A&S Faculty Explore Global Climate Change
Change is in the air. As I write this, not only are the trees in Norman putting on the most spectacular display of fall color in recent memory, but the country has elected its first African American president, Oklahomans have elected the first Republican legislature since statehood, and the ranks of the crimson and cream are “going green.”

I have been very heartened by the degree to which our students were taking the 2008 presidential election seriously. In addition to being actively involved in various political campaigns, students from all sides of the political spectrum worked together to increase student voter registration and to get out the vote on Election Day. Campus Democrats and Republicans jointly sponsored a watch party in Oklahoma Memorial Union on election night. One group of students even attended the Democratic National Convention as part of a class (see the back page of this issue). A member of our Leadership Scholars, who took the class and who also is a registered Republican, told me what an incredibly positive experience it was to be there as history was being made.

While Democrats were winning the presidency and increasing their leads in the U.S. Congress, Oklahoma Republicans won control of both houses of the Legislature for the first time in state history. The Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education wasted no time in challenging the new lawmakers to increase state funding to colleges and universities by $80 million in exchange for freezing tuition at its current rate. This would be a dramatic change from the last legislative session during which state appropriations were frozen at current levels while tuition increased nearly 10 percent. With the gauntlet having been thrown down, it will make for an interesting legislative session.

The other focus on campus is climate change. As explained in the lead article of this issue, many of the members of the College’s faculty and student body actively are engaged in activities designed to understand and deal with the consequences of climate change. The university is seeking to reduce its own carbon footprint by pledging to receive 100 percent of its electricity from wind power as soon as possible and launching a campus-wide comprehensive plan to conserve energy. To educate people about steps they can take to conserve energy, many students are opting to complete a minor in the Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Environment, an innovative cross-disciplinary program that draws courses from the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, while others are designing their own environmental studies major using the college’s planned program option.

The College of Arts and Sciences is making its own contribution to reducing OU’s carbon footprint by using video teleconferencing for meetings involving faculty and staff at our sites in Norman, Tulsa, Bartlesville and Lake Texoma. Using this technology, we have significantly reduced the amount of time our faculty and staff spend driving their cars to attend meetings. Another contribution to reducing carbon emissions comes from the College’s growing use of online courses. This fall semester, there are more than 2,400 students enrolled in more than 127 sections of 88 online courses. In addition, some faculty members are experimenting with hybrid classes, in which some of the face-to-face class meetings are replaced by online activities.

As I watch the chrysanthemums add their rich colors to the autumn campus landscape, I am reminded of both the constancy and cyclical nature of change. Watching the next generation’s enthusiasm for political involvement and protecting the environment gives me great hope for the future.
In response to increased student demand for an environmental studies-type degree, a program was launched in 2005 through the Planned Program mechanism in the College of Arts and Sciences that allows students to pursue a minor through the college’s Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Environment program.

The IPE program was initially developed in the early 1990s by a multidisciplinary team of four A&S faculty: Linda L. Wallace, Botany and Microbiology; Zev Trachtenberg, Philosophy; Greg Mitman, History of Science; and Rajeev Gouda, Political Science and Public Policy.

The outreach program, called BEES – or Biology Environments Education and Science – was initiated in 2005 to help students and faculty identify and understand the environmental challenges facing the world today and to develop creative solutions to these challenges.

Interest Growing in Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Environment Program

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Focus the Nation

In late January and early February, Dalton, in coordination with IPE students and members of the student environmental organization OU Earth, organized the local activities of the Focus the Nation: Global Warming Solutions for America national educational initiative that engaged millions of U.S. students and citizens with political leaders and decision-makers about global warming solutions. Its goal was to spark a serious national conversation about clean energy solutions to global warming, to build a unified national voice for action and to build awareness at OU.

Other A&S faculty who participated in Focus the Nation included Linda Wallace, Sam Noble Professor of Microbiology, who discussed “Is Ethanol the Answer?” and Steve Ellis, assistant professor of philosophy, along with Scott Greene, assistant professor of geography, who discussed “Climate Change as an Externality: Why Don’t We Stop Ourselves From Doing This Anyway?”

“Green” Research and Teaching

Research on a wide variety of issues relating to the environment is going on university-wide, much of it by A&S faculty.

For example, Chemistry and Biochemistry professors Roger Frech and Daniel Glätzer have developed a family of polymeric electrolytes that form the basis for a broad variety of transport materials, systems and applications. The properties of the material enable ionic movement for use in various applications, including batteries, fuel cells, sensors, supercapacitors and electrochemical devices.

The materials developed by the two researchers will make batteries and fuel cells work even better, leading to the production of more environment-friendly devices, ranging from cell phones to hybrid vehicles.

Earlier this year, Frech and Glätzer were awarded both a U.S. and a European patent for this technology. As more stringent demands are placed on existing sources of energy, requiring that they be more efficient and environmentally friendly, solutions such as the one offered by these two professors continue to grow in importance.

Outreach

Liz Bergey, associate professor of zoology and Associate Heritage Biologist with the Oklahoma Biological Survey, is doing her part to impart environmental knowledge – while also promoting science and biology in general – through a program developed for kindergarten-through-fifth-graders.

The outreach program, called BEES - or Biology Environments Education and Science – is offered at several schools in the Norman area.

(Continued on next page)
Global Climate (continued)

BEES, which is funded by a National Science Foundation grant, is divided into two programs. One is tailored toward younger students and mixed-age groups and gives students the opportunity to handle live animals and learn about their behavior and ecology. The other is an experiment-based program that allows student teams to choose certain aspects of their study. In the past, students have studied schoolyard ants’ food choices, seed dispersal and rolly-polly habitus choice.

“The kids love it because it’s fun – I’ve even been asked whether I do birthdays!” Bergey said.

“The teachers like it because it covers some of their science curriculum needs, and the university students who help have a good time, too.”

(Continued on page 20)
hat does it take to grab the attention of today’s college students? Well, when I was a freshman, some of the faculty members tried some rather novel approaches to gain the attention of students who, raised on television and educational shows like “Sesame Street,” wanted their educational delivery a little more on the, shall we say, entertaining side? One, I recall, even delivered his first lecture of the semester while standing on his hands!

By all accounts, today’s students — who cut their teeth on computers and high-speed Internet and can keep both entertained and informed 24/7 through use of high-tech methods — demand even more in the way of high-powered delivery.

One OU professor, however, discovered long ago that the key to success in motivating and keeping the attention of students lies in a combination of traditional and not-so-traditional, yet definitely not so high-tech, teaching methods.

As popular as when I (and my mother, for that matter!) attended his classes, OU English professor Jim Yoch — who was educated at Notre Dame and Princeton universities — has attracted hundreds of students every year for his classes on Shakespeare and the literature of other writers, primarily those of the Renaissance period.

In recognition of his considerable reputation as a demanding, yet approachable and popular professor, Yoch was named as the 2008 winner of the prestigious Oklahoma Medal for Excellence in College and University Teaching from the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. He and the other recipients were honored May 17 at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel and Convention Center. The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, a nonprofit organization that was founded and is chaired by President Boren, recognizes and encourages academic excellence in the state’s public schools.

A member of the OU English faculty since 1964, Professor Yoch has successfully led generations of students to an appreciation of Shakespeare and other great literature by immersing them in it: by having them read aloud in class; put on plays; compose TV and film scripts based on canonical literature; create cartoons and paintings based on readings; and by offering virtually unlimited other alternatives to the traditional test or term paper, thereby encouraging the student to do more than just recite what was learned in reading or in class discussion.

Yoch’s students frequently cite his seemingly endless enthusiasm and sense of humor as part of his appeal. They also pick up on his respect for his students’ ideas, his openness to new perspectives.

Azar Nafisi, former student and author of Reading Lolita in Tehran, wrote, “I can say many wonderful things about Professor Yoch, but none will explain why after so many years his classes and lectures are so vividly alive in my memory. We never merely read and discussed the assigned material in class, but we in fact lived them. Certain words come to my mind when I try to describe him as a teacher: passionate, meticulous, exacting, playful, dedicated.”

To what does Yoch attribute his tremendous popularity with students over a relatively long period of time? The best teachers, from grade school to graduate school, Yoch says, present and promote “the high literary quality of the readings assigned — in their entirety — establishing a classroom community where everyone works to bring out the best in themselves and their classmates.”

Jim Yoch: In Brief:

**OU Faculty Member Since: 1964**

**Research Interests:** Shakespeare, Italian Renaissance drama, movies produced between 1930 and 1942, and the connections between literature, especially Renaissance literature, and landscape.

**Collaborative Projects:** With WDW/Disney Family College of Fine Arts Dean Eugene Enrico, produced an hour-long video starring Emma Kirkby as Isabella d’Este, First Lady of the Renaissance.

**Passion Outside the Classroom:** Landscape design. Yoch is himself an avid garden architect, having planted nearly every inch of his yard surrounding his home and studio in east Norman, much of it in roses; he also designed the formal gardens in front of Evans Hall.

**Leadership Scholars on Winning Business Team**

**Kristin Weed, ‘09 BA Communication,** and **Chris Shilling, ‘10 Psychology,** served as interns at OU’s Center for the Creation of Economic Wealth this past school year. The interns formed teams to compete in the Governor’s Cup Collegiate Business Plan Competition. Shilling and Weed’s team focused on Nantix, a drug that could prevent age-related blindness. The technology, invented by James McGiniss, professor in the departments of Cell Biology and Ophthalmology at the OU Health Sciences Center, proposes the use of cerium oxide nanoparticles that would protect retinal cells from being damaged by reactive oxygen species. After a win at the regional level, the team traveled to Las Vegas to compete, where they won the top prize of $25,000 in the undergraduate category. Other team members included William Cunningham, Derek Perkins and John Woodson, led by Kim Saylor and joined by faculty adviser P. Lloyd Hildebrand.
Kristina Kian Ball, a political science major, was selected as the 2008 recipient of the Carl Albert Award, presented each year to the outstanding student in the College of Arts and Sciences.

In addition, she was named the 2008 Irene Rothbaum Outstanding Assistant Professor in the college. Kristina Kian Ball, a political science major, was selected as the 2008 recipient of the Carl Albert Award, presented each year to the outstanding student in the College of Arts and Sciences. Ball, who is pursuing her master of science degree in comparative public policy at the University of Edinburgh, graduated this spring with a 3.97 grade-point average. While at OU, Ball received numerous honors and awards. During her junior year, she was a Cortez Ewing Public Service Fellow and a Robert Dean Bass Memorial Scholar. As a senior, she was a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar, and in the past has been recognized as a John Withrow Scholar and an Oklahoma Academic Scholar.

Ball founded Voters With Vision, “an initiative that will ensure all Oklahoma youth have the opportunity to register to vote and are informed of the various ways to become involved civically.” The program received a $1,000 grant, which will be used to supply Oklahoma high schools with voter registration forms.

The Carl Albert Award, the most prestigious given to a student by the college, is based on academics, moral force of character and promise of future service to the state and nation. First presented in 1966, the award was established to honor Carl Albert, OU alumnus and former U.S. Speaker of the House, for his distinguished undergraduate career and national service. The late Julian Rothbaum, former state regent and longtime friend of Albert, endowed the award in 1965.

Roslyn M. Yoder received the 2008 Irene Rothbaum Outstanding Assistant Professor Award. Paul B. Bell Jr., dean of the college, announced the award at a faculty meeting in the Department of Philosophy. Irvin dropped her head in disbelief before joining the dean at the front of the room while her colleagues applauded.

“I am grateful to the Department of Philosophy for providing outstanding support for me in all aspects of my work, and to the Rothbaum family and the College of Arts and Sciences for establishing this award to recognize faculty members in the early stages of their careers,” said Irvin. “I am especially honored because the award emphasizes my contribution not only as a researcher but as a teacher, and I hope it is a sign of the positive impact I have had on the educations and lives of my students at OU.”

Irvin joined the faculty at OU in 2005. She received her bachelor’s degree in philosophy from the University of Arizona, master’s degree in philosophy from Princeton University, master’s degree in psychology from Rutgers University and doctoral degree in philosophy from Princeton University. Her area of research is the philosophy of art.

The Irene Rothbaum Outstanding Assistant Professor Award was established 12 years ago by the late Julian Rothbaum in honor of his late wife, Irene. It is awarded to an outstanding assistant professor in the college to encourage them in their work and to help retain them at OU. The award is presented each spring semester by the college. Recipients receive a plaque and a check for $2,500. Their name also is engraved on a plaque located in Ellison Hall.

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Kinney-Sugg Award Presented to Randall Hewes

While seated in a staff meeting in the Department of Zoology, Randall Hewes never dreamed he would become the main topic of discussion. Paul B. Bell Jr., dean of the college, entered the room with balloons and a surprise announcement. Hewes had been the Kinney-Sugg Outstanding Professor in the college. As the 2007 outstanding professor of the college, Hewes received a plaque and a check for $5,000 at a luncheon held in his honor, and his name was added to a plaque on permanent display in Ellison Hall.

“Hewes absolutely epitomizes what we all look for in a university professor: an energetic colleague with tremendous energy, zeal for his research and teaching and superb potential to become a ‘superstar’ in teaching and research on our campus,” said Bill Matthews, director of the Department of Zoology.

Hewes is an associate professor of zoology with research interests in cell type-specific mechanisms of insulin neuroprotection, genetic and molecular pathways controlling differentiation and plasticity of neuroendocrine cells, control of neuropeptide secretion, and cellular and molecular mechanisms of steroid action in neuroendocrine systems.

Educated at Carleton College and University of Wisconsin, Hewes joined the OU faculty in 2001. He also serves as an adjunct associate professor in cell biology at the OU Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City. The Kinney-Sugg Outstanding Professor Award, established by OU alumnus Sandy Kinney and her husband, Mike Sugg, was first awarded in 2002 to help the college reward and retain outstanding professors.

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For his commitment to undergraduate education along with his innovative use of advanced instructional technologies to engage student learning, Bruce Mason was named the 2008 Longmire Prize recipient at the fifth annual OU Teaching Scholars Initiative colloquium, held April 7 at the National Weather Center.

Mason is an associate professor of physics in the Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy.

“Physics is not a spectator sport,” is the mantra by which Mason lives. He incorporates a variety of active and personal teaching techniques to keep students engaged and to help them understand very complex concepts. According to Ryan Doezema, chair of the department, Mason’s “dry humor and easy manner in class, down-to-earth explanations, his ‘I’m on your side’ attitude, and active, engaging, energetic delivery style keep students involved, attentive and motivated in class.”

His students write, “Prof. Mason is one of the most patient, creative teachers I have ever had” “Class is never boring or dry. We never just sit and listen to lectures while taking notes; there is always constant interaction between us and him,” and “His teaching style brings the subject to the students in everyday experience and examples. Dr. Mason is the embodiment of the example of who and what every professor at OU should strive to be.”

The Longmire Prize is named for the late William and Jane Longmire, who created a fund through their estates to improve teaching at OU. In addition to the monetary award and personal plaque, recipients’ names are inscribed on a permanent plaque located in Ellison Hall. The prize is given annually to a faculty member who, in addition to exhibiting exemplary dedication to students and teaching, also is active in the scholarship of teaching and actively shares this knowledge with others.

Randall Hewes, left, receives news from Dean Paul B. Bell Jr. that he is the recipient of the 2007 Kinney-Sugg Outstanding Professor Award.
Taylor Receives Award From Geological Society of America

Ken Taylor, Emeritus Presidential Professor of the History of Science, was awarded the 2007 Mary C. Rabbitt History of Geology Award, presented by the Geological Society of America at its annual meeting in October, for his contributions of fundamental importance to the understanding of the history of the geological sciences.

Taylor, who retired from the college in 2006, was given the award for his work studying the history of geology, mainly theories of geology during the 1700s in France.

In his response to the announcement, Taylor said, “I am honored and delighted to have my name added to the list of distinguished contributors to scholarly work in the history of geology who have won this award since it was inaugurated 25 years ago.”

The Geological Society of America was established in 1888 and is the chief professional society for geologists in North America. The award is named after Mary C. Rabbitt, prominent geophysicist and scientific administrator with the U.S. Geological Survey. The GSA named this award in her honor in 2005.

Sharkey Receives Roberson Outstanding Senior in the Humanities Award

Elizabeth Sharkey received the Rev. Dr. Henry P. Roberson Outstanding Senior in the Humanities Award, which includes a trophy and a check for $1,500, at the A&S Student Awards Ceremony in April. While at OU, Sharkey was on the President’s Honor Roll, the Dean’s Honor Roll and received the Poston - De La Torre Award. She was named to the A&S Leadership Scholars, Golden Key International Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Alpha Lambda Delta and Gamma Beta Phi Society. She spent a year studying at the Universidad do Vina del Mar in Chile through the OU Education Abroad program.

Sharkey graduated in May with two bachelor’s degrees, one in Spanish and one in International and Area Studies with a focus on Latin America, and maintained a 4.0 grade-point average throughout her undergraduate college career. The daughter of Dennis and Janelle Sharkey of Edmond, Okla., Sharkey joined the faculty at an Oklahoma City area school this fall teaching Spanish.

Roberson, who endowed the award, graduated from OU with a bachelor of arts degree in history in 1967 and went on to earn degrees from the Princeton Theological Seminary and Conception Seminary College. Retired from the Catholic Church, he also served in the Army National Guard as a chaplain. He enjoys being active in the Norman community, working at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art as a docent and attending women’s basketball games at OU.

Sharkey received the Roberson Outstanding Senior in the Humanities Award from Dean Bell at a ceremony in April.

OU RUSSIAN PROFESSOR RECEIVES $40,000 GRANT

Emily Johnson, associate professor of Russian, is the recipient of a $40,000 National Research Competition grant from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research. The money will go toward funding her project, “Private Correspondence From the Soviet GULAG: Intimate Communication and Family Relationships in a Time of Terror.” The project will focus on the GULAG forced labor camps, which were started in 1919 and continued until the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Johnson will travel to Russia for eight months to collect material on the GULAG mail system and the private correspondence of labor camp inmates during the Stalin Period of the Soviet Union.

Following her research, a detailed book about the subject will be released and given to U.S. policy makers.

“I am just thrilled to have been chosen for this prestigious program,” says Johnson. “Getting the letter was a really nice surprise.”

Johnson teaches Russian and Russian history in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Linguistics in the College of Arts and Sciences. She received an Irene Rothbaum Outstanding Assistant Professor Award, along with the Arts and Sciences Dean’s Outstanding Advising Award.

The National Council for Eurasian and East European Research was created in 1978 to develop and sustain long-term, high-quality programs for post-doctoral research on the social, political, economic, environmental and historical development of Eurasia and Southeast Europe. For more information, visit their Web site at www.nceer.org.

Professor Receives Language Award

The Southwest Conference on Language Teaching has named Jessica Stowell, director of the Oklahoma Institute for Teaching East Asia and associate director of OU’s Confucius Institute on the OU-Tulsa campus, the winner of the Friend of the Profession Award. Stowell received the award at the SWCOLT’s annual conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah, in February.

The Friend of the Profession Award recognizes an individual or organization not directly involved in the teaching of second languages who has made a significant contribution to the profession. The recipient must have provided notable support of the development and promotion of the study of a second language in his or her community or region and must reside in the SWCOLT region.

“Dr. Stowell is remarkable,” writes Desa Dawson, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages board member and Stowell’s nominator. “Since 1985, Jessica worked to internationalize the curriculum at Tulsa Community College. Her work to provide professional development about East Asia for teachers has led to study trips to Asia for teachers, principals, higher education deans, legislators and, eventually, Oklahoma’s governor Brad Henry and Mrs. Henry.”

Stowell initiated teacher exchange programs that have resulted in the establishment of Chinese classes in 39 different schools with more than 4,000 students enrolled. She also worked with the city of Tulsa to start a Chinese immersion program in that city’s public schools this year.

The Southwest Conference on Language Teaching is a regional foreign language teachers’ organization that hosts an annual conference in partnership with state foreign language teacher associations.

Noted Author Named Head of Religious Studies Program

Charles Kimball, author of When Religion Becomes Evil, was named director of the Religious Studies Program. The former director of the Religious Studies Program, Allen Hertzke, has returned to his teaching and research duties in the Department of Political Science.

“We are both pleased and fortunate to welcome Professor Charles Kimball back to his native Oklahoma to assume leadership of our Religious Studies Program,” said Dean Bell. “He is a noted scholar, gifted teacher and ordained minister and is the ideal person to lead this program to new heights of achievement.”

Kimball is a frequent lecturer and expert analyst on issues related to the Middle East, Islam, Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations, and the intersection of religion and politics in the United States. Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, Kimball has been interviewed by more than 500 television and radio stations as well as major newspapers and broadcast outlets throughout the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Sweden, France, Australia and South Africa.

Kimball has served as director of the Middle East office at the National Council of Churches, which is based in New York. He has made more than 35 visits to the Middle East and has worked closely with Congress, the White House and the State Department during the past two decades.

A graduate of Oklahoma State University, Kimball, who is an ordained Baptist minister, earned his master of divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and his doctor of theology degree in comparative religion, with specialization in Islamic studies, from Harvard University.

Professor Receives Special Honor

Sam Huskey, assistant professor of classics and letters, was honored with an award in recognition of his service to the Classical Association of the Middle West and South at the group’s annual meeting in April. Huskey is the youngest member of the association to receive this honor, which includes an oration delivered in Latin at the annual awards banquet and a scroll, handwritten in calligraphy, along with the text published in The Classical Journal.

Classes Professor Receives Special Honor

A graduate of Oklahoma State University, Kimball, who is an ordained Baptist minister, earned his master of divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and his doctor of theology degree in comparative religion, with specialization in Islamic studies, from Harvard University.

Matthew Talliaferro
Hartline Receives Outstanding Senior in the Natural Sciences Award

James Hartline was named this year’s College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Senior in the Natural Sciences. Hartline received his trophy and $1,500 at the A&S Student Awards Ceremony in April.

Hartline is a 2007 OU graduate, earning a bachelor of science degree in microbiology. He is the son of Randy and Cindy Hartline of Scribner, Neb. Following graduation, Hartline is attending the OU College of Medicine.

Hartline also received the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Grant, funded by the OU Provost’s Office. He was the recipient of the A&S Second Century Scholarship, OU Inter-Fraternity Council Student of the Year Scholarship, Oklahoma Blood Institute Scholarship, Valmont Industries Scholarship, National Merit Scholars and Oklahoma National Scholars Program. He participated in the OU Honors College and in Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society and was on the Dean’s Honor Roll during his stay at OU. Hartline also has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with palms.

Hartline is a 2007 OU graduate, earning a bachelor of science degree in microbiology. He is the son of Randy and Cindy Hartline of Scribner, Neb. Following graduation, Hartline is attending the OU College of Medicine.

University Mourns Loss of Zoology Professor

Harley Brown, professor emeritus of zoology, died June 6, 2008, in Edmond, Okla., at age 87. Brown earned his doctoral degree in zoology at Ohio State University in 1945. He joined the OU faculty in 1948, where he taught in the Zoology Department and shared his love of living creatures with generations of students for 36 years. His field of research was a variety of beetle known as riffle beetles—small beetles that live on rocks in clear, flowing streams. His research allowed him to travel to some of the most beautiful places in the world.

Tracking Birds With RFID

If you have ever set off the alarm in a store because of something that was not properly demagnetized, then you are somewhat familiar with the importance of RFID and its identification. The Oklahoma Biological Survey plans to establish a large network of RFID birdfeeders that will allow them to track the migratory routes and broad-scale dispersal patterns of many small migratory birds. They hope for RFID reading units to be incorporated into simple backyard birdfeeders that anyone may purchase. If a large number of birds visit these birdfeeders, the number of birds that are "re-sighted" will improve the understanding of survivorship and dispersal.

Building the Tree of Life

An A&S faculty member has been tapped to participate in a National Science Foundation project called "Assembling the Tree of Life"—that will coordinate research by small teams and single investigators on the evolutionary framework of life. Richard Broughton, associate professor of zoology and biologist at the Oklahoma Biological Survey, was named by the NSF to head the fish branch on the tree.

Broughton will oversee the five-year, $3 million grant to study the cutelost fishes to help evaluate the evolution of fish diversity. More than two-thirds of all fishes and nearly a third of all vertebrates are cutelosts, which include most of the economically important fishes, such as salmon, bass, cod and tuna. The results of the research will be developed into an instructional guide, "A Fish ToL Activity Book," directed at upper elementary and middle school children and disseminated in informal and school settings working in partnership with the National Science Teachers Association Press and the National 4-H Afterschool Council.

Broughton’s research team will include colleagues from University of Kansas, University of Nebraska, University of Florida, Loyola University—Chicago, The Field Museum in Chicago, Old Dominion University and the Smithsonian Institute.
Lee Named Outstanding Senior in the Professional Programs

Sydney Lee was named the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Senior in the Professional Programs. Lee received her trophy and $1,500 at the A&S Student Awards Ceremony in April.

Lee graduated with her bachelor of science degree in health and exercise science from OU in May. She is the daughter of James and Jeri Lee of Corpus Christi, Texas. Following graduation, Lee is attending the OU Health Sciences Center College of Public Health to study epidemiology.

While at OU, Lee was a member of the OU Women’s Golf Team and was named to the 2008 Academic All-Big 12 first team. She also was involved with the American Indian Scholars Program and as an assistant golf instructor at junior golf camps, and she worked with the Cleveland County YMCA as a youth and teen counselor.

During her senior year at OU, Lee worked as a research assistant at the Southern Plains Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center, where she gathered and compiled data for community health profiles, assisted with grant writing and attended Oklahoma Area Indian Health Board meetings.

“As a health and exercise major, I have received a very well-rounded education not only learning the sciences, but fine arts and cultures as well,” writes Lee in her application essay. “My college experience has not only allowed me to develop skills for my future, but has led me to my future career. The College of Arts and Sciences has given me the background knowledge necessary to follow a career in public health.”

LONGTIME PROFESSOR RETIRES

Lotsee Patterson, professor of library and information studies, retired from the university at the end of the 2007-2008 academic year after 17 years of service. While in the School and Library and Information Studies, Patterson received many accolades and awards. She received the New Mexico Libraries Association’s Founders Award, American Indian Library Association’s Distinguished Service Award, Oklahoma Library Association’s Distinguished Service Award, Beta Phi Mu Award for distinguished service in training programs for Native American libraries, Award of Appreciation from the National Congress of American Indians, American Library Association’s Equity Award and National Commission on Libraries and Information Science’s Silver Award.

In addition, Patterson was named an Oklahoma Library Legend, established the Native American Scholarship Fund and was appointed to the National Museum and Library Services Board of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

She was honored at a reception on April 21.
Boyd Professor of Economics. He also was named as an Outstanding Educator of America and was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame. May 17, 2005, was declared “Alex Kondonassis Day” to recognize his contributions to the economic development of the state of Oklahoma.

Kondonassis also has been active in teaching overseas through the OU OUTREACH program. He pioneered the use of short-format classes to meet the educational needs of U.S. military personnel, leading to the creation of the accelerated master’s degree in economics through the Advanced Program division of the College of Continuing Education in 1968 and has been an active educator to the military students enrolled in the program to this day.

Kondonassis at his retirement party at the University Club in April. Joining him are James Pappas and Paul Bell.

Many-beloved professor of economics Alex Kondonassis retired after 50 years with the university on May 1.

Kondonassis joined the faculty at OU in 1958, having started his educational journey in his native Greece at the University of Athens, followed by completion of an undergraduate degree from DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind., and his master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Indiana in Bloomington, where he stayed on as a faculty member. At the invitation of Paul Brinker, then-chair of the Economics Department, Kondonassis came to OU.

Through the years, he has received many accolades, including a Fulbright Professorship at the Athens School of Economics and a visiting professorship at Oxford University in England. From OU, he has received a Regents’ Award for Superior Teaching and was named a Regents’ Professor of Economics and a David Ross Boyd Professor of Economics. He also was named as an Outstanding Educator of America and was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame.

He changed the way modern criminologists think about crime and the methods they use to study it,” said Craig St. John, chair of the department. “I think it is safe to say Harold has made one of the most important contributions to deterrence research in 50 years,” said Raymond Paternoster, former editor of the Journal of Criminology. “I have no doubt that the work of Harold Grasmick will stand the test of time.”

Inspiring instructor, prolific writer and creator of a measurement of criminal deviance are a few of the words used to describe Harold Grasmick. In 2007, he also earned the title of retiree from the University of Oklahoma.

Grasmick joined the Department of Sociology faculty in 1977. While there, he served as director of applied sociology for Urban Native American Agencies, director of Master’s Level Training in Applied Sociology for Public Service Careers and co-director for the Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency and Social Control.

Named a Distinguished Lecturer by the OU Associates in 1984, he also has received the Student Athletic Advisory Board’s Most Inspiring Professor Award, Kinney-Sugg College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Professor Award and President’s Associates Presidential Professorship.

Grasmick is credited with creating “Grasmick’s Low Self-Control Scale,” used to measure self-control in criminal deviants.

Tannehill was named the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Senior in the Social Sciences. Tannehill received a trophy and $1,500 at the A&S Student Awards Ceremony in April. Tannehill graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in political science from OU in May. She is the daughter of James and Denise Tannehill of Tulsa, Okla.

Tannehill was a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, an OU Honors Scholar and an Honors College Peer Mentor. She was the recipient of the Valedictorian Scholarship and the Robert Dean Bass Scholarship. During her time at OU, she interned at the office of former Oklahoma Speaker of the House Lance Cargill, U.S. Congressman John Sullivan and Norman Mayor Cindy Rosenthal. She was a member of the Pre-Law Club and College Republicans; chair for external affairs, OU Student Association Student Congress; involved in the Capitol Scholars Program; a Community A.M. Eagle Fellow; and attended the National Education for Women Leadership Institute.

Tannehill won the OU Communication Department Josh Lee Memorial Speech Contest; was a seven-time Oklahoma State champion in public speaking, a two-time National Student Congress qualifier and semi-finalist; was elected president of the National Student Congress Chamber, and was a two-time national extemporaneous public speaker qualifier.

Following graduation, she plans to attend law school.

An anthropology professor’s proposal to track combinations of genes and environmental factors on the development of diabetes will receive $1 million from the National Institutes of Health over the next five years.

An anthropologist has been awarded a $1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to track combinations of genes and environmental factors on the development of diabetes.

Diane Warren, assistant professor of anthropology, will work with American Indian communities affected by type 2 diabetes to collect information on families’ diets, physical activity and medical history. Additionally, she will collect genetic information from DNA collected from saliva. By comparing the information between family members, she will be able to identify the combinations of genes and environmental factors that influence type 2 diabetes.

Her research will help to create culturally appropriate interventions and treatments. For more information, visit the Department of Anthropology’s Web site at www.ou.edu/anthropology.
During her time there, she served in numerous directorates at the National Guard Bureau, the Air Staff and Office of the Secretary of Defense in the Pentagon. On Jan. 1, 2008, she married Paul R. Morgan, a Department of Defense contractor in Army G8 in the Pentagon. “What a great way to start the new year and a new life.”

The Advanced Mediterranean Diet: Lose Weight, Feel Better, Live Longer.

Stephen Vargo, ’72 BA Economics, was named the Shidler Distinguished Professor of marketing at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Shidler College of Business.

Tomas Hughes, ’72 BA Economics, who heads the Dallas Corporate, Banking and Business Department and represents public companies on a broad range of issues pertaining to federal and state securities laws and corporate governance, was recently named a Texas “Super Lawyer,” an award given only to the top 5 percent of lawyers in the state.

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Lynn Deal, ’83 BA Home Economics/Fashion Merchandising, was named site manager of the Sam Bell Maxey House State Historical Site, located in Paris, Texas. Previously, she served with the Oklahoma Arts Council, Oklahoma Humanities Council and the Oklahoma Historical Society. She also is a member of the Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition.

Janet Godwin, ’87 BA English, who handles labor and employment law matters and is certified in labor and employment law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, was named a Texas “Super Lawyer,” an award given only to the top 5 percent of lawyers in the state.

Catherine Garley Adams, ’27 BA English, died Nov. 5, 2007, at the age of 102. She received her master’s degree in speech from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, then returned to her hometown of Blackwell, Okla., to establish a speech clinic and to travel the area directing high school plays. She served as vice president of the Oklahoma City Art Center and headed the Speaker’s Bureau for the Women’s Committee of the Oklahoma City Symphony Orchestra.

Gail Blakney, ’45 BA Political Science, ’68 MSW, died Oct. 28, 2007, in Norman, Okla. While at OU, she was a member of Pi Beta Phi and Phi Beta Kappa. She worked as a psychiatric social worker at Central State Community Mental Health Center and as an adjunct assistant professor of human relations at OU.

Brian Bower, ’79 MA Political Science, died April 10, 2007, in Pennsylvania after a battle with cancer. He was head of the political science department at Penn State from 2002 to his death, having taught at the King of Prussia branch campus and the King’s College in Wilkes-Barre, Penn. He is survived by wife Susan and their two children, Kyle and Tess.

IN MEMORIAM

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Global Climate (continued)

Looking to the Future

The complex issues of global sustainability and human enterprise can’t be solved the traditional way, by zoologists, biologists, meteorologists or, indeed, any single “-ologist,” asserts Jeffrey Kelly, assistant professor of zoology and Heritage Zoologist with the Oklahoma Biological Survey, who is proposing a new, interdisciplinary program of graduate study that addresses the role of science in assessing the impact of land use and climate change.

OU has many strengths that make the launching of such a program here a reality, he says, including the prerequisite expertise in the life, geographic and atmospheric sciences; the technological capacity; the university-wide focus on moving research and graduate training at OU toward an interdisciplinary matrix structure; and strong ties with numerous local, federal and international partners.

Looking toward Oklahoma’s future, Kelly said projections call for increased climate variability, diminished supplies of fresh water and increased land use intensity – complex issues that will require novel solutions. “It is our hope,” he says, “that OU students will help develop solutions that benefit not only of the state, but the world as well.”

IN MEMORIAM

E.F. “Gene” Corrotto, ’39 BA Physical Education, ’51 MA Education Administration - Secondary, died Nov. 26, 2007, in Norman, Okla. While at OU, Corrotto played halfback from 1936 to 1938 and served as team captain in 1938 when the team played in its first Orange Bowl. Following his college career, Corrotto served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He returned to Oklahoma to coach athletics in several towns around the state. He was the first coach inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame and was inducted into the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame and Who’s Who Southern Personality.

Bonnie Libbin Desserer, ’43 BS English and Education, ’62 MA Secondary Education, ’66 PhD Clinical Psychology, died May 27, 2008, in Norman, Okla. During her years at OU, she was elected president of Mortar Board and was named an Outstanding Woman. She went on to earn her master’s degree in school guidance and counseling and her doctoral degree in clinical psychology at OU. She taught at various schools and maintained a private practice working with autistic children, drug- and alcohol-dependent adolescents, and many others.

Patricia Gumerson Gipson, ’59 BA English, ’66 MA English Literature, died Jan. 21, 2008, in Norman, Okla. While at OU, she graduated Phi Beta Kappa, was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and was named Outstanding Senior Woman by the Mortar Board in 1958. In 1974, Gipson taught at Seminole Junior College and became the research director for the Energy Consumers and Producers Association, where she became a recognized expert in energy regulations affecting the oil and gas industry. In 1988, Gipson returned to Norman, where she became active in the Junior Assistance League’s Operation School Bell, which provides clothing and shoes to children in need.

Robert Ragland, ’58 BS Mathematics, ’67 PhD Clinical Psychology, died Sept. 20, 2007, in Norman, Okla. He served as director of the OU Clinical Psychology Clinic and the OU Counseling Center. He also was professor emeritus of educational psychology at OU. He served as the chairmain of the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners of Psychologists in 1980 and received an OU Regents’ Award for Superior Teaching in 1976 and the Oklahoma Psychologists Association Distinguished Psychologist Award in 2000.

Jack D. Shannon, ’65 BS Mathematics, ’72 MA Meteorology, ’75 PhD Engineering, died Oct. 31, 2007, in Chicago. He was a retired research scientist from Argonne National Laboratory and author of many articles on atmospheric physics. While at OU, he was commander of the Air Force ROTC and a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. He also received his MS and PhD in meteorology from OU.

David Gordon Sherman, ’54 BS Pre-Med, ’67 PhD Medicine, died Nov. 29, 2007, in San Antonio. He graduated from OU Phi Beta Kappa and attended the OU College of Medicine. He held the Ross J. Siebert Research Fund Distinguished Chair at the Texas Health Science Center and was the former chief of neurology at South Texas Veterans Health Care System. In 2006, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Neurological Society.

Ted S. Webb Jr., ’51 BS Physics, died Jan. 15, 2008, at his home in Fort Worth, Texas. At OU, he was active in and president of Phi Delta Theta and several academic fraternities. He graduated magna cum laude from the California Institute of Technology with a doctorate in nuclear physics. Employed at General Dynamics, he also taught classes at Texas Christian University and served on the University of Texas engineering advisory board. He also served on the OU College of Arts and Sciences Board of Visitors and was a great friend to the college, contributing generously to student scholarships and capital improvements.

Charles Basserville Williams, ’57 BA Economics, ’68 MA Library Science, ’74 PhD Political Science, died Jan. 31, 2008. He worked as a professional librarian on staff at OU’s Bizzell Memorial Library, taught library science at the University of Kentucky and served as director of Magale Library at Centenary College, Shreveport, La. In the late 1970s, Williams returned to Norman and became a correspondence course instructor for the Independent Study Department at OU. He retired from the university in 1997.

Myron W. Woods Jr., ’51 MS Physics, died June 7, 2008. He retired from the Oklahoma Air Guard in 1987 with 42 years of service and from Tinker Air Force Base as an engineer after 37 years of service.

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Democratic National Convention - Denver

Austin Slaymaker, a political science and international business sophomore from Blanchard, Okla., and a group of 35 other OU students traveled to Denver to experience the Democratic National Convention and the nomination of Democratic candidate Sen. Barack Obama.

Nearly 400 students from all across the country joined the students in participating in The Washington Center Program, which allows students to receive academic credit for attending a two-week experience, with the first week consisting of lectures and the second week placement in a "mini" internship somewhere in Denver.

Slaymaker worked for the DNC Finance Committee at the Westin Hotel, home to the Obama Campaign Headquarters and friends and family of Obama.

Slaymaker was able not only to get credentials to get into the convention nightly, but also received tickets into major events, including Howard Dean's welcoming event with the Goo Goo Dolls, Sen. Biden's nomination victory party and Barack Obama's celebration party. He received these opportunities by working with DNC Finance Committee, which hosted these events for top donors of $250,000 dollars and above.

"In such a historic year, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to attend the 2008 Democratic National Convention. My time in Denver was incredible to say the least. The atmosphere a presidential convention produces is awe-inspiring, no matter on what side of the aisle you are. Being involved in the process first-hand allowed me to understand the process clearly. As Americans, we are blessed to have the freedom to participate in the governing process and to select our leaders who represent us."