

MAY 16, 2006

OSU alum named "Teacher of the Year" in Stillwater

Jayne Ann Williamson with Sangre Ridge Elementary School has been named Stillwater Public Schools' 2006 Teacher of the Year. Williamson was awarded the \$500 Larry Gish Memorial Award from the Stillwater Public Education Foundation and an engraved plate from Dearing's Printing. A 1989 OSU elementary education graduate, Williamson has taught in Stillwater schools for nine years, six of those years as a gifted education specialist at various elementary schools and the last three as an "all subjects" teacher for 4th graders at Sangre Ridge. A member of Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, Williamson is the spouse of Bruce Williamson, who is also an alum and works as a support manager in OSU Financial Information Management.

Wind Ensemble to make rare appearance in Japan

The Oklahoma State University Wind Ensemble is in Japan this week for a rare performance at the 37th Annual Yamaha All-Japan Band Directors Clinic. It is one of only 10 American bands to perform for the clinic in its 37 years. The OSU ensemble received an invitation for the clinic after professionals of the Japanese musical public reviewed its audition CD from a 2003 performance at the British Association of Symphonic Bands and Wind Ensembles in England. The 53-member ensemble will perform for about 2,500 Japanese musical professionals at the clinic in Hamamatsu, Japan. The group's trip is more like a tour, according to Dr. Joseph Missal, director of bands. The band will hold multiple rehearsals in Japan that are open to the public and perform another concert in Tokyo.

Parking lots west of football stadium to close

Effective June 5, OSU Parking and Transit Services will be closing lots 10, 10A, and 11 located west of Boone Pickens Stadium. The lots are being closed as the university begins the work to bowl the west end zone, creating a 60,000-seat, fan-friendly stadium that will offer a game-day experience second to none. To off-set the loss of parking, lot 6 will be open during summer break to faculty, staff, and students who display a valid parking permit. In addition, any vehicle with a valid OSU Parking Permit may park in the overflow parking lots. Parking in Overflow lots and riding THE BUS is a convenient, time-saving alternative for getting to campus. For more information about new parking lots, contact Parking Services at 744-6525 or visit www.parking.okstate.edu <<http://www.parking.okstate.edu/>> .

OSU student completes political leadership program

An OSU-Tulsa student is one of 11 nationwide who recently completed the inaugural semester of the AT&T Native American Political Leadership Program at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Blake Follis, a political science junior, earned the opportunity to spend a semester in the nation's capital while taking classes at George Washington, participating in hands-on internships and interacting with political leaders and policy makers. Follis said he plans to return to OSU this fall to finish his undergraduate degree and then apply for either law school or graduate school. The program is funded by a \$357,000 grant from AT&T Foundation.

Trennepohl Chair fundraising continues, event planned Saturday

Oklahoma State University supporters have surpassed the halfway point to their goal of raising \$1 million for the President Gary L. Trennepohl Chair in Leadership at OSU-Tulsa, thanks to generous donations from OSU alumni, faculty and other supporters. A donation of \$150,000 from Tulsa resident and long-time OSU supporter John Clerico put the total amount of donations at more than \$600,000. The endowed chair will be funded in part through proceeds from "A Stately Affair," a black-tie gala on Saturday at OSU-Tulsa.

Family fun trips in Oklahoma, next topic at Wellness Wednesday

With soaring gas prices affecting summer travel, the next Wellness Wednesday topic will be “Family Fun Trips in Oklahoma” and will be held Wednesday, May 24 at noon. Keli Clark from the Oklahoma Department of Tourism will be available to discuss travel destinations within the state. A special emphasis will be placed on some of Oklahoma’s hiking and biking trails and nature trails. Plenty of handouts will be available including Travel Guides, Event Guides, state maps and Trail Guides. The free lunch will also include a vegetarian option upon request. To register, please e-mail Kendria Cost at kendria.cost@okstate.edu or contact the SWC at 744-WELL (9355). Your registration must be received by noon Monday, May 22, to be included for the free lunch.

Family Safety Day Saturday at OSU-OKC

Free car seat safety checks highlight OSU-OKC’s first ever Family Safety Day, Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the OSU-OKC Precision Driving Training Center on Reno and Portland. In addition to the car seat safety checks, the free event will feature several give-aways while supplies last, including gun locks, fingerprinting cards, smoke detectors, bike flags, popcorn and snow cones. Participants will be able to pick up valuable safety information covering topics from tornado to internet safety. Kids can bring their bikes and helmets and enter the bike rodeo, get their faces painted, enjoy the moon bounce and obstacle course and take a stroll through OG&E’s Safety Town. Disney Radio’s Jordan the Rabbit will also be making an appearance at noon. For more information, call 945-3208 or visit www.osuokc.edu <<http://www.osuokc.edu/>> .

Wellness tip: Beat hypertension with more walking

Have high blood pressure? Exercise often helps. Consult your doctor and consider wearing a pedometer. It measures the number of steps or the distance you move each day. It tracks both structured exercise and everyday activity. One mile is usually 2000-2500 steps depending on stride length. Start sensibly and gradually increase your steps or distance. 8,000 to 10,000 steps per day is a great target. In six months, changes in your blood pressure and even in your weight may pleasantly surprise you. Wellness tips are brought to you by the OSU Sere-tean Wellness Center, dedicated to making OSU the Healthiest Campus in America. For more information about services for students, faculty and staff, call 744-WELL (9355).

Chamber appreciation event set tonight

Tonight is the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce’s annual Industry Appreciation Night at the Allie P. Reynolds Stadium. Read more about this and other topics in this month’s Stillwater Chamber of Commerce newsletter. Go to www.stillwaterchamber.org <<http://www.stillwaterchamber.org/>> .