

Pulitzer winner to speak during OSU Research Week

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jared Diamond, hailed for "marrying science to history with spellbinding prose," is scheduled to speak at OSU Thursday, Feb. 23 about his latest book, "Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed." The public is invited to attend the free presentation, a part of 2006 OSU Research Week, at 7 p.m. in the OSU Alumni Center's Click Hall.

What makes certain societies especially vulnerable to collapse? Diamond, who won a Pulitzer by examining how and why Western civilization came to dominate much of the world, takes the next step by tracing the environmental catastrophes that marked the collapse of some of the greatest civilizations. What can we learn from them and what can we do differently to avoid their fates? How did other societies avoid collapse?

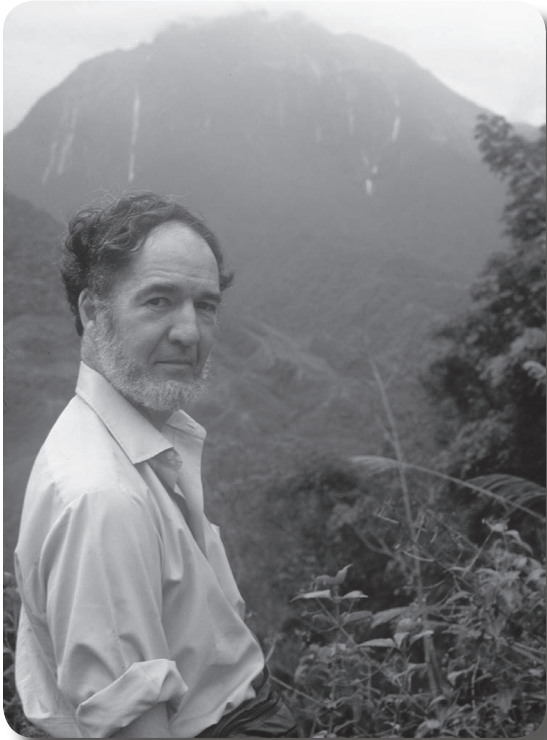
"We [the United States] used to think of globalization as 'us' sending 'them' our good things, like the Internet and Coca-Cola, but particularly in the time since September 11th, we've realized that globalization also means that they can send us their bad things, like terrorists, cholera and uncontrollable immigration," said Diamond during a speech at Princeton University.

OSU System CEO and President David Schmidly said, "We are extremely fortunate to have Jared Diamond visit OSU. Through his teaching and writing he has provided incredible insight and raised profound questions. I highly recommend his books and encourage everyone concerned about our society and our future to hear him speak on our campus."

Diamond serves as a professor of geography at UCLA. He also spent several years as a professor of physiology at UCLA's School of Medicine. He began his career in physiology and expanded into evolutionary biology and biogeography, the study of geography and human society.

Last summer, PBS featured Diamond on a series of National Geographic Specials that highlighted the lessons the biologist had learned in his 17 expeditions to Papua, New Guinea.

"People have a misunderstanding that geography means environmental determinism, and that



poor countries are doomed to be poor and they should just shut up and lie down and play dead," Diamond said in an article related to the series. "But in fact, knowledge is power. Once you know what it is that's making you poor, you can use that knowledge to make you rich."

In addition to the Pulitzer Prize for general non-fiction awarded Diamond for his book, "Guns, Germs, and Steel: the Fates of Human Societies," he also received Japan's International Cosmos Prize. In 2000, he was awarded the United States' highest civilian scientific award, the National Medal of Science, for his research and discoveries in evolutionary biology.

Copies of Diamond's book will be available, and the author will conduct a book-signing following his talk. Books may be purchased through bursar account, credit card and cash.

For a complete schedule of the activities for OSU Research Week, go to researchweek.okstate.edu

OSU SPIRIT conference set for Feb. 23-24

The Institute for Research in Information Systems (IRIS) in the Spears School of Business will host SPIRIT 2006, Feb. 23-24.

The Symposium on Progress in Interdisciplinary Research in Information Technology will feature a full day of the latest technical and organizational developments in such areas as business intelligence, security issues, data mining, electronic commerce and knowledge management.

The symposium will feature guest speakers and an industry panel, according to Dr. Ramesh Sharda, Regents professor and ConocoPhillips Chair of Technology Management at OSU.

"Our conference should be of interest to a variety of individuals in the IT industry and we are especially happy that we will

again be able to offer a panel of experts from inside the industry to provide solid insights for students and others considering a future in IT," said Sharda, who also serves as director of IRIS in OSU's Department of Management Science and Information Systems.

The Symposium will start Thursday in the ConocoPhillips OSU Alumni Center with three guest speakers including Dr. Hsinchun Chen, University of Arizona, who will present "Intelligence and Security Informatics: Framework and Case Studies." After lunch, Dr. Vallabh Sambamurthy, Michigan State University, will speak on "Value Relevance of Peripheral Developers in Open Source Projects." Dr. Robert W. Zmud, University of Oklahoma, will make the last

presentation of the day, "Managing Peer-to-Peer Conflicts in Disruptive Information Technology Innovations: The Case of Software Reuse." A reception and dinner will follow.

The conference will conclude Friday morning at the Wes Watkins Center with an industry panel discussion that will focus specifically on career opportunities in the information technology industry. The panel - featuring IT experts from Microsoft, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, CGI-AMS, HostBridge and Devon Energy - will offer insiders' views on realities of the IT job market.

The conference is free, but pre-registration is required. To register, visit <http://iris.okstate.edu/SPIRIT2006>.

Have you met... Nick Materer

The fruition of a childhood interest in explosives, Dr. Nicholas Materer's research involves methods to deactivate them that will make the work of military and police bomb squads safer. With funding from the Oklahoma City Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism, Materer and Dr. Allen Apblett have demonstrated the ability to chemically neutralize common explosive compounds. The project is one aspect of Materer's interest in the initial interface of substances. As a member of OSU's Chemistry Department and an expert in experimental surface science, he is also leading studies on fundamental chemical reactions that play a critical role in the manufacturing of computer chips and the cleanup of toxic environmental sites.

Attend Materer's presentation Thursday, Feb. 23 during OSU Research Week to learn more about his group's work. It will be held at 3:30 p.m. in 103 Physical Sciences.



Homeland security research by chemistry Associate Professor Nick Materer (right) and his colleague Dr. Allen Apblett involves methods to neutralize explosive compounds commonly used in bomb-making.

Perspective



The STATE of Research

A more important role in growing Oklahoma's economy

STEPHEN W.S. MCKEEVER, VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Oklahoma State University made great strides in research this past year with support from state and federal government, industry, faculty and staff, and most importantly, the citizens of Oklahoma. We are encouraged by the STATE of Research and the response to our progress.

With state funding we are moving forward with plans for a new research building on campus that facilitates interdisciplinary research among researchers; a very generous gift from ConocoPhillips of up to \$2 million and a research building in Ponca City for a national sensor research center will ensure the rapid development and transfer of technology to the marketplace; an exceptional gift from the Helmerich family has enabled the construction of the Advanced Technology Research Center on the OSU-Tulsa campus; and Gov. Henry in his "State of the State" address acknowledged the need for further investment in sensor research at OSU.

After 9/11, OSU received state funding to develop new sensor technologies in response to the national homeland security initiative. OSU responded quickly and continues to develop new sensor technologies for defense, biomedical, space and many other applications. OSU built new research facilities on campus and at the Oklahoma Technology and Research Park to compete for federal funds. A recent report shows that through the end of FY05, OSU had leveraged \$16.2 million of the state investment to attract another \$51.5 million in additional external funding for a return of 3:2:1.

OSU research is evolving into an enterprise that encourages its faculty to act as entrepreneurs in technology transfer activities, leading to new startup companies, patents and licenses and royalty income - all of which have economic benefits for faculty, the university and the state. Since FY2000, 11 new patents have been issued, four license agreements negotiated, six startup companies formed and license income from all sensor patents increased to \$1,265,906. Total royalty income from all research inventions now stands at approximately \$1 million annually.

OSU sensor technologies commercialized by private firms include a personnel radiation monitor, a corrosion sensor, optical sensors to detect plant nutrition and many others. OSU researchers are currently working to make sensors deployed in enemy territory more resilient to enemy attacks so that, if captured, U.S. military can detect if the sensors have been tampered with and contain false information. The longer-term economic impact of these activities for everyone can be calculated in the form of new jobs, businesses and revenues.

As you can see, OSU research plays a more important role than ever in growing the state economy. If you would like more information about OSU research programs, we have redesigned our website so that you can easily locate a particular technology or program. Just go to www.vpr.okstate.edu/researchcentral and click on the technology area of your choosing.

Scheduled Research Tracks

Sponsored Research

- Ethics and Responsible Conduct in Research - February 20
- Electronic Sponsored Research - February 21
- Making an Approach to NSF - February 21

Arts

- Recent Works by Tennessee Artist, Kim Beck - February 20-24
- Playboy of the Western World, OSU Theatre - February 22-24

Environmental

- Tallgrass Prairie Ecological Research Station - February 22
- Pulitzer Prize Winning Author - Jared Diamond - February 23
- Environmental Science Presentations in OSU Research Symposium - February 24

COE student named Holmes Scholar

Dalawna O'Guin, a Ph.D. student in school psychology in OSU's College of Education, has been named a Holmes Scholar.

The Holmes Scholars Program was established in 1991 to enrich the scholarly experience and professional training of talented men and women who are underrepresented in leadership positions in American universities and professional development schools.

"We are proud to have Dalawna named as a Holmes Scholar," said Dr. Pamela Fry, dean of the College of Education. "She joins a select group of young educators nationwide who show exceptional promise as future leaders."

The scholars are enrolled in Holmes Partnership institutions, a network of universities, schools, community agencies and national professional organizations working in partnership to create high quality professional development and significant school renewal to improve teaching and learning for all children. More than 400 students have participated in the network, and nearly 100 are currently in tenure-track positions at colleges and universities across the country.



Dalawna O'Guin

O'Guin also recently received the Charles and Karen Cunningham Scholarship in the OSU College of Education. She is the daughter of Darl and Kathy O'Guin of Okmulgee and Deborah O'Guin of Okmulgee. A 2000 graduate of Okmulgee High School, she received her B.S. degree in human development and family science in 2003 and her master's degree in educational psychology in December 2005, both from OSU.

"Being selected as a Hol-

mes Scholar provides me with a vast amount of opportunities to collaborate with others in educational fields and advocate for minority leadership in educational settings," O'Guin said. "I also appreciate the opportunity to represent the university and the school psychology program in this way."

O'Guin is guaranteed a half-time graduate assistantship for two semesters and will have a paid trip to the next national Holmes meeting.