



Friday, August 31, 2001

New students to be welcomed at convocation

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

Oakland University faculty, students and their families will celebrate the beginning of a new academic year at New Student Convocation on Tuesday, September 4.

The formal ceremony is a traditional event on college campuses where faculty and newly admitted students are officially brought together for the first time.

The event will begin with a faculty procession in full academic regalia and a welcoming ceremony, followed by a reception where students and their families have the opportunity to meet professors and deans. Convocation speakers include OU President Gary D. Russi, Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder, Assistant English Professor Kathleen Pfeiffer and OU Student Congress President Derek Dickow.

"It's a nice event because it's the first time the university community gathers after a relatively quiet summer," Snyder said. "The procession adds an air of seriousness to the event, but it's celebratory - it heralds the start of a new academic year.

"Another part of the ritual is for us to have the opportunity to look at the newly admitted class and for them to have the chance to look us over. I hope students and their parents will go away from convocation having confirmed that they made a good choice in coming to Oakland University."

Snyder said in her speech, tentatively titled "Please Pass the Remote Control," she asks students to take charge of their lives.

"I use the metaphor of the remote control in a humorous way to tell students that they have to make their own choices now, and ask them to program the actions now that will make them successful individuals in the future."

The ceremony begins at 3 p.m. in the Recreation and Athletic Center. Attendees may park in lot #26 adjacent to Varner Hall. Attire is business casual.

SUMMARY

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