

January 19

Regents approve partnership with national energy expert

The OSU/A&M Board of Regents today approved an extensive energy conservation initiative that is expected to save the OSU System more than \$30 million over the next seven years. The Regents approved a contract, recommended by Oklahoma State University's administration to retain Energy Education, Inc. (EEI) to implement a sweeping multi-year conservation education program aimed at putting into place standardized best practices and programs to promote responsible energy management among students, administrators, faculty and staff. EEI, based in Wichita Falls, Texas, was founded by OSU alumnus Dr. William Spears 21 years ago. "Rising energy costs and energy price volatility continue to strain operational budgets across our campuses," said OSU System CEO and President David Schmidly. "EEI has a proven track record of helping educational institutions optimize site energy efficiency, allowing them to reserve operational funds once dedicated to energy costs toward educational priorities." The company's proprietary energy conservation program has been used by more than 800 public school districts across the United States resulting in an estimated \$1.2 billion in cumulative and verified energy savings, according to the company. OSU and the OSU System will become the first higher education institution to implement EEI's program. For more information, [click here](#).

Schmidly discusses OSU academic ledger

Oklahoma State University System CEO and President David Schmidly highlighted several areas of progress as he discussed the OSU academic ledger with Regents today including impressive increases in ACT scores, the graduation rate and diversity. The ledger, which can be found at the OSU home page (osu.okstate.edu), provides a comprehensive look at the performance and productivity of Oklahoma State University, its colleges and all its departments. The broad range of information shows the university's progress toward its strategic goal of becoming a more competitive research university. The ledger tracks five years of data on faculty salaries, retention, student-to-teacher ratios, graduation rates and degrees awarded, gender and ethnicity makeup of faculty and students, freshman ACT scores, research and outreach expenditures, and much more. For more details, [click here](#).

OSU Professional Ed unit receives continuing accreditation

Oklahoma State University's Professional Education Unit has been awarded continuing accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and from the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation. "We are very pleased with the announcement that our professional education unit at OSU has received this continued accreditation from NCATE, the most widely recognized and highest level of program review any professional education program can receive, and continued accreditation from OCTP," said Dr. Pamela Fry, dean of the OSU College of Education. OSU's Professional Education Unit is unique in the nation because it is not exclusively housed in the College of Education but is made up of partners that include the OSU College of Arts and Sciences, OSU College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and the OSU College of Human Environmental Sciences. NCATE's performance-based

system of accreditation fosters competent classroom teachers and other educators who work to improve the education of all K-12 students. For more information, [click here](#).

OSU Board approves personnel actions

The Oklahoma State University/A&M Board of Regents approved several personnel actions during its Jan. 19 meeting at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami.

Dr. Richard Ghiselli, associate professor and interim associate department head in the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management at Purdue University, was named professor, director and Charles W. Lanphere Professor of the School of Hotel and Restaurant Administration. He will assume his position on June 29.

Dr. Mark Weiser, associate professor, Fleming Professor of Information Technology Management and director of the Master of Science in Telecommunications Management program, was named associate dean in the Spears School of Business.

Dr. Toni S. Shaklee, interim assistant vice president for Sponsored Research, has been named assistant vice president for Sponsored Research in the Division of Research and Technology Transfer. She is a Certified Research Administrator.

For more personnel action details, [click here](#)

OSU Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day next week

Oklahoma State University Athletics will honor the efforts of all OSU employees next Wednesday, Jan. 24, with “OSU Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day” as the Cowgirls take on Colorado at Gallagher-Iba Arena, starting at 7 p.m. All OSU faculty and staff members will receive \$2 admission to the game. Tickets may be purchased at the Athletics Center ticket box office in advance or on gameday. A current OSU ID is required to receive the discount. Under second-year Head Coach Kurt Budke, the Cowgirls are currently 14-3 overall and 2-2 in the Big 12 Conference, their best start since 2000. For more information about Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day, contact OSU Athletics Marketing at (405) 744-3067.

“How to Overcome Negativity” Seminar on Wednesday

Stop negativity in its tracks and get on a more positive highly productive path by attending this seminar Wednesday, Jan. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in room 408, Student Union. This innovative, lively day of training, provided by Padgett-Thompson, is designed to cultivate winning attitudes throughout the university by equipping employees with tools and techniques proven to combat negative mindsets and behaviors. This seminar (\$99) counts as an elective for the Leadership Development Program or as an elective for the Ambassador Program. Register on the web at www.okstate.edu/osu_per/hr/training.html or send an email to osu-trng@okstate.edu or call OSU Training Services at (405) 744-5374.

City manager says survey is coming

Stillwater City Manager Dan Galloway is asking residents to pay close attention to their mailbox later this month for a National Citizens Survey. Twelve hundred households in Stillwater will be randomly selected and asked to participate in the survey which measures and evaluates local governments, foundations and not-for-profit human service agencies through the U.S. The survey is used widely by cities and towns to assess resident satisfaction about community amenities and

local government service. The survey serves as a “report card” on city government and also gives Stillwater an idea of how it rates compared to the more than 350 communities throughout the country, which also participate.

Human Resources presents Employee Service Award

Human Resources presented an annual Employee Services Award for outstanding work ethics to staff member Cissy Blood. Blood, who serves as the lead data technician in the benefits area, was presented with a plaque and a check at a department luncheon. She has worked at OSU for almost seven years.

Student’s article gets attention

An Oklahoma State University journalism senior’s reporting on violations of the state Open Records Act by some local law enforcement agencies has garnered national attention. Matt Barnard’s article, published Nov. 30 (2006) in *The Daily O’Collegian*, was recently posted by the Society of Professional Journalists to its Freedom of Information Committee’s nationwide blog. Barnard produced his story as part of the public affairs reporting course taught by associate professor Joey Senat last fall.

Nominations sought for Student Employee of the Year

Do you have an outstanding student employee? Each spring, as part of National Student Employment Week, OSU chooses a Student Employee of the Year, someone who best embodies the contributions and achievements of students who work while attending college. Eligible students include undergraduate students employed on campus and graduate students who are on the student employee payroll and who are performing student employee jobs (not resident advisers, graduate assistants, or teaching assistants). The contest is sponsored by the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid and OSU Career Services in conjunction with the National Student Employment Association’s (NSEA) National Student Employee of the Year contest. Nomination materials and guidelines are available at www.okstate.edu/finaid/seoty. The nomination deadline is Friday, Feb. 9. Questions? Contact James Rupp, (405) 744-7056, james.rupp@okstate.edu.

OSU Allied Arts presents Amelia Piano Trio

The Amelia Piano Trio, one of the most exciting young chamber ensembles to appear in the last decade, will perform Saturday, Feb. 3, at 8 p.m. in the Seretean Center Concert Hall. The group’s repertoire includes classical music, but it has also made its mark performing new music. The trio has toured North American and Central Asia with Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Project. For tickets, phone (405) 744-7400. For more information, call (405) 744-7509.

Women’s Forum ahead

Mark your calendar for the next OSU Women’s Forum, scheduled for **Thursday, March 8, from 3:30-6 p.m.** Dr. Joe Anna Hibler, President Emeritus from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, will share the *Status of Women in Oklahoma Today*. More information about this Spring Connection will be mailed out during the month of February.

OSU Research Symposium coming – registration invited now

The deadline for registering and submitting abstracts for the 18th annual OSU Research Symposium is Sunday, Jan. 28. All graduate and undergraduate students are eligible to participate. Students can register on the Research Symposium web page at: <http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/events/ressymp/default.htm>. The symposium provides a great opportunity to share the world class research on campus with the university community. Last year, it hosted over 150 paper and poster presentations and more are expected this year. The accepted papers and posters will be presented Wednesday, Feb. 21, through Friday, Feb. 23. Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories. The OSU Research Symposium is co-hosted by the Graduate College, Office of the Vice President of Research and Technology Transfer, and the Graduate & Professional Student Government Association.

Wellness tip: Snack idea

Our registered dietitian suggests that for a quick and healthy snack, spread nonfat ricotta cheese onto whole grain toast. Top with sliced fruit (try kiwi, strawberries, mandarin orange sections, or pineapple), and sprinkle with cinnamon. Enjoy! This snack is a great source of fiber. It also provides a nice amount of both protein and calcium. Wellness tips are brought to you by the OSU Seretean Wellness Center, dedicated to making OSU the Healthiest Campus in America. For more information about services for students, faculty and staff, call 744-WELL (9355).