Oklahoma State University has selected six outstanding faculty researchers as this year’s Regents Distinguished Research Award winners. These faculty members maintain records of past and continuing excellence in research and are recognized nationally and internationally for achievements in their respective fields of study. Winners will be honored at the Fall Convocation in November. This year’s winners are:

**Dr. Brett F. Carver**
Regents Professor, Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Dr. Carver’s work focuses on the creation of genetically improved wheat varieties for Oklahoma. The farm gate value of Oklahoma’s wheat crop, which exceeded $1 billion in 2008, is driven annually by the infusion of improved varieties across the commercial wheat landscape. Under Carver’s leadership, the Wheat Improvement Team at OSU – organized by him in 1998 – has created 13 new wheat varieties, three of which already dominate Oklahoma’s wheat acreage. His “GrazenGrain” breeding system also produced the first wheat variety with true grazing tolerance, a key component of the dual-purpose management system previously bred for only in forage crops.

**Dr. John M. Chaney**
Professor, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Chaney’s research melds pediatric psychology and minority/diversity issues. Specifically, he examines family systems functioning in the context of chronic childhood health problems such as juvenile rheumatic disease and Type 1 diabetes. In 2007, he co-authored the first paper focused on Native Americans ever to be published in the Journal of Pediatric Psychology. In this effort, he and his colleagues demonstrated that parents of Native American children with rheumatic diseases were at a higher risk of experiencing the negative effects of disease relative to their Caucasian counterparts. He also studies academic achievement in Native American college students and implicit bias in perceptions of Native American sports mascots.

**Dr. Warren Ford**
Regents Professor, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Ford works on the synthesis of polymeric materials and nanotechnology. He was the statewide project coordinator of the Oklahoma Network for Nanostructured Materials, a group that between 2002 and 2009 devoted about $7 million in grant funds to improved instrumentation at OSU, the University of Oklahoma and Tulsa University. The funding also supported interdisciplinary nanotechnology research projects statewide as well as state nanotechnology conferences. His efforts helped shape Oklahoma as a state where nanotechnology researchers work together to further collaborative interdisciplinary research.

**Dr. Rathindra Sarathy**
Ardmore Professor, Spears School of Business

Dr. Sarathy’s research involves topics in data security and visualization and alludes to the development of theory, techniques and measures relating to the protection of numerical data. His work has been published in several major journals and has significantly impacted academic research, becoming a staple in doctoral seminars at major universities. Additionally, his work is among projects recommended by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget in its report on statistical disclosure limitation methodology. Sarathy has received funding from OSI’s Technology Business Assessment Group for the commercial potential of his work.

**Dr. Brenda J. Smith**
Associate Professor, College of Human Environmental Sciences

Dr. Smith’s work centers on the role nutrition plays in the prevention and treatment of diseases associated with aging, specifically osteoporosis. She and her team were instrumental in demonstrating how dried plums promote new bone formation. They also studies academic achievement in Native American college students and implicit bias in perceptions of Native American sports mascots.

**Dr. Gary Yen**
Professor, College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology

Dr. Yen’s research accomplishments involve areas of control automation and health monitoring, bibliometric analysis and visualization, and evolutionary multi-objective optimization. Yen was among the first to make an in-depth analysis of global asymptotic stability of discrete-time neural networks. His lasting impact has been in the emerging topic of complex network theory and its visualization of research specialties as complex networks. This work has seen applications in technology forecasting, funding decision-making and social modeling. He is a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc. (IEEE) and editor-in-chief of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Magazine. He will be president of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society in 2010-2011.
Progress continues on new research building

OSU names 2009-10 Niblack Research Scholars

Oklahoma State University has selected 12 undergraduate students to participate in the 2009-10 Niblack Research Scholars program. Funded through the continued generosity of OSU alumna Dr. John Niblack, each student will receive an $8,000 scholarship and will be afforded the unique opportunity of conducting real scientific research as undergraduates.

“We are fortunate at OSU to have a program like this for undergraduates,” said Stephen McKeever, vice president for research and technology transfer. “We appreciate Dr. Niblack’s vision for educating and inspiring young scientists and his ongoing support.”

Niblack, who attributes his own pursuit of research as a profession to the experience he received as an undergraduate at OSU, says he funds the program to give young people that same opportunity. “I enjoy giving student’s the opportunity to see what real science is like, as opposed to textbook science or lab science,” Niblack said. “I hope many of them, after completing the program, will decide to become professional scientists.”

Niblack is the former vice chairman of Pfizer Inc. He worked as an active scientist for the multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical company from 1967-1980 directing research into drugs for viral illnesses, cancer and autoimmune disorders. He was appointed director of research for the company’s U.S. laboratories in 1980 and named president of Pfizer’s Central Research Division in 1990. He became vice chairman in 1993 and retired in 2002.

Since its inception in 2004, the Niblack Research Scholars program has provided more than $480,000 to 77 undergraduate students. The 2009-10 participants will make presentations about their research during OSU Research Week, Feb. 15-19, 2010.

The 2009-10 Niblack Research Scholars are:
• JASON CARVER, an animal science/pre-vet senior from Stillwater, Okla.
• NICOLE CLARKSON, a microbiology sophomore from Stillwater, Okla.
• JOSHUA DAMRON, a chemistry/biochemistry sophomore from Stillwater, Okla.
• ALEXA HALLMARK, a zoology and botany junior from Chandler, Okla.
• BROOKE HILL, a psychology junior from Hooker, Okla.
• JACOB KEELING, a biochemistry junior from Enid, Okla.
• JANA MARKLEY, a chemistry junior from Independence, Mo.
• LYDIA MEADOR, a botany and microbiology/ molecular genetics senior from Broken Arrow, Okla.
• JOHN MISKELLY, a chemical engineering sophomore from Harrah, Okla.
• RANDILEA NICHOLS, a biochemistry and molecular biology junior from McAlester, Okla.
• ERIN ROBERTS, a biochemistry and molecular biology senior from Stillwater, Okla.
• WYATT SHARBER, a zoology and botany junior from Pauls Valley, Okla.

OTRP opens business accelerator building

The Michael S. Morgan Business Accelerator Building is now complete and open for business at the Oklahoma Technology and Research Park. With more than 17,000 square feet of leasable space, including customizable build-out space, furnished offices and common space, the building provides accelerator services for growing businesses. The building leases on a structured increasing fee schedule or a flat rate for five years to encourage tenants to grow and then move into the local economy. The OTRP is an emerging knowledge center and high-value business destination for knowledge-based companies in Stillwater. For more information, contact the OTRP at 405-333-1891.

OIPM and Spears School partner to further tech transfer

Housed within the Spears School of Business, The Riata Center for Entrepreneurship and the new OSU Department of Entrepreneurship commenced operations this fall. Created through a $28.6 million gift from OSU alumni Malone and Amy Mitchell, the center and department seek to create a vibrant culture of entrepreneurship in Oklahoma and to support entrepreneurs on campus and throughout the state.

A new program, also launched this fall, is pairing these efforts in the Spears School with the many commercial possibilities that exist through faculty research projects already underway at OSU. The Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) Scholars Program, a semester-long, for-credit course, furthers the commercialization potential of selected faculty research projects by allowing master’s students to develop in-depth business plans and models for the projects.

“The CIE program is all about taking technologies from concept to enterprise,” said Steve Wood, a new OSU clinical faculty member who has a joint appointment in the Riata Center and the Office of Intellectual Property Management (OIPM). At the end of the semester, Wood said the faculty members will be armed with a world-class business plan and a wealth of market information, which will allow them to make a well-informed decision as to how to move forward with their technology.

“We are enthusiastic about the ways this program will impact tech transfer at OSU,” said Steve Price, director of OIPM. “It not only gives students the invaluable experience of working with practical, real-life projects, but it also stands to provide faculty with the additional market research they need to pursue the commercialization of their research.”

Dr. Bert Jacobson, whose balance and stability apparatus is one of five technologies selected for the CIE program this semester, said the program has been asset to him and helped him think beyond just the testing and development of his technology.

“I’m a scientist and I don’t profess to be a businessman,” Jacobson said. “The CIE scholars come from the other end of the spectrum and have given me some great ideas related to market analysis, training videos and marketing. The program really takes research ideas to the next step.”

The five projects identified for this semester’s CIE scholars were previously recognized for their commercial potential by OSU’s Technology Business Assessment Group. The group funds OSU research projects in need of feasibility demonstration and/or prototype development.

For more information on the CIE program, contact Steve Wood at 405-744-8674.

Plan to attend OSU Research Week

Research Week, OSU’s annual event dedicated to the sciences, arts and humanities, will take place Feb. 15-19, 2010. Speakers and an agenda for the week-long event are still being developed, but check the web site, researchweek.okstate.edu, for updates after the first of the year.