

October 20, 2006

Natural resources department debuts

The Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources on Oct. 12 ushered in what school officials, state legislators, educators and industry leaders called a vision, an opportunity and the promise of widespread benefits for Oklahoma and beyond.

The new department of natural resource ecology and management was officially presented to the public during a ribbon-cutting ceremony that had onlookers from across Oklahoma traveling to OSU's Stillwater campus.

"Interest is high because the department speaks to the very heart of many high-profile issues that affect our state through four core programs: forestry, rangeland, wildlife and fisheries," said Robert E. Whitson, vice president, dean and director of the division.

"This is a home run for Oklahoma State and for the citizens of Oklahoma, and the realization of a dream for me, to have a special emphasis on natural resources at Oklahoma State," said OSU System CEO and President David Schmidly. "I'm thrilled about the potential benefits the department brings to Oklahoma, particularly to landowners and our students."

Members of the department are charged with conducting interdisciplinary research, instruction and extension education to address wildland fire management, wildlife management, fisheries and pond management, rangeland management, water quality, economic development through enhancement of nature-based tourism, urban forestry, urban expansion into traditionally rural areas and other issues related to sustainable management and conservation of natural resources.

A new Bachelor of Science major is under development for students who wish to pursue a career in natural resource ecology and management, adding to existing, related OSU academic majors such as forestry, plant and soil sciences, environmental sciences, botany and zoology.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was the culmination of a process begun in December 2005, when a task force of OSU faculty from a number of disciplines related to natural resources was charged with providing a working blueprint about how the division might create the new department. The department became reality after a favorable State Board of Regents vote in July 2006.



President Schmidly, Vice President of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Robert E. Whitson, Provost Marlene Strathe and College of Arts and Sciences Dean Peter Sherwood led a ceremony last week inaugurating the department of natural resource ecology and management.

Pompin' Circumstance



Weeks of preparation involving hundreds of students, such as Zeta Tau Alpha member Jessica Wiist, for the 85th OSU Homecoming Celebration will be on display tonight at 6 when Residence Hall and Greek House decorations are unveiled for the Walkaround and tomorrow at 9 a.m. as floats enter the Sea of Orange Parade. Visit www.orangeconnection.org for the schedule and detailed information on all the not-to-be-missed events this weekend during America's greatest homecoming celebration.

Homecoming philanthropy benefits alcohol, substance abuse center

The H2O Tailgate held Wednesday on the library lawn was the final fundraiser for the 2006 OSU Homecoming philanthropy, the alcohol and substance abuse center on campus.

"Because this year's homecoming theme, Forever Orange, conveys such a sense of school spirit, we really wanted to support a cause here at Oklahoma State rather than sending our assistance elsewhere," said Michael Madsen, Homecoming philanthropy chair.

Each year, the OSU Homecoming executive committee selects a philanthropy and plans a fundraising and awareness campaign for its benefit. Students begin to organize the campaign immediately after school begins in August, and it culminates during the weeklong homecoming celebration.

The H2O tailgate featured food from Hideaway Pizza, clear pong, OSU versus Texas A&M football on Playstation and replays of OSU football games. Donated bottled water was sold for \$.50 to raise money for the center.

Opened in August 2005, OSU's alcohol and substance abuse center has been visited by more than 1,200 students for clinical sessions. Members of the Homecoming executive committee recognized the center's need for financial assistance to meet growing demand for its services.

"The H2O Tailgate seemed like the perfect idea for this cause," Madsen said. "We were able to raise awareness and monetary support for the philanthropic cause while still having a tailgate to increase Homecoming spirits."

Other components of the campaign for fundraising and awareness included a speaker-panel presentation Wednesday, Oct. 11 and the sale of cups featuring Eddie Sutton. Approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000 is expected to be raised from the homecoming philanthropy activities.

"The money raised will be used for additional curriculum supplies, videos, equipment needed for testing and storage," said Linda Myers, drug and alcohol counselor for the center.

Funding to establish the center and hire an alcohol and drug counselor at OSU was partially provided by Frank Merrick and The Merrick Foundation of Oklahoma City. Matching funds from the university enabled University Counseling Services to begin the drug and alcohol program.

"We saw a need for the program because of the amount of alcohol and drug problems increasing on campus," Myers said. "The homecoming philanthropy funds will enable us to better help the students with their alcohol and drug problems, awareness, prevention and education."

Moses receives Eminent Faculty Award

The recognition of Professor L.G. Moses with the 2006 Eminent Faculty Award was one of many highlights during the OSU Fall Convocation last week. Presentation of the \$10,000



award, the university's highest faculty honor, typically occurs at the end of the ceremony. This year, however, Moses led the procession of faculty, staff, administrators and advisers brought to the stage to be honored for exemplary service.

Moses, who joined the history department in 1989, is among OSU faculty members who enjoy national and international reputations in their fields. An admired author and expert on the American West and, particularly, Native American history, he has written some of the most acclaimed books in contemporary literature on the American Indian experience. Moses also is regarded as one of the history department's best teachers, excelling at teaching both graduate and undergraduate students.

A complete list of those honored during convocation, including a story about the Regent's Distinguished Teaching Award recipients, appears at <http://osu.okstate.edu/news>.

CHS graduates named nation's top resident physicians



Drs. Jeremy Fullingim and Jennifer Howell, 2003 graduates of OSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, have been named 2006 Merck Outstanding Residents of the Year by the American Osteopathic Foundation. Both are

residents at the OSU Medical Center in Tulsa and are two of four residents nationally to receive the honor.

The award is given to osteopathic physicians in an AOA approved residency program. They are chosen for their dedication to the osteopathic philosophy, compassionate patient care, leadership skills and commitment to education and enrichment of self and others.

The awards will be presented, along with \$5,000 checks, at the 111th AOA Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar in Las Vegas on Oct. 17.

Fullingim currently is a resident in diagnostic radiology.

Howell is studying the postpartum depression rates in women undergoing planned versus emergency cesarean sections. In addition, her specialty in obstetrics and gynecology provides ongoing opportunities to educate women about preventive health care.

HES to honor distinguished alumni

The College of Human Environmental Sciences today will honor retired U. S. Army Col. Jessie Brewer ('66), Laura Britt ('92) and John Cornyn ('68) as its 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients and physician Mark Snell as an honorary HES alumnus. They, and three alumni who've been selected by the college as Rising Star Award recipients, will be recognized for their career achievements and service contributions to the college during a luncheon ceremony.

After receiving her master's degree in nutritional sciences, Col. Brewer worked in the Surgeon General's office where she helped shape nutrition and health policy for the entire military. A San Antonio resident, she holds a Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Award and Legion of Merit Award.

Britt, an interior design graduate, began her career as a civilian employee designing facilities for the U.S. Air Force and now owns the award-winning residential and commercial interior design and architecture firm, *laura britt design*, in Austin.



Cornyn graduated from the School of Hotel and Restaurant Administration and began his career in military dining and entertainment. An author and frequent speaker at industry meetings, he has headed his own management and operations consulting firm, the Cornyn Fasano Group, in Portland, Ore., since 1975.

Dr. Snell, who graduated from OSU with a bachelor's degree in economics in 1973 and a doctor of osteopathy degree in 1977, practices family medicine in Clinton, Mo. He is a founding supporter of recent renovations to the Atherton Hotel and the Ranchers Club restaurant.

2001 nutritional sciences graduate Kimberly Sasser-Bandelier, 1999 apparel design and production graduate Lisa Brown and 1996 apparel merchandising graduate Kerry Williams will receive the Rising Star Awards. The distinction recognizes outstanding and significant accomplishments in business or professional life within 10 years of graduation.

For detailed profiles on all of the HES graduates being honored, go to <http://osu.okstate.edu/news>.

ITLE Third Faculty Forum

Tuesday, October 31, 2006, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., 110 Wes Watkins Center

Contact Information: Hong Lin • (405) 744-6757 • Registration Site: <http://fp.okstate.edu/fsc/fall2006facultyforum.htm>