



Monday, June 30, 2003

Charter Class Reunion planned for fall

Oakland University graduates from the charter class of 1963 will come back to where it all began for a weekend reunion Oct. 3 – 5 on Oakland's campus.

"The OU Alumni Association decided to organize this 40th class reunion because of the unique makeup of this graduating class. Their experiences as the first students to attend Oakland are different from later classes," said Adrienne Bass, director of Alumni Relations. "We think it's important to bring these graduates, some may be coming from as far away as California, back to campus to reminisce, reconnect and to see Oakland as is today."

Several activities are on tap for the reunion weekend including a welcome bonfire similar to the bonfire held in 1963 as part of pre-graduation activities when students burned their exam booklets after finals. This symbolic "bluebook burning" was "one of the last gatherings attended by seniors," according to the yearbook from that year.

Other weekend activities include golf at Katke-Cousins Golf Course, a Meadow Brook Art Gallery exhibition, an open house at Kresge Library with archival materials displayed, walking tours, a charter faculty and staff coffee hour, and a Charter Gala held at Meadow Brook Hall.

"The Charter Gala should be especially entertaining for attendees," said Jamie Simek, assistant director of Alumni Relations. "We're planning the evening to be similar to their senior prom when Matilda Wilson presented each graduate with their class ring." Attendees will have dinner followed by dancing in the grand ballroom.

Alums also will have the opportunity to participate in a video chronicle program begun by Paul Tombouljian, distinguished professor of chemistry, to preserve the oral history of Oakland University. Video interviews will be conducted with members of the charter class who are interested in participating.

The weekend will conclude with a farewell brunch sponsored by the Oakland University Alumni Association in the new ballroom of the Oakland Center.

For more information or a complete schedule of the reunion weekend, visit the [Charter Class Reunion](#) Web page or call the Alumni Relations Office at (248) 370-3700, ext. 1113.

SUMMARY

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