



Friday, April 5, 2002

OU Day at the Capitol set for April 10

Oakland University students, alumni, faculty, staff and university supporters are invited to learn about state government and the legislative process at the sixth annual OU Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, April 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Lansing.

Events include a panel discussion, group introductions, testimony by OU President Gary Russi, overview of Michigan government and politics, Senate and House sessions, meetings with elected officials and visits to area attractions.

The morning session will feature "Congressional Insight," an interactive, computerized and fast-paced program that allows participants to learn firsthand what it is like to be or work for an elected official. Participants will be presented with various situations and asked to make political decisions that could influence their reelection efforts. The program is from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the Governor's Room at the Lansing Center. Participation is limited to the first 64 registrants. Continental breakfast will be served.

If you are unable to participate in Congressional Insight, a panel discussion on term limits is set for 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the 22nd floor of the Michigan National Tower Building. Panelists include State Senator John J.H. Schwarz; Patrick Anderson, president of BBK Ltd., Anderson Economic Group; OU Professor John Kelly, Department of Political Science; and Richard Cole, senior vice president of corporate communications for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Professor Dale Nesbery, director of the master of public administration program at Oakland University, will be the moderator.

Senator Mat Dunaskiss, [R]-Lake Orion, and Representative Robert Gosselin, [R]-Troy, will introduce the OU Day at the Capitol participants at 11:30 a.m. and 2:15 p.m., respectively. The group introductions take place in the Senate and House galleries on the third floor of the state capitol.

OU President Gary D. Russi is scheduled to testify from 11:30 a.m. to noon before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education in Room 351 of the capitol.

A luncheon reception, sponsored by University Student Congress, will be served at the Michigan National Tower Building, 22nd floor, from noon to 1:30 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and eat with state elected and appointed officials and members of their staff.

A group photograph will be taken on the front steps of the capitol at 1:40 pm.

Other events include:

- Overview of Michigan Government and Politics by William Ballenger, editor and publisher of "Inside Michigan Politics" — 10-11 a.m., Michigan National Tower Building, 22nd floor
- Senate Session — 10 a.m., State Capitol Building, Senate Chambers Gallery
- Group Visit with Representative Bishop — 11:45-noon, N-894 Anderson Building
- Group Visit with Representative Gosselin — 12:45-1 p.m., S-891 Anderson Building
- Group Visit with Senator DeBeaussaert — 1:30-1:45 p.m., 310 Farnum Building
- Group Visit with Senator Peters — 1:45-2 p.m., 710 Farnum Building
- Group Visit with Representative Phillips — 1:45-2 p.m., N-892 Anderson Building
- House Session — 2 p.m., State Capitol Building, House Chambers Gallery
- Lansing Lugnuts vs. Grand Rapids Whitecaps baseball game — 6 p.m., Oldsmobile Park

OU Day at the Capitol is offered at no cost by University Student Congress, Alumni Relations, the Office of the President and Political Science Department. Oakland University vans will depart from Wilson Road and University at 6:30 a.m. All registered participants are welcome to ride free of charge.

A block of rooms have been reserved at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Lansing for those who wish to stay overnight in Lansing on April 9. The rooms include two double beds for \$72.15. To reserve a room, contact reservations at (800) 333-3333.

For more information or to register, contact Kimberly Bennett at kbennett@oakland.edu or Rochelle Black at black@oakland.edu or fax (248) 370-3504. You also can register by visiting the **Office of Government Relations** Web site.

SUMMARY

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