

Task force appointed to address employee health care, wellness

Calling the constant increases in health care costs at OSU “unacceptable,” System CEO and President David Schmidly has created a broad-based, high-level task force to address the problem and explore all alternatives. The task force is charged with examining innovative avenues and options, while mapping the future of health care and wellness for the OSU System. “The task force will develop a plan to help stabilize costs and lead to improved health for the OSU community,” Schmidly said. “While there are no simple solutions, we can and will forge ahead to become the Healthiest Campus in America.” For more details, [click here](#) .

Lou Kerr receives national honor

The Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE) has selected Mrs. Lou C. Kerr as the recipient of its 2006 Special Recognition Award for her many years of distinguished public service and commitment. She received the honor at an awards banquet held yesterday at the 68th Annual Meeting of the ACHE in Los Angeles. Kerr, president and chair of The Kerr Foundation, Inc., has spent over 20 years committing herself to public service and the advancement of education, women, youth and the arts. For the past 15 years, she has dedicated her time and effort to partnering with OSU’s Spears School of Business to establish and help coordinate the annual Women’s Business Leadership Program for business professionals and students. Most recently, Kerr initiated a campaign to raise funds for the Jeanine Rhea/Oklahoma International Women’s Forum Professorship in the Spears School.

Black Awareness Week activities

The African American Student Association will be hosting several events during Black Awareness Week 2006 and you’re invited to attend.

Wednesday, Nov. 1 – 7 p.m. – 4th annual Meeting of the Minds in Engineering North Room #108. “Meeting of the Minds” provides a forum to facilitate unity and the understanding of diversity on the OSU campus. This forum also provides the opportunity for minority as well as non-minority student organizations to voice their opinions and concerns.

Thursday, Nov. 2, 5 – 7 p.m. – Soul Food Dinner at Kerr-Drummond Dining Hall. A complimentary meal where we ask you to play a role (at 6 p.m.) by offering everyone a brief overview of yourself and your role on the OSU campus. If you can attend, please inform Tiffany Nixon at the Multicultural Student Center by e-mail at tiffany.nixon@okstate.edu. This email address is being protected from spam bots, you need Javascript enabled to view it

“Hope not Hate” set for Thursday

Oklahoma State University will commemorate the five years since the Sept. 11 attacks with a town hall meeting on the future of U.S.-Muslim World Relations, set for this Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Wes Watkins Center International Exhibit Hall. The meeting entitled “Hope not Hate” is part of Arts and Sciences Week at OSU. The meeting, which is free and open to all, will feature Dr. Vincent Cornell, Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Middle East and Islamic Studies, Ms. Sarwat Husain, Executive Director of C.A.I.R. (Council on American-Islamic Relations), Dr. Raymond Habiby, Professor Emeritus OSU Political Science Department, and Dr. Seth Ward, Research Associate of the Institute for the Study of Israel in the Middle East. For more information, please visit www.AIDemocracy.org or www.ThePeopleSpeak.org

Department gets name change

Now that the OSU/A&M Board of Regents has made it official, the third-largest academic department in Oklahoma State University’s College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Sciences has a new name. What was previously called the department of agricultural education, communications and 4-H youth development is now the department of agricultural education, communications and leadership. Supporters say the new name more

accurately describes the primary academic majors and areas of scholarship, and makes the department easier to identify. The department has an enrollment of nearly 300 undergraduate students and more than 60 graduate students.

Option Enrollment Forms due today

Don't forget that health/dental/vision 2007 Option Enrollment Forms are due in Human Resources, 106 Whitehurst, no later than 5 p.m. today, Oct. 31. Forms received after 5 p.m. cannot be accepted. If you need help completing your form, please come to Employee Services, 106 Whitehurst. For more information, go to www.okstate.edu/osu_per or visit Employee Services, 106 Whitehurst, (405) 744-5449.

OSU student wins Chickasaw Nation honor

Congratulations to sophomore business major from Ardmore, Monica Seawright, who was recently crowned Chickasaw Princess during the annual pageant held earlier this month. Contestants were grilled in several categories from written essay to talent and poise to compete for the honor. Seawright will make several appearances over the next year on behalf of the Chickasaw Nation.

Alum named ag dean in Ethiopia

Yewlesew Abebe, who received her Ph.D. from the College of Human Environmental Sciences in 2002, has been named Dean of Agriculture at Hawassa University in Hawassa, Ethiopia. She is the first woman in the history of the university to have been named to a leadership role. Abebe credits HES Dean Patricia Knaub and her examples of women in leadership for inspiring her to consider the possibility of becoming a dean in a male dominated culture.

Alum wins national honor

Congratulations to OSU alum Dr. Rao Y. Surampalli, who received the American Society of Civil Engineers 2006 "National Government Engineer of the Year Award" at the organization's recent annual conference. Surampalli is engineer director at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Kansas City. He received an OSU Distinguished Alumni Award in 2001.

Annual Staff Awards and Recognition Program Thursday

The Annual Staff Awards and Recognition Program is set for Thursday (Nov.2) from 10 a.m. to noon in the Student Union Theatre. During the program, Distinguished Service Award recipients will be recognized, staff completing a five year increment of service in the year 2006 will receive service pins, staff completing the HRStar Performer, Ambassador, Leadership Development and the Advanced Leadership Development Programs will be recognized, and the 2006-07 Staff Advisory Council Scholarship recipients will also be honored. Refreshments will be served following the program. A complete list of 2006 Service Pin recipients has been posted at the following link, visit it to see if your name is listed. http://fp.okstate.edu/sac/awards.htm#2006_Service_Pin_Recipients .

Student Affairs Cook-off Challenge this Friday

The annual Student Affairs Cook-off Challenge to benefit United Way is set for this Friday (Nov. 3) from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. Entries are invited in six categories including chili, stew, salad, vegetable, salsa, bread, and dessert. You can also participate by eating—it's just \$5 for all you care to eat. A silent auction also will be held, and you can place your bids from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. This event is open to the public.

Salsa Ball on Saturday

Salsa fever continues to sweep across the state as Oklahoma State University's Latin Dancing and Cultural Club hosts its 7th annual Salsa Ball on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. in the OSU Student Union Ballroom on the Stillwater campus. The Ball provides an opportunity for everyone, from beginners to advanced dancers, to

enjoy live music and have a great time. This year's ball will feature one of Texas' top salsa bands. Free lessons will be provided from 8 - 9 p.m. for those wanting to learn the basics of salsa or for those who simply want a refresher. Tickets for the formal event will be on sale at the door for \$10. Formal dress is required, so no khakis, jeans or tennis shoes will be allowed. For more information, visit www.osudance.org or call Tamara Carnahan, Salsa Ball coordinator, at (620) 820-9373. Also go to <http://www.salsaball.com/> .

Pet Care Seminar on bugs that bug your pets

Dr. Jennifer Peters with OSU's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital will host a Pet Care Seminar on Tuesday, Nov. 7, starting at 7 p.m. to present information on fleas, ticks, heart worms, mites, hook worms, tape worms and more. Her discussion will include preventative measures for dog and cat owners and steps to follow to avoid contracting some of these infections yourself. The Pet Care Seminar will be held in McElroy Hall Auditorium located at the corner of Farm Road and McFarland in Stillwater. The seminar is open to the public. Parking, admission and light refreshments are complimentary. For additional information, contact the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences at (405) 744-7672.

Omega Phi Alpha to host Women's Health Day

Omega Phi Alpha, a service sorority on campus, will host Women's Health Day with a presentation by four physicians who will speak and answer questions on a variety of women's health issues on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 8 p.m. in Student Union Case Study 3. The topics will include ovarian/cervical cancer, breast cancer, STDs, HPV virus and others. There will be time at the start of the presentation for the women to write down and submit questions anonymously. The presentation is free and open to all women. For more information, phone (918) 906-3187 or email Davilyn.rich@okstate.edu. This email address is being protected from spam bots, you need Javascript enabled to view it

New honor society taking shape

Sigma Alpha Pi, the Society of Leadership and Success honor society, is in the process of being formed at OSU this fall. The society is a national organization with members at more than 200 universities, and membership is not contingent upon GPA or number of hours. It provides members and non-members with monthly video conferences from world renowned speakers and dignitaries via video conference and a success team/coach peer mentoring program. There is a one-time fee required for membership that helps to provide the speakers' program. The OSU chapter is looking for experienced as well as new student leaders. For more information, go to www.societyofsuccess.com, or contact nikki.ebert@okstate.edu This email address is being protected from spam bots, you need Javascript enabled to view it or stephen.haseley@okstate.edu. This email address is being protected from spam bots, you need Javascript enabled to view it

OSU Theatre Department to present "Glengarry Glen Ross"

The OSU Theatre Department will present Glengarry Glen Ross, Nov. 1-5 in the Jerry L. Davis Studio Theatre in Gundersen Hall on the Stillwater campus. The play is a story of four desperate Chicago real estate agents and what they're prepared to do to sell undesirable real estate. The all-male cast provides gritty, in-your-face dialogue and characters recommended for mature audiences only. The play will be presented nightly at 7:30 p.m. except for the Nov. 5 performance, which will be at 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5. For more information, contact the OSU Theatre Department's administrative office at (405) 744-6094.

OSU-Tulsa inviting public to participate in "topping out"

OSU-Tulsa President Gary Trennepohl and OSU supporters will make history tomorrow (Nov. 1), starting at 10:30 a.m. when they "top out" OSU-Tulsa's Helmerich Advanced Technology Research Center, by signing the base of the strobic fans that dominate the roof of the center. Several guided tours to the top of the building will give participants a chance to be part of "A Snapshot of History" that celebrates the construction progress. The building is expected to be completed by November of next year. For safety, participants are asked to wear long pants and flat, leather-soled shoes. No high heel, open toe, sling back or tennis shoes, please. Hard hats

and safety glasses will be provided. OSU-Tulsa is located at 700 N. Greenwood Avenue, near I-244 and Detroit Avenue, near the downtown business community. The event will begin under a tent in the West Lot near the campus entrance.

Pesta to present at next Friend of Forms

Dr. Duke Pesta, Department of English, will present “Dostoevsky, God and the Devil” at the next Friend of Forms set for Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 3:30 p.m. in Student Union Case Study 1 (4th floor). The presentation is free and open to the public.

Smartie Pants Trivia Night for United Way

Think you know trivia? Enter the first ever “Smartie Pants Trivia Night” benefiting the Stillwater United Way. Teams of trivia hounds are invited for an evening of trivia fun and prizes. OSU faculty, staff and students as well as members of the community are invited to team-up and prepare to answer questions from eight categories starting at 6 p.m. tomorrow (Nov. 1), at the Wes Watkins Center. Click [Smartie Pants Trivia Night](#) for more event information, a contact and a registration form.

Psychology Club to present documentary

The OSU Psychology Club will show the controversial documentary by Frederick Wiseman, “Ticut Follies,” about the treatment of patients at the State Hospital in Bridgewater, Mass., on Thursday, Nov. 2, at the Noble Research Center, room 106, at 5:30 p.m. The documentary was banned for more than 20 years and wasn’t allowed to be shown until 1992. See the documentary and hear Dr. Charles Abramson’s commentary on the film. Free refreshments will also be provided.

Lighten up Oklahoma! – Wellness Wednesday ahead

Join Brad Schmitt from the Oklahoma City All Sports Association Wednesday, Nov. 15 to discuss Lighten Up Oklahoma, a four-month competition that encourages Oklahomans to develop healthy activity and eating habits. Oklahomans are encouraged to form teams of two to 10 people and then go the distance! Success is recognized in two categories – weight loss and accumulated activity. The 2005 winners lost 21.8 pounds per person! The program will be held from noon - 1 p.m. at the Seretean Wellness Center. A free, hearth-healthy lunch will be served, but you must register by Friday, Nov. 10, at noon. To register, email Kendria at kendria.cost@okstate.edu. This email address is being protected from spam bots, you need Javascript enabled to view it or contact the Seretean Wellness Center at 744.WELL (9355).

Tickets on sale for annual Madrigal Dinner-Concert

The Student Union and Department of Music are partnering again for the 32nd Annual Madrigal Dinner-Concert. Madrigal Dinner is a university tradition in which the Student Union Ballroom is transformed into a medieval castle where lords and ladies entertain the court with musical renditions from days gone by. University Dining Services provides a dinner fit for royalty and the players make the event one you will not soon forget. This year’s theme, “Unrelenting Love: Music from Beyond the Alps,” features Madrigal songs of Italy. The event raises funds for scholarships for music students and benefits the Student Union Enrichment Fund. Tickets are available for \$30 each. There also is a limited allotment of OSU student tickets available for \$20 each. For more information, please contact Billie Blackburn at (405) 744-5231 or visit the Madrigal Dinner Web site at http://osunet.okstate.edu/alliedarts/madrigal_default.asp.

Wellness tip: Vegetable guidelines

The National Cancer Institute defines one serving of vegetables as 1 cup raw, 1 1/2 cup cooked, or 6 oz vegetable juice? Visit 5aday.gov to learn more about the importance of vegetables, how many servings you need per day, and why color matters. Wellness tips are brought to you by the OSU Seretean 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).

