

November 17, 2006

ENHANCING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Few will argue that higher education is for everyone, but any person who decides to study at a college or university should also find the opportunity for life-enriching experiences. Questions from prospective students, parents, state and federal government and taxpayers about the ultimate value of a college education have compelled institutions nationwide to assess the experience they offer, both inside and outside the classroom.

At OSU, the self-evaluation includes continually exploring ways to improve the overall student experience.

"Involvement in campus activities provides students an enriching experience," said Lee Bird, vice president for Student Affairs. "College should be preparation for life, not just a career, and it's important to offer many different kinds of opportunities for all students."

In describing efforts to enhance the OSU experience, Bird identified six guiding principles not only for Student Affairs but all departments, programs and services that contribute to an environment that enables students to excel and flourish.

"The division of Student Affairs exists to support the academic success of our students," Bird said. "At the same time, we offer comprehensive programs and activities to help students develop leadership skills and understand the importance of serving others."

"The promotion of student wellness, health and safety is a growing emphasis for us, but the final two principles, to help every student find his or her purpose and to broaden one's horizons through exposure to different cultures, the arts and international travel, have always been a part of the OSU experience," she said.

Historically, programs under OSU Campus Life have included Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, International Students and Scholars, Non-Traditional Students, the Student Government Association, Student Union Activities Board and Allied Arts. The department's offerings continually have grown more diverse, allowing all students on campus the opportunity to pursue experience enriching opportunities. In addition to Camp Cowboy – an orientation created to acclimate new students to college life, instill school spirit and stir their interest in getting involved at OSU – Campus Life supports Orange Peel, the Volunteer Center and OSU Parents Association.

No matter the reason for their affiliation, students in the dozens of campus organizations and clubs that receive support from Campus Life have learned to expect exceptional service, according to Bird.

"Campus Life does a great job providing leadership, service and cultural opportunities for our student body," Bird said. "Kent Sampson and his staff are devoted to our students and do an excellent job of helping them and their organizations accomplish their goals."

Departments such as College Career Services and University Career Services help students explore and discover their purpose and assist with the transition into careers. Historically high numbers of students and employers interact on University Career Services' website, hireosugrads.com, and at career fairs, leading other universities to try to duplicate OSU's success.

Another department helping students realize their potential is Residential Life. By increasing the number of living/learning communities for students to live with others who share their academic goals and interests, Residential Life has made academic support, leadership and service opportunities a major part of student housing.

The continuous enhancement of the OSU student experience is comprehensive, with even the Seretean Wellness Center, University Health Services, Counseling Services, the Colvin Recreation Center – which 72 percent of students already visit – and Campus Dining Services exploring ways to expand offerings that support students' physical and mental health and wellness.



"OSU students are very original. They love their school. In Japan, no one loves their school, but it's definitely apparent here. I realized that I was graduating soon and determined it was too soon to go back to Japan. I decided to continue my education and attend grad school."

Kanako Morita, accounting senior



"OSU has given me opportunities to advance academically and socially through my involvement with organizations like Amnesty International and the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature."

Jennifer Moore, political science and sociology senior

"I am a big OSU athletics fan. I go to every game I possibly can. Studies have shown that schools with good athletic programs bring in the best academic students. It's a good way to market the university."

Tyler Bell, marketing doctoral candidate

Technology eases academic experience

Where the classroom is an experience and students use each other to learn, OSU's Institute for Technology and Learning Excellence is thrusting Oklahoma State University into the future of higher education.

Otherwise known as modern classrooms, OSU's ITLE classrooms feature a series of round tables and bluetooth wireless technology allowing students to engage in an activity without the restriction of time. This type of environment is important to learning because it takes the burden off the professor and allows them to be a facilitator.

"It's all based on the idea that instead of pouring the information into a student's head, we (as facilitators) guide them to it,"

says Alan Cheville, electrical engineering professor and faculty member who uses OSU's modern classroom facilities. "This allows students to seek their own knowledge, and research indicates this makes retention more effective."

While OSU's ITLE center is housed in the Telecommunications building, Marlene Strathe, provost and senior vice president, says more modern classrooms are in the works for a renovated Murray Hall and inside a new classroom building being built at the corner of Hall of Fame and Murray. These advancements are to be implemented under the OSU strategic plan.

Student attends international symposium on U.N. global development

School of International Studies graduate student Billy Jivetti was one of 200 college students asked to join ambassadors, diplomats, human rights experts and other senior officials this week at an international symposium on United Nations policy.



Jivetti is attending the symposium,

"Global Third Way: Intellectual Property Rights at the Forefront of the U.N. Millennium Development Goal 8, Developing Partnerships for Development," at the University of California-Los Angeles. The conference, which began Wednesday and concludes today, is a forum focusing on intellectual property rights as a part of U.N. MDG 8, the U.N.'s plans for global development this century.

The event is a presentation of ATHGO (Alliance Toward Harnessing Global Opportunities) International, a U.N. sanctioned organization that prepares young people to become diplomats and international policy-

makers by involving them directly in the work of global decision making. Jivetti and other college students chosen to attend had the opportunity to interact with leaders and professionals in a series of workshops, panel discussion and other activities all culminating with the participant's development of a summary

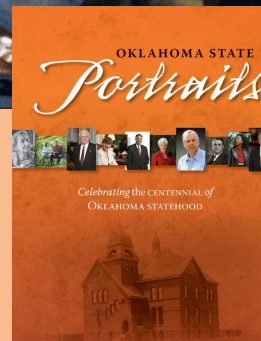
resolution that will be forwarded directly to the U.N. Permanent Missions.

Jivetti was selected to attend the conference based on his paper and proposal detailing how the social support groups formed by rural African women can also serve as a force for small-scale business enterprises. A native of Kaimosi, Kenya, he based the paper on his own experiences. Led by his mother, Rose Jivetti, a group of Kaimosi women who met to discuss everyday concerns such as feeding their families and educating their children formed a tie-dye operation that eventually employed 50 women.



OSU graduate Duck-Woo Nam, former prime minister of South Korea, led his country's transformation from an agricultural society devastated by war to a modern industrial power. Regarded as the father of South Korea's economy, the College of Business Administration alumnus was named the individual who best represented the promise of land-grant institutions in their first 100 years.

Read more about Nam, one of many OSU international students who have held high-ranking government positions in their nations, in Oklahoma State Portraits: Celebrating the Centennial of Oklahoma Statehood. Order it today at https://www.shopokstate.com/webaps/cart/centennial_book.asp.



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

"OSU in the News"

OSU Libyan students featured at ABC.com



Welcome Big 12 SGA leaders

Seniors of Significance

OSU Alumni Association chooses 39 graduates for special recognition.

