

September 22, 2006

This page, published each week on the back page of the Daily O'Collegian, is but one source of OSU System news from the OSU Communications office.

## OSU-Okmulgee, Swiss watch industry renew pact



The Watchmaking and Microtechnology program at OSU-Okmulgee will benefit from a \$1.1 million agreement signed with Audemars Piguet, Breitlin, The Richemont Group, The Swatch Group

and the Watchmakers of Switzerland Training and Education Program (WOSTEP). The five-year commitment provides additional funding to the watchmaking program to expand instructional and technological capabilities as well as increase student enrollment.

The grant will specifically fund new faculty and staff resources, continuing professional development, scholarships, equipment, supplies, marketing and industry image enhancement. The sponsorships follow a \$650,000 investment in the program made by the Swiss watch industry in 2002.

"The watchmaking program at our Okmulgee campus is truly one of the jewels of the OSU System," said OSU System CEO and President David Schmidly. "We appreciate the Swiss watch industry's continued support and confidence in our program, and I congratulate President Klabenes and his team on this milestone."

"This renewed sponsorship positions OSU-Okmulgee to build on the success we've shown," said OSU-Okmulgee President Bob Klabenes. "Our graduates go to work for some of the most prestigious watch companies and service centers in the world. These are lucrative careers, and our Swiss watch partners need more technological professionals of the quality we are producing."

OSU-Okmulgee has a 60-year heritage of watchmaking education that dates back to the school's beginning in 1946, when watchmaking was one of the original programs designed for World War II veterans needing to re-enter the workforce.

The program now focuses on sophisticated luxury watches and offers an associate in applied science degree in addition to certification by the WOSTEP 3,000-hour program. WOSTEP is an independent institution recognized for exemplary training in the field of watchmaking.

OSU-Okmulgee is one of 14 WOSTEP partnership watchmaking schools in the world. Visit <http://www.osu-okmulgee.edu/academics/watchmaking/> for more information.

## Spears School presents honors

The William S. Spears School of Business recently honored three faculty members for research excellence and a fourth for excellence in outreach. Dean Sara Freedman presented the Richard W. Poole Research Excellence Awards to Tom Brown, K. Matthew Gilley and Rathindra Sarathy. Lee Manzer received the Richard W. Poole Faculty Outreach Excellence Award.

Named in honor of Richard W. Poole who served as dean of the business school from 1965 to 1972, the awards are given annually to faculty members recognized among the best in their fields.



## Body Guard

## OSU professor receives homeland security award

An OSU professor lists soldiers and the folks at home who are making sacrifices for them as the reasons she is most proud of receiving the 2006 Homeland Security Award. Donna Branson accepted the award Thursday during ceremonies in Washington, D.C., for her collaborative research and development work on QuadGard®, a lightweight, flexible limb body armor for the troops, as well as an earlier project, a personal portable cooling system for first responders.

The award from the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation and AgustaWestland North America honors individual citizens or companies who have made "measurable and constructive contributions" to homeland security through cutting edge innovation. Branson, who heads the new Institute for Protective Apparel Research and Technology at OSU, has led an OSU team working to develop new body armor to protect soldiers against the loss of limbs from roadside explosives and small arms.

The team worked in collaboration with industrial production partner FSTechnology LLC, ballistics and human factors partners at Army Research Laboratory, and Naval Research Laboratory partners who assessed combat casualty trends, protection strategies and warfighter requirements. The Naval Research Laboratory also managed the program, and funding was provided by the Office of Naval Research and the Marine Corps Systems Command.

"Close collaboration between military, business and academic partners resulted in development, testing, redesign and retesting of the innovative body armor with technology transfer to Covercraft Industries in less than two years," Branson said. "That short timeline was achieved because many individuals from OSU and all of our partners worked long hours and dedicated their time and expertise to offer our soldiers a higher degree of protection."

"We are extremely proud of Donna and the life-saving work she and her team have done," said OSU System CEO and President David Schmidly. "They have toiled many long hours to make QuadGard® a reality for American soldiers. Donna and her team epitomize the dedicated, selfless work Oklahoma State University researchers are doing in a variety of important areas."

Since the body armor project began at OSU in 2004, Branson insists she and her colleagues have been driven by the thought they can actually help bring some soldiers back home alive with QuadGard®. It is specifically designed to protect a soldier's arms, legs and back from shrapnel as well as small arms fire.

"We're certainly not alone in our desire to protect the soldiers," Branson said. "I receive emails all the time from concerned family members who want to know if the body armor will be available soon for their loved one in the military."

QuadGard® has now been in operational use for several months and has provided protection from blasts in actual combat situations. Such reports are gratifying to the team that recently has expanded its body armor design efforts to create a load-bearing ballistic vest that is undergoing a first stage military wear testing evaluation.

Branson's work on QuadGard® has been career-altering. She started the project as head of the Design, Housing and Merchandising department in the College of Human Environmental Sciences. Now she heads the college's new institute, which is dedicated to the design, performance testing and technology transfer of protective clothing.

"It was a natural transition since we had been conducting various protective clothing research projects for some time," Branson said. "However, the time-sensitive nature of the body armor research and the comprehensiveness of the project illustrated the need for a way to facilitate such projects."

"I couldn't have begun to get this job done without a group of dedicated, talented OSU colleagues including Dr. Semra Peksoz, Diane Ricord and Dr. Cheryl Farr, graduate students and undergraduates," she said. "We've worked side by side, and together we will chart a future for the institute, which already includes a growing number of faculty and students."

The vision includes an emphasis on product development with testing and redesign as components in the integrative design process and taking the institute into additional areas of "functional" apparel.

"For instance, QuadGard® has the potential for civilian applications, such as police in SWAT and bomb scare situations," Branson said. "We expect continued development of high tech materials that should make it possible to live more comfortable lives while offering all of us a higher degree of personal protection."

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Donna Branson

## President's Wellness Walk to benefit United Way

The first President's Wellness Walk for the United Way will take place Sept. 29, 2006.

"The President's Wellness Walk is a great way to emphasize to faculty, staff, students and the community the importance in being active and coming together for a vital local cause," OSU System CEO and President David Schmidly said.

The event will move OSU toward its \$180,000 goal for the Stillwater Area United Way's campaign, which benefits 26 local agencies.

Pre-registration is encouraged but you may register the day of the event. Registration forms are available at the Seretean Wellness Center, the Colvin Recreation Center, the Student Union Hub or through any United Way Team Captain. Forms are also available online at <http://campusrec.okstate.edu/fitfirst/info/wellnesswalk>

## Student visits remote corners of the world

OSU business senior Tyler Schooley this year visited 25 countries in six months, helping to build undeveloped villages, exploring remote cities and learning much about little-known cultures.

Schooley's international experiences began three years ago when he spent a month with a Guatemalan family immersed in Latin American culture and learning Spanish.

While hundreds of OSU students each year participate in study abroad programs, Schooley devoted his college career to visiting underdeveloped nations. His most recent trip began in January and ended in July.

He went to Congo, one of the poorest countries in the world, and spent two weeks building houses in a village.

"The local people taught me about valuing life and gave me a different perspective on the world," Schooley said. "After the trip I knew my mission was to help people around the world."

South Africa, India, Brazil, Israel and Burma are just a few of the places Schooley's backpacking, study abroad, language immersion and mission trips have taken him. He also visited countries many people consider dangerous and unfriendly, such as Egypt and Jordan. Not afraid of his potential reception in the Middle East or the fact he didn't know the language, Schooley communicated with gestures and facial expressions.

"Staying two nights in the home of a Palestinian man in the West Bank, I was shocked to view firsthand the oppression these people are under," he said.

Schooley regrets not being able to visit Syria and Iran.

"I think these two countries are falsely perceived by the media in regard to their level of danger," he said.

Of the many places he has visited, India is Schooley's favorite.

"India contradicts with everything I have experienced. Its unique culture captivates me, and I think it's one of the most remarkable places in the world," he said.

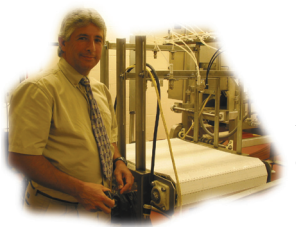
Schooley currently is making plans to travel abroad again.

"OSU has been my home for the past four years, and I'm going to miss it when I graduate," he said. "However, the diverse atmosphere on campus has challenged me to want to do more traveling and help more people around the world."



Business senior Tyler Schooley visited 25 nations in six months earlier this year including on the continent of Africa and in the Middle East.

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



## Good eats

OSU researchers are working to reduce potential contamination of foods by E. coli.



## Get your tickets today!

See Alan Jackson at Orange Peel 2006 on Sept. 30 when the nation's largest student-run pep rally and concert series returns to OSU.

