



Tuesday, December 2, 2003

OU, Rochester collaborate on holiday events

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

Oakland University and the **City of Rochester** have kicked off their community partnership agreement with a number of events celebrating the holiday season.

On Friday, Dec. 5, from 6 to 10 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 6, from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., **Parisian** in the **Village of Rochester Hills** shopping plaza, located at the corner of Walton and Adams, will offer OU faculty and staff an extra 20 percent off nearly all items in the store, including regular-price merchandise. Faculty and staff can save on gifts such as high-quality apparel, accessories, shoes and items for the home for the entire family. An OU ID card will need to be shown to take advantage of the discount. For more information, contact Parisian at (248) 276-6705.

OU also will join in Rochester's holiday celebration in the Greater Rochester Community Christmas Parade. The Grizz, OU's athletics mascot, and an OU police squad car will represent the university in the parade, which takes place Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. in downtown Rochester. For more information, call (248) 651-6700.

The Oakland University Jazz Band also helped brighten holiday spirits when it performed at Rochester's 31st annual Lagniappe Festival on Dec. 1. Lagniappe is a Creole word meaning "a little something extra." The festivities, held in downtown Rochester, included a tree-lighting ceremony, Christmas carols and horse-drawn carriage rides. Downtown merchants also offered gifts and refreshments to festival attendees.

Oakland's **community partnership agreement** with the City of Rochester, which was formally signed Oct. 15, allows Rochester merchants and businesses to partner with OU students and faculty in joint educational and cultural programming such as employment, internships, research and development projects, business development assistance, community service projects and opportunities to showcase the arts, theatre and music to complement their classroom work.

Downtown Rochester is home to nearly 400 businesses in the retail, restaurant and service industries. For more information, visit the **City of Rochester** Web site.

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