

December 8, 2006

## OSU-OKC offers first responder program

### Degree is campus's first bachelor's

Starting next fall, OSU-Oklahoma City will offer a specialized bachelor of technology degree in emergency responder administration. Approved Tuesday by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, it will be the first bachelor's degree offering at OSU-OKC.

The college will accept applications for the program beginning in March and currently is seeking North Central Association of Colleges and Universities accreditation.

OSU-OKC has been a leader in public safety administration for several years with its associate of applied science degree programs in police science, municipal fire protection and emergency medical services. This spring, more than 940 individuals were surveyed, including leaders in fire, medical and police fields, and indicated the need for the new bachelor's program was exceptionally strong.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for Oklahomans to get unique training in a growing career field," said OSU-OKC President Jerry Carroll. "This program will advance Oklahoma's public safety workforce and, with highly-educated first responders, it will directly improve Oklahomans' quality of life."

The program will offer a technical, hands-on curriculum that gives graduates the knowledge and skills to coordinate and manage crisis responses among multiple agencies at

the scene of an emergency so they minimize human and economic costs. Graduates will be prepared for positions such as patrol officers, firefighters and paramedics. They also will be strong candidates for promotion into first line supervisory positions.

Emergency response leaders agree the degree program is needed in Oklahoma.

"This degree will prepare incumbent as well as new officers for the difficult assignments required and expected by the communities they serve," said Oklahoma City Police Chief William City.

The curriculum for the degree program, one of six of its kind in the nation, was developed with input from state emergency response agencies and leaders. The program includes transfer matriculation plans for Rose State College, Redlands Community College and Oklahoma City Community College students. OSU-OKC will maintain a working relationship with OSU-Stillwater for graduates interested in pursuing a master's degree in emergency management administration.

OSU-OKC officials have designated faculty and classrooms for the new program. A department head and full-time instructor will be selected, and this spring construction will begin on the campus of new building to house the program.

*President and Mrs. Schmidly invite you to attend their annual Holiday Happening*

*Wednesday, December 20  
9 - 11 am.  
Student Union Atrium*

## Happy Holidays

*The Schmidlys would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season and congratulate all those graduating.*

## China trip an immersion in business, culture for student

When Spears School of Business student Salena Askew began in fall 2005 to explore opportunities to study abroad, she was seeking preparation for employment in the global marketplace as well as the challenge of immersion in a foreign country. She found both in China last summer, spending 10 weeks interning as a marketing assistant for a British beverage company and experiencing the daily life of a Shanghai worker/commuter.

At the same time, as OSU strives to make study abroad a part of the educational experience for more of its students, Askew hopes that trailblazing comes to describe her in other ways.

"I challenge myself all the time, and I wanted to see what it would be like to go to a whole other country that was totally different from what I was used to," Askew said. "I would encourage anyone to try that, but especially African-American students that historically have not taken advantage of study abroad opportunities at this university."

"Some people may not want to go as far as Asia, but study abroad is such a great experience," said Askew, a student in the master's of business administration program. "I learned a lot about Chinese culture, the Chinese people and myself. I'd really like to impress upon people that it's an experience that you could never imagine."

Askew went overseas through Abroad China, a program that provides housing as well as employment placement. She chose the program because it allowed her to complete a term of study abroad and an internship simultaneously. However, she had to raise the money to fund her trip.

Employed with Scottish Newcastle Asia, a beverage maker that is trying to break into the Chinese marketplace, Askew assisted the company's marketing manager in creating and tracking promotional activities and campaigns.



## Around the STATE...

### Regent, professor to provide commencement addresses

OSU/A&M College Regent Burns Hargis and Regents Professor John Mowen will give the addresses for OSU's commencement ceremonies Dec. 15-16.

The ceremony for master's and Ph.D. candidates will be held Friday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. in Gallagher-Iba Arena. Mowen, Noble Chair of marketing strategies at OSU, will address the graduates and guests.

Commencement for students in the Colleges of Agriculture, Arts and Sciences and Education will be Saturday, Dec. 16 at 10:30 a.m. in Gallagher-Iba and followed at 1:30 p.m. by the ceremony for Spears School of Business and College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology and Human Environmental Sciences students.

Hargis will speak at both commencements Saturday. In addition to his service on the board of regents, Hargis is vice chairman of Bank of Oklahoma, N.A. and an established attorney, having practiced for 28 years. An alumnus of OSU, he is also a panelist on the weekly politically-oriented television program "Flashpoint."

### Accounting alumni honored

The School of Accounting in the Spears School of Business has named its 2006 Distinguished Alumni. J. Ike Guest ('60) of Dallas, Bob Slovacek ('71, '72) of Oklahoma City, and Judy A. Johnson ('67) and Mike Johnson ('66) of Kingfisher were honored during the Wilton T. Anderson Hall of Fame Banquet at the Meinders Hall of Mirrors at the Civic Center Music Hall in Oklahoma City.

### OSU/USDA loans to benefit rural businesses

OSU's Center for Innovation and Economic Development has been awarded \$750,000 by U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development through its Intermediary Relending Program.

"This loan program fits perfectly with part of Oklahoma State University's land-grant mission, to create opportunities for rural areas of the state," said Joe Alexander, president of the Center for Innovation and Economic Development. "OSU's CIED is committed to enhancing the economic future of the entire state of Oklahoma, and companies located in rural areas are a big piece of completing the state's economic puzzle."

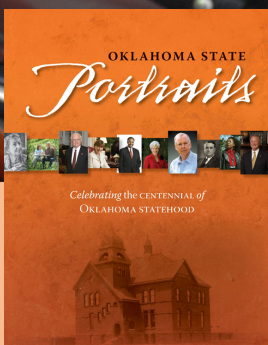
CIED will use the loan to provide financial assistance to public and non-profit organizations to enable them to furnish loans for business and community development projects.

Terms for the \$750,000 Intermediary Relending Loan to the center is 1 percent interest for 30 years. It is estimated the funds will create or save 617 jobs. CIED officials believe these funds will mean between \$125,000 to \$150,000 to companies awarded the low interest loans.



With innovative programs that allow graphic artists to learn the latest software in days rather than weeks, PL Studios helps clients such as Nickelodeon, MTV, Disney and Pixar train the hundreds of artists they employ. Since College of Education graduate Piyush Patel started the company in 1998 from his room in Willham Hall, it has risen to become the second-ranked tutorials provider in the industry.

Although he has just started to define his legacy, Patel is among OSU alumni profiled in Oklahoma State Portraits: Celebrating the Centennial of Oklahoma Statehood. Order it today at: [https://www.shopokstate.com/webapps/cart/centennial\\_book.asp](https://www.shopokstate.com/webapps/cart/centennial_book.asp)



For all these stories and more, go to: <http://osu.okstate.edu/news>

## Student Spotlight

OSU won the Best Delegation Award at the recent session of the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature.



## Balancing the boom

The oil and gas industry is making the economy look good, but energy prices cloud the overall economic outlook for the state, says featured expert Mark Sneed.



## Just the Facts

Check out OSU's productivity and performance online in the academic ledgers.

