



Monday, October 25, 2004

## Acclaimed professor delivers 'last lecture'

After more than four decades of informing, engaging and inspiring Oakland University students, **Distinguished Professor of Political Science Shelly Appleton** is retiring. Appleton delivered his last lecture Oct. 22 in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms.

His lecture, titled "The Campaign Issues That Weren't," reflected on the 2004 presidential campaign as well as his career at OU.

Appleton is timing his retirement so he can teach his favorite class, The American Presidents and their People, one last time during an election year.

"It's exciting and the students really get into it," said Appleton, an expert in presidential elections. "In 2000, after the election, the students rushed into class with the latest newspapers to find the state-by-state results. The last day of the semester, Dec. 13, was the day Gore conceded."

Appleton and his wife, Betty, will continue to make a difference in the lives of Oakland University students through an endowment for what they call critical difference funds, or a small amount of money that can make a big difference. "Over the years, I've seen many OU students who didn't have the financial ability to get the most out of their education," Appleton said.

With a nod to both their interests – Betty is an educator who teaches story telling, music and movement – the Appleton's are directing the endowment to support political science and public administration majors, alternating with students in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance.

Appleton received OU's first Teaching Excellence Award in 1982 and the rank of distinguished professor in spring 2002. While associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1979-87, Appleton developed an advising structure for undergraduates, which is still in use. He was associate provost for undergraduate studies from 1987-93.

Visit the **Shelly Appleton Retirement** Web site to post a fond memory of Appleton on the site's message board. Visitors also can learn more about his endowment fund, view pictures, read past news articles and more.

The "last lecture" series is a tradition at Oakland that gives a retiring faculty member an opportunity to reflect on his or her career, the history of the university and what they see as the future for the university. The program also provides an opportunity to thank a departing faculty member for his or her contributions to the university.

### SUMMARY

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