



Thursday, March 7, 2002

Graduate Student Service Center opens

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

The new Graduate Student Service Center opened Monday, March 11, in Room 160 of North Foundation Hall in space formerly occupied by the Office of Financial Aid. The move further enhances Oakland University's one-stop student services center in North Foundation Hall.

The new center houses both Graduate Admissions and Graduate Student Services, which are functions of **Research** and **Graduate Study**. The center complements the student services already in place at North Foundation Hall, including Undergraduate Admissions, Disability Support Services, New Student Programs, the Office of Equity and the International Students and Scholars Office. Most recently, the Student Financial Services Office, which contains the former Cashier's Office and Financial Aid Accounting, opened last fall. All these offices allow students to conduct university business all under one roof.

"The move is primarily an advantage for our constituents," said Pat Beaver, assistant vice provost for Research and Graduate Study. "Potential graduate students will have easier access to graduate admissions and the other student services now housed in North Foundation Hall. In addition, this move provides Graduate Admissions and Services the much-needed space for archives and to provide customer service functions. We hope to make Oakland a recognized leader in cultivating quality research and graduate education for the advancement of current and future generations."

Staff for **Research** and **Graduate Study** now are divided between the new office and 520 O'Dowd Hall. Both offices maintain the phone and fax numbers of (248) 370-3167 and (248) 370-4114, respectively.

The opening of the Graduate Student Service Center completes the second phase of renovations to North Foundation Hall. The \$1.4 million in renovations includes new lighting, flooring, paint and ceiling in the building corridors, electrical and mechanical improvements, and new exterior doors to the four main entrances. These improvements were designed to make the building, the first university structure dating from 1959, more inviting and student-friendly.

The university presently is exploring options for adding other student service functions in North Foundation Hall, said Rusty Postlewate, associate vice provost for facilities management.

"We're examining possible future uses for vacated space in O'Dowd Hall as a result of the moves into North Foundation Hall," Postlewate said. "Based on those recommendations, we can then determine what offices will move out of North Foundation Hall and what student service functions can move in."

Options regarding any office moves into O'Dowd Hall will be presented to senior university administration by the end of March, but any moves are likely to be at least a year away, Postlewate said.

For more information, please see OU's **Research** and **Graduate Study** Web sites or contact those offices at (248) 370-3167.

SUMMARY

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