

OSU TODAY

NEWS FROM THE STATE'S UNIVERSITY

APRIL 7, 2006 VOL. 16 NO. 12

OSU names top student employees Reception today to honor award finalists



Animal science senior Mike Wilson was named OSU Student Employee of the Year for his work in facilities and herd management for OSU's Equestrian Team. He and other finalists will be honored today at 3:30 in Willard Living Room.

Mike Wilson, an animal science senior from Enid, has been named the OSU Student Employee of the Year. The honor is sponsored jointly by the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid and OSU Career Services.

In anticipation of National Student Employee Appreciation Week April 9 – 15, a reception for the OSU award finalists is set for today from 3:30 – 5 p.m. in the Willard Living Room. The campus is invited.

"The more than 4,500 students who work as employees on our campus are vital to our day-to-day operations and have played a key role in what we have accomplished this school year," said OSU System CEO and President David J. Schmidly. "I want to commend them for an outstanding job and thank them for their commitment and hard work. They continue to touch our university in countless ways."

Wilson works in facilities and herd management for the equestrian program in OSU Athletics. He is responsible for feeding and watering the 54 horses used for the varsity equestrian team and maintaining indoor and outdoor arenas and the fencing around the entire Equestrian Center. His assignments also include equipment maintenance and ordering grain and supplies and administering emergency medical aid for the horses.

"Mike's dedication to his job and self motivation are evident in a variety of situations," said Larry L. Sanchez, OSU equestrian head coach. "He takes pride in his job and also has taken superb care of the herd on numerous holidays. This kind of care and dedication is rare and I never worry when Mike is on the job."

OSU Student Employee of the Year finalists include Zach Baldrige, OSU Visitor Center/Undergraduate Admissions; Kyle Jameson, Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab; Stacy Sanders, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology; Jeremy Tillman, School of Chemical Engineering; and Tracy Vargas, Arts and Sciences Outreach.

"Employment can be a vital part of the college experience, helping many students develop important life skills and professional expertise," said Dr. Charles W. Bruce, director of OSU's Scholarships and Financial Aid office. "Not only does it also allow them to not rely as heavily on student loans, but research has shown that students who work part time while in college tend to earn higher grades than those who don't."

As part of next week's observance of National Student Employee Appreciation Week, the Stillwater mayor's office will issue a proclamation on April 11. Employers both on- and off-campus are encouraged to celebrate the event with activities recognizing their student employees.

Have you met...

Margi Gilmour

Cataracts, glaucoma, corneal ulcerations, dry eye and other ailments suffered by humans also are common among dogs, cats and horses. As one of just two board certified veterinary ophthalmologists in Oklahoma, Dr. Margi Gilmour ensures that students at OSU's Boren Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital are trained in even the ocular aspects of animal healthcare.

In the hospital's three-week ophthalmology clinical rotation and Surgery Ophthalmology Laboratory, Gilmour sees patients while simultaneously teaching prospective veterinarians about the latest technologies to detect eye afflictions, prevention methods and surgical and drug treatments.

An associate professor in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences department, Gilmour's research activities include investigating a comparative pathogenesis between cancer-associated retinopathy in humans and Sudden Acquired Retinal Degeneration Syndrome (SARDS) in dogs. She is also investigating newer, oral non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for dogs.



Briefly Speaking...

Faculty forum slated

Provost Marlene Strathe and OSU's Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence invites the OSU community to attend the second annual Workshop on Effective, Engaged and Efficient Learning next week. It will be held 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., Tuesday, April 11 in 102 Advanced Technology Research Center. Lunch will be provided.

The workshop will spotlight the use of emerging technologies in improving education. OSU electrical and computer engineering Associate Professor Alan Cheville and University of Wisconsin researchers Judy Brown and Dr. Jim Gee will speak in the morning.

Strathe will lead off the afternoon session and share her vision for technology-enhanced teaching and learning at OSU. VBrick Systems Inc. CEO Frederick Geyer and Michael Baker, its vice president for Business Development, then will describe their company's digital media distribution system.

For more information, call ITLE at 744-1000 or visit <http://fp.okstate.edu/fsc/2006workshop.htm> to register for the event.

HOW ORANGE ARE YOU?

Paint your face for games? Closet full of orange shirts? Have more than one OSU tie or the OSU brand tattooed on your arm or leg? The most impassioned and colorful supporters of the Cowgirls and Cowboys have the chance today to become part of the new OSU Athletics marketing campaign.

The university is seeking real fans to be part of future advertisements, and this afternoon's spring football practice is the first opportunity to participate. The orange faithful are invited to don their colors and gather at 3 p.m. at the OSU Authentic Store on the south side of Boone Pickens Stadium.

Perspective



Made In Oklahoma Products

Good for you, good for Oklahoma

CHUCK WILLOUGHBY, BUSINESS PLANNING & MARKETING SPECIALIST, OSU FOOD & AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS CENTER

April is "Made In Oklahoma Month," the perfect time to celebrate the important work of the Made In Oklahoma Coalition, a growing group of Oklahoma food manufacturers.

The coalition's 31 member companies employ nearly 15,000 people who work in 94 facilities across our state. Their mission is two-fold: To collectively promote food brand awareness, trade and consumer loyalty for Oklahoma food products; and to achieve this through cooperative marketing activities that enhance sales to retail and foodservice outlets and promote business retention and expansion in Oklahoma.

For the past five years, the Food & Agricultural Products Center at OSU has worked closely with the coalition. In fall 2001, the center and OSU's Agricultural Economics department conducted an economic analysis measuring the impact of Oklahoma's value-added agricultural products industry (food and nonfood) on our state.

The total direct impact is about \$1.7 billion in income to nearly 40,000 employees. The FAPC has updated annually the economic impact of Made in Oklahoma member companies.

Beyond the direct impacts, there are significant indirect and induced impacts such as business purchasing and employees paying for goods and services, economic activity often referred to as the "multiplier effect." Our study found the multiplier effect to be 1.97 on income and 1.86 on employment.

This means that for every \$100 earned by a coalition employee, \$97 is earned by other Oklahomans and for every 100 people hired by a coalition company, 86 more people are employed elsewhere in the state.

That is why when you buy Made in Oklahoma products, you support your local economy – friends and neighbors. In other words: "Good for you, good for Oklahoma."

Students conceive multiple uses for seatbelts

Students in OSU's Department of Design, Housing and Merchandising have demonstrated that the same durable material used in safety straps is viable for everything from beds to luggage. They also provided a seatbelt industry leader the product prototypes.

"We just told them to let their imaginations go wild, and we are very pleased with the results," said Associate Professor Ted Drab, interior design program coordinator.

Drab believes the students in interior design and apparel design and production were motivated by doing the assignment for a private company. He spearheaded the project after getting a call and meeting with representatives from Oklahoma City-based Beam's Industries Inc. in August.

"We told Ted we were in search of new ideas for various types of bags made from our seatbelt material," said Beam's President Mike Bosley, whose firm has more than 50 years of experience in seatbelt manufacturing for various applications. "He suggested we give him a chance to let design students take on the challenge as a class project."



Mike Bosley, president of Beam's Industries Inc., admires a large bag with a seatbelt motif designed and produced by OSU students (l-r) Amy Rider and Shannon Maslen. The bag consists of the same material used to make seatbelts.

With help from faculty members Cheryl Farr and Kyu-Ho Ahn, the students not only sketched drawings for Beam's, but also developed prototypes. Product possibilities immediately expanded when Ahn suggested students also consider furniture as well as women's bags.

The company and the instructors also made the assignment a contest so students could enjoy some additional recognition for their hard work.

Bosley was pleased to see the variety of products that students designed and manufactured from his company's seatbelt materials, but he stopped short of committing the firm to develop and market all the products.

"As a company, we're not ready to move beyond production of the bags right now," Bosley said. "Producing the furniture would be a much bigger leap for us, but certainly it's still in the realm of possibility."

Campus Master Plan

Project: Interdisciplinary Science Building, which will enhance the research capabilities of Oklahoma State University and contribute to economic development.

Building specifications: Projected at 100,000 sq. ft., the three- to four-story complex will house flexible laboratory and office space for interdisciplinary research within the physical and biological sciences.

Location: On Monroe across from Ag Hall

Budget: \$70 million, the largest single state capital bond project.

Construction: Expected to begin in 2007 and completed in 2009.

The campus master plan will guide a historic, unprecedented period of growth at OSU. Of the \$826.4 million in total improvements scheduled in the plan's initial five-year development period, \$314 million is earmarked for academics.

