

March 2, 2007

## Schmidly completes Cowboy ride

To the OSU campus....

Casey Stengel once said that "managing is getting paid for home runs someone else hits."

It was a supreme honor to serve as system CEO and president at Oklahoma State University the past four-plus years and during that time I had the thrill of watching the OSU team hit home run after home run.

The decision to leave Oklahoma State University was extremely difficult. My wife, Janet, and I loved our time at OSU. It was an incredible privilege to lead one of the nation's premier land-grant universities and meet so

many wonderful people from across the great state of Oklahoma.

As I depart, I am confident that even better days are ahead for OSU. Thanks to the dedicated and hard-working faculty and staff, the accomplishments of multi-talented students, and the support of loyal alumni and generous donors, the new OSU president will arrive in the midst of tremendous momentum. In the meantime, OSU Provost Marlene Strathe is the ideal choice as interim president.

During my time at OSU, our leadership and campus came together to create a strate-

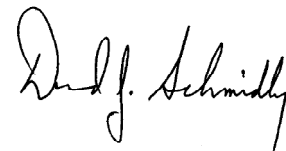
gic plan and campus master plan that guided decision-making and created the framework to make significant progress. The numbers tell the story.

One big number behind the momentum at OSU is the nearly \$850 million we raised over the past four-plus years in private donations and public funds for new scholarships and infrastructure.

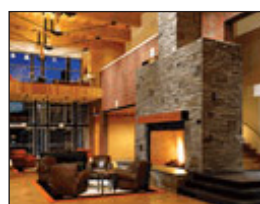
Those funds allowed us to make progress on many fronts. The quality of the OSU student improved and our Restore, Reward, Grow plan boosted faculty. We also launched

an initial development plan that will oversee more than \$826 million in construction; elevated and improved diversity; created a nationally-recognized Parents Association; fortified OSU's economic impact on the state; and appropriately, we developed an on-line "Report Card" to measure our success.

I am extremely proud of what we accomplished and sincerely grateful for the support we received from the entire OSU family. I wish each one of you all the best. The future is brighter than ever for Oklahoma State University.



### A Timeline 2003-2007



**Oct. 03**  
Ground is broken on the ConocoPhillips OSU Alumni Center, following company's \$7.5 million gift, the largest corporate gift ever to OSU.

**June 04**  
Oklahoma Legislature passes and Gov. Henry signs the Alternate Retirement Plan for Comprehensive Universities Act, adding portability to OSU faculty and staff retirement programs.



**Nov. 04**  
Business College becomes OSU's first endowed college following largest academic gift in school history from alumnus William S. Spears, renamed the Spears School of Business.

**Oct. 05**  
Former U.S. Sen. Don Nickles, an OSU graduate, inaugurates Congressional internships for top OSU students.



**Jan. 06**  
T. Boone Pickens makes the largest donation ever to a U.S. university athletics program, \$165 million, to fund a comprehensive athletic complex. Pickens has donated more than \$250 million to OSU.

ConocoPhillips and The Ponca City Development Authority announce a combined pledge of \$4 million to OSU's national facility for sensor research and testing. The University Multispectral Lab is projected to have an economic impact of \$120 million over 10 years.



**July 06**  
Seven Libyan students – among the first to attend an American university in 26 years – enroll at OSU in business and engineering.



**Nov. 06**  
OSU Medical Center, the nation's largest osteopathic teaching facility, is christened in downtown Tulsa, supported by \$40 million from the Oklahoma Legislature.

**Jan. 03**

David Schmidly takes office as OSU's 17th president and first System CEO, proposes "Achieving Greatness" strategic plan.



**May 04**

Consumer Digest ranks OSU a Top 20 Value in American public higher education.

**Feb. 05**

David Schmidly is given one of the highest honors a zoologist can receive. New species, the *peromyscus schmidlyi* deer mouse, is named after him.



**Sept. 05**

Walter and Peggy Helmerich and the Helmerich Foundation pledge \$9 million to construct Advanced Technology Research Center at OSU-Tulsa.

**Nov. 05**

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation gives \$14.8 million, the largest gift to OSU from a private foundation, for the renovation and expansion of the School of Architecture building.

**Feb. 06**

OSU designates Feb. 1 Nancy Randolph Davis Day, honoring its first African-American student, who earned her home economics MA in 1952.

**May 06**

President George W. Bush addresses 2,600 graduates, 25,000 friends and family and a statewide TV audience at OSU's 110th commencement.



**Sept. 06**

Professor Donna Branson accepts the 2006 Homeland Security Award from the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation and Augusta Westland North America for her team's QuadGard body armor.

**Jan. 07**

Sherman Smith pledges \$20 million for OSU athletics indoor practice facility.

### OSU Accomplishments '03-'07

#### Students

- Freshman ACT higher each year – fall '06 24.7
- Doubled number of National Merit Scholars
- Lead state in freshman valedictorians
- Graduation rate increased 7.7%

#### Faculty

- 18% salary increase since FY02
- Optional retirement system and improved benefits
- Restore, Reward, Grow added 100+ positions

#### Facilities (Initial development)

- \$314 million for academics
- \$65 million for student life
- \$316 million for athletics
- \$131 million for infrastructure

#### Funding

- Largest two gifts in history
- Largest athletic gift in NCAA history
- Largest corporate gift
- Largest gift from private foundation
- First endowed college (Spears School of Business)

#### Partnerships

- Dual enrollment with Tulsa Community College
- Gateway program with Northern Oklahoma CC

#### Marketing

- New slogan and advertising—"The STATE's University"; "A Brighter Orange"; "How Orange Are You?"
- New consolidated magazine -- STATE

#### Economic Development

- The Oklahoma land grant Triangle concept
- Center for Innovation and Economic Development

#### New Initiatives

- OSU Parents Association
- Regional offices in Dallas and Houston
- Offices in Puebla, Mexico
- 4-year technology degrees in Okmulgee
- College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee
- Nickles Congressional Fellowship Program
- National Sensor Testing Facility in Stillwater and Ponca City
- Biofuels and biotech experiment station in Ardmore
- Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management

#### Planning and Accountability

- Strategic Plan for System and campuses
- Campus Master Plan
- OSU on-line Report Card
- Accreditation by Higher Learning Commission

#### Diversity

- Created Division of Institutional Diversity
- African-American students up 25%, faculty up 47%
- Native American students up 12%, faculty up 37%
- Hispanic students 28%, faculty up 5%
- Female faculty up 19.1%
- Four of nine campus deans female

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

### Politically "Wired"

The 2008 presidential campaigns reveal the growing impact of digital media and the Internet on the democratic process, says featured expert Jeanette Mendez.



### Honorable achievement

After serving in Iraq, Dave Lewis is building on the national reputation of OSU's construction management technology program.

