

OU Campus to be Graced By Carillon Tower in 2014

by Irena Granaas

In an historic week that had already seen ground broken April 16 on a new, \$30 million, 500-bed student housing facility, Oakland University closed out strong with the April 19 groundbreaking ceremony for the new Elliott Carillon Tower.

The 151-foot tower is slated for completion in fall 2014 and will become the 14th carillon tower in Michigan, and only the fourth located on a university campus.

Longtime Oakland supporters Nancy and Hugh Elliott, whose generous \$6.5 million gift to the university will make construction of the tower possible, were on hand for the event.

"The Elliotts' remarkable gift will certainly come to symbolize the pride our community has taken in what we've accomplished, as well as the promise of even greater success in the future," said Oakland University President Gary Russi.

Dennis Curry, longtime friend of the Elliotts and local carillonneur, played a major role in preparing for the development, construction and programming for the carillon tower.

"The new carillon tower will not only become an icon for the university, but will also add an aural dimension," Curry said. "There will be a regular live playing schedule in addition to the

traditional quarter chimes. I am very fortunate to have been asked by the Elliotts to be involved in the development of the musical aspects of this instrument, to serve as the university carillonneur and to establish a program of education and training through the music school."

Mary Beth Snyder, vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, spoke of the importance of this significant addition to the Oakland campus in an exclusive interview.

"The whole idea of towers was imported from the great universities of Europe," she explained.

"They had bells and a clock that would symbolize to their learning community the passage of time, and the bells would ring out significant events in the life of the university, so when higher education developed in this country, particularly in the Ivy League, they imported that idea from European universities, and every campus along the East Coast that's more than 100 years old, you'll see a tower with a lovely clock and a set of bells.

"As higher ed moved Westward - to the University of Michigan, even Grand Valley State University - they all have towers with a large face of a clock and a set of beautiful bells."

Wikipedia defines a carillon as a musical instrument that is typically housed in the bell tower of



Nancy and Hugh Elliott

a church or other municipal building. The instrument consists of a number of cast bronze bells, which can be played individually or in groups to strike a chord, by striking a keyboard and by playing a pedal keyboard with the feet. The Elliott Carillon Tower will have 49 bells, to be designed and cast by the Verdin Company of Cincinnati and the Royal Bellfoundry Petit & Fritsen of the Netherlands.

Snyder explained that, for a university as young as Oakland is (56 years old), Oakland had the

good fortune to have donors who understood the symbolism and visual imagery of a tower of this kind.

The Elliotts decided to create a tower at Oakland University that would be able to compete on the level of other great universities, to have a center of campus life with a beautiful tower to bring the campus together.

"It will symbolize to the people driving by the campus there's something special back there, that it's not just a sea of cars in a parking lot," said Snyder.

REMINDER: Chrysler to Hold Suppliers Training Week May 6-10

Chrysler has invited all its suppliers to its first 2013 Supplier Training Week (STW) May 6-10 at Chrysler's world headquarters in Auburn Hills.

STW will offer 94 instructor-led training sessions in the areas of purchasing, risk management, engineering, quality, supply chain management, manufacturing, Mopar, materials engineering and finance.

To register for Supplier Training Week, visit the website at ChryslerPortal.Covisint.com or www.ChryslerTraining.com. Regular registration at \$100 will close on May 2.


Walk-in registrations will be accepted during training week at a fee of \$150.

Chrysler will provide daily meal vouchers with each registration.

The company will also offer with each registration a \$25 Mopar service voucher, which can be used toward the purchase of a service or product, such as an oil change or Mopar part, at any participating Chrysler dealership around the country.

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