



Monday, April 15, 2002

Varner Memorial Garden to be dedicated

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Oakland University will begin its **Founders' Day** celebration Wednesday, April 17, with the dedication of the Varner Memorial Garden and sculpture. A reception will be held at 8:30 a.m. in the Varner Recital Hall Lobby followed by the dedication of the garden and sculpture in the Varner Hall Courtyard. The event is open to the public.

The courtyard garden will serve as a remembrance of Woody Varner, who served as OU's first chancellor from 1959-70, and reflect his lifelong interest in agriculture and gardening and the university's commitment to the arts through educational and professional programming.

David Downing, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will open the ceremony with a welcome address, followed by remarks from OU Trustee Lou Grech-Cumbo, Art and Art History Professor Andre Eis and the unveiling of the sculpture, which was created by Sharon Que, a full-time studio artist based in Ann Arbor. The sculpture celebrates the arts and liberal arts foundation on which Oakland University was built.

Construction of the garden will begin around the beginning of July, said Rusty Postlewate, associate vice president for facilities management.

"We'll make some additions to the concrete seat wall and add to the landscaping – mostly plants and shrubs," Postlewate said. "We'll also replace all the deteriorated concrete surface there with new concrete. Then the sculpture will be installed to conclude the work, which should be done before the beginning of September."

Hosted by the Office of the President, **Founders' Day** honors the memory of benefactors Alfred and Matilda Dodge Wilson, who donated 1,500 acres and \$2 million to establish Oakland University.

SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Monday, April 15, 2002
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Monday, April 15, 2002
Article Start Date: Monday, November 10, 2003