

Oakland U. grateful to special 'alumni'

By ROBERT A. SKLAR
ROCHESTER—At Oakland University (O.U.), an authentic alumni association remains a fervent dream.

Interdisciplinary and coeducational, O.U. simply lacks an old enough heritage to sustain such an association.

But alumni aren't the only sources of supplementary revenue available to colleges or universities. Frequently, such sources take the shape of exclusive clubs or foundations.

That's exemplified by O.U.'s steadily developing Rochester campus, slated to celebrate its 15th birthday Sunday.

WITH A TOTAL credit/noncredit enrollment approaching 19,500 and a faculty pushing 400, O.U. looks well on its way toward becoming a bellwether among state-supported universities.

Prime underpinnings for O.U.'s quick acceptance both among educators and students are the Oakland University Foundation and the President's Club.

Dr. Donald D. O'Dowd, O.U. president for nearly five years, says he rates these two special-interest groups as "vital to the university."

"We're extremely gratified for their members who've dedicated time and loyalty to a university from which none were graduated," he said.

INCORPORATED, the Foundation is geared for further enhancing O.U.'s already elaborate educational opportunities, which span academic, cultural and athletic pursuits.

Qualification for membership in the Foundation consists of expressing a commitment to refining O.U.'s myriad programs and projects.

Presently, the Foundation has 76 members, who officially assemble once a year. They next will meet in mid-October.

Membership in the President's Club demands making to O.U. a financial pledge of \$1,000 annually for a decade. Life members in the club represent

those members who have completed their pledge.

CONCEIVED IN 1965 as the Chancellor's Club, the President's Club, renamed in 1970, acts as O.U.'s chief nonpublic supplier of funds for new construction and facilities.

What's particularly notable about the club, observes O'Dowd, "is that it's composed mostly of people who belong to similar organizations at other great universities."

"So, in effect, these people are demonstrating how Oakland is worthy of the same support as their own alma maters," O'Dowd explained.

O.U. sprawls over 1,500 acres, part of which mark the former retreat of automotive pioneer John F. Dodge. When originally opened in 1959, O.U. had 570 students. It operated as a branch campus of Michigan State University (MSU).

TWO YEARS earlier, the late Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson donated their 1,400-acre Meadow Brook Farms estate and \$2 million to MSU for expansion purposes. Wilson was a lumber baron; his wife was the widow of Dodge.

Helping spur the Wilson's donation was a request made by the Oakland County Planning Commission. That commission requested the Wilson's to consider seriously donating their property for community education.

In 1970, the state legislature granted O.U. permission to sever its ties with MSU and, with its new independence,

gain the right to its own president and board of trustees.

Since the Wilson's stunning gift, O.U. has acquired an additional 104 acres. Meadow Brook Hall, the Wilson's Tudor-style mansion, has been transformed into a conference and cultural center.

EMERGING IN 1957, the Oakland University Foundation dates back to when O.U. resembled scarcely more than a promising concept.

Immediately following its emergence, O'Dowd relates, "the Foundation had no real direction and no one really knew what its fate would be nor who would be in it."

Still, continued O'Dowd, "the Foundation, right from the beginning, has served as a local base of guidance, encouragement and stimulation for O.U."

"It's definitely task-oriented, not symbolic nor honorary. It's designed to do a job, then go on to the next one."

THAT THE Foundation has been intimately caught up in O.U.'s "constant self-renewal is obvious," O'Dowd says.

"Just about everything O.U. did or is doing," he said, "the Foundation has at one time either supported, enriched or strengthened."

Principally, the Foundation functions as the agency which monitors O.U.'s internal fund-raising. The Foundation's fund-raising techniques ultimately are approved by O.U.'s eight-member board of trustees.



O'Dowd estimates that the Foundation has raised approximately \$15 million in O.U.'s behalf.

WITH THE Foundation's assistance, O.U. has built four residence halls and an observatory, bought laboratory equipment and library resources, provided scholarship stipends plus promoted Meadow Brook Hall, Meadow Brook Theatre and Meadow Brook Festival.

Eventually, the Foundation probably will change into an active association of alumni, according to O'Dowd.

As he put it, "Such an association will start to prosper once a significant number of our alumni reach levels of prominence in the community."

This year, O.U. will witness its corps of alumni swell to 10,000 members; the average age of the alumni is 28.

TO RECOGNIZE O.U.'s birthday celebration state-wide, Gov. William G. Milliken has proclaimed Sunday as "Oakland University Day in Michigan."

Foundation and President's Club members hopefully will turn out for

the celebration on campus, O'Dowd says, to examine "where we are and what we're accomplishing."

"After all," he said, "they've been tremendously important to many of our accomplishments."

Director for both the Foundation and the President's Club is Robert A. Dearth, special assistant to O'Dowd.

For details about Sunday's festivities as O.U., call this specially designated birthday telephone number, 377-4700.

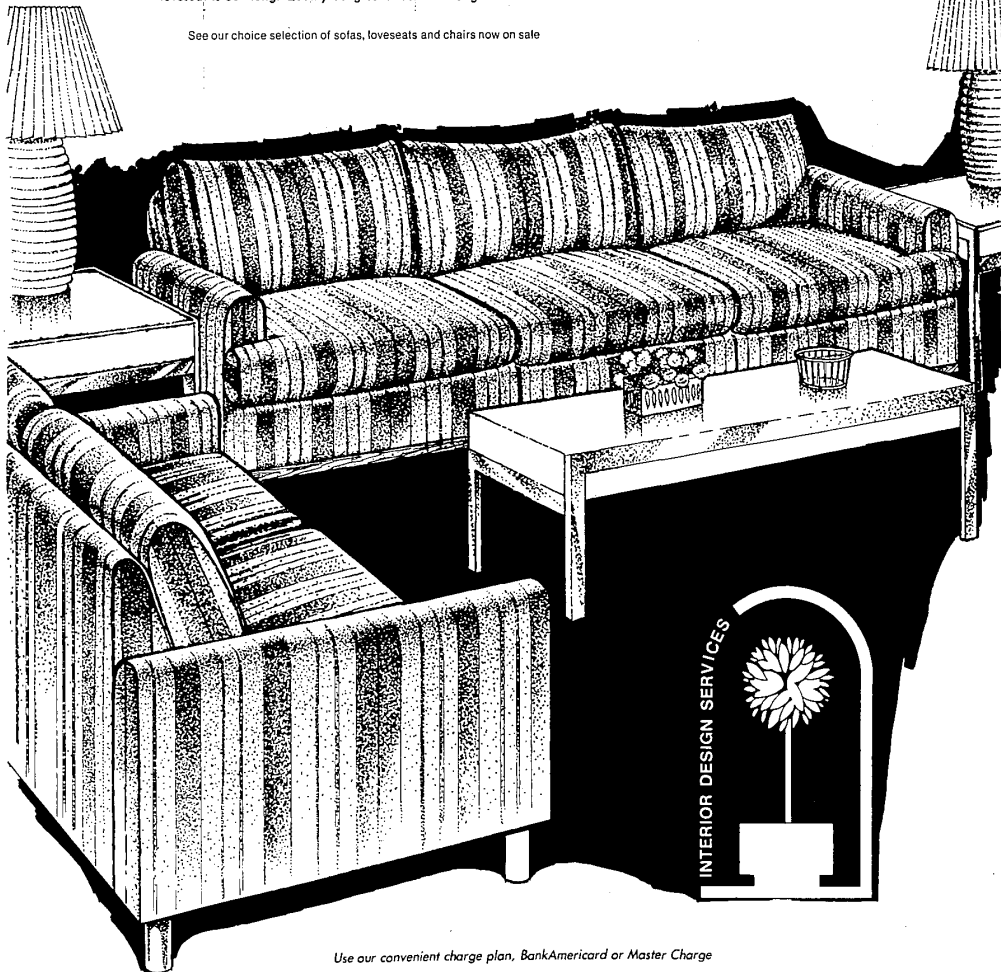
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Court reverses Clarkson

OAKLAND COUNTY — Another of the drug cases that had been dismissed by Southfield 46th District Court Judge James Clarkson has been ordered reinstated.

Circuit Judge James S. Thorburn ruled Monday that the case against Linda Keefe be reinstated and bound over to Circuit Court for trial. It was the fifth time in two weeks that Thorburn reinstated a drug case dismissed by Judge Clarkson.

One remaining case, against Grant West, will come before Judge Thorburn Sept. 30.

THE CASES were sent to Judge Thorburn after Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson filed suit against Judge Clarkson. Patterson charged that the judge violated his oath of office in dismissing the drug cases. The suit asked reinstatement of the charges and banning Judge Clarkson from hearing future criminal cases.

Judge Thorburn may rule on that facet of the Patterson suit—that Judge Clarkson be barred from hearing criminal cases—when he considers reinstating the remaining drug case Monday.

EACH OF the contested cases involves charges of unlawful delivery of either heroin or phenylephedrine. The five persons were arrested in four separate incidents in late winter and early spring.

Judge Clarkson dismissed the cases because he felt the five had been unfairly entrapped by undercover officers who arrested them.

Variety offered

A new series of two-hour mini courses called "Do Something Different" is being offered this fall at Oakland Community College.

As part of the OCC Short Course Program, "Do Something Different" will provide a six-week course.

The program at OCC's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington begins Oct. 8 and 10 at 7 p.m.

The enrollee has a choice of six classes from the following list:

Adventures in Awareness, Handwriting Analysis, Psychic Phenomena, Silva Mind Control, Talk Is a Four-letter Word, Handicraft Boutique, Extra Sensory Perception, Is Anybody Listening?, Palmistry, Hypnosis, Discovering the Real You, and the Presured Cooker.

Class details along with registration information and class schedules are contained in a Farmington Education brochure available by calling 642-4655.