



Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Appreciation Dinner set for Oct. 11

Grizzly spirit is the theme of this year's Faculty, Staff and Student Appreciation Dinner. The annual event will follow the groundbreaking ceremony for the Oakland Center expansion project on Friday, Oct. 11. The groundbreaking ceremony starts at 4:30 p.m.

A Grizzly-inspired dinner will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Oakland Center's Pioneer Food Court. Bear cookies, black forest cupcakes, and a sticks and berries snack complement the main course of apple wood-smoked turkey with dried fruit and sage dressing. Macaroni and cheese will be available for children.

"This is our way to thank and honor our outstanding students, faculty and staff who make this university so distinctive," said Oakland University President Gary Russi. "We're looking forward to a fun and festive time."

The dinner, which is sponsored by the **Office of the President**, is open to all OU students. Faculty and staff are invited to bring their immediate families. More than 1,000 people are expected to attend this year's event.

"In addition to the appreciation dinner, there will be a variety of other activities and entertainment for the whole family," said Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities. "There will be something for everybody all evening long. We're hoping people come and stay for the whole evening."

Entertainment during dinner includes the Steel Drum and African Drum Ensembles, a clown creating balloon sculptures for kids, and a roving magician. After dinner, from 7 to 8 p.m. "Magic Man" Tim Gabrielson will present his unique magic and comedy show. Other activities throughout campus include free family night at the Recreation and Athletics Center and a bonfire at the lower fields.

The recognition dinner is part of the weeklong Spirit of WOCO 2002 (Week of Champions @ Oakland University) celebration, leading up to OU's fourth annual Midnight Madness when the men's and women's basketball teams kick off the 2002-2003 NCAA Division I basketball season. Midnight Madness takes place at the Athletics Center O'Rena at midnight on Oct. 11.

To attend the dinner, OU faculty and staff should send their response cards to the **Office of the President**, 204 Wilson Hall, by Friday, Oct. 4. OU students can pick up their tickets at the CSA Service Window, 49 OC. Additional invitations can be requested by sending a message to jam@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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