



Tuesday, January 8, 2002

Faculty, staff welcome employee news site

By *Jennifer Charney*, OU Staff Writer

OU employees say they like the convenience and immediacy of the Faculty and Staff News Web site — a new section of **The News @ OU**.

Dorothy Serafini, administrative assistant for the International Students and Scholars Office, says she reads the site's content all the time.

"The Oakland community is large and it gives me a chance to find out what's going on with others I haven't had the opportunity to meet yet," Serafini says.

The Faculty and Staff News site includes campus information that OU employees say they want more often: stories on employees, benefits, and OU news and events — updated each week and more frequently as needed. Weekly broadcast e-mails announce new content.

The number of visits to the site per week started at 240 in October, when the site was launched, and climbed to more than 400 before the winter break, with visitors taking more time to read content.

The site includes these features:

Registry of Distinction is where faculty and staff learn about the professional accomplishments of their co-workers and can share their own achievements by completing the online **Registry of Distinction Form**.

Faculty & Staff Corner features articles, columns and editorials by OU employees, who may send submissions to thenews@oakland.edu.

New Faculty & Staff lists OU's newest faculty and staff members.

Employee of the Month describes honorees and is the place to nominate a co-worker for the award.

Faculty & Staff Calendar shows on-campus activities and events for employees.

Administrative Policies gives employees a closer look at the university's administrative policies. Currently, it lists the Software Regulations Policy.

Archived Stories features a search engine for stories that have appeared on the Faculty and Staff News site in the past.

The new site supplements a revamped "Inside Oakland," OU's faculty and staff newsletter, which will be delivered to readers at the end of January. "Inside Oakland" will include in-depth coverage of campus issues and feature-style faculty and staff news three times a year.

Employees like the new Web site for its many different features.

Kim Crawford, office assistant II in University Human Resources, says she likes to visit the Faculty & Staff Calendar, Faculty & Staff Corner and Archived Stories sections to see what's happening on campus.

Frank Giblin, professor and associate director at the Eye Research Institute, says he likes the Registry of Distinction and New Faculty & Staff sections. He visits the site each time it's updated.

"I do read info on the site and enjoy it," Giblin says. "If I'm interested in something, I go to the full story."

Most employees — though not all — appreciate the weekly broadcast e-mail highlighting new stories for the week.

"With my busy schedule, I may not think to look for updates, but the reminders assure that I won't miss anything new," Serafini says.

Nancy Schmitz, assistant vice president for Student Affairs, looks at the new site a couple times a week. "I'm happy with it," she says, adding that the broadcast e-mails are helpful reminders for her to look at the site. "I'll click on a link if I have a moment," she says.

As always, we at the Faculty and Staff News site and The News @ OU welcome your suggestions. Please let us know about any news in your area, including:

- upcoming events
- professional news (grants, awards, papers presented)
- personal news (off-campus honors, degrees, milestones)
- campus activities
- story ideas

Don't forget to tell us your name, title, office or department, e-mail address and phone number. Send all your suggestions to thenews@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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