

March 14, 2007

OSU is now home to state's most technically advanced telescope

Oklahoma's largest and most technologically advanced telescope now lives at OSU's H.S. Mendenhall Observatory. The telescope will be used to discover planets orbiting other stars, track asteroids that threaten to collide with Earth and measure the changing brightness of objects whose light output varies with time. Funding for the telescope came from a \$231,000 research grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. Research by several students was included in the grant proposal to demonstrate the need and qualifications of OSU's Physics Department. The dome housing for the telescope is the first of a two-phase construction process. OSU is working to raise the remaining \$100,000 to build the control center. For more details, click here

http://osu.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=596&Itemid=1 .

OSU retiree honored with endowed professorship

Dr. Jeanine Rhea, a recent Spears School of Business retiree who dedicated her classroom to promoting diversity in the workplace, will see her life's work continued through the Jeanine Rhea/Oklahoma International Women's Forum Endowed Professorship. The professorship, fully funded at \$250,000 and eligible for a state match, will support the Women's Business Leadership Forum, a program led by Rhea for more than a decade, as well as outreach activities, research and instruction in the area of business and leadership, including women's issues. Lou C. Kerr, current chair of the Oklahoma International Women's Forum, and president and chair of The Kerr Foundation, Inc., partnered with Rhea and the Center for Executive and Professional Development in the Spears School of Business at OSU to establish the Women's Business Leadership Program, which is now marking its 17th year. For more details, click here

http://spears.okstate.edu/secondary/creator.php?c=./info_pages/news/pr/spring2007/rhea.php .

OSU receives Spirit of the Family Award

Smart Start Payne County has selected Oklahoma State University as one of eight businesses to receive a "Spirit of the Family" Award for family-friendly practices in its work/life policies. Anne Matoy, assistant vice president and chief human resources officer, and Carey Warner, chair of the Staff Advisory Council, accepted the award on behalf of OSU during a recent luncheon. Each honoree was also given a piece of artwork to hang in the workplace.

Chemical engineering department to hold Chem-E-Car competition

OSU's School of Chemical Engineering will host its 7th annual Chem-E-Car Competition Thursday, March 15, starting at 4 p.m. with poster presentations at the Noble Research Center, followed by the actual races outside at 5 p.m. Squaring off with original designs for chemical-reactor powered vehicles, teams of second- and third-year chemical engineering students will vie for the chance to represent OSU in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers' Mid-America Regional Competition later this spring. OSU's competition, sponsored by ChevronPhillips, has become a preview of the regional contest as OSU teams have gone on to win their region and earn bids to the national finals for three straight years.

NSF Regional Grants Conference next week

The second National Science Foundation Regional Grants Conference of fiscal year 2007 will be hosted by Oklahoma State University on March 19-20 with optional FastLane workshops on March 18. Key officials representing each NSF program directorate, administrative office, the NSF Office of

Inspector General, and the Office of International Science and Engineering will participate in this two-day conference. The conference is considered a must, particularly for new faculty, researchers, educators, and administrators who want to gain key insight into a wide range of important and timely issues at NSF: the state of current grants; the proposal and award process; and current and recently updated policies and procedures. Oklahoma EPSCoR is providing \$100 discount for the first 100 faculty or students to register for this conference. For more information please visit <http://www.okepscor.org/events.asp>.

Holocaust survivor to tell story of hope

OSU Women's Programs will host a free lecture by Holocaust survivor Rosa Blum, "The Will to Live: A Story of Survival," Tuesday, March 27, from 2 – 3 p.m. at the Student Union Theater. Born in Romania, Blum was relocated with her family to the ghettos in 1944, and later, the extermination camps Auschwitz and Dachau. Her inspiring story includes an impassioned message of hope. The event is sponsored by OSU's Women's Studies program, Sociology Department, Women's Resource Center and Minority Women's Association, the Stillwater Public Library and the National Organization of Women.

Seminar: "Embodying Mindfulness"

The Buddhist Association of OSU presents Dr. Marty Heitz with the seminar: "Embodying Mindfulness," tomorrow (Wednesday, March 14) from 5:30 – 7 p.m. in room 214 Classroom Building. Heitz's presentation will address mindfulness as the alignment of body and mind with what is happening now, in this moment. Mindful practice is more than a focusing of mental attention and involves the relaxed awareness of one's whole body, a relaxation that invigorates one's entire being as it allows for acceptance of whatever arises, as it arises. The seminar will also probe what it means to be mindful and how it feels, how mindfulness is embodied. The seminar is free to the public. For more information, go to: http://www.okstate.edu/osu_orgs/ba/.

Benefits audit yields positive results

The Office of Internal Audits recently audited OSU employee benefits for fiscal year 2006 and found no errors. Specifically, the results of the audit revealed: "Employee benefits are processed in accordance with management's intention, employees' authorizations, and specific benefit guidelines and Management has implemented sound controls for monitoring employee benefits and tracking changes to ensure eligible employees receive appropriate benefits while ensuring those becoming ineligible have their benefit coverage ended." The audit report also noted, "Staff in Employee Services and HR Benefits is proactive, knowledgeable and service-oriented when working with employees on benefit-related programs."

"The Big Read" is *Bound for Glory*

As part of "The Big Read" campaign, the Stillwater Public Library will feature the movie, *Bound for Glory* (the life of Woody Guthrie), on Monday, March 19, at 7 p.m. Also plan to participate in brownbag discussions of *The Grapes of Wrath* at the Sheerar Museum on 7th and S. Duncan on Tuesday, March 20, at noon. To receive a free copy of the book, sign up for any group discussion. For more information about "Big Read" events, go to <http://www.library.okstate.edu/news/calendar.htm>, or join the Facebook group OSU-"The Big Read".

Annual cleaning of campus water system to start this week

The OSU Physical Plant will start its annual cleaning of the water distribution system on campus this

Friday. Every effort will be made to complete central campus operations during the weekend so that minimal inconvenience will occur. The cleaning should be completed by Monday, with the exception of a few outlying hydrants. A few customers may temporarily experience discolored, smelly or bad-tasting water. Customers that notice this problem should run the taps until it clears up. Maintenance and research personnel using tap water may want to inspect filters during or after this period. If there are any questions, please contact Steve Armstrong at 372-5524.

Latest smoking cessation product to be featured at upcoming Wellness Wednesday

If you or a loved one ever wanted to quit smoking, you should attend the Wellness Wednesday presentation set for March 21 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Seretean Wellness Center. Representatives from Pfizer Pharmaceuticals will discuss Chantix, the latest and most effective smoking cessation product on the market. Discussion will center around why it is different, why it is more effective than other treatments, and how it can be affordable for everyone. If you or a loved one has ever wanted to quit smoking, you should attend this session. A free, heart healthy lunch will be served, but you must register by Monday, March 19, at noon. To register, please contact the Seretean Wellness Center at 744.WELL (9355) or e-mail kendria.cost@okstate.edu

'Relay for Life' about a month away, mark calendars now

This year's Relay for Life is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14, on the OSU library lawn. The event starts with a dodge ball tournament at 3 p.m. on Friday, followed by the opening ceremonies at 6 p.m. This event is a national fund-raiser for the fight against cancer. It is an opportunity to remember and honor those whose lives were taken by cancer and also a chance to celebrate the lives of those who are winning the battle. The event will conclude at 7 a.m. on Saturday. This is a great community service project for anyone who wishes to participate. For more information on the Relay for Life, please feel free to contact Robert O'Neal, Relay for Life committee member, at robert.oneal@okstate.edu.

Vendors invited to host a booth at Staff Appreciation Day

Staff Appreciation Day is set for April 12 this year to honor and recognize the contributions made by the OSU staff. The day includes a picnic lunch, entertainment, door prizes and vendor booths. This year's event will be hosted on Willard lawn with vendor information booths on the Willard terrace, veranda and a few in Willard living room. If you would like to participate by providing door prizes or hosting a booth, please contact PR Chair Laura Payne at (405) 372-2989 or e-mail laura.payne@okstate.edu by March 26. Staff Advisory Council will provide vendors a table, two chairs and one lunch ticket. Set up time is 9:30 – 11 a.m. and take down at or before 1:30 p.m.

A&S nominations due

The College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Professor and TA nominations are due by Friday at 4:30 p.m. They can be e-mailed to Jessica Ward at juess.ward@okstate.edu. The College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Club applications are also now available. Club applications are due by March 26 in 202 LSE at 4:30 p.m.

Free Turkish classes are offered at Family Resource Center

Turkish is being spoken by over 200 million people in 10 countries. Free Turkish classes are taught at OSU Family Resource Center (located at Walnut & McElroy) on Mondays from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Classes are at the introductory level and in a friendly environment. Course materials are provided for free.

OSU Seretean Wellness Center – physical exams for just \$25

If you're an OSU employee with HealthChoice Insurance, the Employee Health Clinic is offering a complete physical exam, including a Chem-25 blood test, for just \$25. All physicals are conducted by Dr. Sam Earnest, internal medicine physician and Employee Health Clinic medical director. To take

advantage of this offer, please call (405) 744-7556 to schedule an appointment.

Management and professional development seminars

For the latest list of management and professional development seminars offered by the Spears School of Business, click here <http://spears.okstate.edu/cepd/content/openprograms/pdseminars.php> .

Wellness tip: CPR

Are you CPR certified? If not, consider contacting your local chapter of the American Heart Association or Red Cross. They offer CPR training courses in most metro areas. You may save the life of a family member, friend or neighbor! 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).