

Friday, May 30, 2003

Fastening and joining institute to open

A ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday, June 2, will mark the official opening of OU's School of Engineering and Computer Sciences' **Fastening and Joining Research Institute** (FAJRI). U.S. Senator Carl Levin will join OU President Gary Russi, SECS Dean Pieter Frick and FAJRI Director Sayad Nassar at the opening ceremony that begins at 8:50 a.m. in 123 Hannah Hall of Science.

The institute is the only known facility of its kind in the world: an academic, nonprofit research facility dedicated solely to the fastening and joining of materials.

"Mechanical joints are often the weakest link in equipment and machinery," said Nassar. "And, through this research institute – a one-of-a-kind facility – Oakland University will pursue fundamental and applied research to develop and share new technologies in fastening and joining engineering."

To establish the FAJRI, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$2.3 million in the fiscal year 2003 defense budget through the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Command to improve fastener quality and address the broader long-term technological issues of fastening and joining. The U.S. Senate Armed Service Committee also authorized \$1.5 million to continue FAJRI research in 2004.

"The research we conduct here will help mobility and combat readiness of military vehicles; will benefit the automotive, aerospace, nuclear power and transportation industries; and improve the safety of the public," Nassar said.

For more information on the Fastening and Joining Research Institute, call (248) 370-2697 or e-mail nassar@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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