

April 27, 2007

#### OSU among top 90 "best value" public institutions

The Princeton Review is again listing Oklahoma State University as one of the nation's best value undergraduate institutions in its latest edition of "America's Best Value Colleges," which went on sale this week. The Review selected the schools based on four categories: academics, tuition GPA (the sticker price minus average amount students receive in scholarships and grants), financial aid (how well colleges meet students' financial need), and student borrowing. OSU was among the 90 public colleges chosen for this edition, all of which The Princeton Review recommends as "America's best college education deals for 2007." The book includes three pages on OSU that explain each category and offer an overview of the university.

#### OSU researcher featured at energy conference

Raymond Huhnke, OSU professor of biosystems and agricultural engineering, was among the experts on the alternative fuels panel at this week's OSU Energy Conference in Tulsa. He serves as team leader for a project that is working to convert low cost biomass, such as perennial grasses and crop residues, into liquid fuel known as "GRASSohol." Huhnke's team is using a gasification-fermentation process designed to get three units of energy from every one unit that is input. The Energy Conference, hosted by the Spears School of Business at OSU, drew more than 800 to the Renaissance Hotel where the theme was the continued diversification of the energy industry. The keynote speaker for the conference, John Hofmeister, president, Shell Oil, urged participants to diversify their companies and pointed to Shell's sizeable investments in alternative energy sources as a sign that his company intends to lead the way.

#### College of Education announces top ten seniors

The College of Education's Top 10 Seniors for 2007 (followed by their hometowns and majors) are Sally Buxton, Edmond, secondary education; Abby Cavalier, Pampa, Texas, secondary education; Valerie Gillen, Hays, Kan., secondary education; Rexi Graham, Edmond, secondary education; Ashley Hall, Pawnee, elementary education; Tracy Kila, Sand Springs, secondary education; Preston Melhauser, Greeley, Colo., aviation sciences; Kristen Radka, Ponca City, elementary education; Megan Walker, Waynoka, elementary education; and Martin Williams, Tuttle, aviation sciences. Outstanding Graduate Assistants are Brent Hill, Shawnee, educational psychology; Angel Kymes, Bixby, education; and Jerilyn Thorman, Tulsa, educational psychology.

#### OSU student selected for honor society award

Candice Nicole Howell of Nowata has been awarded an Award of Excellence by The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi for the 2007-2008 academic year. The award will allow Howell, a senior, to pursue a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at OSU. Howell is among only 40 students nationwide to receive the Award of Excellence. She is the daughter of Tim Howell of Nowata and Christy Howell of Edmond. The selection process for the award is based on several categories including undergraduate academic performance; leadership and service on the campus and in the community. For more information on Phi Kappa Phi, please call 800/804-9880 or visit [www.PhiKappaPhi.org](http://www.PhiKappaPhi.org) <<http://www.phikappaphi.org/>> .

#### History professor receives fellowship

Yonglin Jiang, assistant professor in the OSU history department, has been awarded the Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. He is one of 11 to receive the fellowships nationwide in the 2006-2007 competition. Fellows receive a \$64,000 stipend and \$2,500 for research and travel. Fellowships support advanced assistant professors and untenured associate professors in the humanities and related social sciences whose scholarly contributions have advanced their fields and who have well designed and carefully developed plans for research. The American Council of Learned Societies is a private non-profit federation of 68 national scholarly organizations.