



Academic Services Director for OSU Athletics, Dr. Marilyn Middlebrook assists student athletes Shaunte Smith and Marc Fisher in OSU's Academic Enhancement Center.

Mitchell gift enhances Athletic Academic Center

Looking to support both academics and athletics, Oklahoma State University alumni Joe and Connie Mitchell have given \$3 million to upgrade the Academic Enhancement Center [AEC] for OSU's student athletes. The gift also is supporting the "Next Level" stadium campaign.

"This is a special gift that touches both academics and athletics," said OSU System CEO and President David J. Schmidly. "Graduation and success beyond athletics is a top priority for our student athletes and strengthening our AEC will help us reach that objective."

"Several of our colleges have student success centers that enhance the learning experience and the AEC is doing the same for our student athletes, allowing them to achieve at the highest level academically," Schmidly said. "We are extremely grateful to the Mitchells for stepping forward and investing at a significant level in the future of Oklahoma State."

The center contains study rooms, teaching and computer labs. In recognition of the Mitchell's generous commitment, the AEC will be renamed the Joe and Connie Mitchell Academic Enhancement Center.

"We've always felt a rich connection to OSU, because we met and married while still students there," said the Mitchells, who live in Glen Rose, Texas. "The gift to the AEC appeals to our interests in competitive athletics and, as importantly, a sound educational platform for student athletes. Having family members with special educational needs, we completely understand how mentoring, tutoring and labs can make the difference in a young person achieving graduation and reaching their full potential."

Thanks to the gift, the AEC will be able to focus more resources and energies on educational development, which is critically important given the vast majority of student athletes will make a living after college in a field other than professional sports.

"This gift will have immediate benefits, but it will also strengthen the role academics plays in OSU athletics," said Marilyn Middlebrook, director of Academic Services for Student Athletes. "We are now able to devote significant attention to the testing and development of student athletes, and provide more in-depth services, including services for students with learning challenges."

Joe Mitchell earned his bachelor's degree in architectural studies in 1974, and Connie earned her degree in business education in 1972. The couple currently operates IOXXX Ranch, which houses the nation's foremost show cattle operation, breeding champion show calves for customers across the country. The ranch is also home to wildlife and is a corporate recreational facility for tourists to enjoy the best of the outdoors.



Joe and Connie Mitchell

OSU, Mexican University sign agreement

Officials from the Universidad Popular Autonoma Del Estado De Puebla (UPAEP) in Puebla, Mexico visited Stillwater this week and formalized an agreement to enhance educational and cultural exchanges with Oklahoma State University.

The venture between one of Mexico's leading private universities and OSU will foster business opportunities, increase cultural understanding and help meet the growing need for skilled technical professions.

"OSU welcomes the opportunity to play a constructive role in building international business relationship and global economic opportunities for the state of Oklahoma," said OSU Provost and Senior Vice President Marlene Strathe. "In this case, UPAEP's need for high quality training of automotive service technicians is a good match with OSU-Okmulgee's expertise."

The two universities have been collaborating on educational, entrepreneurial and cultural exchange programs since 1991. The latest venture between the two universities grew from a series of meetings and discussions between officials last year.

Ruben Contreras Reyes, director general of Toyota Mexico and one of the many business and education leaders that met with the OSU group, said Mexican auto dealers faced a shortage of technicians with the skills needed to maintain today's computer intensive automobiles. Toyota Mexico wants UPAEP to develop a program similar to OSU-Okmulgee's Toyota T-Ten program that offers technician education and training.

"UPAEP is very excited about our relationship with OSU and especially with OSU-Okmulgee," said L. Agustin Landa, UPEAP vice president for



Augustin Landa, Marlene Strathe, Bob Klabenes and Fred Ramos.

Outreach and Development. "OSU-Okmulgee is a leading technical university with major industry support for their program.

This [agreement] will build bridges of understanding and foster a climate of entrepreneurial collaboration," Landa said.

In addition to the automotive technology agreement, the two universities will explore exchanges and collaborations in other educational and cultural areas including culinary arts, career technology schools, work skills development, health care, construction technologies and nanotechnology.

"The fact that we both have culinary arts programs is an exciting example of how cultural and educational exchanges can be of benefit to each of us," said OSU-Okmulgee President Bob Klabenes, adding that he envisions UPAEP sending a group of student and faculty members to OSU-Okmulgee as soon as this summer.

"OSU-Okmulgee would develop a specific program to address the kinds of learning experiences the delegation from UPAEP would want during this period of time," Klabenes said. "In turn, UPAEP's students and faculty could assist our students and faculty to enhance their current skills as well as acquire knowledge and skills with respect to authentic Mexican cuisine."

Perspective



Campus Master Plan

OSU enters historic period of growth

DAVID SCHMIDLY, OSU SYSTEM CEO AND PRESIDENT

Oklahoma State University is on the verge of a historic period of growth, an era of infrastructure investment rivaled in scope only by our founding as Oklahoma A&M College. The campus master plan we have been working on since early last year will guide the more than \$700 million in construction projects in the next five years. This effort will make OSU a more competitive university in all areas.

We will be holding additional forums over the next several weeks (see schedule below) to gain input from the campus and community before presenting the master plan to the OSU Board of Regents for approval at its March meeting in Stillwater.

It is important to remember that the campus master plan is a document that can be revised over the years as OSU changes. It will serve as our roadmap for the future and contains the physical concepts and ideas that complement the aspirations outlined in our strategic plan, "Achieving Greatness." It will help serve as a measure of accountability for the taxpayers, state and federal government agencies and private donors who invest in our infrastructure. Finally, the campus master plan will be useful as we communicate our investment needs to various stakeholders.

The current project list in the five-year plan calls for nearly \$750 million in construction across our entire campus, with academic projects leading the way. Thanks to Boone Pickens' generous and record-setting gift of \$165 million, we have more than 60 percent of the funds needed for the projects and we're working hard to raise the additional money.

Based on conservative estimates, this unprecedented construction phase will mean nearly \$700 million in spending in the Stillwater community and another \$2 billion in spending statewide.

But, ultimately, the campus master plan is about improving the student experience at this

university. The new classroom building, the Donald W. Reynolds Architecture Building, an interdisciplinary science and technology building, renovation of Murray Hall and Old Central into classrooms and laboratories, major additions to the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, new student housing and the athletics complex will be built to make OSU more attractive and accommodating to prospective students for many years.

The athletic expansion, of course, has drawn much of the attention. Improving our athletic facilities is critical to our future competitiveness. OSU spent a mere \$11.7 million on athletic facilities in the 32 years prior to 1999, and we have fallen behind our peers in the Big 12 Conference. We are sensitive to the homeowners and the students who live in the expansion area. The OSU Foundation is reaching agreements with many of the property owners, and we also are looking at the issue of affordable housing for our students.

In addition to serving as a guide for short-term and long-term infrastructure development, the master plan also considers other facets of the OSU experience. It is not a schedule or timetable, but rather a template to be referred to by administrators, faculty, staff and students for the next two decades and beyond as decisions are made about housing, dining, safety and security, classroom accommodations, transportation, energy usage, communications infrastructure and other factors that define our beautiful campus.

I hope all faculty, staff and students will make an effort to learn more about all aspects of the campus master plan so that they can distinguish between the facts and misinformation surrounding it. Your input as the plan is prepared during the coming weeks for the Board of Regents' review may impact not only the university in the immediate future but for generations to come.

Feb. 2	Faculty Council Forum, Click Hall, Alumni Center	4 – 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 6	Stillwater Residents Forum, Stillwater Public Library Student Forum, Click Hall, Alumni Center	4 – 5:30 p.m. 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	City and County Leaders Forum, Stillwater Public Library	5 – 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	Staff Forum, Click Hall, Alumni Center	4 – 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	Town Hall Meeting, Stillwater Public Library	5 – 6:30 p.m.

OSU to kick-off Black History with inaugural Nancy Randolph Davis Day

Oklahoma State University's Black History Month observance will begin next Wednesday with a celebration honoring one of the university's pioneers.

In recognition of a bill passed on January 18 by the Student Government Association making Feb. 1 "Nancy R. Davis Day" at OSU, Davis will be honored during a ceremony and reception in the Student Union Atrium. The event begins at 2 p.m.

Davis was the first African American admitted to Oklahoma A&M College. She enrolled in 1949 as a home economics graduate student.

The event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by SGA, the SGA Multicultural Affairs Committee, the African American Student Association and the Multicultural Student Center.

Additional events scheduled for Black History Month at OSU include:

- 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 1 – "CRASH" – Student Union Theater
- 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 14 – Eddie Faye Gates, "The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921" – Student Union Theater
- 6 – 8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 16 – Soul Food Dinner – Kerr-Drummond Dining Hall
- 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18 – 35th annual Miss Black OSU Scholarship Pageant – Student Union Theater