

April 10, 2007

To the OSU Campus:

It is with pleasure that I report these past two weeks have included announcements and recognitions that continue to exemplify the excellence of the Oklahoma State University academic experience.

Two significant gifts were announced, both of which will enhance the academic mission of our institution. Through the generosity of a \$1.5 million gift from the Sherman Smith family, qualified students in the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology will be eligible for several full tuition scholarships. Additionally, the College of Education received a \$2.5 million gift from Steve Birch that will support two endowed chairs in key curricular areas of the College. Several other privately funded academic initiatives are under discussion. Our most sincere appreciation goes to staff of the OSU Foundation, Deans Karl Reid and Pamela Fry, and their development officers, George Wendt and Brenda Solomon, for their efforts in securing these generous gifts.

Oklahoma State University students were again nationally recognized for their academic accomplishments. Our congratulations go out to Matt Stiner (Truman Scholar), Sara-Jane Smallwood and Cortney Timmons (Udall Scholars), Matthew Smith (Fulbright Scholar), and Elizabeth Casey (NSF Graduate Fellow) on their achievements. Congratulations also to Robert Graalman, Steve Hallgren, Gerry Auel, and the many faculty members, mentors, and advisors who helped these students in numerous ways.

Earlier this year Oklahoma State University was designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a "community of engagement" in recognition of our significant outreach efforts. OSU students have a proud legacy of volunteerism and this Saturday more than 1,000 students are expected to participate in more than 100 projects across Stillwater as part of the annual BIG EVENT. The organizers, as well as all student volunteers, are to be applauded for giving back to our community.

In addition to the academic recognitions and celebrations in recent weeks, OSU is fortunate to have some very special guests coming to our campus. The OSU Regents Professors are hosting Nobel Prize winning chemist Roald Hoffmann; the Edmond Low Library is bringing National Book Award winner Tim Egan; the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering is hosting Delores Etter, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition; the Wes Watkins Distinguished Lectureship will feature former U.S. Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman; and the School of Journalism & Broadcasting welcomes Oklahoma Eagle publisher James O. Goodwin. Visits by these distinguished scholars, artists, and speakers are the result of efforts of individual faculty and staff on the campus. Their hard work enriches the educational experience and academic climate of the university and is sincerely appreciated.

In closing, I remind everyone that this Thursday the annual Staff Appreciation Picnic will be held on the lawn south of Willard Hall. OSU staff members are an integral part of the

university's success. Please take a moment this week to say THANK YOU for all they contribute.

Marlene Strathe