STAYING THE COURSE

NOV gift paves the way for students

A TRAILBLAZER HONORED

See story on page 13
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MCEE IT SUPPORT

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M E W B O U R N E  C O L L E G E  o f  E A R T H  A N D  E N E R G Y
Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am pleased to welcome you to this edition of Earth and Energy, as we highlight the many accomplishments within the college by faculty, staff and students, as well as continued progress in improving our facilities and thus the educational experience of our students. One key highlight this past year, which has made much of this possible, was the dedication of the sculpture of Curtis Mewbourne in recognition of his outstanding contribution and commitment to the University of Oklahoma.

As I write this letter, we have continued the overall remodeling of the Sarkeys Energy Center Tower with the substantial completion of the Gene Van Dyke Plaza (3rd level), the 10th-level advanced computer labs (including the Crustal Imaging Facility), the James C. and Teresa K. Day Suite (15th level) and the Younghblood Energy Library (2nd level). With the completion of the 11th through 14th levels later this year, we will have completed the planned remodeling of the Sarkeys Energy Center Tower, which was contemplated at the creation of the College of Earth and Energy in 2006.

And, as many of you are aware, we are well along with the construction of the Bartell Field Camp near Canon City, Colo., which will provide enhanced educational opportunities for our geology and geophysics students.

These improvements would not have been possible without the generosity of our alumni, industry and other supporters. As the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy moves into its fifth full academic year, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped make this possible. The college continues to make progress, and some of the many ways we are moving forward are highlighted in this issue of Earth and Energy.

Sincerely,

Larry R. Grillot
Dean and Lester A. Day Family Chair
Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy
MCEE Board of Visitors Welcomes New Members

James C. Davis is the manager of the Enterprise Services Center, the national Delphi shared federal financial system, for the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City. In his position, Davis is responsible for organizational-level processes that support the Delphi shared financial system and for developing business procedures for information technology and financial management. He has held previous positions in strategic planning activities and was Air Force Customer Management Executive and Chief of Computer Operations. He graduated in from the University of Oklahoma in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in geography (with honors) and a Masters of Arts degree in public administration in 1979. He was a member of the College of Geosciences Board of Visitors from 2000-2008 and served as chair in 2004.

Frank J. Patterson is Vice President of International Exploration for Anadarko Petroleum Corp, one of the world’s largest independent oil and gas exploration and production companies. He took on this role in August 2006 following Anadarko’s acquisition of Kerr-McGee. Patterson began his career in the oil and gas industry in 1982 as a development geologist with Sun Oil Co. (predecessor of Oryx Energy Co.). When Oryx merged with Kerr-McGee in 1999, he became director of Gulf of Mexico exploration. He also managed international new ventures and international deepwater exploration programs for Kerr-McGee and was named vice president of World Wide Deepwater Exploration in 2000. Patterson received a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from OU in 1981. He is a certified petroleum geologist and a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Houston Geological Society and Society of Petroleum Engineers.

J. Michael Stice was appointed Senior Vice President of Natural Gas Projects for Chesapeake Energy Corp. and President and Chief Operating Officer, Chesapeake Midstream Partners, L.P., in November 2008. Prior to joining Chesapeake, Stice spent 27 years with ConocoPhillips and its predecessor companies, where he most recently served as president of ConocoPhillips Qatar, responsible for the development, management and construction of natural gas liquefaction and regasification projects. While at ConocoPhillips, he served as vice president of Global Gas LNG, president of Gas and Power and president of Energy Solutions in addition to other roles in the company’s midstream business units. Stice graduated from OU in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering and a master of science degree in business from Stanford University in 1995.

The purpose of the Board of Visitors is to provide critical, constructive advice to the dean and the other members of the College Executive Committee; to help shape and actively promote the vision and objectives of the college within the university, the state and the nation; and assist the college’s leadership with issues that impact the future of the college.

MCEE PetroBowl Team Sets New Record

For the third time in the past four years, the MPGE student team has won the PetroBowl competition at the SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition, held in Florence, Italy, in September. The team won the competition in 2007 and 2008, making this year’s win a first in history for any school to win three times. The PetroBowl is an international academic competition. This year, 20 schools from around the globe participated. OU team members are Yashwanth Chitrala, Bachir Mahomad, Kristin Weyand, Michael Aman and Brian Edge. Carl Sonderegard, MPGE professor and Curtis Mewbourne chair, is the team coach. Jonathan Gilbert (MPGE 2009), of ExxonMobil’s Gulf Coast Section Young Professionals, was one of the PetroBowl coordinators. Dan Tobin (MPGE 2009), ConocoPhillips, served as a moderator. See story at EPMag.com.
**NEW FACES IN THE COLLEGE**

**College welcomes CPGG professor to associate dean position**

BARRY L. WEAVER, associate professor in the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics, was appointed associate dean of the college, effective Sept. 16. Weaver replaces Carl Sonderegeld, Curtis Mewbourne Professor of Petroleum and Geological Engineering, who has returned to teaching and coordinating research activities for the school.

Weaver joined CPGG in 1984 after working as a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Leicester, U.K. He received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Durham, U.K., and his master of science and doctorate from the University of Birmingham, U.K. His research area is trace element geochemistry of igneous and metamorphic rocks. He teaches classes on volcanoes and earthquakes, in the classroom as well as on-line, and has co-authored articles in several books and journals. He also teaches the Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology course (GeoL 3223) for geology majors, and in the past two years, has run the freshman field trip, a one-week trip for geology majors who have just completed their freshman year.

As associate dean, Weaver's goal is to advance teaching and research in the college and to further enhance the reputation of the MCEE as a premier institution of earth science and energy studies. He and his wife, Yelka, who is from the island of St. Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean, have one daughter, Emma, who is a junior at Norman High School. Read more about Weaver and his research at [http://geology.ou.edu/people/weaver-bl/index.html](http://geology.ou.edu/people/weaver-bl/index.html).

**Luanne Howk named financial administrator**

LUANNE HOWK joined the Mewbourne College in April as financial administrator. Howk brings with her more than 15 years’ experience at the University of Oklahoma, the last eight of which were spent in the College of Engineering. During the past five years, Howk served as facilities coordinator for the construction of Devon Energy Hall and the Lawrence G. Rawl Engineering Practice Facility in the College of Engineering. Prior to that, she served as their grants and personnel financial coordinator.

Before coming to OU, Howk owned an insurance agency in Norman. Originally from Wynnewood, Okla., she and her husband, Andy, who has been a Moore public school teacher for more than 30 years, both attended OU and have called Norman home since graduation. Their son, Josh, works as a wire lines service coordinator for Halliburton in Texas. He and his wife Cassy, have two pre-school-age children. Their daughter, Anne Gottschalk, is a second-grade teacher at McKinley Elementary School in Norman. She and her husband, Ryan, have a one year-old daughter. Our college is pleased to welcome Howk, who says she is “Sooner Born and Bred!”

**MEWBORUNE SCULPTURE DEDICATION**

On Sept. 1, a bronze sculpture in honor of Curtis Mewbourne of Tyler, Texas, was unveiled and dedicated in a public ceremony on the Brian and Sandra O’Brien Plaza at the Sarkeys Energy Center building. Mewbourne, a 1958 OU petroleum engineering graduate, is the founding donor of the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy.

[http://www.ou.edu/content/publicaffairs/archives/MewbourneSculpture.html](http://www.ou.edu/content/publicaffairs/archives/MewbourneSculpture.html)
NEW FACES IN THE COLLEGE

KATIE KERANEN says she has the perfect job because it allows her to integrate geology and geophysics in her research. Keranen joined the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics in fall 2009 as an assistant professor of geophysics. Keranen completed her doctorate at Stanford University in 2008 before taking a postdoctoral position at the United States Geological Survey. While at the USGS, her research focused on earthquakes and earthquake hazards in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Prior to starting her doctoral program at Stanford, Keranen worked for ExxonMobil as a geophysicist. She and her husband, Sergio Bustos, have two pre-school-age children. When asked what attracted her to OU, she explained that having families in Minnesota and Mexico made this a good location, and she enjoys the research opportunities at OU. In addition to her semester course load, Keranen teaches at the geology and geophysics field camp in Cañon City, Colo. For information on Keranen’s research, visit http://geology.ou.edu/people/keranen-k/index.html.

SURESH SHARMA is the new director for the Natural Gas Engineering and Management program in the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering. Sharma joined the faculty in fall 2009, replacing Bob Hubbar, who returned to the industry. He is primarily responsible for teaching natural gas courses but also will teach undergraduate courses in petroleum engineering. Sharma received a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from Panjab University, Chandigarh, India, a master of technology degree in petroleum refinery engineering/chemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur, and his doctoral degree in petroleum engineering/natural gas engineering from OU. Sharma has worked in the oil and natural gas industry for more than 35 years. His research interests include natural gas processing, field production technology, and oil and gas project management.

BRUCE TATE joined MPGE last spring as the instructor for the new National Oilwell Varco digital drilling simulator. In his position, Tate gives students in both the Mewbourne College as well as the College of Engineering “hands-on” instruction in what goes on at a drilling site. He oversees this state-of-the-art equipment, located in the College of Engineering’s Lawrence G. Rawl Practice Facility (see “Simulator” story on page 17). Tate worked for approximately 30 years in offshore and deepwater drilling engineering and in operations supervision in more than 18 countries. Most recently, he worked as a drilling manager in Sanaa, Yemen, for OMV, a fully integrated Austrian exploration, production and refining company.

Roger Young Remembered

On Oct. 23, 2009, the college said goodbye to a well-loved and respected professor and colleague. Roger A. Young, professor of geotechnical geophysics and exploration geophysics in the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics, passed away in Norman. For details on how to contribute to the Dr. Roger A. Young Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund in his memory, visit: http://geology.ou.edu/people/young-ra/index.html
FACULTY RESEARCH UPDATE:
Mapping Resource Plays using 3D Seismic Data

Kurt Marfurt, Frank and Henrietta Schultz Professor of Geophysics in the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics, leads an industry-supported research effort composed of 20 graduate students and 16 corporate sponsors in exploration seismology. The Attribute-Assisted Seismic Processing and Interpretation consortium is a broad-ranging effort that develops innovative software and workflows to better use 3D seismic data to map subtle resource plays. To the general public, seismic attributes can be thought of as image processing – technology that extracts subtle components of the earth's response to seismic waves. Much of the AA-SPi team's work is focused on "resource plays" – ranging from shale gas of Oklahoma and Texas, through coal bed methane of Australia, through the tight sands of Chinonpec, Mexico, to aging carbonate fields of west Texas, where the role of geophysics is to support and guide expensive engineering decisions. Marfurt's students pursue diverse objectives – some develop new attribute, seismic processing and seismic imaging algorithms, others reconcile images seen in seismic attributes with principals of geomorphology structural deformation, while the remainder develop innovative workflows to correlate information obtained from 3D seismic data to electric logs, image logs, microseismic and downhole production data to better delineate and exploit mature reservoirs.

Marfurt's education philosophy is that today's students learn best by doing. His classes in 3D seismic interpretation (one for undergrad engineers, another for graduate geoscientists), 3D seismic processing, and seismic modeling and migration have a very heavy computer laboratory component using state-of-the-art commercial software within the crustal imaging facility lab, now located on the newly renovated 10th floor of the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy in the Sarkeys Energy Center building.

Read more about Marfurt's research at http://geology.ou.edu/people/marfurt-k/index.html.

What's the BIG deal about small science?

Andrew Madden and his students are engaged in studying the science of extremely small minerals in the new geology and geophysics nanolab funded by Devon Energy. Tools such as atomic force microscopy and transmission electron microscopy provide the means for studying the structure, morphology and chemistry of geological materials at the nanoscale where one nanometer is a billionth of a meter. At the nanoscale, the properties and behaviors of materials may become a function of their size. The field of nanoscience explores the consequences and applications of this size-dependence.

This summer, Madden presented an invited talk at the international geochemistry "Goldschmidt" conference in Knoxville, Tenn., describing recent work relating to the nanoscale behavior of the mineral hematite. The red color of soils and rocks in Oklahoma is largely due to dispersed nanoscale grains of hematite. The Madden group is applying fundamental studies of hematite reactivity and aggregation to understanding sorption mechanisms of arsenic and perhaps linking enigmatic occurrences of nanoparticle and coarse-grained hematite on Mars. Two recent studies explore the nanoscale biogeochemistry of uranium precipitation during remediation: in one instance due to the stimulation of naturally occurring microorganisms in the subsurface sediment, the other through the addition of phosphate to uranium-contaminated groundwater. Clay minerals are abundant natural nanoscale to microscale particles; Madden oversees analysis of sediment clay mineralogy through X-ray diffraction in the new Devon Energy NanoLab.

Other recent work includes an NSF-funded collaboration with Lee Bement at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey and Oklahoma State University researchers to prospect for extraterrestrial nanodiamonds in Oklahoma to understand observed climatic and cultural shifts approximately 13,000 years ago that may have resulted from an impactor, a controversial hypothesis featured by NOVA on PBS. Madden also is helping to get the word out about nanoscale science and technology as project coordinator for the NSF-funded "Nano2Earth" curriculum project, currently in development for national distribution through the National Science Teachers Association Press. Students from five other OU departments have come to work in the Physical and Environmental Geochemistry Lab shared by Andy Madden and Megan Elwood Madden. Additionally, Madden has recently collaborated with researchers from Brigham Young University, Harvard and Oak Ridge National Laboratory on topics relating to geological nanomaterials. Madden is an assistant professor in the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics. For more on his research, visit http://faculty-staff.ou.edu/M/andrew.s.madden-1/.
Focus on Faculty Research

Ramadan Ahmed, assistant professor in the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering, has received funding from Research Partnership to Secure Energy for America to study and evaluate hole-cleaning performance of fiber containing sweep fluids for ultra-deepwater drilling applications. The investigation involves both experimental and theoretical methods.

Deepwater conditions significantly reduce the margin between fracture and pore pressure and make proper hole cleaning difficult by narrowing the operating window for bottom hole pressure. As a result, the conventional hole cleaning procedures are inefficient in completely preventing the formation of a cuttings bed in inclined and horizontal sections of deepwater wells. The development of new fluid systems such as fiber sweep would provide optimum hole cleaning while minimizing lost circulation and stuck pipe that cost the industry more than $1 billion a year.

Particles settling in fibrous fluid experience additional drag (fiber drag) due to the presence of fiber network/mat that creates substantial resistance to the settling motion and improve hole cleaning. Preliminary studies show that the fiber drag is a function of fiber concentration and length. Relationships between the drag force and composition and properties of the sweep fluid will be developed by investigating settling behavior of particles. The relationships will be used in formulating a mechanistic model that predicts the performance of fiber sweeps.

Ahmed joined the MPGe faculty in 2008 and teaches courses in petroleum engineering at both the undergraduate (fluid mechanics) and graduate (advanced drilling) levels. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Ahmed is actively engaged in research on wellbore hydraulics, underbalanced drilling and hole cleaning in directional wells. For more information on Ahmed’s research visit http://mpge.ou.edu/faculty_staff/faculty.html#ahmed.

Focus on Gas Shales: MPGE professor receives funding from RPSEA and Devon

Deepak Devegowda is assistant professor at the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering. His research interests lie in the areas of high resolution reservoir description using inverse methods and ensemble-based techniques. The underlying motivation of this research, largely derived from similar algorithms in medical imaging and meteorology, is to utilize production data to construct reliable reservoir performance models that will enable operators to make accurate predictions of future reservoir performance, aid in reservoir management and to maximize recovery by giving the reservoir engineer information to either locate new wells or to design enhanced recovery processes by identifying the spatial distribution of bypassed hydrocarbon.

Although oil companies invest considerable time and effort in constructing reservoir models that attempt to provide a high-resolution image of the reservoir, these models often lack sufficient information related to the connectivities of the predominant flow paths and barriers in the subsurface. This is a consequence of the limited sampling of the reservoir, often just restricted to a few core samples and well logs from a modest number of wells. Although the deployment of seismic imaging technology is on the rise and can probe larger regions of the reservoir, the cost associated with acquiring and processing such data can be prohibitive. Production data, on the other hand, is readily available and has the potential to reduce uncertainties regarding reservoir connectivities.

Devegowda’s research also is geared toward understanding, modeling and management of unconventional oil and gas reservoirs, CO2 sequestration, groundwater systems and contaminant transport. He, along with Faruk Civan and Richard Sigal, recently received new research support from RPSEA in partnership with five other companies to develop novel schemes to model gas transport in shale gas reservoirs.

The three-year project aims to fill technology gaps in current implementations of numerical reservoir simulators in order to accurately model the complex flow that is believed to occur in these tight nano-porous media. He also is currently working on a Devon-funded project to integrate core, log and seismic data using geostatistical techniques in order to enable characterization of the heterogeneities in shale gas reservoirs. This project will potentially enable Devon to reliably integrate multiscale data, acquired from a diverse set of sources, in order to demarcate the “good” gas shales, to identify sweet spots within the reservoir and to identify candidate wells for re-fracture treatments.

For more information about Devegowda’s active research projects and teaching, visit http://mpge.ou.edu/faculty_staff/faculty.html#deepak.
Honoring Our Student Awardees

Several students in the Mewbourne College were honored at the 2010 Campus Awards Program held in the Oklahoma Memorial Union Ballroom March 26 on the OU campus.

The ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics:

Brandon Michael Guttery – Estwing Hammer Award
Matthew Ryan Kendall – Charles N. Gould Outstanding Senior Award
Matthew Allan Miller – David W. Stearns Outstanding Senior Award
Sarah Elaine Farzaneh - Alan Witten Outstanding Senior Award

The Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering:

Sanzhar Mustafin – outstanding Freshman
Ashley Zumwalt – outstanding Sophomore
Adela Porter – Outstanding Senior
Sarah Harris – MCEE Outstanding Senior
Kristin Weyand – Outstanding Junior (not pictured)
NKIRUKA “NIKI” NWEZE came to the U.S. in August 2006 to study petroleum engineering. She chose OU because “it presented a small family feel and I felt like the system was designed to take care of its students, and I proved to be correct.” Nweze graduated last May with special distinction from the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering. Like her colleague, Sarah Harris, she has taken a job with ONEOK in Tulsa. Of her college experience, Nweze says that she has learned the value of a good team and to always deliver her best efforts. She also has learned to “look outside myself and work for a greater purpose like helping others by making a positive difference in their lives.” While at OU, Nweze was president of Pi Epsilon Tau. Nweze has one sister and one brother, both of whom also live in the U.S. Her parents, Francesca and Emmanuel Nweze, live in Lagos, Nigeria.

International Student Makes Oklahoma Home

ON NOV. 13, 2009, SARAH HARRIS was honored with the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy’s 2009 Outstanding Senior award at a ceremony at the University of Oklahoma. As part of the award, she received a $500 check from Dean Larry R. Grillot during the college’s board of visitors meeting earlier in the day. Harris, who graduated last May from the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering, was the banner carrier for the college during Commencement and Convocation. Harris’ honors and activities include: ConocoPhillips SPIRIT Scholar, OU Honors Scholar, OERB Scholar, OU SPE Outstanding Sophomore, DAC Tutor Coordinator, OU SPE Vice President 2009-2010 and PET President 2008-2009. Her parents are Jim and Karen Vich of Locust Grove, Okla. Harris and her husband, Kaleb, have relocated to Tulsa, where Harris is working for ONEOK, Inc.
THE YEAR IN REVIEW

SEED SOWER SOCIETY INDUCTEES
In October 2009, Bill and Gayle Parker were presented with OU’s Seed Sower Society award at the MCEE/College of Engineering OU/Texas alumni event in Dallas. The award honors donors whose gifts to the university total $1 million or more. Also added to the society this past January was the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board. On hand to witness this honor was MCEE Dean Larry Grillot and MCEE Director of Development, Ameil Shadid. Tripp Hall, OU Vice President of Development, presented the statue to Mindy Stitt, OERB’s Executive Director. To date, the OERB has contributed $1,254,065 in energy scholarships to students at OU. More than $750,000 has helped students in petroleum engineering and geology and geophysics fields in the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy. For more on the story, visit the OERB web site at OERB.com. See “News & Media/News Releases,” Feb. 01, 2010.

MCEE ALUMNI RECOGNIZED
On May 14, three Mewbourne College alumni were honored with the OU Regents’ Alumni Awards at a ceremony on the Norman campus. They are Tray Black (PE, BS ’98), Houston, oil and gas entrepreneur; Jeff Roberts, Coral Gables, Fla., investment and securities leader; and Gene Van Dyke, Houston, founder, president and CEO, Vanco Energy Co.

Awards are given to alumni in recognition of their dedication and service to the university.

MPGE STUDENT CONTRIBUTES TO COLLEGE’S FIRST UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN
In November 2009, the Mewbourne College held its first-ever United Way Campaign with the assistance of Ken Evans, dean of the Price College of Business and co-chairman of OU’s Annual OU Campus Campaign. Faculty and staff were invited to hear Darryl Blackburn, MPGE senior, speak about the impact the BBBS program has had on his life as a youth and his involvement with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cleveland County.

CONOCOPHILLIPS CONTRIBUTES $2.5 MILLION TO OU PROGRAM
On April 16, the University of Oklahoma received a $2.5 million contribution from ConocoPhillips to benefit a wide range of OU programs, including those in the Price College of Business, College of Engineering, Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy, the SPIRIT Scholars program and a variety of diversity programs and student organizations. Read more at http://www.ou.edu/give/home/about_us/news/ConocoPhillipsVisit.html

FACULTY KUDOS
Congratulations to Ben Shiau (MPGE) for receiving the Innovator Award, one of only six campus-wide at OU; to Younane Abousleiman (CPGG/MPGE) for receiving a patent Award, one of only eight at OU.

OUR NEW HOME – A VIEW FROM THE TOP
The Dean’s Office moved in August to its new home on the 15th floor of the Sarkeys Energy Center building. We are pleased to announce the James C. and Teresa K. Day suite, 1510 SEC.

MCHE JOINS FACEBOOK/LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE
The college has a new look! Join us on Facebook and keep up with news at http://www.ou.edu/mcee.
Sig Cornelius, ConocoPhillips senior Vice President for finance and CFO, presents a check to MCEE Dean Larry Grillot, April 2010.

Picture 1: AAPG/SEG Student chapter participating in Habitat for Humanity project during fall 2009 home football game.
Picture 2-3: 3rd Annual fall semester Welcome Back Barbecue
Picture 4: Dr. Lynn Soreghan and students braving the extreme climate of the Antarctic, January 2010.
Picture 5, 7: Homecoming and Alumni Reunion, October 2009
Picture 6: SPE student chapter’s winning team at the Relay for Life fundraiser in April
Lew O. Ward, III Honored With 2009 MCEE Trailblazer Award

On Nov. 13, 2009, Lew O. Ward III was honored with the Oklahoma Trailblazer Award at a dinner held in Oklahoma Memorial Union at the University of Oklahoma. Established in 2003, it is presented biennially to honor the exceptional individuals in the energy industry who have pioneered operational or scientific practices, procedures and developments for the energy industry, enhancing the quality of life for Oklahoma citizens, the nation and the world.

Ward is the founder and chairman of Ward Petroleum in Enid. The company operates primarily in Oklahoma, exploring the Anadarko and Arkoma basins. He is a member of the Board of Visitors for the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy. Together with his wife, Myra, he established the Lew & Myra Ward Chair in Reservoir Characterization in the Mewbourne College in April 2006. The Wards are members of OU’s Seed Sower Society, honoring those who have contributed over $1 million to the university.

The event was sponsored by Crawley Petroleum; Panhandle Oil and Gas, Inc.; Vanco Energy Co.; Legends Exploration—J. Denny and Dixie Bartell; Doug and Peggy Cummings; Harold Hamm; Donald G. and Jo Spindler and OU’s Office of University Development. Hosts for the evening were the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy; the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering; the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics, and the Oklahoma Geological Survey.

Attending the event were his wife, Myra, and their son and his wife, Bill and Avis Ward and their sons, Evan and Cooper Ward, Myra’s sister, Carole Drake, and her son and his wife, Ramsey and Susan Drake. Lew and Myra’s daughter, Cassidy, who lives in Arizona with her husband, Lynn Hofacket, was unable to attend.

Myra Ward - Blazing Her Own Trail

Myra Ward can be considered a “trailblazer” in her own right. She was among the first female student cohorts to attend the geology field camp in Colorado in 1953, along with 10 others. Her sister, Carole Drake, followed three years later. Myra Ward was recognized at the 2009 Trailblazer Award dinner when she was presented with an engraved rock hammer by Conoco Phillips School of Geology and Geophysics director, R. Douglas Elmore. This was an unexpected surprise, and one that was marked by a special moment when her family rose in her honor. In a time when there were not many female geologists, Myra Ward set her own path. Today, she remains an active participant in Ward Petroleum Corp.
Students in the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics can look forward to spending their field camp experience in brand-new facilities next summer! Nestled among the Wet Mountains outside of Canon City, Colo., in a rich geologic area, is the new Bartell Field Camp. Through the generous support of J. Denny Bartell, a 1954 geological engineering graduate, and contributions from many alumni, the University of Oklahoma has purchased land to build its own geology field camp. Construction of the buildings and roads is well under way, and the camp should be completed by next spring. According to CPGG director, R. Douglas Elmore, the field camp area will be used for Capstone field course for geology majors, a mandatory six-week course. Currently, OU students are utilizing the field camp owned and operated by Oklahoma State University. However, with the new facilities, the school will be able to “manage and control a crucial part of our undergraduate program,” says Elmore.

CPGG also will offer a new three-week capstone course for geophysics majors at the new camp. Faculty member Katie Keranen and graduate student Rika Burr spent a part of last summer conducting geophysical surveys and locating excellent areas for the field projects next summer. With a view of Pikes Peak to the north and the Wet Mountains to the south, the camp is situated in an ideal location. Alumnus Devin Dennie (CPGG, PhD ’10), co-creator of “Oklahoma Rocks” video, says that “with ownership and stewardship of the facility, the school would have the flexibility to arrange a curriculum and program that would be world-class and truly help our graduates continue to be the best geologists and geophysicists in the world.” Opportunities to contribute to a field camp endowment with naming privileges still exist. For details on how to get involved, contact Ameil Shadid, MCEE Director of Development, at shadid@ou.edu.
DEVIN DENNIE (CPGG, PHD ’10) HAS HAD HIS SHARE OF CHALLENGES throughout his doctoral program at OU while maintaining his role as a husband, father, petroleum geologist/geophysicist and movie producer. Dennie started his Ph.D. program in CPGG in 2004 and graduated last May. He says that “being a full-time student, employee, father, husband and video entrepreneur was challenging at times. But the challenges mounted over a period of six years, allowing me to adapt.” He credits his adviser, CPGG director Douglas Elmore, co-researchers at OU and his employer, Devon Energy, for contributing to his success in completing his program. By the time Dennie graduated, not only had he and his wife, Elizabeth, increased their family by three (the last one being born this past March), but he also was a full-time Devon employee while at the same time maintaining a small educational video company on the side. However, he says that without the constant support of his wife, Elizabeth, whom he says “has been the most supportive partner I could ask for during these last trying few years,” his children (ages 4, 2 and 5 months) and extended family, it would have been almost impossible. Elizabeth is the daughter of petroleum businessman and OU Geology Alumni Advisory Council member Lance Ruffel of Oklahoma City. She and Dennie met during a crystal dig while undergraduates in geology at OU.

Dennie received his undergraduate degree in geology in May 1999 and went on to complete a master’s in geology from TCU in 2001. He started working part-time for Devon Energy in 2005, the year after beginning his doctoral program at OU, and interned with them that same year. In 2006, Dennie and Elizabeth were faced with challenges when their first son, Logan, was born with health issues, requiring health insurance. Dennie was able to change to full-time employment with Devon while continuing his graduate enrollment. According to Dennie, after finishing coursework and after several changes in research topics in 2006 and 2007, he began a Devon-supported project related to the Barnett Shale in north central Texas. In summer 2008, that project became his final dissertation project, which he completed in spring 2010, allowing him to graduate.

In 2009, Dennie received the “Excellence in Education” award from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies for “Oklahoma Rocks,” an independent earth science documentary which, according to Dennie, is the first comprehensive attempt to put the 4.5 billion-year history of Oklahoma landscape on film. The idea for the film started in late 1999 when Dennie, who was at TCU, and his longtime friend, Todd Kent, began filming a local cable broadcast television show for the Dallas-Fort Worth region focusing on state parks, trails and historical sites. Dennie hosted and wrote the program while Kent filmed and edited the video. “The program was designed to be science education in a travel documentary format, sort of a Discovery Channel meets ‘Travel Channel,’” says Dennie. Their first documentary, “RockHounds the Movie,” was completed in 2004. The video was reformatted for schools in 2009 and is being used by many teachers throughout the greater Oklahoma City area in their earth science education programs. Teachers wishing to obtain a copy of the program for their classroom may contact Dennie or Kent at rockhoundsmovie@hotmail.com.

To learn more about the video, visit www.okgeology.com.
The University of Oklahoma student chapter of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists received the only U.S.-based scholarship awarded by Schlumberger during the association’s annual meeting, held April 11 through 14 in New Orleans. OU’s was the only award recipient among U.S.-based chapters; the University of Diponegoro in Semarang, Indonesia, was honored as the outstanding international chapter. The scholarship, valued at $1,000 each, was presented by Terry Woods, North America Sales & Marketing for Schlumberger in Oklahoma City.

AAPG’s OU student chapter focused on technical growth, career development and social opportunities by participating in various activities throughout the academic year. These activities included presentation exchanges by both the AAPG and Society of Exploration Geophysicists student chapter members discussing their current projects, a field trip, a community service event supporting Habitat for Humanity, and participation in short seminars by oil and gas industry leaders. Jonathan Funk (CPGG, MS ’10) served as the OU AAPG president and representative on the MCEE Dean’s Advisory Council during the 2009-2010 academic year.

In awarding the grant, Terry Woods, North America marketing and sales manager for Schlumberger Data and Consulting Services, said, “Schlumberger is committed to working with universities that continue to excel with their geological programs. We are honored to support AAPG with its student development programs, for these students will one day be valuable contributors in the oil and gas industry.”

Also receiving awards at the annual meeting were geology alumni J. Denny Bartell, Larry Bartell and Robert W. Allen. (Read more in Alumni ClassNotes on page 27).
Everyone knows that pilots train on a flight simulator years before they actually take the controls of a plane. Now, OU students interested in oil and gas exploration will learn firsthand what it is like to take the controls of a massive offshore drilling rig years before they enter the profession.

National Oilwell Varco, an international oilfield products and services company based in Houston, recently gifted the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy with one of its digital drilling simulators. The simulator, which mimics offshore drilling rigs currently in use, will be housed in the College of Engineering’s ExxonMobil Lawrence G. Rawl Practice Facility.

The simulator, which is the same equipment used to train professional drillers, is comprised of three chairs with joystick controls for a driller and two assistants. The driller’s “view” is projected onto a wall-sized screen featuring Mitsubishi DLP technology – similar to that used in the giant video screens at the Dallas Cowboy Stadium.

“This is a hands-on introduction to what goes on at a drilling rig,” said Larry R. Grillot, dean and Lester A. Day Chair of OU’s Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy. “The capability to do these simulations has changed how drillers are trained. One of the benefits is that it simulates what students are already used to – video games – although this is a very high-tech simulation. The challenge for us is to make it more than just a video game. We’re on a learning curve with our students.”

“National Oilwell Varco is proud to donate drilling simulators and equipment for the state-of-the-art facility at the OU College of Engineering,” said Pete Miller, chairman, CEO and president of National Oilwell Varco. “We are excited about contributing to the education of engineering students and the future of the oil and gas industry.” The simulator will be utilized both by students in the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy as well as students in the College of Engineering.

Grillot said the drilling simulator will be an important recruiting tool as OU adds to its already substantial group of students interested in careers in offshore drilling. OU’s College of Earth and Energy is one of a handful of schools to host a student chapter of the American Association of Drilling Engineers.

Editor’s Note: Leland Bruce Tate was hired in spring 2010 by the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering as the drilling simulator instructor. (See Tate’s bio on page 6). According to Chandra Rai, MPGE director, 10 graduating seniors, who were offered the opportunity to be trained on the simulator, all signed up, demonstrating the high level of interest.

(This article was reprinted with permission from the University of Oklahoma Foundation, taken from the spring 2010 Priority publication).
IN SEPTEMBER, 2009, Apache Corporation of Houston gifted the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering with $1 million in support of petrophysics research at OU. The gift will support research conducted in the newly established Apache Petrophysics Research Center, enabling MPGE students and researchers to be leaders in oil and gas exploration. Petrophysics is the study of rocks, pores and fluids and the characterization of fluid flow through permeable media. The center will focus on new technologies and research methods to extract hydrocarbon from tight gas and unconventional reservoirs here in the United States.

According to Chandra Rai, MPGE director and Eberly Family Chair, this type of research would not have been considered five years ago. Carl Sondergeld, MPGE professor and Mewbourne Chair says that this investment will be used to expand the existing measurement capacity within OU’s graduate research laboratory and develop new capabilities in micro- to nano-scale imaging of rock fabric, improving fluid flow measurement in ultra-low permeable rock, providing new instrumentation and automating lab data collection and archiving. Rai and Sondergeld are the primary professors working with both undergraduate and graduate students in the Integrated Core Characterization Center (IC3) lab.

G. Steven Farris, Apache’s chairman and chief executive officer said that “recent drilling and completion advances have transformed North America’s energy landscape by opening vast natural gas resources in conventional and unconventional reservoirs, including shale formations. The research at OU’s petrophysics center will help us gain a better understanding of the very-low-permeability formations that have become such an important factor in the North American gas market. This donation links Apache’s continued drive to maximize natural gas resources with the University’s research activities.” The equipment will allow OU students and scientists to conduct research and answer questions being asked by Apache and others in the oil and gas industry.

As part of the presentation visit, Apache Corporation awarded the second annual Newsham Farris Apache Petrophysics Endowed Scholarship to John Wampler, MPGE junior. Wampler was selected for the scholarship based on his work in the lab and his pursuit of petrophysical research. Wampler, who also is a section leader for the tuba section in OU’s Pride of Oklahoma marching band, plans on graduating in spring 2011 and says that receiving the award has been a great motivator for him. MPGE graduate student, Camilo Moreno, and civil engineering graduate student, Alvaro Ortiz, both agree that working in the lab has given them the opportunity to improve their research skills.

When interviewed for OU Foundation’s publication, Priority, Larry R. Grillot, Mewbourne College dean, said that the college values partnerships with outstanding companies such as Apache. “Support such as this will provide significant benefit for our research programs and the education of our students for many years to come. And by maintaining a close working relationship with industry, we are in a better position to provide that education and career advice.”

Apache Corp. is an independent oil and gas exploration and production company with operations in the United States, Canada, Egypt, the North Sea, Australia and Argentina.

(See the full story in OU Foundation’s spring 2010 Priority at http://www.oufoundation.org/Pn2/. Reprinted with permission.)
APACHE SCHOLAR PLAYS HIS WAY THROUGH COLLEGE

“Performing in front of 85,000 people gives me a rush of adrenaline. It is hard to describe the feeling, but performing in front of people gives me a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction that makes all of the hard work worth it.”

Those are the sentiments expressed by John Wampler, a senior in the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering.

Wampler is the second student to have been awarded the Newsham Farris Apache Petrophysics Endowed Scholarship. However, his hard work and competitive drive do not stop here. In addition to being a scholarship recipient and current chair of MPGE’s Petrobowl team, Wampler plays the sousaphone in the OU Pride Marching Band. He is a section leader for the tuba section, an honor for which he has had to compete annually with other students since first coming to OU four years ago. At the beginning of each school year, members of the Pride go through a one-week audition process to be evaluated on their marching and playing skills. According to Wampler, a little more than 300 people are in the marching band each year, and OU’s Pride is one of a few college marching bands that hold auditions for membership.

As section leader, he leads 17 other tuba players daily in music and marching drills during practice sessions. He spends about 20 hours a week on marching band practice, playing at football games and attending band meetings. During football season, Pride members play at the RVs parked at Lloyd Noble Center on Friday evenings before home games. They also play at “Boomer Bash” pep rallies for home and away games. “It is very difficult to balance my class schedule, homework load and marching band,” says Wampler. However, he says that most professors are understanding and supportive of the marching band and credits his MPGE professors for being flexible and willing to work with him on making up assignments or class work. “Sometimes sleep is a scarce commodity,” says Wampler.

Wampler returned in August from a summer internship as a reservoir engineer with BP in Houston. He works on research projects in the Apache Petrophysics lab, mainly for Carl Sonderegger, MPGE Mewbourne Chair professor, but also worked with Chandra Rai, MPGE director. Wampler, who has been playing since the seventh grade, when he was 9 years old, says that . . . “playing in the Pride is a rewarding experience that I won’t be able to continue after college, so I want to participate as long as possible.” He plans on graduating in May 2011.
OKLAHOMA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
A YEAR IN REVIEW
by G. Randy Keller

THE OKLAHOMA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY in the OU Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy is a state agency focused on research and public service. Chartered in the Oklahoma Constitution in 1907, it is the only geological survey written into the constitution of a new state. Its creation was signed into law on May 29, 1908.

The OGS is charged with investigating the state’s land, water, mineral and energy resources and disseminating the results of those investigations to promote the wise use of Oklahoma’s natural resources consistent with sound environmental practices. It operates a 200,000-square-foot warehouse facility located off-campus, the Oklahoma Petroleum Information Center, that is dedicated to the preservation of cores, samples, logs and completion reports that date back to pre-statehood and a geophysical observatory south of Tulsa.

Programs and projects of the OGS include earth science education, earthquake monitoring, data preservation, fossil fuel-related research, geologic mapping, industrial minerals research, organizing workshops on a variety of geoscience topics, geologic hazards studies and projects in cooperation with state and federal agencies.

Notable recent activities include installing an array of about 10 portable seismographs east of Oklahoma City to monitor the swarm of small earthquakes that has created a lot of public interest. The new seismologist at the OGS, Austin Holland, has been extremely busy on this effort, as has Amie Gibson at Leonard.

Providing digital records of and or about the vast data holdings of the OGS is a major emphasis that has been aided by a grant from the U. S. Geological Survey. Two other grants for data compilation and database construction have been approved for funding. The OGS also is helping the effort to create the Energy Library On-Line that is being led by the petroleum information libraries of the Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Ardmore geological societies.

OU Students Awarded Scholarships at Real Deal Mid-Continent Expo
by Sue Britton Crites

THE SECOND ANNUAL Real Deal Mid-Continent Prospect Expo sponsored by the Oklahoma City Geological Society and Oklahoma Geological Survey held on Sept. 30, 2009, was huge success. A crowd of 348 people showed and viewed the 37 prospect booths and the goods and services of a number of vendors. Excellent technical talks qualifying for continuing education credits were presented by Jim Puckette from Oklahoma State University and Dan Boyd from the Oklahoma Geological Survey.

Once again, the Expo generated enough support to allow the OCGS and OGS to give $500 scholarships to four OU students and four OSU students for a total of $4,000 in educational funding. OU recipients included Conoco Phillips School of Geology and Geophysics students Rebecca Johnson, Shayda Zahrai, Holden Thomas Mitchell and Ahmed T. Alawami. The third annual Real Deal Mid-Continent Prospect Expo was held on Sept. 29.
THE OKLAHOMA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY hosted the New Perspectives on Shales workshop July 28 to a sell-out crowd of more than 260 participants. According to workshop coordinator Carl Sondergeld, OU Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geologic Engineering, accelerating exploitation in both domestic and international shales is generating new data and new questions. Cumulative learning from multiple shale plays can improve our understanding of a particular shale, leading to new models for gas storage and transport, new procedures for core analysis, new stimulation approaches, and new production strategies. New imaging technologies that reveal and quantify details of shale microstructure have been corroborated by mercury capillary pressure measurements and NMR spectroscopy. Shale mineralogy plays a critical role in defining more prospective reservoir elements and stimulation placement.

The workshop focused on how these developments constrain transport models, gas-in-place calculations and the role of organics. The goal was to stress the differences and similarities among shales by comparing data and experiences from various plays, in particular, the Marcellus, Bakken, Haynesville, Barnett, Woodford, Eagle Ford and Fayetteville.

Presenters, in addition to Sondergeld, were Norm Warpinski, Pinnacle; Quinn Passey, ExxonMobil; Jack Breig, Newfield Exploration; Mike Miller, Cimarex Energy Co.; Amie Lucier, Shell International Exploration and Production; Neil Olesen, Continental Resources, Inc.; Chandra Rai, OU Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering; and Ray Ambrose, Devon Energy Corp.

A one-day field trip led by Stan Paxton, U.S. Geological Survey, and Brian Cardott, Oklahoma Geological Survey, also was offered on both July 27 and July 29. Participants visited three extended stops in the western Arbuckle Mountains and eastern Criner Hills. A poster session that included studies ranging from the micro to the seismic scale also took place at the workshop. Petrophysical, geological and seismic studies of gas shale were available for detailed examination and discussion.
the Society of Exploration Geophysicists had to close its museum, which was in an office building in Tulsa. A number of organizations in Oklahoma were contacted to see if a home could be provided for some of the displays and artifacts in the museum collection. The Mewbourne College agreed to house and display a significant amount of the museum’s collections, which they inherited last May. The collections are now available for public viewing in the north corridor of the first floor of the Sarkeys Energy Center building. These items include a significant collection of material from J. C. Karcher, who is credited with leading the effort that invented reflection seismology. These items will be placed in a new display in the atrium devoted to solely to Karcher. For more information on the collection, contact OGS at (405) 325-3031.
International Outreach Corner

by Yoana Walschap

International collaboration and exposure is important for our students and faculty. Energy is a global industry, and our college continues to develop activities that provide an international perspective that will play a key role in the future of our graduates. Since several of our alumni work with international companies, an experience abroad should be strongly recommended as an “eye opener” for the future.

During the spring semester, two cooperative agreements were signed with international institutions to provide MCEE students study abroad opportunities while receiving OU credit. The universities involved are the Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University in India and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology at Trondheim. We have already received students from these universities and are currently working on sending a few OU students for the 2011 academic year.

In fall 2009 and spring 2010, the Energy Institute of the Americas once again facilitated several video conferences on three continents between universities overseas and professors in Mewbourne College. In fall 2009, MPGE professor Yucel Akkutlu gave two presentations on “Single and Multiple-well Pressure Transient Testing” to students at universities in Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, with the assistance of their SPE-student chapters. Also participating from Colombia was the SPE Young Professionals group. In spring 2010, CPGG professor Kurt Marfurt presented a talk on the “Shape of 3D Seismic Interpretation” with his colleague Satinder Chopra, who was in Colombia.

The alliance with PetroGroup in Colombia continues to be fruitful, with new professors teaching more short courses and raising the college and OU flag. PetroGroup is offering a certificate program in geosciences and production, which includes courses from some MCEE professors. A second alliance with the training company, Oil Production, is scheduled to start in fall 2010 with CPGG professor Roger Slatt teaching his popular reservoir characterization course in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Plans to host a scholarship fundraiser to benefit Latin American students in the Mewbourne College are under way. This effort is being driven by the large contingent of Colombian OU Alumni Association and Venezuelan Alumni association members living in Houston.
ALUMNI

CHRIS CHEATWOOD:
A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Persistence is essential to stay the course and overcome the inevitable disappointments of unexpected results.

CHRIS CHEATWOOD is a man with a vision. When asked about his goals as chair of the MCEE Board of Visitors, which he assumed this past April, Cheatwood aims to capitalize on the distinct advantage MCEE students have over those in other universities. The University of Oklahoma is one of only a few universities that have both geology and geophysics and petroleum engineering within the same college. Because of this, Cheatwood says, it is important that the faculty as well as board and council members in both schools work together to "promote and support collaboration between the schools to realize this benefit." He emphasizes the importance of collaborative ventures with industry partners, and cites having a mutual respect for each other's trade in order to gain an understanding of each of the disciplines and how they can work together as equally important. He feels that the university's understanding of this concept was the motivation for combining the two schools and that it "comes down to the people within the walls to make this happen."

Cheatwood graduated with a Bachelor of Science in geology from OU in 1984 and a Master of Science in geology from the University of Tulsa in 1987. After graduating from Tulsa, Cheatwood worked for ExxonMobil until 1997, when he joined Pioneer Natural Resources as their Gulf of Mexico Exploration Manager. He was made executive vice president of Business Development and Technology in 2002. Cheatwood credits his father-in-law, an independent oilman in Oklahoma City, for planting the seeds by suggesting he consider a career in geology. Cheatwood says, "After I took my first class in geology from Dr. Elmore I was hooked. Those two men pointed me in the right direction. The fascinating science of geology, combined with the challenges and excitement of the oil business, fits me perfectly." He says there were many experiences at OU that affected his life and career. He has maintained some of the great friendships established while a student. He also has fond memories of his geology field camp experience and is excited about OU having its own field camp in Cañon City, Colo., currently under construction.

To be a successful exploration geoscientist, Cheatwood believes that "you must be very confident and persistent but very humble as well . . . because you have to make bold decisions often with very little or poor data. Persistence is essential to stay the course and overcome the inevitable disappointments of unexpected results." The main change he has seen in the industry over the past 10 years has been the transition from traditional exploration for discrete prospects to regional resource plays.

Although many of the same tools and techniques are still being used, Cheatwood says, "We now are targeting rocks that we considered source rock and seals in the past instead of reservoirs. Geologists and engineers must work more closely than ever to make resource plays successful." He says working for Exxon after graduating from college was a great experience and that "working for Pioneer has far surpassed my wildest expectations." Cheatwood has led exploration programs in places as diverse as the deepwater of the Gulf of Mexico and West Africa, the deserts of North Africa and the North Slope of Alaska. His company is now successfully developing the new Eagle Ford Shale play in south Texas.

Cheatwood feels strongly about giving back to his alma mater and does so with the combined efforts and resources of the eight OU geology graduates working at Pioneer, most of whom he hired. He joined the alumni groups in the Mewbourne College to "do whatever I can to help the college maintain the excellent quality programs that are our tradition." In May 2006, he established the Chris J. Cheatwood Endowed Scholarship in the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics. He and his wife, Cathy, live in Southlake, Texas, with their three children, James, Alex and Caroline, whom he expects will attend OU in the near future. The family travels to Norman for football games and tries to attend all the bowl games. In whatever little "spare time" he has, Cheatwood likes to play golf and listen to music, but mainly enjoys spending time with his family. With ties to Oklahoma City (both Cathy and Chris graduated from Putnam City High School), it’s not hard to see why Cheatwood is ‘Sooner Born and Sooner Bred.’”
THE NOT SO IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

KRIS GOFORTH considers it a privilege to be able to help other students pursue a career in engineering. Having grown up in a small town in southeastern Oklahoma, she says that “without my petroleum engineering degree, I wouldn’t have [had] the opportunity to pursue a career that I have enjoyed so much.” She has served on the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Engineering’s Industry Advisory Board since 2001 and enjoys interacting with students, faculty and other members of the industry. Goforth says that “students are the future workforce that will take the industry into the next phase.” In 2006, Goforth established the Kristina Ratcliff Goforth Endowed Scholarship for undergraduate MEPE students, to which she adds annually. Devon Energy’s matching program for gifts to educational institutions and the matches provided in the past by Curtis Mewbourne have enabled her contributions to the scholarship to be even more effective.

Goforth is vice president for Reservoir Engineering-Central Division with Devon Energy Corp. in Oklahoma City. Her 20-year-old son, Hunter, is a student at Baylor University. She joined Devon in late 1999 as a reservoir engineer and says she has enjoyed the people, culture, responsibilities and opportunities at the company. She has worked both in E&P division roles and in corporate planning, which has given her a broad background and perspective. Goforth graduated with a Bachelor of Science in petroleum engineering from OU in 1983 and an MBA from Oklahoma City University in 1991. The petroleum engineering opportunities were limited when she first graduated from OU, so she took an engineering technician job with a very small, private oil and gas company to prove herself with the hopes that she would be promoted to an engineer. This turned out to be a good decision.

Within a few months, she was performing engineering work. On the changes she has seen in her field in the past 10 years, Goforth remarks that shale gas production has increased significantly through the use of horizontal drilling. When she started in the industry in 1983, the focus was on drilling vertical oil and tight gas sands, recompletions in conventional reservoirs and active in waterfloods. The area in which she is currently working focuses on drilling a mix of approximately 90 percent shale gas and 10 percent tight gas sand. Almost all of these are horizontal wells.

To recent graduates, Goforth advises spending their early years getting experience, gaining knowledge from senior professionals, and learning the basics of the other disciplines to understand how the various jobs interact with one another. She also encourages them to manage their own careers and constantly ask themselves how they can make a difference to their company. Goforth strongly believes that it is important to be a difference maker, not only for students, but for the youth in her community. She serves on the board of Youth Services of Oklahoma County, a not-for-profit community organization, whose motto is “changing young lives.” She says she has been blessed with a life full of opportunities and supportive family and friends. “What a gift to be able to give back to others,” she said.
One year after graduating, Charles S. Meyer is already showing what it means to give back to his college and alma mater. He graduated in May 2009 with a Bachelor of Science degree in petroleum engineering and went to work for ExxonMobil Development Co. in Houston as a reservoir engineer.

In spring 2010, Meyer took advantage of the three-to-one matching gift program ExxonMobil provides as a benefit to its employees and made a leadership-level annual gift to the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy's annual fund.

While a student in the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering, Meyer was very active in the student chapter of SPE and chaired both the technology and Petrobowl committees. As technology chair, he secured funding and built a new website for the OU SPE chapter, which is still widely used. As Petrobowl chair and organizer, he was a member of the winning team in 2007 and 2008 and feels fortunate to have worked with Carl Sondergeld, Petrobowl faculty adviser. Even though he was a National Merit Scholar, he worked 30 to 40 hours a week while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. For students, Meyer advises making good grades their number one priority and adopting time management skills, which are essential in industry. He also advises MPGE students to get involved in professional organizations and to maintain close contact with their professors and industry personnel from early on in their program. He says, “I have been able to contribute more and earlier because of my petroleum engineering degree.”

Meyer maintains his SPE membership and recently joined the President's Associates as a Young Associates member. In the future, he plans on getting involved with MPGE’s Industry Advisory Board as well as the MCEE’s Board of Advisors.
Robert W. Allen, CPGG, BS 1948, received the AAPG’s Special Award at the 2010 Annual Convention of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in New Orleans in April. The award, which pays tribute to outstanding leaders, scientists, educators, civic leaders and authors during the past year, was presented at the Opening Session and Awards Ceremony on April 11. Allen is president of Kabodi Inc. in Ardmore. He serves on the Advisory Council of the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics and has been instrumental in preserving the Ardmore Electric Log Library and the samples from the Ardmore Sample Cut and Library.

Bryce Ballard, MPGE, BS 2009, took six months off after graduating and headed to Talca, Chile, to be a volunteer English teacher in a public elementary school. Not surprising, considering he graduated with a minor in Spanish. Ballard is employed with Crawley Petroleum Corp. in Oklahoma City as a petroleum engineer responsible for drilling, production and reservoir engineering in northwest Oklahoma. Together with colleague and fellow alumnus David Ferris, Ballard is spearheading the college’s first home football tailgate parties beginning this fall. The events are being sponsored by Baker Hughes.

J. Denny Bartell, CPGG, BS 1954, Legends Exploration, Houston, was honored with the AAPG’s Outstanding Explorer Award at the opening session and awards ceremony on April 11 at the 2010 Annual Convention of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in New Orleans.

Lawrence (Larry) Bartell, CPGG, BS 1983, Legends Exploration, Houston, also was honored with the AAPG’s Outstanding Explorer Award at the annual convention in New Orleans last April.

Juliana Gay, CPGG, BS 2008, has been working for Florida State University’s Beaches and Shores Resource Center since January 2009. She is conducting research on modeling shoreline evolution over the past 100 years or more. Specifically, her group makes recommendations to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on how to mitigate erosion near the inlet channel in St. Augustine, Fla. Gay, whose graduate adviser was Randy Keller, says “life on the coast is treating me well. I go kayaking or swimming at the beach as often as possible.”

Jonathan Gilbert, MPGE, BS 2008 is a reservoir engineer for deepwater Angola assets for ExxonMobil and works on their largest subsea development. He is heavily involved in reservoir simulation for multiple offshore oil fields. Gilbert is a member of SPE’s Gulf Coast Section Young Professionals Board. Together with fellow alumnus Dan Tobin (MPGE BS ‘08), Gilbert hosted the eighth annual PetroBowl at the SPE ATCE in New Orleans this past April. Gilbert and Tobin will travel to Florence, Italy, in September to host the 2010 SPE ATCE event.

Frank Gomez, CPGG, MS 2003, moved from Colombia to Saudi Arabia in 2009 to take up a new position with Saudi Aramco. Gomez, who graduated with a degree in geophysics under the late Roger Young, retired from Ecopetrol in 2008.

Adil Haritah, MEE, MA 2008, is a management analyst with BearingPoint in Paris, working in the Communications, Content, Energy and Utilities Department. He currently is involved in a transformation project for a French utility, mainly in France, but eventually hopes to relocate to Africa or the Middle East. Haritah is an alumnus of the former Managerial Energy Economics Program and participated in the IFP Exchange Program with the French Petroleum School in Paris from January to July 2008.

Melissa L. Nance, MPGE, BS 2009, works for Shell Exploration & Production Co. as a Reservoir Engineer-Gulf of Mexico. She has been appointed to the Shell New Professionals of New Orleans group as their philanthropy chair director. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the SPE-Delta Chapter and has recently been appointed the 2010 treasurer. Additionally, Nance is the 2010 American Association of Drilling Engineers Deepwater Symposium student chair director and the Reservoir Engineer New Technical Professionals (ntP) New Orleans Director. Although she is enjoying life in the “Big Easy,” Nance maintains strong ties to her alma mater and periodically visits family and friends back in Oklahoma. This fall, she will be the OU/Shell recruiter.

To be included in Alumni ClassNotes, send your updates and photos to naila@ou.edu.
MARRIAGES

Kate (Moore) Patrick, CPGG, BS 2005, MS 2007, began working as a geologist for ConocoPhillips in Houston in July 2007 on their Deepwater GoM Exploration team. On May 24, 2009, she married Luke W. Patrick, a pre-construction estimator for Skanska, a Swedish multi-national construction firm in Houston. In October 2009, Patrick moved to the Onshore Nigeria Development team where she currently is working on the internal approval process for new drills, workovers and unitizations for COP’s Joint Venture with Nigerian Agip Oil Company and the National Nigerian Oil Company. She’s on a small, efficient team with a very active drilling schedule, so Patrick says she “always has her hands full juggling a few to several projects at any one time.”

Jessica Pardo, CPGG, BS 2009, and Carlos Russian, CPGG BS 2009, were married May 23, 2009, in Houston. Shortly after their wedding, the couple went to work for ConocoPhillips. Jessica is a development geophysicist for the MidContinent-Panhandle Development group, and Carlos is a development geologist for the South Texas-Inventory team. They live in Katy, Texas.

Leah (Parkhill) Protz, MPGE, BS 2008, was married Aug. 15, 2009, to Gregory Protz, a Texas A&M alumnus. She works for Chevron as a production engineer. She and her husband, who is a chemical engineer for FMC, live in Houston.

Sohini Sur, CPGG, PhD 2009, and colleague, Marc Fagelman, represented their company at the 2010 ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics’ Spring Break Expo, held this past March at the University of Oklahoma. Sur is employed by Shell Oil Co. in Houston as a geologist. While completing her doctoral program at OU, Sur’s adviser was Lynn Soreghan.

WE REMEMBER

Robert Ernest Klabzuba, CPGG, BS 1940, died Nov. 20, 2009, in Fort Worth, Texas. An alumnus of the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics, he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in petroleum geology in 1940. Through the generous support of Klabzuba and his wife, Doris, two endowed chairs have been named in their honor. The Joe and Robert Klabzuba Chair in Geology and Geophysics, named for Robert and his brother, Joe, who also graduated with a geology degree in 1936, is currently held by R. Paul Philp. The Robert E. and Doris Klabzuba Chair of Geology and Geophysics previously was held by CPGG Director R. Douglas Elmore, from 1992 to 2006. Klabzuba founded Klabzuba Oil & Gas, Inc., in 1968. At the time of his death, he was chairman of the company. He is survived by his wife, four children, eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Gustavo José Inciarte Perich, MPGE, BS 1957, died Jan. 27 in Norman, Okla. He was the first Venezuelan to become chief petroleum engineer for Shell’s international operations. Inciarte ended his 41-year career in the oil industry in 1998 as a member of the board of Venezuela’s state petroleum company, PDVSA. During his illustrious career in the oil industry, he served as president of INTEVEP, PDVSA’s Technology Research and Development Center. In 1998, he was elected president of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, the first Latin American to hold that office. Inciarte was a member of the University of Oklahoma’s College of Engineering’s Board of Visitors. He is survived by his wife, Esperanza, and daughter, Monica, of Norman, and his nine children, 17 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren of Caracas, Venezuela. Prior to his death, Inciarte established the Venezuelan OU Alumni Association (VENOKAL) to support Venezuelan students studying at OU. For more information on how to make memorial contributions to the scholarship fund, contact Yoana Walschap at (405) 325-4753.
2009 was a very good year for the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy as we surpassed $80 Million dollars raised in support of the capital campaign, which began in November 2006. This monumental level of support could not have been achieved without the leadership and vision of our alumni and corporate partners. The college’s students, faculty and staff are grateful for their investment. Below is an update of the capital campaign:

### Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy Campaign Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPAIGN BREAKDOWN</th>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>AS OF JUL. 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship and Scholarship Endowments</td>
<td>$30 million</td>
<td>$15.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Scholarships</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Endowments</td>
<td>$14 million</td>
<td>$3.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• $7 million - private gifts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• $7 million - State Regents for Higher Education Match</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities and Resources</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sarkeys Energy Ctr tower renovation</td>
<td>$8.5 million</td>
<td>$9.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Laboratory and classroom resources and endowments</td>
<td>$16 million</td>
<td>$23.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• OK Petroleum Information Center</td>
<td>$2.5 million</td>
<td>$91,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrichment Endowments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Student Enrichment</td>
<td>$7 million</td>
<td>$24.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Faculty Research Enrichment</td>
<td>$1 million</td>
<td>$508,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Library Endowment</td>
<td>$1 million</td>
<td>$2.1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$220,871</td>
<td>$82.1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$80 Million</strong></td>
<td><strong>$82.1 million</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see, we still have work to do in critical areas. Those areas include: Fellowships and Endowments and Facilities. We are committed to seeking private funding for these areas to ensure the long-term success of the college. Should you be interested in more information on any of these areas, please contact Ameil Shadid, Director of Development for the Mewbourne College, at (405) 325-3821 or shadid@ou.edu.

### An Update on State Regents Chair/Professorship Matching Program

In June of 2010, the Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education voted to match $47 million of the $163.8 million in privately funded faculty endowments that the University of Oklahoma has in the queue to be matched. Included in the matching funds was $1,297,400 in matching funds for three Earth and Energy positions: Norman R. Gelpman Professorship of Geology & Geophysics, Lew & Myra Ward Chair in Reservoir Characterization, and the Mewbourne Chair in Petroleum Engineering #5. By September 2011, the college will be receiving annual distributions from that matching money.

Still remaining to be matched is $2 million in donor contributions to the Luke R. Corbett Chair in Exploration and Development Geoscience, The Mewbourne Chair in Petroleum Engineering #6, and the ConocoPhillips Visiting Chair in Petroleum Geology/Geophysics. While the timing of future matches is difficult to predict because of state and national economic conditions, our Oklahoma leaders continue to recognize the state's obligation for matching these gifts and President Boren is working as hard as possible to obtain the matches. In the meantime, the college is working to ensure that the donor investments in those unmatched chairs are put to good use.

Moving forward with the faculty endowment goal for our campaign, we will continue to talk with donors about endowed positions, but these conversations will reflect the new circumstance where there is no state match for chairs and professorships. This means that donors can endow a chair with a $1 million private gift and a professorship with a $500,000 private gift. Presidential professorships are another option for donors seeking to support faculty excellence. Named four-year Presidential Professorship awards can be endowed with private gifts of $250,000.

### MCEE Annual Fund Report

Though we hope that ALL of our alumni participate in the capital campaign, we understand that may not be an option. The annual fund provides for each and every one of our alumni the chance to support the college. The Annual Fund provides Dean Grillot the flexibility to support some of the college’s most important projects as well as the chance to seize opportunities throughout the year. You will receive your Annual Fund solicitation this fall, and we hope that you will take the time to make your gift and play your part in the college's success. In this issue of the magazine, you will read about Charles Meyer, a May 2009 graduate who has chosen to support the college through the Annual Fund. We are very proud of Chaz and hope you’ll join him by making a gift to the annual fund.

**Annual Fund gifts received July 2009 through June 2010:**

| 478 — for a total of $353,042.21 |

For more information on the annual fund, including Leadership Giving Opportunities, please contact Allison Richardson, Director of Alumni Relations, at (405) 325-2449 or arichardson@ou.edu.
MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES
2010-2011

Sept. 20-22  Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Annual Technical
Conference and Exhibition
Florence, Italy – http://www.spe.org

Oct. 15-16  University of Oklahoma Alumni Reunion and Homecoming
Norman, OK – http://www.ou.edu/alumni/home/events/reunion.html

Oct. 17-22  Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG)
Denver – http://www.seg.org

Oct. 31-Nov. 3  Geological Society of America (GSA)
Denver, Colorado – http://www.geosociety.org

Nov. 11  Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering
Industry Advisory Board Meeting

Nov. 12  Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy Board of Visitors Meeting

Nov. 12  Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy Distinguished
Alumni Service Awards Dinner

Mar. 10-11  AAPG Spring Break Expo
University of Oklahoma ConocoPhillips School of Geology
and Geophysics
Contact: Niki Chapin at nchapin@ou.edu

May 13  University of Oklahoma Commencement
http://www.ou.edu/commencement/home.html

May 14  Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy Convocation
The New Gene Van Dyke Plaza

100 East Boyd, Room 510
Norman, OK 73019-1006

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED