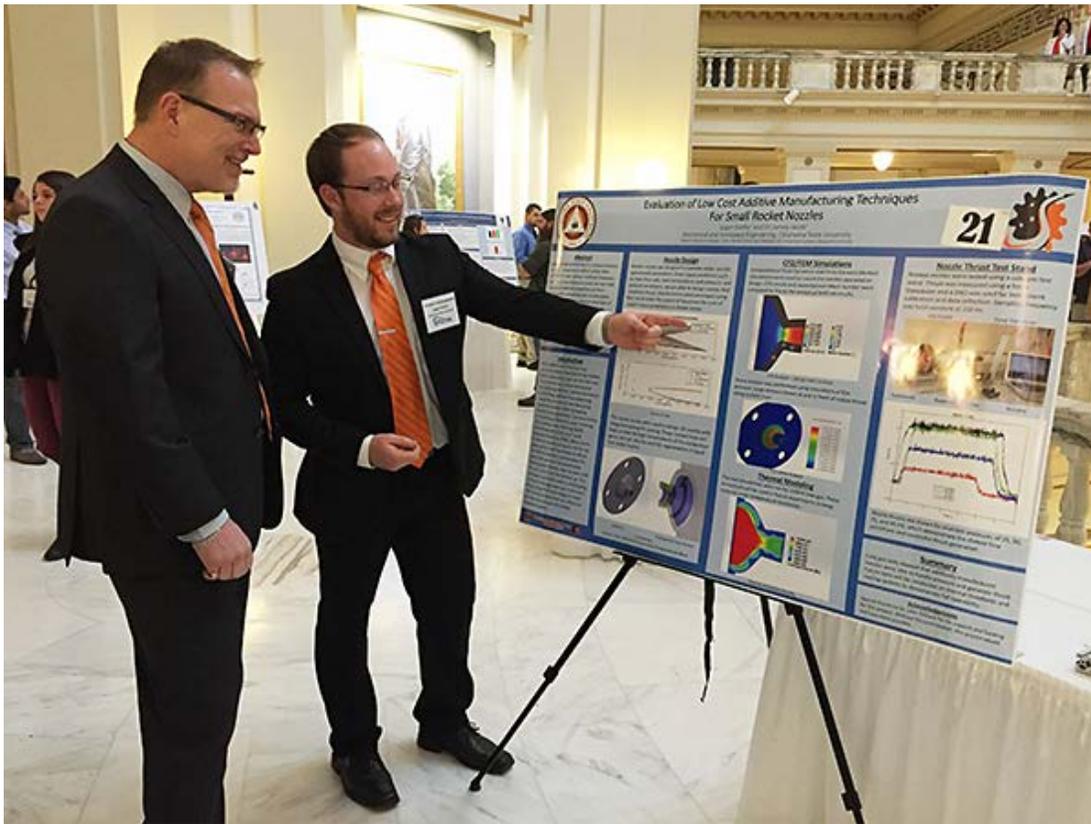




April 2016



OSU students present, and win, at Research Day at the Capitol



It's been a busy spring at OSU for research activities and accomplishments, including the 21st annual Oklahoma EPSCoR Research Day at the Capitol where OSU undergraduate student researchers won the grand prize and other honors. And in a column below, Vice President for Research Dr. Kenneth Sewell discusses how the new performing arts center helps elevate OSU as a comprehensive research university. Tell us what you think about

our e-newsletter *OSU Research In Focus*; email us at [vpr@okstate.edu](mailto:vpr@okstate.edu).

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## **New Center for Performing Arts propelled by McKnight family's donation of \$25 million: the VPR's perspective**

by Kenneth Sewell, Ph.D., Vice President for Research

***Art at the highest level . . . critical to our success as a comprehensive research university!***

Research at OSU is too often seen as limited to the sciences and engineering. But the arts and humanities occupy fundamental space within the research landscape as well.

- An engineer's RESEARCH typically solves a real-world problem that can lead to a new product, process, or business application.
- A scientist's RESEARCH discovers previously unknown connections in how the world works, leading to better theories and yet further discoveries and, sometimes, to inventions or direct applications in medicine and other fields.
- A humanities scholar's RESEARCH sheds new light on human cultures - their histories as well as how they communicate, create, and change - often giving us a deeper understanding of our past, our context, and our potential future.
- An artist's RESEARCH creates a human experience that has never existed before, often illuminating and enriching parts of ourselves that other forms of research never quite reach.



Research excellence at OSU embraces the full spectrum of disciplinary creativity, so I am particularly excited to see how the McKnight Center for the Performing Arts will elevate artistic disciplines at OSU, enrich the Stillwater and surrounding communities, AND raise OSU's profile even higher as a comprehensive research university. [Learn More](#) ➔

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OSU student presenters and officials following the Research Day at the Capitol awards ceremony March 29. Pictured (from left) are second place finisher **Carol Abraham**, **Samantha Grider**, **Logan Kunka**, **Kenneth Sewell**, OSU vice president for research, grand prize winner **Christian Ley**, and **Glen Johnson**, chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. [Read More](#) →

### **Research Profile:**

#### **Becky Schlais, Manager of Research Support Services, College of Human Sciences**



Schlais has worked for OSU for 29 years. She has a bachelor's in business administration and a master's in educational studies with an emphasis in human resource development. Schlais admits she knew nothing about research when she applied for a financial position at OSU. She thought she would be doing accounting in the grants and contracts office.

"I had no idea what research was," she said. "I soon learned that when you get involved with research, it can change your life."

Schlais says helping faculty develop their areas of scholarship is one of the most enjoyable parts of the job.

"Our office partners with faculty and departments to coordinate and facilitate the process of proposal development and project management," she said. "Working with faculty as they develop their scholarship and become renowned and influential scientists is most rewarding to me."

The most challenging part of her job is the ever changing world of research, Schlais said. "You can say that research administrators have to be very good at adaptability."

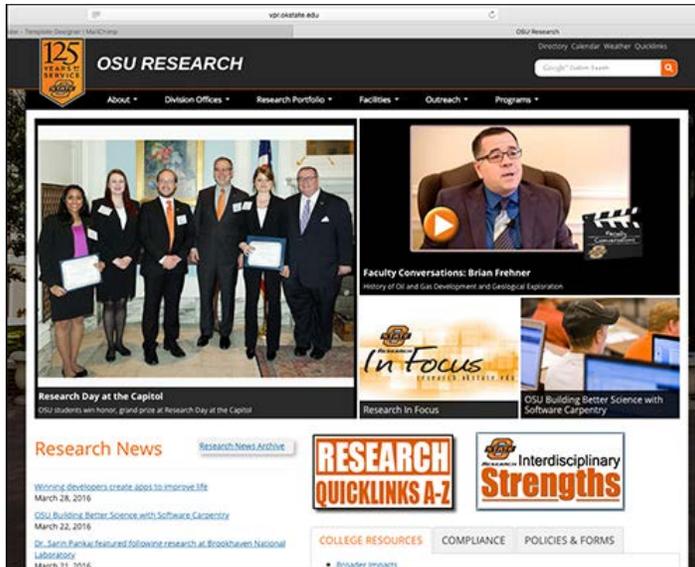
### **Vanguard: The OSU research magazine**



A growing trend in food production is the use of probiotics fed to poultry to produce healthier birds and improve production. Researchers at OSU's Robert M. Kerr Food and Agricultural Products Center are studying how to add probiotics to chicken feed and use in a liquid supplement. Probiotics boost the immune system and protect "good" bacteria in the gut. Early FAPC tests have shown that birds fed probiotics had increased weight gain and lower death rates. [Read](#) this story and others about OSU research in the 2016 issue of *Vanguard*.

## **RESEARCH NEWS**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has named four OSU students as this year's recipients of awards from the Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP). Awardees, chosen from close to 17,000 applicants, represent a diverse group of scientific disciplines and from all states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths and territories. OSU recipients:



## VPR webpage gets a redesign

The OSU Research website, the home for news, information and office contacts for the Vice President for Research, has undergone a redesign to make the site more user friendly and easier to navigate. [See for yourself.](#)



## Video celebrates faculty excellence

Oklahoma State is a comprehensive research university that is home to a wide breadth of research and scholarship. Produced for Research Week, this video celebrates OSU excellence by showcasing a sampling of faculty in scientific, engineering, artistic, scholarly, and social science fields. [Watch](#) ➔

- **Ana Chicas-Mosier**, Dept. of Integrative Biology
- **Michelle Lutiker**, Dept. of Geology
- **Jimmy Lovett**, Dept. of Integrative Biology
- **Joseph Wayne Crook**, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

[Read More](#) ➔

In a partnership between the OSU Library and the High Performance Computing Center, Oklahoma State hosted training by Software Carpentry designed to help researchers use data analytics to improve collection and analysis of data. Software Carpentry workshops help researchers, particularly in STEM fields, be more productive and makes their work more reliable by teaching them basic computer coding.

OSU is now an institutional member of the Software Carpentry Foundation, and the university can host Software Carpentry workshops and can train up to 20 new instructors each year. Workshops for faculty and students are already on the calendar, and the team hopes to have 10 certified instructors by the end of the year. [Read More](#) ➔

**See more news on the OSU Research [website.](#)**

## GPSGA holds Graduate Student Research Gala

The Graduate and Professional Student Government Association (GPSGA) is proud to present the 2nd Annual Graduate Student Research Gala April 14th at 7:30 pm in Student Union Starlight Terrace. Guest speakers will be Dr. **Kenneth Sewell** and Dr. **Guolong Zhang**. Sewell is vice president for research with a background in psychology. A native of Oklahoma, Sewell continues to enhance research opportunities for students all over campus. Zhang is currently a faculty member of the OSU Animal Science Department. He has a research background in using microbiology and immunology to develop enhanced disease resistance methods.

The purpose of the Gala is to allow graduate programs to showcase their student's outstanding work to the Cowboy community. The event includes a selection of posters of achievements, and highlights research, facilities, and services of each graduate program. The Gala will be a useful tool for recruitment of undergraduate students as well as networking between programs for current graduate students and faculty. The Gala is free to all and snacks will be provided. Hope to see you there!



Watch video interviews with 2015-16 Niblack Research Scholars. *OSU Research In Focus* will hear from two students each issue. This month we're featuring [Jacey Brooks](#) and [Rachel Davis](#).



## Science Café OSU

The Science Café OSU event, Tuesday, April 5, features OSU associate professor of computer science Dr. **Blayne Mayfield**, who will discuss the future of artificial intelligence to improve the experience of video gamers. The event begins at 6:30 pm in Edmon Low Library.

[Learn More](#) ➔

## FEATURED EVENT

April 2-9

**Education, Health and Aviation Week:** The inaugural Education, Health and Aviation Week in the College of Education is an opportunity for faculty, staff and students to connect with one another and build awareness about College of Education programs.

[Learn More](#) ➔

Each month *OSU Research In Focus* features an event. To nominate an event for possible inclusion, email details to [vpr@okstate.edu](mailto:vpr@okstate.edu).

## Faculty Conversations video series



Faculty Conversations are 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. **Brian Frehner**, associate professor of history, describing his research into environmental and energy history, including the development of the oil and gas industry.



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