GUEST COLUMN
Tulsa Business Forums welcomes Tony Blair

LARRY CROSBY

What do the names George H.W. Bush, Mikhail Gorbachev, Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice, Madeleine Albright, Newt Gingrich, George Will, Lech Walesa, Jack Welch, Lee Iacocca and William F. Buckley Jr. have in common? They have all been guest speakers at the Tulsa Business Forums.

Presented by Oklahoma State University’s Spears School of Business and Center for Executive & Professional Development, this series has for 25 years brought some of the most influential world figures to Tulsa to share their views with the community. This year is no exception as we look forward to the arrival of Tony Blair, former prime minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on Nov. 1 at the Oral Roberts University Mabee Center.

It is only with the support of our sponsors that we are able to offer a speaker series of this caliber. This partnership helps address two of the three key missions of a land-grant university: teaching and outreach (the third being research). The series is also highly consistent with the stated purpose of the Spears School, i.e., “We engage and inspire the student in everyone to dream big, stretch their leadership potential, transform organizations and make a difference in the world.” So, a big “thank you” to our sponsors!

We take seriously our charge of preparing students for the next 30 to 40 years, which, from the standpoint of economics and world affairs, are likely to be just as dynamic and tumultuous. Equally important is the task of developing leaders for the next generation. Who will be the next Boone Pickens?

The insight provided by the Tulsa Business Forum speakers certainly contributes to the preparation of the college and high school students who attend. It’s also a great opportunity for Oklahoma business/government leaders to gain direction and encouragement from speakers who have occupied the most challenging roles in the world.

“In today’s highly integrated global economy, we are all citizens of the world whether we accept that mantle or not.”

Larry Crosby

20 years has been London where Spears School students participate in a once-in-a-lifetime experience. After sending hundreds of Oklahoma State business students to London, we’re getting a return on our investment in the form of Tony Blair.

“Remarks by Tony Blair” are from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 1 at the Mabee Center. Tickets and more information are available by calling 405-744-5208 or 866-768-3933.

Larry Crosby is dean of the OSU Spears School of Business.

Tony Blair