Backgrounder

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Oct. 11, 2011 Victoria Massey

Director of Media Relations

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**Iconic Student Union Receives Dedication Ceremony**

In the 1930s, President Henry Bennett envisioned a Student Union accessible to students, faculty and staff. In 1950, his vision became tangible when Oklahoma State University’s Student Union became open students, faculty and staff. The building holds multiple administrative offices such as the Office of the Bursar, Office of the Registrar, Student Life, as well as the student bookstore, clothing store and a dining and study area for students.

The Student Union renovation started in 2005 when a committee assessed the needs of the students, faculty and staff at OSU. As a result, thorough research showed the Student Union did not meet the standards former President Henry Bennett once envisioned. The building lacked an adequate student bookstore, minimal physical accessibility, inefficient use of space and the continuous exterior aging started to show.

In January 2010, construction began on the exterior and interior of the Student Union and later that year, many offices relocated. In the fall of 2011, students, faculty and staff will regain full access to the building and many of its new amenities.

Oct. 11, 2011

Mr. Richard Mize

Real Estate Editor

The Daily Oklahoman

P.O. Box 25125

Oklahoma City, OK 73125

Dear Mr. Mize,

In 1937, President Henry Bennett created a vision. He desired a place where students could escape to cultivate their intellectual spirit, a place to enhance their cultural understanding and to fulfill students’ need to be socially involved. On Oct. 30, 2011, Oklahoma State University will continue President Bennett’s legacy by celebrating the newly renovated Student Union.

I believe this would be a great story in *The Daily Oklahoman*. The story of Oklahoma State University’s Student Union is a timepiece to OSU, as well as Oklahoma’s, rich history. Your stories in the real estate section of *The Daily Oklahoman* embody both history and celebration of Oklahoma’s land. I think this intertwines well with the story of OSU’s historical Student Union.

We are offering the Student Union’s dedication ceremony story exclusively to *The Daily Oklahoman*, so please let me know soon if you are interested. I am aware you are a bimonthly magazine and am willing to work swiftly and will be able to meet any needs you have to produce the story. I can help you arrange interviews with OSU alumni, staff of the Student Union and administrative officials. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance to your or your staff. To contact me directly, please call 405-397-5554.

I will call on Monday, Oct. 14, 2011 to see if I can help with the development of the Student Union’s story. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Victoria Massey

Director of Media Relations

News Release

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**Iconic Student Union Receives Dedication Ceremony**

Stillwater, Okla.— Oklahoma State University’s historical Student Union will receive a dedication ceremony upon its opening Oct. 30, 2011. The Student Union renovation committee welcomes students, faculty, alumni and the general public to attend the event, and it will be held Friday Oct. 14, 2011 at 4 p.m. on the north side of the building. In April 2010, the building began the exterior and interior renovation. The Student Union is the central and most used building on campus, housing important administrative offices and student life essentials.

In 2005, The Board of Regents approved an $86 million budget, as well as a new student fee to raise $43 million. “The Student Union is a historical monument for OSU,” OSU President Burns Hargis said in an interview, “ it signifies the important traditions at OSU created by President Henry Bennett.”

“We are proud to present the new facility to the students and staff.” OSU Student Union director, Mitch Kilcrease said in a statement to The Daily O’Collegian, “ It gives us great pleasure to attend the dedication ceremony where we will honor those who strive to make OSU better each day.”

If information is needed, contact Victoria Massey by e-mail at victoria.massey@okstate.edu or by phone at 405-397-5554.

Fact Sheet

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**Iconic Student Union Receives Dedication Ceremony**

What: Oklahoma State University’s Student Union will receive a dedication ceremony.

President Burns Hargis will cut a ribbon to celebrate the opening of the OSU’s newly renovated Student Union.

Who: The Board of Regents and OSU President Burns Hargis will formally dedicate the Student Union to the students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Where: The north side of Oklahoma State University’s Student Union in Stillwater, Okla.

When: Oct. 30, 2011 at 11 a.m.

Why: “The Student Union is a product of the vision of former President Henry Bennett and we are striving to keep it a historical building in the future,” President Hargis said.

Reference Page

1. Union.okstate.edu/renovation

2. http://union.okstate.edu/renovation/ProjectTimeline.htm

3. http://union.okstate.edu/renovation/Need.htm

4. http://union.okstate.edu/renovation/BuildingHistory.htm

5. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Student\_Union\_-\_Oklahoma\_State\_University.jpg