

To the OSU Campus,

We appreciate OSU Physical Plant employees and others who worked hard through the long weekend to help us open the campus today. While icy conditions may have prevented some students and employees from returning to campus, I am glad we were able to resume our regular schedule. We never want to close campus, but we shutdown early Friday out of concern for the safety of our students and employees...

As our nation observed Martin Luther King Day yesterday, I hope you took a moment to reflect on the life of a man who helped change our nation. We will celebrate the legacy of Dr. King this semester when Joe Rogers, former lieutenant governor of Colorado, will present his critically acclaimed Dream Alive Program. We have had to re-schedule this special event and will provide details as soon as they are available...

We expect an overflow crowd when Edward O. Wilson, considered the father of the modern environmental movement, speaks at the Click Alumni Hall at 7 p.m. Thursday. Wilson, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, will speak about proper stewardship of the earth's biodiversity. This is a wonderful learning opportunity for our campus...

OSU has been recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for its community involvement, which is a real tribute to our students, faculty and staff. In particular, I want to thank Lee Bird, our VP for Student Affairs, and her team for helping us achieve this distinction. Part of our land-grant mission is outreach and our community engagement efforts touch countless lives...

We have two big home basketball games today and tomorrow. The Cowboys host Texas tonight in a battle of top 25 powers and Wednesday night the Cowgirls host OU. The Cowgirls are off to a 2-1 Big 12 start and we need to pack Gallagher-Iba for Bedlam. I hope students will turn out in a big way to support our women's team...

Aside from good grades, what does every college student need more than just about anything? Money would be high on the list, and two local banks are doing their part.

MidFirst Bank is giving away \$200 during home men's and women's basketball games and wrestling matches, while Stillwater National Bank will be giving away \$1,500 to one student who attends four consecutive home wrestling duals, starting with this Friday's match against Iowa. We appreciate these banks ongoing support and I know our students appreciate the chance for cash...

For our students, one of the most important things you will take from your time at OSU is the relationships that will last a lifetime. That was the theme last week as alumnus Sherman Smith made a \$20 million gift to OSU. It was the bond Sherman developed with Boone Pickens and others during his OSU days that helped keep him connected to his alma mater and helped lead to last week's historic gift. We greatly appreciate Sherman's generosity and love for OSU...

Be careful and have a good week.

David Schmidly

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