



Tuesday, September 3, 2002

UHR wins office decoration contest

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

OU students, faculty and staff passing through North Foundation Hall will notice a series of colorful office decorations that not only welcome everyone to campus for the fall semester but also provide helpful information on university and student services.

In conjunction with OU's Welcome Week, the **Department of University Human Resources** decorated their hallway on the west end of North Foundation Hall around the theme "Building a Better U." UHR staff lined the walls with decorations featuring a road with "road signs" representing different university departments and student services. Photos of staff from those offices also help those new to the university associate friendly faces with each department.

Noting the welcoming and spirited atmosphere the decorations created, the Welcome Week committee selected UHR as the winner of the annual office decoration contest.

"Our department has team meetings each Thursday and we all put our ideas in on how we could decorate and create a fun and helpful environment for our office," said Debbie Martin, administrative assistant to the assistant vice president for University Human Resources. "We wanted our theme to mostly concentrate on departments that offer student services, such as Kresge Library, the Information Technology Institute, Office of Equity, Financial Aid and others that students will encounter on the 'road' to success at OU. We also took photos of staff that students will encounter from those offices to help create some familiarity."

UHR placed a freestanding "road signpost" at the end of its hallway with directional arrows giving directions to different offices and departments, such as Undergraduate Admissions, Financial Aid and the Oakland Center.

"The signpost was built by UHR Specialist Tracey Zang's husband and father," Martin said. "We wanted to provide directions to different departments that people commonly ask about. It's been so helpful, we'll probably leave it up after we take the other decorations down."

Passersby need not leave hungry either. UHR brought in a popcorn maker and placed it at the far end of the hallway for those who want a snack.

"Response to our decorations has been very positive," Martin said. "People have told us that it's very creative, and that it's nice to see faces from other departments. They also like the popcorn. That's our 'rest stop' on the road to success."

SUMMARY

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