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# Message from the President

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October 16, 2006

To the OSU Campus,

This is a busy and exciting week as students rush to complete preparations, and alumni, family and the community visit our campus to enjoy one of the nation's best and biggest Homecoming celebrations.

A week jammed with activities begins today and culminates with the walkaround and spirit rally Friday and downtown parade and football game Saturday. This is the 85th OSU Homecoming and will include a special 50-year reunion for the class of 1956, the last graduating class of Oklahoma A&M.

We welcome all our alumni and visitors this week as we celebrate the people, spirit and tradition that make OSU such a special place. Our campus owes a big thanks to Homecoming organizers, the Alumni Association and our students for all their time and tireless effort. I hope you will be able to enjoy many of the activities this week...

In case you missed it, we made a couple of significant announcements Thursday on our campus that will strengthen our ability to fulfill the OSU land-grant mission of research, instruction and extension.

Thanks to a \$1 million gift from the Presbyterian Health Foundation, the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences dedicated a new biosafety level 3 laboratory that will enhance our biodefense and emerging infectious disease research, as well as improve our ability to compete for new grants and contracts.

The Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources introduced its new department of natural resource ecology and management. The department is an important step, bringing together faculty and students from several academic areas to focus on critical issues and opportunities in forestry, rangeland, wildlife and fisheries...

I thoroughly enjoy the time I spend with students and this past week I visited with aviation sciences senior Nick Donner, a three-time national hot air balloon champion who will be competing in the world championships next month in Japan. While on the ground, he is taking 18 hours and working two jobs. Nick is one more example of the vast talents and hard-working commitment of OSU students...

Our football team responded to two tough losses with a huge come-from-behind win Saturday. I am extremely proud of our young team and hope you will be in the stands for our Homecoming battle with Texas A&M. Have a great week and make sure you wear plenty of orange!

David Schmidly