



# SPECIAL EDITION OU NEWS

## Champagne named president

Joseph E. Champagne, a 42-year-old psychologist, has been named president of Oakland University.

Champagne's appointment—made by the OU Board of Trustees Tuesday—capped a year-long search for a successor to former OU President Donald D. O'Dowd.

"In Joe Champagne, the university community has identified a bright, energetic, engaging scholar and administrator who will provide outstanding leadership for the university during the 1980s," said David B. Lewis, chairperson of the presidential selection committee.

"We welcome Joe and Emilie Champagne, and their family, to the university community."

Champagne is currently vice president for academic affairs for the University of Houston System, a four-campus university with 29,000 students.

"We're really excited at the opportunity," said Champagne. "Oakland is a first-rate school and we are eager to work with the faculty and administrative staff in continuing to build the excellence of the university."

"We are especially eager to work with the community to develop the support we need for the university in the years ahead."

Champagne held a variety of positions with the Houston system, including a two-year stint as founding president of the Houston Community College System. He joined the University of Houston staff as associate director of the Center for Human Resources in 1967. He held that post until 1976, except for the 1971-73 period when he served as president of the community college. In 1976 he was named coordinator of extended academic and public service programs, and then a year later became associate vice president.

He also served as a part-time special assistant to the mayor of Houston in 1974 and was chief research and evaluation consultant in group guidance and counseling at the Houston Vocational Guidance Service.

His faculty appointment at Houston was professor of management in the College of Business Administration. His academic training includes a bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Mary's University (1960), a master's degree in



experimental psychology from Fordham University (1962), and a doctorate in industrial psychology from Purdue University (1966).

Prior to joining the Houston staff, he served one year as an administrative assistant in personnel administration at Purdue, two years as an instructor in industrial psychology at the University of South Carolina, and a year as director of occupational education and job training at the Regional Education Laboratory of the Carolinas and Virginia. He also served as a research consultant to the South Carolina Economic Opportunity Board.

His wife Emilie is a former elementary school teacher and is active in church and school activities. They have two children, Jennifer, 8, and Juliana, 6.

Champagne will be only the fourth chief executive officer in Oakland's 21-year history. D.B. Varner was the first chancellor and served until 1969 when he accepted the position of chancellor of the University of Nebraska system. He was succeeded by Donald D. O'Dowd, who was then named president when the university was given its independence from Michigan State University in 1970. O'Dowd resigned last December to become executive vice chancellor of the State University of New York. During the interim period, Vice Provost George T. Matthews has been serving as interim president.

