

## EDITOR'S NOTES

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This issue of the journal concerns itself with things particular to Oakland and some of it with things from our local urban community and the national scene. The articles cover a wide range of topics: science, politics, music, first year students, human genetics and behaviour, art, economics, race and class, and literature. John Finke's essay deals with his research on Alzheimer's, and Stafford Rorke's on injury prevention. Lauren McIntyre's survey of first year students contrasts resident with commuting students. Her conclusion appears to suggest that there are greater social and educational advantages to students living on campus than off. Graduate student and OU staff member, Jaime Sinutko recalls her undergraduate years in the nursing program here at Oakland. The issue also attends to Detroit, with John Cohassey look into Elvin Jones's unheralded contributions in the 1940s as drummer to Detroit (actually Pontiac) jazz. Jones's life reads as a microcosm of the early musical life of Ralph Ellison. A team of faculty members from the Department of Rhetoric interviewed visiting history professor, Kevin Boyle, author of *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age*. Boyle delivered a university lecture, spoke in several classes, and met with students, faculty, and staff. The published transcript of the interview is of historical importance to any examination of Detroit's more recent history of class and race. It is also important to studies into the formation of the NAACP, which coalesced around the Ossian Sweet case.

On a lighter but no less significant note, Luise Bolleber's essay offers an approach to art galleries and art, and Matt Onica's creative essay invents a history for the origination of

Euchre. One year after the fortieth anniversary of Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Gheorghita Tres's review essay surveys the history, reception, and impact of this celebrated book. Barb Oakley's excerpt is chapter 5 of her extraordinary book, *Evil Genes: Why Rome Fell, Hitler Rose, Enron Failed, and My Sister Stole My Mother's Boyfriend* (New York: Prometheus, 2007). Her publisher graciously consented to our publication of this section. In the Forum, two colleagues, Mike Sevillo and Brian Murphy, opine on the Oakley book. Not to be left out is another in the sequel of "Notes from the Dismal Science," looking now at corporations and, in the spirit of Oakley's book, querying their "evil." We once again benefit from Shelley Appleton's always sagacious, witty, and penetrative insights, this time, *à la* David Letterman's "top ten reasons," why George Bush is no Harry Truman. Some of the poems in the issue are tributes to great artists, one to the Romantic German composer Beethoven, and another to the Victorian Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins. Finally, Susan Wood remembers John Cameron, whose essay on Oakland's architecture was foundational to the anniversary issue. I am again grateful to the Honors College staff, Dawn Deitsch and Karen Conn, for their assistance with the journal. I express thanks and bid a fond farewell to Jianna Hair, who helped with the fall 2007 anniversary issue. Jianna leaves to teach seventh grade English in the West Bloomfield School District. I welcome Dawn Schricke as the new editorial assistant. A 2000 OU graduate with a B.A. in French and English, receiving departmental honors in both, Dawn is now a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley. As always, we covet your best writing, thinking, and creative expressions. We already have a handsome collection of essays and creative pieces in store for the fall issue. Submissions received by June will, if accepted, make the fall issue of the journal.