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# inside OAKLAND

News briefs for Oakland University colleagues

## NEWS

breaking

### Moving to Division I-AAA — what's next?

Athletic Director Jack Mehl says moving Oakland University's athletic program from NCAA Division II to Division I-AAA will impact more than its student-athletes in this candid Q&A.

**INSIDE OAKLAND:** When will you send the letter of intent to the NCAA?

**JACK MEHL:** Immediately following the NCAA Division II national golf championships in Scottsdale May 20-23. By that time, all our teams will have had the opportunity to complete competition in Division II this year.

**IO:** Will OU join another conference?

**JM:** There are probably half a dozen or more conferences that are worth considering, and that may have interest in OU as a member.

**IO:** Will you add football now, or in the future?

**JM:** That certainly is not on our agenda. We have much to do over the next few years to prepare to compete at a higher level in the sports we currently participate in. Whether or not football would ever be considered here would be speculation.

**IO:** Will you lower academic standards in recruiting?

**JM:** At Oakland, the classroom comes first, and we will not stray from that path. We have a different approach than most, but we believe in it.

**IO:** How are you going to manage the complicated transition period?

**JM:** We have two years to put our house in order and comply with NCAA rules for membership. We have some plans in place, with more to come in the weeks ahead. Yes, it is complicated, and a lot of work, but there is no question we will be successful in implementing the change.

### Oakland charts two more school public academies

The Board of Trustees granted charters for two more public school academies, bringing the number of OU charters to five.

Dove Academy of Detroit and the Detroit Academy of Arts & Sciences were chosen from nine applicants. Both are scheduled to open in late summer 1997.

In August, OU chartered its first three public schools: Nsoroma Institute of Highland Park; Elbert Thomas Clark Academy of Detroit; and Academy of Michigan in Harper Woods.

### Oakland plans mall spruce-up



The Oakland University Board of Trustees approved plans to improve the mall between OU's Kresge Library and the main entrance drive.

"The improvements are part of Oakland's continuing effort to make the campus a more attractive place to live, work, visit and attend school," says Susan Aldrich, assistant vice president, Capital Planning and Design Construction.

The \$320,000 spruce-up calls for new concrete walkways laid out in a more formal pattern, new drainage and irrigation systems, enhanced landscaping and landscape lighting.

Gravel around the fountain is to be replaced with brick. Construction will begin by June 1 and end by the beginning of the fall 1997 term.

### Oakland enrollment continues growth

Enrollment at Oakland University hit a winter-term record of 13,075 students.

The winter 1997 enrollment is 1.3-percent higher than last winter's all-time high of 12,901 students.

This term's record follows last fall's 8.4-percent increase in graduate student enrollment.

Last fall's enrollment total of 13,956 students is 2.6-percent higher than fall 1995's all-time high of 13,600 students.

Laura Schartman, director, Institutional Research and Assessment, said "the new high winter enrollment is a healthy sign that Oakland is continuing its upward trend."

### what's COMING

Articles scheduled to appear in the March *Inside Oakland*:

- Four new closed circuit TV cameras are helping Oakland University police prevent crime in parking lots and on busy walkways.
- Full-time professionals in fall 1997 will have the opportunity to pursue an OU master's degree in biology, a choice that had not been practical for such workers before.
- An OU scholarship program helps students excel in their course work, shows them how to be campus leaders and prepares them to work in a diverse work force.
- Two OU employees are temporarily sharing the position of associate vice president for Academic Affairs.