

February 2, 2007

Historic figures highlight Black History Month events

Nancy Randolph Davis, who broke the color barrier at OSU, visited campus yesterday for the celebration of "Nancy Randolph Davis Day," the annual kick-off of Black History Month, and observances will continue next week with campus visits by two other monumental pioneers.

Former Colorado Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers and Black Panther Party founding chairman Bobby Seale will headline two separate events at the Wes Watkins Center auditorium.

Rogers, who made history by becoming Colorado's second-highest elected official, will present, "The Dream Alive Program: A Dedication to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," on Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m. Admission to the tribute to King and leaders of the American civil rights movement, sponsored by OSU's Division for Institutional Diversity and the OSU Multicultural Student Center, is free and open to the public.

On Feb. 8, Seale will present, "Seize the Time," a speech on the history of the Black Panther Party. The 7 p.m. event is sponsored by the OSU Student Government Association Speakers Board. Admission is free for students, staff and faculty with an OSU ID and \$5 for all others.

Rogers holds the distinction of serving as the nation's youngest lieutenant governor. He is also just the fourth African American in U.S. history elected lieutenant governor of a state. A practicing attorney since completing his terms in 2003, he served in 2006 on the seven-member, blue-ribbon National Commission on the Voting Rights Act.

In 2003, he founded The Dream Alive Program Inc. to disseminate his critically acclaimed program that unites historic orations and contemporary perspective.

"We're extremely excited and honored to host Joe Rogers to kick off our celebration of Black History Month," said Dr. Phillip Birdine, director of OSU's Multicultural Student Center. "He is a history maker and an accomplished leader and has become an in-demand speaker at colleges, corporations and conferences with his dynamic presentations."

"OSU was extremely fortunate to host Coretta Scott King two years ago. You can't really top that, but Joe Rogers will be the latest of premier speakers on the legacy of Dr. King we'll have had on our campus," Birdine said.

Rogers is a recipient of the Trumpet Award from Time Warner's Turner Broadcasting System, a recognition of African American achievement that has been given to Muhammad Ali, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, Lena Horne, Colin Powell and others who have made significant contributions to enhance the quality of life for all Americans.

In 1966, Seale and Huey P. Newton formed the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, mobilizing chapters in major American cities in the face of intimidation

and risking their lives to fight poverty, discrimination and unchecked police brutality of African Americans. Seale was the key national coordinator/organizer and initiated community-based service programs such as breakfasts for school children, free bus-ing for senior citizens, preventative medical health care, cooperative housing and mass voter registration drives.

Seale gained international notoriety in the 1969 trial of the Chicago Eight, the individuals charged with conspiracy to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic Convention. He was gagged and bound to a chair for repeat outbursts protesting the proceedings before the judge established a separate hearing for him

and his eventual acquittal on all charges. During a subsequent trial, Seale was incarcerated for two years without bail before his acquittal, a period during which he wrote the book, "Seize the Time: The Story of the Black Panther Party and Huey P. Newton" detailing his experiences.

Although Seale left the Black Panther Party in the late 1970s, he remains a community and social activist and author, primarily through his R.E.A.C.H. Chronicles.

The retirement of an icon



Joe Alexander, OSU CIED president and Oklahoma Secretary of Science and Technology, presents Earl Mitchell a proclamation from Gov. Brad Henry designating Jan. 30 "Dr. Earl D. Mitchell Jr. Day" in Oklahoma. Mitchell, professor and interim head of biochemistry and molecular biology, in 1967 became the first black faculty member at OSU. He retired this week after 40 years.

OKLAHOMA STATE Portraits

Celebrating the Centennial: OSU contributions

Founded in 1906, ONEOK's traditional business was delivering natural gas as Oklahoma Natural Gas Company. In the past 10 years, however, ONEOK has become the largest distributor in Kansas and the third largest in Texas. Moreover, through its ownership position in ONEOK Partners, the company is now a national leader in the gathering, storage and transportation of natural gas and natural gas liquids. Through its marketing efforts, its reach now extends throughout the United States.

Samuel Combs III, president of ONEOK Distribution Companies and an OSU industrial engineering and management alumnus ('78), oversees natural gas distribution in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas.

"Our business is providing energy access," Combs said. "In that capacity, we help drive the economic engine in the states where we operate, developing infrastructure and providing service to spur economic development."

Get a Job!



More than 170 prospective employers attended this year's OSU Career Fair. Career Services' annual fair is one of the largest in the nation, according to Pam Ehlers, director of OSU Career Services. This spring's fair at Gallagher-Iba Arena attracted more than 1,500 students and soon-to-be graduates. This event is just one of the many ways Career Services connects students and graduates with job and internship opportunities.

Faculty to experience other Big 12 campuses

ABBY WAMBAUGH

Nine OSU professors have been selected for the Big 12 Faculty Fellowship program, allowing them to exchange ideas and research at a fellow Big 12 school for approximately two weeks.

"I am pleased the Office of Academic Affairs is able to continue to underwrite this important fellowship program," said OSU Provost and Senior Vice President Marlene Strathe. "The program is an excellent opportunity for our faculty, and I am extremely pleased with the feedback we have received from those who have participated for the past nine years."

The fellowships are scheduled this year between Feb. 15 and Aug. 15, and the nine professors will be working at four of the Big 12 universities. The program is endorsed by the Chief of Academic Officers of Big 12 Universities, with the purpose of advancing research and scholarly activities.

More than \$17,500 was awarded to the professors selected by a review committee. The money will be used for transportation, room and board and miscellaneous expenses.

The nine professors awarded the fellowships are Edward Shaw (microbiology and molecular genetics, fellowship at Texas A&M University), Terry Lehenbauer (veterinary pathology, University of Nebraska), Tanya Finchum (library, Baylor University), Gary Yen (electrical and computer engineering, Baylor University), Alan Noell (mathematics, Texas A&M University), Amilcar Shabazz (American studies, University of Texas), Bernita Krumm (educational leadership, University of Nebraska), Carol Mason (English and women's studies, University of Kansas) and Weihau Sheng (electrical and computer engineering, University of Nebraska).

During the nine years that OSU has offered the fellowships, OSU has funded 70 fellowships and served as a host institution for more than 25 visitors from other Big 12 universities.

Darwin expert to visit campus

OSU will host Michael Ruse, one of the country's leading authorities on the history and philosophy of Darwinian evolutionary theory, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. in the Wes Watkins Center. Ruse's lecture, titled "The Evolution/Creation Struggle: An American Story," is sponsored by the OSU Office of the President and the Zoology and Philosophy departments.

"Evolution and creationism are important issues facing higher education," OSU System CEO and President David Schmidly said. "It is important that OSU is involved in the discussion, and Dr. Ruse's lecture will provide an opportunity for all members of the OSU community to take part."

Ruse is the Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy at Florida State University and

a Fellow of both the Royal Society of Canada and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



He is the author of nearly 40 books including, "The Darwinian Revolution: Science Red in Tooth and Claw," "Darwinism Defended: A Guide to the Evolution Controversies," "Can a Darwinian be a Christian? The Relationship between Science and Religion," "Mystery of Mysteries: Is Evolution a Social Construction?" and "Darwinism and its Discontents."

"Ruse examines what makes a theory scientific to begin with and the disciplinary distinction between science and philosophy/religion," said Doren Recker, professor and head of the philosophy department at OSU. "The lecture promises to be very exciting."

Speakers series makes headlines with Russert



NBC's Tim Russert drew large audiences to the business speakers series, including state political and business leaders and media figures, including Kevin Ogle, shown interviewing Russert. The series is sponsored by the Spears School of Business Center for Executive and Professional Development. The remaining installments of the series will feature Edward Whitacre, chairman and CEO of AT&T Inc., and John Hofmeister, president of Shell Oil Company.

For all these stories and more, go to: <http://osu.okstate.edu/news>

Energizing Research

President Bush and Gov. Henry inject momentum into "Grassahol" research at OSU led by Ray Huhnke.




RESEARCH WEEK
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Christmas Mission

Graduate student Lora Young spent winter break assisting hurricane victims in Louisiana.

