

Engler OKs science center for OU

It looks as if Oakland University is on its way to getting its first new building in 13 years.

The \$38.6 million facility is included in a three-year capital outlay budget recommended March 19 by Gov. John Engler. OU President Sandra Packard praised Engler for recognizing the "pressing educational need" for the instructional/research facility.

Now it goes to the Legislature and approval of the funding must be given by the Joint Capital Outlay committee. The Legislature is

being asked to approve preliminary plans, which are already done, and funding for final plans, and authorize the start of construction.

"Oakland University has not been funded for a new classroom or research building for 13 years and we are critically short of space. The new science and engineering building will allow us to better serve our students and our region in these critical areas for Michigan's economy," Packard said.

The new building will also free existing space for renovation and use by health sciences programs currently held in residence halls due to the shortage of academic space.

Packard said the need for laboratories, new classrooms and faculty offices has reached "a critical stage." The new building will help educate more students, do more research projects and expand service, she said. "Oakland University and Oakland County have grown considerably in the

last 13 years and the new building will allow us to catch up with that growth."

In 1987, Oakland University received \$7 million from the state toward a \$9 million construction budget for two new wings and a renovation of the Kresge Library. Cost of the library work, including acquisitions and endowment, was \$11.5 million. O'Dowd Hall, a combination classroom-office facility, was completed 13 years ago.

The new science/engineering building will be linked to the existing science facilities, Dodge Hall of Engineering (1968) and Hannah Hall of Science (1961).

At a recent meeting, the Oakland University Board of Trustees saw new architectural drawings for the building, originally designed to reflect the high technology going on within. The new building is designed more traditionally to fit in with existing campus buildings. It will contain more teaching space and less for offices and hallways than originally designed.

Scientist uses frogs, sharks in research

Frogs and sharks are among the sources of new antibiotics to fight drug resistant bacteria, scientist Michael Zasloff will explain in his Wednesday lecture at Oakland University.

The public is invited to hear Zasloff deliver the Sigma Xi Science Lecture. He will speak at 8 p.m. in the Carriage House adjacent to Meadow Brook Hall.

Zasloff has gained wide recognition for his work on naturally occurring antibiotics and has been the subject of recent articles in "Science" and "Scientific American" magazines.

New sources of antibiotics have become important as bacteria have grown resistant to drugs derived from fungi or other organisms.

Zasloff has discovered a protein or peptide called magainin in the skins of African clawed

frogs. In laboratory testing it has proved stronger than some of the penicillin forms in use. He has also discovered a steroid-related compound in dogfish sharks.

Zasloff's shark compound, related to cholesterol, is called Squalamine. Early tests have shown it to be more powerful than magainin, with potential as an antifungal agent and antibiotic, and Squalamine may also have potential as an anticancer agent.

Sharks rarely get infections and almost never get cancer. Squalamine might be the answer in each case, its developers feel.

Zasloff is a scientist and teacher turned entrepreneur. He was chief of the Division of Human Genetics at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development when he first started looking at magainin.

AROUND OAKLAND

Learn about people

Oakland University's Continuum Center has a workshop called "Cultural Diversity" 9 a.m. to noon Friday, March 26, on campus near Squirrel Road and Walpole Boulevard in Auburn Hills.

The fee is \$39. Call 370-3033.

Participants will examine the facts through demographics and study the cultural, racial and gender differences between people. The workshop focus will be on beginning the process of change with steps to increase understanding and acceptance of a

culturally and socially different world.

Malcolm X widow

Betty Shabazz, widow of Malcolm X, will discuss her life with the late civil rights leader at 2:30 p.m. Monday, March 29, in the Oakland Center at Oakland University.

Tickets are \$7 for general public, \$5 for OU employees and alumni association members. Call 370-2020.

Shabazz is the director of communications and public relations at the Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York.

Role of women

Exploring the status of women in Oakland County is a free Women's History Month discussion Friday at Oakland University.

The program will be held at noon in Room 479, Varner Hall, and is open to all interested people.

Guest speakers for the discussion will be Anne Borg, executive director, Women's Survival Center, and Elaine Wright of The Haven. For additional information, call Michelle Piskulich in the OU political science department at 370-2362.

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