December 2016

Graduation: a great reminder for why our work matters
Fall commencement means life changes for graduating OSU students. Many enter the job market while some continue their education by pursuing advanced degrees in graduate school. For faculty, it is rewarding to celebrate the students they have mentored who are moving on to the next professional or educational phase of their lives. For all of us, it is a time to celebrate the relevance and impact of the OSU experience. Another celebration to note: Research Week 2017, a celebration of OSU science, the arts, and scholarship, is Feb. 20-24. Below is a list of preliminary Research Week-related dates to note.

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Congressman Tom Cole and Glen Johnson, chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, co-authored an opinion piece published in the *Oklahoman* Dec. 11 extolling the role of research and higher education in boosting the state’s economy and creating jobs. The co-authors stressed the importance of making sure public universities have needed resources to continue to be the backbone of innovation. Cole and Johnson also noted that Oklahoma universities, including the OSU Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa, are expanding health care availability in the state.

"Simply put, no other entity in state government strengthens economic and workforce development as directly and comprehensively as public higher education." [Read the op-ed](#)

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**Lisa Whitworth, VPR employee of the year, honored for service to research**

Congratulations to Lisa Whitworth, manager of the Oklahoma State University Microscopy Laboratory, who has been named Employee of the Year for the Division of the Vice President for Research. Whitworth has worked for OSU for 26 years; she is an OSU aluma and has worked for the university since graduation. Whitworth received numerous letters of support from faculty members, former supervisors, graduate students, and coworkers. Her pleasant disposition and love for research made her a great candidate for the award, which carries a monetary stipend and recognition on a plaque outside the VPR office in Whitehurst. She was honored in front of the VPR division with OSU’s Vice President for Research Dr. Kenneth Sewell reading a brief synopsis from her many nomination letters. Whitworth has served as president of the Oklahoma Microscopy Society and was responsible for hosting the spring workshop held on the OSU campus. Whitworth also is a powerful advocate for women in STEM fields and encourages students to join the Oklahoma Microscopy Society. Congratulations to an excellent ambassador for research at OSU.

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**Research Week 2017 is right around the corner**

*Important dates to remember:*

Preparations for Research Week 2017 are underway. Here are...
upcoming dates to remember:

- Jan. 6 - event submission deadline to be included in the printed schedule
- Jan. 17 - Deadline for poster submissions for the Virtual Research Poster Symposium (prior registration required)
- Feb. 3 - deadline to submit works of art for the "Where Art Meets Science" competition
- Feb. 20-24 - Research Week

Learn More ➤

How cool is OSU research? Watch these winning videos and see

Here are the winners of "The Coolest Research at OSU" video contest. Entries for undergraduate and graduate students were judged to pick the best productions that answered the question, "The Coolest Research at OSU is ________?" The winners received $750 in travel money to attend a professional conference.

Graduate winner: Erica Perez, natural resource ecology management
"Population Status of the American Black Bear in Southeast Oklahoma"

Undergraduate winner: Grace Ogden, plant and soil sciences
"Weed Science Research: The Coolest Research on

The OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences is home to many researchers, including Dr. Brad Njaa who was featured in the 2016 issue of Vanguard magazine. Njaa conducts research in the center’s Department of Veterinary Pathobiology where he recently studied inflammation of the middle ear of cats. His published observations showed that the condition, known as otitis media, is widely underreported. Read this and other stories in OSU’s research magazine.

Call for 2017-18 Niblack Scholar applicants

The Niblack Research Scholars program provides support to OSU undergraduates to conduct research in one of OSU’s research laboratories. The award, made possible by the generosity of Dr. John Niblack, gives outstanding students an appreciation of scientific research in a laboratory environment at an early stage of their academic careers. The deadline to apply is Feb. 17, 2017. To apply visit niblack.okstate.edu.
Research Profile: Peyton Duncan
On being a guide and a problem solver

Every OSU office includes dedicated employees who work behind the scene to ensure that vital jobs are carried out. No department could function without these team members, including Peyton Duncan, a student employee who works for University Research Services. A part of the Division of the Vice President for Research, University Research Services works with college research administrators and investigators to coordinate the campus-wide routing of proposals and awards. Duncan’s job is to help make sure routing sheets contain needed information and the paperwork goes to the right people for approvals. She also plays a big part in making the routing process go smoothly.

“I help make sure routing sheets don’t get lost,” she said.

Duncan has worked in the Research Services office long enough to be comfortable with the sometimes challenging job of keeping track of paperwork.

“I’m really fast now and I know the process. And I enjoy being a problem solver and helping people.”

Duncan is a full-time accounting major at OSU who also holds down a second job. She plans to continue her education after graduation by earning an MBA. One day she hopes to work in accounting for a small company or work for OSU.

RESEARCH NEWS

Dr. K. Darrell Berlin, Regents Professor of Chemistry, has been named a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. Berlin specializes in organic chemistry and is recognized as a pioneer in the development of agents to treat a variety of cancers, as well as bacterial infections and heart arrhythmia.

Dr. Mary Ruppert-Stroescu, assistant professor of apparel design and textile science in the College of Human Sciences, won first place in the 2017 OSU mobile app development competition. She developed the concept for an app to help apparel designers calculate measurements for patterns. This year the competition, partly sponsored by the Division of the Vice President for Research, was opened to faculty and staff for the first time.

Dr. Jami Fullerton, Peggy Welch Chair in Integrated Marketing Communications, has co-edited a forthcoming book that offers insight into how a new President could influence international perceptions of the United States. Shaping International Public Opinion: A Model for Nation Branding and Public Diplomacy, by Fullerton and Dr. Alice Kendrick, Southern Methodist University, introduces the Model of Country Concept, a
How ugly bugs lead to microscopes for elementary schools

The Oklahoma Microscopy Society has an outreach project called the Oklahoma Ugly Bug contest with the purpose of getting more microscopes into elementary schools, according to Lisa Whitworth, OSU Microscopy Lab manager (see story above about Whitworth). Staff with the OSU Microscopy Lab participate as well as researchers from the OSU Center for Health Sciences, the University of Oklahoma, Phillips 66, and the Noble Research Foundation. Learn more ➤

Faculty Conversations video series

Faculty Conversations is a collection of videos of OSU faculty talking about their research. The videos represent a wide cross section of disciplines and novel research projects. Visit the OSU Research website to see the Faculty Conversations collection, including a video featuring Dr. James Good, professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering and Noble Foundation Chair. Good is a leading expert in the mechanics of web handling in manufacturing.
Much of his work is conducted in OSU's Web Handling Research Center.