



Thursday, April 4, 2002

New assistant director comes from Purdue

When Jamie Ruark, assistant director of Alumni Relations, began searching for a job last year, Oakland University was at the top of her list.

With marriage around the corner and a fiancé living in the Detroit area, Ruark was ready to leave central Indiana and her position at Purdue University.

"Friends and family in Michigan suggested I check into Oakland University," she said. "I heard a lot of good things about OU before coming here."

After graduating with a master's degree in higher education from Purdue, Ruark worked there for two years as assistant director of alumni clubs and young alumni.

She joined OU Jan. 21. Her responsibilities include overseeing programs and events such as golf outings and awards banquets. She plans to introduce a Young Alumni Club at OU, work more with alumni leaders in the community and help alumni connect with each other.

"A huge percentage of our alumni live in the area and many are involved on various levels. The key is to give them reasons to come back to campus," said Ruark. "I'm excited because we have so many program events on the horizon. This is an exciting time for alumni and students."

Adrienne Bass, director of Alumni Relations, hired Ruark for the position after reviewing 125 applicants.

"Jamie stood out from the crowd. Her experience at Purdue gave her a leg up on the competition," Bass said.

Bass also was named director of Alumni Relations in November after serving as acting director since April 2000. Over the past 4 years, she has moved from assistant director to associate director to acting director for Alumni Relations. She now is responsible for managing the Alumni Relations Department and the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

"My goal is to provide quality programming that offers alumni an opportunity to reconnect to the university and to each other," Bass said. "I just want alumni to have meaningful opportunities that are fulfilling and enjoyable."

Ruark lives in New Baltimore and is planning a May wedding. She can be reached at ruark@oakland.edu or at her office in John Dodge House.

SUMMARY

When Jamie Ruark, assistant director of Alumni Relations, began searching for a job last year, Oakland University was at the top of her list. With marriage around the corner and a fiancé living in the Detroit area, she was ready to leave her position at Purdue University. After graduating with a master's degree in higher education from Purdue, Ruark worked there for two years as assistant director of alumni clubs and young alumni.

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