



Friday, September 12, 2003

OU to celebrate Hispanic culture

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

Oakland University is hosting events and activities to honor Hispanic Celebration 2003, Sept. 15 through Oct. 1, in conjunction with National Hispanic Heritage Month. The scheduled events aim to celebrate and educate students, as well as the general public, about Hispanic culture.

"We want to make more people aware of the rich Hispanic culture in the United States and around the world," said Associate Professor of Spanish Estela Moreno-Mazzoli, who co-chairs the Hispanic Celebration 2003 committee. "There are also many people of Hispanic heritage who were born in the United States and remain very much in touch with their culture. These programs and activities are important because the Hispanic population is the largest minority in the United States, and we want to attract more Hispanic students to Oakland."

The theme for this year's celebrations is "La identidad hispanoamericana" (Hispanic-American Identities). Among the new events this year are screenings of the movie "Frida," starring Salma Hayek; tango lessons; a tour of Detroit's Mexican Town; and an essay contest with cash prizes.

In addition, Soledad O'Brien, co-anchor of CNN's "American Morning" and former co-anchor of NBC's "Weekend Today," will speak on "Diversity in Broadcasting" Thursday, Nov. 13, at 4 p.m. in the Oakland Center Banquet Room. O'Brien is the daughter of an African-Cuban woman and an Irish-Australian man. In 1997, she was awarded the Hispanic Achievement Award in Communications. O'Brien also was named to Irish American Magazine's "Top 100 Irish-Americans" list in 1998. She is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. O'Brien is a graduate of Harvard University.

HISPANIC CELEBRATION 2003 SCHEDULE

Monday, September 15

- Noon-1 p.m. – Opening Ceremony and Reception in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge. Remarks will be given by Virinder Moudgil, vice president for Academic Affairs and provost, and Maria Elena Rodriguez, president of the Mexican Town Community Development Corporation.
- Through Sept. 26 – Hispanic Celebration 2003 Essay Contest. The contest is open to all currently registered OU students. The first place prize is \$100, second place is \$50, and third place is \$25. The topic is "How does my cultural identity enrich Oakland University and society?" Entries are limited to 500 words and will be judged on content, creativity and cohesiveness related to the theme. Submit your typed, double-spaced entry to the **Center for Student Activities**, 49 Oakland Center. All entries must be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26.

Tuesday, September 16

- Noon-1 p.m. – Celebrating Mexico's Independence Day in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge.

Wednesday, September 17

- Noon-1 p.m. – "Appreciating the 'Latin American Identity'" Lecture by Associate Professor of Spanish Estela Moreno-Mazzoli in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge.

Thursday, September 18

- Noon and 5 p.m. – Free Film Screenings of "Frida," starring Salma Hayek, in the Kresge Library Student Lounge. Associate Professor of Spanish Estela Moreno-Mazzoli will facilitate a discussion following the film. Free refreshments will be offered.

Tuesday, September 23

- Noon-1 p.m. – “The Glitz and Ritz of the ‘Carnival in Rio’” Presentation by Professor of History Mary Karasch in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge.

Wednesday, September 24

- 4-6 p.m. – Inauguration of the International Students and Scholars Office’s Coffee Hour Series: "Bienvenue, Bienvenidos, Foon ying, Sushri akal, Willkommen, Witomy" in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge. All are invited to a free reception to welcome international students to the Oakland University community. A panel of OU’s international students will discuss their impressions of the United States.

Saturday, September 27

- 10:30 a.m. – Tour of Detroit’s Mexican Town. Meet in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge for directions or meet at 11:45 a.m. at Xochimilco’s restaurant in Mexican Town. Start with lunch at Xochimilco’s (pay on your own), then follow a walking tour conducted by Associate Professor of Spanish Ron Rapin.

Monday, September 29

- Noon-1 p.m. – Poetry and Café in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge. Poetry contest sponsored by the Student Program Board. Winners of the Hispanic Celebration 2003 Essay Contest also will be announced. Enjoy a free international coffee bar along with original poetry presented by OU students.
- 8-10 p.m. – Tango Lessons in Vandenberg Dining Center. Free tango lessons will be offered by Lori Burton from Argentine Tango Detroit.

Tuesday, September 30

- 5:30-7 p.m. – Hispanic Night at the Educational Resources Lab, Room 350 in the Education and Human Services Building. Learn about the Mexican roots of Detroit through music, stories and dance performed by "Raices Mexicanas St. Anne de Detroit" children's dance troupe. Free refreshments will be offered.

Wednesday, October 1

- 4-6:30 p.m. – Closing Ceremony: “Fiesta Hispanica” in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge. Enjoy food, friends, arts and crafts, and dancing. Music performances by Broki’s Echo Con Cache.

SUMMARY

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