

Tuesday, November 25, 2008

CAS explores “Cities” with annual theme

In celebration of liberal arts, Oakland University’s College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) conducts an annual college theme. The 2008-2009 theme is “Cities,” encouraging the various disciplines in the CAS to explore the many facets of cities.

Student exploration can cover topics that include city histories and their respective roles in the global economy, how cities help give expression to art and culture, and if cities can successfully respond to the many social and political challenges they face. Each year the CAS theme is selected based on an issue currently plaguing our society. The concept needs to span across several areas and meet the desire of the college’s 16 departments. To help create critical thinking and conversation among the students, the concept needs to provide multiple perspectives. After the review of a committee consisting of department chairs, the “Cities” theme was selected based upon the recent migration trends to cities.

James Howard Kunstler’s *The Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America’s Man Made Landscape* has been selected as the required theme community book to aid in the discussion of the “Cities” theme. This book explores the transformation of America’s landscape from Pilgrim settlements to the cities and suburbs of today’s society. The book has been read by students and will be discussed and analyzed throughout the academic year.

Activities and events are planned to support and promote the theme. More than half of the college’s 16 departments will incorporate and use the “Cities” theme activities and events to enhance in their courses curriculums. Alumni are encouraged to attend these events to view the dedication and creativity of the faculty and students. Please visit the [College of Arts and Sciences](#) Web site for an up-to-date list of activities and events.

SUMMARY

In celebration of liberal arts, Oakland University’s College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) conducts an annual college theme. The 2008-2009 theme is “Cities,” encouraging the various disciplines in the CAS to explore the many facets of cities.

Created by Heather Mattiello (heather.mattiello@caretech.com) on Tuesday, November 25, 2008
Modified by Heather Mattiello (heather.mattiello@caretech.com) on Tuesday, November 25, 2008
Article Start Date: Tuesday, November 25, 2008