

#GradGrizz Alumni Newsletter

News and opportunities for alumni of Oakland University Graduate School

Dean's Desk

As I begin my fifth year as Dean of Oakland University Graduate School, I want to take a moment to reflect on how truly special this institution has become. Just like OU is home to so many of you, it has become a home for me as well. I am deeply grateful for the experiences and relationships I have cultivated with the students, faculty, staff, and alumni who make this community so vibrant.

As we continue to build upon our legacy of academic excellence, I am excited to share with you some of the many developments taking place on campus. The recent renovation of [South Foundation Hall](#) has brought new energy and resources to our academic and collaborative spaces. Additionally, the front of [O'Dowd Hall](#), home to our Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) and our Graduate School, have been beautifully transformed, creating a welcoming and modern space for our future leaders.

We are also continuing to enhance the Graduate School experience for our students by creating new professional development and mentoring opportunities. These initiatives are designed to help students excel not only in their academic pursuits but also in their careers, ensuring they are well-prepared to lead in their chosen fields. If you would like to host a professional development seminar, become a mentor or get involved, please complete this [interest form](#).

I would love to invite you to visit campus and experience these exciting changes firsthand. Whether you are coming back for a reunion, a professional development event, or simply to reconnect with your alma mater, I know you will be impressed by how Oakland has grown and evolved.

With warmest regards,

Brandy A. Randall, Ph.D.
Dean of the Graduate School
Professor of Psychology

Fun Fact: Dean Randall oversees Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) at Oakland University. PACE offers a diverse range of innovative courses, certificate programs and digital badges designed to equip participants with in-demand skills. Additionally, PACE manages summer camp programs for children from Kindergarten through High School. Alumni discounts are available for most courses, as well as summer camps. For more information, visit the [PACE website](#).

Graduate School News and Events

Join OU's Winter Master Class Professional Development Series

Always the Windshield, Never the Bug with Camille Jayne

Join us for an engaging and insightful evening where Camille Jayne, renowned business leader and turnaround CEO, will lead an exclusive session tailored specifically for the Oakland University community.

This master class, titled under the thought-provoking theme Always the Windshield, Never the Bug, merges three of Camille Jayne's powerful Bulletproof Your Success™ lectures into one impactful event.

Event Details

Title: Always the Windshield, Never the Bug

Speaker: Camille Jayne, renowned business leader and turnaround CEO

Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025

Time: 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Oakland Center Founder's Ballroom

Cost: Free

[Learn more and RSVP.](#)

Help Us Name OU's Multi-Degree Alumni!

We are thankful for our alumni who have chosen OU multiple times in their educational journey! Help us honor them with a distinguished title. Oakland University is calling on alumni, students, faculty and supporters to honor alumni who have earned multiple OU degrees. In this first round of the contest, we are collecting suggestions for the name to recognize their exceptional dedication and connection to OU. We will have a prize for the person who suggests the winning name.

Key Dates:

- **Submission Deadline:** Friday, January 24, 2025
- **Voting Period:** March 17 - April 11, 2025
- **Winner Announced:** Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Submit your suggested name(s) through the [Multi-Degree Alumni Naming Contest - Round One](#) form. We can't wait to see your ideas!

Advancing Graduate Education: Our Progress Over the Past Year

A New Student Advisory Council is Formed

Dean Randall formed a Graduate and Professional Student Advisory Council (GPSAC) to provide insights into the graduate student experience at OU, as well as assist with developing professional development opportunities and social programming relevant to our diverse graduate student body. The inaugural council consists of 12 graduate and professional students, spanning 10 academic programs and includes at least one representative from the College and all six professional schools. The students began conversations highlighting areas for growth in building an inclusive and inviting graduate student culture at OU. As an example of what great people our graduate students are, the group has been collecting donations for the [Grizz Pantry](#).

Inaugural Graduate School Faculty Fellow

Oakland University Graduate School is thrilled to introduce V. Thandi Sulé, Ph.D. as the inaugural Graduate School Faculty Fellow, who is serving from June 15, 2024 through April 30, 2025. Dr. Sulé is a Professor of Higher Education and the Coordinator of the Higher Education Leadership Graduate

Program in the Department of Organizational Leadership. Her extensive educational work invites graduate students to create ways to stimulate their sense of belonging, engagement and overall well-being. Sulé co-piloted a National Science Foundation funded graduate student mentorship program, Mentoring for Life (M4L) at Eastern Michigan University (EMU), and brought it to Oakland. The Oakland M4L program will be in its third year in 2024-2025. The M4L program connects graduate students with a mentor working in their field.

As a Faculty Fellow, Sulé has created professional development and networking opportunities for graduate students and postdocs. You can learn more about the series and watch recordings of past workshops on the [Professional Development Series web page](#).

Mentoring 4 Life Program a Success

This spring, 14 students participated in the Graduate School's Mentoring 4 Life Program. The NSF-funded, co-curricular program pairs graduate students with someone working in the field they plan to enter and helps graduate students understand how to take control of their own mentoring, engage in effective mentoring strategies, and embark on successful careers. This program consists of three meetings between the mentor and mentee and includes a training session for mentors to provide helpful tips to make the most of this experience. We are grateful to the mentors for sharing valuable guidance, encouragement and time with students.

2024 Mentoring 4 Life Participants:

Mentees

Sophia Archer
Amber Cooper
Sam Draves
Nathan Gager
Bethany Goss
Anna Hojdila
Shweta Kapur
Sara Mezuri
Hana Moudallal
Poornima Satyanarayana
Dionne Shell
Emmanuella Wesome Avogo
Shravya Yasarapu
Sai Zaman

Mentors

Chris Bowles, Director of Advancement Information Systems, OU
Susan Bowyer, Scientific Director, Neuromagnetism Lab Medical Physicist/Neuroimaging Scientist, Henry Ford Hospital
Diana Gamlin, PT, DPT, DMC

Mark Guthrie, Director IS&S & CIO

Napoleon Harrington, Ambassador Counseling & Resource Group, OU

Julie Jakinovich, Principal Quality Consultant-Infection Prevention and Control, Henry Ford Health

Any (Denise) Johnson, Retired Social Worker

Shaun Moore, Director of e-Learning, OU

Ryan Mostiller, Senior Manager, IT Security

Debbie Pruent, Retired COO, GFK Custom Research LLC

Dr. Matthew Sims, Director of Infectious Diseases Research at Corewell Health. Professor of Medicine at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine

Chris Stiller, PT, Ph.D., Clinical Professor, OU

Kris Thompson, PT, Ph.D., Professor, OU

Juanita Tookes, Academic Specialist at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Jeffery VanHoorne, Retired Cybersecurity Professional

Stacy Zousmer, PT, DScPT, Ivy Rehab, OU

New Graduate Programs

We are pleased to announce the launch of several new graduate programs and graduate certificates, as well as new combined undergraduate/graduate programs that allows students to double count graduate classes for both the undergraduate and graduate degree.

New Graduate Certificates

- Automotive Electrification
- Automotive Mechatronics
- Autonomous Vehicle Systems
- Data Science
- Environmental Protection
- Human Factors and Ergonomics
- Human-Robot Interaction
- Industrial Hygiene
- Mechatronics and Robotics Fundamentals
- Robotic Systems
- System Dynamics
- Systems and Controls
- School Administration

Modification to Name of a Graduate Degree or Concentration

- Wellness and Health Promotion, Combined B.S./Public Health MPH, Combined B.S./MPH, modified to Public Health, B.S./Public Health, MPH, Combined B.S./MPH
- Master of Science in Mechatronic Systems Engineering, modified to Master of Science in Mechatronic and Robotics Engineering

New Combined or Dual Degree

- Accounting, B.S./Accounting, MAcc, Combined B.S./MAcc
- Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, Specialization in Medical Laboratory Sciences, B.S./Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, M.S., Combined B.S./M.S.
- Interdisciplinary Studies, B.I.S./Clinical Mental Health Counseling, M.A., Combined B.I.S./M.A.
- Interdisciplinary Studies, B.I.S./Counseling, M.A., Combined B.I.S./M.A.
- Mechanical Engineering, B.S.E./Mechanical Engineering, M.S., Combined B.S.E./M.S.

Modification to Name of a Graduate Certificate

- Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning for Rehabilitation Professionals, modified to Teaching and Learning for Healthcare Professionals

- Teaching English as Second Language (K12), modified to Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (Pre K-Adult)

Learn more about these new programs and see a complete list of [current degree programs](#).

Celebrating Our Graduate Community

Gratitude for Donor Support

November is a time of thanks and at the Graduate School, we are thankful for donor support. There are several funds that donors support to help graduate students. One fund that's key to helping grad students succeed is the Graduate School Finish Line Scholarship, which funded nine scholarships in 2024 to help students finish what they started. You can help grad students finish strong with a [year-end gift here](#). Or if you prefer the hoopla of OU's Giving Day, save the date for March 5, 2025!

Graduate Alumni Spotlight

Are you or someone you know doing amazing things postgraduate school? We want to hear about your accomplishments and career success! [Let us know](#) and you could be featured in a future issue of #GradGrizz Gazette.

Connect with OU Graduate School

Be one of the first to know about Graduate School news and events by following us on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). Don't forget to use the hashtag **#GradGrizz** in posts sharing your own accomplishments and experiences.

[Support the next generation of scholars.](#)