

Earth Day 2014: A **FOCUS** on Water

2013 Adviser Grant Program: Social Responsibility

Final Report Submitted to:

Dr. Dorothy I. Mitstifer, ACHS Executive Director

Submitted by:

Angelina Stancampiano, President, Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society, Alpha Chapter

Tony Stancampiano, Ph.D., Co-sponsor, Alpha Chi Honor Society, Oklahoma Eta Chapter

Earth Day 2014: **FOCUS** on Water was held 22 April, 2014, on the campus of Oklahoma City University (OCU) at 2501 N. Blackwelder, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This event was put on by the Oklahoma Eta Chapter of Alpha Chi Honor Society (Alpha Chi), Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society (BBB), the OIKOS Scholars program, and the Biology Department at Oklahoma City University. OCU had not held a formal Earth Day event in many years, so the National Alpha Chi theme of 'water' was deemed the perfect fit for an OCU and community event to promote water awareness. The water theme also coincides with the City of Oklahoma City's 'squeeze every drop' water awareness campaign for 2013-14.

Planning for Earth Day 2014 began in October 2013. We held several meetings to brainstorm participants, determine program format, draft a schedule of events, identify a location, and enlist support for the event. Participants for these meetings included the BBB executive board, Alpha Chi officers, and the faculty sponsors for these honor societies, Drs. Tony Stancampiano and Adam Ryburn, and Mr. Paul Gebb. A list of preferred speakers was drawn up and committee members were assigned to contact and invite these experts in their specific disciplines related to water. Logistical arrangements for the Earth Day site and university support were made for OCU's Great Hall located inside the Tom and Brenda McDaniel University Center. Additionally, we generated a list of tasks to include: t-shirt design and production, contacting potential sponsors, distributing promotional fliers to area businesses (Appendix A), and coordinating event volunteers. These tasks were divided amongst the board members/officers and sponsors. The committee established deadlines in early 2014.

On January 16, 2014, Angelina Stancampiano, Tony Stancampiano, and Adam Ryburn met with OCU President Robert Henry to discuss potential keynote speakers and contributors to the event. On February 20, BBB and Alpha Chi officers met with their sponsors, and Beth Landon, Oklahoma Blue Thumb representative, for a progress report. At this time the keynote speaker, panelists, and most exhibitors were finalized. From this point on, we held bi-weekly meetings for progress updates until the final meeting on 17 April.

The Earth Day **FOCUS** on water schedule was as follows with all events taking place in the Great Hall:

3:00 Exhibitions around the perimeter of the Great Hall. Exhibitors included:

- Flood Plain Demonstration (John Harrington, Water Resources ACOG)
- Fish Art (Kim Shaw, Oklahoma Blue Thumb)
- History and current status of the Deep Fork River (Cedric Bond)
- Enviroscape, non-point source pollution demonstration/apparatus (Cheryl Cheadle, Oklahoma Blue Thumb)
- Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Display and Discussion (Candice Miller, Oklahoma Blue Thumb)
- Friends of Bishop Creek (Karen Chapman)
- The EnvironMentor Newsletter and Calendar (Beth Landon, OCU Biology)
- Bobble, Reusable Water bottles

5:00 Break for dinner in the OCU Cafeteria

6:00 Panel Discussion titled "Watering Oklahoma"

- Shanon Phillips**, Director of Water Quality Division, Oklahoma Conservation Commission
- Cheryl Cheadle**, State Coordinator, Oklahoma Blue Thumb Water Pollution Education Program
- Cedric Bond**, an OCU student and kayak team member who is working on a senior capstone project on the Deep Fork River.
- Nathan Kuhnert**, Environmental, Health, and Safety Office, Devon Energy
- Tom Elkins**, Administrator of Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs
- Al Sutherland**, Oklahoma Mesonet Agriculture Coordinator, Oklahoma State University's Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering

7:30 Keynote Address: "Drought Decisions and Mesonet Drought Tools", Al Sutherland

Attendees were given 'bingo' cards which were stamped when they visited each exhibitor (Appendix C). Completed cards were entered into drawings for door prizes which were held throughout the event. Door prizes included gift cards from local restaurants, rock climbing trips, canoe/kayaking trips, Alpha Chi National Honor Society water bottles, and smart- pot garden containers among others.

Angelina Stancampiano served as the emcee for the panel discussion. Panelists introduced themselves then briefly discussed their occupation, as it related to water. Introductory remarks were followed by a question and answer period. Questions provided by OCU biology majors were asked of the panel members. Answers to these questions generated questions from the audience and a cordial, yet candid discussion followed. Some of the major topics covered included: the effects of oil and gas activity on groundwater, how are communities preparing for water shortages, what can we do to conserve water now, Native American (specifically the Cherokee Nation) perspectives on water, climate change/drought, and predictions on water sustainability.

The keynote presentation by Al Sutherland centered on the ongoing drought conditions. Specifically, Dr. Sutherland revealed how climate related data are collected and analyzed, and how these data are used to predict climate change. He also provided the audience with a current status of the Ogallala aquifer and other ground water in Oklahoma. This was an extremely informative presentation leading to another lengthy question and answer session. Earth Day activities ended at 9:30pm.

Multiple sponsors (Appendix A) donated to our event allowing us to purchase t-shirts (Appendix B), signage for the events, and small gifts for our contributors. Several sponsors donated gift cards and merchandise which allowed us to have a drawing at the event to encourage attendance. T-shirts (125) were given out to attendees who signed a pledge of sustainability at the event promising to live more sustainable lifestyles. Our sponsors included Belle Isle Restaurant and Brewery, Oklahoma Mattress Company, Rafter H LLC, Weed Family Home Rentals, Saints Bar and Lounge, Raising Cain's Chicken Fingers, The Red Cup, and Big Truck Tacos.

Approximately 200 people, including students, staff, faculty, administrators, and community members attended our inaugural Earth Day at OCU!

Appendix A. Promotional flyer.



*Earth Day @ OCU
Tuesday, April 22*

OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY
EARTH DAY 2014:
FOCUS ON WATER
OCU McDaniel University Center

3:00-6:00pm Information Tables and Activities

6:00-7:30pm Panel Discussion "Watering Oklahoma"
Al Sutherland, Oklahoma Mesonet
Shanon Phillips, Oklahoma Conservation Commission Water Quality Division
Cheryl Cheadle, Blue Thumb Water Quality Educational Program
Nathan Kuhnert, Environmental, Health and Safety at Devon Energy
Tom Elkins, Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs
Cedric Bond, OCU History Major

7:30pm Al Sutherland, "Drought Decisions and Mesonet Drought Tools."

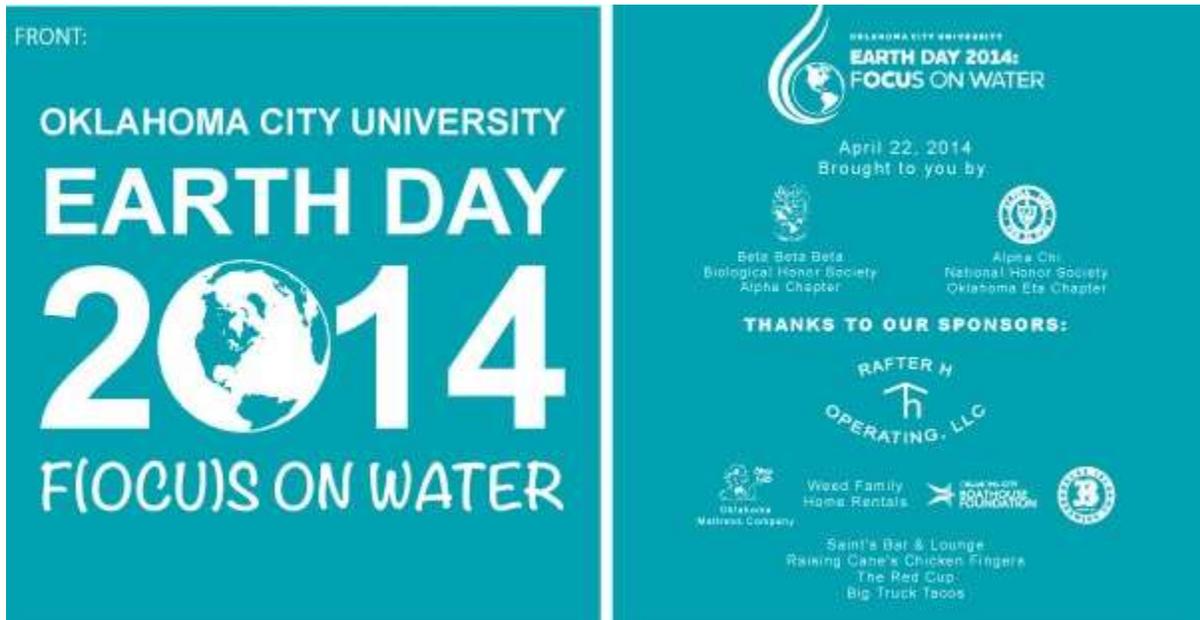
Sponsored By:

Beta Beta Beta	Alpha Chi	OCU SGA
Rafter H Operating, LLC	Belle Isle Restaurant & Brewery	Oklahoma Mattress Company
Weed Family Home Rentals	Big Truck Tacos	OKC Boathouse Foundation
Saint's Bar & Lounge	The Red Cup	Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers

*Door Prizes
from Sponsors*

All events are free to the public!

Appendix B. Earth Day t-shirt design (front and back).



Appendix C. 'Bingo' cards for attending specific exhibitors (front and back).

