

December 4, 2006

To the OSU Campus,

It is good to have classes back in session after closing the campus Thursday and Friday due to the weather. Closing campus is not something we take lightly. Our leadership team weighed all the factors before making a final decision both days.

With the semester winding down, there were many things to consider, but the ultimate factor in the final decision was the safety of our students, faculty and staff. Class work and tests affected by the closure will be handled on a case-by-case basis by our faculty...

I was pleased to provide a state of the university at the faculty general meeting last week. I am completing my fourth year at the helm of the OSU System and I have never been more excited about my job and the future of our outstanding institution.

Our strategic plan is guiding us to new levels of achievement. The plan also has proven visionary with respect to the issues and priorities dominating the national discussion on higher education. The OSU strategic plan aligns every aspect of our system to address the four major challenges confronting higher education today – affordability, access, excellence and quality, and student success and accountability. To read my full comments, go here. http://osu.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=493&Itemid=46 ...

My wife, Janet, and I thoroughly enjoyed a popular holiday tradition at OSU last week. The Madrigal Dinner-Concert combines music, costumes, merriment and cuisine to provide an evening of enjoyment typical of a 17th century European yuletide. Madrigal has a long and proud history of students and staff working together to create a memorable evening.

Congratulations to the Student Union staff, the Theater and Music Departments, and the many others who spent long hours collaborating to build sets, make props, sew costumes and decorate for this year's Madrigal. The Madrigal's five-evening run was interrupted by weather Thursday night and will conclude with another sellout tonight. Thanks to all for a job well done...

We are pleased that Burns Hargis, Vice Chairman of the Bank of Oklahoma and member of the OSU/A&M Board of Regents, will deliver our fall commencement speech Dec. 16. Burns received an accounting degree from OSU. Our Graduate College commencement is set for Dec. 15...

Congratulations to our football team for our invitation to the Dec. 28 Independence Bowl in Shreveport. We will play Alabama from the powerful Southeastern Conference. A win would be a wonderful finish to a solid season and provide great momentum going into next year...

We are one of a handful of schools nationally that has undefeated men's and women's basketball teams. Our Cowboys are 9-0 and our Cowgirls 7-0. If you have not seen them yet, I encourage students, faculty and staff to go out and support Kurt Budke's much-improved Cowgirls. You have a chance tonight when they play at Gallagher-Iba Arena at 7 p.m. Our men have a big test tomorrow when they play nationally ranked Syracuse on ESPN in the Jimmy V Classic at Madison Square Garden...

Congratulations to John Smith's top-ranked wrestling team, which defeated Oklahoma yesterday for its 17th consecutive Bedlam dual victory. Winners of the last four national titles, the Cowboys are making a "Drive for Five" this year...

David Schmidly