



August 13, 2007

To the OSU Campus:

I am very pleased to welcome all our faculty, staff and students back to the Oklahoma State University campus as we prepare for the beginning of the Fall '07 semester.

We expect almost 100 new tenure and tenure track faculty to join the OSU community as we continue our Restore, Reward, and Grow initiative. Included are new departmental leaders in Theatre, Hotel and Restaurant Administration, Design Housing and Merchandising, Computer Science, Fire Protection and Safety Technology, Plant and Soil Science, and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. We look forward to welcoming each of these new members of the OSU community and to the contributions they will make to our academic programs.

It is indeed an exciting time to be at Oklahoma State University. We are embarking on a historic period of growth, with more than \$826 million in projects planned over the next seven years that will make us more competitive in academics, student life and athletics. You will see signs of our progress almost everywhere you look this fall.

Groundbreaking for the Interdisciplinary Science Research Building, the first of a number of non-athletic construction and renovation projects on the campus, was held on July 26 with Governor Brad Henry in attendance. On August 23 groundbreaking for our new multimodal facility will be held with Senator James Inhofe as our special guest.

At 1 p.m. on September 14 the North Classroom Building groundbreaking ceremonies will take place. Events recognizing the renovation of Murray Hall, Old Central, the Donald W. Reynolds Architecture Building, and the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory addition will follow during the months of October and November. Of course, we are seeing dramatic progress on the west end zone of Boone Pickens Stadium.

OSU continues to benefit from the generosity of so many alumni and friends of the university. At the July Board of Regents meeting we announced a \$20 million life insurance gift from Chuck and Kim Watson that will benefit equally the College of Education and the Spears School of Business.

Gifts from several individuals have enabled the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences to purchase multiple pieces of state of the art diagnostic and treatment equipment, and many

individuals have contributed to both university general and college specific scholarship funds.

Several new endowed chair/professor gifts now await state matching funds. Our most sincere appreciation goes to Kirk Jewell and all of the OSU Foundation development officers and staff who work extremely hard to enhance academic excellence at OSU.

A somewhat lower enrollment is anticipated as we begin this academic year, primarily the result of a large graduating class meaning fewer 'continuing' students.

New freshman enrollment looks strong even with the decline in Oklahoma high school graduates. Many of the new initiatives undertaken by the Division of Enrollment Management appear to be helping stabilize our enrollment. For instance, we are contacting students earlier in their high school career, processing applications in a more timely fashion, including more students in summer orientation programs, and reaching out to students in areas in which we have not previously sent admissions personnel.

Graduate student enrollments, particularly of ethnic minority students, are very strong and Dean Gordon Emslie, the staff of the Graduate College and the faculty members who have been involved in the recruitment, advisement, and support of graduate students at OSU are to be commended for this obvious success.

I look forward to working with each of you in the months ahead. Oklahoma State University continues to build on its heritage as one of the nation's outstanding land-grant universities. Our fundamental mission is one of access and opportunity. OSU provides both inordinately well and each of you can be proud of your part in fulfilling that mission.

Marlene Strathe