



Monday, April 29, 2002

## Kids learn about different facets of OU life

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

Children of Oakland University faculty and staff members experienced campus life from a variety of perspectives during OU's second annual Bring Your Child to Work Day April 25.

The day gives kids ages 8-18 first-hand knowledge of the types of skills different professions at OU require. Other activities included tours of the **OU Police Department**; **WXOU**, the student radio station; and presentations by OU professors in chemistry and biology.

"It's a great day for the kids and the parents," said Assistant Vice Provost Pat Beaver, who brought her 11-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter to campus. "The kids have a great opportunity to see different aspects of our campus and how people work."

Orientation Group Leaders from OU's New Student Programs Office led the 24 kids that participated in the tours. The first stop was the OU Police Department, where Lieutenant Mel Gilroy showed the kids around the department, including the dispatch room. The kids also saw the electronic equipment the police use to maintain a safe campus, sat inside one of OU's police cars, and learned about law enforcement as a career option.

While visiting WXOU, General Manager David Gullo showed the kids the equipment the station uses to broadcast, including mixing boards, microphones, cables and computer equipment in the production room. He also showed them the variety of CDs and vinyl records the station has in its music library before answering questions from them.

"The radio station had really cool equipment and stuff," said Alicia Tirpak, 10, daughter of IT Senior Systems Analyst Lori Tirpak. "They had lots of CDs I like. I really enjoy hip-hop music."

Afterwards, the children gathered in the Science and Engineering Building for a presentation on Antarctica by Dagmar Cronn, professor of chemistry. Cronn, who visited the continent to conduct research on the ozone layer, engaged the children by asking and answering questions during a slide show that detailed her clothing she had to wear in the sub-zero temperatures. She also showed slides of penguins, the South Pole, and lots of snow and ice.

Sara Etienne, daughter of Transfer Student Specialist Carmen Etienne, said she enjoyed Cronn's presentation the most.

"I really liked learning about Antarctica," said Sara, age 10. "I thought it was very interesting and educational."

After the Antarctica presentation, John Cowlshaw, associate professor of biological science, showed the kids some displays in Dodge Hall that depicted the evolution of butterflies and humans. They learned about the discovery of a human skeleton named "Lucy" by archaeologists, which is the earliest example of an upright-walking human.

The kids then met their parents at the Vandenberg Hall cafeteria for lunch before accompanying their parents to their university workplace.

Oakland University's Bring Your Child to Work Day was sponsored by the AP Assembly and held in conjunction with "Take Our Daughters to Work Day," a national event coordinated by the **MS Foundation for Women**.

### SUMMARY

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