

OSU TODAY

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Jennifer Paustenbaugh, professor and associate dean of OSU Libraries for Planning & Assessment, and Robert Darcy, Regents Professor of political science, co-authors of "Oklahoma Women's Almanac."



OSU professors, students publish "Oklahoma Women's Almanac"

As the nation celebrates Women's History Month this March, two Oklahoma State University professors are celebrating women's contributions in their new book, "Oklahoma Women's Almanac."

Professors Bob Darcy and Jennifer Paustenbaugh, along with a team of their students, have released the first almanac to focus exclusively on the status and accomplishments of Oklahoma women.

"From politics and business to education and the arts – every aspect of Oklahoma life has been shaped by women who were as unafraid of failure as they were of shaking cultural norms," Gov. Brad Henry wrote in the book's foreword.

From the first woman sheriff in 1939, Grady County's Mrs. Emma Bond, to Oklahoma's 2001 status as the state with the highest female incarceration rate, the book paints

the lives of Oklahoma's women through biographies, pictures and statistics.

Darcy says Oklahoma's story is important to tell because it is rich but often marred with misperceptions.

"Women's suffrage in Oklahoma is often seen as unprogressive, but that's not true," Darcy said. "The (Oklahoma) culture favored women's political rights at an early period but politics frustrated appropriate legislation. The law held women back.

"This book will help correct some of those misperceptions and raise awareness of important issues facing Oklahoma women," he said.

Work on the project afforded 24 students the opportunity to learn about Oklahoma icons, conduct research and become published.

"I really appreciate Dr. Darcy and his willingness to get students involved," said Lori Allen, who con-

tributed to the project. "Gathering data, conducting field research and getting published is an opportunity not many undergraduates get."

Darcy said the students were an integral part of the project.

"Without them this book would never have been realized," he said. "This was an opportunity for them to tell a story and to give something back to the state of Oklahoma."

The 576-page book is an official Oklahoma Centennial project and is co-sponsored by the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women and the OSU Women's Archives.

The book is available for \$24.95 plus shipping online at <http://almanac.okstate.edu>. All proceeds will support future publication projects funded by the OSU Women's Archives, which strives to preserve the stories and document the accomplishments of Oklahoma's women.

Perspective

The Dawning of the 20th Century

June 6, 1897, Oklahoma A&M College Commencement remarks by Jessie Thatcher Bost, the university's first woman graduate



We are standing now in the dying light of the 19th century and in the dawning of the 20th. If you and I could have chosen when to exist, I think there could have been no more inspiring time than now. Look back 50 years and from the dim twilight of the tallow candle we now stand in the brilliant electric light of this year, eighteen-hundred and ninety-seven. . .

. . . This is the evening of the 19th century; but the twilight is brighter than the morning was. We can see in every year development and advancement. Perhaps the greatest improvement has been in education, especially for the women, not in one country alone but in every civilized country of the world. Even the seminaries, academies and high schools for women are the development of the present generation, except in the U.S. where they were made possible before the middle of the century. It is true, amazing as it may seem, that for 135 years after public schools were established in Boston for boys, girls were not even admitted to learn reading and writing.

In England, no provision was made for their secondary education until 1867. It was no better in France till 1880. Germany is the "last and only great nation of culture which leaves its women under the oppression of Middle-age fetters, keeping closed against them the institutions of higher learning."

There can be no doubt that the opportunities afforded women for secondary education stimulated the demand for higher education and made it possible. The desire of earnest young women for the best culture was answered by the opening of colleges and universities in the leading nations.

Education is the one all-important thing, paramount to everything else; for, in the few words of Seneca, "as the soil, however rich it may be, cannot be productive without culture, so the mind without cultivation can never produce much good fruit."

We know not whether the human mind is growing stronger with time or not, but we do know that its practical applications are becoming more numerous and comprehensive every day. In this connection must be mentioned the great inventions, and what is, perhaps, still more important, the discoveries of numerous abstract principles. Perhaps the greatest inventions have been in agricultural machinery. We cannot but wonder when we think of the way in which farming was done 75 or even 50 years ago, and the machinery then used, as compared with methods and machinery employed today. About

that time, the base mention of such achievements was considered the wildest theory of a diseased imagination. Now nothing is too wonderful to be believed, too strange to happen.

Thus we see that the whole tendency of the present era is upward. The mental development of the next century will be more complex, and will bring versatility on a higher plane than has yet been known. As the race learns to eliminate things which retard its upward progress, new and more valuable tendencies will come to take their places. . .

. . . The world has been ignorant of the brain, ever since its beginning, but there is now an advance toward developing its faculties. The higher our faculties become, the greater will be our happiness; and those who seek for happiness from other sources will be mistaken. . .

. . . Knowledge is largely a matter of facility. We all know thousands of things that we have no consciousness of having learned. They are matters of habit. So it will be with science. With each new step along the main road of knowledge, new bypaths will be discovered and explored. This will bring not only greater knowledge but the ability to apply that knowledge well.

In the words of Patrick Henry, "We have no way of judging the future but by the past," and, as great things have been accomplished in the past, we may be quite sure that still greater things will come from the future.

Hail then the 20th century, and hasten on they coming! Go to thy grave, oh 19th century! A century that shall ever be remembered for the accomplishment of so many wonders, for the inauguration of so many high achievements, for burying slavery and ushering in the reign of liberty. A century that had a Lincoln who wrote his name among the stars as a lover of the free. A century that had its Greeley, its Garfield and its Grant; a century that had its great statesmen – Webster, Clay and Calhoun. A century that had its Elizabeth Barrett Browning whose versus wedded together Italy and England. A century that had its Harriet Beecher Stowe whose "Uncle Tom's Cabin" has been read only less widely than the Bible.

In every field of art and science and literature, of human industry and human struggle stand for the mighty achievements of sincere and godly men, of brave and tender women. A few more days and we shall step across the threshold of your wondrous possibilities.

God grant that we may be worthy of that century of greatness and live up to the high level of our vast inheritance!

Additional writings by and images and materials featuring Thatcher Bost may be found in the Jessie Thatcher Bost Collection in Special Collections and University Archives at the OSU Library.

Have you met...

Clem Ward

"Feed Cattle Market Simulator" is what Dr. Clement Ward calls the computer model he developed with Derrell Peel, James Trapp and former OSU faculty member Stephen Koontz, but microeconomics is the name of the game. Pioneered to do demonstration experiments for OSU agricultural economics students, the simulator has become an instrument of teaching, research and outreach, contributing to learning from classrooms to boardrooms.

The simulator supports a game between as many as eight teams role-playing as feedlot managers and four teams representing packing companies. The model's ability to simulate a week's worth of transactions in eight minutes allows game participants to experience a three- to four-month period of trading activity in a half-day workshop.

According to Ward, the need for greater understanding of cattle market influences exists at all levels, and the simulator allows him and the other economists to address the demand. Through the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, they use it to teach high school students during the Noble Foundation's "Adventure" youth camp and conduct annual workshops for staff and executives at Excel Corporation, the nation's second largest packing company.



OSU delegates honored at Big XII Conference

A delegation of 55 students and three advisors representing OSU's African American Student Association attended the 29th annual Big XII Conference on Black Student Government February 23-25 at Iowa State University. A number of the scholars returned from the highlight event of the Big 12 Council on Black Student Government, the affiliation of black student organizations at Big 12 institutions, with individual honors.

Monica Dudley was named Outstanding Senior of the Year, and Kanisha Willis received the Brenda Joyce Fermin Memorial Work Ethics Award. Based on essay submissions, their résumé and transcripts, the service recognitions earned both \$1,000 scholarships. Josh Goree received the Alvin Ailey Award, and Kelli Stevens, an NOC Gateway student traveling with OSU delegation, was named Outstanding Non-Big XII Freshman of the Year. Stevens also received a \$1,000 stipend.

In officer elections, OSU Afro-Am president Cory Cox was elected vice-chairman of Big 12 Council on Black Student Government, and Michael Dexter Combs was selected as assistant treasurer. Their year-long terms of service on the conference's governing body begin in fall 2006.

OSU junior Antwain Clark was among scholars at the conference who successfully vied for national summer internships. An administrative health promotions major, he was offered and accepted a position with Target.

The Conference on Black Student Government was organized in 1977 by students from universities in the Big 8 as a forum to address problems, concerns and ideas of African-American students attending predominately white colleges and universities. This year themed, "Construction before Destruction: Building Tomorrow's Leaders Today," the conference's purpose is to foster leadership that promotes effective cultural, social and political change through networking, motivational speakers, educational workshops and career opportunities.

OSU joins in national Peace Corps celebration



With Peace Corps recruiter Matthew Smith (from left) serving as moderator, returned volunteers Gary Frankwick, Rex Horning, Gerry Auel and Michael Dicks led a symposium February 28 at the Wes Watkins Center as part of OSU's celebration of Peace Corps Week. The panelists gave personal accounts of their service to an audience including prospective volunteers. With numbers at an all-time high across the nation, Oklahoma experienced a 42 percent increase in volunteers in 2005, the largest increase of any state. In addition to hosting Oklahoma's Peace Corps office, OSU produces more volunteers than any other school in the state and, with approximately 30 students volunteering each year, perennially ranks among the top 10 universities in the region. Established March 1, 1961, by President Kennedy, the Peace Corps this year celebrates its 45th anniversary.