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# Mexico's president is sixth world leader to visit OU

By **Kelly Smith**, OU Writer

When the **President of Mexico**, Vicente Fox Quesada, and First Lady Martha Sahagún de Fox travel to Oakland University Friday, June 18, it will mark the third time in OU's history that a sitting president has visited the campus and the sixth visit from a world leader, giving students a unique opportunity to learn about global issues from national and international leaders.

Part of a two-day tour of Michigan, President Fox will deliver a special address at OU's Athletics Arena.

On July 18, 2002, **U.S. President George W. Bush and Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski** also spoke to an audience at OU's Athletics Arena.

The historic event, which marked the first time a sitting president from any country visited the campus in an official capacity, placed Oakland in the international spotlight.

About 3,500 students, faculty, staff, local citizens and representatives from the Polish community, as well as a host of dignitaries from around the state, gathered to hear the two world leaders speak on the alliance between the United States and Poland and the mutual vision for world peace.

Throughout his speech, Bush referenced America's historic ties to Poland and how that union extended to the present. Kwasniewski noted Poland's contributions to the founding of the United States and how the bond between the two nations helped Poland gain freedom.

Other world leaders who have visited campus include former president of Poland and Nobel Peace Prize laureate **Lech Walesa**, who discussed global economics at Meadow Brook Theatre in October 2001, and former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, who delivered his views on community service at the Oakland Center in March 1988. Former Vice President Dan Quayle also visited campus in November 1998.

The presidential visits offer OU students a global perspective, emphasizing their understanding and strengthening their ability to be effective citizens and workers in an increasing global environment.

For more information on the visit, see the **President of Mexico Visits OU** Web page that was created to give all the latest information on the visit as the event unfolds.

### SUMMARY

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