



Tuesday, November 11, 2003

Charles Dickens brought to life through reading at OU

Charles Dickens will come to life on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 4 p.m. on the campus of Oakland University as Bert Hornback, well known for his impersonation of the Victorian novelist, will read selections from three of Dickens' novels and then answer questions in the Oakland Center Banquet Room A.

Hornback, a professor of English at Bellarmine College in Louisville, Ky., has presented his Dickens readings all over the United States. At this event, entitled "Mr. Charles Dickens Reads from his Novels" and cosponsored by the **Department of English** and the **College of Arts and Sciences** Distinguished Programs Fund, Hornback will read selections from "Hard Times," "Bleak House" and "Martin Chuzzlewit" before taking questions from the audience.

Like Dickens, Hornback often travels with his reading stand, a replica of a specially designed reading desk, covered in red velvet, which Dickens always used.

"This is a wonderful opportunity," said Professor Bruce Mann, chair of OU's Department of English. "The language of Dickens is rich, comical and profound, and no one reads it as well as Bert Hornback."

Prior to his appointment at Bellarmine College, Hornback was a faculty member at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor for almost three decades. He has written four books on Dickens, including "Great Expectations: A Novel of Friendship," "Our Mutual Friend: An Annotated Bibliography" (with Joel Brattin) and "The Hero of My Life." He also is the author of seven plays.

The Nov. 18 reading is free and open to the public. For more information, call the **Department of English** at (248) 370-2250.

SUMMARY

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