

## Oklahoma Innovations Radio Show

Air Date: April 5, 2009

Guest: **Hershel Lamirand**, president and CEO, Oklahoma Health Center

[ Music ]

>> From the OCAST Radio Network, this is "Oklahoma Innovations", a weekly science and technology radio magazine, brought to you as a service of OCAST, the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology. OCAST is the state's only agency whose sole focus is technology, its development, transfer, and commercialization. OCAST's mission is to identify and fund promising research in technologies that allow Oklahoma to compete in a global-market economy from our own backyard. This program features some of the state's most gifted and talented scientists, investors, entrepreneurs, manufacturers, and business leaders who all have one common goal: developing technology-based economic growth for all Oklahomans. Now, here are your hosts, Gary Owen and Steve Paris.

>> **Steve Paris:** Hey, Gary. How you doing, buddy?

>> **Gary Owen:** What are we applauding? Yes, thank you very much.

>> **Steve Paris:** [laughs] Yeah.

>> **Gary Owen:** Well, well, well, well, well, well, well. Things are [popping sound] popping up out of the ground.

>> **Steve Paris:** Yes, they are. It's springtime in Oklahoma.

>> **Gary Owen:** Yeah, it is springtime in Oklahoma. Weird, weird weather.

>> **Steve Paris:** Well.

>> **Gary Owen:** Snow one weekend. Rain the next day. Wind. It, it's just crazy.

>> **Steve Paris:** And the difference between 6 or 8 or 10 inches of snow could be just 30 or 40 miles.

>> **Gary Owen:** And you know what, what I liked about it? It was here and gone. So it wasn't around [crosstalk] -

>> **Steve Paris:** It certainly was.

>> **Gary Owen:** We desperately needed that moisture. I'm sure farmers all over the state and ranchers all are going, thank you, thank you. So hopefully the wheat crop will look good.

>> **Steve Paris:** Yeah, except for maybe the ones up around Alva, who are still maybe snowbound a little. [laughs]

>> **Gary Owen:** Yeah. Yeah. Well, no, I doubt it.

>> **Steve Paris:** Hit pretty hard.

>> **Gary Owen:** They're probably, I'm sure they're out of it by now. That was a week ago, you know. I'm sure -

>> **Steve Paris:** That's right. Yeah.

>> **Gary Owen:** I'm sure they're out of it now.

>> **Steve Paris:** I bet there's still snow on the ground up there, though.

>> **Gary Owen:** You think so?

>> **Steve Paris:** Twenty-four inches deep. It doesn't go away fast.

>> **Gary Owen:** Ah, yeah. Well the temperatures, it'll soak in good.

>> **Steve Paris:** OK. OK.

>> **Gary Owen:** What's going on at OCAST this week?

>> **Steve Paris:** Gary, we've got a lot going on at OCAST. Of course, we just funded a round of R&D, rural, our research and, and, well, our intern partnership program. We had three who won, and each of them get \$60,000 for each of two years.

>> **Gary Owen:** Wow.

>> **Steve Paris:** Now, there's more than one student involved in these projects. So let me explain how this works. First of all, we have applications that come in from, from students by way of their professors at whatever college or university they're attending. And we also work with those professors in finding private sector companies, small businesses who sponsor these student interns, and one of the things we have them do is make sure that, OK, Mr. Employer, you're not hiring these young people to carry out the trash or to mop your floors. You're hiring them to do R&D, research and development.

>> **Gary Owen:** That's right.

>> **Steve Paris:** And we want them to be working in the area where they were trained because they have some very, very highly technical training that has occurred in our colleges and universities, and we want that to, to be fleshed out so to speak so that these students get a chance to actually use it in a, in a real setting. Our goal, of course, is to help these students get more training, but also to give them an opportunity to maybe to stay in Oklahoma, and many times that happens. They're employers that we work with often hire these students to be permanent employees. Some of them are even running some of their companies now after about eight years or ten years of experience in doing this. We've had nearly 600 students across the state who have gone through this program. And the three that, that were most, you know, recently were approved, one was from the University of Tulsa, another from Oklahoma State University, and the OSU Multispectral Laboratory, which has a presence in the Ponca City area. So, so we've got three major areas that are represented here, and we've had, we've got them all over the state. This is just the last three. This is where they were, they came from, and what we do is we pay half the cost. The private sector company pays the other half, and the professor who's involved monitors the process to make sure the students are being utilized properly, and it is a learning experience for them. So, that's one of the most recent things that happened, and we also have a round of OARS, Oklahoma Applied Research Support. That is, we're going to announce on the next show. So, you'll be hearing more about that, you know, next week.

>> **Gary Owen:** I got to tell you I got a chance to take a look in depth at your new website, and I encourage our audience to do that. There's a link, by the way, when you go the website right on the home page. It says "Services". Right there, you'll see listen to audio or radio broadcast, and you'll, you'll pick up on it. Also information there about all the workshops that, that will be

coming down the pike. And service providers that are partnered with OCAST. You can explore more about the interim partnerships and all kinds of wonderful things. What I really like about the layout of this website, it's colorful, lots of great photographs there, lots of good information for the public. You'll get to see the calendar of events and all kinds of programs that OCAST is involved with. By the way, our show this week, we're going to be talking with a guest who's going to inform us and bring us up to date on the Oklahoma Health Center, and exciting stuff going on there.

>> **Steve Paris:** Very exciting. You're going to be hearing about something that maybe some of you know about, but a lot of people don't know, you know, the straight skinny about the Oklahoma Health Center Foundation and, and the Health Center itself. Now, we're going to hear more about that from Hershel Lamirand, who we're going to introduce here in just a minute.

>> **Gary Owen:** You know what Earth Hour was?

>> **Steve Paris:** Sure.

>> **Gary Owen:** It was a big success, and -

>> **Steve Paris:** The lights went out.

>> **Gary Owen:** The lights went out, and it looks like it was a, a huge success. Organization called the World Wildlife Fund said that a day after hundreds of millions of people worldwide followed its call to turn off the lights for a full hour, they felt like it was, it was quite successful. The event began in Australia in 2007 and grew last year to 400 cities worldwide. The world's first ever global vote about the future of our planet. From an Antarctic research base and the great plains of Egypt and the Coliseum in Rome and to the Empire State Building in New York, illuminated patches of the globe went dark a week ago Saturday to highlight the threat of climate change, and they said nearly 4,000 cities and towns in 88 countries dimmed non-essential lights from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. So hats off to those folks. Now, we had Earth Hour. Of course, we've got to talk about Earth Day.

>> **Steve Paris:** Of course.

>> **Gary Owen:** You know, it was Earth Day in 1983 when President Bill Clinton launched his ambitious Greening the White House project. That effort saved more than 1.4 million dollars in its first six years largely from improvements in lighting, heating, air conditioning, insulation, water sprinklers, and other measures. Well, the President Barack Obama is going to find out two things as he studies how to make the White House more environmentally friendly. First, as I just said, it's already been done, and of course, it needs to be done again. And so, the Obama family has already taken some action to set an eco-example of the nation. Of course, we know that First Lady, Michelle Obama, recently broke ground for an organic herb and vegetable garden on the South Lawn of the White House. The Obamas have installed an environmentally-friendly wooden swing set for their children on the White House grounds, and you say, so. Well, cushioning underfoot is made from recycled rubber tires.

>> **Steve Paris:** Wow. Great idea.

>> **Gary Owen:** Now, Obama isn't ready to give details of his broader Go Green plans for the White House, but administration officials report that small steps are underway like the housekeeping staff is making the switch to greener cleaning supplies. So, you know, and, and the groundskeepers, they're using greener products wherever possible.

>> **Steve Paris:** And let me, let me make one minor correction on that. Just -

>> **Gary Owen:** OK.

>> **Steve Paris:** Just for those out there who catch those kinds of things. You said it was 1983 when President Clinton -

>> **Gary Owen:** I meant 93.

>> **Steve Paris:** That's right. It was 93.

>> **Gary Owen:** Did I say 83?

>> **Steve Paris:** Yeah, you did.

>> **Gary Owen:** I'm sorry. I meant 93.

>> **Steve Paris:** That's alright. I make, make a lot worse mistakes, thank you.

>> **Gary Owen:** That was, that was my [crosstalk]. I meant 93.

>> **Steve Paris:** We're, we're real people, and they know that. We can handle that.

>> **Gary Owen:** [crosstalk] They're going, he's not awake yet. Anyway, NASA gave visitors the, to the National Ball and, the National Mall in Washington a peak at a full-size mockup of the spacecraft designed to carry U.S. astronauts back to the moon and then onto Mars one day. The U.S. Navy built Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle. It will replace the space shuttle NASA plans to retire in 2010 and become the cornerstone of the agency's Constellation program to explore the moon, Mars, and beyond. Do I hear "Star Trek" here somewhere?

>> **Steve Paris:** Oh oh.

>> **Gary Owen:** Well, anyway. NASA plans to use Orion to carry astronauts to the International Space Station by 2015. The capsule will rotate the crew at the station every six months to work out the kinks before heading to the moon and Mars. Trips to the moon are scheduled for 2020 while a journey to Mars is believed possible by the mid-2030's when Steve and I will be retired.

>> **Steve Paris:** Well, maybe not. Who knows.

>> **Gary Owen:** Well, you think about it. That's, you know, that's quite a ways off. Well, anyway. And in a related story, six volunteers from Europe and Russia allowed themselves to be locked up in a capsule in Moscow, and over three months they're going to simulate the conditions of an eventual manned mission to Mars. The two Europeans and four Russians will not be allowed to leave the facility until their mission ends in a little over a 100 days allowing scientists to assess the psychological effects of long-duration space flight. Of course, far from being a version of the TV reality show "Big Brother", without the cameras, the project is seen as a serious scientific experiment that will show the impact of prolonged isolation on stress, hormones, sleep, and mood. Mood of the six men who will all be allowed to take their personal effects like books, laptops, and DVD's in to the facility. And this is being done at the Russia's Institute of Biomedical Problems in Moscow. And it says otherwise, these guys are just going to be sealed from the world. They will not be able to do anything outside of that environment. And according to the strict rules for the experiment set up, set out by the IBMP, the volunteers can only quit the capsule if they've decided to pull out of the experiment for good.

>> **Steve Paris:** I'd be gone by the end of day one.

>> **Gary Owen:** Well, I know I would probably by a week. In some medical news, heart attack patients who are already taking the right medicines to prevent future problems get no added benefit from taking fish oil capsules according to a large study recently in Germany. The study tested a one gram daily dose of a prescription version of highly-purified Omega-3 fatty acid, the good fat contained in certain oily fish that is thought to help the heart. Researchers at the University of Heidelberg gave fish oil or dummy capsules to more than 3,800 people who had suffered a heart attack in the previous two weeks. About 90 percent were already receiving all the medicines recommended to prevent a second heart attack including aspirin, anti-clogging, clotting, and cholesterol drugs. Well, after a year, it made no difference whether these patients took fish oil or dummy capsules. However, the research doesn't mean that fish oil is of no value, and the study didn't address whether it can help prevent heart disease in the first place. What have you got?

>> **Steve Paris:** Well, our next guest is what I have.

>> **Gary Owen:** OK.

>> **Steve Paris:** You have anything else to read?

>> **Gary Owen:** I really don't. I, I think that's -

>> **Steve Paris:** Well, you know, [crosstalk] that gives us more time to talk with Hershel Lamirand, and I think you're really going to enjoy this. We've got one minute, is that right?

>> **Gary Owen:** Right.

>> **Steve Paris:** Well, I'm going to give him a cursory introduction since we just have one more minute left in the segment. Hershel, Hershel Lamirand is president and CEO of the Oklahoma Health Center Foundation. Now, we're going to let him explain what that's all about, but it's very, very important, and Hershel, in the next 25 seconds or so, give us kind of a capsule, just who you are. Then we'll talk about more about that in the next segment.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** I'm just a local Oklahoma City boy.

>> **Steve Paris:** Oklahoma City boy, right.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Born and raised right here.

>> **Steve Paris:** Well.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Now, the Health Center Foundation is that area that generally folk think of between Lincoln and Lottie between 13th and 8th Street.

>> **Steve Paris:** There you go.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** So, lots of people call it the Health Sciences Center, and a lot of people call it the OU Health Sciences Center.

>> **Steve Paris:** There you go.

>> **Gary Owen:** Oh.

>> **Steve Paris:** And it's big.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** It's only 13,000 employees.

>> **Steve Paris:** Well, just -

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** [crosstalk] It's only the second largest industry in the state.

>> **Gary Owen:** That's nothing. There's [inaudible] employees. That's nothing.

>> **Steve Paris:** Oh, yeah, right.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Highest per capita income in the state.

>> **Gary Owen:** Now, that's saying a lot. [Crosstalk]

>> **Steve Paris:** Those are top-quality jobs, right?

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Quality jobs.

>> **Gary Owen:** I'm just kidding, folks. Just kidding. Well, Hershel, we have so much to talk about. We want to give you plenty of time to do that. So we'll going to take our little average break we do here in the program. We'll come back and talk more about this wonderful medical faculty when we return on "Oklahoma Innovations".

[ Music ]

>> It began more than one hundred years ago. Making buddy whips in the small little community of Hobart, Oklahoma. Today, that same company is still in business turning out nearly 40 million wheel and axle seals a year. That's a lot of change in 100 years. The Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, or OCAST, in association with organizations like the Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence helps manufacturers across the state compete in a global economy while at the same time developing a technology-driven economy for Oklahoma communities. Armed with information, education, resources, and partnerships that improve manufacture, productivity, and profitability with cutting-edge technologies, OCAST and its affiliates work hard for Oklahoma's technology-based economic development. Investing, partnering, and promoting the development of science and technology. That's what OCAST is all about. For more information, call 866-265-2215. OCAST - whipping technology into shape so Oklahoman manufacturers can seal up business.

Now in its 14th year, this is "Oklahoma Innovations" on the OCAST radio network. [Music]

>> **Gary Owen:** The Oklahoma Health Center, a consortium of 29 private educational, governmental, and non-profit organizations located on nearly 300 acres just south of the capital complex in Oklahoma City. And Steve, we have the President and CEO of the Oklahoma Health Center Foundation with us today.

>> **Steve Paris:** Yes, we do, Gary. And this gentleman has a history in, in this industry, but he also has a political history. He's been involved in, in politics in the past, and he's done a lot of other things he's going to tell us about. But, be, before we go into that, I, I want to kind of focus on the Health Center. Now, this is out of Oklahoma City. Central Oklahoma, but be advised that probably if anybody in your family has a major disease that, that can be dealt with by any number of, of firms or the OU Health Sciences Center or any, you know, the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Presbyterian Health Foundation, all these are either involved in or, or in close proximity to the Oklahoma Health Center. So it's not just an Oklahoma City deal.

>> **Gary Owen:** Right, right.

>> **Steve Paris:** It happens to be located in Oklahoma City, but I, I would challenge that there's probably patients and people who benefit from every corner of this state from this facility, and it

is one humongous facility, and that goes, goes to Hershel, you know, the idea that got it started. Let's go back to the history of the Oklahoma Health Center. Give us some of that history.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Well, let's go back to 1964.

>> **Steve Paris:** OK.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Interestingly enough, that's when the Health Center as we think of it today kind of got its start. Actually, the, the Center was a combination, as most everyone knows, of at that time they called it Cripple Children's Hospital and the University Hospital and the like, and that was, that was really where it's beginnings were back in the late teens, early 20's. But when it got, when it really got its, its stuff going was in 1964 when five city fathers, so to speak, traveled to Houston, Texas to take a look at the Texas Medical Center. And as they looked at the Texas Medical Center, the five of them made a very astute observation. They thought Oklahoma, the people of Oklahoma should have that same kind of resource that the Texas Medical Center had, which at that time did include M.B. Anderson [assumed spelling] and Baylor [assumed spelling] and some of the other things. Not anything like what it is today with 80,000 employees working there. But that's where it got its start. The five city fathers kicked it off, and one of those guys is still living. Stanton Young, who was the baby of the group, and he is quite active and still participates in almost everything that goes on out there. He's quite a, quite a fellow.

>> **Steve Paris:** Well, you know a man's important when they name a street after him.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** [crosstalk] Before he dies.

>> **Steve Paris:** Yeah. Before he dies, and so Stanton has a street here in Oklahoma City that's named, and, and, and thousands of people everyday use that street. So it's -

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Absolutely. And buildings also. Several buildings named after him.

>> **Steve Paris:** Exactly. OK. So they got the idea from Texas.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** They did.

>> **Steve Paris:** And I'm sure they came, and said we can beat that.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Oh, no. There was no doubt about it. We're still, we're still after it.

>> **Steve Paris:** With, with apologies for our listeners in the Wichita Falls area. That's just a joke. We're just kidding, folks. We love Texas.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Oh, we love Baja, Oklahoma a lot as a matter of fact, and -

>> **Steve Paris:** You can, you can tell that Hershel is an OU fan.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Yeah. I, I'm, I bleed crimson and green.

>> **Steve Paris:** There you go. OK. By the way, we're, we're a bipartisan radio show. We do have people from OSU here too [inaudible].

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** I'm pro-SU every game except one. [laughter] Got you, my friend, got you.

>> **Steve Paris:** I think they'd say the same thing.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** They do. Well, some of them. [laughter]

>> **Steve Paris:** There you go. Well, you know, there's some interesting facts about the Oklahoma Health Center. It's 300 acres. It's just south of the state capital, as Gary mentioned earlier, and it's east of downtown Oklahoma City, and it's just a few blocks from the heart of the central business district. It's real close to Bricktown. And you've got, it's, it's not just the OU Health Sciences Center, although that's a huge part of it.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** It's the second largest employer we have.

>> **Steve Paris:** Yeah.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** In the health complex. Actually the hospitals as we know as OU Med Center are actually the largest employer we have right now.

>> **Steve Paris:** Yeah. And you, you talk about those jobs. Thirteen thousand people.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Thirteen thousand folks.

>> **Steve Paris:** Now, if those people all of a sudden, heaven forbid, if they were to, those jobs were to cease to exist, that would be a major hole in the state, not just the city, but the state's economy.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** There would probably, you know, when you stop and think about the gross product that comes from the Health Center, it's only challenged by Tinker Field, and so consequently when you think of it in those terms, it is the trickle down from the Health Center is incredible. We've done a lot of studies on it, and the numbers are important, but they're such huge numbers that we oftentimes billions lose, lose track of what the, people lose track of what that means.

>> **Steve Paris:** Yeah. And the last number I had, and it's probably an old number, but 1.7 billion. Is it higher than that now?

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Oh, yeah. It's considerably higher. OK.

>> **Steve Paris:** So I'm, I'm giving some information that's a little bit out of date here. But, but we're talking about a major impact on the entire state's economy.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** It's close to three billion.

>> **Steve Paris:** It's close to three? Wow, I'm way behind. At any rate, now, you're job as President and CEO of the Oklahoma Health Center Foundation, and I know you're active in a lot of different organizations, tell us about the Health Center Foundation.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** The Health Center Foundation was started by Stanton Young and Dean McGee and Harvey P. Everest and Dr. Don O'Donoghue and, and the others, E.K. Gaylord, and they, they put the word "foundation" on there because it was helpful as they were raising money to build it. It was also helpful in recruiting money from Washington, from the state, and from what turned out to be the hero bond issue that was -

>> **Steve Paris:** Yeah.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Passed in the seven, early 70's. The, the word "foundation" was meaningful. We're probably more tuned to the word the Oklahoma Health Center. End of story. Just like the Texas Medical Center. End of story. But we've kept that because we think so highly of, of the folks that started it, and probably sometime before we all retire we'll probably hear it the Oklahoma Health Center.

>> **Steve Paris:** Oklahoma Health Center.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Yeah.

>> **Steve Paris:** Some, some day that decision -

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** That, that'll be right, yeah.

>> **Steve Paris:** You bet. And, and before we, you know, we've talked about money. We've talked about employing people, and, and that kind of thing, but, but let's not forget that the main thing that, the reason it's there is to provide cutting-edge health care for Oklahomans and the nation, right?

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** That's one of the principle purposes. Research and development, of course, and education are the, the others. We provide patient care, of course, and that's one of the big assets, but our mission really is to provide all three of those things. So.

>> **Steve Paris:** We're going to let you talk about more about that here in just a little bit. Gary, I think we're getting close to the end of our segment.

>> **Gary Owen:** We are, which this is always the short segment of our show because, because that's the way the clock is, but we would like for you to stay with us because there's a lot of interesting information that we think you will benefit from and get more educated about the Oklahoma Health Center. Our guest, Hershel Lamirand, I can't, that's hard, hard to get that, it's almost a tongue twister. [laughter] And he is the president and CEO of the Oklahoma Health Center Foundation, and great faculty located in Oklahoma City. Stay with us. Lots more to come on your science radio magazine, "Oklahoma Innovations".

[ Music ]

>> This is Oklahoma's science radio magazine, "Oklahoma Innovations", with Gary Owen and Steve Paris, on the OCAST radio network.

>> Science and technology affects nearly every aspect of our daily lives. Everything we use had to be developed or invented. What would our lives be like without science, research, and development? We'd most likely still be living in the dark ages. OCAST, the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, provides competitive funding for cutting-edge Oklahoma research and development. In fact, OCAST is Oklahoma's only agency whose sole focus is technology, its development, transfer, and commercialization. Our goal is to diversify and improve Oklahoma business while helping build a solid technology-based economy. The technology developed by world-class Oklahoma researchers is a major component of the message to the rest of the world that Oklahoma is open for business. To learn more about how OCAST investments help our state compete and profit from Oklahoma innovations, visit our website. Just type ocast in the search window of your browser. You'll be linked to a world of fascinating discoveries being developed in your own backyard. OCAST, an investment in Oklahoma's future.

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[Music]

>> **Gary Owen:** That last commercial that we just ran talking about biotechnology. Interesting, interestingly enough, biotechnology transfer brings the discoveries of Oklahoma scientists who commercial arena for the use by the worldwide health community. Housed in the Presbyterian Health Foundation Research Park. Emerging and growing companies are creating high-tech jobs for Oklahoma City and Oklahoma. And some of that work being done at the OU Health Center, right.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Absolutely. As a matter of fact, the entire research park is a part of the OU Health Center, or the Oklahoma Health Center.

>> **Gary Owen:** Sure.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Scientists from OMRF, Dean A. McGee, the University, and other scientists find themselves in the research park. Scientists from OSU, believe or not, from other universities and colleges in the state.

>> **Steve Paris:** And one of the things, Hershel, that, that has happened because of the creation of this, of the OU Health Center is, of the people who are domiciled are the companies, the small businesses in addition to OU Health Center. PHF, OMRF, all these others. Wow. You've got a compendium of organizations that have really stepped up and captured money from federal sources and other sources bringing it to Oklahoma, doing research. NIH, National Institutes of Health have, have done a lot of funding of research. You have, you have a feel for that. I mean, I've got a little bit of a concept of, from the OCAST clients who get NIH money, but I don't have a clue about all the others that, because they bring a lot more money too over and above what, what we do.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Well, it's interesting because NIH is misunderstood by a lot of people both locally and nationally, but it's kind of the gold standard.

>> **Steve Paris:** Yes, it is.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** In the, in the research world. It's most, most people take a look at when they're doing something in the commercialization project look to see if those scientists have been funded by NIH, and it's a good, it's a good benchmark, if you would. And, by the way, just there are three major organizations in the Health Center that receive NIH money. The Dean A. McGee Eye Institute.

>> **Steve Paris:** Right.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** The Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, which by the way is considerably the, by, by far the largest recipient. Of course, they've got huge, huge number of scientists working there.

>> **Steve Paris:** Now, you and I talked last week about this show, and, and we're not going to name all the, the businesses and the, the research organizations that are domiciled in that park although I may take a stab at a few of them. So you won't be held accountable for this. But at any rate, for people who would like to know, and I think you'll be shocked at the who's there and, and why the, it'll become obvious to you why they're there, but you can look at their website. And I'm going to give it to you. Unless you want to.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** I'll be glad to.

>> **Steve Paris:** Go ahead.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Oklahomahealthcenter.gov.

>> **Steve Paris:** Very simple.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** It's pretty simple.

>> **Steve Paris:** Oklahomahealthcenter.gov.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Spelled out.

>> **Steve Paris:** All spelled together dot com, and you're going to be hearing about organizations like, as we've mentioned, OMRF, the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. Guess who else is there, awesome. The Oklahoma School of Science and Math is in this, in this center, and the OU Physicians, Presbyterian Health Foundation. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oklahoma City. Didn't, a lot of people wouldn't, wouldn't think of that as being something that we should be here. The American Red Cross of Central Oklahoma. University of Oklahoma Health and Science Center. We've mentioned all of those. And before this is done, I want to have them all mentioned, by the way. Emergent Technologies, Genzyme, Global Health, i2E, which is an affiliate of, of OCAST, and you're on their board by the way.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** I am on their board.

>> **Steve Paris:** And Medical Examiner Office, the chief medical examiner of the State of Oklahoma. Nova, Nova Venture Services. We'll mention some more later, but you kind of get a feeling of the kind of organizations that are domiciled in, in the Health Center. And most of them are, are related to, to biotechnology and health sciences in the -

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Patient services.

>> **Steve Paris:** Patient services. That, that is a very important part of it and the -

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Yeah. The, the, the three of them that seem to, that people forget might be the State Health Department, where a lot of people find themselves looking for birth certificates and the like. Aside from all of the wonderful work they do with everything else. Also the Oklahoma Blood Institute, which by the way, I can tell you this. They need donors and -

>> **Gary Owen:** Yes they do.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** We, we all need to be aware of -

>> **Steve Paris:** All across the state.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** All across the state, and they're located in Tulsa, and all, every, approximately everywhere else. But that's a big responsibility.

>> **Steve Paris:** You bet. OK. We've got an idea on how it was started. We've got an idea of some of the work that you do although we will talk more about that, but let's look at the Oklahoma Health Center five, ten years down the road. What's the big plan?

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** We, of course, all plans depend on the ability to grow, and our, our growth plan is pretty aggressive. What makes our facility a little more aggressive, perhaps, than the standard is that we're out researching. We're out looking for answers to biomedical, biotechnical questions, and so consequently we're all time going through the Department of Defense, through the Department of Health. We're going through NIH, and we're going through the corporate world, by the way, which funds an awful lot of research at our place. That's something that people forget. American Heart Association, American Leukemia, on and on and on and on. So, our plan to grow is, we'll, we'll outgrow our faculty probably, one could argue we've already outgrown. If you happen to come out there anytime, and I would just challenge anyone -

>> **Gary Owen:** It's a busy place.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** I have never seen that many cranes at work in my life. I mean, we've got probably six to nine cranes out there working right now. We've got over 400 million dollars of construction going up as we speak.

>> **Gary Owen:** Wow.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** With another 600 million that is ready to go as soon as we get -

>> **Gary Owen:** Yeah.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** To the place where we, it's not the resources that are holding us up. It's almost manpower.

>> **Steve Paris:** Right.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** That's holding us up. It's just, [crosstalk], it's, everyday there's a new one.

>> **Gary Owen:** Let's talk about some of the constructions going on out there. Now, you got the OU Cancer Institute.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** That's correct. Comprehensive Cancer Institute, which will be the first and only comprehensive cancer institute in our state.

>> **Gary Owen:** And the legislature approved \$9,000,000 to start and develop a comprehensive world-class diabetes center. Talk about -

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** The Harold Ham Diabetes Center is a wonderful faculty and one of a kind in our state again. Mr. Ham was generous enough through the University of Oklahoma to make a very considerable gift to get this off and going, and the legislature has been very good to us to help fund that institute.

>> **Steve Paris:** Now, these are relatively recent developments.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** These are all within the last two years.

>> **Steve Paris:** Exactly. And, Gary, you talked about the OU Cancer Institute, and Hershel did too. Now, that's a 120 million dollar national cancer institute, and I mean, that's no small amount of money to put in [crosstalk]-

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** It's the only thing between, let me see if I can remember this exactly, between Kansas City and Dallas or Houston, and I forget which one it is, that's a comprehensive cancer institute. So it's a huge draw for the State of Oklahoma.

>> **Gary Owen:** That's going to be completed, is, is it completed? It's not completed yet, right?

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** No, it's not completed. [Crosstalk] I think, yeah -

>> **Gary Owen:** [crosstalk] Sometime this year, right.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** At the end of this year, the beginning of next year. It's, it's wonderful to see it come out of the ground. It's, well,

>> **Gary Owen:** Yeah.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** All of it's wonderful when you think about what this means to our state.

>> **Steve Paris:** It's got to be gratifying to sit in your office and look over the plans and look over, and take the calls that I know you take everyday from people in these different organizations and to say, alright, this has really coming together. This is a major influence not only economically but in areas it improves the quality of life.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** It is, and the more interesting thing is we've now got a gentleman named Terry Taylor on our staff that's a comprehensive land use planner.

>> **Steve Paris:** Alright.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** And you should see the master plan that's going on now.

>> **Steve Paris:** Oh, is that right. Yeah, boy, it, -

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** And we're going to double the size of this campus in 20 years.

>> **Gary Owen:** Wow.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** So when you think about, we've got 314 acres now, and when you think about doubling that in the next 20 years, that's a huge step. It's kind of like what Mr. Young and the others said in 1964.

>> **Steve Paris:** Alright. When you get back to your office, I want to put on your calendar, 20 years from now, we want you back on this show talking about what's happening.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** I promise you I'll do.

>> **Steve Paris:** You'll be here, right?

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Well, if you're here, we'll be here too. [laughter] That's a deal, that's a deal.

>> **Steve Paris:** OK. Now, one of the things I want to go back. We were talking about the NIH, National, National Institutes of Health. We didn't talk about how much money has come in, in just in 2007 alone. I don't know if you have the 2008 numbers, but I've got the 07 numbers, and, and the Oklahoma Health Center received \$135,000,000 in external funding with 62.3 million dollars in research funding. Now, that's called critical mass.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** That is, we have gotten to the point where we do have a critical mass of NIH funding and external funding. The, the good news about that is that we've got everything we need to set up this next five years with NIH, especially with our expanded role under President Obama's -

>> **Steve Paris:** Obama's.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** New, new deal with NIH funding. It's going to expand, and we're set up to, to take part in that.

>> **Steve Paris:** Yeah, and, and, you know, that's going to mean a lot to Oklahoma from the standpoint of more money available for research projects here.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** That means we get to hire more scientists who do more projects, who, who bring commercial projects to the table because of the research they're doing.

>> **Steve Paris:** Exactly.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** It's such a, it's an easy thing to see if you're in it, and it's probably more difficult if you're looking at it.

>> **Steve Paris:** Exactly because the buildings don't translate into the, into the intelligence of the groups and the teams that come to Oklahoma to take care of these research projects.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Yeah, and we've got three of the best. I mean, three of the best research facilities in the country. I mean that. I mean, it's not bragging if you, if you're stating a fact.

>> **Steve Paris:** That's right.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** And -

>> **Gary Owen:** You're saying your not partially, you're just -

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** I'm, I'm just a little bit biased, but not, not terribly. OMRF, the University, and Dean McGee, I mean, those are just three of the best.

>> **Steve Paris:** Yeah. And if you don't believe that, ask people from out of state and, and who know about these facilities, and they will attest to that fact.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Sometimes I always say, we're better known a hundred miles from our state border than we are inside of our state.

>> **Steve Paris:** And I believe that's true.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** And this is one of the things we oftentimes struggle with, and, you know, people in Oklahoma never take stock of how wonderful we have it here as a state. It's a good time to reflect.

>> **Gary Owen:** Well, Monday night, there's a big event in Oklahoma City announcing the "Treasures for Tomorrow" honorees. We're going to talk about that when we return on "Oklahoma Innovations".

[ Music ]

>> There's more to learn on "Oklahoma Innovations" with Gary Owen and Steve Paris on the OCAST radio network.

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[ Music ]

>> **Gary Owen:** By now, you probably have figured that the Oklahoma Health Center is the epicenter research, health care, education, technology, and community service organizations which exist nowhere else in the state of Oklahoma. Coming up Monday night, 6:30 p.m. is when it all starts. The Oklahoma Health Center Foundation is going to announce six Oklahomans as its 2009 "Treasures for Tomorrow" honorees. In fact, we're going to tease you about those honorees right now. Hershel, tell us about what this "Treasures for Tomorrow" is all about, and who the, who the honorees are going to be.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** A lady by the name of Sue Ann Hyde had seen something very similar to this in, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She brought the idea to Oklahoma City, and we kibitzed on it for awhile, and sure enough, we got the rights for the state of Oklahoma to produce this. We've changed it a little bit, but our honorees this year are just outstanding folks in the Oklahoma City area. Most of you know these people to begin with, but Benjamin Harjo, who's a very, very well-known international Native American artist. Tom and Judy Love. Of course, everybody knows "Love's Country Stores" -

>> **Gary Owen:** Yup.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** If you ever drive [crosstalk] down the highway. It goes without saying that if you don't know Blake Wade [laughter], -

>> **Gary Owen:** Yeah. [laughter]

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** And Lee Allan Smith.

>> **Steve Paris:** Everybody has that reaction.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** You need to get to know them. They're two of the best guys this state's ever produced and have done more good for our state probably than any pair ever has. And the last guy is, is one of my favs. He's a, he's an unknown because he chooses to keep it that way. He's one of those unsung heroes, Don Karchmer. I've known him too long. I almost said Donny Karchmer. Is one of those guys that does an awful lot for the Greater Oklahoma City area and never takes any credit for anything, and he chooses to do a lot of things very anonymously. Those are our honorees for this year, and what a lineup, and by the way, I might tell you. We're sold out.

>> **Steve Paris:** We're sold out.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** We're sold out.

>> **Steve Paris:** And the money goes for a special cause.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Money goes to beautify the, the Oklahoma Health Center's mediums, streets. We've built a big, a great number of art, the, the most dominant, of course, which is the Beacon of Hope, which sits, it's a lighted 170 foot structure that sits in the middle of a park that's right along the Interstate 235. So people coming out of downtown Oklahoma City are going up and down 235, can't miss it. It throws a beam up into the air several miles, so, I say several miles, a mile, and one's a lot. And it was designed by Rand Elliott [assumed spelling].

>> **Gary Owen:** Really?

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Very local, well-known [crosstalk] architect.

>> **Steve Paris:** Well-known architect. That's exactly right. And I think you mentioned this briefly, but the money from this year's project, or the "Treasures for Tomorrow" goes to a, a public art project next to the Dean McGee Eye Institute on Lincoln Boulevard and Stanton L. Young Boulevard.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Actually, we have just finished that one. And -

>> **Steve Paris:** OK.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** It's been paid for. Our new project -

>> **Steve Paris:** Oh, OK.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** [drum sound] is the University of Oklahoma Comprehensive Cancer Center.

>> **Steve Paris:** Outstanding.

>> **Gary Owen:** Alright so.

>> **Steve Paris:** One of your newer facilities.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Yeah, what, well, it's, they won't be ready for their art for about another year or two.

>> **Steve Paris:** Yeah.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** But since we try to take three years to raise the money for a significant piece of art on the campus, it'll take us three years to, to build this one.

>> **Steve Paris:** Very good. And we're not trying to tell you that you need to go to this simply because you can't go now. It's sold out.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Sold out.

>> **Steve Paris:** But that's, just -

>> **Gary Owen:** We're just trying to let you know.

>> **Steve Paris:** That's a good thing. Look for next year's.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Next year, go early.

>> **Steve Paris:** You bet. Go early and get, get your ticket. Now, Hershel, one of the things I failed to do for you and with you earlier in this, in this program, we normally, when we introduce our guests, we give you a chance to talk about yourself and say, where have you been, and what have you been doing, and how did you get here? And we're going to take another minute and, and right now, and let you do that because you have a, you have a very interesting background. Fire away.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Well, I'm a product of Oklahoma City and the public schools here in Oklahoma City. I, I started at Lincoln, went to Wilson, went to Harding, went to Northwest. So I, I tried several schools before I got out. [laughter]

>> **Gary Owen:** And did, did you get a degree from any of those?

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** No. [laughter]

>> **Gary Owen:** Or even a certificate. They were just glad to see you leave. [laughter]

>> **Steve Paris:** Just kidding folks. Just kidding.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** No, I grew up with a mom that was very active in school work and active in the cub scouts and the boy scouts and all that stuff. And so I had a very active volunteer life growing up. And I sold Cloverreen brand seeds, all the seeds you can sell.

>> **Gary Owen:** All fundraisers.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Oh, yeah. So I grew up raising a lot of money, or thinking I was raising a lot of money, but I went to the University of Oklahoma out of high school, and finished up at Oklahoma City University and proud of both places. And then I went to, to work for a large corporation, and I decided that wasn't the right thing to do. Came back to Oklahoma. Worked for Leo Oppenheim and Company, worked for Goldman Enterprises. And then went to work for the legislature, and as a consultant, and that's where I got my -

>> **Steve Paris:** Grounded in politics.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Grounded in politics. I left that and went to work as a government relations guide contracting. And left that at the request of then Governor David Walters and Bill Banosky, President Banosky who former president of [crosstalk] OU. Recruited me to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center as their first development officer. So, that's kind of how I got started.

>> **Steve Paris:** So you've been, been here ever since.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** I've left the state twice in my life for one year once and two years the other time, and I always came home.

>> **Steve Paris:** There you go. You know, when you get involved in politics, and people, oh, they turn their nose up at politics, but you know, politics begins when the second person enters the room, right.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** That's correct.

>> **Steve Paris:** So all of us are involved in politics. Some in a deeper level. Some, you know, less so, but you keep up with what's going on over at the Capital as it relates to health legislation and things that'll impact the Health Center, things that will impact all of Oklahoma. So, give us a run down of what's happening over there.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Well, as everybody knows, this is a very, very tough year. Budgets are not only flat, but we're probably down maybe as much as 900 million dollars. And when you look at that, and you look at the organizations in the health complex that are impacted by that, it impacts almost everyone whether you're state funded or not. The effect of that really is damaging to everybody out there. The stimulus package has been helpful. Believe me, it's been very helpful. It will be more helpful as time goes on. However, you're not supposed to supplant the stimulus package and co-mingle it with state funds necessarily. Meaning co-mingle you just can't supplant it. So, we're struggling as a state with some of those issues. However, I got to tell you that next year, as you probably heard from the governor and from our, from our state finance person, our treasurer, Scott Meacham, that we are likely to have a worse year, worse year next year than we do this year, and our, and our executive and legislative branches are taking it very cautiously. Trying to save that rainy day fund because we expect to have a worse time next year, which has impacted us because it's impacted the EDGE program -

>> **Steve Paris:** Right.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Which is what we all, it's, speaking about the gold standard. That's Oklahoma's gold standard.

>> **Gary Owen:** Right.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** We one of the few states that are attempting to, to build a billion, spelled with a "b", dollars for research and, and using the interest income from its investments to fund research. We're about a \$150,000,000 down. We've been there for awhile.

>> **Steve Paris:** Yes.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Looking for a permanent source of funding. This was a great idea that our governor had and with the help of lots of other people, but we've got to get it funded, and it's, it's kind of hard out there right now wrestling with that.

>> **Steve Paris:** Yeah, and it's not that we have a specific goal for getting that done, but we need to make steady progress for getting that million dollar [inaudible].

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** Absolutely.

>> **Steve Paris:** You know, are there any other pieces of legislation that we need to know about right now? Of course, it's, it's been pretty quiet over there.

>> **Hershel Lamirand:** You know, right now the, everybody's kind of on a flatline. We're, of course, concerned about OCAST's budget, [crosstalk] [laughs], and, and everyone that's in the health center, we're concerned about their budgets, and we work diligently with our government relations people primarily through Clayton Taylor to make those kinds of things work.

>> **Steve Paris:** Very good. I, I promised them I would go through some of the, some of the people who are domiciled here. And get, get you off the hook so you don't get blamed for missing somebody, OK. Blame me. Easter Seals of Oklahoma. Emergent Technologies. Genzyme. Global Health, Inc. i2E, I mentioned earlier. Medical Examiner's Office. Oklahoma Allergy and Asthma Clinic. OCAST, we're there. The Oklahoma City Clinic. The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health. The Oklahoma Health Center Clinical Pastoral Education Institute. And I think I've mentioned most of the rest of them. I'm sure I left somebody out, but that's my fault, not Hershel's, OK.

- >> **Hershel Lamirand:** Amen. [laughter] [crosstalk] Those are all dues paying members.
- >> **Steve Paris:** They're all dues paying members, and, and you know, I think we mentioned very briefly OU Physicians, but a lot of people go there for medical services.
- >> **Hershel Lamirand:** Including myself.
- >> **Steve Paris:** Yeah. A lot of people in that area, I mean, we get the invitation to go there quite often too.
- >> **Hershel Lamirand:** You know, one of the things we didn't talk too much about, and I'll try to be brief on this is, we didn't talk a lot about probably one of our greatest assets in that whole complex, which is Children's Hospital.
- >> **Steve Paris:** Oh, yes.
- >> **Gary Owen:** Oh, yes.
- >> **Hershel Lamirand:** Women's and Children's Hospital is by far, you know, the only one of its type in our state. Also, the Level One Trauma Center at, at OU Med Center, the only Level One Trauma Center in our state that when you think about that, that's really tragic -
- >> **Gary Owen:** Yes.
- >> **Hershel Lamirand:** In some respects that we have only one. Fortunately, it's in the center of the state, and our helicopters are flying all over the state.
- >> **Steve Paris:** They fly over my office quite often.
- >> **Hershel Lamirand:** Yes.
- >> **Steve Paris:** Which is a good thing.
- >> **Hershel Lamirand:** But you got to think through what that means, and of course, what that means is we're equipped to deal with the most serious of the serious cases because of the neurological team and lots of other things, but never forget our Children's Hospital. It's -
- >> **Steve Paris:** It's wonderful. [crosstalk] Can you just expand the point of the Health Center impacts the entire state? Not just Oklahoma City. It affects everybody in every county.
- >> **Hershel Lamirand:** Your children and grandchildren, and I can say this without pause, if you've ever had serious problems, you will find yourself at Women's and Children's Hospital.
- >> **Gary Owen:** Want to give you the website if you'd like to check out the services and projects going on at the Health Center. The Oklahoma Health Center is just [oklahomahealthcenter.com](http://oklahomahealthcenter.com). That's it. Hershel, great guest. Thanks for joining us.
- >> **Hershel Lamirand:** Thank you.
- >> **Gary Owen:** Steve?
- >> **Steve Paris:** See, Hershel, see you in 20 years. [crosstalk]
- >> **Gary Owen:** And we'll see you next week on "Oklahoma Innovations". Have a good week.
- [ Music ]
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