

January 12, 2007

Celebrating the Centennial: OSU contributions

Sent into orbit in 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope has given mankind an awe-inspiring view of the heavens, contributing more to our scientific contemplations on the origins of the universe and life itself than any other instrument in the history of astronomy. Billions of dollars and almost 50 years in the making, it was almost an astronomical blunder.

Images captured by the Hubble were blurry until 1993 when astronauts on a return mission equipped it with a corrective optics device. Developed by Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corporation under the direction of OSU electrical engineering alumnus ('63) Donald Vanlandingham, the COSTAR instrument corrected a flaw in the telescope's primary mirror and brought never-before-seen stellar bodies, galaxies, and cosmic phenomena into focus.

He is not as well-known as some of the astronauts Oklahoma has produced, but Vanlandingham, a Duncan native, is as distinguished and courageous. Fearing failure and a public relations disaster, other firms would not attempt the Hubble repair. And Vanlandingham, then Ball Aerospace's vice president of Electro-Optical Subsystems, had to convince its board of directors to accept the NASA contract. Success on COSTAR, however, made the company the Hubble's foremost contractor; every instrument since added to the telescope has been developed by Ball Aerospace.

Alumnus pledges \$20 million for indoor practice facility Multi-purpose training center to bear Sherman Smith's name

OSU announced Thursday that alumnus Sherman Smith is giving \$20 million toward the university's athletic indoor practice facility.

The gift makes Sherman Smith the second largest private donor in the history of OSU.

"This gift is a reflection of how much Oklahoma State University means to Dad," said Will Smith, son of Sherman Smith and family spokesman. "He very often shares stories, tales and anecdotes of his time as a student at Oklahoma State."

"He enjoys watching his Cowboys and Cowgirls and their pursuit of conference and national titles. It is a privilege to have the resources to financially assist in the vision of OSU Athletics," he added. "The energy business has been very good to us and we feel blessed to make this contribution."

The new indoor facility will bear Sherman Smith's name.

"This is a landmark gift from a dear and longtime friend and donor to Oklahoma State University. We are extremely thankful to Sherman Smith and his family for their generosity and their lasting impact on Oklahoma State University," said OSU System CEO and President David Schmidly.

OSU Vice President for Athletics Mike Holder said, "This is a special gift serving Oklahoma State athletics. An important part of dramatically improving our athletic facilities, this gift continues the momentum that has been established at OSU."

T. Boone Pickens, the largest donor to OSU, attended Thursday's announcement.

"Sherman Smith and I have known each other since our days together at Oklahoma

State in the 1940s," said Pickens. "We've been friends, fraternity brothers and business partners. I have the utmost respect for Sherman and his family, and I'm grateful that they are stepping up in such a major way to continue the progress we're making in ensuring that OSU is competitive at all levels nationally. Their show of support will encourage other alumni to step forward in the months and years ahead. This is clearly a new day for OSU."

Smith, who completed a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at OSU in 1948, was inducted into the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology Hall of Fame in 2000.

The new facility will be strategically located north of Boone Pickens Stadium in the Athletic Village.

Oklahoma State University is closed Monday in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

In addition to classes, all transit services and routes are canceled Monday. Classes and The Bus routes will resume Tuesday.

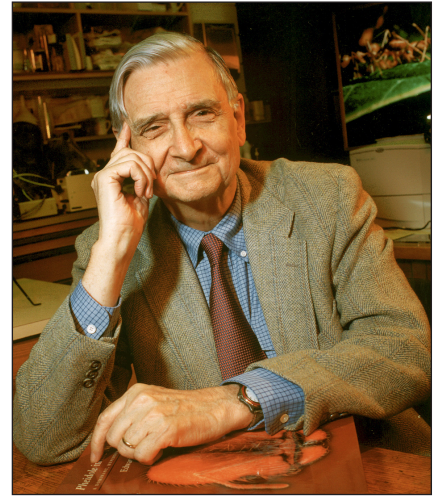
Father of modern environmental movement to visit campus

OSU will welcome Edward O. Wilson, one of the world's most distinguished scientists, to campus Jan. 18. Considered the originator of one of the world's most important social, political and scientific movements, he will speak at 7 p.m. at the ConocoPhillips OSU Alumni Center about proper stewardship of the earth's biodiversity.

"Each year OSU is fortunate to have the opportunity to hear experts from across a variety of disciplines," said OSU System CEO and President David Schmidly. "I am particularly excited about hearing Dr. Wilson speak and giving our students, faculty and the entire state the opportunity to hear someone considered one of the most influential Americans of our time."

Pellegrino University Research Professor Emeritus at Harvard University, Wilson is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner for his books, "The Diversity of Life" and "The Future of Life." His latest work, "Creation," offers hope for saving the planet through the union of religion and science.

Wilson will share his insights on the environmental movement at 7 p.m. in the alumni center's Click Alumni Hall. Admission to the event, sponsored by the OSU office of the President, is free and open to the public.



Students win grants to assist Stillwater non-profits

ABBY WAMBAUGH

OSU students Fatima Pina and Andrew Hawkins are helping Stillwater non-profit organizations expand their services for seniors and the needy.

Oklahoma Campus Compact announced on Dec. 20 that Pina and Hawkins each received \$1,000 Carter Foundation grants for proposals that will benefit the Stillwater Senior Center and the Mission of Hope.

"I provide classes at the senior center free of charge and I am not sure if I will be able to continue to provide these classes after I graduate," Pina said. "I applied for this grant to provide the needed funds to pay for students who are willing to provide the educational services for a small fee."

Pina's proposal called for an increase in the nutritional and personal health support for Stillwater Senior Center clients. Hawkins was selected for a proposal that focuses on financial literacy with the homeless population.

A committee chosen by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education reviewed student applicants from 32 state and private higher learning institutions that are a part of the Oklahoma Campus Compact, an organization promoting civic engagement among college students.

The foundation originally planned to award one grant, but due to the quality of the applications and increased funding, opted to fund two.

The students will be formally recognized and receive their checks at the Regents' meeting on Feb. 8.

Hawkins plans to use the money to develop presenter guides, handouts, participant workbooks, resource/reference binders and other financial education tools. He envisions students giving financial literacy presentations



to clients at the Mission of Hope homeless shelter in Stillwater as well as high school and middle school students.

"Students In Free Enterprise and Oklahoma Money Matters are organizations that focus on financial literacy and teaching anyone and everyone willing to listen the importance of money management skills," Hawkins said. "One of the projects includes working with the Mission of Hope homeless shelter teaching the homeless financial literacy skills, a group we chose because often these individuals are overlooked in today's society. With a little community support, these individuals could be back on their feet in no time."

Pina said the grant she was awarded will benefit the senior population and the OSU community by educating them about portion control and healthy eating. The funds she receives will be used to purchase kitchen equipment, cookbooks and handouts, printing supplies, intern costs and to bring in speakers.

Hawkins and Pina will begin their projects in the coming weeks and complete them by the end of the semester.

"In general I would like to tell everyone to get out and volunteer," Hawkins said. "The feeling you get by helping someone in need is the greatest feeling in the world."

Partnership enhances services of OSU-Okmulgee clinic

A partnership between OSU-Okmulgee's Orthotics & Prosthetics Clinical Center and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation will give its citizens access to major components in battling the debilitating effects of diabetes.

Seeking to assist Creek Nation citizens with complications due to diabetes, Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council member Keeper Johnson introduced legislation and secured more than \$500,000 for OSU-Okmulgee's clinic to provide them treatment, care and customized help. Administered through the Nation's Diabetes Prevention Program, the funding will supplement Medicare payments.

In addition to providing prevention and treatment methods for diabetics, the mission of OSU-Okmulgee's Orthotics and Prosthetics Clinical Center is to help save people's limbs. According to Jerry Wilson, chairman of OSU-Okmulgee's Health and Environmental Technologies Division, more than 2,000 diabetic Creek Nation citizens reside in OSU-Okmulgee's immediate service area.

"There are many Native Americans who have either lost a limb or are at risk of losing a limb due to diabetes," Wilson said. "We want to help keep the Native American population

healthy, and OSU-Okmulgee's clinic provides services for those who have had a limb amputated and to prevent others from losing a limb."

According to Johnson, amputees often have orthotics, prosthetics or diabetic shoes made but will not wear them if they cause discomfort. Others are unable to afford artificial limbs. He spearheaded the effort because of a desire to serve the Creek people and his interest in diabetes patient care.

"Diabetes is a very critical disease for Native Americans," said Johnson, who is diabetic. "Over the years, when I was a vocational rehabilitation counselor, I saw people at different facilities who had amputations and were wearing ill-fitting or old shoes because they couldn't afford anything better."

Orthotic and prosthetic treatment involves a practitioner evaluating a patient and interacting with technicians to custom fabricate and fit the artificial limb or orthopedic brace specifically for the patient. Currently 14 orthotics and prosthetics students at OSU-Okmulgee serve as interns in the clinical center, but there is a critical shortage of skilled technicians nationwide.

OSU receives Carnegie Foundation classification

OSU is one of 76 schools in the nation selected for a new Community Engagement Classification by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

"This designation reaffirms the university's commitment to having a significant impact through our work in outreach and partnerships with communities throughout the state," said OSU Vice President for Student Affairs Lee Bird.

OSU System CEO and President David Schmidly said, "I want to commend Dr. Bird and her staff for recognizing the importance of a distinction like this one from the Carnegie Foundation and working toward the classification."

"As a land grant institution, a large part of the OSU mission is to stay engaged with communities across the state of Oklahoma and continue creating partnerships that will have a positive impact on the citizens of Oklahoma both economically, and socially," Schmidly said.

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The newsman cometh

NBC's Tim Russert visits Oklahoma for the business speaker series sponsored by the Spears School of Business.



Into the fire

Radical Islam is on the run in Somalia, but life will remain tough in Horn of Africa nations, says featured expert Ted Vestal.



Education investment

OSU Foundation ranks among the nation's best in return on investment performance.

