. In her capacity as SWA, Kerstner will ensure gender equity within the athletic department and deal with Title IX issues that may arise.

Prior to joining the Grizzly staff Kerstner served a four-year stint at Radford University as the Director of Student-Athlete Support Services. She oversaw all academic services, including the tutorial center and advising. Kerstner was also the Student Athlete Advisory Committee advisor at Radford.

Kerstner spent four years at the University of Detroit as the Director of Advising and Academic Services before moving along to Radford. Her duties included admitting, advising and counseling student-athletes, as well as conditionally admitting students and overseeing the learning center. A 1995 graduate of Concordia University in Wisconsin, Kerstner earned a bachelor’s degree in social work as well as a bachelor’s of art. She earned a Masters in student personnel administration with an emphasis in counseling from Concordia in 1999. While at Concordia Kerstner served as a resident director and an alcohol and drug educator.
Oakland’s academic and student services staff assists student-athletes in their pursuit of their academic endeavors at Oakland and is committed to the total development of the student-athlete.

DeAndre Shepard, the department’s Athletics Academic Adviser, coordinates all student-athlete academic services. These include general academic support, undecided advising, student-athlete at-risk program (StARS), professional advising contacts, study hall, and tutoring contact/setup. Assistance is also provided with new student orientation, student-athlete orientation, registration and course selection, eligibility, career exploration, and campus-wide support services referrals.

Opening in the fall of 2006, the Grizzly Center for Graduates and Champions, is the latest addition to the academic support system at Oakland. Located on the main level of the Athletics Center, the new facility can accommodate up to 30 student-athletes, providing them a location they can use for studying, tutoring instruction, mock interviews and group presentations. The facility includes laptop computers that can be checked out, desktop computers, laser printers, a pair of widescreen plasma televisions and wireless internet capability.

Oakland student-athletes are among the top academic achievers among Mid-Continent Conference schools. Over the last three years, OU has placed 329 individuals on Mid-Continent Academic All-Conference teams. One hundred and eleven student-athletes received this prestigious honor during the 2006 spring semester, an all-time high for the Mid-Continent Conference. The 2006 year was also highlighted by the women’s basketball team being named to the 2005-06 Academic Top-25 Team Honor Roll by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association.

The Grizzly Center for Graduates and Champions opened in the fall of 2006, providing OU student-athletes a comfortable place to study.

### 2005-06 Men’s Basketball Academic Honorees

**Mid-Con Academic All-Conference (3.0 GPA or above in the winter semester and lettered):** Rickey Bieszki, Patrick McCloskey, Dave Ritzema.

**Mid-Con Commissioner’s List of Academic Excellence (3.0 cumulative GPA, sophomore or higher academic standing, lettered):** Patrick McCloskey

**Golden Grizzly Excellence in Academics (3.0 GPA or above):** Rickey Bieszki (W), David Carson (F), Aaron Gardner (F), Erik Kangas (F), Shane Lawal (F), Keith MacKenzie (F), Patrick McCloskey (F, W), Dave Ritzema (F, W).
Home of the Oakland basketball team is the Athletics Center O’Rena. The newest and most modern facility of its kind in the Mid-Continent Conference, it is a part of Oakland University’s Recreation and Athletics Center Complex located in the heart of the OU campus.

Home of some of the most enthusiastic crowds in the Mid-Con, the atmosphere in the O’Rena starts with OU’s student section, the Grizz Gang, one of the most vocal groups among Mid-Con student sections. With great sight lines from every seat, a modern scoreboard and message center, concession areas and a merchandise center, the Athletics Center O’Rena is truly a fan’s delight to watch collegiate basketball action in.

Groundbreaking for the facility was in the fall of 1996, with the first game occurring on November 17, 1998 when OU hosted Michigan State in front of a packed house of over 4,000 fans and a regional television audience. In addition to the arena, the facility also includes locker rooms for all of OU’s 16 sports, a modern training room, office space for the athletic department, a media room, booster room, weight room, equipment room and a 1,000-seat natatorium.

Some of the top teams in the nation have visited the O’Rena in the past including Michigan State, Michigan, Missouri and Texas A&M. Always a tough place to play for Golden Grizzly opponents, Oakland has won more than 65 percent of its games in the seven seasons that the facility has been in operation, including a 97-90 win over Michigan in 2000.

Part of the campus recreation complex, the recreation side of the facility includes a three-court gym, weight training and fitness area, multipurpose/aerobic rooms, racquetball and squash courts, a wellness center and classrooms and meeting areas.

Athletics Center O’Rena

Openend: November, 1998
Capacity: 4,000
Largest Crowd: 4,055 vs. Missouri (Nov. 29, 2003)
First Game: Nov. 17, 1998 vs. Michigan State
First OU Win: Nov. 24, 1988 vs. Michigan-Dearborn (81-54)
First OU Mid-Con Win: Jan. 16, 1999 vs. UMKC (88-81)
All-Time OU Record: 58-30 (.659)
All-Time OU Mid-Con Record: 37-17 (.685)
Oakland University’s Athletics Training Room is located on the second floor of the Student Athletic Center. The 2,700 square foot athletic training room is designed to meet the athletic training needs of Oakland University’s approximately 300 plus athletes in 16 NCAA Division I intercollegiate sports. The Athletic Training Room has designated areas for taping, treatment, rehabilitation, cardio-fitness, and a hydrotherapy area featuring a SwimEx pool.

The Oakland University Sports Medicine Staff is composed of Certified Athletic Trainers Tom Ford MS, ATC, CSCS, David McAuliffe ATC, CSCS and Lindsey Harn ATC. Drs. Sami Rifat, Head Team Physician and Jim Moeller, Team Physician are Fellowship trained, and Board Certified Sports Medicine Specialists.

Oakland’s weight room underwent extensive renovation this past summer and Todd Wohlfeil was added to the athletics staff with a singular goal in mind: Building Champions. With the right tools in place for the student-athletes to train, Oakland will continue its ascent to the top tier of the Mid-Continent Conference and the nation. The addition of Wohlfeil and the revamped weight room are crucial steps toward Building Champions.

Wohlfeil will fill the role of strength and conditioning coordinator, working with student-athletes to improve their fitness and establishing conditioning programs. Many student-athletes have had little to no past experience with an organized weight lifting program prior to enrolling at OU and Wohlfeil has been able to work directly with them to educate them and establishing a fitness program that will help them excel in their sport.

Wohlfeil is no stranger to Oakland, having graduated with a bachelor’s degree in health science in 2005. He became a certified personal trainer in 2003 and has worked at the OU Rec Center in that capacity ever since. Wohlfeil is currently working on his doctorate to become a physical therapist.

The renovations to the weight room have also been a key aspect to OU’s Building Champions philosophy. Brand new StarTrac treadmills, steppers, bikes and elliptical machines were purchased and all cardio equipment was replaced. The machines were reorganized to make the room more functional and older equipment that was no longer being utilized was removed entirely. There was also a reception area added at the front door where student-athletes can meet with staff to discuss their training.

There is still work to be done, however. New cable and hamstring machines have been ordered and a new paint job embodying the Golden Grizzly spirit will decorate the walls in the renovated weight room.
Community Service

When one thinks of Oakland University’s Golden Grizzlies, the thought usually conjures up images of a basketball player streaking down the court, bats and balls, a swimmer making the final lunge for the wall or a runner giving that extra last bit of effort at the end of a race. But OU’s athletics program is more than just student-athletes competing in their various sports.

Oakland’s student-athletes are also ambassadors for the university and one way in which they fulfill this role is through community service. Part of the mission statement for the department is that it will “serve as a point of interest, entry and affiliation with the university for alumni and the general community.” As a part of this the department gives back and adds to the quality of the local community through an active community service program. Despite taking a full class load, practicing 20 hours a week and competing in games, Oakland’s student-athletes do not hesitate when asked about a service project, giving about 1,000 hours of time a year. Indeed, they are eager to give back to the community that helps support them; and that attitude is becoming more and more recognized in the OU community every day.

Oakland’s men’s basketball team is no exception to any of this, indeed the program is one of the leaders in the athletics department in community service. Whether it is building a community playground, interacting with local elementary students, visiting local hospitals, providing clinics for area youth or just plain walking for a cause, the men’s basketball team can be found in the community helping others.
Oakland University, located in north Oakland County, Michigan, joined the NCAA Division I ranks in 1999. OU’s campus, set on 1,441 acres of rolling hills, woodlands and meadows, played an exciting role in automotive industry history and today displays remarkable beauty in an urban setting.

OU’s campus is near many entertainment opportunities, including Meadow Brook Theater, DTE Music Energy Theater and The Village of Rochester Hills and Great Lakes Crossing shopping malls. In recent years, Oakland County has become one of the fastest growing suburban counties in America.

Across the street from the university, the city of Auburn Hills offers great industry and is home to the Palace of Auburn Hills and the 2005 NBA Champion Detroit Pistons. This past March, The Palace, in partnership with Oakland University, hosted the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament First and Second Round games.

Minutes away down I-75, the city of Detroit sports several professional athletic teams; including the 2006 American League Champion Detroit Tigers, the NHL Red Wings and the NFL Lions. As a city, Detroit venues offer fine arts, festivals and all styles of entertainment.

Finally, Oakland University is proud to call the city of Rochester its home. A 2005 survey conducted by Money Magazine and CNN Money named Rochester 39th in a list of top 100 cities to live, the highest-ranking Michigan city in the survey. Whether it’s strolling the streets of picturesque downtown or the trails of nearby parks, Rochester offers much in the way of relaxation and recreation.

At Oakland University, one source of Golden Grizzly pride is the community it calls home.
The Mid-Continent Conference is celebrating its 25th year as an NCAA Division I athletics conference in 2006-07. The Mid-Con is coming off a year in which its student-athletes, coaches, administrators and teams continued to strengthen its reputation as a nationally competitive and well-respected league. The Mid-Con’s member schools - Northern Illinois, Oral Roberts, Valparaiso University, Western Illinois University and Wisconsin-Green Bay - take pride in the Midwest’s largest urban areas, and in providing quality athletic, academic and social experiences for their student-athletes.

The Mid-Con sponsors 14 sports, which includes: baseball, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s cross country, men’s and women’s golf, men’s and women’s soccer, softball, men’s and women’s swimming & diving, men’s and women’s indoor track & field, men’s and women’s outdoor track & field, men’s and women’s tennis, and volleyball.

A brief review of the Mid-Con’s highlights over the past 24 years:

1982-83
- The Association of Mid-Continent Universities is founded with “Frosty” Ferzacca as its first commissioner.
- The initial AMCU line-up includes Cleveland State, Eastern Illinois, Illinois-Chicago, Northern Iowa, St. Joseph’s College, Valparaiso, Western Illinois and Wisconsin-Green Bay.

1983-84
- UW-Green Bay and Eastern Illinois each play in the NCAA Men’s Soccer Tournament, making them the league’s first NCAA Tourney teams in any sport.
- Cleveland State earns the AMCU’s first national recognition in the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament.
- The 14th-seeded Vikings upset No. 3 seed Indiana on their way to a “Sweet 16” appearance.
- In addition, St. Joseph’s State begins a string of five consecutive postseason appearances by reaching the quarterfinals of the NIT.

1987-88
- The AMCU sends two teams to men’s basketball postseason play for the third straight season.
- Eastern Illinois’ Jim Maton is the league’s first NCAA National Champion, as he wins the 800 meter run at the NCAA Indoor Track Championship.

1989-90
- The AMCU sends a conference-record three teams to postseason play in men’s basketball, including Northern Iowa, which upsets former No. 1 Missouri in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.
- The AMCU changes its name to the now familiar Mid-Continent Conference.

1990-91
- For the second straight season, the Mid-Con sends two teams - in this case, Northern Illinois and UW-Green Bay - to the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament.

1991-92
- The league announces that it will begin sponsoring women’s athletics - strengthened by the membership of seven former North Star Conference members - the following year with the debut of six championship sports: cross country, football, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s soccer, and women’s volleyball.
- UW-Green Bay’s Tony Bennett establishes the league’s all-time scoring record in men’s basketball and wins his second Carver-Hawkeye/Mid-Con Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award.
- Eastern Illinois’ Dan Steele wins the 400-meter intermediate hurdles at the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

1992-93
- UW-Milwaukee wins the first Mid-Con-sponsored women’s championship when it takes home the cross country crown.

1994-95
- Northern Illinois makes the first NCAA appearance by a Mid-Con women’s team in the NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament.
- Wisconsin’s Brian Anderson is the third overall pick in the Major League Baseball draft after repeating as the league’s Pitcher of the Year.

1995-96
- The league’s revamped line-up includes Buffalo, Central Connecticut State, Chicago State, UMKC, Northeastern Illinois and Troy State.
- Valparaiso begins a string of five straight regular-season titles and six consecutive Mid-Con Tournament titles in men’s basketball.

1996-97
- Buffalo (cross country) and Valparaiso (volleyball) earn the first-ever “three-peats” in Mid-Con women’s athletics.

1997-98
- Oral Roberts and Southern Utah join the Mid-Con.
- Oral Roberts begins a string of six straight Mid-Con volleyball titles, and wins its first-round match in the NCAA Tournament by edging Arizona in five games.
- The Mid-Con becomes one of few NCAA Division I conferences across the nation to simultaneously run its basketball championships at the same neutral site.
- Valparaiso reaches the NCAA “Sweet 16”, thanks to the efforts of NBA draftee Bryce Drew, who hits “The Shot” which eventually earns him an ESPY from ESPN.
- Youngstown State earns the first Mid-Con women’s tournament win, topping fifth-seeded Memphis in the first round.

1998-99
- IUPUI and Oakland begin competition in the Mid-Con.
- Western Illinois wins its eighth men’s swimming & diving title.
- Associate member DePaul reaches the NCAA Softball College World Series, posting a third-place finish, and sets a Mid-Con single-season record with 54 wins.

1999-00
- Southern Utah finishes 21st in the NCAA Men’s Cross Country Championship.
- Western Illinois softball reels off a 25-game win streak behind Mid-Con Pitcher of the Year Holly Killion, who sets Mid-Con records with 30 wins and 355 strikeouts.

2000-01
- Oakland women’s soccer player Anita Rapp - a two-time Mid-Con Player of the Year (1999, 2001) and a WUSA draftee - earns a Gold Medal while playing for her native Norway in the 2000 Olympic Games.

2001-02
- Oral Roberts’ Krista Ragan sets the Mid-Con women’s basketball career scoring record (2,105), and becomes the first player in league history to earn four first-team all-conference citations in the sport.
- Valparaiso posts the biggest turnaround in NCAA women’s basketball (from 7-22 in 2000-01 to 25-7 in 2001-02) on its way to reaching the quarterfinals of the WNIT.

2002-03
- The Mid-Con sets a league record by sending four teams combined - IUPUI (NCAA) and Valparaiso (NIT) on the men’s side and Valparaiso (NCAA) and Western Illinois (WNIT) on the women’s side - to basketball postseason play.
- Oral Roberts’ Marsha Hawkins earns All-America honors in the 400 meter dash at both the NCAA Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

2003-04
- Centenary College of Louisiana, IUPUI (University of Purdue University Indianapolis), UMKC (University of Missouri-Kansas City), Oakland University, Oral Roberts University, Southern Utah University, Valparaiso University and Western Illinois University are located primarily in the Midwest’s largest urban areas, and pride themselves on providing quality athletic, academic and social experiences for their student-athletes.

The AMCU changes its name to the now familiar Mid-Continent Conference. The AMCU sends a conference-record three teams to men’s basketball postseason play for the third straight season. Oral Roberts’ Krista Ragan sets the Mid-Con women’s basketball career scoring record (2,105), and becomes the first player in league history to earn four first-team all-conference citations in the sport. Valparaiso posts the biggest turnaround in NCAA women’s basketball (from 7-22 in 2000-01 to 25-7 in 2001-02) on its way to reaching the quarterfinals of the WNIT. The Association of Mid-Continent Universities is founded with “Frosty” Ferzacca as its first commissioner. The Mid-Con announces that it will begin sponsoring women’s athletics - strengthened by the membership of seven former North Star Conference members - the following year with the debut of six championship sports: cross country, football, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s soccer, softball, men’s and women’s swimming & diving, men’s and women’s indoor track & field, men’s and women’s outdoor track & field, men’s and women’s tennis, and volleyball.