

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Homecoming features ‘golden anniversary’ as OU institutions turn 50

From barbecues to brunch, football to fall colors, Oakland University alumni have many reasons to celebrate homecoming this year.

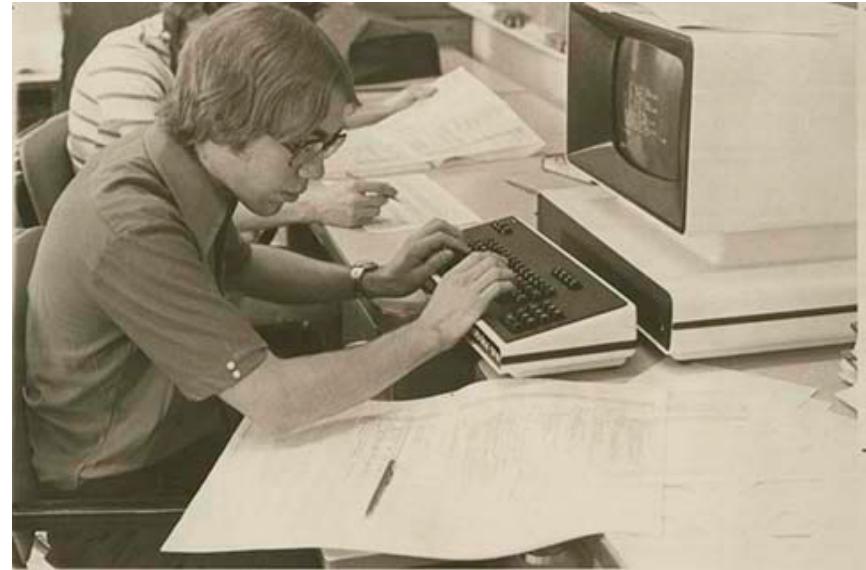
For graduates of the School of Engineering and Computer Science, the Lowry Center, WXOU and Meadow Brook Theatre, this year marks a particularly golden anniversary as the campus staples set to celebrate 50 years at OU.

School of Engineering and Computer Science

Although engineering classes and majors were available at OU starting in 1959 and the original Science and Engineering Building completed construction in December 1961, the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) was officially created in 1965 at the April Board of Trustees meeting.

Woody Varner pitched the program on the basis that “because of today’s dynamic and explosive world, it is necessary to educate...the innovators and directors, the applicators and the technicians.”

Today, the school offers about 2,400 undergraduate and graduate students education in computer science and engineering, electrical and computer engineering, industrial and systems engineering, and mechanical engineering, as well as degrees at the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral levels.



SECS will host a 50th anniversary celebration this Saturday, beginning with a welcome breakfast in the Atrium followed by a presentation by Dean Louay M. Chamra. Tau Beta Pi honor students will provide tours of the school and retired faculty and alumni will recount stories of the past. If you would like to contribute your SECS experience to the celebration, email Emily Genoff at prawdzik@oakland.edu.

WXOU

Providing the soundtrack for the weekend, campus radio station WXOU will also observe its 50th this year.

The freeform station gives budding campus personalities the chance to host and DJ their own shows and gave starts to Channel 4 reporter Lauren Podell as well as former 98.7 AMP Radio host Gillian Reilly.

The station will host an alumni event at 8 p.m. this Saturday at Rochester Mills. Appetizers will be provided and guests will receive a unique “Homecoming” mug as well as WXOU swag.



“Since we don’t turn 50 until the spring, we wanted to do something as an introduction to our birthday bash,” said General Manager Lauren Barthold. “We have very supportive alumni. The great thing about WXOU is it truly gives students the experience they need to work in the field, before the degree, and our alumni prove that. This is just a small token of appreciation in return for the incredible reputation they give us.”

Meadow Brook Theatre

Perhaps best known for the annual *A Christmas Carol*, Meadow Brook Theatre's box office is now open for its 50th season.

The largest non-profit professional theater in Michigan, Meadow Brook will officially observe the season's open on Monday, Oct. 5 with a ribbon cutting ceremony led by Rochester Hills Mayor Brian Barnett.

The box office is open for 2015-2016 season ticket sales this Homecoming weekend and alumni are encouraged to reserve seats early.

Related article: [Longtime volunteers help Meadow Brook Theatre celebrate 50th Anniversary](#)

Lowry Center

Named after a former co-director of Oakland University's Toddler Center, the Lowry Center began as a childcare center on the grounds of Meadow Brook Farms but has since relocated to main campus on the second floor of Pawley Hall.

In 2012, Lowry became one of just 7,000 early childhood programs nationwide to be classified as an accredited child education center from the National Association for the Education and Young Children (NAEYC).

The center will also be hosting a 50th anniversary celebration this Saturday, featuring a rededication of the building, tours, and a time capsule placement filled with present-day toys and pictures. Complimentary brunch is provided and reservations are requested.

Homecoming & Reunion Weekend

For a full list of Homecoming events,
visit oakland.edu/homecoming.

