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News from OSU Communications

Students return to Cambridge

A group of OSU students participated in a study of "Biology, Joyce, and the Irish Colonial Experience" this summer. Instead of learning in a Stillwater classroom, the 19 scholars spent July in England and Ireland where the historic events transpired.

The 2007 OSU Summer in Cambridge program was sponsored by Academic Affairs, the Office of Scholar Development and Recognition and the Lew Wentz Foundation, which provided scholarship assistance.

Led by English professor Ed Walkiewicz and philosophy professor Doren Recker, the group's studies began at Magdalene College, one of the 31 colleges that make up Cambridge University. Lessons focused on the history of science and various associated cultural and ethnic beliefs.

Peter Sherwood, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and a Magdalene College alumnus, later joined the program to share with the group his experiences from England.

After spending two weeks at Cambridge, the group took a four-hour ferry ride to Ireland, the second major destination of the stay in Great Britain. While at historic Trinity College in Dublin, the students learned about the Irish colonial experience and studied the works of author James Joyce. Students, faculty and guests reenacted Joyce's famous novella "The Dead" in the actual house used for the tale, where foods and music from the story were reproduced and scenes from the book were performed.

Students also toured Ireland's Parliament and Supreme Court.

Although the trip ended just weeks ago, plans for the 2008 Summer in Cambridge are already in place, according to Bob Graalman, director of OSU Scholar Development and Recognition.

"Next year's session will shift its focus to a study of leadership traditions in the United Kingdom, with panels involving local scholars and OSU celebrities and a visit to Churchill College for a meeting with the director of the Churchill Archives," Graalman said.

Oklahoma State Portraits

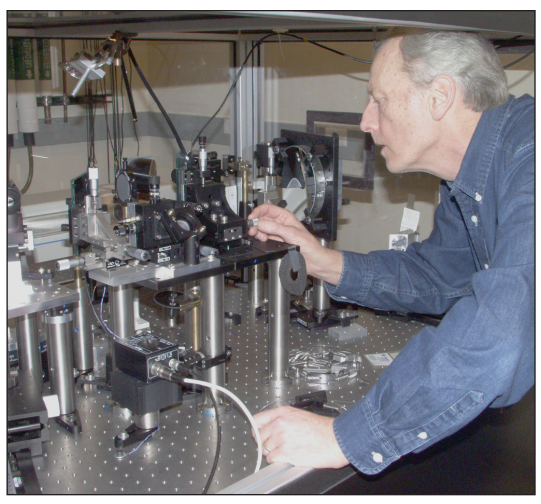
Celebrating the Centennial: OSU contributions

As it crosses farmland, the Greenseeker™ collects plant data with optical sensors, predicts optimal grain yield, calculates fertilizer requirements and applies it precisely. In addition to boosting yields, this technology is reducing runoff to keep water cleaner and lowering nutrient expenditures for savings approaching $20,000 per 1,000 acres.

The subject of a recent segment on the History Channel's "Modern Marvels" and an upcoming feature on Discovery's "Daily Planet," the Greenseeker is among OSU innovations featured in Oklahoma State Portraits: Celebrating the Centennial of Oklahoma Statehood. Get your copy today.

Researcher lights way of the future

Engineering professor cited among pioneers of optics



OSU Regents Professor and Bellmon Professor of optoelectronics Daniel Grischkowsky was on the team of IBM scientists that in 1986 broke the "picosecond barrier" by combining a laser and an electronic switch to produce electrical pulses that lasted one trillionth of a second. His growing recognition as a pioneer of terahertz science has coincided with its advancement this century as a field of optics and photonics.

The scientific community has ranked Daniel Grischkowsky, Regents Professor and Bellmon Professor of optoelectronics at OSU, among the most influential optical engineers and scientists of the 20th century.

A paper by Grischkowsky is one of the Journal of the Optical Society of America's top 50 articles most cited by other academicians, scientists, engineers and researchers. Based on a tally of the citation index of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) Web of Science, the articles were compiled and reprinted online by the society in celebration of 90 years of publishing peer-reviewed, scientific journals.

Cited 378 times since its 1990 publication, "Far-Infrared Time-Domain Spectroscopy with TeraHz Beams of Dielectrics and Semiconductors" documented a study on electromagnetic waves at terahertz frequencies by Grischkowsky at IBM's Watson Research Center.

The project, an analysis of the interaction between terahertz radiation and materials designed to conduct as well as insulate against electromagnetic waves, introduced techniques that became the basis for terahertz time-domain spectrometers in use worldwide today.

It was also a preview of the work Grischkowsky has done since he left IBM in 1993 to become a member of the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology faculty.

"We use short-pulse lasers as drivers in electrical circuits and can get an electronic response 10 times faster than what is capable with any other techniques," Grischkowsky said, describing the work of his Ultrafast Terahertz Research Group at OSU. "This lets us generate a new class of beams that are not light or radar beams, though they're probably more like radar than light, in an altogether different frequency, or wavelength.

"We're looking at the world in a different color than what most people have ever looked at it," he said.

The Ultrafast Terahertz Research Group includes Grischkowsky, faculty members Alan Cheville and Weili Zhang and their students in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The hybrid technique the group uses to generate terahertz radiation may impact areas from medicine and health, defense and homeland security to communications.

Grischkowsky's latest collaboration with the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory will be the cover article for an upcoming issue of the Journal of Physical Chemistry.

Afghan women to lead OSU panel

Four women entrepreneurs from Afghanistan will participate in a panel presentation in the Wes Watkins Center auditorium Sept. 5 from 3:30-5 p.m. The panel discussion is open to students and the public and will be followed by a free reception.

The women are taking part in a five-week business basics program that matches them with women business owners in Oklahoma who serve as their mentors.

"We're excited to host these talented entrepreneurs and look forward to hearing their stories," said Spears School of Business Dean Sara M. Freedman. "I'm certain the students will benefit from their insights on the challenges of developing businesses in Afghanistan."

The four women come from various fields of interest. Mehria Abewe, 23, owns a beauty parlor. Qandi Amaki, 36, who works with the Afghanistan Ministry of Justice, is head of a social organization for women in business fields such as handicrafts, tailoring embroidery and carpet weaving. Habiba Mohammad Ibraham is chief of the Afghan Woman Engineering Design Foundation and has a construction business. The fourth entrepreneur is Amir Taj Sirat, 27, who has a 90-employee football and volleyball manufacturing business.

The panel presentation is sponsored by the Spears School of Business, and the School of International Studies at OSU as well as the Women Impacting Public Policy Institute.

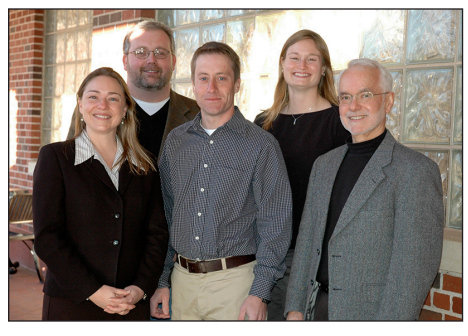
Academics at a glance. . .

School of Fire Protection and Safety Technology, Engineering

Offers a bachelor's degree in engineering technology emphasizing loss control in three areas: fire, physical accidents and environmental exposure. • 6 faculty and approximately 215 students • DEPARTMENT HEAD: Dr. Michael D. Larrañaga (2007) • New department head Larrañaga, who is an alumnus of the school, previously worked with the mining industry in China to improve the safety of mines and mining operations.

Natural Resource Ecology and Management department, Agriculture

Offers bachelor's degrees in natural resource sciences with options in fire ecology, fisheries and aquatic, forest management, forest conservation, natural resource communications, rangeland ecology, urban and community forestry and wildlife ecology; and master's and Ph.D. degrees in natural resource ecology and management with specialization in forest resources, fisheries and aquatic ecology, rangeland ecology and management and wildlife ecology and management. • 27 faculty and approximately 260 students • DEPARTMENT HEAD: Dr. M. Keith Owens (2007) • Students and faculty last spring visited Honduras for the ninth straight year to experience the unique linkage between Hondurans and their land and natural resources.



Sociology department, Arts & Sciences

Offers bachelor's degrees in general sociology, with options in applied sociology and anthropology, an M.S. in general sociology and a Ph.D. in sociology with concentrations in environmental sociology, complex organizations, deviance and criminology, social inequality and social psychology. • 15 faculty and approximately 313 students • DEPARTMENT HEAD: Dr. Patricia Bell (1994-2000 and 2005 to present) • Activities of the department's world-class environmental sociology program, which is comprised by five well-published faculty, range from studying water problems in Oklahoma, disaster response and emerging environmental movements in developing nations in Europe and Africa, to helping organize an international conference in China.

National Exposure

OSU-Tulsa student Cindy Downes is interviewed this week by a "Good Morning America" television crew. Downes, 57, will be featured in a story about the increasing number of Baby Boomers returning to college. The segment is scheduled to air during the ABC morning program Friday, Sept. 7.