



Friday, February 15, 2002

Ceremony to recap African-American events

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Oakland University students, faculty and staff will reflect on the month-long events and activities of African-American Celebration 2002 during the closing ceremonies Tuesday, Feb. 19, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge.

"I think there were some really wonderful events during the month-long celebrations this year," said Ivy Horn, closing ceremonies committee member and assistant director of the Academic Skills Center. "Our students hopefully have learned more about the history of African-Americans and are sparked to learn more. Learning about African-Americans doesn't have to stop with the end of the month. Our celebrations can inspire all and create an inner drive to excel in our future."

During the closing ceremonies, Jordan Bennett, an OU freshman, will narrate a PowerPoint presentation of images collected from all of the campus activities from this year's African-American Celebration. The Men of Grace, a gospel group from the Grace Center of Hope in Pontiac, will provide inspirational music, and a soul food taste fest will include traditional fare such as red velvet cake, Cajun style red beans and rice, chicken wings, catfish, fried okra and more.

"The event will be a very nice and relaxing way to end the month," Horn said. "The PowerPoint images will really pull everything together and offer everyone a way to reflect. This also will be the first time that we'll have a musical group for the closing ceremonies, and our decorations will be in red, white and blue in remembrance of September 11."

The ceremonies will begin with introductions by Rose Cooper, associate professor in communication, followed by remarks from Mary Beth Snyder, vice president of student affairs.

Virinder Moudgil, vice president for academic affairs and provost, will announce the winners of the fifth annual All Campus Essay Contest commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Entrants were asked to compose an essay or poem that addresses the question: "What kind of hero do you envision yourself to be after you graduate from Oakland University?" Prizes are \$300 for first place and \$100 each for second and third place.

African-American Celebration 2002 events conclude on Wednesday, Feb. 20, with the **Keeper of the Dream** scholarship banquet, which will feature Martin Luther King III, the second oldest child of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, as its keynote speaker.

For more information on the closing ceremonies, contact the **Center for Student Activities** at (248) 370-2400 or csa@oakland.edu.

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Friday, February 15, 2002
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Friday, February 15, 2002
Article Start Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2003