



Wednesday, September 3, 2003

OU student Steven Townsend convocation speech

Hello, good afternoon and welcome!

For those of you who don't know me – or don't remember me from orientation – my name is Steven Townsend. I'm a junior biochemistry major from Detroit.

I'm excited to be your host for Oakland's New Student Convocation this afternoon.

Just as New Student Orientation offered you a glimpse into life at Oakland University, New Student Convocation is a great way to officially kick off your college career.

In one short afternoon, you will get a lot of important information about how the opportunities at Oakland University can change your life. Some of what you hear will be straightforward advice and some will be more fun-filled in nature.

But, regardless of how you receive the information, we hope by the time you leave that you'll feel really proud to be a grizzly.

Now, to officially begin, it is my pleasure to introduce the President of Oakland University Dr. Gary Russi. (**OU President Gary Russi speech**) Thank you, Dr. Russi. And now, I would like to introduce this year's Teaching Excellence Award winner, Associate Professor of Teacher Development and Educational Studies Mary Stein.

Professor Stein joined Oakland University in 1999, prior to which she was an assistant professor at Wayne State University. Her publications and scholarship focus on the teaching and learning of science in elementary education.

She has given numerous national, international and state presentations with intriguing titles such as "Seize the Teachable Science Moment" and "Cool Science and Hot Stuff."

The comments of Dr. Stein's colleagues and students regarding her ability to inspire and mentor prospective teachers are the greatest testament to her career.

Colleagues comment that she has taken a leadership role in making sure her department's science education courses meet or exceed state and national standards. Her students indicate her courses "exemplify superior classroom teaching" by balancing "a heartfelt love for people, teaching and science."

Please join me in welcoming to the podium the 2003 Teaching Excellence Award winner, Associate Professor Mary Stein.

(Associate Professor Mary Stein speech)

Thank you, Professor Stein. I think I'll sign up for one of your classes! And, for the two-thirds of you who are paying attention, poke the person next to you. There's a lot more to come.

Now it is my pleasure to introduce Dr. Mary Beth Snyder, vice president for Student Affairs.

Dr. Snyder has been with Oakland University since 1994 and has done an outstanding job of staying very involved in all aspects of student life.

From overseeing student activities and the residence halls, to working with students and their families...if the job concerns Oakland University students, Dr. Snyder is there.

Mary Beth really cares about all Oakland students, and her passion is evident in everything she does.

Will you please welcome Dr. Mary Beth Snyder, vice president for Student Affairs.

(Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder speech)

Thank you, Dr. Snyder.

It is now my pleasure to introduce Jonathan Parks, Student Congress president. Jonathan is a communications major from Detroit and beginning his junior year here at Oakland. Please help me welcome Jonathan to the podium.

(Student Congress President Jonathan Parks speech)

Thank you, Jonathan.

At every orientation there are many students who demonstrate OU spirit and excitement about being a Golden Grizzly.

Some paint their faces or wear Golden Grizzly attire, others motivate their team and display a positive attitude throughout the orientation experience.

The orientation staff had the difficult task of selecting the two most spirited students out of approximately 2,100 students who attended orientation.

But a few students really stood out from the rest. We want to recognize them for showing their enthusiasm for Oakland. Please hold your applause until I have announced their names. This year's New Student Orientation Spirit Award honorable mentions include:

- Andrew Cox;
- Gerald Leaphart;
- and, Amanda Warren.

If Andrew, Gerald and Amanda will please approach the podium, it is my pleasure to present each of them with a \$25 gift certificate to the Oakland University Bookstore and an OU T-shirt and pennant.

We also selected two more students as grand prizewinners for demonstrating all of the above characteristics and going above and beyond during orientation.

They are the recipients of the 2003 New Student Orientation Spirit Award.

The winners of this year's New Student Orientation Spirit Award are:

- Gordon Buchanan, a graduate of Bishop Foley Catholic High School, who is planning to major in physics or political science. Let's give him a round of applause.
- And, Dana Wolfe, a graduate of Romeo High School, who is planning to major in medical laboratory sciences. Let's give Dana a round of applause.

If Gordon and Dana would please approach the podium, I would like to present them with an OU sweatshirt, pennant and a \$250 gift certificate to the Oakland University Bookstore.

Dana and Gordon also are eligible to travel to an away, in-state men's basketball game to spread their Golden Grizzly spirit off campus!

I would now like to turn the program over to the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies Band, led by Assistant Professor of Music Kenneth Kroesche, who will lead us in the OU Fight Song. Now that you are official Golden Grizzlies, let's hear your OU spirit by following along in your program or up on the screen.

Please stand and help me give them a warm welcome...Golden Grizzlies Band, take it away!

(OU Fight Song)

Thank you Kroesche and Golden Grizzlies band members for that rousing performance.

I would now like to invite President Russi to the podium once more to conclude the program. Thank you and enjoy the rest of your afternoon.

SUMMARY

OU student Steven Townsend acted as the master of ceremonies during this years New Student Convocation.

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