

September 8, 2006

## OSU partners with UDLA, UPAEP to open Mexico offices

In an effort to expand learning and student exchange between Oklahoma and Mexico, OSU has joined with two major Mexican universities to open liaison offices in Puebla.

The Universidad de las Americas (UDLA) and the Universidad Popular Autonoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP) are partnering with OSU to launch the OSU Mexico Liaison Office. OSU hosted a reception Thursday in Puebla to celebrate the opening of the office.

"It is our hope this office will not only help in the recruitment of students to Oklahoma and OSU but also develop and support expanded cultural and business exchanges between Mexico, the OSU System and the state of Oklahoma," said David J. Schmidly, OSU System CEO and President.

The office is the brainchild of Schmidly, who has done extensive research in Mexico. In fact, a species of deer mouse – the *Peromyscus schmidlyi*, which is found in the pine oak forests of the Sierra Madre Occidental Mountains in



west central Mexico – was named after OSU's resident.

"Mexico is a special place and it is important for OSU to have a presence there," Schmidly said. "We are excited about this opportunity to partner with our neighbors to facilitate and expand ongoing relationships, as well as develop new programs, partnerships and exchanges between OSU and Mexico."

The Universidad de las Americas and the Universidad Popular Autonoma del Estado de Puebla each will provide office space and extensive administration support for the offices, which will be run by Jose Sagarnaga, who

earned a Masters of Science in International Studies at OSU.

"We are very proud of our association with OSU," said UDLA President Pedro Angel Palou. "The presence of the OSU office in the campus of the University of the Americas Puebla is a symbol of our joint commitment to

strengthening cooperation among our institutions. There is a lot to gain from Dr. Schmidly's initiative to bring OSU closer to our part of the world."

The OSU-UPAEP alliance, initiated in 2002, has already rendered excellent results, such as academic exchanges, a business incubator and the creation of 19 dual master's degree programs. With this new office and according to UPAEP's Vision 2015, the academic, cultural and business possibilities will expand to benefit Puebla and Oklahoma society, and in general for both our countries, said UPAEP President Alfredo Miranda López.

## Students produce solar hardware for shuttle mission



The Mechanical Engineering Technology department's Manufacturing Development Lab gives students hands-on experience. Students are shown cutting out plexiglass blanks as part of the NASA project.

NASA's plans to resume construction of the International Space Station have been put on hold pending a new launch date for shuttle mission STS-115. When the Atlantis takes off, solar cells in hardware designed and manufactured by OSU students will be on board, carried by astronaut and pilot Chris Ferguson.

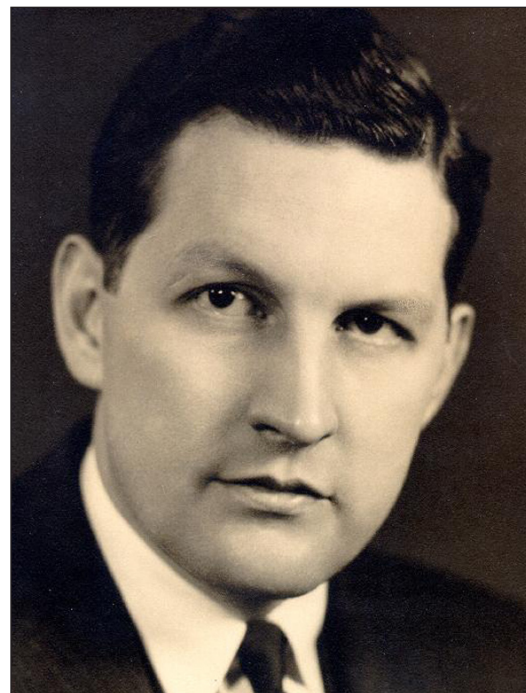
During STS-115, the Atlantis crew will install a city bus-sized set of solar arrays on the space station, doubling its ability to generate power from sunlight. Ferguson conceived an educational component to the mission and turned to OSU's Aerospace Education Services Program for assistance.

From space, Ferguson will use a small, OSU designed array to conduct demonstrations for students at NASA Explorer Schools throughout the nation. With arrays of their own, the students will work along and, throughout the fall, conduct their own solar power experiments.

OSU's College of Education has held NASA's contract to maintain the Aerospace Education Services Program for 40 years. In addition to providing support to the NASA Explorer Schools, OSU maintains a Teaching From Space Office at the NASA Johnson Space Center.

When approached by Ferguson to help develop the arrays for the educational component to mission STS-115, AESP director Steve Marks turned to the university's Mechanical Engineering Technology department for assistance with their design and manufacture. Aaron Bookout, a mechanical engineering technology junior, and Dan Hern, an aviation and space education graduate student, undertook the project under the direction of Warren Lewis, assistant professor of mechanical engineering technology and Marks. Starting in May, they produced more than 200 arrays for NASA, including a special one built to space travel specifications that Ferguson will carry in his pack.

## Library celebrates the 100th anniversary of Paul Miller's birth



September 2006 marks the 100th anniversary of Paul Miller's birth. In recognition, the OSU Library will host a joint celebration of Constitution Day and the reopening of the Paul Miller Room.

The reopening ceremony will be held Sept. 15 at 10 a.m. on the second floor of the Edmon Low Library. OSU's official Constitution Day event follows at 11 a.m. in the Peggy V. Helmerich Browsing Room. In honor of Miller's birthday, Constitution Day will feature Gregory E. Favre, Distinguished Fellow in Journalism Values at the Poynter Institute, who will speak on freedom of the press. Both events are free and open to the public.

From traditional American roots, Miller rose to a position of international influence in both the Gannett Corporation and Associated

Press. His decades of journalistic leadership have provided a legacy that will endure for generations.

The Paul Miller Papers, housed in the OSU Library, consists of Miller's correspondence, speeches, columns and photographs as well as similar materials and memorabilia from the Associated Press, Gannett Corporation and other newspaper, radio and television outlets with which he was involved. In addition to providing biographical information on Miller and other leaders of the Gannett Group, the collection helps to document four decades of world affairs and developments in journalism and broadcasting.

**"Our actions must be determined not by mere compliance with state or federal law, not by public attitudes, but on the basis of doing the right thing."**

- Paul Miller

## Governor's leadership team gives program positive reviews

The evaluations are in, and Gov. Brad Henry's cabinet members and state agency leaders have given high marks to a four-and-a-half-day program they attended at the OSU's Spears School of Business.

The customized program was requested by the State Office of Personnel Management and approved by the governor. It featured management and leadership experts from OSU and the Michael F. Price College of Business at the University of Oklahoma.



Gov. Brad Henry recently joined OSU faculty and administrators to honor members of his cabinet and state agency leaders who completed a customized executive management program presented by OSU and OU. Pictured are OSU marketing professor Lee Manzer, Gov. Henry, OSU Management department head Ken Eastman, OSU-Tulsa Vice President for Academic Affairs Raj Basu, OSU System CEO and President David Schmidly and OSU Spears School of Business Dean Sara Freedman.

"I've been to many leadership and management programs throughout my 18 years with the state, but I can honestly say this one was the Mount Everest of them all," said one participant. "You people have the 'right stuff.'"

That kind of feedback lets organizers like Julie Weathers know their event has been successful. Weathers heads the Executive and Professional Development Center at OSU that coordinated the executive management program. She attributed its success to top-notch professors from both universities who led participants through

valuable management insights and tools.

"This was our first attempt to customize what we've been doing annually for corporate business executives into something that would benefit state leaders, and we're obviously happy with the outcome," Weathers said.

Lee Manzer, a marketing professor in the Spears School of Business, has been prominently featured on the executive management program since it was established. The fact the program's latest customization also appeals to government administrators doesn't surprise him.

"Leadership principles and concepts apply across a myriad of organizational environments," Manzer said.

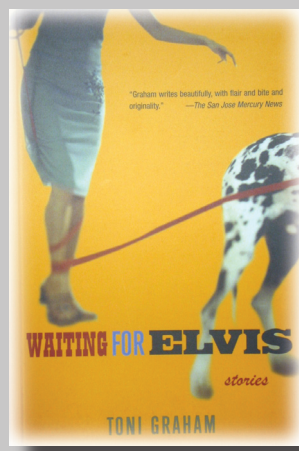
## English professor wins national book award

Toni Graham, an associate professor in the English department, has won the John Gardner Book Award for her work "Waiting for Elvis."

Graham was nominated by her publisher, Leapfrog Press, for the national award for excellence in fiction writing. In the spring, she will visit Binghamton University in New York where she will receive the prize, give a reading from her book and teach writing workshops.

Graham says she chose "Waiting for Elvis" as the title for the collection of short stories in part as a reference to "Waiting for Godot" and because her stories explore the struggles of a middle-aged, single woman trying to find the right man. In the end, it seems more plausible for Elvis to return from the dead and propose marriage than for her character to find love.

In addition to "Waiting for Elvis," Graham is also the author of the book, "The Daiquiri Girls," which won the Associated Writers and Writing Programs Fiction Award.



## Featured Expert

Dave Neal says unprecedented events such as 9/11 show that we still have much to learn about preparedness and recovery.



## Student Spotlight

Mary Oliver is the first recipient of the Student Leader Spotlight Award, a weekly honor presented by OSU Campus Life.



## United Way campaign underway

OSU sets goal to raise \$180,000.

