

April 27, 2007

Study abroad seeking 100 percent participation

During the OSU/A&M Board of Regents meeting last week, interim OSU System CEO and President Marlene Strathe announced the university's long-term goal of all graduates receiving an international experience prior to graduating.

"OSU has long recognized the value of our students participating in study abroad," Strathe said. "The opportunity to study abroad not only enriches the student's educational experience, but is vital for American economic competitiveness, and especially for America's future diplomacy and security."

Strathe initiated a Study Abroad Committee last year following a Faculty Council recommendation to increase study abroad numbers at OSU. While the long-term goal is 100 percent of graduates having a significant study abroad experience, OSU has established a five-year objective of 25 percent participation. The recommendation also called for establishing specific actions and support to reach the objectives.

President Strathe allocated \$90,000 to the Study Abroad Office last year to provide incentives for credit-bearing study abroad activities. This past academic year, 160 scholarships varying from \$500 for short-term programs to \$1,000 for academic year-long programs

were awarded.

"Today's universities have a responsibility to provide students the knowledge and skills they need to be active and contributing members of the global community," said Geraldine Auel, Study Abroad coordinator.

Auel said a significant international experience could come without leaving the country. "I think we can take better advantage of the presence of our international students to create opportunities for interactions, al-

lowing students who can't go abroad the opportunity to develop cross-cultural skills and a greater ease in interacting with individuals from diverse backgrounds."

Auel said approximately 400 students at OSU studied abroad in more than 20 countries last year, which represents about 10 percent of an undergraduate graduating class.

According to Auel, OSU should be able to increase study abroad numbers by decreasing the financial and academic barriers to study abroad; by providing incentives to faculty not only to develop and lead study abroad programs, but also to internationalize their

curricula; and by providing the preparation and support students need to feel comfortable in meeting the challenge of travel and living abroad.

Jim Hromas, director of International Education and Outreach at OSU, said, "I applaud the Faculty Council for taking the initiative to set forward priorities in this area for the future of the university." He also praised Strathe for making funds available for scholarships for study abroad.

OSU has exchange programs on five continents and in more than 30 countries, and recently has increased its presence in Mexico and Thailand. In the past, OSU students have studied abroad on six continents, not only in traditional study abroad destinations in Europe and Australia, but also in countries such as Tanzania, Tunisia, Thailand, Slovenia, Lithuania and Malta.

OSU currently has exchange opportunities for students at eight universities in Mexico. The Mexico Liaison Office pursues and supports academic, cultural and business exchange programs between OSU and Mexico, and is committed to the internationalization of higher education as well as building better relationships with Mexico.

In another new initiative, a Center for African Studies and Development was opened this semester at OSU to raise awareness on African issues and as a resource for Africa study, research and outreach.

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Marlene Strathe, interim CEO and President, OSU System

OKLAHOMA STATE Portraits

Celebrating the Centennial: OSU contributions



Dana Tiger draws inspiration for her paintings from her Creek, Seminole and Cherokee roots and the work of her father, acclaimed

artist Jerome Tiger. Her paintings are portrait the strength and determination of Native American Women.

A member of the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame, this OSU Distinguished Alumna is the youngest ever named a master artist by the Five Civilized Tribes Museum.

Despite being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, Tiger remains dedicated to her work donating much of her art to support the National HIV/AIDS Partnership, the Native American College Fund and the American Cancer Society.

Library Legends include Cowboys

By CHASE HARVICK

As part of the centennial celebration and the 100th anniversary of the Oklahoma Library Association, 100 individuals and support groups have been recognized for their contributions to Oklahoma libraries including nine people associated with OSU.

Cora Miltimore, the first full-time head librarian at Oklahoma A&M College, cataloged and organized the library's collection.

Elsie Hand was head librarian from 1921-1933 and oversaw the addition of more than 40,000 volumes to the library.

During Edmon Low's 1940-1967 tenure as head of the library that now bears his name, the number of volumes increased by 650,000 and the staff from 16 to 150.

Della Thomas, OSU librarian from 1957-1969, was the driving force behind the creation of the Mary L. Williams Curriculum Materials Library.

Under the leadership of Dean Roscoe Rouse Jr., the library became the first in the state to utilize computers in everyday operations.

As dean from 1987-2003, Edward Johnson established the Friends of the OSU Library and the University Library Advisory Committee and replaced card catalogs with automated systems.

Ken Bierman, former assistant university librarian, implemented an advanced automation method in many of the state's public and private libraries.

Librarians throughout the nation have learned about government documents in courses taught by Vicki Phillips, OSU Library faculty member, and her husband, John Phillips, head of Government Documents.

Philanthropic works by Peggy Helmerich have benefited the state and especially its libraries. Both an endowment used to purchase current materials and the library's browsing room bear her name.

For a complete list of Oklahoma's Library Legends as well as in-depth profiles, visit OLA's website at www.oklibs.org.



OSU faculty and researchers to span globe during the summer

Hundreds of OSU students will visit foreign countries for educational experiences in the coming months, but they are not alone as the university's global ambassadors. Faculty in every college also travel during the summer, returning to longtime, distant collaborations and breaking new ground in international research, outreach and education.

In May, Pickens School of Geology faculty members **Estella and Elliot Atekwana** will lead a student group to Botswana for several weeks of field research. Since 1999, Estella Atekwana and researchers at the Universities of Botswana and Zambia have been studying continental expansion, and a three-year, National Science Foundation grant will allow students to participate.



"This project will enable us to solidify partnerships with African universities and provide our students an international dimension to their education in one of the best places on earth to study these questions of earth geosciences," said Estella Atekwana, Sun Chair and professor of geology.

Ethiopia, where OSU's international outreach began in the 1950s, is still a destination for College of Human Environmental Sciences researchers assisting a National Institutes of Health study on zinc's effect on infant growth and cognitive development. The project's international team of doctors and scientists, including Regents Professor **Barbara Stoecker**, will gather again this summer to continue work in the country's Siddamma region.

Dr. Lionel Dawson from the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences will join Langston University researchers in Ethiopia in June. They are leading a U.S. Agency for International Development project to

improve food production in Ethiopia by cross-breeding native goats with larger breeds imported from South Africa

"The imported animals must be tested, vaccinated for common Ethiopian disease and quarantined and monitored for four weeks, and I will go to monitor these activities," said Dawson, associate professor of veterinary clinical sciences.

Leadership of the United States' team in the Transregional Collaborative Research Center in Optics and membership in the CIRP, an invitation-only, international scientific society capped at 161 researchers and limited to 15 Americans, requires **Don Lucca** to travel frequently. In May, the Regents Professor and Tom J. Cunningham Professor of engineering will return to Germany's Universität Bremen whose

researchers have collaborated with him on the machining and production of ultra-precise optical surfaces and materials for more than 10 years.

Jacqueline Fletcher, Sarkeys Distinguished Professor of entomology and plant pathology, is also headed to Europe next month. Fletcher, who directs the National

Institute for Microbial Forensics and Food and Agricultural Biosecurity at OSU, has been invited to Budapest, Hungary, to participate in the International Crop Security Conference sponsored by NATO and the European Union.

Spears School of Business Associate Dean **Mark Weiser**, who will travel to Thailand, is among faculty who regularly visit the country to teach graduate courses at King Mongkut's Institute of Technology. Through

a cooperative agreement with the Master of Science in Management Information Systems program, students at the institute complete one-and-a-half years of courses, including several taught by visiting OSU faculty, before coming to Stillwater for the remaining courses and completion of M.S. in MIS degrees.

The College of Education similarly offers Doctoral Cohort Programs to students in Thailand, England, Costa Rica and soon, Belize, except courses are delivered in the spring and fall and students visit OSU between terms. Faculty from Prince Songkla and Siam University in Thailand in disciplines ranging from dentistry to arts and letters are currently at OSU receiving doctoral instruction and will soon begin preparing proposals and dissertations, according to Adrienne Hyle, associate dean of Graduate Studies and Research.

OSU's global reach includes the Middle East and the United Arab Emirates. Spears School of Business Dean Sara Freeman served as keynote speaker at the recent graduation of the Executive MBA class at Yayed University. OSU has partnered with other American universities to provide the Executive MBA program to Yayed University for seven years.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES OF 2007

Commencement May 4, 5

For more information: <http://osu.okstate.edu/commencement>