



Thursday, October 3, 2002

Catch OU spirit at WOCOU 2002

Do you have it? If you don't, chances are you'll catch it during The Spirit of WOCOU (Week of Champions @ Oakland University) 2002. What is it? OU spirit, of course.

OU spirit will be contagious during a jam-packed week of events 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.

WOCOU is OU's answer to homecoming, without the football.

"WOCOU helps us unify the OU community, provides a sense of identity and recognizes all of our champions – OU students, faculty, staff and alumni," said Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities. "Every year, WOCOU attracts more attention and participation. We strive to make it better every year, and it is, because of OU spirit."

The celebration begins Monday, Oct. 7, at noon in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge, with entertainment by the OU African Ensemble "Akwaaba" and Steel Band "Pan Jumbies" and free "Grizztracks" ice cream cones and WOCOU T-shirts.

The honorary chairperson for WOCOU 2002 is OU alumnus Steve Blackwood, star of NBC's "Days of Our Lives." He will make a special guest appearance Thursday, Oct. 10, at noon in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge to talk about his career as a soap opera actor.

"We're excited to bring back a famous alumnus to inspire students and show them what they can achieve after completing their education at OU," Miller said.

Blackwood, also a talented jazz musician, will be a special guest performer at the Association of Black Students (ABS) and Student Program Board (SPB) Talent Show Thursday, Oct. 10, at 8 p.m. in the Oakland Center Pioneer Food Court.

Show Your OU Spirit Day is Friday, Oct. 11, with the University Appreciation Dinner from 5 – 7 p.m. in the Oakland Center Pioneer Food Court. OU students, faculty and staff are invited to attend. The grizzly-inspired dinner will include bear cookies, black forest cupcakes, and a sticks and berries snack complementing the main course of apple wood-smoked turkey with dried fruit and sage dressing.

OU faculty and staff tickets for the University Appreciation Dinner can be requested by contacting Miller at jam@oakland.edu. Students can pick up their tickets at the **CSA Service Window**.

The campus will be hopping with other activities on Friday, Oct. 11, including a comedian/magician after the appreciation dinner, an open house at the Recreation and Athletics Center, and the Student Athletes Advisory Council Bonfire. It's OU students versus OU faculty and staff in a friendly game of basketball at 10:30 p.m. at the Athletics Center O'Rena.

Midnight Madness begins when the men's and women's basketball teams take to the court at 11 p.m. There's also a laser light show and an OU spirit contest. Contest winners will be drawn for the Great Golden Grizzly \$100 giveaway, compliments of the Office of Student Affairs, and two winter semester 2003 tuition scholarships, compliments of the Office of the President.

For more information about WOCOU 2002 events, contact the Center for Student Activities at (248) 370-2400 or csa@oakland.edu.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, October 7

- Noon – 1 p.m. Oakland Center Fireside Lounge — WOCOU kick-off, featuring the OU African Ensemble "Akwaaba" and Steel Band "Pan Jumbies." Free WOCOU T-shirts will be distributed to 500 people, and there will be free "Grizztracks" ice cream cones for everyone.

Tuesday, October 8

- 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. outside South Foundation Hall — OU's own Arts, Beats and Eats featuring a pumpkin carving contest, open jam session, "I Love You" art creation, roasted marshmallows, s'mores, cider and donuts. In case of rain, the event will be held in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge.

Wednesday, October 9

- 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Oakland Center Fireside Lounge and main hallway — OU Day of Champions with student and Greek organizations display of champions, giving students a chance to meet OU student leader champions.
- 4 p.m. Lower Athletics Fields — OU men's soccer game against Michigan State.

Thursday, October 10

- 11:30 a.m. Oakland Center Pioneer Food Court — Movie: "Bring It On" with free popcorn, peanuts and Cracker Jacks.
- Noon – 1 p.m. Oakland Center Fireside Lounge — Special guest appearance by OU alumnus Steve Blackwood from NBC's "Days of Our Lives," who will talk about "Everything You Wanted To Know About Being A Soap Opera Star!"
- 8 p.m. Oakland Center Pioneer Food Court — ABS and SPB Talent Show with \$500 in cash prizes to be given away and a special guest performance by OU alumnus Steve Blackwood from NBC's "Days of Our Lives."

Friday, October 11

- 4 p.m. Lower Athletics Fields — OU women's soccer against Western Illinois.
- 4:30 p.m. outside the west entrance of the Oakland Center — OC Expansion Groundbreaking Ceremony.
- 5 p.m. Athletics Center O'Rena — OU women's volleyball against Oral Roberts.
- 5 – 7 p.m. Oakland Center Pioneer Food Court — University Appreciation Dinner for students, faculty and staff. Entertainment by the OU African Ensemble "Akwaaba" and Steel Band "Pan Jumbies."
- 6:30 p.m. Recreation and Athletics Center Pool — Black and Gold OU Men/Women Intrasquad Swim Meet.
- 7 – 8 p.m. Oakland Center Pioneer Food Court — Friday Night Live featuring Comedian/Magician Tim Gabrielson.
- 7 – 11 p.m. Recreation and Athletics Center — Campus Recreation Family FREE Night. An open house for all OU students, faculty, staff and their immediate families.
- 8 – 9:30 p.m. Lower Athletics Fields Bonfire Pit — Student Athletes Advisory Council Bonfire.
- 9:45 – 10:15 p.m. in front of the Recreation and Athletics Center — OU's "Glow in the Dark" Fest. Free neon glow sticks will be given to the first 500 OU students standing in line for Midnight Madness.
- 10:30 – 11 p.m. Recreation and Athletics Center O'Rena — SPB OU Students vs. OU Faculty and Staff Basketball Challenge.
- 11 p.m. Recreation and Athletics Center O'Rena — OU's Fourth Annual Midnight Madness Party with the OU men's and women's basketball teams as they kick-off the 2002-2003 NCAA Division I basketball season. The event will feature free T-shirts, OU spirit contest, laser light show, a \$100 giveaway and two winter semester 2003 tuition scholarships giveaway.

SUMMARY

Do you have it? If you don't, chances are you'll catch it during The Spirit of WOCO (Week of Champions @ Oakland University) 2002. What is it? OU spirit, of course.

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