

Party time at OU

Oakland sets its first all class reunion

By WAYNE PEAL
STAFF WRITER

It's not just an Oakland University reunion, it's a coming of age party.

Each of Oakland's estimated 33,000 alumni are invited to the university's first-ever All Class Reunion, Saturday, Oct. 3.

The event is billed as a milestone in Oakland's still-brief history.

"We've never had anything like this before but there are a lot of reasons why the time is right," said Colleen Ochoa of Waterford, a 1987 alumni who has been a driving force behind the event. "For starters, we're now 35 years old and we have a new president."

OU President Sandra Packard is scheduled to meet with alumni at an afternoon reception at Kresge Library, but Ochoa said many Oakland grads see the reunion as a way

to boost or re-establish business ties.

"We conducted a telephone survey of our alumni last year and we found out people were more interested in attending for professional reasons than even for social reasons," she said.

Not that there won't be opportunity for socializing. Luncheons, picnics, swim events and golf outings are all on the agenda.

But each of the university's schools and colleges are expected to hold their own reunions, allowing students the opportunity to boost the telephone numbers in their rolodex.

"One of the things that makes Oakland unique is that we're largely a commuter school with an average student age of 27," Ochoa said. "So, we're trying to tailor the event

to our students' needs."

A reunion of Oakland's 1963 charter class, its honors college and black alumni are also planned.

Entertainment ranges from matinee and evening performances at Meadow Brook Theater, a music festival at Varner Hall and a rock 'n' roll event in the Oakland Center Crockery.

Ochoa, a member of U.S. Rep. Bob Carr's staff, was joined by by OU residence hall administrator Jean Ann Miller of Rochester Hills and former OU employee Marion Burt of West Bloomfield in bringing about the event.

"They're really the ones who got it started," said Susan Jurkiewicz of the OU alumni relations office.

"This really is an OU Alumni Association event," added Burt. "We've had homecomings before, but never anything on this scale."

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Colleen Ochoa
event coordinator

While the event isn't designed to boost alumni contributions, Jurkiewicz acknowledged the heightened school spirit couldn't hurt.

Ochoa said she hopes the spirit extends throughout the metropolitan area.

"We feel Oakland University is a jewel of Oakland County and we want to let people know it's right here in their backyard," she said.

To attend the reunion, or for more information, call the alumni association at 370-2158.

OU picked for career development program

Oakland University is one of three universities that will be collaborating on a National Career Development Institute.

Oakland, the University of South Carolina and the University of Wis-

consin are participating in the institute. OU received a \$110,500 federal grant for first-year costs.

OU will conduct basic and advanced training in all career development areas for counselors and

other career development professionals.

Career development personnel from universities, agencies and government programs will be served

during the first year.

The OU Continuum Center and Adult Career Counseling Center, with free counseling on campus and in Pontiac, are units of the School of Education and Human Services.

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