

February 12, 2007

To the OSU Campus,

I want to again applaud everyone who quickly and effectively responded to last week's case of meningitis. Thanks to the swift actions of medical experts, sophomore Samantha Ellerbach is out of intensive care and is expected to recover fully. She remains in our thoughts and we look forward to her return to campus.

Student affairs, residential life and faculty worked closely with University Health Services to address student and family concerns and offer an antibiotic to around 450 students.

University Health Services, led by director Steve Rogers, provides a vital role on our campus. During the school year, UHS sees about 200 students a day and during any given semester serves roughly 40 percent of the student body. We appreciate what they do...

I also want to commend Environmental Health and Safety, physical plant and information technology for their speedy response to a small amount of asbestos exposed late last week near the data center in Math Sciences. The area was quickly contained, data center systems were protected and after testing it was determined the asbestos caused no contamination...

In 2006, OSU received nearly \$7 million in National Science Foundation grants, which helped fund 133 projects involving 64 principal investigators. For fiscal year 2007, OSU researchers have thus far submitted proposals requesting nearly \$36 million in grants.

The NSF will likely receive significant increases in funding as leaders discuss the federal budget. Additional NSF dollars in President Bush's proposed 2008 fiscal year budget would focus on physical sciences, engineering and other areas the administration believes will help the U.S. remain a global innovation leader. Areas of emphasis include information technology, nanotechnology and climate change.

NSF funding is critical to our nation and to our work at OSU and we look forward to our researchers securing more dollars in the years ahead...

Congratulations to four of our faculty members who have received gap funding for new technology development through the OSU Technology Business Assessment Group. A total of \$120,000 will boost the development and commercialization of projects by researchers Glenn Zhang, Allen Aplett, Neil Purdie and Robert Fulton...

The Edmon Low Library celebrates a milestone Friday when representatives of the U.S. Government Printing Office recognize the library's 100th anniversary as a Federal Depository. Depository libraries safeguard the public's right to know by collecting, organizing, maintaining, preserving, and assisting users with information from the Federal Government.

In 1979, OSU was elevated to Regional Federal Depository status making it one of only 52 libraries designated to receive all publicly available federal documents. Congratulations to Dean Sheila Johnson, John Phillips, head of the documents department, and the entire library team...

Have a good week!

David Schmidly