

Women for OSU

2019 NEWSLETTER

Peggy Helmerich

PHILANTHROPIST
of the YEAR

Photo courtesy of Oklahoma Magazine/Schuman Publishing

Women for OSU Council

For Women for OSU, the collective focus and attention is on unity — how together the Council can benefit Oklahoma State and inspire leadership and philanthropy in countless other communities. Today, women view philanthropy not so much as “giving” but as “investing” — investing in change, investing in the future and investing in causes that are personally meaningful. Those who serve on the Women for OSU Council volunteer their time and treasure to propel the impact of the organization forward.

CURRENT MEMBERS

Courtney Baugher	Lori Maine
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Pat Cobb	Ann Oglesby
Suzie Crowder	Leslie Paris
Kirsten Daniel ♦	Jennifer Poole
Suzanne Day ♦	Jenelle Schatz
Leah Gungoll	Gwen Shaw
Brenda Hawkins ♦	Karen Stewart
Rhonda Hooper	Melinda Stinnett
Vicki Howard	Marnie Taylor
Jeanene Jenkins Hulsey	Lucina Thompson
Claudia Humphreys	Sharon Trojan
Beth Jackson	Diane Tuttle
Susan Jacques	Julie Valentine
Sharon Keating	Cindy Waits
Julie Lambert	
Jami Longacre	♦New member

HONORARY MEMBERS

Blaire Atkinson
Ann Hargis
Jan Jewell
Kayse Shrum

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Cathy Jameson	Esther Winterfeldt
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Judy Johnson	
Martha Johnston	*Deceased
Pat Knaub	
Caroline Linehan	

Robin Byford

WOMEN for OSU CHAIR



2019 brought in a new decade for Women for OSU and was an incredible way to start the next chapter for our great organization. During our 11th annual Women for OSU Symposium, we had more than 500 individuals join us in Gallagher-Iba Arena to recognize the 2019 Women for OSU Philanthropist of the Year, Peggy Helmerich, and to award 10 outstanding students with scholarships.

Additionally, we had Amy Cuddy join us as our keynote speaker. Her message about the power of presence and how it can affect your mood, performance and overall feeling of power resonated with our core Women for OSU values. She even led us in a group power pose to end her speech!

We’ve certainly had our presence felt and have made quite an impact over the last 11 years by awarding nearly \$300,000 in scholarships to 71 students. Your generosity enriches our programs and scholarship funds, all while fostering the next generation of change-makers. This is especially evident by the fact that those 71 students have made more than \$27,000 worth of gifts to OSU. We are truly inspiring the younger generations to find ways to support our great university and its students.

It has been such an amazing year serving as your chair and seeing the growth we’ve accomplished. I am so excited to work with all of our Council members to continue that growth and to lay the foundation for our next chair.

Women for OSU has already made such a huge impact in our 11 years and that is thanks to the hard work and dedication each of you have shown. Thank you so much for your support of Women for OSU and for being a leader in women’s philanthropy!

Sincerely,

Robin Byford
Women for OSU Chairwoman, 2018-2020

2019 SYMPOSIUMSnapshot



TO VIEW MORE PHOTOS, VISIT:
OSUgiving.com/Symposium2019pics

Thank you to all who helped make the 11th annual Women for OSU Symposium a success! At the event we came together and celebrated women's giving and the collective influence your philanthropy has on this wonderful university. Highlights of the event included hearing inspirational stories about our 10 student scholarship recipients and a heartwarming speech from 2019 Philanthropist of the Year, Peggy Helmerich.

More information can be found online at:
OSUgiving.com/Women



To watch a video about this year's scholarship recipients, visit: **OSUgiving.com/women/scholars**

Peggy Helmerich

PHILANTHROPIST of the YEAR



Honoring the Philanthropist of the Year has become a rich tradition of the Women for OSU Symposium. This year was no exception with the recognition of Peggy Helmerich.

Years before Peggy was a household name and civic leader in Tulsa, she thrived in Hollywood, co-starring in eight movies for Universal-International. After three years on the big screen, then Peggy Dow fell in love with Tulsa oilman Walter H. Helmerich III and retired from show business when the two married. Together, they would lay the foundation for both Peggy's and the Helmerich family's philanthropic spirit and become influential leaders within their communities.

Peggy had a passion for charity work that developed in the 70s and 80s when she began serving on the Tulsa City-County Library Commission and the Tulsa Library Trust. Peggy held leadership roles with both organizations, and her contributions to the libraries

in Tulsa led to the Peggy V. Helmerich Library in south Tulsa being named in her honor. Peggy and Walt also led the way on the Helmerich Research Center in Tulsa with their family foundation's \$9 million gift.

Decades of Peggy's life have been devoted to serving her community by improving health care, education, arts, libraries and other charitable endeavors in Tulsa, at Oklahoma State University and other colleges throughout the state. "I credit my strong foundation in family, faith and love of OSU for my passion to influence my community," she said.

In the mid 90s, Peggy co-chaired Edmon Low Library's fundraising campaign at OSU, resulting in several million dollars in gifts. The Helmerichs were also leaders in the campaign to renovate the historic basketball and wrestling venue Gallagher-Iba Arena. They've given to dozens of causes at OSU, and the couple was jointly awarded OSU's Henry G. Bennett Distinguished Service Award in 2001.

"Peggy has been especially exemplary and inspirational in positively shaping the future of our university through philanthropy and engagement with our library, along with many other academic and athletic facilities and programs on multiple OSU campuses," said Sheila Johnson, OSU's dean of libraries and Clerico Family Chair for Library Excellence.

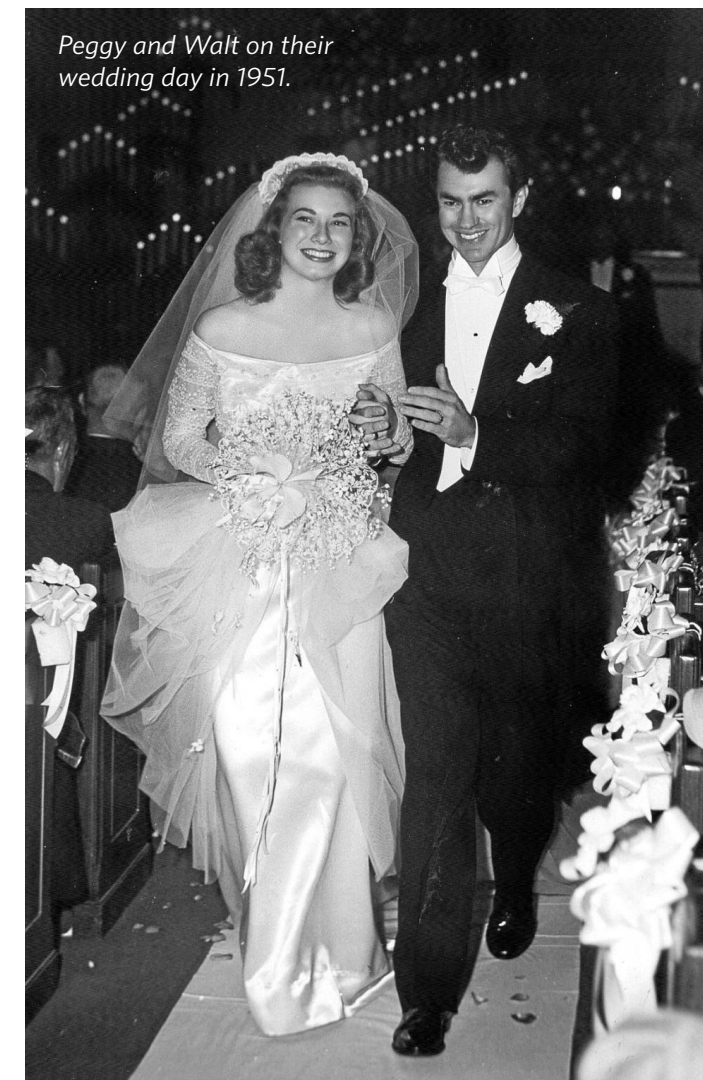
"I hope Walt and I, throughout our lives, have encouraged people to get involved in causes they are passionate about. We served on boards, worked on fundraising committees, volunteered in numerous ways; the work we did, no matter the task, was important," Peggy said.

Peggy has continued to volunteer with numerous community organizations, including the Tulsa Ballet, Tulsa Symphony, Tulsa Garden Center and Friends of the OSU Library. She hopes her work will inspire others to feel connected to their communities in a way that makes them want to make a difference.

TO WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT PEGGY, VISIT:

OSUgiving.com/women/philanthropist

Peggy and Walt on their wedding day in 1951.



Peggy as Nurse Kelly alongside Jimmy Stewart in the movie Harvey.



Michal Shaw

WOMEN for OSU DIRECTOR

I often tell friends I have the best job on the planet.

I get to invest my time working alongside passionate women (and men) who share the collective mission of inspiring leadership, philanthropy and engagement with OSU. As I reflect on the past 11 Symposiums, the incredible speakers and keynote messages, the 70-plus students who have benefited from Women for OSU scholarships and the philanthropists who have inspired us, I am grateful for the opportunity to continue building and strengthening alumnae connections with our beloved Oklahoma State University.

Your Women for OSU Council is hard at work, dreaming big dreams and building on the vision of those who came before them. This year's Women for OSU theme is "ACHIEVE," and the Council envisions setting and achieving many new goals and milestones.

In the first chapter of her book, 2020 Symposium keynote speaker Dr. Tererai Trent shares, "There is a deep hunger that lies within us, waiting to be discovered. It is the innate, human hunger to support one another, though our material desires often mask it. Your task is to listen for the stirring of an insatiable hunger begging you to connect to the world in a new way and to align your dreams with this yearning ... You will know you've found that place when you are aligned with a purpose that makes you come alive ..."

Women for OSU knows that we are stronger when we are connected and aligned with a life-giving purpose. I invite you to join us on April 23, 2020, for our next Symposium to hear more from Dr. Trent



about reigniting your dreams. Additionally, we will be unveiling an opportunity for our Women for OSU Partners to connect and impact the OSU community in a new and exciting way. I promise you that 2020 is a year you will not want to miss!

Thank you for your continued support and service to positively shape the future of OSU.

With gratitude,

Michal Shaw

Director, Women for OSU

Symposium Sponsorship Opportunities

The 2020 Women for OSU Symposium is just around the corner on April 23 and both individual and corporate sponsorship opportunities are now available! Please consider supporting this fantastic program with one of our sponsorship options below, each including several excellent benefits. Individual tickets will also be available for purchase in January. Tickets are \$150.

Please visit OSUgiving.com/Women for a detailed sponsorship opportunities brochure.

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Women for OSU Partners

Make a difference as a Women for OSU Partner. Being a Partner provides women with the unique opportunity to support student scholarships and programs while connecting with other women passionate about OSU. There is power in our unity, and together we can make a significant impact on our students by providing an example of selfless giving and collaboration. You can become a Women for OSU Partner today with a minimum contribution of \$1,000 annually to the Women for OSU Scholarship Fund. For those 35 and younger, the minimum annual contribution is \$500.

Partners receive the following benefits:

- Reports about your impact, including the Women for OSU newsletter and Scholar Spotlights
- A "thank you" visit or call from a member of the Women for OSU team
- Invitations to Women for OSU events in your area
- An invitation to the annual spring Symposium and VIP sponsor reception
- Joint membership in the OSU Foundation's Loyal & True donor recognition giving society

For more information about sponsorships or becoming a Partner, please contact:

Mandy Heaps

Women for OSU External Relations Team Representative
& Director of Annual Giving Leadership Initiatives
mheaps@OSUgiving.com | 405.385.0721

2020 SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Tererai Trent

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED VOICE FOR QUALITY
EDUCATION & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Oprah's "Favorite Guest of All Time"

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
for the 2020 SYMPOSIUM!

4.23.20

Sponsorship opportunities are available now
and individual tickets will go on sale in January.

OSUgiving.com/Women



Women for OSU will welcome one of the world's most acclaimed voices for women's empowerment and quality education to the 2020 Symposium.

Dr. Tererai Trent, this year's keynote speaker, received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Oklahoma State University. She is the founder of Tererai Trent International, an educator, motivational speaker, and Oprah's "favorite guest of all time." She has published two highly acclaimed children's books and is the author of the award winning, *The Awakened Woman — Remembering & Reigniting Our Sacred Dreams*.

Tererai was recently named Global Ambassador of Education and Peace by the UN General Secretary and High Commissioner. She also serves as the president of The Awakened Woman LLC, a company dedicated to empowering women with tools to thrive as they achieve their dreams.

Rooted in humble beginnings, Tererai grew up in a cattle-herding family in rural Zimbabwe, where cultural practices and a war that liberated her country charted the course of her life. Despite facing many obstacles, she never lost sight of her dreams for an education.

As the university's spring 2014 commencement speaker, she credited OSU with showing her the "power of education, the power of justice and the potential of women. Without this university I would be nothing. I found courage and friendship here. This university gave me my dignity and a chance for a better life."

Dr. Trent continues to lead the global charge in the fight for quality education for all children and for women's rights. She has become a symbol of hope and living proof that anything is possible. **Her favorite motto is "Tinogona," meaning, "It is achievable!"**

Q&A with DR. TRENT

How did attending Oklahoma State University influence your life?

Attending Oklahoma State University was a fulfillment of two of my five dreams. You see, I was 22, poor, abused, and a mother of five, with no high school education when I wrote down my five dreams and buried (planted) them deep in the soil in my village in Zimbabwe. Almost a decade from the day I buried those five dreams, OSU accepted my application to pursue my undergraduate program in agricultural education. The university had no idea that I had come from my rural village poor, abused, vulnerable and timid and yet, OSU gave me the best education and a foundation to excel and inspired me to achieve the rest of my dreams.

What is your advice to women who want to pursue higher education?

Higher education makes us women more hopeful and confident; strengthening the continuity of an unbroken thread of "gender equality conviction" that has been passed down to us and lays a strong foundation for future generations. Indeed, kudos to women who want to pursue higher education, they are on a continual journey that has been fought and forged by women before us.

Without education, many women are silenced, and have to rely on others for their survival. And yet, when women are educated, and especially when they pursue higher education, they are self-empowered, independent and can become the architectural templates of inspiration, a source of faith, enabling other women to rise against a world that prefers women's silencing.

Why is philanthropy so important to you?

It is what gives meaning in life. When I wrote down my dreams, initially, I had written down four personal dreams and when I showed the paper to my mother, she said something that profoundly changed my life. "Every dream has greater meaning when tied to the betterment of the community. This is what creates a meaningful life." It is one thing to achieve a dream based upon individual needs and another to build upon the common good. Her words inspired me to include the fifth goal, "to give back to my community, especially to alleviate the plight of women and girls." This fifth goal gives me more joy than anything else in this world. **It has propelled me toward philanthropic work, and this work has remained one of the most rewarding aspects of my life.** Through my foundation, I have provided universal education to some of the poorest communities in my country. I have seen how philanthropy weaves humanity together by improving the well-being of communities and eliminating social challenges such as illiteracy, gender inequality, poverty, racism, etc. Personally, I believe that through philanthropic work, we restore our sense of community and we are more joyful and whole when we pursue that which ties our personal goals to the betterment of others.



Jan Jewell

THE COMPLETE COWGIRL

Jan Jewell's loyalty to OSU is as vibrant as her orange convertible.

Her love for her alma mater has grown deep over the past 16 years while her college sweetheart and longtime husband, Kirk Jewell, has led the OSU Foundation as its president. The position has afforded both a unique perspective of the inner workings of the university and resulted in strong relationships with the staff, alumni and friends who are dedicated to making OSU the best it can be.

Jan said it has been a joy building these family-like ties, especially at the Foundation. There she is known for her friendly laugh, love of dressing up for Halloween and is called "Mom," "Mama J" or "JJ" by some employees and their children.

Among Jan's biggest passions is Women for OSU, for which she has been an honorary Council member serving on the events committee since its inception 11 years ago.

The annual spring Symposiums have become highlights people look forward to, and something Jan is proud to showcase. She is especially excited to feature "one of OSU's own" with Dr. Tererai Trent at the 2020 Symposium. But as much as she's looking forward to the April 23 event, the day will also be bittersweet as it will be her last as a member of the Women for OSU Council.

Last spring, Kirk announced his retirement, and a search for the next OSU Foundation president is underway.

"It's been a complete honor to serve with the other Council members and get to know them. I'm so inspired by them and their passion for Oklahoma State University," she said. "I'm so excited to see how Women for OSU continues to grow. Not only are we celebrating women making a difference, but we are also encouraging young people to make a difference in the world around them."

This past April, Women for OSU awarded 10 scholarships with a crowd of over 500 in attendance. The candidate pool of scholars was the best the group had seen, Jan said, all making tangible impacts through volunteer work or other types of philanthropy.

She recalled fondly the first Women for OSU Symposium in 2009, when approximately 250 people watched student Sarah Cary receive a \$2,000 scholarship in the Wes Watkins Center.

"Giving that first scholarship was a big deal for us," she said. Since 2009, Women for OSU has awarded 71 scholarships totaling more than \$300,000.

"I think when people come to a symposium for the first time, they're not sure what to expect. They're blown away by how we've transformed Gallagher-Iba Arena and they're even more impressed by what they hear from our speakers, philanthropists of the year and the presentation of Women for OSU scholars," she said. "They're inspired and moved by what they experience. There are opportunities to make a difference every day, if we only look."

Being a part of the Council has influenced the way Jan approaches her philanthropy, she said. The couple have given to many areas, including establishing the Jan Jewell Endowed Scholarship Fund, Pete's Pet Posse — of which they were a part of the inaugural class with their late schnauzer Bella — athletics and several more areas.

Their giving and Jan's involvement with Women for OSU are helping plant the seeds of philanthropy for future generations.

The Jewells want to travel to Portugal once Kirk fully retires. Jan is strategically planning her visits back to take in as many OSU men's basketball and football games as she can. Undoubtedly, she'll make it home each spring for the Women for OSU Symposiums, too.

"I'm very proud of the fact that the Women for OSU Council worked hard to make the Symposium experience the best that it can be. I know this will continue in the future, and I look forward to attending each year," she said. "This group and everything it does inspires others. I know it has inspired me."





Seraiah Coe and one of her mentors, Dr. Karen Hickman, assistant dean of OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, met Amy Cuddy, the keynote speaker, at the 2019 Women for OSU Symposium.

WOMEN for OSU Scholar Update

Seraiah Coe saw a need and she's meeting it.

The 2019 Women for OSU scholar is making headlines for her work creating Totally Taboo, an education series that aims to broach the subject of healthy relationships and consent with high school students in health classes.

After pitching her idea to her former principal, the series will be taught at her hometown high school in McKinney, Texas, this fall.

"I worked on a presentation on what a healthy relationship is and what consent is," Seraiah said. "I don't see that taught in high schools and that's a really big issue because a lot of the girls I mentor either were or are in an abusive relationship. There are not really resources taught or mentioned about that in most sex ed classes."

A junior double majoring in biological science and natural resource ecology and management, Seraiah is a 1 is 2 Many educator and serves as a Community Mentor on campus. She also volunteers at Our Daily Bread, Tiny Paws, Stillwater Humane Society and the Grey Snow Eagle House in Perkins, Oklahoma.

And while healthy relationships and consent is something Seraiah is passionate about, her dream job is to become head zoologist for the San Diego Zoo's Carnivore Department.

This summer, she interned at Dallas Zoo's carnivore department and she is continuing her research she began as a freshman studying the implications of a neutering program on a local feral cat population.

"The amount of support the university and Women for OSU has given me is incredible. Just having extremely powerful and successful women say, **'We're really proud of you, and you're going to do amazing things,' makes you feel very responsible for that gift,**" Seraiah said. "Hopefully, the next two years on campus I can continue down this path of positive change. That's my goal."

WOMEN FOR OSU THROUGH THE YEARS with Julia Benbrook

2015 Women for OSU Scholar, 2019 Women for OSU Social Media Host & Current OStateTV Reporter

When I was about 10 years old, a man in our small community told me it was too bad that my dad didn't have a son to take over the family business. I don't think he meant to cause harm with the comment, but as a young girl with big dreams I found it confusing. My parents, who are both OSU alumni and my two biggest cheerleaders, used the comment to start a conversation. They explained that I could accomplish anything I set my mind to with hard work, and that it was important to always lead with kindness.

When I looked around the room at the 2019 Women for OSU Symposium, I saw women from varying backgrounds with different goals and a wide range of interests; but they all have core things in common. Each one is hard-working and kind enough to lend their support to those who come behind them. (They also seem to all have a closet full of killer orange accessories. Seriously, the Symposium is like an orange fashion show every single year. It's amazing.)

I have attended the Symposium every chance I could since 2015 when I was recognized as a student scholar. In 2016, my childhood dance teacher invited a group of girls for a reunion and gave us the chance to listen to former First Lady Laura Bush. The 2017 Symposium offered me a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity as a journalist when I interviewed one of my career role models, Joan Lunden. In 2019, I served as a social media host for the OSU Foundation to help people connect to the event even if they couldn't be there. Each Symposium has led to a different discussion with the women around me. Each event has led to growth and empowerment.

Now that I am in my mid-20s, I know that we've all faced comments like the one I heard when I was 10. Watching the women who serve this organization reminds me those comments have no weight. I would like to say thank you to each of them for passing on their knowledge and compassion. The leadership I see in this group inspires me to give back to the next generation in any way I can.





Council member Amy Cline with Human Sciences freshmen

WOMEN FOR OSU MENTORSHIP PROGRAM KICKS OFF WITH FRESHMAN READING PROGRAM

The students file in quietly, nervous and excited. It's the second week of their first college semester, and the College of Human Sciences freshmen have arrived for their First-Year Seminar course.

Dr. Shiretta Ownbey created the Human Sciences Freshman Reading Program, which engages small groups of freshmen in the same major through thoughtful conversation during their first weeks at OSU. The unique program provides an opportunity for students to experience a sense of belonging that will see them through graduation and beyond. Since its launch in 2005, the Freshman Reading Program is one of several Human Sciences first-year experience initiatives designed to help students find their OSU home, resulting in student success and higher student retention rates.

Over the summer, each student receives a book when visiting the Human Sciences building to enroll during

OSU's New Student Orientation. The book is provided by the College of Human Sciences and purchased with funds from two OSU Foundation endowments established to support student success.

This year, the book is *Waking Up Chase: One Student's Journey to Awakening His Potential* by Darryl Bellamy. The book gives a first-hand account of the transition into college and gives insightful tips on the best preparation and relationship methods to be successful in this next phase. It pushes students to visualize the success they'll feel at graduation and encourages them to "leave nothing on the table during the next four years." Volunteer discussion leaders are faculty, staff and community members. Each volunteer leads a discussion group of six to seven students from the same major during two of their First-Year Seminar class periods. While the selected books focus on content that is important to student success, the

initiative is more about creating connections among the students and with the adult discussion leader in order to help students find their home at OSU.

These book clubs are one way members of the Women for OSU Council's mentoring subcommittee have been engaging with students on campus. Council members Amy Cline and Gwen Shaw were active volunteers this semester.

"This is a great way for me to meet the students. They're so positive and have great goals," Amy said.

Gwen graduated from the college and has participated in this program for three years.

"You get to stay connected to the university, give back to youth, and be a part of the freshman energy and potential," she said. "It's good for students to get to know each other and plan for the next four years. It helps give them a foundation with goals to work toward."

"I've told them if they ever need me or were in an emergency to give me a call," Amy said.

Both women said they enjoy the role the Council plays in this important program, adding that it builds pride in the way Women for OSU helps students on campus.

"I think this class pushes students to visualize and set goals," Amy said. "They've told me that everyone they've met cares about them and builds them up instead of tearing them down. People on campus want these students to be successful."

The Human Sciences Freshman Reading Program and the Women for OSU serve as a great team to support OSU students.

To find out more about this program or to get involved in Women for OSU Mentorship opportunities, contact:

Mary McGowen

Women for OSU Mentorship Team Representative
& Senior Coordinator of Donor Relations

mmcgowen@OSUgiving.com | 405.385.5620



Council member Gwen Shaw discusses *Waking Up Chase* with Freshman Reading Program students.



EVENINGS WITH WOMEN FOR OSU

Regional events a great opportunity to connect



Over the past year, we held several regional Women for OSU events where women had a wonderful opportunity to connect, network and talk all things OSU and orange passions.

Events were held in **Clinton, Oklahoma**, on October 31, 2018, with host Suzanne Day, in **Dallas** on December 6, 2018, with host Lucina Thompson, and in **Oklahoma City** on March 7, 2019, with host Vicki Howard.

These evenings are designed to inspire and inform women on the exciting things happening at OSU and with our organization. **Thank you to our generous event hosts and attendees.**



We are currently planning many more exciting events in the upcoming year, including:

TULSA, OKLAHOMA | NOVEMBER 14
hosted by **Jami Longacre, Leslie Paris & Jenelle Schatz**

DALLAS, TEXAS | DECEMBER 12
hosted by **Amy Mitchell**



If you have questions about these events or are interested in hosting an event in your area, please contact:

Michal Shaw
Assistant Vice President of Donor Relations
& Director of Women for OSU
mshaw@OSUgiving.com | 405.385.5147

Thank you!

At the Women for Oklahoma State University Symposium on April 25, we honored many amazing women. The event featured social psychologist and best-selling author **Amy Cuddy** as the keynote speaker, honored **Philanthropist of the Year Peggy Helmerich**, and recognized **10 outstanding OSU students**. More than 500 people attended to connect, learn and be inspired. We want to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the following sponsors who made the event such a huge success.

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