

March 30, 2007

## Iraq veteran OSU's latest Truman Scholar

An OSU-Tulsa student and Iraq war veteran now has another honor to add to his accomplishments.

Political science junior Matt Stiner has received a Truman Scholarship, one of the nation's most prestigious scholastic honors. He is the first Truman Scholar from OSU's Tulsa campus. As the 10th OSU student in the past 12 years to win the award, Stiner has added to a legacy that includes OSU's designation in 2000 as Oklahoma's first Truman Honor Institution.

"The entire OSU community is proud of what Matt has accomplished for his country and in the classroom," said OSU Interim System CEO and President Marlene Strathe. "His many accomplishments, leadership and vision for the future are inspiring. He is yet another example of the elite work done by students at OSU."

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation was created in 1975 to support students with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in government, the nonprofit or advocacy sectors, education or elsewhere in the public service. The foundation selects less than 80 U.S. college juniors each year to receive the \$30,000 scholarship.

Upon graduating from Broken Arrow High School in 2000, Stiner followed in his father's footsteps and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served for four years as an assistant chief of a 155m Howitzer section, a Marine combat instructor of water survival and a Green Belt martial arts instructor. Stiner's service also included seven months of active duty in Iraq.

"My Marine Corps experience, in peacetime and in Iraq, has helped me understand leadership and civic duty, making me a better American citizen," Stiner said.

After returning from Iraq, Stiner focused on public service through speaking engagements and volunteerism. He also began working toward his college degree by attending classes at Tulsa Community College and, eventually, OSU.

"I'm extremely humbled to have received this honor, especially with the amazing caliber of students who were involved at all levels of the scholarship process," Stiner said.

In addition to the scholarship, Stiner will receive leadership training, career and graduate school counseling and special internship opportunities within the federal government. Following graduation, he plans to pursue a master's degree in public administration at the University of Georgia.



Matt Stiner (center) and Bob Graalman, director of OSU Scholar Development and Recognition, and OSU history Associate Professor Laura Belmonte.

### OKLAHOMA STATE *Portraits*

#### Celebrating the Centennial: OSU contributions



For Oklahoma A&M's first female graduate, education was the key to opportunity and independence. Jessie Thatcher Bost made the most of hers.

Enrolled in 1891, Bost worked her way through school as an assistant librarian. She started with preparatory classes and then took the full agriculture and engineering curriculum. Her hard work was rewarded when she was chosen as the 1896 commencement speaker.

In addition to being a devoted mother of four, Bost taught for 40 years in Oklahoma schools and became a staunch advocate of women's suffrage. She also stayed active at A&M, serving as the first president of the Alumni Association and the Half-Century Club. The Jessie Thatcher Bost Collection is housed in Special Collections and University Archives, and in her memory, OSU offers a scholarship to a student who works in Special Collections.

## Around the STATE...

### April 6 is deadline for Big Event job requests, volunteers

OSU Big Event is looking for jobs to do and the volunteers to complete them. Sponsored by OSU's Student Government Association, the April 14 public service project is a one-day, student-run event when students volunteer their time in Stillwater.

Stillwater residents who need help and students and student groups that want to contribute must submit a job request form or volunteer application.

All Big Event 2007 forms are due by April 6. Both volunteer and job requests applications are available in the SGA office in 040 Student Union or by calling (405) 744-1288.

### MBA team places in international competition

Spears School of Business students (from left) Jennifer Bruns, Michael Tapley, Alyssa Heath and Mary Nemcok recently placed second among 20 teams competing at the 2007 International MBA Case Competition. In the competition, students are presented a case study and must develop strategies to improve a non-profit business.



### OSU-OKC hosts Cowboy Classic

OSU-Oklahoma City tomorrow at 8 a.m. will host its annual Cowboy Classic 5K Run/Walk at the campus at 900 N. Portland Ave. The event is free and open to the public.

Pre-registration is encouraged. For more information call the OSU-OKC Wellness Center at 405-945-8652.

### Get psyched over performance anxiety

Overcoming performance anxiety will be the topic of free seminars tomorrow and Sunday featuring Christine Vitale, sports psychology expert, at the Seretean Center for the Performing Arts.

Presented by the OSU music department's string area and Phi Mu Alpha, the seminars will detail techniques used by athletes to overcome the fear of performing in front of others.

Saturday's seminar is from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Sunday's will be held from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Both are open to the public and registration is not required.

### Theatre department to present "Tape"

Stephen Belber's play, "Tape," will be performed by the OSU Theatre department at the Jerry L. Davis Studio Theatre in Gunderson Hall at 7:30 p.m. April 3 - 6. A matinee performance also will be presented April 7 at 2:30 p.m.

For ticket information, contact the OSU Theatre department at 405-744-6094 or visit <http://theatre.okstate.edu>.



### Preparations underway for Relay For Life

Information about how to form a team or become involved in 2007 Relay For Life at OSU is currently available at [www.ascevents.org/okstaterelay](http://www.ascevents.org/okstaterelay) or by contacting Tanner Thompson at [tanner.thompson@okstate.edu](mailto:tanner.thompson@okstate.edu).

The student-organized, overnight relay benefiting the American Cancer Society and the fight against cancer will be held April 13 at 7 p.m. on the OSU Library Lawn.

### Film historian to be recognized

OSU Regents Professor Peter Rollins, who will retire from the English department this May, will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Film and Video Studies Society.

The award will be presented this weekend during the seventh annual Conference in Film and Media at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art.

## Model Airplane...



OSU's new graphic flight simulator in the aviation sciences program will be demonstrated during a special open house today. The open house from 2 - 3 p.m. in 104 Willard is presented by the College of Education and FlightSafety International, which donated the new MATRIX GFS (graphical flight simulator). Students and faculty will demonstrate the MATRIX GFS, and visitors will be able to learn more about the simulator and OSU's aviation program. The open house is being held in conjunction with the annual Aviation Advisory Board meeting of the college, which is composed of professionals in the aerospace industry and professional pilots.

## Mars vehicle takes flight

It's no typical spring break destination, but a dozen OSU School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering students began theirs on the high plains of eastern Colorado.

Working in conjunction with students from the University of Kentucky, the OSU students this past academic year have designed and built an inflatable wing aircraft prototype NASA is considering for Mars exploration. The students and their UK counterparts gathered 40 miles east of Ft. Collins on St. Patrick's Day for the first high altitude test flight of the aircraft.

To simulate conditions on Mars, the airplane was launched to high altitude on a helium weather balloon.

"The balloon carried the aircraft to just over 89,000 feet before the balloon burst," said Jamey Jacob, associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering and the OSU team's faculty adviser. "The aircraft then descended on a parachute until it reached approximately 10,000 feet and was released as planned."

"It was free until about 1,000 feet. At that point, the emergency parachute deployed, and the plane descended the rest of the way on the emergency parachute, ultimately traveling 70 miles before touchdown," he said.

The flight plan was designed to test critical subsystems, such as the aircraft structure, autopilot, communications and video and emergency systems. An in flight anomaly occurred, but the subsystems performed well and the overall test flight was a success, according to Jacob.

"We had a failure in one of the wing restraints that didn't give way when it was supposed to, and, in the descent, lost the wing," Jacob said. "The aircraft was spinning in a spiral dive on the way down, which is about



the worst condition you could have in flight, but the emergency system worked successfully."

"And the flight demonstrated a flaw in our deployment system so that allows us to correct the problem before our next mission," he said.

The aircraft is now cleared for a flight at 100,000 feet to test its aerodynamics under Martian conditions.

"The FAA is very picky about having things fly in the aerospace without a pilot," Jacob said. "We've verified all systems, and especially the emergency system that was applied in a real situation, enough that we'll be able to proceed with the high altitude flight this fall. That's our end goal, and it's something that has never been done before."

Students working on the project are Heather Bee, Johnny Chandler, Shawn Fleming, Alex Jech, Tetsuro Kato, Seng Lim, Ben Loh, Yohei Okuda, Yuichi Todokoro, Josh Hathaway and Grant Heimbech.

The project is funded in part by the Oklahoma Space Grant Consortium under the direction of Andy Arena, Maciula Professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering at OSU.