



Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Faculty invited to WAC program

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

Nationally recognized scholar Kathleen Blake Yancey will present a lecture, "Writing Across the Curriculum: Building Partnerships," to Oakland University faculty as part of the ongoing effort to improve the learning experiences and communication skills of students.

The event, scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, will begin with a lecture from noon to 1 p.m. in Elliott Hall Room 242. A lunch and workshop will follow in the Oakland Center Lake Michigan Room.

Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) is an ongoing initiative of OU's Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism, in collaboration with the English Department and OU administration, to improve student writing and learning. The lecture and workshop are sponsored by the Office of the Provost, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, vice provost for undergraduate education, and the English Department.

Yancey, director of the Pearce Center for Professional Communication at Clemson University, will draw on her experience and perspective as a leading researcher in the field of rhetoric and composition to provide information on how to incorporate writing into the curriculum. Clemson University has a very successful writing across the curriculum program.

Successful WAC programs have broad faculty involvement and strong support from administration, said Margaret Willard-Traub, assistant professor of rhetoric.

"Both Yancey and rhetoric faculty will facilitate a discussion on how we can determine what's best for Oakland students," Willard-Traub said. "The ownership for an initiative like this lies with faculty from across the university, and Yancey will suggest different approaches they can use in their courses."

Writing across the curriculum programs began nationally more than 25 years ago. OU's WAC supports the university's goal to provide a distinctive undergraduate experience that will help promote students' growth as writers and communicators, as researchers, and as active participants in a democratic society.

"The idea is for students to use writing to learn and understand material better," Willard-Traub said. "The goal of rhetoric faculty in the workshop will be to share information, not dictate strategies. We want to help faculty find ways to expand their repertoire of what's appropriate for their classes."

Those interested in attending the lunch and workshop should e-mail Willard-Traub at willardt@oakland.edu.

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