



Monday, November 5, 2001

## OU celebrates Cultural Awareness Week

By *Anna Maria Matuszewska*

Oakland University is hosting a number of events in celebration of Cultural Awareness Week, which runs Nov. 5-9. This year's theme is "Oakland University's Window to the World."

President Gary Russi will open the celebration on Monday, Nov. 5, at noon in the Oakland Center's Fireside Lounge by discussing OU's long-standing commitment to recognizing and celebrating diversity through programs such as Cultural Awareness Week.

### Event Schedule

#### Monday, Nov. 5:

- Diversity Day Kickoff, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Oakland Center Gold Rooms. There will be displays, entertainment and international cuisine.
- Opening Ceremony, noon–12:30 p.m., Oakland Center Fireside Lounge.
- Multicultural Story Telling, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Education Resource Lab, 216 O'Dowd Hall. This event will feature African American, Arab American, East Indian, Disabled, Jamaican and Chinese cultures. Please RSVP to Adelaide Phelps at (248) 370-4877 prior to the event.
- Salsa Lessons, 7-8:30 p.m., Oakland Center Gold Rooms. Participants will learn Hispanic culture through dance and music.

#### Tuesday, Nov. 6:

- Hate Crime Display, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Oakland Center Fireside Lounge. The display consists of 157 pairs of shoes symbolizing the 157 people each week that are reported as victims of hate crimes in the United States.
- Report on China, 4-6 p.m., Oakland Center Heritage Room. This event will highlight the experiences of Oakland University students, faculty, staff and alumni who visited China. Please RSVP to Carol Carpenter at (248) 370-3700.

#### Wednesday, Nov. 7:

- Speech Contest, 11 a.m.–noon, Rooms 125-130 in the Oakland Center. Students will write and deliver a three to five minute speech in a foreign language on the benefits of learning another language.
- The Value of Cross Cultural Awareness in the Workplace, noon–1 p.m., Oakland Center Fireside Lounge. The discussion will center on the impact that a diverse staff can have in the workplace, current trends and the learning development that can be fostered through cultural interaction.
- English as a Second Language Skits, 5-6 p.m., Oakland Center Fireside Lounge. Students will present dialogues that demonstrate communicative misunderstandings between native speakers of English and non-native speakers.
- Caribbean Culturefest: A Night of Food & Music, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Oakland Center Gold Rooms. Caribbean food will be served while featuring the Gratitude Steel Band.

#### Thursday, Nov. 8:

- OU-Wide World of Sports, noon–1 p.m., Oakland Center Fireside Lounge. International student athletes will discuss their backgrounds, sports, reasons for coming to the United States, their transition to American culture and the differences between athletics here and in their home country. U.S. students also will share their thoughts on the benefits of having international students on their teams.
- International Night Café, 7-10 p.m., Pioneer Food Court. The OU community will put on an international fashion show and musical entertainment.

#### Friday, Nov. 9:

- Closing Ceremony: A View of the Future, noon–12:45 p.m., Oakland Center Fireside Lounge. A panel comprised of

administrators, faculty and students will discuss the value of internationalism on campus.

- Breaking Down Barriers: Opening Windows to the World, 12:45–1 p.m., Lake Ontario Room in the Oakland Center. In honor of the anniversary of the destruction of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, the German Club will break down a replica of the Berlin Wall. Its destruction represents the joining of people and the opening of the windows to cultural awareness.
- African Ensemble “Akwaba” & Steel Drum Band “Pan Jumbies,” 8 p.m., Varner Recital Hall. This is a multiculturally enriching evening of African music.

**SUMMARY**

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