

January 19, 2007

## OSU lends support to sustainable energy technology start-up Partnership could bring manufacturing jobs to Payne County

A partnership with Oklahoma State University's Center for Innovation and Economic Development may bring to Payne County a start-up company with roots at the University of Oklahoma.

Sustainable energy system provider SOL Inc., whose building products are based on research developments by OU College of Architecture Associate Dean James Patterson, will first consider Payne County as a site for its manufacturing operations as part of an agreement with OSU CIED.

"We'll be located where it makes the most financial sense to do so, with preference to Payne County," said David Orme, CEO of SOL Inc.

OSU CIED President Joe Alexander said investment in emerging Oklahoma start-ups complements the mission of the center, which exists to further OSU's commitment to economic development through sharing university know-how, building entrepreneurial strengths and participating in regional strategic alliances that create jobs and wealth for the citizens of Oklahoma.

"When President Schmidly organized this center, one of our missions was to create good jobs for Oklahomans, and this investment is just one of the steps that allow us to do that," Alexander said. "We're going to invest in two types of companies. . . Oklahoma companies or companies that are going to move to Oklahoma."

"We had known David before he went with SOL," Alexander said of Orme, an OSU engineering alumnus and former vice president of manufacturing and provisioning at Lucent Technologies. "We have a lot of confidence in the company and its leadership, and we are

really pleased to partner with them."

For use in existing buildings as well as new construction, SOL's products are designed to improve profitability by conserving energy and natural resources. Its first, the patented Horizontal Opening Solar Solution (HOSS), will be marketed primarily to large retailers.

Patterson developed the technology, initially at Iowa State University and later OU, while heading a research project for the Department of Energy. He and Brooks Hull, director of development for OU's College of Engineering, and Robert Workman, CEO of Tulsa architecture and engineering firm BSW International, co-founded SOL Inc. in 2003 to produce it. The entrepreneurs eventually turned to i2E, the technology commercialization arm of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology.

i2E evaluated the HOSS technology and assisted with market research and development of a business plan. SOL also received a loan from the commercialization center that required matching funds. In addition, i2E assisted the entrepreneurs in seeking out additional assistance, suggesting they contact OSU CIED.

"We have a small amount of funds that we are making available, in exchange for an equity



(From left) OSU Center for Innovation and Economic Development President Joe Alexander and CIED Vice President Tom Grey join David Orme, CEO of SOL Inc., in signing an agreement that may bring the start-up company's manufacturing operations to Payne County. OSU CIED entered a partnership with SOL, a developer of products and systems to manage sustainable energy in buildings.

interest, to companies where we see an opportunity to get a return on investment," said Tom Gray, CIED vice president for economic development. "With this seed capital, OSU and i2E are helping launch and commercialize SOL's innovative technology and create jobs in the state."

"They'll use this funding to produce the first production models," Gray said.

"We expect to have the prototypes done in three or four months, and we'll start marketing it then," Orme said. "We would really like to have a big building – a Walmart or a Lowe's or a Home Depot – as the beta site where we can actually track the total energy consumption with and without the system to prove its viability."

## OKLAHOMA STATE Portraits

### Celebrating the Centennial: OSU contributions

In 1949, Ed Malzahn's compact Ditch Witch trencher replaced manual digging and made the installation of indoor plumbing affordable for the common household. The earthshaking invention, now on display at the Oklahoma History Center, also launched an industry, solidifying the state as a manufacturing center in the global marketplace.

The small machine shop Malzahn then operated with his father became The Charles Machine Works Inc., the world leader in underground construction equipment. Home to more than 1,300 employees, the headquarters in Perry features almost 30 acres of manufacturing space and facilities for training, testing, research and product development. The company also has 169 primary dealerships and branches that distribute into 195 countries.

The company has received the American Outstanding Small Business Award and a Presidential "E" Award for exporting excellence. Its trenchers have appeared twice on Fortune magazine's list of the 100 best American-made products.

He remains involved as president and board chairman, but Malzahn, a 1943 OSU mechanical engineering alumnus, has turned operations of the company he founded over to his granddaughter. And groundbreaking innovation continues at The Charles Machine Works Inc., with trenchless, horizontal boring technologies now complementing its lines of trenchers and plows.

## OSU debuts Center for Africana Studies and Development

An afternoon of events has been scheduled Jan. 25 at the Wes Watkins Center to commemorate the establishment of the OSU Center for Africana Studies and Development.

The celebration includes a noon luncheon followed by a 1 p.m. open house and grand opening led by OSU System CEO and President David Schmidly at 1:30. The highlight will be an installment of the School of International Studies' Global Briefings Speaker Series. David Wiley, professor of sociology and director of Michigan State University's African Studies Center, at 3:30 will give the presentation, "Global Africa and the United States: A Past, Present and Future." Events will conclude with a 4:45 reception.

The conception of OSU African Student Organization members, the center has received support from the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of International Studies. Its establishment follows almost two years of discussions involving faculty, administrators and students and will help advance an initiative to start an interdisciplinary degree program in African studies at OSU, according to Billy Jivetti, ASO president.

"At the time it was proposed, ASO members were of the consensus that we needed this kind of center for academics, outreach and research pertaining to Africa," Jivetti said. "Working closely with Arts & Sciences Dean Peter Sherwood, International Education and Outreach Director Jim Hromas and Vice President for Institutional Diversity Cornell Thomas, we now have an office in 204E Wes Watkins."

"This semester, Swahili is being taught as a foreign language, and we look forward to when the center can support additional courses as well as research and outreach on Africa," he said.



OSU students maneuver over ice and snow to get to class earlier this week. The ice storm of 2007 forced the cancellation of classes at OSU-Tulsa and OSU-Okmulgee. Forecasts are predicting additional winter weather over the weekend.

## DEEP FREEZE

OSU students T.C. Houston, senior, and Graeme Collett, junior, strap on ice skates and glide across the Student Union plaza. The two also served hot chocolate to fellow students during frigid conditions this week.



## 'Dream Alive' presentation rescheduled

OSU's 2007 observance of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. featuring former Colorado Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers will be held Feb. 5.

Rogers, who made history by becoming Colorado's second-highest elected official, will present, "The Dream Alive Program: A Dedication to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," at 6:30 p.m. in the Wes Watkins Center on OSU's Stillwater campus. Rogers' critically acclaimed program, a tribute to King and leaders of the American civil rights movement, unites historic orations and contemporary perspective. Admission to the event, sponsored by OSU's Division for Institutional Diversity and the OSU Multicultural Student Center, is free and open to the public.

Rogers holds the distinction of serving as the nation's youngest lieutenant governor. He is also just the fourth African American in U.S. history elected lieutenant governor of a state.

"We're extremely excited and honored to host Joe Rogers to kick off our celebration of Black History Month," said Dr. Phillip Birdine, director of OSU's Multicultural Student Center. "He is a history maker and an accomplished leader and has become an in-demand speaker at colleges, corporations and conferences with his dynamic presentations."

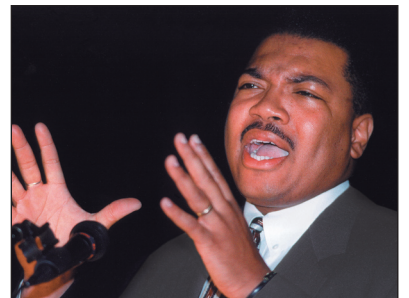
"OSU was extremely fortunate to host Coretta Scott King two years ago. You can't really top that, but Joe Rogers will be the latest of premier speakers on the legacy of Dr. King we'll have had on our campus," Birdine said. "It will be an exceptional program for our students and everyone who wants to come out and listen."

Rogers completed his terms as Colorado's lieutenant governor in 2003. Now a practicing attorney, he served in 2006 on the seven-member, blue-ribbon National Commission on the Voting Rights Act.

Rogers conceived Dream Alive in dedication to the memory and legacy of King and leaders of the civil rights movement. It seeks to increase understanding and appreciation of their contributions to the world and is a passionate reminder of their timeless wisdom and vision. In 2003, he founded The Dream Alive Program Inc. to meet increasing demand for his presentations throughout the nation.

Rogers is a recipient of the Trumpet Award from Time Warner's Turner Broadcasting System. Given in recognition of African American achievement, it honors individuals who have made significant contributions to enhance the quality of life for all Americans. Recipients include Muhammad Ali, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, Lena Horne and Colin Powell.

Rogers' debut book, "The Letter to My Son," will be released this year.



## Major OSU Career Fair set for Jan. 31

Oklahoma State University will hold its 2007 Career Fair January 31 in Stillwater, offering students an excellent opportunity to meet prospective employers representing more than 150 organizations.



## Drop and Add Extended for Students

The deadline for students to drop a course or withdraw from all courses with no grade and no fees has been extended until 5 p.m. today.

