



Wednesday, October 17, 2001

WOCOU celebration most successful yet

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

The seventh annual Week of Champions at Oakland University (WOCOU) was the most successful one yet, said Jean Ann Miller, director of the **Center for Student Activities**.

"I think it went really well in terms of participation, excitement, and people coming out and supporting the different events," Miller said. "Previously, we had events scheduled on a weekend instead of during the week. This year we tried to do something different by scheduling events all week long culminating with Midnight Madness."

The weeklong fall festival ended on a high point with Midnight Madness, which was the most successful event of the week, drawing about 1,400 people to the **Recreation and Athletics Center**. During the third annual Midnight Madness, OU men's and women's basketball teams charged onto the floor of the darkened arena with glow-in-the-dark basketballs on the first day they were allowed to practice under NCAA rules. OU students Eric VanHouw and Jazmar Allison won the drawing for free tuition for the winter 2002 semester.

"It was loud, the crowd was excited, the event was fast moving and everyone had a good time," said Mark Dohman, assistant athletic director. "It was the largest Midnight Madness we've had so far."

WOCOU also featured several contests open to students, faculty and staff. 2 East Vandenberg and 9 North Hamlin were the winners of the window/floor decorating contest in the residence halls. Each received a \$50 cash prize.

University Student Congress won a \$50 cash prize for the poster contest in the **Oakland Center**. The office was decorated in an outer space theme to match this year's WOCOU theme, "To Infinity and Beyond."

OU student Mike Dinkelis took first prize in the doodling contest and won a \$100 **OU Bookstore** gift certificate for his elaborate drawing of a wolf/bear creature. April Tyler, an OU student, won a \$50 certificate for her drawing of a Golden Grizzly logo over an American flag featuring the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Two other OU students, Thor Rasmussen and Minna Swanson, tied for third place and each received a \$25 certificate. Rasmussen's drawing featured creatures and stars, while Swanson's abstract drawing included the moon and clouds. OU staff members Debbie Martin, Debra Lashbrook and Kelly Claffey each received an honorable mention. WOCOU chairperson Kevin Grazier, an OU alumnus and Investigation Scientist/Science Planning Engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., judged the doodlings.

During the **Student and Greek Organizations** Fair, the organizations were asked to decorate their tables according to the WOCOU space theme. The American Marketing Association won a \$100 cash prize for their table. Zeta Phi Beta sorority took second place and won \$50, and the Arab American Student Association won \$25.

In the OU Talent Show, student Ryan Bolden wowed the audience by singing a rhythm and blues number and won \$350. Terisean Baltimore, another OU student, sang a Christian-oriented song and accompanied himself on keyboards, winning the \$225 prize. Sean Bolden, Ryan's brother and an OU student, also sang a rhythm and blues number and won \$175.

OU student Tim Alverson took first place in the 8-ball billiards tournament and is now eligible to compete in a billiards playoff to be held in January in the **Bumpers Games Room**. Winners of the winter playoffs are eligible to compete in the Association of College Unions International tournament, a national competition held nationwide in February. Alverson also won 10 hours of free table time, a plaque, and had his name placed on a permanent trophy.

Miller said the WOCOU committee will evaluate the success of this year's events and contests and adjust next year's schedule. The Battle of the OU Stars and OU's Funniest Videos contests were not held this year as scheduled.

"As a committee, we'll look at this year's events to see what worked better in the weeklong format, and go from there as far as scheduling events for next year," Miller said. "Midnight Madness was a huge success as far as student, faculty, staff and alumni participation. WOCOU seems to get bigger and better every year."

SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Article Start Date: Friday, December 12, 2003