



Oklahoma State University  
Office of the Vice President for Research  
and Technology Transfer  
203 Whitehurst  
Stillwater, OK 74078

## OSU honors faculty for excellence in research

Oklahoma State University has selected nine 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 later this year. The winners are:

**Dr. Ulrich Melcher**, *Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources*

Melcher is an expert and leader in the areas of biodiversity, evolution, ecology and molecular biology of plant viruses. He has developed numerous fundamental techniques and processes that identify plant viruses and the way they spread. Through OSU's National Institute for Microbial Forensics and Food and Agricultural Biosecurity, he advises students and scientists in molecular detection of threat pathogens and on tools for distinguishing natural from man-made plant virus outbreaks.

**Dr. Estella Atekwana**, *College of Arts and Sciences*

Atekwana has been instrumental in development of a new field of research: biogeophysics, which involves using geophysical techniques to detect and monitor microbial activity in the subsurface. She has authored more than 62 publications in top-tier journals, including 40 in this new field. Atekwana is a highly sought after keynote speaker and presenter and serves on boards and panels of numerous professional societies.

**Dr. Thomas Shriver**, *College of Arts and Sciences*

Shriver has spent 16 years building a vibrant research agenda and top-ranked environmental sociology program at OSU. His research focuses on citizen mobilization efforts surrounding environmental injustices. Shriver is highly involved with the American Sociological Association. One of his recent co-authored manuscripts won the 2011 Outstanding Publication Award from the Environment and Technology section of the ASA.

**Dr. Charlotte Wright**, *Spears School of Business*

Wright is one of the world's most widely recognized and cited academic experts in the area of oil and gas industry accounting and financial reporting. She has provided input to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and worked closely with the International Accounting Standards Board. She has authored two books and more than 40 research articles.

**Dr. Lucy Bailey**, *College of Education*

Bailey's work in qualitative methodology, women's history, and race and gender studies has achieved national visibility through diverse national and international publications, presentations and curricular products. She is currently a senior investigator on the NSF OSU ADVANCE grant, which is part of a nationwide effort to increase the participation and advancement of women in academic science and engineering careers.

**Dr. Satish Bukkapatnam**, *College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology*

Bukkapatnam's research addresses the deployment and harnessing of high-resolution dynamic information, especially from wireless MEMS sensor networks, to improve the monitoring, prognostics and control of complex engineering systems. His research combines rigorous mathematical analysis with hands-on engineering experimentation. He has collaborated with researchers at OSU and around the nation.



(front row, L to R): Dr. Charlotte Wright, Dr. Estella Atekwana, Dr. Thomas Shriver  
(back row, L to R): Dr. Robert Larzelere, Dr. Ulrich Melcher and Dr. Satish Bukkapatnam.  
Not pictured: Drs. Bailey, Stroup and Conrad.

**Dr. Robert Larzelere**, *College of Human Sciences*

Larzelere specializes in social scientific research methodology, advanced statistics and parental discipline. Although his research investigates the full range of disciplinary responses, he is best known for research comparing spanking to alternative disciplinary tactics. He has used his expertise in advanced statistics and research methodology to upgrade course offerings in these areas at OSU by teaching Ph.D. courses on increasingly important types of statistical analyses.

**Dr. Robert S. Conrad**, *OSU Center for Health Sciences*

Conrad's research includes the epidemiology, identification and interactions of bacteria associated with oral devices in health and disease. He has co-authored 46 papers in peer-reviewed journals, 45 abstracts and 39 papers/posters. He has been an invited speaker at 19 research seminars in the U.S. and abroad. Conrad was awarded Fulbright and Fogarty foundation scholarships to work at the Max-Planck-Institut für Immunbiologie in Freiburg, Germany.

**Dr. Jeffrey S. Stroup**, *OSU Center for Health Sciences*

Stroup mentors junior faculty and internal medicine residents in general medicine research in areas including diabetes, infectious diseases, HIV/Hepatitis C and cardiovascular disease. He oversees the development and management of grant support for the OSU-CHS Internal Medicine Ryan White HIV/AIDS Clinic, one of two federally funded Part C clinics in Oklahoma. The grants support patient care, case management support, outpatient services, laboratory services and medications.



## OSU dedicates Henry Bellmon Research Center

**A**t an event attended by members of the Bellmon family, Oklahoma State University dedicated the Henry Bellmon Research Center on September 9. The HBRC is a first-of-its-kind facility on the OSU campus created to facilitate interdisciplinary research. The highlight of the event was the unveiling of a bust of the late Oklahoma governor, which will sit in the lobby of the building.

"A land grant university's job is to train great talent, do great research and share it with your state, the nation and the world," OSU President Burns Hargis said at the event. "There can't be anybody that better epitomizes the land grant mission than Henry Bellmon. He is a land grant man."



Bellmon graduated from OSU (then Oklahoma A&M) in 1942. As governor, his administration oversaw the establishment of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST) and the Centers of Excellence Program. His support of education at all levels is well documented and after his retirement from public service he was an active member and supporter of OSU's Education and Research Foundation, now named the Center for Innovation and Economic Development. He also taught at OSU.

Within its 124,000 square feet, the HBRC brings together more than 200 faculty members, post-doctoral students and graduate students. The researchers tackle issues related to energy, food safety, cancer treatment and more. The \$70 million facility is the single largest project from the 2005 Oklahoma Higher Education Capital Bond Program.

"The HBRC is unlike any other building on the OSU-Stillwater campus because it brings together researchers from multiple disciplines who work collaboratively on cutting-edge projects," said Dr. Stephen McKeever, OSU's vice president for research and technology transfer. "It already has and will continue to help OSU researchers solve some of the world's toughest problems."

The HBRC is the first of a multi-phase research complex designed to enhance research capabilities at OSU. The completion of additional phases, which include the renovation of the Physical Sciences building, will make the HBRC and surrounding areas a hub of interdisciplinary activity. The HBRC is expected to aid in the recruitment of additional high-quality faculty, and to vault OSU's research programs to even higher levels.



Dr. John and Heidi Niblack (front, center) with the 2011-12 Niblack Research Scholars. (second row, L to R) Kelsie Brooks, Mrinalini Patil, Mackenzie Jochim (third row, L to R) Dr. Stephen McKeever, OSU's VP for research, Brandi Gallaher, Benjamin DeWeese, Kayla Davis, Chelsea Fortenberry (back row L to R) Jared Austin, Daniel Osagie, Grant Tinsley and Zachary Sheffert (not pictured: Kara Miller)

## OSU names 2011-12 Niblack Research Scholars

Oklahoma State University has selected 12 undergraduate students to participate in the 2011-12 Niblack Research Scholars program. Funded by a gift from OSU alumnus Dr. 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 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.

The Niblack Research Scholars will make presentations about their findings during OSU Research Week, Feb. 20-24, 2012.

More details about the students' research are available at <http://research.okstate.edu/nrs>.

- **Jared Austin**, a physics major from Fairview, Okla.
- **Kelsie Brooks**, a microbiology and cell and molecular biology major from Norman, Okla.
- **Kayla Davis**, biochemistry and molecular biology major from Stillwater, Okla.
- **Benjamin DeWeese**, a zoology major from Broken Arrow, Okla.
- **Chelsea Fortenberry**, a chemistry and biological sciences major from Durant, Okla.
- **Brandi Gallaher**, physiology major from Tulsa, Okla.
- **Mackenzie Jochim**, an entomology and plant pathology major from Broken Arrow, Okla.
- **Kara Miller**, a nutritional sciences and allied health major from Keller, Texas
- **Daniel Osagie**, a chemical engineering major from Nigeria
- **Mrinalini Patil**, a biochemistry and psychology major from Stillwater, Okla.
- **Zachary Sheffert**, chemical engineering major from Stillwater, Okla.
- **Grant Tinsley**, a physiology and nutritional sciences major from Centennial, Colo.

**Daymond John**  
TV personality and entrepreneur

February 22, 2012  
OSU - Stillwater  
7:00 pm  
Wes Watkins Center