



Thursday, April 11, 2002

Graduate student center to be dedicated

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

A special dedication and open house for Oakland University's new Graduate Admissions and Graduate Student Service Center is one of the events scheduled for this year's **Founders' Day** celebration Wednesday, April 17. The event, which is open to the public, is from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in 160 North Foundation Hall.

The opening of the service center is yet another example of OU's continued commitment to offering outstanding student services, said Christina Grabowski, associate director of Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning.

"Our new location makes it more convenient for students to complete their business in one stop," Grabowski said. "We want to assist students so they won't have to be sent to other parts of campus."

The dedication will include remarks from President Gary Russi, Interim Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Study Randy Hansen, and graduate student Kim Shepherd, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in education majoring in educational leadership. The new Graduate Study Web site will be launched the same day and will appear on various computers for visitors to see during the dedication. Refreshments also will be served.

The center houses both Graduate Admissions and Graduate Student Services, which are functions of Research and Graduate Study. The center's functions include graduate admissions, graduate student services and lifelong learning.

Research and Graduate Study continues to maintain its office at 520 O'Dowd Hall. The functions of the O'Dowd office include graduate program services, grant and contract administration, research and sponsored programs and the office of the vice provost.

Grabowski said the new service center has made conducting business easier and more convenient not just for the students, but for the center staff as well.

"In our old space, we had two to three people per office, which made it difficult to meet with students and advise them," Grabowski said. "In our new center, we have a conference room to use for advising purposes and staff meetings. We also have a dedicated mailroom that is a very efficient facility, and a dedicated lobby where we can greet not only our current graduate students but prospective graduate students as well.

"The new center has definitely had a positive impact. We've experienced a dramatic increase in the amount of walk-in traffic. At our O'Dowd office, students had to have a very specific purpose to come visit us. The greatest benefits of the new center are the increased convenience and access for the students."

The dedication of the Graduate Admissions and Graduate Student Service Center completes the second phase of renovations to North Foundation Hall and complements the student services already in place in that building. The other student services include Undergraduate Admissions, Disability Support Services, New Student Programs, Office of Equity, International Students and Scholars Office, Cashier's Office and Financial Aid Accounting. All of these offices allow students to conduct university business under one roof.

For more information, visit the **Research** and **Graduate Study** Web sites, or contact the North Foundation Hall service center at (248) 370-3167, or the O'Dowd Hall service center at (248) 370-3222. You also may e-mail those offices at research@oakland.edu or gradmail@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

A special dedication and open house for OU's new Graduate Admissions and Graduate Student Service Center is one of this year's Founders' Day events. The opening of the service center is yet another example of OU's continued commitment to offering outstanding student services.

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