3-27-2009

Event Program: Dinner and Conversation with Rich Taylor

Rich Taylor

Abstract

Rich Taylor, whose experience in fine arts includes 27 years in executive leadership posts with the Walt Disney company, is the Dean of the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts at the University of Oklahoma. Taylor, an Enid native and 1972 OU alumnus, has served as interim director of the college since June 2008. His career at Disney, one of the world’s largest entertainment companies, included 10 years as... Read More
DAVinci Institute
Presents

Dinner and Conversation with

Rich Taylor

AND

Introduction of

2009 DA Vinci Fellows
AND
DA Vinci-Martin Scholars

March 27, 2009
Six Thirty o’clock in the Evening

Marriott Hotel,
Grand Ballroom
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
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DINNER AND CONVERSATION
WITH
RICH TAYLOR

SPECIAL MUSIC: JAZZ COMBO
Oklahoma City Community College

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
Mr. Gary Davidson

OPENING REMARKS
Mr. Sid Hudson
Vice Chancellor for Legislative Relations,
Technology, Workforce and Economic
Development, and Research

DINNER

INTRODUCTION OF
2009 DA VINCI FELLOWS
AND
MARTIN-DA VINCI SCHOLARS
Mr. Gary Davidson
Ms. Kyle Dahlem

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Mr. Gary Davidson

KEYNOTE REMARKS
Rich Taylor
Dean, Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine arts
The University of Oklahoma

CLOSING REMARKS
Dr. Sanders Huguenin

We thank each of you for sharing this special evening with us!
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2009 DaVinci Fellows

Dr. Kevin J. Hayes
Professor of English,
University of Central Oklahoma

Dr. Greg Mellot
Professor of Film and Video Production,
Oklahoma City Community College

Dr. Amy Aldridge
Assistant Professor of Communication Studies,
Northeastern State University

Dr. Mary Linn
Associate Professor of Anthropology
and Associate Curator in the
Department of Native American Languages,
University of Oklahoma

Mr. Brad Matson
Director, Digital Media Institute,
Northern Oklahoma College

2009 DaVinci-Martin Scholars

Heather Brand, usao
Tiana Cook, occc
Ellen Fitzwater, usao
Bobbie E. Gower, uco
Tracy R. Hull, uco
Shelli Lamons, nsu
Kelly A. Sehon, uco
Melody Tyler, cu
Rochelle M. Wood, usao
Rich Taylor, whose experience in fine arts includes 27 years in executive leadership posts with the Walt Disney company, is the Dean of the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts at the University of Oklahoma.

Taylor, an Enid native and 1972 OU alumnus, has served as interim director of the college since June 2008. His career at Disney, one of the world’s largest entertainment companies, included 10 years as vice president of entertainment and costuming for Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, Fla.

During Taylor’s Disney career, he served as corporate director of creative development and communications; manager of special events; manager of creative show development; division manager of talent casting and resources for Walt Disney World Creative Entertainment; and director of entertainment for Disneyland Paris. He led the Disney creative teams that co-created and produced the Emmy Award-winning Walt Disney World Christmas Parade on ABC and the acclaimed Super Bowl XXXIV Half Time Show.

While pursuing his bachelor of fine arts degree from OU, Taylor received numerous awards and honors, including the gold Letzeiser Medal as Outstanding Senior and the Pe-et honor society. He founded and directed the OU Student Entertainers, performed in numerous productions of the schools of Music and Drama and the Opera Department, and served as the show director, master of ceremonies and performer for Sooner Scandals and in University Sing.

He began his music career as a featured soloist, choral singer and conductor with legendary choral music pioneer Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians, appearing in national tours, at the White House and on PBS. Taylor also served as assistant producer/director and press and publicity director for The Fred Waring Show.

Committed to arts in the public schools, Taylor has served in numerous professional organizations, including on the advisory board of the National Association for Music Education in Washington, D.C.; as co-chairman of Fred Waring’s America advisory board at Penn State University; as a member of the resource council for the Florida State University School of Motion Pictures, Television and Recording Arts; and on the boards of the Orlando Ballet and the Orlando Opera. In Oklahoma, Taylor serves on the boards of the Oklahoma Arts Institute and the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid.
**DaVinci Institute**

**Our Mission**

To promote a statewide creative renaissance through lectures, workshops, professional development, research, and advocacy.

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