



Wednesday, August 21, 2002

Event helps orient new OU faculty

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

To help new faculty become acclimated to the institution, Oakland University's Office of Undergraduate Education is hosting its third annual New Faculty Orientation on Thursday, Aug. 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Oakland Center Oakland Room. Invitations to the event have been issued to the 48 new faculty members who are starting their OU careers this fall.

"It's wonderful to see all the new people who represent the new blood and knowledge coming into the institution," said Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Susan Awbrey, one of the event organizers. "It's really a very exciting event."

At the orientation, faculty members will learn about university resources such as Kresge Library and the Information Technology Institute, research opportunities at OU, outreach opportunities and partnerships, and the University Senate and AAUP. OU President Gary Russi and Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil will greet the faculty with welcoming remarks. Distinguished Professor of English Jane Eberwein will present a brief history of Oakland University, and OU students Lacey Story and Sumeera Younis will speak on teaching and learning at OU.

"Some OU schools and colleges have their own faculty orientations, but ours is designed to cover many facets of the entire institution," Awbrey said. "The event really helps them get a broader picture of their role and that fits in with the rest of the university. And we also have traditional and non-traditional students speak to the faculty about teaching techniques that are most effective in their learning environments."

Other orientation benefits are the friendships formed among faculty who teach in separate areas and might not otherwise have the chance to meet.

"We evaluate the orientation every year and, for the most part, the faculty enjoy meeting new faculty members from other areas. One of the nice things we do is take a group picture of the new faculty. Many of them form friendships and continue those associations long after the orientation," Awbrey said.

For more information on the New Faculty Orientation, contact the Office of Undergraduate Education at (248) 370-4955.

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