

August 31, 2006

Video added to online diversity self-study material

If you haven't joined the many employees who have attended an "Include Every Voice" diversity session, or your group is not yet scheduled for a session, you are encouraged to access the diversity self-study material online. The study encourages all employees to include their voice in the development of an action plan for diversity, which is a system-wide goal outlined in our strategic plan. An introductory video is now available on the web site, along with a copy of the self-study plan and reflective questions for all segments of the university. "It is important to the health and future of OSU that everyone engages in this process. We have been pleased with the input we have received," said Cornell Thomas, Vice President for Institutional Diversity. "The reflective questions provide a perfect vehicle to guide our day-to-day decisions and actions." To view the video and other material, click here <http://spears.okstate.edu/general_info/dean_office/> or go to the diversity website: <http://fp.okstate.edu/vpdiversity/>

OSU professor finalist

Congratulations to Dr. Donna Branson, Regents Professor in design, housing and merchandising in the College of Human Environmental Sciences, who is one of the finalists for the Homeland Security Award from the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation. The award honors individual citizens or companies that are making a measurable and constructive contribution in the area of homeland security, which will result in a significant and positive benefit to society. Branson has been nominated for her research and leadership in the development of a lightweight armored suit to save lives by protecting soldiers against flying shrapnel.

Supreme Court nixes "taxpayer bill of rights"

The Oklahoma Supreme Court has handed a defeat to backers of the proposed "taxpayer bill of rights," which means it will not be an issue in the election booth anytime soon. The state's highest court threw out a petition seeking a vote on the proposal, ruling that it lacked sufficient valid signatures. The justices indicated they agreed with a referee's report that tens of thousand of signatures were gathered illegally. Supporters, who claim passage of the proposal will reduce the growth of state government, are promising to continue to work to get it on the ballot.

National Press Club schedules Fullerton

OSU-Tulsa advertising professor Jami Fullerton will be appearing before the National Press Club in Washington D.C. on Sept. 21 to talk about her new book, "Advertising's War on Terrorism." Fullerton and co-author Alice Kendrick of Southern Methodist University will present their research contained in the book, which suggests that advertising could be an effective tool to improve America's image abroad. The National Press Club of Washington is the largest and most prestigious press club in the world with a membership that includes top national and international reporters. For more information, click here <http://osu.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=276> .

Scholarships available for Celebration of Books

The OSU College of Education is providing 100 full scholarships for Oklahoma high school English teachers and librarians to attend the Celebration of Books at OSU-Tulsa Sept. 29-30. The \$65 scholarships will be awarded on a first come basis to English teachers and librarians who apply by e-mailing their school affiliation, job title, and contact information to teresa.miller@okstate.edu by Sept. 12. More than 70 writers, artists and musicians are set to participate in the Celebration of Books, a premier event for the university's Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers, which will host a weekend of panel discussions, writing workshops, presentations, live interviews and book signings at OSU-Tulsa. Tickets are available by calling 918-596-7111 or by visiting www.myticketoffice.com <<http://www.myticketoffice.com>> . For a complete schedule of events, visit www.poetsandwriters.okstate.edu <<http://www.poetsandwriters.okstate.edu>> .

City-wide household hazardous waste event set for late September

The City of Stillwater will sponsor a household hazardous waste collection event Saturday, Sept. 23 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the parking lot at Ninth and Lowry. Citizens are encouraged to bring unwanted household pollutants and drop them off for recycling at no charge. A City of Stillwater utility bill, drivers license with Stillwater address, or Oklahoma State University student I.D. is the only requirement for participation. Any household pollutant including pesticides, household cleaning products, oil, mixed fuels, fertilizer, antifreeze, automobile batteries or rechargeable batteries and paint will be collected. Help the City of Stillwater keep these household pollutants out of local landfills, storm and sanitary sewer systems. For more information, or to volunteer to help with the event, contact Doug Gable at (405) 533-8482 or email dgable@stillwater.org.

Register now for technology and education “IT Summit” in October

You are invited to the largest IT Summit in the state and the admission is only two cans of food, at the door, to be donated to the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. The IT Summit, a technology and education conference, is set for Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 11-12 at the Tulsa Convention Center. It will feature exhibits, speakers and an IT disaster management panel. Visit <http://theitsummit.com/tulsa.html> for more details, and to pre-register.

Wellness tip: Simple exercise

If there is no medical reason for you to refrain from doing this simple lower body exercise, our fitness expert recommends you give it a try: stand behind a chair, with hands on chair back. Feet should be slightly wider than shoulder width apart, with toes pointed at 2:00 and 10:00. With hands on your chair back, slowly squat toward the floor, keeping your back straight, then, slowly rise to standing position. Repeat about 10-25 times. This simple move can be great for toning and strengthening the lower body, and can be done anywhere. 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).

“Staff Appreciation Day” for Cowboys’ opener

The Cowboys football season will officially get underway this weekend as the Pokes face Missouri State. It is “Staff Appreciation Day,” so OSU employees can buy a ticket for \$20. The game starts at 6 p.m. at Boone Pickens Stadium.