

AUGUST 25, 2006

This page, published each week in the Daily O'Collegian, is but one source of OSU System news from the OSU Communications office. Also look to our website, <http://osu.okstate.edu/news>, and OSU Headlines for OSU news, as well as where the STATE's University is making the news.

OSU and Pickens Featured in USA Today



Oklahoma State and donor Boone Pickens were featured front and center on the cover of *USA Today* August 16. The major story discussed how OSU athletics are being transformed as a result of Pickens' \$165 million gift.

New learning communities launched



The number of OSU residential learning communities has grown substantially this semester with 19 communities now in place, many in the new four-story suites on the west side of campus. Every college at OSU now has some type of residential learning community.

"Our college has about 60 students in our new community this year, and we expect that to double by the fall of next year, as more students begin to see and hear about the advantages," said Shiretta Ownbey, associate dean for the College of Human Environmental Sciences.

"The students and their families seem to like the idea that there are easier opportunities for friendships in smaller group settings like these as well as the possibility that this will ease the transition to a larger university like OSU," she said.

Each college organizes their communities differently. The Spears School of Business community, housed in Village Suite E, includes a mix of freshmen and upperclassmen. Communities with a specific focus or need to meet have also formed, such as the Journalism and Broadcasting House and the Career Exploration House for students who have yet to determine a major. Other specialized communities include Health Sciences House, the Transfer Zone and Recovery House.

Visit www.reslife.okstate.edu for information about all the learning communities.

Welcome from the President

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the start of another exciting school year at Oklahoma State University. As you look around the Stillwater campus, you will see it is growing and changing as we pursue even greater levels of achievement.

We have more than \$826 million in improvements planned over the next five-to-seven years and while there may be some temporary inconveniences, I am confident the finished product will make us extremely proud.

Among our projects are the construction of an interdisciplinary science building, renovation and expansion of architecture and business schools, a new classroom building, and much more to improve academics and student life. In the more immediate future, you will notice we have begun work on the west end zone of Boone Pickens Stadium and an athletic village north of the stadium. These athletic improvements are well-deserved and long overdue, and were made possible by the generosity of Boone Pickens.

Students continue to enroll this week. We expect enrollment to be at or near what it was a year ago and our freshman ACT average to be the highest on record. OSU people excel on a broad range of fronts and most recently we had a student win a prestigious Jack Kent Cooke scholarship, while one of our faculty members was named Top Young Scientist by the Geological Society of America. I'm pleased that a number of top-notch professors have joined our already strong faculty team this fall.

If you haven't done so, I encourage each

student to think about what you want to achieve here at OSU and let us help. We boast a faculty and staff that are committed to your success. Advisors, counselors, and tutors are available and we have greatly increased the number of residential learning commu-

nities offered by our different colleges. These communities support students by offering mentors and daily interaction with classmates with similar interests and goals.

No matter what your interests, there is much for you to enjoy and appreciate at OSU – meeting friends at our historic Student Union, nationally recognized speakers, championship athletics, diverse cultures and relationships, the state-of-the-art Colvin Recreational Center, a wide range of arts, one of the nation's best homecomings, and one stop I always recommend, the beautiful Edmon Low Library. One of the highlights each fall is our student-run Orange Peel event, this year featuring country superstar Alan Jackson.

My wish for our students is that your time at OSU will be something you'll be able to point to in later years as some of the most productive and fulfilling of your life. For faculty and staff, I appreciate what you do and look forward to a rewarding year.

I hope to see you around campus!



Cambridge program draws strongest OSU crowd ever

Forty people made up the largest contingent ever to represent OSU at Cambridge University during an annual summer program that continues to grow.

In addition to 15 students who spent two weeks studying at Cambridge, the group included OSU alumni and donors who for the first time were invited for a special three-day program.

OSU System CEO and President David Schmidly lectured on Charles Darwin and led a tour of the Darwin home. Schmidly also joined retiring Truman Foundation Executive Secretary Louis Blair and OSU alumnus Bryan Begley in conducting a leadership seminar. OSU College of Arts and Sciences Dean Peter Sherwood, who earned his Ph.D. at Magdalene College, gave a lecture on Cambridge history and led a walking tour of the university and bus tour of area churches for all OSU students and guests.

The group also celebrated the achievements of three OSU graduate scholars who had completed a year of study at Cambridge. Joel Halcomb finished first in his class of graduate historians at Selwyn College, and Ashleigh Hildebrand graduated with a degree in land economy from Trinity College, earning one of the highest dissertation scores it has ever awarded. Bryan McLaughlin is on his way to a Ph.D. in electrical engineering at Kings College with high level work in medical instruments that he designed.

Bob Graalman, director of OSU Scholar Development and Recognition, credits Blaine Greteman, OSU's Rhodes Scholar, for starting the annual summer program in England.

"About six years ago, when Blaine was at Oxford, he called us and offered to teach a class on Oxford literature to our best undergraduate students, in gratitude for his education at OSU," Graalman said. "It was so successful in broadening our students' perspective that we've been going to different locations at Oxford and Cambridge for the last five years."

Graalman is already planning next year's trip.

"Every year we do something a little different," Graalman said. "This year we added the alumni component and offered a new course."

"Next year, we're going to study 19th Century science at Cambridge and move on to Dublin for two weeks to study James Joyce," he said. "As always it will be a trip that ultimately will benefit the students and be a learning experience for everyone involved."



OSU students this summer joined in congratulating chemical engineering alumna Ashleigh Hildebrand (middle in gown) upon her graduation from Trinity College, Cambridge with a graduate degree in land management. Pictured are (left to right) Kara Cook, Cole Reynolds, Kalya McAlister and Kelsey Williams.

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A graduate scholarship from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation will allow Adrienne Tierney to continue her studies. Candidates are assessed on academic achievement and financial need, as well as will to succeed, leadership and community involvement.



OSU-Tulsa grad awarded Cooke Scholarship

Recent OSU-Tulsa graduate Adrienne Tierney this summer was awarded one of the most prestigious and competitive graduate scholarships in the nation.

Tierney, a Tulsa native who completed her bachelor's degree in liberal studies in May, is the first OSU student to be named a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholar. She was the only student from Oklahoma honored this year.

Tierney is among 77 recipients of the foundation's graduate and professional scholarships worth up to \$50,000 annually. She was selected from 1,100 applicants representing 33 states and nine nations. This fall Tierney will study fine arts and fictional writing at Sarah Lawrence College in New York.

Up-and-coming researchers win national awards

Elizabeth Catlos, assistant professor of geology, has been named the 2006 Top Young Scientist by the Geological Society of America. The recognition honors young scientists for outstanding achievement in geology through research that advances the earth sciences.



Catlos is heading efforts to determine the origins of a growing gap in the continental crust in Turkey. This summer she led a team of scientists and students that traveled to Turkey to create a geologic map of the area and collect rocks.

In October, Catlos will receive the gold Donath Medal and a \$20,000 cash prize at the society's annual meeting in Philadelphia.

Jim Smay, assistant professor of chemical engineering, won the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the federal government's recognition of the nation's most promising young researchers. The 56 recipients were honored during a White House ceremony in July.



PECASE winners are chosen from researchers who have received grants from federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation, NASA, Department of Energy and Department of Defense. Only top proposals funded by the agencies are submitted to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy which ultimately determines the awardees.

Smay is using a five-year, \$400,000 NSF-CAREER to develop a solid freeform fabrication process and fund an outreach program to Native American high school students in Tahlequah.

'Explosive' research

Nick Materer and Allen Apblett have developed a method to detect and diffuse peroxide-based explosives simply and immediately.



Getting around

The university has made available many parking and transit options as the campus undergoes an historic expansion.



Choose healthy, choose 'Orange'

Healthy food options available at campus eateries now carry an orange seal of approval.

