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Student volunteerism goes global

Following a trip to New Orleans in 2006 with Campus Crusade for Christ to assist in the Hurricane Katrina cleanup, OSU sophomore Jaclyn Cosgrove decided to dedicate every spring break in college to volunteer work.

"It was an unbelievably fulfilling experience to help these people who've suffered so much," Cosgrove said. "The look on their faces after we finished gutting their houses. . . it's just something spending a week on the lake with your friends can't give you."

Cosgrove, a news editorial and broadcasting major and managing editor of the "Daily O'Collegian," is among thousands of OSU students who are enhancing their educational experience through volunteerism. She also represents a growing number with aspirations to make contributions through social entrepreneurship, according to Joyce Montgomery, coordinator of OSU's Service-Learning Volunteer Center.

"Since OSU is an academic institution, we try to help students find areas where they can apply what they're learning in class to problems. That's civic engagement," Montgomery said.

"Lately, we've got a lot more students coming with their own ideas," Montgomery said. "They've addressed an area of need and want to establish an event or organization that is sustainable year after year, and that is social entrepreneurship."

This spring, Cosgrove will lead a group to Kenya to perform volunteer service and distribute clothing, medical supplies and assistance in several communities in the East African nation. What began as a discussion with a fellow Campus Crusade for Christ New Orleans member about volunteering abroad has become a humanitarian mission involving hundreds of people and the formation of an unofficial OSU student organization, Upendo Kwanza, or "Love First" in Swahili.

"My best friend, Trent Castleberry, and I started talking about it last summer and decided we really wanted to go to Africa," Cosgrove said. "And another friend, Sarah Dillon, who is an OSU psychology student, is interested in working with orphans internationally so she really wanted to go."

"We were looking at a company called I-to-I, and it was going to cost us \$1,200 to volunteer, not including the cost of our flights. I was e-mailing an agricultural economics about flights and got what I call the e-mail that changed my life," she said.

The professor was Mike Dicks, a returned Peace Corps volunteer who spent several years in Kenya whom Cosgrove learned of through the volunteer center. He informed her he could arrange free housing for the students in Kenya.

"I talked to more students who said they were interested, and everything just grew into this structure like a student organization," Cosgrove said.

A Facebook news feed set up by the Upendo Kwanza students to sell "Sure I'll buy a shirt to help Africa" T-shirts to raise money for medical assistance has grown to include 400 people. The students also have been gathering clothing and medical supplies.

"We talked to Robert Menja, a Kenyan student in the School of International Studies, and he and his wife, Eunice, have been extremely

helpful to us," Cosgrove said. "They helped us determine a name for the group, and Robert has planned our entire itinerary so that our visit is meaningful."

"We'll be visiting an AIDS hospital and use the money we've raised to help people pay medical bills, and we're gathering the clothing for a family that lost six women to AIDS leaving behind 16 children," Cosgrove said. "And in a town called Sweetwater, we're going to build a goat pen that will be a source of revenue for the residents."

Cosgrove hopes the program grows and more students make the trip in the future. She acknowledged the assistance of the Service-Learning Volunteer Center can provide in building awareness.

"Joyce has been a kind of mentor for us and been a real source of ideas. We're going to host a Kenyan Hunger Banquet March 1 to raise more money and collect more clothing and medical supplies," Cosgrove said. "We'll be serving traditional Kenyan food, including goat because that's the meat most Kenyans eat."

OKLAHOMA STATE Portraits

Celebrating the Centennial:
OSU contributions



Year round, ground source heat pumps moderate indoor temperatures while reducing energy consumption. The core component is the heat exchanger, a closed loop system of liquid-filled pipes that use the earth's constant temperature to heat and cool buildings.

Jim Bose, professor and director of OSU's Division of Engineering Technology, led the development of the geothermal technology and a growing \$1 billion industry centered in Oklahoma. He also spearheaded the formation of the International Ground Source Heat Pump Association, headquartered at OSU.

Oklahoma's centennial year marks the 20th anniversary of IG-SHPA, whose members from around the world come to Stillwater to learn and train in the design and installation of geothermal heat pump systems.

Native American student conference returns to OSU

ABBY WAMBAUGH

The Big 12 American Indian Student Leadership Conference returns this year to the university where it began. Renamed the American Indian Student Leadership Conference, it will be hosted at OSU March 28-30 as a gathering for American Indian students nationwide.

"Last year, in an effort to expand the conference to a national level, the conference committee at Creighton University decided to change the name," said Jessica Moore, president of OSU's Native American Student Association. "We wanted to continue their effort in opening the conference up to all schools, regardless of size, conference and tribal affiliation."

The conference was founded at OSU in 1998 by members of the university's Native American Student Association as a forum for students throughout the Big 12 and to promote

American Indian leadership development.

"This conference is an opportunity for students to connect with other American Indian students, network, gain leadership training and see what other students have accomplished," Moore said.

Titled, "Warriors of the New World: Fighting to Promote American Indian Student Leadership," this year's conference will focus on the importance of leadership on- and off-campus and in the community.

The conference has welcomed high school students in the past but will be limited to college and university students this year.

"There is a big gap in issues that college and high school students face," said Casey Bear, OSU NASA vice president. "We wanted to bring the focus back on the college students this year."

EXTREME "TAKEOVER"



The site of ABC's latest Extreme Makeover in Lawton, OK was overrun with orange when members of OSU's pep squad and FCA, including 21 students and student athletes, joined Pistol Pete on the construction site of a home being built for Peggy and Gene Westbrook. The episode is scheduled to air April 8 on area ABC affiliates.

Around the STATE...

Students to participate in Higher Education Day at the Capitol

OSU students will be among outstanding scholars from state colleges and universities attending Higher Education Day at the Capitol next week. Sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the event Feb. 27 allows supporters of higher education in Oklahoma to interact with legislators and discuss funding priorities.

The event begins at 9 a.m. with registration and briefing. The general session will convene at 11 in the House chamber and feature remarks by state elected officials including Lt. Gov. Jari Askins, House Speaker Lance Cargill, Senate President Pro Tempore Mike Morgan and Co-President Pro Tempore Glenn Coffee.

In addition, the students will participate by escorting dignitaries from their offices and delivering brief comments on the value of higher education.

OSU-OKC debuts digital media studio

OSU-Oklahoma City has launched a Digital Media Studio as a technological enhancement to academic instruction and, particularly, the campus's distance learning programs.

The studio and its cameras, lights, control panels, three video editing workstations, teleprompter, auto-mix, audio system and graphic capabilities will support the production of video and audio materials for learning and televised courses as well as public and community relations programming. It also will allow teachers to disseminate knowledge via Internet, DVD or videotape, extending the reach of the OSU-OKC campus.

The studio is the latest acquisition by OSU-OKC's Academic Technology department which provides faculty and staff with professional multimedia development services and support, access, training and consultations.

RHA earns OSU 'School of the Year' distinction

The Southwest Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls named OSU its 2006-07 "School of the Year."

OSU Residence Halls Association members accepted the honor at the SWACURH Regional Conference held Feb. 16-18 in Livingston, Texas, and hosted by Texas A&M University.

"OSU's win was due to the more than 300 student leaders in the residence halls promoting leadership and putting on awesome programs," said Mark Ohnesorge, RHA president. "Everyone celebrates in this award, and all of the hall leaders deserve a big pat on the back."

OSU's Residential Life department houses more than 4,500 students in 26 residence halls and employs more than 600 people in the halls and the 35 dining units on campus.

OSU branch campuses announce OHLAP assistance programs

The OSU-OKC Bright Futures Program and OSU-Okmulgee's "Hire Education Learning Promise" (HELP) program will provide additional financial aid and academic support to eligible OHLAP recipients beginning fall 2007. Oklahoma's Promise -- OHLAP is the state scholarship program that allows high school students to earn free college tuition if they meet certain eligibility requirements.



Brooke Washington (left), an animal science/pre-vet junior and Niblack Research Scholar, describes her poster presentation to fellow presenter Xinyi Peng, a chemistry graduate student, and Stacy Benson, assistant professor of chemistry and poster presentation judge. Washington's project involves using genetics to determine the ethno-geographic origins of male OSU faculty, staff and students. The presentations by undergraduate and graduate scholars are part of OSU Research Week and continue through today.