



Tuesday, October 7, 2003

OU spirit to shine during WOCOU

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Wear your Golden Grizzlies gear and show your OU pride during the ninth annual Week of Champions at Oakland University (WOCOU), a fall festival packed with events leading up to the fifth annual Midnight Madness, when the men's and women's basketball teams kick off the 2003-04 basketball season. WOCOU runs from Monday, Oct. 13, through Friday, Oct. 17.

"WOCOU is an opportunity to celebrate all the champions here at Oakland University, from students, faculty and staff to our athletes and alums," said Jean Ann Miller, WOCOU organizer and director of the **Center for Student Activities**. "The events represent many facets of the OU community. There's something for everyone – good food, entertainment, opportunities to socialize and sports. This is the week to really let your school spirit shine through."

WOCOU kicks off with a celebration honoring the 120th birthday of OU founder Matilda Wilson on Monday, Oct. 13, at noon in the Oakland Center Pioneer Food Court.

On Tuesday, Oct. 14, check out OU's own "Arts, Beats and Eats" festival, featuring free "Grizz" treats, sand art, bead making, music from student radio station **WXOU** and more, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge.

Students can learn more about the many opportunities to become involved on campus during Student Organizations Day on Wednesday, Oct. 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge.

Sample free food, enjoy live music and learn more about the student-sponsored campaign for a Golden Grizzly statue at the "For the Roar 2004" rally Thursday, Oct. 16, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Hamlin Courtyard. That same evening, the Association of Black Students and **Student Program Board** are sponsoring the popular "WOCOU Talent Show" at 8 p.m. in the Oakland Center Banquet Room.

Dustin Diamond, best known for his portrayal of Screech on the popular NBC series "Saved by the Bell," brings his zany brand of comedy to the Vandenberg Dining Center on Friday, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m. Then join the "Midnight Madness Rockin' Eve" party at the Recreation and Athletics Center at 8 p.m. and help kick off the basketball season at Midnight Madness, which begins at 11 p.m.

In addition to the introduction of the men's and women's basketball teams, Midnight Madness attendees will be entertained by the Blues Brothers, OU's pep band and dance teams, the second annual "OU Student vs. Faculty/Staff Basketball Challenge," and the unveiling of the new Golden Grizzly costume. One male and one female student also will be eligible to win a full tuition scholarship for the winter 2004 semester.

"The new mascot look is more athletic, exciting and colorful," said Mark Doman, assistant athletic director – marketing. "We ordered it from a company that specializes in mascot costumes in Edmonton, Alberta, called About Face Mascots. Between the mascot unveiling and all the other events, we think Midnight Madness will have plenty of material to excite everyone."

Following this year's theme, "The Black, The Gold, The Grizzlies," everyone is encouraged to show their OU spirit by wearing Oakland gear all week. The **OU Bookstore** is having a 10 percent-off sale on OU clothing items (one item per customer, non-Golden Grizzlies apparel) on Tuesday, Oct. 14.

All OU community members also are encouraged to help make a difference in the lives of millions of children worldwide during WOCOU by contributing to the "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" drive Oct. 13-24. The goal is to gather a \$1 donation from every OU student, faculty and staff member. A \$150 grand prize will be awarded to the residence hall floor, student organization, and university office or department that raises the most funds. UNICEF boxes will be available in each department or floor for donations.

"If everyone gives at least one dollar, our campus could raise close to \$20,000 for UNICEF," Miller said. "This event is the

largest campus-wide campaign that's ever been attempted at Oakland University."

Due to budgetary constraints, the faculty/staff appreciation dinner typically held during WOCOUC is being moved to December and combined with the holiday reception.

Check out the **complete WOCOUC schedule** online or pick up one at the **Center for Student Activities**, 49 Oakland Center. For more information, contact the Center for Students Activities at (248) 370-2400 or csa@oakland.edu.

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