

President Russi  
Speech from Bush Visit

*July 18, 2002*

Gary Russi  
President – Oakland University

Thank you, Jack.

Welcome to Oakland University.

And, for our Polish friends with us today: Witamy na Oakland University.

This morning we are honored to welcome the President of the United States and the President of Poland, other dignitaries, and members of the Polish community to our beautiful campus in northern Oakland County, Michigan.

This is a historic event for Oakland University ...

It is the first time a sitting president from any country has visited our campus in an official capacity.

As one of Michigan's fastest growing public universities, with an increasing focus on the global perspective, we are pleased that Oakland University was selected as a place for these heads of state to meet and share their views with the world community.

Globally, Oakland University has forged new collaborations with educational partners and industries throughout the world, from an MS in Engineering Management at the University of Vienna Technological University to our School of Education and Human Services exchange programs in Jamaica and New Zealand.

This May, an education delegation from Oakland University joined Oakland County's Automation Alley trade mission to China to develop global partnering opportunities between Oakland and Chinese university faculty and students.

All our faculty members share the importance of having an international perspective with Oakland University's undergraduate and graduate students through innovative classroom interactions and a dedication to research.

Each year, Oakland University welcomes hundreds of students from throughout the world to learn here and share their perspectives with us.

We're proud of our focus on giving undergraduate students a distinctive and unique education that they can't get anywhere else – and we're even more excited that students from other countries seek out opportunities at Oakland University.

Just last year, Oakland University was honored to graduate one such dedicated and enthusiastic undergraduate student –

Ania Matuszewska from our College of Arts and Sciences where she majored in journalism with a focus on public relations, and received a marketing minor.

She came to the United States from Poland to attend Oakland University in 1997 after graduating from high school in Poland.

Through her dedication to her studies, sharing information about her country with fellow students, faculty members and university staff, and her enthusiasm for learning about life in the United States, she has made a difference at Oakland University.

We're proud to count her among our graduates – and I hope our Polish guests here today are proud to have her as a fellow countryman.

She is here today with members of her family.

It's now my pleasure to present [Ania Matuszewska](#).