



Friday, November 19, 2004

## OU raises \$43,000 for American Cancer Society

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

With lights dimmed and luminaries lit, participants in the **American Cancer Society's Relay for Life** walked the track at Oakland University's Recreation Center, silently honoring family and friends stricken with the disease.

"That was moving to me," said senior Kristyn Gardner, online chair of OU's Relay for Life, who walked with her parents to honor her grandfather, who died of cancer, and her aunt, who recently was diagnosed with breast cancer.

More than 900 participants raised \$43,000 for educational programs, cancer research and patient services during the 24-hour fund-raiser, which began Nov. 12 at 4 p.m. and continued until Nov. 13 at 4 p.m. The luminaries were lit at 9 p.m. so participants could walk one time around silently.

This is the first time OU hosted a Relay for Life fund-raiser.

"Oakland University students really showed their spirit this weekend," said Meghan Anderson, volunteer chair for the 2004 American Cancer Society Relay for Life. "Many cancer survivors showed up to participate as well. It was very touching and emotional for all of us."

OU faculty and staff, student organizations, community churches and volunteers joined cancer survivors and patients at the fund-raiser. Groups from OU included the Sigma Pi Fraternity, women's basketball team and Golden Key International Honour Society among others.

"We raised a tremendous amount of money, but it's only a small step," Gardner said. "It really hit me. So many people are affected by cancer. Everyone participating had some sort of connection, either a family member or friend who has had cancer."

According to the American Cancer Society, cancer is the second leading cause of deaths in the United States, surpassed only by heart disease. This year alone, more than 560,000 Americans are expected to die of cancer, or more than 1,500 people per day.

### SUMMARY

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