

OCC collecting it archives

Plans to celebrate in '89; seeks '66 class

Oakland Community College is only 22 years old but is already interested in collecting its history, according to Dr. Don Nichols.

Although much has occurred during the two decades, many documents of historic value are missing at the college, which has 28,000 students at five campuses.

Former dean at the Orchard Ridge Campus, Nichols was recently assigned to the college's central office as dean for special projects. One of his tasks will be to organize the college's official records in an archives collection currently located at the Highland Lakes Campus in Union Lake.

Nichols said the Archives Committee's task is similar to a family moving to a new house after 25 years: what to keep, what to throw away.

"SINCE 1965 the college has passed innumerable policies and

procedures involving thousands of employees and hundreds of thousands of students," he said.

"The board of trustees has dealt with mundane and complicated issues. All of these actions have legal and historical value.

"For example, state auditors make certain pieces of paper or records mandatory. The real question we must answer is which of these papers should be kept?"

In addition to formal documents, the college has collections of news releases and photos. Although there already are innumerable documents to sort through, Nichols is appealing to county residents for donations.

"We're hoping that citizens and former students who have publications from the college's first decade, particularly, will send them to us," he said.

For example, an individual who served on the institution's original Advisory Committee in 1964 sent along the publication informing the community that a college was in the planning stage.

Nichols also has a personal reason for finding items. He is writing a history of the 1960s and 1970s with particular emphasis on the community college movement.

"OAKLAND'S ATTEMPT to bring innovation to higher education in the form of audio-tutorial instruction

Criminal courts suit their counties

AP — County criminal court systems are as different as the communities they serve and the people who work in them, according to a Penn State University professor who has co-written a new book on the subject.

"This isn't the way people have been taught to understand courts, so they think it's not supposed to work this way," said James Eisenstein, co-author of "The Contours of Justice: Communities and Their Courts."

Among nine counties in three states, the authors studied three in Michigan: Oakland, Kalamazoo and Saginaw.

"A relatively small group of people handle almost all of the criminal work, and they all know each other," Eisenstein said.

"There may be five or six judges, 11 or 12 prosecutors, about the same number of public defenders and a handful of private defense attorneys."

EISENSTEIN wrote the book, which was released last month, with Peter Nordull of the University of Illinois and Roy B. Flemming of Wayne State University.

They investigated the criminal court systems in nine medium-size counties in Pennsylvania, Illinois and Michigan, interviewing 300 judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys and studying more than 7,500 cases.

Sentencing in Michigan was much harsher than in Illinois, they found. Sentencing in Illinois, in turn, was harsher than in Pennsylvania.

They also found drunken-driving cases go to trial far more often in Pennsylvania than in Illinois or Michigan.

CASES ARE often assigned differently in different courts. Some courts assign cases to judges on a random basis, while in other courts certain types of cases are routed to a specific judge, said Eisenstein, a political science professor.

OCC staffer joins leaders program

Mary Ann McGee, admissions officer at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College, has been chosen to participate in the "Leaders '88" program, an international leadership training program for two-year college women administrators.

The program is conducted by the League for Innovation in Community Colleges, a consortium, headquartered in Phoenix. Her program will cover supervision, human relations, planning, budgeting and discussing with national experts on the issues confronting two-year colleges during the next 15 years.

McGee's mentor is Daniel A. Jakson, president of the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills. The Ann Arbor resident joined OCC in 1987 after working in adult recruitment at Washtenaw Community College two years and for a Massachusetts college in 1979-82, where she was student activities coordinator at Orchard Ridge.

She has a degree in speech and theater from Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, and a master's in guidance and counseling from the University of Detroit, where she worked as an admissions counselor.



Mary Ann McGee admissions officer

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