Dear Geology & Geophysics Alumni and Friends,

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed a safe and relaxing holiday season. Welcome to our first “mid-year” (academic year) newsletter update.

We’ve had several new additions to the department. Two Assistant Professors, Dr. Heather Bedle and Dr. Kato Dee, arrived in August. Dr. Bedle joins us in the area of applied geophysics, and is teaching critical courses such as Exploration Geophysics. Dr. Dee is a hydrogeologist, and is expanding our reach in the area of hydrogeology. We also hired replacements for critical Research Staff positions—Dr. Lindsay Hunt replaces Dr. George Morgan in the microprobe lab, and Dr. Rajesh Vayavur replaces Dr. Brad Wallet in geophysics IT support.

We’ve initiated a few new traditions in the School, intended to facilitate interactions amongst faculty, staff, students, and alumni, and to help our students navigate their budding careers. ‘Tuesday Schmoozeday’ is a coffee/tea break that occurs 3:00-3:30 PM each Tuesday afternoon of the academic year. Everyone is welcome to the 8th floor lobby of Sarkeys Energy Center to enjoy a quick break and a little schmoozing. Our regular Thursday colloquia continue, and students initiated an informal post-colloquium social at O’Connell’s (Campus Corner). As part of the colloquium, we began a “Life After Grad School” series geared specifically toward students. The fall 2018 “LAGS” series brought in recent OU alums Dr. John Leeman, Tiffany Stephens, and Molly Sexton to speak on their disparate paths to careers in geoscience.

The School was well represented at the SEG, CSA, and AGU national meetings this fall, in terms of both faculty/student attendance and presentations, as well as a new booth intended to illustrate the breadth of research we conduct. Plans are well on track for an exceptional Expo that will occur Friday, March 15. Owing to space and parking concerns, we will hold it at the National Weather Center (south campus). If interested in having your company represented with a booth space, or securing interview space, please contact Ashley Tullius (tullius@ou.edu). And, don’t forget to look for our new booth at the annual AAPG meeting in San Antonio this May, where you should also plan to attend our alumni event.
Mark your calendars for another new tradition, to coincide with the spring AAC meeting on April 12: The ConocoPhillips Student Research Symposium. This event enables our students—undergrads and grads—to showcase their research in an encouraging environment. This is not a new event, but has a new date aligned with the AAC meeting to facilitate interactions among students, alumni, and faculty, and help our students network.

Finally, our annual “First-Year” (Freshman) field trip will occur as usual in May, and we hope to begin a tradition of a New Graduate-Student field trip in fall 2019.

We are living in a time of exciting exploration of Earth and our solar system. The demands for natural resources are growing, as are pressures on the planet—thus the role of geoscience is increasingly prominent. This fuels our desire to educate excellent geoscientists who will expand our knowledge of Earth and can help us navigate planetary challenges.

Although we are one of the top-ranked science programs at OU, we aspire to place the SGG amongst the top-regarded programs nationwide in geosciences. We look forward to your support in helping us realize this goal, and we thank you—sincerely and emphatically—for your continued support of the School.

Unrestricted/Greatest Need gifts are used responsibly for high-impact projects. Our areas of greatest need include support for: graduate students, enrichment field trips (including the First-Year, and New Graduate-Student trips), the colloquium, the Expo, and undergraduate research.

To donate online, go to http://www.ou.edu/mcee/geology/give. If you have corporate matching, please remember to include a matching gift form or complete your company’s form online. If your company supports university programs, please encourage them to support OU’s SGG.

Sincerely,

Lynn Soreghan
David L. Boren Professor, and Eberly Family Chair

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*A complete list of all scholarship funds is available on our website: ou.edu/mcee/geology/give*

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