



Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Volunteers help beautify the campus

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

About 15 Oakland University students, faculty and staff volunteered to paint the white wooden fence on the east side of Oakland University's campus to help beautify the campus.

The volunteer effort, which took place the weekend of July 20-21, was organized by Meadow Brook Hall Lead Guard Jon Levin and was meant to enhance an area of the campus that thousands of visitors see throughout the year. The one-mile long fence runs along areas that welcome visitors to **Katke-Cousins** and **R & S Sharf golf courses**, **Meadow Brook Hall**, **Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute**, **Meadow Brook Music Festival**, Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion and Sunset Terrace.

Levin greeted the volunteers both days with scrapers, brushes, pan rollers and pans, which were supplied by OU's Department of Facilities Management. He introduced himself as "Tom Sawyer" and explained to the volunteers that the goal of the weekend was to scrape and paint one side of the fence between Meadow Brook Hall and John Dodge House.

"It's a very labor-intensive project, so you can see why it is difficult for our facilities management people to make room for a project like this," Levin said. "Our efforts can give the university two more years before they have to undertake the major expense of replacing the fence with plastic composite fencing. We hope to do this again when students return in the fall."

Ten of the 15 volunteers on July 20 were University Housing conference assistants recruited by Rebecca Wyckham, assistant director of University Housing. Other volunteers included University Communications and Marketing Office Assistant Sheila Carpenter, Associate Professor of Anthropology Richard Stamps, and Mark Ludorf, director of the Information Technology Institute. Ludorf also brought his three children – Katie 10, Austin 8 and Nicholas 5 – who helped scrape and paint.

"I thought this would be a fun day and a good way to help out a little bit," said Katie Wyatt, a senior communication major and student worker for University Housing. "It's kind of a staff project. We're all good friends and thought we would have a good time together."

Levin said he plans on organizing a second group to help paint the fence in the fall when there are more students who can help. He'd like to recruit between 60 and 90 volunteers to give four hours of their time over a weekend for the project. For more information or to volunteer, contact Levin at levin@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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