

June 22, 2007

New budget strengthens mission of learning, research, outreach

The Oklahoma State University/A&M Board of Regents approved a fiscal year 2008 budget of \$900 million for the Oklahoma State University System at its meeting Friday in Tulsa. "This budget will allow us to excel across many fronts as we carry out our land-grant mission of teaching/learning, research/scholarship and outreach/service," said Interim OSU System CEO and President Marlene Strathe. "We will increase pay for faculty and staff, and continue to fund research and academic programs that directly affect the student experience." The system-wide total operating budget takes effect July 1. It is up 9.2 percent from last year and reflects a nearly \$7 million increase in state appropriations. A significant portion of the new dollars in the budget must cover increases in mandatory costs for items such as energy, health insurance, retirement benefits and library materials. The budget reflects a 3 percent merit pay increase for both faculty and staff on the Stillwater and Tulsa campuses. As part of the school's Restore, Reward and Grow faculty program, OSU will be adding positions to support research. OSU also is funding a special program to improve salaries of its lowest paid positions. Based on 30 credit hours, undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees for in-state students will increase a little more than \$16 per credit hour. For more details, click here <http://osu.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=693&Itemid=90> .

New Regents Professors appointed at OSU

Five Oklahoma State University faculty members were appointed Regents Professors today by the Oklahoma State University A&M Board of Regents, effective July 1. The title of Regents Professor is bestowed to recognize a scholar or creative artist of exceptional ability who has achieved national and international distinction. A nominee must be recognized by colleagues, nationally and internationally, for past and current unique contributions and accomplishments in several areas within the discipline. Receiving this honor are Peter M. Sherwood, professor and dean of the OSU College of Arts and Sciences; Charles I. Abramson, psychology professor; Riley Dunlap, sociology professor; Dan S. Rickman, professor and OG&E chair in economics and legal studies; and Carey N. Pope, professor, endowed chair and head of physiological sciences in the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. For more details, click here <http://osu.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=695&Itemid=90> .

OSU students shine in the classroom; many with perfect GPA

Twenty-eight of the graduating seniors at Oklahoma State University in May completed their studies with perfect 4.0 grade point averages, interim OSU System CEO and President Marlene Strathe announced Friday at the OSU/A&M Board of Regents meeting in Tulsa. Including December graduates, a total of 41 undergraduate students received their degrees with perfect GPAs during the 2006-07 academic year. Across all classes, a total of 357 undergraduates have maintained 4.0 overall GPAs. "We are extremely proud of all our hard-working students and extend special congratulations to those who have excelled at the highest levels," said Strathe. At the end of the academic year, the freshman class had 119 students with 4.0 GPAs, the sophomore class 105, the junior class 66 students, and the senior class 67 students with 4.0 GPAs, including the 28 students who completed all the requirements for their degrees in May. For more details, click here <http://osu.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=694&Itemid=90> .

OSU athletes complete record year in the classroom

The OSU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics has put the wraps on an academic year that included unprecedented performances by its student-athletes in the classroom. "I applaud the record-setting academic work of our student-athletes this past school year," said interim OSU System CEO and President Marlene Strathe. "I commend VP for Athletics Mike Holder, Associate AD for Academics Marilyn Middlebrook, and our entire team of coaches and staff for their commitment to our students and academics. Our student-athletes are outstanding representatives for our school." The academic achievements come in a year in which 10 OSU programs reached the top 10 of their respective sports. A total of 101 Oklahoma State student-athletes were

honored as academic all-Big 12 selections during the 2006-2007 school year, breaking the school record of 97 set in 2002. Nationally, OSU set a school record with 24 academic All-Americans or National Scholar Athlete selections. The previous school best was 22 set in 2004-2005. For more details, click here <http://osu.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=692&Itemid=90> .

OSU Board Approves Personnel Actions

The Oklahoma State University/A&M Board of Regents approved several personnel actions during its June 22 meeting at OSU-Tulsa including three new department heads at OSU-Stillwater. They include: Gary A. Thompson, professor of applied science at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, named professor and head of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Subhash C. Kak of Louisiana State University was named professor and head of the Department of Computer Science; and Sue E. Williams, OSU professor of human development and family science, was named head of the Department of Human Development and Family Science. For complete details on all personnel actions, click here <http://osu.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=691&Itemid=90> .

OSU Board Approves Promotions on Campuses

The Oklahoma State University Board of Regents/A&M today approved promotions in academic rank for faculty members at the campuses in Stillwater, Tulsa and Oklahoma City, effective July 1. For details, click here <http://osu.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=690&Itemid=90> .