

Healthcare crisis mounts as boomers reach retirement age

The first of more than 78 million baby boomers are turning 60 this month, and the United States will face greater and greater challenges to provide for its elderly. An OSU researcher is urging aging Americans and those who love them to make sure Congress understands their needs.

"What I heard over and over again was that Congress readily admits it doesn't have all the answers and it really wants help deciding priorities on issues that are going to affect a growing number of elderly right away," said Dr. Kathleen Briggs, professor and head of the Human Development and Family Science department in the College of Human Environmental Sciences.

Briggs recently attended the White House Conference on Aging in Washington, D.C. Appointed by U.S. Senator Tom Coburn to represent Oklahoma, she joined 1,200 other delegates to help develop and approve a "top ten" list that Congress and the president are expected to review as early as March.

"The conference is held only once every decade," Briggs said. "The delegates there represented a wide range of expertise from

researchers like me to those providing services directly to the elderly so it was a real privilege to participate."

Issues on the top ten list that emerged from the conference included: greater accessibility to care for rural elderly; strengthening and improving Medicare and Medicaid; better training for healthcare professionals and other elderly care provider; and improved coverage for mental health assessment and treatment, which goes beyond addressing Alzheimer's and dementia among the aged.

"One of the problems we face today is that services for seniors are often concentrated in higher population areas, but Oklahoma is a largely rural state," Briggs said. "Many in our rural communities won't be properly served if we don't do something about making services more accessible for them."

Other critical issues included

ensuring that older Americans have transportation options to maintain their mobility and independence while improving state and local delivery systems. Reauthorizing the Older Americans Act, support for public and private sector initiatives and

promotion of non-institutional care models also made the list headed for Capitol Hill and the White House.

While Briggs was glad to be among those who offered some of the first recommendations on aging

issues in the last ten years, she urges others to get involved.

"Stay tuned, because this is really going to be important," she said. "In the meantime, let your congressional delegation know what your needs are because your voice is important, people are listening and you can make a difference."

For more information on aging issues and terminology, visit www.whcoa.gov.



Kathleen Briggs

SGA Speakers Board brings celebrated poet, author to campus

Nikki Giovanni, the Grammy-nominated and three-time NAACP Image Award-winning poet, author and professor, will speak on Jan 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wes Watkins Center as part of OSU's Martin Luther King Day observance.

The program, which also helps kick off Black History Month, is a presentation of the OSU Student Government Association Speakers Board. Tickets will be available at the door and are free for students and \$5 for non-students.

Giovanni, one of the most widely read American poets, prides herself on being "a black American, a daughter, a mother and a professor of English." Inspiring readers and critics alike since 1968, she has established herself as a best-selling poet, author and essayist. Her focus is on the individual and the power one has to make a difference in oneself and, thus, the lives of others.

All but one of Giovanni's nearly 20 books are still in print. Her book, "Blues: For All the Changes," was an L.A. Times bestseller, marking the first time a poet made the list. Other acclaimed works by Giovanni include "The Selected Poems of Nikki Giovanni," "The Love Poems of Nikki Giovanni," "The Sun Is So Quiet," "The Genie in the Jar and Peppermint Dreams," and "Shimmy Shimmy Shimmy Like My Sister Kate: A Look at the Harlem Renaissance Through Poems." She also has a CD, "Nikki Giovanni in Philadelphia."

Her latest publications, "The Collected Poetry of Nikki Giovanni: 1968-1998" and "The Prosaic Soul of Nikki Giovanni," were released at the end of 2003.

The recipient of the Langston Hughes Award for distinguished contributions to arts and letters, Giovanni's numerous recognitions include many honorary



Nikki Giovanni

doctorates, awards and being named "Woman of the Year" by three different magazines. "Love Poems" received the NAACP Image Award in 1998 and "Blues: For All the Changes" received the same award in 2000. Her self-narrated CD "The Nikki Giovanni Poetry Collection" was nominated for a Spoken Word Grammy in 2004.

Since 1987, Giovanni has taught writing, poetry and literature at Virginia Tech, where she is a University Distinguished Professor.



Members of the Construction Management Society, OSU's student chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), last semester raised \$6,000 and funded stipends for five students who transferred to OSU following Hurricane Katrina. From left: CMS president Wes Dehart; former New Orleans area students Ashlie Washington, Kirsten Morrison and Alex Kozicki; and Dr. Dana Hobson, professor and head of Construction Management Technology, appear during a luncheon the department hosted in December for the scholarship recipients at the Atherton Hotel. Not pictured are recipients Karen Preddy and Rachel Taylor.

Perspective



Architecture 'building'

Architecture flourishes in the campus master plan

Dr. Karl Reid, dean of the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology

Last month, we had the pleasure to announce that Oklahoma State University had been selected by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation to receive \$14.8 million to renovate and expand facilities for our School of Architecture. This is the single largest gift OSU has received from a private foundation. Later this month, architecture faculty, students and alumni will thank representatives of the Foundation for this marvelous gift.

The seeds for our proposal were planted more than ten years ago, but its development really began to build momentum over the past three years. It was vital for us to be very decisive as we presented our needs to the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation. They have an extremely careful review process and fund only a small number of deserving projects each year.

Thanks to the efforts of numerous persons in the university and the Oklahoma State University Foundation, President David Schmidly, Regent Burns Hargis and Professor Randy Seitsinger, head of the School of Architecture, were able to present to the Foundation Board of Directors a comprehensive proposal which outlined the concept of the project and how the new building would tie into the academic fabric of the campus.

The new building will allow needed expansion

of design studio, gallery, and architectural library space; new classrooms and faculty offices; and a state-of-the-art auditorium with a connecting gallery which will serve broad needs of the campus and many other academic units.

Our success in gaining approval from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation is attributable to several factors, not the least of which is our outstanding architecture program. The program is clearly one of the nation's best as demonstrated by the incredible success of our students in national and international competition.

The favorable response to our proposal was also because this renovation and expansion was presented as components of the university's strategic plan and campus master plan. The new building will be one of 11 academic facility projects to begin within the next five years. It will serve as a gateway to the last sector of the central campus to be developed.

I believe the decision made by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation to support our project was a response to a clear vision of something much greater than a simple expansion of infrastructure. During this unprecedented period of investment at OSU, the Donald W. Reynolds School of Architecture Building will stand as a symbol of educational excellence for our university and our students.

OSU senior wins George J. Mitchell scholarship

Kara Cook, a senior from Stillwater, has been named one of 12 national recipients of the 2006-2007 George J. Mitchell Scholarship.

Cook, the first OSU student ever to receive the coveted Mitchell award, will use the fellowship to pursue a master's degree in Anglo-Irish Literature at University College in Dublin, Ireland.

"I want to congratulate Kara on this tremendous achievement," said OSU System CEO and President David Schmidly. "The Mitchell has, in its eight-year history, become a highly prestigious award, due to the limited number of awards they give out and the large number of applications. Kara's success once again shows the quality of the education and

campus experience at OSU. I also congratulate the faculty who taught her, and the many students who worked alongside her."

Launched in 1998, the Mitchell Scholarship recognizes outstanding young Americans who exhibit the highest standards of academic excellence, leadership and community service. Administered by the US-Ireland Alliance, a non-partisan, non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., the Scholarship is named in honor of the pivotal role the former U.S. senator played in the Northern Ireland peace process.

The Mitchell Scholarship

program links future American leaders to the island of Ireland by a year of graduate study at a university in Ireland or Northern Ireland. Although still relatively new, the award has become one of the nation's most prestigious and intensely competitive fellowship programs.

This year's competition featured 236 applicants from 171 colleges and universities.

Cook, a graduate of Stillwater High School, will receive her bachelor's degree in English and political science this spring. She is the daughter of Lones Frank Cook and Debra Givray, now of Highlands Ranch, Colo.



Kara Cook

Entrepreneur to offer duplicate for success

Kinko's founder Paul Orfalea will talk about his company's model for success in upcoming presentations set for both Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

Orfalea will present "Dreams Happen: the Kinko's Model of Entrepreneurial Success," Wednesday, Jan. 25 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at a Tulsa Business Forum in the Crown Plaza Hotel. He will speak again Thursday, Jan. 26 at an Executive Management Briefing set for noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Cox Business Center in Oklahoma City. Both events are sponsored by Oklahoma State University and its partners.

Orfalea founded Kinko's in 1970 at a rented location that was so small he had to move the copy machine out to the

sidewalk to operate it. Kinko's is now the world's leading business services chain with 1,200 stores worldwide.

Much of Kinko's success can be traced to Orfalea's efforts to inspire employees to share freely their ideas on organizational decisions. In part due to his generous incentive programs to stimulate creative thinking, Fortune Magazine named Kinko's to its list of the "100 Best Companies to Work for in America" three consecutive years.

Orfalea retired as Kinko's chairman in 2000, assuming the

role of "chairperson emeritus." He is involved in a range of activities with venture and asset management companies. Orfalea also devotes much of his time to his family foundation and raising awareness for "family friendly" workplace policies.

Table sponsorships and individual reservations are available through the OSU Center for Executive and Professional Development. For more information call toll free 1-866-678-3933 or e-mail cepd@okstate.edu. Online registration is available at the CEPD Web site cepd.okstate.edu.



Paul Orfalea