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Greetings from the Director

On September 25, 2007, Oklahoma State University Interim System CEO, President Marlene Strathe, sent a letter to members of the Alliance informing them of changes regarding the Louis Stokes Alliance grant. The grant returned to central administration due to the retirement of Dr. Earl Mitchell. Interim President Strathe has appointed me to serve as the Principal Investigator, therefore; the Office of the Vice President of Institutional Diversity will now have oversight of the grant.

Kay Porter has joined the OSU team as Program Manager. Kay received her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Education from Oklahoma State University. She has been employed with OSU for several years, most recently with the NASA Aerospace Education Program. She is a member of the Potawatomi Tribe and the OSU Native American Faculty and Staff Association, serving as Chair of the Scholarship Committee.

Fara Williams has been promoted to Program Data Manager which incorporates her previous responsibilities. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education/Middle Level Science from Oklahoma State University. Fara has seven years experience teaching Pre K - 10 (two and a half years in public school systems and four and a half years in a traveling, private school).

We are working hard to get up to speed and move forward to new heights of success for our program. I look forward to meeting each member of the OK-LSAMP staff in the coming days. Please don’t hesitate to contact any of us, and we will build new bridges connecting with the Partners of the Oklahoma Alliance as well as Alliances around the nation.

-Cornell Thomas, Ed.D., OSU Vice President for Institutional Diversity (Pictured above)

Amazing People

There are many hard-working people that contribute to the success of our program. These include, but are certainly not limited to: the students for whom this program exists; their mentors who give scholars invaluable guidance; the campus coordinators who help the scholars with information about their campus and opportunities that are available; the administrative and supportive staff who do what is necessary to keep the program going; speakers and presenters at local, regional, and national meetings and conferences who give information and knowledge on a variety of subjects; the staff of other organizations who help to provide support for our scholars and staff; and especially the National Science Foundation for providing the financial support. We want to thank each and every individual.
John Garric

Dr. Garric served as the Campus Coordinator for the University of Central Oklahoma.

John Garic, Ph.D. served as the Campus Coordinator for the University of Central Oklahoma and the Interim Dean for the Jackson College of Graduate Studies and Research. He made many contributions to the program and will be missed.

Gregory M. Wilson

Dr. Wilson is the new Campus Coordinator for the University of Central Oklahoma.

In the spring, Gregory M. Wilson, Ph.D. joined the Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (OK-LSAMP STEM) as the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) Campus Coordinator and also became the Interim Associate Dean for the Jackson College of Graduate Studies and Research for UCO. Dr. Wilson earned a BA in Biology from Central College, an MS from Fort Hays State University, and a Ph.D. in Zoology from Oklahoma State University.

Dr. Wilson, an Associate Professor of Biology, has been at UCO since 2001. His research interests include using modern molecular techniques to address a number of questions in molecular popular genetics, molecular ecology, and phylogeography. His projects have included investigating host/parasite interactions of bats and bat flies and how climatic fluctuations which occurred following the Pleistocene and contemporary heterogeneity of landscapes impact the population genetic structure of several species of mammals in Oklahoma and adjacent states.

Dr. Wilson has been active in undergraduate research at UCO. He received the Hampton Fellowship Award and the Vanderford Faculty Award in Support of Undergraduate Research, Creative, and Scholarly Activity. Since 2004, he has served as a Faculty Mentor for the Summer Bridge component of the NSF-funded SURE-STEP Program.

We want to offer Dr. Wilson a warm welcome to the Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.

Valerie Shangreaux

Dr. Shangreaux served as the OK-LSAMP Program Manager.

Valerie Shangreaux, Ph. D. was a part of OK-LSAMP STEM for many years. She served as Campus Coordinator for the Lead Campus, Oklahoma State University, from 1994-1999 and again from 2001-2007. As Program Coordinator, she was instrumental in the development of the program’s on-line graduate preparation modules. In February of 2007, Valerie accepted the position of Program Manager. In her short term as Program Manager, Valerie hired a new secretary, supervised the spring newsletter and the organization of program files. In both positions, Valerie made the students her main focus and always had time to answer their questions and help them any way that she could.

Accepting the position of Director of Leadership Programs for a private foundation in Minnesota, Valerie resigned her position in OK-LSAMP STEM. Before leaving in August, she worked hard to ensure that the transition would be as smooth as possible. Valerie made many friends while in Oklahoma, and we at OK-LSAMP STEM will miss her.

Andrew S. Arena, Jr.

Dr. Arena is an Oklahoma State University Professor and OK-LSAMP mentor.

Andrew S. Arena, Jr., Ph. D. received his Bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Arizona. He earned his Mater’s and his Doctorate, also in Aerospace Engineering, from the University of Notre Dame.

Dr. Arena is the Senior Member and Faculty Advisor of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), the Faculty Advisor and Member of the Sigma Gamma Tau Aerospace Honor Society, and has many other memberships. He has garnered such honors as the NASA-ASEE-Stanford Summer Faculty Fellowship and the SAE International, Ralph R. Teeter Award. Some of his most recent projects include: Computational Aeroelasticity; Freeform Composites Design and Manufacturing; Development of a New Wind Tunnel Facility; Unsteady Aerodynamics; and Limit Cycle Roll Oscillations of Slander Delta Wings. (mae.okstate.edu/Faculty/arena/arena.html) It is our privilege to note that Dr. Arena is also the mentor of one of our OK-LSAMP Scholars (see Valentin Sanchez, p. 3).

Oklahoma State University (OSU), under the leadership of Dr. Arena, is working in conjunction with California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) on “Project Pterosao.” The purpose of this project is to create an unmanned airplane powered by a hydrogen fuel cell that will break multiple world records for flight time and endurance. In September, the Pterosao broke the world record for a point and return range mission by traveling 128 kilometers - more than 40 kilometers further than the previous record set in Estonia in 2006. This flight was considered a “shakedown” test, and the actual range capability of the airplane is over 500 km. We are proud that an OK-LSAMP Scholar has been a part of this project and look forward to more records being broken.
Amazing Scholars
Giving students the resources and opportunities needed to succeed is our mission.

Juan Diego Alonso
Spend a few minutes in conversation with Juan Diego Alonso, and you’ll witness an unbridled passion about research in chemical engineering. He’s worked with ChevronTexaco as a processing engineer and more recently as a research assistant at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. His research topics include the effects of curcumin, from the Indian spice Tumeric, on pancreatic cancer; and the effects of MMP inhibitors on myofibroblasts’ alpha smooth muscle actin protein.

Last summer, Juan Diego traveled to Washington, D.C., where he presented his research during Digestive Disease Week. After his graduation in May 2008, he’s planning on graduate school, and is considering a Ph.D./MD program. He’s routinely on the Dean’s and President’s Honor Roll and has volunteered in hospitals and a cancer treatment center. He likes to run, swim and enjoys ballroom dancing. Juan doesn’t have to tell you he loves research and values the experiences afforded to him by LSAMP. The enthusiasm shows in his eyes as he introduces a prospective engineering student to the world of biomedical research.

Contessa Majors
Contessa Majors graduated with a Bachelor’s in Biology from Langston University in May, 2007. In the summer of 2006, she was an Oklahoma IDEAS (Institutional Development Award) Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) intern at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center’s Lab for Genomics and Bioinformatics. Contessa is now an LSAMP Bridge to Doctorate Fellow at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa where she is studying biological science.

Cammi Valdez
Cammi Valdez is currently studying mathematics and chemistry at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. In 2006, she was also an Oklahoma INBRE intern at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center’s Lab for Genomics and Bioinformatics. This summer, Cammi was accepted to intern at Yale, MIT, CalTech, and many others. However, she chose to intern at Harvard Medical School as part of the Summer Honors Undergraduate Research Program (SHURP). After graduating next year, Cammi hopes to attend Harvard for a Ph.D. in Chemical Biology.

Valentin Sanchez
Valentin Sanchez is an Aerospace Engineering student at Oklahoma State University (OSU). He is part of “Project Pterosooar,” consisting of Dr. Arena, Dustin Gamble, Ryan Paul, and Valentin. Collaborating with California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA), OSU has designed and built the plane while CSULA has designed and built the fuel cell. The Pterosooar (pictured above) has been designed to run on a hydrocarbon fuel cell, can fly over 16 hours continuously, and weighs less than 11 pounds. In September, it broke a world record during a “test” flight. The Pterosooar is expected to break many other world records.
Desmond Harvey

Desmond Harvey is a Bridge to Doctorate Fellow majoring in Industrial Engineering at the University of Oklahoma (OU). A graduate of Langston University (LU) and an LSAMP scholar, Desmond says the Bridge to Doctorate program has given him the chance to pursue a Ph.D. and learn more about conducting research and what to pursue as a career. “I would tell all undergraduate students, especially those with STEM majors, to consider going to graduate school,” said Harvey.

Desmond’s research project identifies and examines the learning styles of students in engineering, physics, chemistry and mathematics. This summer, Desmond attended the 2007 ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition in Honolulu where he attended several sessions on engineering education. In July, he served as assistant director of a new summer bridge program called “Heads Up”. This program allowed incoming freshman to move toward calculus readiness and to successfully transition from high school to university life (see OU Summer Bridge Program, p. 6).

Desmond is considering teaching after he finishes his education. At OU, Desmond is also the president of Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, and a graduate student advisor of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Dominic Barrett

Dominic Barrett received his Bachelor’s degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in December of 2004. He participated in a variety of research projects including research for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, the King Salmon Resource Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the USDA National Wildlife Research Center, and the USGS Oklahoma Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. In the last year, Dominic has made presentations on his river otter thesis research at: the Central Plains Society of Mammalogists Annual Meeting, Edmond, OK; the Oklahoma Academy of Science 95th Annual Technical Meeting, Claremore, OK; the 87th Meeting of the American Society of the Mammalogists, Albuquerque, NM; and the Oklahoma Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, Woodward, OK. He is currently at Oklahoma State University working on a Master’s Degree in Wildlife Ecology. Dominic is a member of the American Fisheries Society and the Oklahoma Academy of Science.

Above: Dominic participated in river otter (Lontra canadensis) distribution and current research in Oklahoma.

Marty Heppler

Marty Heppler received her Bachelor’s Degree in Entomology and Plant Pathology from Oklahoma State University in December of 2004. Marty has been active in the Southwestern Branch of the American Entomological Society of America, the Sanborn Entomology Club, and the Joint Committee of Women in Plant Pathology and Cultural Diversity for the American Phytopathological Society (APS). This year, Marty finished her Master’s Degree in Entomology and Plant Pathology as a Bridge to Doctorate Fellow at Oklahoma State University. During her research on bacteria in squash bug hemolymph (blood), Marty discovered a new species of organism. After polymerase chain reactions (PCR), sequencing, and using a Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST), she came to the conclusion that the trypanosomatid in the Squash Bug, Anasa tristis is in fact a new species. Marty is preparing a paper of her discovery to be published in a scientific journal. She is now in California at the United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service researching cotton.

Above: Marty poses with E. O. Wilson, Entomologist and author of Pulitzer Prize-winning books.
The University of Oklahoma  
From Territorial Vision to  
Nationally Ranked Institution  
In 1890, the Oklahoma territorial  
legislature made a commitment to  
create one of the nation’s premier  
learning institutions. The  
Cleveland County community  
donated 40 acres of land for the  
campus and voted to approve  
$10,000 in bonds while $10,000 in  
cash was raised by the Norman  
business community.  
Classes began at the University of  
Oklahoma in 1892 with three  
rented rooms in downtown  
Norman, four teachers - including  
the university’s first president  
David Ross Boyd - and 119  
students.  
Today, OU encompasses  
campuses in three cities: over  
3,500 acres and enrolls 30,000  
students in the doctoral degree- 
granting research university. In  
addition, OU has a $1.5 billion  
annual impact on the state’s  
economy, employing more than  
12,000 faculty and staff, including  
more than 370 endowed faculty.  
In its 20 colleges, OU offers 152  
majors at the baccalaureate level,  
160 majors at the master’s level,  
80 majors at the doctoral level, 38  
majors at the first professional  
level, and 18 graduate certificates.  
*OU is number one in the nation  
per capita among public  
universities in the number of  
National Merit Scholars enrolled  
with more than 600 currently  
enrolled at OU.  
*OU has the largest freshman  
class at a four-year public  
university in Oklahoma history.  
More than 10 percent of the entire  
freshman class came from high  
school with a perfect 4.0 grade-  
point average.  
*The Princeton Review ranks OU  
among the best in the nation in  
terms of academic excellence and  
cost for students, and OU is the  
highest-ranked public university  
in the history of Oklahoma  
according to U.S. News and  
World Report.  
*OU’s new 271-acre Research  
Campus is anchored by the  
Stephenson Research and  
Technology Center, where cutting- 
edge research ranging from  
robotics to genomic studies is  
taking place. The National  
Weather Center which houses  
OU’s academic and research  
programs in meteorology and the  
National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration’s  
Norman-based weather, research  
and operations programs is also  
on the Research Campus.  
*A diverse student community is  
a priority at OU. OU ranks  
number one in the Big 12 in  
Native American enrollment and  
continues to be one of the leaders  
in the enrollment of Latin  
American, Asian American and  
African American students. Fall  
2007 URM enrollment increased  
by 3.5%. OU has been recognized  
as an outstanding university for  
Hispanic students by Hispanic  
Outlook in Higher Education  
magazine.  
*OU’s expanded K20 Center  
continues to make more than 500  
schools in Oklahoma in its  
mission of transforming  
kinder-education into technology- 
enriched learning communities  
that motivate, prepare, and  
support students for careers in  
technical and scientific fields.  
*Since 1994, research and  
sponsored programs expenditures  
at OU have more than doubled,  
and OU continues to set new  
records for funding for externally  
sponsored research. OU ended  
FY 2007 with total expenditures  
of more than $250 million which  
provides many opportunities for  
undergraduate and graduate  
student research.  
*OU ranks first in the Big 12  
and at the top in the nation in  
international exchange agreements  
with 174 student exchange agreements  
representing universities in 64  
countries.  
*More than 2,600 students  
participate in the University’s  
Honors College, one of the largest  
honors programs among public  
universities in the United States.  
*OU recently passed the $97  
million mark in its Campaign for  
Scholarship, allowing the  
university to award hundreds of  
new scholarships for qualified  
students.  
*The OU Sooners have won 25  
national championships in men’s  
and women’s sports with the  
latest coming in 2006 when the  
men’s gymnastics team won its  
fourth title in five years. OU was  
the NCAA runner-up in 2001,  
-University of Oklahoma, Office  
Amazing Events
Our scholars are active in research and giving presentations.

OU Summer Bridge Program
In the summer of 2007, the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Engineering launched the Summer Bridge Program, an intensive, three-week experience designed to help incoming freshmen engineering students review calculus level math, engineering problem solving and case studies, gain a solid understanding of available college resources, and how to access those resources before classes begin in the fall. The program was developed by the OU College of Engineering Multicultural Engineering Program and is funded through a three-year, $100,000 grant from Dominion, the nation’s largest producer of energy (www.dom.com).

“Helping Engineers Achieve and Develop for Successful Undergraduate Persistence” (H.E.A.D.S. U.P.) developed student leadership skills, increased calculus readiness, and provided time for teaming and hands on activities. Seventeen students were selected for the program’s first year. They were immersed in college life, living in dorms on the campus, attending classes every day from 8:45 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., and participating in hands-on group projects from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Homework and group projects led into the night with most students finishing around 9 p.m. At the end of the three weeks, all participants showed significant improvement in math skills.

For more information regarding this and other related programs, please contact the Diversity Programs office at the College of Engineering at (405) 325-5361.

National Science Foundation JAM
Held August 12-15, 2007, in Washington, D.C., the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) of the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Human Resource Development Division was a great opportunity for Dr. Mitchell to visit with other leaders and scholars of NSF programs from across the nation including other LSAMP programs. Dr. Simin Pulat and the University of Oklahoma Bridge to Doctorate Fellows were also in attendance. While there, Dr. Mitchell met and visited with Dr. Henrietta Mann from Montana State University (pictured with Dr. Hicks on the left and Dr. Mitchell on the right). Dr. Mann is a Native from Oklahoma and was one of the keynote speakers at this year’s meeting.

Graduate Student Research Symposium
The 4th Annual Graduate Research in the Biological Sciences Symposium was held September 27-28, 2007, in the Noble Research Center, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater campus. The competition included 12 oral and 11 poster presenters. The turnout was quite diverse with the participants representing five Oklahoma State University (OSU) colleges and 10 different departments across the OSU system. The oral session was concluded with a seminar from guest speaker, Dr. Carol Webb, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. The awards presentation followed the seminar by Dr. Robert Tabita, Ohio State University. This event was made possible by the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Graduate Student Association (BMBGSA), the Symposium Coordination Committee, the judges and this year’s participants as well as the generous funding provided by the Vice President of Research and Technology Transfer, the Division of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources, the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association along with the support of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology faculty and staff. This event will be held at approximately the same time next year. For more information, visit the BMBGSA website: www.orgs.okstate.edu/bmbgsa/. The first place winners are shown with Dr. Robert Tabita.

- Jacob Manjarrez, President of BMBGSA, 2007 and OK-LSAMP Bridge to Doctorate Fellow.

Oral Competition: 1st Place
Samodha Fernando

Poster Competition: 1st Place
Shawn Daley
13th Annual Research Symposium

Held on Saturday, September 15, 2007, the Symposium was a great success. We had 19 students register for oral presentations and 19 students register poster presentations.

Earl D. Mitchell, Jr., Ph.D., spoke to the students about Research Integrity. It is important for ethics and integrity to be common practice when conducting research. Dr. Mitchell shared information and some of his research experiences with the scholars and mentors.

Above: Thomas Kantowski from TU
Right: Audrey Myers from ECU

Opening Session

Keynote Speaker

Shelley Wear from the Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) came to the 13th Annual Research Symposium to speak about the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR). For years, EPSCoR has partnered with OK-LSAMP to send scholars to NCUR to present their research. This is a wonderful opportunity for our scholars to share their research with other undergraduates as well as faculty and mentors from across the nation.

Oral Presentations

Presentations covered a variety of topics such as: “First Principles Calculations of DNA Dispersal of Carbon Nanotubes” presented by Calvin Hawkins, LU; “Expression, Purification, and Characterization of a Protein from the Insect Lipid Droplets, LSD1” presented by Laticia Rivera, OSU; Learning in On-Line Simulation Environment vs. Lecture Based On-Line Learning: A Comparison” presented by Annette Moulder (pictured), CU; and “Self-Righting Robot” presented by Courtney Palmer, TU.

Poster Presentations

Poster presentations included: “Genotype and Growth Regulator Dependency in Peanut Emergence Shoot Determination” presented by Kariel Ross, LU (pictured); Direct Write Printing of Dental Appliances” presented by S. Brett Walker, OSU; “Development of a Method to Map Chromatin Architecture in Yeast” presented by Miranda Knight-Brown, NSU; and “Thermodynamics of the Zinc-Oxygen-Hydrogen System” presented by Audrey Myers, ECU.

Graduate School Reps

Tina Marie Franks from the University of Oklahoma (far left) and Mike Heppler from Oklahoma State University (3rd from left) attended the Symposium and set up graduate school recruitment tables. The scholars and other attendants were able to ask questions about the options that OU and OSU have for graduate school programs. Based on current data, 55% of OK-LSAMP students have been admitted to graduate school (more on page 11). This is a great success for the Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.
Amazing Alumni: Where Are They Now?

OK-LSAMP is proud of our Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation alumni and would like to share some of their successes.

“I’m very thankful for the support of OKAMP during my undergraduate years at the University of Tulsa.” - Daniel H. Wilson

Daniel H. Wilson

In 2000, Daniel H. Wilson received his Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science from the University of Tulsa. Daniel went on to earn a Master’s Degree in Machine Learning, and a Master’s Degree and a Doctorate Degree in Robotics from Carnegie Mellon University. Daniel interned at Microsoft Research, the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), Northrop Grumman, & Intel Research, Seattle. Daniel is a contributing editor for Popular Mechanics and a successful novelist. His first book, How to Survive a Robot Uprising, won a Rave Award as Best Book of 2006, and the movie rights have been optioned by Paramount Pictures. Where’s My Jetpack? has recently been published, and How to Build a Robot Army is scheduled for release this fall. Daniel is currently working on two young adult novels and a screenplay for Nickelodeon Movies.

For more on Daniel, go to: danielhwilson.com

Tambrastevenson

Tambrastevenson received her Bachelor’s Degree in Human Nutrition from Oklahoma State University. She earned her Master’s Degree in Health Communication from Tufts School of Medicine/Emerson College Joint Program. Tambrastevenson has also completed coursework in Healthcare Marketing and Entrepreneurial Management at Boston University Graduate School of Management.

She has interned at Hill Holiday, CBS Healthwatch, the 2003 Ad Club of Boston Summer Internship Program, and the Boston Black Women’s Health Institute. Tambrastevenson’s Master’s Project was the YOH Health Study which is creating a youth-centered, multicultural health career website for the Tufts public health program. Her most recent project is Postcards from Katrina.

For more on Tambrastevenson, go to: tambrastevenson.com/bio.html or profiles.takingitglobal.org/pfkcreator

Kara & Levica Chapman

Kara and Levica Chapman (twin sisters) received their Bachelor’s Degrees in Physics from East Central University. In 2004, Kara and Levica were members of the Physics Club that won a Chapter Challenge competition sponsored by the National Society of Physics Students. The project was to create a video about Einstein’s Twin Paradox. Currently, Kara and Levica are both working on Ph.D.’s at Texas A & M.

Adrian Casias

Adrian Casias graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2000 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemical Engineering. In January of 2002, he received a Master’s Degree in Chemical Engineering from Stanford University.

Adrian held summer internships at Sandia National Laboratories in 1998 and 1999 and continues to work for them. Adrian has worked with weapons packaging such as Low Temperature Co-fired Ceramics (LTCC), High Temperature Co-fired Ceramics (HTCC), Thin Films (TKN), MEMS, microfluidic and/or optical integration, and other prototype applications.

Mike Hollinger

Mike Hollinger received his Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Engineering from the University of Oklahoma (OU) in 2004. Completing the five-year accelerated BS/MS program in 2005, he received his Master’s Degree in Electrical & Computer Engineering. Following graduation, Mike joined IBM’s Systems & Technology Group, working in IBM’s Austin, TX design center. He currently specializes in embedded systems firmware for the IBM System i & p lines of servers. Since joining the company, Mike has several patents pending. In addition to his "day job," Mike is also an officer of IBM Austin’s Emerging Technology and Business Innovation group leading periodic invention roundtables and brainstorming sessions. Mike currently serves as a member of the Dean’s Advisory Board on Diversity (DABD) at OU and serves as alumni reviewer for the Student Organization Website Competition.

Tiffany Frietze

Tiffany Frietze received her Bachelor’s degree in Microbiology from Oklahoma State University in 2003. She received her Master of Public Health in Community Health Education Degree from New Mexico State University in 2006. Tiffany also became a Certified Health Education Specialist in April of 2006. She is currently in Cheney, Washington as Health Education Coordinator for the Health, Wellness, & Prevention Services Team at Eastern Washington University (EWU). In this position, Tiffany is responsible for organizing the health initiatives and programming on campus. She also serves as an advisor for two peer education groups.

For more, you can visit the Eastern Washington University website at ewu.edu/x336.xml
Where Are You Now?

Are you an OK-LSAMP alum? We want to hear about where you are and what you have accomplished since participating in an OKAMP program.

Please fill out this sheet and send it back to us. You may fold and mail it, fax it to 405-744-5576, or email it to fara@okstate.edu. You may also call 405-744-7820. We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact Information:

Name: ___________________________ Home Phone Number: __________________________ Email Address: __________________________

Home Address: __________________________________________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: _________ Postal Code: __________________________

Program Participation Date(s) and Institution(s):

Summer Bridge Program (high school or other college/university transition): ______________________________________________

Scholars Program __________________________________________________________________________________________________

Summer Research Internship Program __________________________________________________________________________________

Bridge to Doctorate Program __________________________________________________________________________________________

Other OK-LSAMP Program ___________________________________________________________________________________________

Degrees: (Please list even if still in progress - use the projected graduation date.)

Bachelor’s Degree: ____________________________________________________________

Date: (Semester and Year) ______________ Institution: _____________________________

Master’s Degree: _____________________________________________________________

Date: (Semester and Year) ______________ Institution: _____________________________

Graduate Degree: _____________________________________________________________

Date: (Semester and Year) ______________ Institution: _____________________________

Current Employment Information:

Business Name: ___________________________ Business Title: __________________________

Business Address: __________________________________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: _________ Postal Code: __________________________

Business Phone: ___________________________ Work Description: ______________________

Additional Information and comments: __________________________________________________________________________________

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Fold on lines and tape or staple closed for mailing.

OK-LSAMP
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Retention and Graduate School

Rosemary Hayes, the Center for Institutional Data Exchange and Analysis at the University of Oklahoma, serves as the Program Evaluator for the Oklahoma Alliance for Minority Participation. In a written report for the 2007 Performance Effectiveness Review, Rosemary makes the following observations:

“The most currently available data shows that 55% of participating OK-LSAMP students were identified as having been admitted to graduate school. In addition...the overall six-year graduation rate (both in any major and specifically in a STEM major) for first-time full-time underrepresented minority freshmen who start off as STEM majors within the LS-OKAMP Alliance is higher than the national average for URM (underrepresented minorities) STEM students.”

“The OK-LSAMP institutions have improved from a low of 49% first year retention of URM students within STEM to 55.6% first-year retention over the course of 1997-2005. This is significant improvement overtime.” (See table at right.)

“The LS-OKAMP Alliance continues to demonstrate success in developing graduate school ready underrepresented minority STEM students (URM STEM). The OK-LSAMP Alliance six year graduation rate for URM STEM majors both in any major and specifically within STEM fields are higher than the national average for URM STEM majors according to the latest 2006-07 CSRDE study on STEM retention and graduation."

Future Amazing Events

★46th American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Aerospace Sciences Meeting and Exhibit, January 7-10, 2008, Reno, Nevada; for more information, go to: aiaa.org/content.cfm?pageid=230&elumeetingid=1065
★American Phytopathological Society Southern Division Meeting, February 2-5, 2008, Dallas, Texas; for more information, go to: cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/activities/societies/aps/SouthernAPS.html
★National Society of Black Engineers National Convention, March 19-23, 2008, Orlando, Florida; for more information, go to: nsb.org/convention/events.html
★Oklahoma Academy of Science Spring Field Meeting, April, 2008, TBA, Oklahoma; for more information, go to: oas.ucok.edu/page4.html
★National Conference for Undergraduate Research, April 10-12, 2008, Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland; for more information, go to: salisbury.edu/ncur22/
★More Graduate Education at Mountain States Alliance (MGE@MSA) & Western Alliance to Expand Student Opportunities (WAESO) Student Research Conference, April 21, 2008, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona; for more information, go to: https://mge-p1000.asu.edu/mge_conf/
★Don’t forget to begin searching out and applying for summer 2008 internships.

Pictured on front cover: Dr. Simin Pulat from the University of Oklahoma (left) visits with 13th Annual Symposium attendees.

Wayne Steen: Many of you fondly remember Wayne Steen and his commitment to minority students at the University of Oklahoma. Wayne Steen passed away suddenly in March 2007. Through Wayne's family, former students and the Dean's Advisory Board on Diversity, a scholarship fund has been established to ensure his life-long legacy of helping minority students continues. If you would like to make a memorial contribution, gifts may be sent to the University of Oklahoma Foundation Inc. (100 Timberdell Road, Norman, OK 73019) Attn: Wayne Steen Memorial Scholarship, Fund 42138.
**Our Mission:** The Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (OK-LSAMP) is a consortium of Oklahoma colleges and universities working together to develop programs aimed at increasing the number of students from under-represented populations who receive degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

**Our Goals:** In 2004, we entered Phase III of the OK-LSAMP Program. In this phase, the primary goals focus on the expansion of undergraduate research experiences, intense graduate school preparation, and entrance into doctoral programs.

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*If you know of an amazing* person such as an outstanding mentor, excellent presenter/author, new doctorate grad, award winner, former OK-LSAMP student, and/or just an especially dedicated person; place such as a campus, lab/research facility, or locations of conferences and/or symposiums; event such as symposiums, research days, conferences, specific presentations, or other places of interest; please let me know. Be sure to include as many details as possible about the person, place, or event, and contact information for you in case I have questions or need more information. I look forward to creating future issues to keep everyone informed on the Amazing People, Places, and Events of the Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Thank you. Fara Williams

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