



Friday, May 3, 2002

## OU to host Meeting of the Minds on May 10

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Oakland University is hosting the tenth annual **Meeting of the Minds**, which is a series of conferences for undergraduate students from OU, the University of Michigan-Dearborn and the University of Michigan-Flint.

Students from the three participating universities will deliver 12-minute oral presentations with time for questions and answers in four sessions at the event, scheduled for Friday, May 10.

"There will be more than 100 presentations involving nearly 180 students from all three universities," said Robby Stewart, professor of psychology at OU, who is organizing the event.

The presentations, scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 4:25 p.m. in the Oakland Center and Varner Recital Hall, cover topics across the curriculum, including art history, biology, chemistry, psychology, literature, linguistics and women's studies.

"For a number of the students it's the first opportunity for them to give a presentation of their scholarly efforts," Stewart said. "We know a number of them go on to make further professional presentations in their careers."

One of the unique aspects of Meeting of the Minds is that it demonstrates the student/faculty partnership. A faculty member must sponsor each student presentation.

Some of the presentations include "Revictimization in Combat Veterans" by Ian Kierpaul with OU Professor of Psychology Ralph Schillace; "Critic or Clown? Trevor Nunn's Portrait of Feste in Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night,'" by Beth Reatherford with Professor of English Maureen Thum of UM-Flint; and "Southwest Detroit: Environmental Vision, Obstacles and Solutions," by Esmeralda Zamarron with UM-Dearborn Professor of Environmental Studies Orin Gelderloos.

"The scholarship must come from a regular course or special independent project course," Stewart said. "I know that in physics, chemistry and biology we start our research in the spring and summer. Many of the presentations are yearlong endeavors.

"The act of presenting the scholarship also is a learning experience for the undergraduates. We try not to put the disciplines in their own corners so the chemistry students are only talking to each other. We give the presenters an opportunity to communicate their work to people in other disciplines. This also allows them to recognize that the audience may be interested in different aspects of their presentations."

In previous years, **Meeting of the Minds** focused predominantly on natural and social sciences. But this year, the definition of scholarship has been broadened with the inclusion of the art performances. A reception for the participants also is planned for 4:30 p.m. in Meadow Brook Art Gallery.

"In the middle of the day, we'll have performances ranging from scenes from plays to piano recitals," Stewart said. "The reception at the Meadow Brook Art Gallery also highlights the student-faculty visual art exhibit (Illusions & Illuminations)."

Students who participate may consider publishing their papers in the "MOM Journal of Undergraduate Research." Information on publication is available upon registration.

For more information, visit the **Meeting of the Minds X** Web site, or contact professor Robert Stewart at (248) 370-2303 or [stewart@oakland.edu](mailto:stewart@oakland.edu).

### SUMMARY

Oakland University is hosting the tenth annual Meeting of the Minds, which is a series of conferences for undergraduate students from OU, the University of Michigan-Dearborn and the University of Michigan-Flint to present the products of their scholarly endeavors.

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