



Tuesday, March 13, 2001

State government explored at OU Day at the Capitol

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

OU students, alumni, faculty, staff and supporters are invited to learn about state government and the legislative process during the fifth annual OU Day at the Capitol in Lansing on Wednesday, March 28.

The free event is being sponsored by the **University Student Congress (USC)**, **Political Science Department**, **Alumni Relations**, **Government Relations** and the Office of the President. The program will run from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and for those wishing to stay overnight, a list of area hotels will be provided. Transportation to and from Lansing also will be provided from the main OU campus at no cost.

The morning segment this year features a unique interactive program called "Congressional Insight" in which participants are divided into groups to learn what it is like to be or work for an elected official. Group members are presented with situations reflecting those facing real-life politicians. A computer program then evaluates the actions and decisions of the participants, with the results affecting their re-election efforts.

After the morning program, the USC will host a buffet luncheon at the State Capitol Building. During the reception, participants will be given the opportunity to meet state elected and appointed officials and their staff. Legislators, the Governor, Lt. Governor, department directors and other members of the executive branch will be invited.

Following the luncheon, participants may attend committee meetings, observe the House in session, tour the Capitol Building or visit the Michigan Historical Museum, State Library of Michigan or the Oldsmobile/GM Heritage Center.

"The event is a great opportunity to see how the state political system works," said OU sophomore Kim Langley, USC Legislative Affairs Director. "The Congressional Insight program will help students respect the hard work and effort that legislators put into their jobs. The best part, though, is the luncheon at the Capitol Building. Hopefully OU students will be able to meet legislators and representatives and be able to show that there is a student voice -- that we do care about the issues."

For more information, contact Rochelle Black, Director of Government Relations, at (248) 370-4630 or black@oakland.edu, or Kimberly Bennett, Government Relations Assistant, at (517) 267-0777 or kbennett@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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