



Friday, August 30, 2002

Freshmen to be welcomed at Convocation

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Oakland University freshmen and their families will experience the tradition and pageantry that accompanies the beginning of a student's academic career at New Student Convocation on Tuesday, Sept. 3, the first day of fall semester classes.

The ceremony represents the first time faculty and students are brought together in an academic year. It offers a unique mix of tradition, information and entertainment. A strong tradition on college campuses everywhere, OU's Convocation includes a traditional faculty procession in full academic regalia, informative and entertaining speakers, and a reception where students and their families can meet professors, deans and other university leaders.

Convocation speakers include Orientation Assistant Joseph Van Marcke, OU President Gary Russi, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil, Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder and Student Body President Brian Tomina.

"Convocation is meant to establish what our expectations and values are for new freshmen," said Snyder. "We hope that those values are reinforced both in the classroom and in various student activities. The other thing attendees will come away with is a sense of the tradition and pageantry of the university, which is an important part of the history of higher education. It's the first official gathering of the year for faculty and students and also the first time faculty will get to meet the new class of students."

Snyder said her presentation this year will include a multimedia component and incorporate the comments of other OU students.

"I thought that students would take more from my speech if I inserted a dash of humor and used some of their comments," Snyder said. "I'll emphasize four different areas based on my years of working with students: become involved in different activities, get to know others from other cultures, practice good time management, and seek help when you need it."

OU's athletic mascot "The Grizz" will teach the audience the OU Fight Song, and a Spirit Award will be given to the most enthusiastic student from this summer's freshman orientations.

The ceremony begins at 3 p.m. in the Recreation and Athletics Center. Attendees may park in lot 16, adjacent to Anibal House and Pryale House, and lot 26, adjacent to Varner Hall. Attire is business casual.

SUMMARY

Oakland University freshmen and their families will experience the tradition and pageantry that accompanies the beginning of a student's academic career at New Student Convocation on Tuesday, Sept. 3, the first day of fall semester classes.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Friday, August 30, 2002
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Friday, August 30, 2002
Article Start Date: Monday, November 3, 2003