



Friday, December 19, 2003

OUAA forms Black Alumni Chapter

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

In a venture to further build and nurture lifetime relationships that connect alumni with the university and engage alumni as ambassadors for OU, the **Oakland University Alumni Association** (OUAA) has worked with a group of alumni leaders to form the Black Alumni Chapter (OUBAC), the first of a series of forthcoming chapters.

OUAA chapters will organize social, cultural and educational volunteer programs and services that involve alumni as resources. Through these activities, chapters will foster loyalty and fellowship and strengthen the relationships between and among OU, alumni, friends and the community.

The OUBAC was formed with these goals in mind. Chapter members also will provide a communication network for black alumni and friends, act as ambassadors between OU and the black community, and provide programs through social, cultural and educational enrichment to encourage minority involvement.

"We anticipate forming other OUAA chapters," said Jamie Simek, assistant director for alumni relations. "Some of the possibilities are regional and affiliate chapters. We've received a lot of communications locally and regionally from alumni who are interested in volunteering in such endeavors."

Among the events the OUBAC has planned include Black Alumni Chapter Family Day, scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 24, at 3 p.m. in the Recreation and Athletics Center Pioneer Room. The chapter will hold elections for its executive committee from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Voters must be dues-paying members of the OUAA. Membership may be renewed on site or prior to voting. OUBAC Executive Committee nomination forms are available on the OUAA Web site. The forms must be returned to the OUAA by Friday, Jan. 9.

The family day event also includes a reception, which will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Attendees can take in exciting Golden Grizzlies action as the women's and men's basketball teams take on UMKC at 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m., respectively.

The OUBAC also is co-sponsoring a panel discussion of its members with OU students during African-American Celebration Month. The event is Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge. Additional sponsors of this event include the Future Alumni Network and Association of Black Students.

Those eligible for OUBAC membership include active members of the OUAA or Friends of the Alumni Association. For more information, visit the **Oakland University Alumni Association** Web site or contact Adrienne Bass, director of Alumni Relations, at (248) 370-3700 or bass@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Friday, December 19, 2003
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Friday, December 19, 2003
Article Start Date: Friday, December 19, 2003