



Friday, September 21, 2001

OU designates Sept. 25 as Day of Understanding

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

To honor those who lost their lives, suffered injuries and experienced physical or emotional trauma due to the recent terrorist attacks on the United States, Oakland University has designated Tuesday, Sept. 25, as "A Day of Understanding: Search for Harmony through Classroom Dialogue."

On that day, OU faculty are encouraged to spend a few minutes at the beginning of their classes to discuss recent events and engage in conversations that will comfort those who are afraid or uncertain about the future. Virinder Moudgil, interim vice president of Academic Affairs and provost; Mary Beth Snyder, vice president for Student Affairs; and Derek Dickow, OU student body president, suggest that faculty address the following points:

- What can we do to eliminate fear and insecurity among the members of our community? How can our grief evolve into positive opportunities of contributing toward the victims and their families?
- What can Oakland University faculty and staff do together to ensure we do not express our anger and frustration at members of a specific religion, belief or background, but rather to provide support and comfort to those susceptible to harm?

"Our Oakland University community should take the lead in preserving freedom and providing physical and emotional security for all its students, faculty and staff and prevent any verbal or bodily harm," Moudgil, Snyder and Dickow said in a signed statement. "The dialogue should convey the spirit of the value of diversity and unbiased understanding of those we live and work with. It is our hope that we will set an example for other academic communities in promoting peace and understanding between diverse groups, including members of different faiths and religions."

In addition to "A Day of Understanding" discussions, the OU **Graham Health and Counseling Center** has staff counselors available for students, faculty and staff who seek counseling.

SUMMARY

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