OSU honors faculty for excellence in research

Oklahoma State University has selected seven outstanding faculty members 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. The winners are:

**Leon Spicer, professor of animal science, Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources**

Dr. Spicer’s major research areas are growth factor control of ovarian follicle development, hormonal control of granulosa and theca cell function, and nutritional regulation of reproduction in cattle. His research efforts have been supported by extramural grants from USDA, NIH and private industry totaling more than $1.4 million and intramural grants totaling $410,000. He has published 152 peer-reviewed journal articles, 208 abstracts and 74 other publications. During his 26-year career in the animal science department at OSU, he has also mentored dozens of graduate students. He maintains active collaborations with several international colleagues and serves as an associate editor of the Journal of Animal Science.

**Loren Smith, Regents professor and head of zoology, College of Arts and Sciences**

Dr. Smith studies the natural dynamics and human-induced alterations of plains aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. He is widely considered one of a handful of experts on Playa Lake, the world’s largest playa. He has been the principal investigator or co-principal investigator on grants from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service totaling more than $1.4 million. He has published 103 refereed publications and two books, written or co-authored, and serves on the editorial boards for three national and international journals.

**Z. Randall Stroope, associate professor/music, College of Arts and Sciences**

Dr. Stroope is one of the top five best known choral conductors/composers working today. He maintains a staggering rate of publications in music, with annual sales of 250,000 copies and an average slate of nine new works accepted for print each year by publishers such as the Oxford University Press. His published works have been performed by numerous esteemed ensembles throughout the U.S. and abroad. Stroope regularly conducts at world-renowned venues like Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Internationally, he serves as artistic director for summer music festivals in Rome, Italy and Salzburg, Germany. He has also conducted the music for mass at St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican four times in the last three years.

**J. Craig Wallace, associate professor/research chair of management, Spears School of Business**

Dr. Wallace’s primary research interest revolves around predicting, explaining and enhancing multiple aspects of performance and effectiveness at the individual and group levels by integrating individual-level theories of personality, motivation and emotion with higher-level organizational constructs such as climate and leadership. He has authored over 30 journal articles and made over 70 conference presentations. He has been involved with a number of grants that total more than $219,000. He was one of the primary architects of OSU’s Ph.D. in Executive Leadership program. He also serves as associate editor of the Journal of Management, one of the leading journals in his field.

**Amanda Sheffield Morris, professor of human development & family science, College of Human Sciences**

Dr. Morris’ research focuses on social and emotional development in childhood and adolescence. During her career, she has received more than $1 million in extramural funding to support her work. Her ongoing project on mental health and resilience in adolescent girls is funded by both the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology. She has published more than 43 peer-reviewed publications, including 22 with students. She serves as a member of the NIH review panel for the Academic Research Enhancement Award and has been an external grant reviewer for NICHD and the National Science Foundation.

**Dianne McFarlane, associate professor/Ricks-Rapp professor of physiological science, Center for Veterinary Health Sciences**

Dr. McFarlane studies age-related neurodegeneration in horses. Specifically, she evaluates equine pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction, a debilitating condition similar to Parkinson’s disease in humans. She has been an author or co-author on 38 peer-reviewed publications, many of which focus on her interests in pituitary dysfunction. She has also made 80 presentations, including nine at international meetings and two keynote lectures. Her work has been supported by nearly $1.5 million in ongoing funding. She serves on the editorial review board for Domestic Animal Endocrinology and has served as a grant reviewer for the U.S. Equine Health Research Fund and other animal health groups. She has been the recipient of the Canadian Governors Gold Medal and the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Hero in Medicine Awards for her research in equine neuroendocrine disease.
OSU sets royalty record
For the first time ever, royalties at Oklahoma State University topped $2 million in FY12. Royalties are generated from university-developed technologies licensed to start-up or existing companies. Topping the list of royalty-generators is a probiotic administered to the nation’s dairy and feedlot cattle. The other leading royalty-earners include: a collective group of wheat varieties, a method for measuring radiation exposure, and a cattle diagnostic able to identify Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus.

For more information on these and other technologies developed at OSU, contact the Technology Development Center at 405-744-6930 or visit http://tdc.okstate.edu/.

Cowboy serves researchers campus wide
OSU’s newest high-performance supercomputing cluster, known as Cowboy, has been operational for just over a year now. Funded by a $360,000 National Science Foundation grant, Cowboy is the largest externally funded supercomputer in state history. The cluster has served more than 330 users since its launch in late 2012, a number up from just 19 when High-Performance Computing Center Director Dana Brunson was hired in 2007.

Cowboy is available to all OSU faculty and students. Brunson provides any necessary training to anyone interested in using the supercomputer. She is also available to consult on proposals with specific cyberinfrastructure requirements. Cowboy is equipped with a collection of program libraries and software packages, and users can request any particular software package necessary for their work.

For more information on Cowboy or the services available through the HPCC, contact Brunson at dana.brunson@okstate.edu or visit http://hpc.it.okstate.edu.

Cousteau to headline OSU Research Week
Alexandra Cousteau, a National Geographic “emerging explorer,” filmmaker, and globally recognized advocate on water issues, will be the keynote speaker for OSU Research Week, which is slated for February 17-21, 2014.

Continuing the work of her renowned grandfather Jacques-Yves Cousteau and her father Philippe Cousteau Sr., Alexandra Cousteau has mastered the remarkable storytelling tradition handed down to her and has the unique ability to inspire audiences on the weighty issues of policy, politics and action. Cousteau is dedicated to advocating the importance of conservation and the sustainable management of water in order to preserve a healthy planet. Her global initiatives seek to inspire and empower individuals to protect not only the ocean and its inhabitants, but also the human communities that rely on freshwater resources.

She will present “This Blue Planet: Preserving & Sustaining a Healthy Earth” on Wednesday, February 19 at 7 pm.

OSU names 2013-14 Niblack Research Scholars
Oklahoma State University has selected 15 undergraduate students to participate in the 2013-14 Niblack Research Scholars program. Funded by a gift from OSU alumnus John Niblack, each student will receive an $8,000 scholarship and will have the unique opportunity to conduct research in a university lab, assisted by a faculty sponsor and graduate student mentor.

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. 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. 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.

Videos about the students and their research are available at http://research.okstate.edu/nrs.

The Niblack Research Scholars will make presentations about their findings during OSU Research Week, Feb. 17-21, 2014.

• Carol Abraham, an engineering/pre-med major from Stillwater, Okla.
• Christian Cook, an animal science major from Ft. Worth, Texas.
• Ashley Graupman, a zoology major from Forest City, Mo.
• Sydney Honevey, a physiology major from Arlington, Texas
• Brandon Hubbard, a physiology and psychology major from Kingfisher, Okla.
• Colin Jackson, a microbiology major from Broken Bow, Okla.
• Cierra Keith, a biological sciences major from Oklahoma City, Okla.
• Lindsay King, an animal science major from Oakland, Neb.
• Jonathan Luscomb, a chemical engineering major from Claremore, Okla.
• Julia Matera, an animal and biochemistry major from Columbia, Mo.
• Maeghan Murie-Harting, a chemistry major from Cleveland, Okla.
• Jessica Neal, an animal science and biotechnology major from Duncan, Okla.
• Madison O’Meara, a psychology major from Edmond, Okla.
• Jonathan Overton, a biosystems major from Yukon, Okla.
• Micah Webb, a physics major from Altus, Okla.

Emerging explorer, filmmaker and globally recognized advocate on water issues
Alexandra Cousteau
Granddaughter of Jacques-Yves Cousteau

To have the latest additions to the Research Week schedule delivered to your news feed...
Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/OSStateResearch

www.ResearchWeek.okstate.edu

Research Central
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VP FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Dr. John and Heidi Niblack with the 2013-14 Niblack Research Scholars: (front row, L to R) Heidi Niblack, Dr. John Niblack, Carol Abraham, Maeghan Murie-Harting, Jonathan Luscomb. (second row, L to R) Colin Jackson, Lindsay King, Ashley Graupman, Sydney Honevey, Jessica Neal. (third row, L to R) Dr. Stephen McKeever, Madison O’Meara, Julia Matera, Christian Cook. (back row, L to R) Brandon Hubbard, Jonathan Overton, Micah Webb. (Not pictured: Cierra Keith)