



Wednesday, October 13, 2004

## Lecture series to feature Doris Kearns Goodwin

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin will present "The Moral Authority of the Presidency" at the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Second Annual Distinguished Lecture in the Humanities Thursday, Oct. 28, at 6:30 p.m. at Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion.

"Goodwin was chosen from a wide list of potential candidates," said Sandy Dykstra, administrative secretary for CAS. "Her background as a noted presidential historian, Pulitzer Prize winner, and a political commentator make her an excellent speaker selection to complement the College of Arts and Sciences **2004-2005 theme of presidential leadership.**"

Kearns Goodwin will explore the ability of the president to mobilize the country toward morally correct courses of action. She will cite examples from other presidencies and explore the parallels between earlier times and the present. She also will respond to questions from the audience following her talk, with many of these likely relating to the upcoming presidential election and candidates.

In addition, Kearns Goodwin will address students in a special session in the morning following the lecture, speaking again on the topic of presidential leadership with a more specific look at the presidents of the 20th century.

"Within the presidency is the awesome responsibility of making ongoing decisions for the good of the people," Dykstra said. "Leaders must constantly weigh the moral implications of their decisions. As different people operate by varying and evolving codes of morality, these decisions are difficult and controversial."

Kearns Goodwin has been a well-known political commentator and national baseball expert for more than two decades. A regular commentator for NBC, she has served as a consultant to PBS documentaries on Lyndon B. Johnson, the Kennedy family, Franklin Roosevelt and Ken Burns' "Baseball," which covered the history of baseball.

Serving as an assistant to Lyndon B. Johnson during the last year of his presidency, Goodwin also worked with him on his memoirs. She has authored numerous best-selling books on American presidents including "Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream," "The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys," and "No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt," which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize.

"People are very excited that she is coming to Oakland University," Dykstra said. "We have had numerous phone calls and e-mails requesting ticket information. Ticket sales have been brisk."

Tickets are available at the Center for Student Activities Service Window, 49 Oakland Center, or by calling (248) 370-2400. The CSA Service Window is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Advance admission is \$15 for adults; \$12.50 for OU faculty, staff and Alumni Association members with a membership card; and \$5 for students with a valid ID. If seats are available, tickets also will be sold at the door for \$20 per person. All seats are general admission.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and parking is free. For more information, call (248) 370-2650. The event is sponsored by CAS and The Oakland Press.

### SUMMARY

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