Student Recognition

Jana Houser (Ph.D student, Meteorology) has been selected to receive a $10,000 PLAN!T NOW scholarship. PLAN!T NOW is an organization advocating severe weather and natural disaster preparedness, focusing on outreach campaigns to educate the public about natural and man-made threats, while promoting higher education studies to enhance the understanding of such disasters.

NOAA SELECTS OU FOR $75 Million WEATHER RESEARCH AGREEMENT

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has selected the University of Oklahoma for a cooperative research agreement that will bring up to $75 million of federal funds to the University to advance weather radar research, improve severe storm forecasts and increase understanding of extreme weather and short-term regional climate. The agreement extends funding for the Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies through the year 2016 and maintains current employment levels with the possibility of hiring additional employees. The Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies, which was created in 1978, will continue to promote collaborative research between OU and NOAA scientists by providing a center where government and academic scientists work together to learn about and apply their knowledge of mesoscale weather and regional-scale climate processes.

OU WaTER Conference

The OU Water Technologies for Emerging Regions (WaTER) Center hosted the 2nd Biennial University of Oklahoma WaTER Conference, October 24-26, 2011, with over 200 attendees from 38 countries representing academia, industry, NGOs, governments and foundations. The highlight was awarding the 2011 OU International Water Prize to Mr. Ben Fawcett from the University of Queensland, Australia, co-author of the milestone book *The Last Taboo: Opening the Door on the Global Sanitation Crisis*. The 3rd University of Oklahoma WaTER Conference is scheduled for September 23-25, 2013.
Recognition

Dr. Eddie Baron (Physics & Astronomy) is now a Fellow of the American Physical Society. His citation will read: "For work at the forefront of computational astrophysics, especially for important contributions to the theory of core collapse supernovae and leadership in the theory of radiative transport in stars and supernovae."

New Books

- Cambridge University Press has published *Religions of the Ancient Near East* by Dr. Daniel Snell (History).

- Alwan Publishing: Saudia Arabia has published *Exploring Colleges and Universities in the United States of America* by Dr. Ed Marek (Education) and I.A. Almohaissin.

- The University of Chicago Press has published *Mapping Latin America: A Cartographic Reader* by Dr. Karl Offen (Geography) and Jordana Dym.

Center for Microbial Identification and Taxonomy

Dr. Paul A. Lawson (Botany & Microbiology) has established the Center for Microbial Identification and Taxonomy (CMIT). The new center will draw on Lawson’s experience and knowledge of organisms recovered from a wide range of sources, and his extensive national and international collaborations. The center will also augment his recent NIH R01 award with Dr. Cecil Lewis (Anthropology) entitled “Human Intestinal Microbial Ecologies of Indigenous Communities,” an environment teeming with previously unidentified microorganisms. In addition to providing a service and resource to the scientific community, these methods will be integrated into Lawson’s teaching program and introduce students to some important methods not readily taught at any other U.S. university. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Lawson (CMIT@ou.edu).
AME Faculty Recognition

- Cengiz Altan and postdoctoral research associate Levent Aktas recently received a patent for an apparatus that can deposit different sizes of nanoparticles, allowing researchers to precisely control the amount and size of nanoparticle distribution. Altan and Aktas believe this technology will have applications in many aspects of nanotechnology research such as preparation of highly dispersed nanocomposites.

- Dr. Farrokh Mistree was elected for a two-year term, to the Executive Board of Mechanical Engineering Department Heads Committee of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. This prestigious position will provide Mistree the opportunity to contribute to the furtherance of engineering education, accreditation and public policy.

- Congratulations to Dr. David Miller’s class who is featured on a new OU website video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPMMzElw9Eo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPMMzElw9Eo).

- Congratulations to emeritus faculty Charles Bert who was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame, which is sponsored by the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society. Bert taught at AME for 41 years and directed its School of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering for a combined 11 years. He retired from OU in 2004. Bert is known internationally for his contributions to the field of mechanics with a special emphasis in the analysis, design and manufacture of composite materials.

Genome Map of *Medicago truncatula*

An international team of scientists has sequenced the genome of alfalfa, the legume *Medicago truncatula*, and in the process learned that the genes controlling the plant’s symbiotic relationships with fungi and bacteria can be traced back to an event nearly 60 million years ago. The team’s findings are published online today in this week’s edition of the journal *Nature*. The team, led by Dr. Bruce A. Roe and his staff (Advanced Center for Genome Technology/Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry), in an international effort involving researchers from the University of Minnesota; J. Craig Venter Institute; Genoscope; the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute; CNRS/INRA-Toulouse; John Innes Centre; Noble Foundation; University of Wageningen; MIPS-Munich; Ghent University; and the National Center for Genome Resources, recently completed the multi-year effort to map the genome of *Medicago truncatula*, which scientists use as a model to understand the biology of legumes like soybean, alfalfa and peas. “The project’s goal,” Roe says, “was to document how symbiosis – the process that legumes like *Medicago* use to create their own nitrogen fertilizer through association with special bacteria – evolved.” Major U.S. research funding for mapping the *Medicago truncatula* genome was provided by the National Science Foundation and the Noble Foundation. The *Nature* paper includes 124 co-authors at 31 institutions in 8 countries.
November New Awards

- Michael Biggerstaff  
  School of Meteorology  
  “Impact of Cloud Dynamics on Chemical and Electrical Properties of Storms Observed during DC3”  
  NSF  
  $268,852

- Boon Leng Cheong  
  Atmospheric Radar Research Center  
  “A.I. Image Processing - Step 1”  
  Weathernews  
  $32,102

- Amy Goodin  
  Department of Political Science  
  “OSBI Crime Victimization Study”  
  OK-OSBI  
  $14,150

- Phillip Gutierrez  
  Department of Physics & Astronomy  
  “Experimental Physics Investigations using Colliding Beam Detectors at Fermilab and the LHC”  
  NP-FERMI  
  $10,000

- Ulrich Hansmann  
  Department of Chemistry And Biochemistry  
  “Folding, Mis-folding and Aggregation of Proteins”  
  HHS-NIH  
  $183,290

- Kianoosh Hatami  
  School of Civil Engineering & Environmental Science  
  “Prototype Reinforced Soil Embankment for Reconstruction of US 62 Slope Failure in Chickasha, OK (Pull Project)”  
  OSU  
  $199,995

- Joseph Havlicek  
  School of Electrical Engineering  
  “GPS Location Data Enhancement in Electronic Traffic Records”  
  OSU  
  $100,000

- Mukremin Kilic  
  Department of Physics & Astronomy  
  “Confirming the First Double Degenerate Sn Ia Progenitor”  
  NP-STSCI  
  $25,008

- Valliappa Lakshmanan  
  Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorology  
  “Improving Weather Radar Data Processing for Biological Research Applications”  
  UN-DELAWARE  
  $30,378

- Heather McCarthy  
  Department of Botany & Microbiology  
  “Duke Forest Face - Forest Atmosphere Carbon Transfer and Storage”  
  UN-DUKEUNIV  
  $20,809

- Gerald Miller  
  School of Civil Engineering & Environmental Science  
  “Interpretation of In Situ Tests as Affected by Soil Suction”  
  OSU  
  $80,000

- Gerald Miller  
  School of Civil Engineering & Environmental Science  
  “The Effects of Soil Suction on Shallow Slope Stability”  
  OSU  
  $112,500

- Kimball Milton  
  Department of Physics & Astronomy  
  “Application of Quantum Vacuum Physics”  
  Schwinger  
  $50,000

- Berrien Moore  
  Atmospheric & Geographic Sciences Dean  
  “Ascends Carbonhawk Experiment Assimilator (ACES)”  
  NAS-HDQ  
  $165,036
November New Awards

- **Jeff Moore**  
  Center for Creation of Economic Wealth  
  “Supporting the Growth of Software Business Accelerator Startup Companies”  
  OK-EDGE  
  $25,000

- **Michael Mumford**  
  Department of Psychology  
  “Washington University Institute for Clinical and Translational Sciences (Restoring Professionalism and Integrity in Research [repair] Program)”  
  UN-SAINTLOUIS  
  $35,094

- **Scott Russell**  
  Department of Botany & Microbiology  
  “Transcriptional Profiling of the Rice Zygote”  
  UN-CALIF  
  $119,786

- **James Sluss**  
  School of Electrical Engineering  
  “Increased Imaging Area for Synthetic Aperture Radar Wide-Area Surveillance”  
  RAYTHEON  
  $40,000

- **Paul Spicer**  
  Department of Anthropology  
  “Dogs and Children's Development in Northern Plains Tribe”  
  HHS-NIH  
  $75,000

- **Scott Sundermeyer**  
  Archaeological Survey II  
  “Oklahoma Depression-Era Bridges and Road-Related Resources Inventory and Evaluation”  
  OK-TRAN  
  $297,602

- **Steven Wells**  
  School of Social Work  
  “Oklahoma LEND: MCH Interdisciplinary Leadership Grant - Core Faculty Member in Social Work”  
  HSC  
  $12,262

- **Md Zaman**  
  College of Engineering Dean  
  “Improved Cover Aggregate Specifications to Enhance Chip Seal Performance”  
  OSU  
  $139,660