May 2016

May - new beginnings for graduates, goodbye to colleagues

With May graduations, many OSU students said goodbye to college life, unless graduate school was in their future, and hello to putting their educations to good use. The University Research Compliance office also said goodbye to long-serving staff who are retiring.
following distinguished careers. Read their profiles and also learn how Vice President for Research Dr. Kenneth Sewell is bringing attention to an OSU interdisciplinary research strength known as the Food-Energy-Water Nexus. This multidisciplinary research area, representing every OSU college, includes food production and safety, energy production and sustainability, water quality, and other key disciplines. The FEW Nexus is an important foundation of Oklahoma State as a comprehensive research university. Tell us what you think about our e-newsletter OSU Research In Focus; email us at vpr@okstate.edu.

Council to focus on Food-Energy-Water Nexus research

Vice President for Research Dr. Kenneth Sewell has announced the appointment of faculty to serve on the Food-Energy-Water Nexus Council to explore and foster research efforts in this area identified as an Oklahoma State University interdisciplinary research strength.

Working with the OSU research community, Sewell has identified areas of interdisciplinary research strengths that align with state and national priorities, as well as with OSU’s unique history, resources, facilities and expertise. The Food-Energy Water (FEW) Nexus is a strength area that embraces the interdependence of these three resources that are vital to human existence and key industries in Oklahoma. Read More

Retirements in Research Compliance staff

Deena Gregory and Jim Tucker are saying goodbye to distinguished careers and colleagues as they begin retirement.

Vanguard: The OSU research magazine

The OSU College of Human Sciences has a nationally respected group of nutrition researchers who frequently make headlines with their
Deena Gregory, DVM  
Manager, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee  
Dr. Deena Gregory, DVM, has spent her career caring for and protecting animals as a veterinarian, both in private practice and in government and university service. At OSU that meant having responsibility for nearly every animal on campus – from guppies to bears she liked to say. As manager of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Gregory followed how all vertebrates on campus were cared for and used according to federal laws and regulations. It was a heavy responsibility, but one she said goodbye to in May when she retired after 25 years of service to the university. Read More.

Jim Tucker  
Radiation Safety Officer  
Jim Tucker is a friendly, gregarious man, which may not seem at first to fit with his job as the OSU compliance manager who makes sure researchers comply with regulations surrounding the safe use of radioactive materials. Many know Tucker fondly as the “rad” cop. But that all ends in a few weeks when he retires and steps away from more than a decade working for and building the reputation of the Radiation Safety Office (RSO) in University Research Compliance. Read More.

VPR invited to attend National Security Forum  
Vice President for Research Kenneth Sewell joined 160 civilian leaders who attended the 63rd annual National Security Forum at the Air War College (AWC). Sewell and other civilians were invited by the Secretary of the Air Force, Deborah Lee James, who delivered the forum’s keynote address at the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. Sewell joined business, education and government leaders from across the United States May 3-5 to meet with senior military leaders to explore national and international security issues and share ideas and perspectives on strategic defense.

“This was a rare opportunity to discuss our country’s current and future strategic security priorities with some of the best minds in our U.S. and allied military branches,” said Sewell. “This work. One of those is Dr. Daniel Lin who has investigated the benefits of consuming wolfberries, or Goji berries. Possible health benefits of eating the berry have been known in China for centuries. Lin’s research suggests bioactive components in wolfberries aid eye health. The story appeared in the 2016 issue of Vanguard, which highlights the breadth of science and scholarship at OSU. Read this story and others in Vanguard.

RESEARCH NEWS

Dr. Misty Hawkins, assistant professor of clinical psychology, conducted research comparing the effects of different drinks consumed in the morning on cognitive function. She and colleagues tested healthy college-age students who drank low-fat dairy, water and juice with results suggesting those who drank dairy performed better. Read More.

An OSU faculty member was honored at the White House for work to improve water management. Dr. Saleh Taghvaeani, Cooperative Extension water resources
enables me to help build OSU's research portfolio in a way that better aligns with and supports national security."

Grad students compete to be 3MC champions

Sway Pradhan, a master's student in microbiology, cell and molecular biology, won the inaugural Graduate College Grand Three Minute Challenge competition sponsored by the OSU President's Fellows. The 3MC competition pitted winners of OSU's Three Minute Thesis and Three Minute Program competitions against each other. Three minute competitions challenge graduate students to present their research thesis or disciplinary topic in less than three minutes, using only one PowerPoint slide, to a general audience. Watch Pradhan's winning presentation on OStateTV.

Freshmen life science researchers shine

OSU freshmen presented research at the spring Life Sciences Freshmen Research Scholars (LSFRS) Research Symposium April 23 sponsored by the OSU-Howard Hughes Medical Institute program. LSFRS gives freshmen the opportunity to conduct actual research while working with life science faculty mentors in their laboratories. Read more about the symposium and the program in the OSU-HHMI newsletter.
Avery Melton won first place in the spring LSFRS Research Symposium. With Melton are Dr. Bret Danilowicz (left), dean of the College of Art and Sciences, and Dr. Donald French, OSU-HHMI principal investigator.

Watch video interviews with 2015-16 undergraduate Niblack Research Scholars. OSU Research In Focus will hear from two students each issue. This month we’re featuring Joseph Crook, left, and David Bradt.

FEATURED EVENT

May 23-24
Software Carpentry Workshop sponsored by the High Performance Computing Center:

The mission of Software Carpentry is to help scientists and engineers get more research done in less time and with less pain by teaching them basic lab skills for scientific computing. This hands-on workshop will cover basic concepts and tools, including program design, version control, data management, and task automation. Participants will be encouraged to help one another and to apply what they have learned to their own research problems. Learn More

Each month OSU Research In Focus features an event. To nominate an event for possible inclusion, email details to 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 Jodi Jinks, MFA, assistant professor of acting, describing her creation of theater performances in Oklahoma prisons starring prisoners telling their stories.

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