



Monday, October 21, 2002

## OU celebrates opening of ED Building

Students, faculty, administrators, local dignitaries and friends of Oakland University gathered under a heated tent Oct. 18 to celebrate the grand opening of the Education and Human Services Building.

School of Education and Human Services Dean Mary Otto referred to the building as representative of "a dream, a vision and a promise... A look back, a recognition of the present and a look forward."

Formerly housed in 28,000-square-feet of space in O'Dowd Hall, students and faculty in the **School of Education and Human Services** experienced a tremendous gain in space and amenities when they moved in mid-August into the new, four-story, 132,000-square-foot Education and Human Services Building located east of Varner Hall.

"As a student working toward the end of my doctoral studies in education, I can say with great honesty and sincerity that I have observed first-hand the level of excellence demanded by this department, which I have appreciated throughout my growth as a student," said Tonya Tookes-Reznik, a Ph.D. student majoring in counseling.

Reznik recited the poem, "Caged Bird," by Maya Angelou and concluded by saying, "Thank you Oakland University for allowing this caged bird to sing."

Attending the opening was educator, writer and musician Mari Evans whose quote, "Education... a jewel casting brilliances into the future," was selected to grace the atrium wall of the facility. The quote was chosen because it represents Oakland University's mission to educate people who will impact the future.

"This is just one of the many ways we are making an Oakland University education a distinctive experience and arming our graduates with a portfolio of skills for success in work and life," said OU President Gary Russi. "This facility — planned with input from students, faculty and staff in conjunction with our talented architectural and construction firms — will help us create and deliver a unique and distinctive education for Oakland University students."

Joined by Oakland University Board of Trustees Chair Henry Baskin and State Representative Michael Bishop, Russi, Otto and Reznik officially opened the building with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Guests then enjoyed a reception, tours of the building and an interactive musical performance.

The music session, performed by a group of music students from Port Huron Northern High School outside the building and OU jazz students performing in the building, was the first interactive music session ever conducted over the Internet by two groups in different locations.

### SUMMARY

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