People

- Film and Video Studies Professor James Ragan gave the Literary Keynote Address at the World Literature Today Conference in Beijing. He also performed his poetry for Czech Republic President Vaclav Klaus.
- School of Music student Amanda Sherwood has been selected to guest conduct the 2009 Oklahoma Choral Directors Association All-Collegiate Choir.
- The OU Choir, under the direction of Prof. Mark Lucas, has been invited to participate in a special concert at the 2009 American Choral Directors Association National Convention, featuring a new commissioned work by Dominick Argento.
- Prof. of Dance Camille Hardy was honored at the annual conference of the Society of Dance History Scholars (SDHS) in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Scholarship

- Prof. of French Logan Whalen presented two papers in Rennes, France at the 22nd International Congress of the International Arthurian Society: "La nef magique dans les textes arthuriens des Xle et Xlle siècles," and "Marie de France et la hoge bretonne." He also published a book, Marie de France and the Poetics of Memory.
- Prof. of Chinese, Ming Chao Gui, recently published a book entitled Modern Chinese as a Foreign Language: a Practical Course for American Students.

Funding

- Meteorology Prof. Ming Xue received $780,000 from the National Science Foundation to participate in VORTEX2, the Verification of the Origins of Rotation in Tornadoes Experiment to be held in Oklahoma during the next two years.
- Computer Science Prof. Amy McGovern received a seed grant of $393,173 from DARPA for “Efficient Exploration in Large Spaces: Creating a Winning Computer Go Player.”
- Anthropology Prof. Paul Spicer, who joined OU this fall, has been awarded a 2-year, $410,000 R21 grant by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to develop an intervention to promote improved cognitive development for infants in a northern plains American Indian community.

School Civil Engineering and Environmental Science Profs. K.K. (Muralee) Muraleetharan, Gerald Miller, and Amy Cerato received a $1.15 million grant from the National Science Foundation for a 4-year project to dramatically improve our understanding of earthquakes and their effects on structures and people. Also involved are Iowa State University and San Jose State University, along with two private companies, Earth Mechanics Inc. and Advanced GeoSolutions Inc.
### People

- **Michael Bagajewicz**, Sam Wilson Chemical Engineering Prof., was a finalist for the ConocoPhillips Energy Prize. His Acoustic Mass Pump technology uses pressure waves to accomplish difficult separations in propane-propylene and other mixtures at costs significantly below conventional methods. He received a $25,000 cash prize.

- School of Music American Organ Institute Shop student technicians **Dan Sliger** and **Jeremy Wance** received scholarships to attend the American Institute of Organbuilders Convention in Knoxville, TN. The organ technology program evolving at OU is the first of its kind in the world.

- **Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering Prof. Dean Oliver** received the 2008 Distinguished Member Award from The Society of Petroleum Engineers.

### Scholarship

- **Prof. Robert W. Nairn**, School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science, and four graduate students (William Strosnider, Beatriz Santamaria, Leah Oxenford and Alan Garrido), recently spent three weeks conducting environmental research in the Bolivian Andes focused on the impacts of nearly 500 years of the sustainability impacts of unrestrained hard rock mining. They also taught a remediation short course at the Universidad Autonoma de Tomas Frias, Potosi, Bolivia.

### Funding

- Anthropology Prof. **Patrick Livingood** received a $50,000 grant from the National Center for Preservation Training and Technology, National Park Service, to use high resolution digital image technology to examine ceramics from the Moon site (A.D. 1200 village) in Arkansas. The goal is to identify potter-specific technical choices as a means for mapping relationships among families in the village.

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration awarded a 5-year, $3.8 million grant to the Oklahoma Climatological Survey at OU, and the Department of Geography and Anthropology at LSU, to develop the ninth, and newest Regional Integrated Sciences Assessments (RISA) program in the United States.

### Scholarship

- Presidential Prof. **Charles Kimball**, Religious Studies, just published a 24-lecture DVD course titled “Comparative Religion.” It addresses key topics of broad interest using Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism to illustrate how religions can address the same core issues in parallel and different ways.

- Botany and Microbiology Profs. **Yiqi Luo**, Linda Wallace, and **Rebecca Sherry** were among several co-authors of a recent cover article in the prestigious journal *Nature*. They explored greenhouse gas impacts on plant growth and their potential implications for climate change.