

January 26, 2007

OSU celebrates anniversaries of Morrill Hall, 'Cimarron Review'

The English department led a campus celebration yesterday of Morrill Hall's 100th anniversary and the 40th anniversary of "Cimarron Review." The event included an open house in the campus's oldest, continually occupied, active-use building and a reception and reading featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Paul Muldoon, whose work has been featured in OSU's nationally acclaimed literary journal.

Morrill Hall today primarily houses OSU's English department. Originally opened for occupancy in October 1906, one of the largest public buildings constructed in the Oklahoma territory was built to be "the jewel of Oklahoma's land-grant campus," according to Carol Moder, professor and head of the English department.

"It was named for the Morrill Act that created America's land-grant colleges, and many land-grant university campuses have a Morrill Hall," Moder said. "Ours was specifically planned to be one of the first high-quality buildings on campus, with a special appropriation from Congress in 1905 funding part of the construction."

"The celebration of the Morrill Hall anniversary is really a celebration for the entire campus because when it was built, the College of Agriculture and university administration were based here, and most of the departments across campus have at one time or another occupied space here," she said.

The open house doubled as a ceremonial

presentation of Morrill Hall to the English department, which soon will become the building's sole occupant.

"Never before in its history has this building housed just one department," Moder said. "Part of the speech communications department will be here for the rest of the spring semester, but beginning in the fall, it will be the home of the English department."

Although there are older buildings on campus, none have shared Morrill's longevity.

"Old Central is older, but it has not had the same level of active use," Moder said. "Except for a brief refurbishment following a fire in 1914, Morrill Hall has continually housed campus departments and courses throughout its history."

The reception and reading with Muldoon in the Atherton Hotel's Carreker Lounge commemorated the 40th anniversary of "Cimarron Review," the literary journal of fictional works, essays and poetry published by OSU.

"Since its inception, 'Cimarron Review' has been run by the College of Arts & Sciences, and for most of its history, the editors have been from the English department and closely associated with our creative writing graduate program," Moder said. "It is nationally recognized as a very high quality, highly competitive journal



in which to be published, and in order to celebrate the 40th anniversary, we wanted to invite someone of national recognition who has been published in 'Cimarron Review.'" Described by the Times Literary Supplement as "the most significant English language poet born since the second World War," Muldoon is the author of the collections, "New Weather," "Mules," "Why Brownlee Left," "Quoof," "Meeting the British," "Madoc: A Mystery," "The Annals of Chile," "Hay," "Selected Poems 1968-1998," and "Moy Sand and Gravel," for which he won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize.

The tenth collection, "Horse Latitudes," by the Princeton University professor and chair at the University Center for the Creative and Performing Arts was released in 2006.

OKLAHOMA STATE Portraits

Celebrating the Centennial: OSU contributions

On July 16, 1935, the world's first parking meters were installed in Oklahoma City. Carl C. Magee's device to time and limit the use of downtown spaces alleviated parking problems and increased city revenues as well as the valuation of downtown commercial property. Now universal, the parking meter was also one of the most publicized examples of early research and development at OSU, a success story that preceded state support of engineering research at the university.

Magee, an Oklahoma City newspaper owner and chamber of commerce member, partnered with the College of Engineering to develop a prototype of his patent-pending concept.

Timing device maker The MacNick Company of Tulsa initially was contracted to manufacture the parking meters. Magee eventually incorporated the Dual Parking Meter Co. and, after World War II, Magee-Hale Park-O-Meter Co. to produce the meters in Oklahoma City.

Ground breaking marks growth for OSU-OKC

OSU-Oklahoma City broke ground Thursday on its new Agriculture Resource Center. The center will expand OSU-OKC's growing agriculture program.

Construction of the center begins after a \$1 million gift from John E. Kirkpatrick. The gift continues the Kirkpatrick Family's support for the OSU-OKC campus.

The center, due for completion in the spring of 2008, is a 33,000 square-foot building that will house horticulture, agriculture and veterinary classes.

The building is needed due to thriving classes, particularly in "urban agriculture" – an emerging field of study that expands traditional agriculture to activities for an urban lifestyle. OSU-OKC's urban agriculture program includes floral design and turf grass management.

OSU-OKC President Jerry Carroll said the move to the new and larger facility reflects the substantial growth that the program has experienced in recent years.

"This new building will help us reach our potential as leaders in urban agriculture," he said. "It will allow our horticulture department to potentially increase enrollment by 50 percent and double enrollment in our veterinary technology department."

The center will include state-of-the-art



classrooms, labs and offices split into two wings. They will be joined by an open area made of a high, vaulted ceiling that will serve as a new conservatory for indoor plants and gallery exhibits.

The Agriculture Resource Center will prepare graduates for a variety of careers with retail floristry, parks, greenhouses, zoos, golf courses or veterinary clinics.

Local organizations, community groups and businesses will benefit from the center. The space will be used by garden clubs and other groups within the agriculture industry.

The total cost of the Agriculture Resources Center will be \$5.5 million. Capital bond money from the Oklahoma Higher Education Promise Act of 2005 will provide \$3.7 million of the project's funding.

For more information on the agriculture programs offered at OSU-OKC, visit www.osuokc.edu/agriculture/.

Study to examine first responder creativity in terrorist attacks

A \$700,000 National Science Foundation grant will enable Gary Webb, associate professor of sociology, to lead a study examining how first responders used creativity, flexibility and improvisation in the wake of terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Oklahoma City's Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

According to Webb a researcher with OSU's Center for the Study of Disasters and Extreme Events, the rescue and recovery efforts during the 9/11 and Oklahoma City bombing disasters challenged first responders in ways that exceeded all standard disaster management plans.

"These disasters happened so quickly and on such a scale that first responders had to solve problems without much of a plan - in effect, they were facing situations never before seen," Webb said. "What we want to know is how people behave when plans don't work."

The researchers will analyze archival data such as communication and transcript logs provided by the Oklahoma City bombing memorial and WTC memorial groups. While Mendonca and Butts will focus on the cognitive and network dimensions of improvisation, Webb will study the actual behaviors first responders engage in to solve disaster-induced problems.

"Human beings are resilient in the face of disasters not only because of their ability to plan, but also as a result of their ability to adapt," Webb said. "A major goal of this research is to better understand how human ingenuity and creativity can be channeled toward more effective disaster responses in the future."



Gary Webb

Language program, scholarships enhance OSU, Mexico exchange

ABBY WAMBAUGH

OSU will offer students the opportunity to learn Spanish through a summer program in Puebla, Mexico, beginning in May as part of an effort to increase scholarly exchanges with a university there.

OSU partnered with the Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla in 2002, and the OSU-UPAEP alliance offers 19 dual master's degree programs. Maria Fabregas, director of the liaison office at OSU, said a hurdle to getting stateside scholars to study in Puebla has been the language barrier. The five-week program is designed to teach students the Spanish language with an immersion experience and course work.

"The students not only go to Spanish classes and workshops during the day, but they also live with a Mexican family," Fabregas said. "This combination of formal studies and informal family life compels students to speak Spanish quickly. It's the fastest and most effective way to learn a foreign language."

The program runs from May 21 to June 22. Its \$1,900 cost includes room, board and

tuition. Students also are responsible for their travel expenses.

OSU has received a \$90,000 grant from the Institute for Study Abroad Foundation to provide scholarships for the immersion program. Seven, \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded, and additional scholarships will be available to students who continue their study abroad experience more than one semester.

OSU has awarded more than 100 scholarships for study abroad programs during the 2006-2007 academic year. An increase in allocations will enable the Study Abroad office to award at least 75 additional \$500 scholarships to students on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The application deadline for the immersion program is May 1, and forms can be found at www.upaep.mx/Idiomas/ProgramaIE/index.htm.

The application deadline for the IFSA scholarship is Feb. 15, and an information session will be held Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. in 410 Ag Hall. Applications are available by emailing david.henneberry@okstate.edu.

Around the STATE...

OSU a 'Best Value' in public higher education

OSU again has been included on Kiplinger's 100 Best Values in Public Colleges list. An assessment of more than 500, four-year colleges and universities with broad-based curriculums, the rankings consider academic strength, affordability and students' average debt at graduation.

To view the entire Kiplinger's list, visit www.kiplinger.com/tools/colleges/

Mind, Body and the Arts series to feature creativity coach

The OSU Music department will host a workshop presented by Eric Maisel, San Francisco-based creative coach, as part of its series, "Mind, Body and the Arts," Feb. 3-4.

The workshop, "Coaching the Artist Within," is for artists of all disciplines and will focus on self-coaching. Topics include learning to connect more deeply to the individual's art, handling obstacles, creating regularly and passionately, creating during distractions and reducing negative thinking.

The workshop is free and open to the public, and more information is available at www.music.okstate.edu.

Inaugural symposium to mark second Nancy Randolph Davis Day

The Nancy Randolph Davis Symposium on Higher Education will debut on Feb. 1, "Nancy Randolph Davis Day" at OSU. The civil rights pioneer and longtime Oklahoma City educator will be on hand for the public event at 2 p.m. in Click Alumni Hall of the ConocoPhillips OSU Alumni Center.

Themed, "The Black Experience at OSU: Our Past, Present and Future," the inaugural symposium named for the first African American student admitted to OSU will be a panel discussion led by four of the university's pioneering faculty members.

The result of an initiative led by students, OSU in 2006 established Feb. 1 as Nancy Randolph Davis Day as an annual start to its Black History Month celebration. The symposium is a presentation of the OSU Black Faculty and Staff Association.

We Remember



January 27, 2001

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DENVER RAY MILLS
WILLIAM B. TIETGENS (TEEGINS)
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