



WOMEN *for* OSU

Celebrating Remarkable Women of OSU

2014 WINTER NEWSLETTER



Ann Hargis
FIRST COWGIRL

Ask anyone who wears America's brightest orange and they will tell you Cowboys are special. From the moment Burns and I arrived on campus (and even before!), this Cowgirl felt the strong sense of family that bonds this group together. As someone who is not an alumna of OSU, I quickly learned what it was like to be considered part of the Cowboy family.

This feeling of family is especially strong among Women for OSU. I have met a variety of successful and brilliant women through this program; women with unique gifts and creative talents that give freely of themselves because of their passion for our school. They make the university a better place for current and future Cowboys. I love the fact that some of these women are alumnae and some are not; however, all of these women have a common bond — they love OSU and are passionate about the future of our Cowboys and Cowgirls.

The diversity among this group of women illustrates the broad scope of interests among our Cowboy family. Each of these women has made a difference in her own way, as it relates to OSU, and it certainly makes this Cowgirl sit a little taller in the saddle!

OSU is very fortunate to have this group of women and I encourage other women who are passionate about making a difference to join Women for OSU. Together we are stronger, and together we can harness our creativity and passion to make the world a brighter orange.

Sincerely,

Ann Hargis
Ann Hargis



Visit OSUgiving.com/Women/AnnHargis
for Ann's video interview

Student Scholarship Recipients

INSPIRED BY WOMEN FOR OSU'S EXAMPLE

Over the past five years, Women for OSU has awarded a total of \$49,000 to 17 scholarship recipients.

Honorees say these awards helped them begin building careers, beyond covering academic expenses. Equally beneficial is the organization's inspirational example of leadership, philanthropy and strength through collaboration.

Following are updates and further thoughts from a few members of the next generation of Women for OSU.

RACHEL BRANCH BLACK, 2011 HONOREE

The second-year OSU Center for Health Sciences student says the scholarship showed her the importance of positively impacting the community. During her senior year, she chose to enter medical school because she wanted a career that helps people.

Now that Black is married and pursuing that career, she looks to high-powered figures in medicine who have found a healthy work-life balance. She is inspired by OSU-CHS President Kayse Shrum, who is a wife and mother.

"Organizations like Women for OSU remind me that true success is about being the best person you can be both personally and professionally," says Black, who recently joined the American Medical Women's Association.



RACHEL BRANCH BLACK



CARLY SCHNAITHMAN



SARA ROBERTS



HALEY BAUMGARDNER



CARLY SCHNAITHMAN, 2012 HONOREE

Schnaithman works closely with legislators on a daily basis as the legislative affairs director for Oklahoma's Secretary of Energy and Environment.

"This job is not something I expected at all," Schnaithman says. "I did an internship at the state capitol, they offered me a job, and now I'm here today."

With Oklahoma's legislative positions dominated by men, Schnaithman is grateful to have OSU alumnae serving as her mentors. While at OSU, she connected with leaders among both students and alumni.

"It opened my eyes to how I can give back in the future," Schnaithman says.

SARA ROBERTS, 2011 HONOREE

Roberts is an intern at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. This internship is a prerequisite for her planned graduate program in art conservation with an emphasis on paper and books.

Though she is more than 1,000 miles away, Roberts plans to stay involved and give back to OSU — ideals she greatly values after attending all five Women for OSU Symposiums.

"They began inspiring me my freshman year, and impacted me more each year," Roberts says. **"It's incredible to see how many scholarships they are awarding and how many students' lives they are changing. What they are doing as an organization is amazing."**

HALEY BAUMGARDNER, 2012 HONOREE

Baumgardner is a saleswoman for Dow Agrosiences in Austin, Texas, where she promotes products such as crop protection, cottonseed, and range and pasture herbicides.

She says it is one of many traditionally male-dominated industries where women are beginning to make a name for themselves.

"We are starting to see a shift in the dynamics as women do a great job in places they didn't enter before," Baumgardner says.

Baumgardner is mindful of the relief she felt receiving the scholarship, which allowed her to focus on grades and internship opportunities instead of financial responsibilities.

"It opened my eyes to the importance of being involved in organizations that give back just as someone did for me," Baumgardner says.

REGIONAL EVENTS

Please visit flickr.com/photos/osufoundation to check out photos from our most recent Women for OSU regional event in Dallas on Dec. 4, 2013.

Upcoming regional events are planned for Los Angeles on Feb. 11 and Enid, Okla. on March 18. Please contact Deb Engle at dengle@OSUgiving.com or 405.385.5600 for more information.

Unique perspectives strengthen **WOMEN** *for* **OSU**

Since Women for Oklahoma State University's establishment in 2009, 51 passionate ladies have led the organization in various capacities as members of the council. They have each contributed to the group's impressive success, and their contributions will continue to make a difference long after they are gone.

These women are all unique, though they are united by their love for OSU and heart for philanthropy. Some, such as Malinda Berry Fischer, were founding members who are no longer on the council yet continue to support the organization in less formal capacities. Others, such as Cindy Waits, are just beginning their terms and building on the solid foundation already in place.

There are always opportunities for current and potential members to contribute because each Woman for OSU brings a strength that complements the group. Even something as simple as a unique perspective is invaluable.

As shown by their answers to the following questions, Malinda and Cindy have different motivations for their philanthropic actions. They also affect change in different ways, which combine to do more good than they could ever do separately.

WHY DO YOU GIVE TO OSU?

Malinda: I was raised in Stillwater and my big, extended family has been here since before statehood. I believe OSU is extremely important to the whole dynamics of this region. In many ways, the university is just like a great old house: Those who built it are gone, and if someone doesn't take care of it and put resources back into it, eventually it won't be here.

Cindy: Higher education is a game changer in a person's life. I love my alma mater, and I believe that every generation of graduates has a responsibility to give back to the university for future generations. Because I value education, my main focus of philanthropy is my university — OSU.

WHY DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED WITH WOMEN FOR OSU?

Malinda: I'd been involved for 25 years in organizational development and management, and I had been involved in many nonprofit groups. I knew this would be a great way to show younger people what can be done by a small nucleus of women. Women for OSU has this amazing spirit, and it's worked out really well for the university.

Cindy: I became involved because I know that while one woman like me can write a check and perhaps make a difference, many women coming together writing checks can make a significant impact. That's why I wanted to be a member of Women for OSU.

MALINDA BERRY FISCHER



WHAT DO YOU TELL OTHERS ABOUT PHILANTHROPY?

Malinda: I don't really talk much about philanthropy. It has just always been a part of my life. My husband and I support certain things that we think are important, and I have always enjoyed accepting challenges in the philanthropic area. I love to learn new things, help get a project going, and then watch it build while I move on to another need.

Cindy: When my daughters were growing up, I always told them they had a responsibility to give back to the community however they could. I led by example through volunteer work, donating money, or doing whatever I could do. Now my daughters are all college graduates in their 30s with very successful careers, and they still see their mother giving back to higher learning for future generations. I'm proud that my daughters see me still making a difference and they want to do the same thing.

CINDY WAITS



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT WOMEN FOR OSU?

Malinda: It establishes opportunities for women of all ages to interact and create ways to enrich OSU. The group's leadership and commitment is really going to do amazing things for generations to come. I also love that it is another opportunity for any woman to get involved at OSU. We want them all to be a part of this, and that's a very good thing.

Cindy: I love meeting various women that I've never met before and discovering their diverse backgrounds, whether they are younger women, older women, or women of my age. However, primarily I appreciate the sense of empowerment I feel being a part of this group making an impact at the university. Women today can make a difference in ways they never could before. We create scholarships that make huge differences in people's lives.

2014 SPRING SYMPOSIUM

featuring

JEAN CHATZKY

WOMEN, MONEY & GIVING

Thursday, April 10, 2014

9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

ConocoPhillips OSU Alumni Center

The Women for OSU spring symposium is a unique opportunity to gather in Stillwater and gain valuable knowledge about philanthropic decision making and leadership. Women for OSU celebrates members of the OSU family who display leadership in philanthropy by naming the Philanthropist of the Year and awarding scholarships to deserving students each year.

Jean Chatzky is scheduled to deliver the keynote address. Chatzky is the financial editor for NBC's *Today Show*, an award-winning personal finance journalist, AARP's personal finance ambassador, the host of *Money Matters with Jean Chatzky* on RLTV and a sought-after motivational speaker.

Among Chatzky's eight books is *The New York Times* bestseller *Money 911: Your Most Pressing Money Questions Answered, Your Money Emergencies Solved*. In 2009 her book *The Difference: How Anyone Can Prosper in Even the Toughest Times* received the personal finance Books for a Better Life Award. She is also the author of *The New York Times* and *Business Week* bestseller *Pay It Down: From Debt to Wealth on \$10 a Day*, which was featured on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*'s successful "debt diet" series.

Chatzky has received numerous awards and honors for her dedication to personal finance education. She was the 2009 recipient of the Consumer Federation of America's Betty Furness Consumer Media Service Award, and was named one of the country's best magazine columnists by *The Chicago Tribune*.



She believes that knowing how to manage your money is one of the most important life skills and has made it her mission to increase financial literacy. She recently launched online classes on saving, budgeting, debt and retirement planning through Jean Chatzky's Money School.

Like every symposium keynote speaker, Chatzky will provide inspiration and practical information on increasing philanthropic impact. Attendees will enjoy an opportunity to learn new ways to extend their philanthropic reach from one of the brightest financial minds in the business.



Tickets will be available soon at OSUgiving.com/Women. There you can also find more information about the event and sponsorship opportunities.

Dr. Ramona Frances Ware (Emmons) Paul

OCT. 17, 1936 — JUNE 30, 2013



Ramona Paul's love of OSU began long before she helped found Women for OSU. Her education began in the university's child development lab while her parents were professors. Oklahoma's Outstanding Teacher award is named for her mother, Girdie Ware. It was no surprise that Ramona also became a trailblazer in the field after earning a family relations and child development degree at OSU.

Ramona was Oklahoma's assistant superintendent of public instruction when she guided the establishment of the state's early childhood education program. Her model for teaching young minds helped Oklahoma earn the nation's top ranking for early childhood education.

She said programs such as Head Start and kindergarten should benefit all children, not just those in poverty. She advocated for early childhood teachers to be certified as opposed to the traditional requirement of a high school diploma. Finally, the model placed early childhood programs in public schools.

In 2009, Oklahoma Today honored Ramona as its Oklahoman of the Year because of her success improving education in the state. True to her roots, she also benefitted higher education and served as chair of Women for OSU's Awards Committee until she passed.

Though Ramona is gone, her lifetime of passionate and generous support for education will continue to help others for generations.

DR. CONRAD'S *legacy still serving rural communities*



Dr. Betty Louise Conrad was born in 1920 and quickly showed herself to be an excellent student. At 12, her admiration for the family doctor sparked a career aspiration. She ignored naysayers, including the dean of women at Bristow High, who told her that girls became teachers. She graduated from Oklahoma A&M College before attending medical school, where she continued to succeed.

The majority of her 43-year career was spent in the Tulsa area, including a decade volunteering at free clinics. She was passionate about supporting rural Oklahoma and serving her community.

When she died in 2009, she symbolized these passions by leaving \$145,000 through her estate to OSU for early admission scholarships at the Center for Health Sciences, and equipment and technology upgrades at the OSU-Tulsa Library. These endowments create perpetual support that will continue her legacy of improving many peoples' lives.

If you, like Dr. Conrad, have chosen to share your legacy with the OSU Foundation through an estate provision, we invite you to join the Heritage Society. Your generosity deserves recognition and the greatest possible benefits. When we know of your charitable designation, we can ensure your wishes for its use are met.

For more information, please contact the OSU Foundation at 1.800.622.4678 or giftplanning@OSUgiving.com or visit OSUgiving.giftlegacy.com.