OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

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Kresge Library goes wireless

*By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer*

In a continuing effort to extend and enhance its computing services to the campus community, **University Technology Services** recently introduced wireless networking to Oakland University's **Kresge Library**. All currently enrolled students and active faculty and staff members now can access GRIZZNET, the university's wireless network, by using an 802.11b wireless network card. Wireless areas include all four floors and outside the building to the "Saints and Sinners" fountain.

"The wireless network allows Internet usage anytime, anywhere," said Kresge Library Dean Elaine Didier. "It gives students the flexibility of working where they choose and integrates the world of print and electronic resources. It also allows us to deliver online instruction anywhere in the library."

The wireless network also is a less expensive means of extending computing services to the building. Wired network drops would have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to Didier.

"The wireless system will need periodic upgrades, but this will be far easier and less costly than having to rewire the entire building," Didier said.

The launch of the library's wireless system follows the November 2003 launch of the Oakland Center's wireless network, which extends through the building's first floor. Wireless services also extend through a "corridor" between the buildings. UTS now is in the process of extending the network to Dodge Hall. The system will cover the building's second floor and into a portion of the Science and Engineering Building. A launch date is yet to be determined.

"Wireless networks work best in roaming, common areas, which is why it's being placed in places like the Oakland Center, Kresge Library and Dodge Hall," said Theresa Rowe, assistant vice president for University Technology Services. "Wireless networks allow us to extend services such as e-mail, Web surfing and limited network accessibility at a much lower cost than was previously possible."

Kresge Library will unveil its wireless network in a special reception on Wednesday, March 10, at 3 p.m. Laptop computers will be set up for demonstrations, and remarks will be given by Didier, Rowe and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Virinder Moudgil. Light refreshments also will be served.

For more information on GRIZZNET, including hardware and network card specifications, visit the **Frequently Asked Questions** page on the **University Technology Services** Web site.

SUMMARY
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