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New students kick off college career at Convocation

By **Kelly Smith**, OU Writer

This year's incoming freshmen and their families will receive a formal welcome to academia and an opportunity to meet faculty and university leaders at Oakland University's **New Student Convocation**. The ceremony, held Monday, Aug. 30, the first day of fall semester classes, offers a unique mix of tradition, information and entertainment.

Convocation originates from the clergy, members of the bench and bar, and other learned professions in the universities of medieval Europe. At today's colleges and universities, convocation represents the first time faculty and students are brought together in an academic year.

OU's convocation includes a traditional faculty procession in full academic regalia, informative and entertaining speakers, and a reception where students and their families can meet professors, deans and other university leaders. New this year is a fair where students can learn more about OU's student organizations, academic units and services. Attendees also will enjoy student research projects on display.

"Convocation is a celebration of new beginnings – academically and personally," said Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder. "It's also an opportunity to learn more about college life from those who are going through it. What better way to prepare for the new adventure of college than with great advice from distinguished faculty and successful students."

Convocation speakers include Snyder, OU President Gary Russi, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil, Distinguished Professor of English Robert Eberwein, Student Congress President Jonathan Parks and Orientation Assistant Diana Walcott.

Snyder, who is constantly involved in all aspects of student life, oversees the development and daily operations of student programs, support services and facilities. Her speech will include video clips from current OU students who offer advice and words of wisdom to the incoming class.

Following the speakers, the Golden Grizzly Pep Band will teach the audience the OU Fight Song. Spirit Awards also will be given to the most enthusiastic students from this summer's freshmen orientations.

The ceremony begins at 3 p.m. in the Recreation and Athletics Center, and the reception and fair are from 4 to 5 p.m. Attire is business casual.

Attendees may park in the university parking structure, located on Pioneer Drive across the street from Pawley Hall. For more information, see the **Parking** Web page.

SUMMARY

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