

TJanuary 8, 2007

To the OSU Campus,

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful holiday break and a Happy New Year. It is always exciting to start a new semester.

I was pleased during the semester break to announce the creation of Cowboy Covenant, which provides additional financial support for students who qualify for the state's Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program, or OHLAP. Cowboy Covenant provides aid to cover the cost of mandatory fees and books for eligible students, including current OHLAP students at OSU.

A pillar of the OSU strategic plan is to create access and affordability for students who want to attend an institution of higher learning. With Cowboy Covenant, we are making obtaining a degree at OSU even more affordable for OHLAP students. Students can learn more by calling 405-744-6604, or e-mailing [finaid@okstate.edu](mailto:finaid@okstate.edu)...

One of the highlights of the break was our last-second victory over Alabama in the Independence Bowl. It was the perfect ending to a thrilling season, sending us into the new year with plenty of momentum and potential. Congratulations to our entire football family...

I am delighted we have the opportunity to hear one of the most distinguished scientists in the world when Edward O. Wilson speaks at the Click Alumni Hall at 7 p.m. on January 18. A two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and considered by many to be the father of the modern environmental movement, Wilson will speak about proper stewardship of the earth's biodiversity. The lecture is free and I hope many of you will attend...

Visiting with students, faculty and staff provides me valuable feedback as we work to move OSU forward. One way I do that is through meetings in my office. If you are interested in scheduling a meeting, go to the System CEO and President <[http://osu.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=13&Itemid=44](http://osu.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=13&Itemid=44)> link off the OSU home page and select either "Student Office Hours" or faculty and staff can go to "Appointment Request." I look forward to visiting with many of you...

Finally, as part of our effort to address rising health care costs and improve wellness on campus, we are seeking employee feedback regarding current health care options. If you have not done so already, I hope employees will take a few minutes to complete a brief benefits survey. Your thoughts are important. You can access it at the Human Resources home page <[http://www.okstate.edu/osu\\_per/](http://www.okstate.edu/osu_per/)> .

Have a great week and tremendous semester!

David Schmidly

