SCHOOL NEWS

FIELD CAMP UPDATE

Late in 2012, the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics had the opportunity to purchase additional land surrounding the Bartell Field Camp at a reasonable price. After discussions between Doug Elmore, CPSGG director; Denny Bartell, donor; Chris Cheatwood, alumnus; and purchasing representatives at the university, the land deemed beneficial to the program. Funds were provided by Pioneer Natural Resources to purchase 143 acres for $50,300, which is roughly $350 per acre. The picture below shows the original purchase with the new land in blue.

The newly acquired land will serve as a buffer between field camp and other developments in the area, and also provides space to expand. Suggestions include building larger visitor and faculty cabins. For example, one or two cabins could be built with a small kitchen, sitting room and two bedrooms with bathrooms. This plan is still developing and more information will be provided at a later date.

In recent months, the school kicked off a marketing initiative to advertise the camp to other university units. The goal is to market it as a university resource available to not only geologists, but other disciplines as well for short courses, retreats and fieldtrips. The camp will serve as host to the Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability in July and the Provost’s Advisory Committee on Financial and Administrative Management in early fall. If you would like to make arrangements to visit camp, please contact the CPSGG main office at (405) 325-3253.

The 10th annual AAPG/SEG Spring Break Expo will take place Thursday, March 14, and Friday, March 15. The school is expecting a large turnout based on last year’s numbers. The 2012 event attracted 295 students from 67 universities and 26 company sponsors. For more information, please visit www.ou.edu/content/mcee/geology/student_expo.html.

In December, the school celebrated the season with a Holiday Mixer at Sarkeys Energy Center. Students, faculty and alumni gathered for food, fun and entertainment. Guests were treated to a surprise karaoke show by graduate students Tad Eccles, Megan Salisbury and Ali Steullet. Various door prizes provided by the three student clubs were given away and a free weekend of lodging at the field camp was won by staff member Teresa Hackney.
The following write-up “CPSGG Student Authors” is by Neil Suneson, CPSGG adjunct professor and geologist, Oklahoma Geological Survey; and associate editor of Shale Shaker.

The Oklahoma City Geological Society’s bimonthly journal, the Shale Shaker, has become a popular venue for OU geology students to publish the results of research they are working on or have completed. Justin Newman, geology M.S. graduate, published the results of his thesis, “Origin and Significance of Conglomerates in the Southwest Corner of the Arkoma Basin,” in the September – October 2012 issue. In the next issue, M.S. students Andrea Serna-Bernal and Adriana Gomez Prada co-authored a paper with others titled “Geological Characterization of the Woodford Shale, McAlester Cemetery Quarry, Oklahoma.”

Newman’s paper describes a number of previously poorly understood conglomerate beds in latest Atokan to early Desmoinesian strata near Atoka, Okla., in the southern part of the Arkoma Basin. Based on the identification of microfossils in chert clasts and a comparison with possible source formations, Newman showed that the conglomerates must have come from the rising Ouachita Mountains to the east. An Atokan age of uplift of the Ouachitas is new; previous work (done by OU students and faculty in the late 1980s) suggested a middle Desmoinesian age for the oldest conglomerates in the area. Newman also stated that the Arkoma Basin conglomerates he studied might be analogous to productive Atoka conglomerates in the Hardeman Basin in southwest Oklahoma and Granite Wash conglomerates and sandstones along the southwest margin of the Anadarko Basin in western Oklahoma.

Bernal, Prada and others’ paper describes several important aspects of the Devonian Woodford Shale in a quarry that is often visited by geologists on field trips to the area. The McAlester Cemetery quarry is located south of Ardmore, Okla., just west of I-35 in the Criner Hills. The entire 320-foot section is exposed in the quarry, and the authors completed a gamma-ray profile of the section, which enabled them to put the formation into a sequence-stratigraphic framework. They also reported on preliminary analyses of organic geochemistry, XRD, SEM and FE-SEM data, which they are using to determine fluid-migration pathways in the Woodford.

Student research on the many varied aspects of Oklahoma geology continues unabated, and many projects are focusing on Oklahoma’s booming and ever-changing petroleum picture. The Shale Shaker is the southern mid-continent’s premier journal and is widely read by industry professionals. The Shaker looks forward to seeing more CPSGG students publish their work.

STUDENT NEWS

Geophysics M.S. student Gabriel Mattei presented his research, “Seismic Variability of the Alaskan Megathrust,” at the fall American Geophysics Union meeting in December 2012.

Undergraduates Caleb Bontempi, Murphy Cassel, Jacob McCane and Brooke Morris each received a Fifth Annual Real Deal Mid-Continent Prospect Expo Award from the Oklahoma City Geological Society and Oklahoma Geological Survey. Sponsorship from the annual expo event goes toward awarding scholarships to energy-related students from OU and Oklahoma State University.

Geology student Shelley Wernette was awarded the 2012 Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy Outstanding Senior. She was recognized at a ceremony with OU President David L. Boren for her achievement in scholarship, honors, awards, leadership and service to the university and community. Wernette, along with other outstanding seniors, also were recognized on the field of a home football game.
Graduate students Steven Dyer, Daniel Parizek and James Maner were part of a fieldtrip in November led by David London, CPSGG professor, to the Tanco Mine in Manitoba, Canada.

In November, Andrea Miceli Romero, geology Ph.D. candidate, was awarded the best poster award at the XIII Latin American Congress on Organic Geochemistry in Santa Marta, Colombia, for her research submitted in the non-conventional petroleum systems category.

ALUMNI NEWS

Former OGS director and beloved retired OU professor Charles Mankin passed away Nov. 12. Mankin started his career in the School of Geology and Geophysics in 1959 and retired in 2007. During his time at OU, he also served as acting director in 1964 and as Regents’ Professor in 2006. He was the longest-serving state geological survey director and will be missed by many at the university. The Alumni Advisory Committee has established a memorial scholarship fund in honor of Mankin. Please contact the OU Foundation at (405) 321-1180 if you are interested in contributing.

The AAC held its fall meeting in November. Approved nominations for new members to join the council in the spring are Inyene Awakkesein, Ginger Dodson, Mark Goss and Joe Vaughn. The spring meeting will take place May 4 at Bartell Field Camp in Colorado.

Alumni Carlos “Tex” Bahamon (M.S. ‘06) and his wife, Natalia (M.S. ‘09), are expecting their first child, due on March 23, and will carry the name Carlos for the fourth generation. Both alumni work the Permian Basin for Occidental Petroleum and recently became permanent U.S. residents. Congratulations to the Bahamon family!

Dave Campbell and his family welcomed their first granddaughter; introducing Ms. Victoria!

Name: Victoria Gentry Campbell  
Parents: Carl D. and Jennifer M. Campbell  
Date of Birth: Oct. 9, 2012 at 6:56 a.m.  
Place: Houston  
Weight: 4 lbs. 5 oz.; someone was six weeks early!  
Status: She’s thriving at home and now weighs 12 lbs.!

STAFF NEWS

Adrienne Fox, account and budget representative, will be retiring effective Jan. 31. She came to CPSGG in September 2006 from OU’s collections department. Prior to her career at OU, Fox worked in the Cleveland County District Attorney’s office in supervisory positions. She has worn many hats in her current position, including handling financial issues and acting as a mom to students. Her work was instrumental in setting up field camp as she knows how much each kitchen utensil or sheet has cost. She will be missed for her always-eager-to-help attitude, doing so with a smile, and going the extra mile. Her plans are to stay busy by volunteering, quilting and enjoying her grandchildren including the newest addition, her first great grandchild.

Keep up with what we’re doing! www.ou.edu/mcee/geology  
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