



Monday, July 29, 2002

Nixon to expand Honors College curriculum

With guidance from its new director, Jude Nixon, the **Honors College** will play a more significant role in providing a unique undergraduate experience at Oakland University.

"The Honors College is our showcase academic unit for undergraduate excellence," said Virinder Moudgil, interim vice president for academic affairs and provost. "With his strong academic credentials, Jude Nixon will take the Honors College to the next level and help make our 2010 vision a reality."

Expanding the Honors College curriculum and increasing the academic rigor are at the top of Nixon's to-do list.

"These are some of our brightest students. My goal is to challenge them and cultivate a community of inquisitive learners," Nixon said.

Nixon also wants to increase the racial diversity of the program so it more closely mirrors Oakland University, and eventually community service will be a requirement for all Honors College students.

"Community service should be tied to the student's major. For instance, someone majoring in women's studies could volunteer at a battered women's shelter," Nixon said.

To attract more students with scholarships, Nixon wants to build the **Honors College** endowment. He's planning to do this by building relationships with potential donors.

"The bottom line is to grow the Honors College. But, it should be quality growth. I want to make sure we have the faculty, staff and resources in place," Nixon said.

Nixon's long-term plans include funded lectures, colloquiums and study-abroad programs.

Nixon joined Oakland in 1999 as an associate professor of English. He was awarded the 2002 Oakland University Teaching Excellence Award. He previously was a faculty member at Baylor University and the Philadelphia College of Bible. In addition to his duties as Honors College director, he teaches and is an active researcher.

"We are excited by the vitality and enthusiasm that Dr. Jude Nixon brings to the role of Honors College director. The position is very unique and requires a special individual to fill it," says Susan Awbrey, vice provost for undergraduate education. "The search committee worked hard to find a candidate with a combination of intellectual prowess, dedication, breadth of experience and the true spirit of a mentor. We found all of that and more in Jude. Oakland can expect great things from him and from the Honors College."

SUMMARY

With guidance from its new director, Jude Nixon, the Honors College will play a more significant role in providing a unique undergraduate experience at Oakland University. Expanding the Honors College curriculum and increasing the academic rigor are at the top of Nixon's to-do list.

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