



Tuesday, October 15, 2002

OU to host writers' conference

The 41st Annual Writers' Conference Oct. 18-19 at Oakland University is for those who write for a living, or dream of writing for a living.

Sponsored by OU's **College of Arts and Sciences** and the Detroit Women Writers, the conference will feature popular author and poet Marge Piercy as keynote speaker.

"The conference has really grown over the years, not only in the number of people it draws, but the diversity of topics," said Gloria Boddy, conference director, College of Arts and Sciences. "The conference is for writers in the real world. It's for the writer who wants to be published."

More than 300 people from throughout the region are expected to attend.

The conference features 32 presentations, covering everything from screenplay writing to creating characters to writing the literary story. Presenters are published authors, agents, editors and publishers.

Attendees have the opportunity to exchange ideas and improve writing skills by meeting with agents, editors and successful writers. Hands-on writing workshops and manuscript critiques also are available.

For the first time this year, attendees can attend a one-day writing retreat.

"The retreat was created in response to requests from people who needed something to jump-start their writing," Boddy said. "The retreat is intended for both the beginner and experienced writer and is designed to help break down the barriers and open new ways of thinking about a subject or topic."

Keynote speaker Piercy, a Detroit native, is the author of more than 35 books of fiction and poetry, including "Woman on the Edge of Time," "What Are Big Girls Made Of?" and her recent memoir, "Sleeping with Cats." She earned the Golden Rose Poetry Prize, May Sarton Award, Arthur C. Clarke Award, Carolyn Kizer Poetry Prize and the National Endowment of the Arts Award.

OU's **Department of English** is sponsoring a **poetry reading by Piercy** on Friday, Oct. 18, at 4 p.m. at 201 Dodge Hall. A book signing will follow. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information on the Writers' Conference, contact Boddy at (248) 370-3125 or gjboddy@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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