



Thursday, February 20, 2003

OU to continue celebrating diversity

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

The Oakland Center's Fireside Lounge was filled with students, faculty and staff Feb. 19 to reflect on the richness of African-American culture during "The Souls of Black Folk ... The Celebration Continues." Rather than view the event as an end to African-American Celebration Month, the campus community was asked to continue to honor the contributions of all cultures.

"It's been a pleasure to watch the events of the last few weeks," OU President Gary Russi said in his opening remarks. "We have truly celebrated the richness that reflects African-American culture. We have learned from famous and everyday professionals, as well as students, about the greatness of African-Americans. My charge to you and myself is to look for opportunities to make celebrating diversity an ongoing activity."

In addition to a student performance of the opening sequence from the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance production of "for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf," Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Glenn McIntosh announced the winners of the sixth annual All-Campus Essay Contest commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Entrants were asked to compose an essay or poem that addressed the question: "As a student at Oakland University, how can you make an impact to resolve the problem of the color-line in the 21st Century?"

Senior education major Keisha Powell-Young won the \$300 prize for her essay "**Erasing the Color Line.**" Angella Jones and Tyshana Lawson each won \$100 for second and third prize, respectively.

"It was a challenge to me to think about the color-line and how to improve the lives of African-Americans," Powell-Young said. "I was pleased with my essay and showed it to my mom, who really liked it. But I didn't expect to win first prize. It's really exciting."

Students, faculty and staff can continue to celebrate the rich heritage of African-Americans at several upcoming events. From Friday, Feb. 21, to Sunday, March 30, **Meadow Brook Art Gallery** will exhibit "**A Heritage of Teaching: The African Art Collection of Catherine C. Blackwell.**" And on March 15, the Department of Human Resources Development and Diversity Programming Fund is sponsoring the fifth annual Diverse Voices Conference from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 201 Dodge Hall. This forum provides an opportunity for students to speak of the value of cultural diversity.

SUMMARY

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