As we are midway through the ninth year of the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy (and my final year as dean), I want to take this opportunity to thank our many supporters who have helped make the college a success.

When I came to OU, the primary objective was simply “to make the ‘new’ College of Earth and Energy work.” To accomplish this goal, there were several basic concepts, including:

• Always ask if the decisions we were making and actions we were taking are in the best interests of our students
• Work to maintain the heritage of geosciences and petroleum and geological engineering in the areas of energy education (oil and gas), while providing strong ties to engineering fundamentals and the science base in geology and geophysics
• Focus on “hands-on,” laboratory-based education to not only teach students what they need to learn, but to introduce concepts of why they were learning the material.

In support of this goal, one of the primary areas of focus during my time at OU has been to address our needs in the areas of scholarships, fellowships, and laboratory and other facility improvements. We initiated a capital campaign during the first year, which was facilitated by a scholarship/fellowship match by Curtis Mewbourne, as well as other significant support by our many constituents. As a result of this support:

• Total scholarship awards have more than doubled since the college was established
• Student spaces, teaching labs and the Youngblood Energy Library in Sarkeys Energy Center have been significantly upgraded
• The Bartell Geology Field Camp was constructed near Cañon City, Colorado
• Significant improvements have been made to the Oklahoma Petroleum Information Center (the core storage facility), and the Oklahoma seismic monitoring system has been significantly upgraded and expanded.

We now are focused on the TrailBlazer Society, an umbrella program that encourages and recognizes all giving, and provides a stable base of private support due to the increased needs for such private funding in much of higher education.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our faculty and staff, who have continued to perform at a high level, while experiencing significant increases in student enrollment and the correspondingly high teaching and administrative requirements. I particularly want to thank Doug Elmore, Randy Keller and Chandra Rai, who have been outstanding department directors during this time.

So as we complete this ninth full year of the Mewbourne College, we have, with your help, made good progress toward the goals that were set forth when I came to OU. The Mewbourne College is viewed as competing with the top programs in applied geosciences as well as petroleum and geological engineering. Our teaching and research is strong, and our graduates continue to be successful. We have made good progress toward that initial goal to “make the new college work.”

Thanks to all of you with whom I have had the privilege to work during these past nine years.

Larry R. Grillot
Dean and Lester A. Day Family Chair
GRILLOT TO RETIRE

Dean Larry Grillot, who has guided the college since its inception in 2006, has announced his plans to retire effective June 30, 2015.

“Larry Grillot has combined outstanding academic credentials with experience leading America’s energy industry at the highest level to guide the development of the College of Earth and Energy,” says OU President David L. Boren. “He has provided excellent leadership and direction to this new college.”

During his tenure as dean, Grillot has worked to maintain the heritage of geosciences and petroleum and geological engineering in energy education while providing strong ties to engineering fundamentals and the science base in geology and geophysics.

2014-2015 BOARD OF VISITORS

Composed of up to 30 active members who are distinguished alumni, corporate leaders and outstanding scientists, the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy Board of Visitors’ membership is representative of the broad scope of earth and energy disciplines in general, and geosciences and petroleum and geological engineering in particular. The board provides advice to the dean and the other members of the College Executive Committee; helps shape and actively promotes the college’s vision, goals and objectives; and assists the college’s leadership with issues that impact the future of the college.

The spring 2015 meeting is slated for April 17.

MEMBERS

Chris Cheatwood  
Douglas Cummings  
James C. Davis  
James C. Day  
John W. Doughtie  
James A. Gibbs  
Kris Goforth  
S. Kim Hatfield  
Ronnie K. Irani  
Tom H. McCasland Jr.  
Robert S. McKenny  
Lew Ward III  

Brian O’Brien  
Frank J. Patterson  
David G. Rensink  
Conley P. Smith  
Robert L. Stephenson  
Charles Stephenson Jr.  
J. Mike Stice  
Robert Thomas  
Gene Van Dyke  
Kenneth Waits

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

J. Denny Bartell  
Jere W. McKenny  
Bill Z. Parker  

Pamela S. Pierce  
Ted Sandridge

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Brad Biddy, chairman  
CPSGG Alumni Advisory Council  
Tray Black, chairman  
MPGE Industry Advisory Board
The University of Oklahoma has built a solid reputation for graduating highly skilled petroleum geoscience and engineering students who are comfortable working on multidisciplinary projects using state-of-the-art software. The extraordinary opportunity to use industry standard software ensures that our graduates will be optimally prepared for advanced technology in their oil industry employment.

THE EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY TO USE INDUSTRY STANDARD SOFTWARE ENSURES THAT OUR GRADUATES WILL BE OPTIMALLY PREPARED FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN THEIR OIL INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT.

Halliburton Energy Advancement Inc.’s Landmark Graphics and Schlumberger Information Solutions’ Petrel and Eclipse suites are leading-edge software that transforms enormous quantities of seismic, well log and other data into detailed computer models of petroleum reservoirs. The software enables students to perform reservoir characterization projects, including well log analysis, seismic interpretation, reservoir model building and reservoir simulation in a truly integrated manner, all on one software platform.

These models enable geologists, geophysicists and engineers to analyze the Earth’s subsurface so they can make better, more timely decisions that lower risks while fostering productivity, competitiveness and profitability.

As vital research corporate partners, Halliburton and Schlumberger provide software that prepares students for an increasingly interdisciplinary and global workplace and exposes them to the cutting-edge of energy technology.

The Schlumberger Information Solutions donation is a three-year license and includes Petrel E&P Software Platform, ECLIPSE Simulator Suite, Techlog Interactive Suite, PIPESIM Production Simulation software and OLGA dynamic multiphase flow simulator. The software comes with all the applicable modules and a three-year maintenance contract. The Schlumberger Information Solutions Segment also offers complimentary software training for students.

The Halliburton Energy Advancement Inc.’s Landmark software suite donation includes Nexus, SeisSpace ProMax and LithoTect and is a three-year license. The software comes with all the applicable modules and a three-year maintenance contract.

As VITAL RESEARCH CORPORATE PARTNERS, HALLIBURTON AND SCHLUMBERGER PROVIDE SOFTWARE THAT PREPARES STUDENTS FOR AN INCREASINGLY INTERDISCIPLINARY AND GLOBAL WORKPLACE AND EXPOSES THEM TO THE CUTTING-EDGE OF ENERGY TECHNOLOGY.
A LARGE FOOTPRINT

In the Crustal Imaging Facility’s seismic interpretation laboratory on the 10th floor of Sarkeys Energy Center, graduate students and upperclass undergraduates pore over data at computer stations.

These are no ordinary computer stations, though. The computers in this lab are loaded with some of the most sophisticated software available and the best hardware to support it.

Each of the lab’s 23 computers has dual processors that can run simultaneously and 32 GB of memory. CIF director Brad Wallet says they are industry standard for working with seismic data.

He should know. Wallet oversees the facility’s equipment and software, coordinates the IT staff who install and maintain it, is the point person for faculty and industry representatives who provide the lab’s software and data, and mentors students using the technology. And he happens to have years of geoscience industry experience, including serving on a team that developed some of the software.

The CIF lab is open to all graduate students for research, but also is used for some courses that include both graduate and undergraduate students. In Jamie Rich’s 4000-level seismic interpretation course, students put into practice the theory they learn in the classroom.

“They get to process and interpret their own seismic data, which is really a great opportunity for an introductory course like this,” explains Rich, assistant professor in the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics. “There are many software suites available, but we are able to choose the largest ones and the ones that work best for our students.”

In addition to the Schlumberger & Halliburton suites, the lab’s software includes:

• Vista, a processing package donated by Schlumberger
• Transform, a seismic interpretation package donated by Drilling Info
• Promax, a seismic processing software package donated by Landmark
• and Hampson-Russell, a software suite that encompasses all aspects of seismic exploration and reservoir characterization donated by CGG.

Companies also donate real-world data for use in the lab.

“Almost all the data we have is still held as proprietary by the companies that donated it so we are not allowed to release it or publish it in any form without their permission,” Rich says. “We have some data that we are only allowed to use for research, while some has been released to us for both research and teaching needs.”

Some of the research conducted by graduate students for their degree programs goes directly back to the donor companies, which are invited to thesis and dissertation events and are given copies of the work. Rich says they then do their own review process through publications that come from that research.

“This lab has a very large footprint,” says Wallet. “There are about 120 graduate students in geology and geophysics and 75 or more of them a year will have significant use of our facility. Anyone doing anything related to the oil and gas industry will spend a substantial amount of time here.”
Brad Biddy has been to a lot of events aimed at wowing potential donors. But he ranks the Mewbourne College’s April 4 TrailBlazer Society kickoff at the very top of the list.

There was the requisite good food and great company. What made this event different was that the air was electrified with excitement for the task at hand.

“You just knew that the people there really have a heart to preserve legacy and be trailblazers,” he says.

Those trailblazers are current and prospective members of the newly created TrailBlazer Society, a “giving” society that involves, nurtures, honors and recognizes donors for their continued support of the Mewbourne College’s objective and vision. Gifts made through the TrailBlazer Society provide a reliable source of funding for some of the college's most critical needs: scholarships, new educational initiatives and outstanding facilities, while providing an opportunity to celebrate leadership giving and the impact it has on students, faculty and programs.

“The funding the college receives through the university from state appropriations and student tuition provides a ‘basic education,’” Dean Larry Grillot explains. The ‘premium’ content of our curriculum – labs, field trips, professional experiences for students and support for student programs – must come from other funding sources. The leadership support of the TrailBlazer Society is crucial to the Mewbourne College’s success.”

The objective of the kickoff event was to introduce the college’s alumni and friends to that concept and get them excited about participating.

Biddy says that mission was accomplished.

“When you think of trailblazers, you think of people who are willing to get out of their comfort zone and strike off in a new direction and prepare things for those who come behind them,” says Biddy (B.S. geology, 1976), chairman of the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics Alumni Advisory Council and a member of the Mewbourne College’s TrailBlazer Society steering committee.

“The launch event had all the elements you need to illustrate a rich heritage and a bright future and was a great opportunity to showcase many of the people who have given generously of their time and money and who share a philosophy of working toward building for the future. I think it got a lot of people excited about becoming members of the TrailBlazer Society.”

He says event participants really understand the need to bridge the widening gap between the cost of quality education at OU and the funding allocated by the Legislature. “We realize it’s not up to the people in the statehouse to ensure that our excellence continues and grows,” Biddy explains. “It’s up to us, which is a bit of a paradigm shift. So we have to step it a notch to get to the next level.”

Tray Black (B.S. petroleum engineering, 1998), chairman of the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering’s Industry Advisory Board and also a member of the society’s steering committee, concurs.

“Discretionary dollars are absolutely critical to providing our students with a world-class education and hands-on experience in the lab and the field,” he states.

That goal ties in seamlessly with the objectives of the CPSGG Alumni Advisory Council and the MPGE Industry Advisory Board.

“We share with faculty and staff the trends and needs we see in the industry and advise them on how educational requirements are changing as a result,” explains Biddy, who recently retired from Devon Energy Corp. “If your computers don’t change every couple years, you’re behind the curve. Universities typically don’t have the luxury of doing that. We’ve got to find a way to keep up with industry trends in software, hardware and field techniques. The TrailBlazer Society can play an integral part in making that happen.”
A LEGACY

Black notes that the TrailBlazer Society provides a structure for younger alumni to make significant commitments, then fund them over time.

“There are people who have been long-term supporters of both the college and the individual schools, but we really are targeting those who are established in their careers and now are in a better position to give back,” he says. “I suspect we’ll see the greatest growth in TrailBlazer Society members who are five to 12 years out of school and ready to start the giving process. I was pleased to see that demographic represented at this event.”

He says alumni support for the TrailBlazer Society was overwhelming. “The concept resonated with them to the point they wanted to sign up as founding members and commit early. They are excited about participating.”

Black notes that such events provide a more formal opportunity for alumni to interact directly with the students who benefit from the funds raised and also to reconnect with faculty and other alumni.

“Alums get to become part of what’s happening in the college and connect with their particular programs,” he states.

Biddy sees the TrailBlazer Society as a great vehicle to preserve OU’s legacy in the oil and gas industry.

“The TrailBlazer Society can be a part of the solution that says we’re not going to slow down, we’re going to push the accelerator and let this college grow the way it ought to grow, to continue to be the prestigious educational leader that its always been, and to train the best graduates and allow them to fulfill their maximum potential.

“In our families and private lives, we have ways to preserve our legacy and our heritage,” he adds. “We can do the same with the TrailBlazer Society. There are a lot of people who have gone before us who have sacrificed and shown us how to give. We must preserve that legacy and move it forward. I think that we dishonor the future when we forget the past.”

BECOME A MEMBER

Alumni and friends who make commitments of $7,500 or more are eligible for TrailBlazer Society membership. Those who have made a $7,500 cumulative gift to the schools or programs that comprise what is now the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy will be recognized in the TrailBlazer’s inaugural year as Cornerstone Members.

Gifts may be restricted for a particular purpose, such as scholarships, lab support, or school and college priorities. Gifts also may be designated as unrestricted to the college, with the option of two-thirds of the gift directed to the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics, Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering or Oklahoma Geological Survey.

Individuals making planned gifts by will or trust may qualify for the TrailBlazer Society.

Members of the TrailBlazer Society will be honored through recognition on the TrailBlazer Society Wall located in Sarkeys Energy Center and in college publications. All society members also will receive an invitation to the college’s annual fall celebration banquet. The college will provide an annual stewardship report to members detailing how contributions are used.

For more information, contact Allison Richardson, interim director of Development, (405) 325-3821 or arichardson@ou.edu.
Marking the inaugural event of the University of Oklahoma’s celebration of its 125th anniversary, President David L. Boren announced on Sept. 12 the launch of “Live On, University,” a $500 million campaign to raise private funds to support student scholarships, new residential colleges and classroom and laboratory upgrades, and endowments for faculty fellowships, universitywide initiatives and college programs.

The largest component of the campaign – with a goal of $100 million – will provide scholarships for qualified undergraduate and graduate students across all majors and disciplines. OU has more than doubled its private scholarships in the past five years. Still, 57 percent of students and their families must take out loans to pay for college costs – loans of $22,140 on average and higher for students in professional, advanced and medical-related fields.

Another component of the campaign, with a goal of $25 million, would provide additional state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories for key energy programs.

“Never before has the University of Oklahoma been in greater need of financial support from its alumni and friends,” Boren says. “We must continue to set the highest standards of educational excellence for this generation of students. It is an investment to secure our future.”

Jim Day, who has provided vision and expertise to the university through service on the Sarkeys Energy Center Board of Directors and the Mewbourne College’s Board of Visitors, serves as campaign co-chair.

Day, of Sugar Land, Texas, and his late wife, Teresa, have long been known for their generous philanthropic spirit, community involvement and commitment to family. In 2000, he joined with his siblings to provide support for the Lester A. Day Family Chair, named in memory of their father and designated for the dean of the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy. In 2007, Day was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from OU. Jim and Teresa Day were honored in 2011 with the naming of the Mewbourne College dean’s office suite.

An international leader in the oil and gas industry, Day retired from Noble Corp. in 2007 after a more than 30-year career that included service as president/CEO and chairman of the board. At his retirement, Noble Corp. made a major gift to the Mewbourne College to recognize his distinguished service and leadership.

“The 125th anniversary will continue to build on the momentum created under the leadership of President David L. Boren. It is an honor to serve as co-chair of this endeavor,” Day says. “The two-year, $500-million campaign initiative includes scholarships as its primary focus; however, other elements of the university, such as the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art and the Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage, will be positively impacted. This effort provides an excellent opportunity to truly celebrate our rich history. I am most confident that alumni and friends will join us in ensuring this is a truly successful endeavor.”

The 125th anniversary celebration culminates in December 2015. A silent phase of the five-year campaign began in 2013.

Bonnie Kennedy, an OU business alumna and member of the OU Foundation Board of Trustees, serves as Day’s Live On, University campaign co-chair.
In addition to $100 million for scholarships and $25 million for energy program classrooms and laboratories, other Live On, University campaign goals are:

- $3 million to endow scholarships for students in the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work both on the OU Norman campus and the OU-Tulsa campus
- $20 million to support the creation of OU’s residential colleges – on-campus living and learning communities for students in their sophomore, junior and senior years that will strengthen OU’s position as a residential university
- A $10 million endowment for the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art to ensure that the museum is always positioned to preserve and expand its outstanding art collections, exhibits and programs
- A $5.1 million endowment for Presidential Teaching Fellowships in the Joe C. and Carole Kerr McClendon Honors College to increase opportunities for OU’s most talented faculty – across all colleges and departments – to teach some of OU’s most talented students in the small-class format of an honors course
- A $6 million endowment for the Institute for Quality Communities to increase understanding of the importance of quality planning for neighborhoods, towns and cities in Oklahoma
- A $5 million endowment for the Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage to make OU a national model for integrating civic education into the college curriculum and endow the institute’s signature event – the annual Teach-In
- A $5 million endowment for OU’s signature study abroad program in Arezzo, Italy, to help operate and maintain this facility, which serves more than 250 OU students and faculty-in-residence on a year-round basis.

As you know, private support has become critical as universities across the nation face record enrollments and dwindling state funding. By providing a vehicle through which our alumni and friends can engage, invest and participate in the successes of the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy, through the Trailblazer Society, we are able to strengthen the college’s academic endeavors, advance its national standing and ensure our students receive the highest quality of education.

Students in the Mewbourne College participate in enriching out-of-the-classroom experiences. They attend the Society of Petroleum Engineers Technical Conference alongside experts, exhibit at the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Annual Convention and Exhibition, compete against students from peer institutions and raise funds for worthy causes – all and more, thanks to contributions from alumni and friends like you.

Give online at ou.edu/mcee. Does your employer offer a matching program? Double or even triple the impact of your gift!

Our students say it best. They tell us that being at the Mewbourne College has been one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of their lives. On behalf of our students, faculty and staff, please accept my warm thanks and deepest gratitude.

Live On, University!

Allison Richardson
Interim Director of Development
REMEMBERING JOHN M. CAMPBELL SR. 1922 – 2013

“I ALWAYS APPRECIATED JOHN’S CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO OU, EVEN AFTER RETIREMENT. HE WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN FOR ALL OF THE THINGS HE DID FOR SO MANY YOUNG, DEVELOPING ENGINEERS.”

David Fagin (B.S. petroleum engineering, 1960)

John M. Campbell Sr. came to the University of Oklahoma in 1946 as a graduate student and instructor in chemical engineering. In 1951, he received a doctorate in chemical engineering, the first offered in the College of Engineering.

After three years in industry, he was rehired by OU in petroleum engineering and served as the chair of the department for 12 years. He also served as the director of the Petroleum Research Center and was the Halliburton Professor before leaving the university in 1968 to found the first of several companies to serve the international petroleum industry.

“Dr. Campbell was a wonderful role model at OU and throughout his consulting career afterward,” remembers David Fagin (B.S. petroleum engineering, 1960). “He was an excellent professor who was constantly upbeat and friendly. He was very knowledgeable on all of the subjects he taught, clear in explaining difficult concepts, and patient and fair with his students.”

Campbell and Fagin re-established regular contact years later through the Society of Petroleum Engineers. “I was pleased John hadn’t forgotten my admiration for his teaching,” says Fagin. “He had a great reputation throughout the industry for honest and intelligent analyses of issues of importance to many oil and gas people.”

Campbell, who earned a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from Iowa State University in 1943, was assigned to the Manhattan Project by his employer, DuPont, and was part of a group that developed the atomic bombs that were dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima that ended the war with Japan.

An internationally renowned energy consultant who wrote a number of successful books and technical papers, Campbell received many national and international honors, culminating in his election to the U.S. National Academy of Engineering.

His flagship company, John M. Campbell and Co., remains the worldwide leader in training for natural gas conditioning and processing. The Norman-based company also has offices in Tulsa; Katy, Texas; and Edmonton, Canada.

“I always appreciated John’s continued commitment to OU, even after retirement,” Fagin states. “He will never be forgotten for all of the things he did for so many young, developing engineers.”
When students are unsure exactly where to go or who to ask about just about anything in the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy, they head for the Student Services Center.

An expansion of both the center’s physical space and its staff make the process just a little easier for the college’s nearly 1,300 undergraduates (908 enrolled in the college and another 367 in University College) and 300-plus graduate students.

The Student Services Center provides formal advising to all undergraduate students and support to students, both undergraduate and graduate, says director Liz Ehrhardt. Last spring, the center added a third adviser and over the summer doubled its space in Sarkeys Energy Center.

“We gave a lot of thought to how we could make the best use of the space so that students feel like it’s a place where they can walk in without hesitation,” Ehrhardt says. “We wanted to make it feel as welcoming and comfortable and relaxed yet professional as we could.”

That starts with a student’s first visit to the college.

“We encourage freshmen in University College to make the connection with the Mewbourne College so they can start identifying with us and with their peer groups. Students who do that tend to be more successful,” Ehrhardt says. “Then when they enroll in this college, we meet with each one-to-one for orientation and advising. We also want to just welcome them and let them get to know us a little bit as we start to get to know them.”

Advisers also try to be realistic with all students coming through their office.

“Both schools in this college have a very rigorous curriculum,” Ehrhardt explains. “Sometimes students go into a particular major for maybe not the best reasons and it might not be a great fit for them. We have those hard conversations with them about exploring other options and encourage them to get to know who they are and what they want to do.”

As this fall semester geared up, the center’s advisers counseled more than 200 walk-in students each week. “Before the expansion, there were times when they had to just sprawl out in the hall,” Ehrhardt says. “There still are times when we don’t have room for everybody at a given time, but that’s the nice part about being right by the west atrium. We can say, ‘If you’ll have a seat in the atrium, we’ll get to you as soon as we can.’”

The addition of an advising computer system called iAdvise also makes the walk-in advising process more efficient. When students arrive in the advising center reception area, they sign in by entering their student ID number and the reason for the visit. All three advisers can see that information on their office computer screens and take students on a first-come basis.

The Student Services Center also is responsible for planning several college-wide events, including convocation ceremonies and receptions.

“Planning convocations gives us an opportunity to see students come full circle,” Ehrhardt says. “We see many of them when they came for orientation and when it’s time for them to graduate we get to celebrate with them and their families.”

Regardless of the time of year or the point in a student’s academic career, the Student Services Center is a reliable and comforting presence. And, as Ehrhardt points out, that’s a plus for the staff as well.

“Every student is different and has something to share. They give to us as much as we give to them,” she says.
The Mewbourne College recognized J. Denny Bartell with the 2013 Trailblazer Award on April 4.

Established in 2003, the biennial award honors exceptional individuals in the energy industry who have pioneered operational or scientific practices, procedures and developments for the industry, enhancing the quality of life for Oklahoma citizens, the nation and the world.

Bartell graduated from OU in 1954 with a bachelor of science degree in geological engineering. After serving two years in the U.S. Army, he joined Union Oil and Gas Corp. of Louisiana as an exploration geologist. He formed his own exploration firm, Hemingway and Bartell (now Bartell Exploration), in 1961. In 2001, Bartell and several partners launched Invictus Exploration, which today is Legends Exploration.

A licensed professional geoscientist in Texas, Bartell has been a member, officer and executive committee member of the Houston Geological Society, American Association of Petroleum Geologists and American Institute of Professional Geologists.

In 1983, Bartell established the first named professorship in petroleum geology at OU. He served as chairman of the Alumni Advisory Council for the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics, of which he is a life member, and as founder and board member of Sarkeys Energy Center. He was inducted into the OU College of Engineering Distinguished Graduate Society in 2000 and named a Distinguished Alumnus of the Mewbourne College in 2008.

He and his family made the lead gift for the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics Bartell Field Camp near Cañon City, Colorado. The camp, which was dedicated in June, 2011, provides a base for an unparalleled hands-on, real-world field experience for geology and geophysics students.

Previous Trailblazer Award recipients are John W. Nichols, the Lloyd Noble Family, Curtis Mewbourne, Lew O. Ward III and Charles Stephenson.
### 2013-2014 FAST FACTS

#### FACULTY
39

#### RESEARCHERS
22

#### TOTAL STUDENTS
1,316

**TOTAL STUDENTS** *(14.8% increase over previous academic year)*

#### UNDERGRADUATES
1,120

#### GRADUATE STUDENTS
196

#### DEGREES CONFERRED
189

### ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics

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### MAGAZINE EARN ACCOLADES

The 2013 issue of *Earth & Energy* magazine, with the theme “The Many Faces of Research,” was honored with a bronze award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education District IV in the category “Best Practices in Alumni Relations.”

CASE provides resource development, training programs and marketing services in the areas of alumni relations, communications and philanthropy. District IV comprises nearly 3,000 members from 261 institutions in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.
SPARKING INTEREST

As a child, Jennifer Roberts watched Nickelodeon on the Discovery Channel and always knew geophysics was the career for her. The senior and 2014-2015 Pick & Hammer president who plans to be an exploration geophysicist, talks about the impact Pick & Hammer has had on her and how she hopes to pay that forward.

How did you get involved in Pick & Hammer?

I transferred to OU in fall 2012, and didn’t know anyone in the department. I met a couple of students in my classes who are involved in Pick & Hammer. The following spring, I started going to meetings and getting involved in different social events and outreach programs, and that sparked my interest. It’s a great club, especially for new students looking for both social and academic interaction.

Tell us about Pick & Hammer’s community outreach.

We go to elementary, middle and high schools, and we also have those students visit Sarkeys Energy Center for hands-on projects, lectures and other activities. The visits are always a hit and lots of fun.

Describe some of those activities.

For elementary students, we have cupcakes with different layers of food coloring – one blue, one red, one yellow. The kids put a little straw through the cupcake and pull it out and see the layers, which helps explain the core, mantle and crust layers of the earth, and also can illustrate layers of sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rock.

For middle school and high school students, we create overview presentations on topics like geophysics, petroleum geology or geochemistry. We’ll do a PowerPoint and sometimes bring in props like a gravimeter, which measures gravity at different points.

We take them on tours of some of the labs. On a recent tour, we went to the paleomagnetism laboratory, where the professors and lab managers explained exactly what everything was and how it worked.

“It’s one thing to see something on TV or in pictures or learning about it in our classes. But it’s a whole other ballgame to go out there and actually see it for yourself.”

— Jennifer Roberts
How is Pick & Hammer involved with the mineral collection recently donated by the McGhee Foundation to the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics?

Pick & Hammer is organizing the collection, which is quite large. We are making rock and mineral kits from part of the collection to give to local schools to help supply teachers with tools to teach students about geosciences. We hope that helps spark another generation of geoscientists that’s larger than ours.

What are your plans for the organization this year?

I want to see how much more we can do with our outreach program. I’d like to do more schools and host different kinds of events like taking students on a field trip and showing them how exciting it is to be out in the field, because that’s what being a geologist or geophysicist is all about. I’d also like to host a daylong mini-camp for students at Sarkeys. And it would be great to plan something on a larger scale, such as taking a multiday field trip somewhere, maybe even to the Bartell Field Camp in Colorado.

I also want to focus on more social activities within the club. As geoscientists, we love field trips. We love going out and seeing and touching things. It’s one thing to see something on TV or in pictures or learning about it in our classes. But it’s a whole other ballgame to go out there and actually see it for yourself.

Is Pick & Hammer just for geologists and geophysicists?

Pick & Hammer is for students of all disciplines. It’s not just for graduate students or upper-division underclassmen. It’s for anyone interested in the geosciences, period. It’s a social club. We do a lot of great stuff with outreach, we do a lot of great stuff with the schools, but we also want to get together as geoscientists or just people interested in geoscience and have a lot of fun, learn together and bounce ideas off each other. I don’t think a lot of people realize that you can join a club like this even though you’re not in the department.

How are you spreading the word to other colleges across campus?

We participated in Howdy Week during the first week of the fall semester and are brainstorming other ways to get our name out there. We want to see how big we can make Pick & Hammer and get incoming freshmen, especially in geology, geophysics and petroleum engineering, excited about joining our club.

We’re all going to have to work together eventually. It would be nice to start doing that now.
When Michael Roman was a student at St. Louis Community College, he joined the Geology Club and had a great time. When he came to OU to study geophysics, he joined Pick & Hammer. Currently the president of the OU chapter of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Roman previously served as vice president of Pick & Hammer and remains active in the club.

Under the leadership of Andrew Swindle and James Maner, Pick & Hammer’s 2012-2013 president and vice president, respectively, the club started the communication outreach program. Members went to third-grade classrooms in Norman, showing the younger students rock and mineral samples and teaching them some basic geology.

“It’s amazing how much these kids pick up, and how much some of them already know,” Roman says. “I don’t remember studying the periodic table in third grade, but some of these kids already knew what elements were.”

Pick & Hammer expanded the program to include tutoring Whittier Middle School students for 30 minutes three days a week to prepare for Science Olympiad, an academic “track meet” in which school-based teams compete across a variety of STEM disciplines.

It’s fair to say Pick & Hammer played a role in the outcome: The Whittier team took first place in the rocks and minerals section and second place overall.

“I saw a change from when we started tutoring them to when we finished,” Roman says. “They actually took the time to learn.

We can pique the interest of third-graders, which is great. But the sixth- and seventh-graders learn something from us. I think the teachers do, too. They know a lot, but they always want to learn more.”

This past spring, Roman and some of his fellow Pick & Hammer members hosted a group of 19 Norman High School physics students and their teacher for a tour of Sarkeys Energy Center laboratories.

“We’d been going to their classroom as guest speakers since the fall. We talked about geophysics, petroleum geology, volcanology, mineralogy and hard rock petrology. Dean Grillot gave a talk about earthquakes in Oklahoma and fracking,” Roman recalls. “During the final visit of the school year, I suggested they come to our school, talk to some professors and see what’s actually done with geology. They loved it. They asked so many good questions.”

Perhaps it won’t be long until those students, too, are members of Pick & Hammer.
“I SAW A CHANGE FROM WHEN WE STARTED TUTORING THEM TO WHEN WE FINISHED, THEY ACTUALLY TOOK THE TIME TO LEARN.”

— MICHAEL ROMAN
The students’ cultural activities included visiting the Salt Cathedral in Zipaquira and exploring the centuries-old La Candelaria area of Bogota.

“This course was a great educational experience about industry and also about Colombia,” geology senior Kristin Arndt says. “I learned a lot about the culture and the people and made great friends.”

“This experience was one of the best times of my life.”
—HUNTER BURKE
petroleum engineering senior

In May, associate professor Deepak Devegowda led a group of 13 petroleum engineering students to the National University campus in the Colombian Amazon city of Leticia, situated on the banks of the Amazon River. Twenty Colombian undergraduate students joined them for Devegowda’s Improved Recovery Techniques course, which involved using the Schlumberger software Eclipse to model synthetic and field case studies.

This was the fourth year of the petroleum engineering Study Abroad program.

The group experienced local culture by traveling along the Amazon River, visiting Monkey Island to see wild animals in their natural environment, exploring parts of Bogota, dancing with the Huitoto and Tikuna Indians, and visiting the Salt Cathedral in Zipaquira.

“This experience was one of the best times of my life,” says petroleum engineering senior Hunter Burke. “I had a great time learning in the classroom and experiencing a completely different culture. The activities on the weekends were once-in-a-lifetime opportunities that I will always remember.”

Two study abroad trips are planned for 2015: a petroleum engineering course in Peru in May and a geology course in Italy in July.
CANCER SOCIETY RANKS OU SPE NO. 4 FUNDRAISER

The American Cancer Society recognized the OU chapter of the Society of Petroleum Engineers as the No. 4 college student organization in the nation in terms of money raised during 2013. The chapter again led all OU teams in fundraising for Relay for Life 2014, with a total of $24,421.

As part of the 2014 Relay for Life fundraising and fun, faculty and students were challenged to complete dares if a certain dollar amount was raised. As part of his dare, SPE member Adam Alawami raced around the gym carrying Professor Carl Sondergeld.

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

THE MEWBOURNE COLLEGE HONORED PATTARANAN KIATSAKDAWONG WITH ITS 2014 OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD.

Other students recognized with top awards are:

**ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics:**
- Lily Pfeifer, Ben Hare Excellence in Geology and Geophysics Award
- Thao Phuong Le, Charles N. Gould Award
- Jackson Haffener, Alan Witten Award
- Chris Wierman, David Stearns Award
- Linh Vo, Estwing Hammer Award

**Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering:**
- Mary Elise Miller, Outstanding Senior Award
- Kreg Flowers, Outstanding Junior Award
- Jordan Stone, Outstanding Sophomore Award

OU GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE AWARDS

- SPE: Excellence in Multiculturalism
- SPE: Excellence in Philanthropy
- SPE: Outstanding Student Leader
  - Bryce Fugate
- Adnan Al-Ibadi: Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant
DEGOLYER FELLOW: BRYAN TURNER

Bryan Turner, a doctoral student in the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics, is the recipient of the 2014 DeGolyer Graduate Fellowship in Geology and Geophysics.

The award named for oilman and philanthropist Everette Lee DeGolyer (B.S. geology, 1911) was established by the DeGolyer Family in 1997 to honor his memory and affiliation with OU and his contributions to the science and profession of geology. The fellowship is awarded to a graduate student for academic excellence.

Upon completion of his doctorate, Turner plans to continue his research on shale sequence stratigraphy.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS/SOCIETY OF EXPLORATION GEOLOGISTS

2014 SPRING BREAK STUDENT EXPO

11th YEAR 380 STUDENTS 88 UNIVERSITIES
21 SPONSORS >100 ABSTRACTS

2ND PLACE
AWARD WON BY CPSGG STUDENT TAO ZHAO IN THE GEOPHYSICS POSTER CONTEST
CONOCOPHILLIPS SCHOOL OF GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS
SPRING PICNIC AND STUDENT AWARDS
**CENTER STAGE**

For the second consecutive year, a team of graduate students in the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics captured second-place honors at the 2014 American Association of Petroleum Geologists Imperial Barrel Award competition. The competition is part of the Annual AAPG Convention and Exhibition, which this year was held in Houston.

Charlie Crosby, Emma Giddens, Brandon Swain, Rachel Petit and Michael Kowalczyk were awarded the $10,000 Selley Cup Second Place award, which will support scholarships in CPSGG.

Graduate student teams from universities around the world participate in the annual prospective basin evaluation program, in which they analyze a dataset of geology, geophysics, land, production infrastructure and other relevant materials and deliver their results in a presentation to a panel of industry experts. Winners are selected on the basis of technical quality, clarity and originality of presentation.

Dave Rensink (M.S. geology, 1971) served as vice general chair of the 2014 AAPG convention.

“The IBA began as an internal competition at Imperial College in London in which student teams addressed real-world industry problems. It was very competitive,” Rensink explains. “AAPG took that program and adapted it to the global scale. The skills the students learn during the process are exactly the kind of skills they’ll use in industry.

“The fact that OU teams have done so well shows that the geology program is strong, there’s good faculty support for the competition and there are some very smart students. I’m quite proud of the school,” he adds.

Also at the convention, the OU AAPG student chapter received an honorable mention as Outstanding Student Chapter in the United States.

**SPE PAPER WINNERS**

Greg Gannaway (B.S. petroleum engineering, 2014) and Yinan Hu (Ph.D. petroleum engineering, 2014) won the 2014 SPE Regional Student Paper Contest for the Mid Continent, Eastern and Rocky Mountain North America Regions in the undergraduate and Ph.D. categories, respectively.

**GEOPHYSICAL TECH FEST**

OU collaborated with the University of Tulsa, the University of Arkansas and Oklahoma State University to host the first Geophysical Tech Fest at OSU’s Boone Pickens School of Geology Noble Research Center. Forty students and 12 faculty members, plus representatives from the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, Geophysical Society of Tulsa and Geophysical Society of Oklahoma City, attended the event, which is designed to give students the opportunity to network and share their specialized research projects. CPSGG students Bo Zhang and Fangyu Li won second- and third-place awards, respectively, in the poster contest.
FIELD CAMP DRAWS 30

Nineteen ConocoPhillips School Geology and Geophysics students and 11 students from other schools attended this year’s six-week field camp near Cañon City, Colorado. The geophysics capstone class also was at camp for the first three weeks.

More than $66,000 has been awarded to OU students attending camp to cover tuition and fees, in part through the generosity of ConocoPhillips, the Oklahoma Geology Foundation, Oklahoma City Geological Society, Geophysical Society of Tulsa and numerous generous alumni.

OILFIELD APPS SUMMIT

A 10-member delegation represented the OU chapter of Society of Petroleum Engineers at the SPE Student Summit in The Woodlands, Texas, in February. The summit, “Increasing Your Field’s IQ: The Digital Oilfield,” focused on the intersection of data and technology in oilfield applications.
2014-2015 DEAN’S ADVISORY COUNCIL

Created in fall 2007, the Dean’s Advisory Council brings together student leaders in the Mewbourne College and the dean to discuss key issues and activities in the college and to provide leadership programs to enrich the college experience for all students.

Members of the 2014-2015 DAC are:
- Alex Besov, Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts
- Bryce Fugate, Society of Petroleum Engineers
- Rebecca Funderburg, Earth Link
- Danielle Genest, Women in Petroleum and Geological Engineering
- Joshua Hardisty, Society of Exploration Geophysicists
- Stephen Lindsey, Earth Link
- Kyle Neff, Pi Epsilon Tau
- Andrew Oursland, American Association of Drilling Engineers
- Jennifer Roberts, Pick & Hammer
- Michael Roman, American Association of Petroleum Geologists

E-WEEK FUN AND PHILANTHROPY

During Engineers Week 2014, Bryce Fugate, Faye Reiley, Kreg Flowers and Kirke Suter, known as the Bottomhole Acoustics, sang petroleum- and engineering-themed parodies to popular songs during the Engineers Got Talent event. The Sondergolds – Bently Williams, Tim Sayers, Keith Fritschen and Casey Roberts – took the top spot in E-Olympics Dodge Ball. Faculty and staff supported MPGE by bringing canned goods in for the E-Week Canned Food Drive.
NEW FACULTY JOIN COLLEGE

**Shannon Dulin** has joined the faculty of the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics as an assistant professor. She received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from OU and worked at Lario Oil and Gas and Chesapeake Energy. Her current research involves using paleomagnetism to determine timing of mineral formation on unconformity surfaces in Scotland, as well as determining the age of sandstone dikes in Precambrian host rocks in the Front Range of Colorado. Dulin will teach the summer geology capstone course at the Bartell Field Camp and Introduction to Field Methods.

**Mashhad Fahes** has joined the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering as an assistant professor. She previously served on the faculty of Texas A&M University at Qatar. Fahes holds a bachelor of science degree in physics from Lebanese University and a doctoral degree in petroleum engineering from Imperial College London. She is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers and serves as a technical editor for SPE journals. Her research focuses on reservoir engineering, primarily multi-phase flow in porous media.

**Rouzbeh Moghanloo** is an assistant professor in the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in chemical engineering and a doctoral degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. Moghanloo is a member of numerous technical societies and serves as associate editor for several technical journals. His research area focuses on reservoir engineering and modeling of fluid flow in heterogeneous media.

**Ahmad Sakhaee-Pour** worked for two years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences, where he conducted research on coupled geomechanics and flow problems. He earned a doctoral degree in petroleum engineering from The University of Texas at Austin and a master’s degree in mechanical engineering from Sharif University of Technology, Iran. Sakhaee-Pour is interested in the physics of multi-phase flow through unconventional resources and coupled geomechanics and flow problems relevant to these formations.

TIAB RETIRES

After 37 years at OU, **Professor Djebbar Tiab** retired this past summer. Since 1977, Tiab taught a variety of petroleum and general engineering courses, including well test analysis, petrophysics/reservoir rock properties, oil reservoir engineering and natural gas engineering. His research was supported by grants and contracts from such organizations and agencies as the National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Energy.

SHAH NAMED AIChE FELLOW

**Professor Subhash Shah,** Stephenson Chair in the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering and director of the school’s Well Construction Technology Center, has been named a fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. A fellow is the highest grade of membership in AIChE and testifies to the high esteem in which Shah is held by his peers for his professional accomplishments and contributions. He was formally recognized for this accomplishment at the AIChE annual meeting in November in Atlanta.
One day nearly 30 years ago, Connie Smith made a purchase that would change the holiday season for her and countless others for years to come.

The now longtime information officer and webmaster for the Oklahoma Geological Survey was in a bookstore in Dallas, where she bought a small bear wearing a sweater that, she says, was "the cutest little teddy bear ever." On the way back to Norman, she had an idea.

OGS had been having chili luncheons and bake sales to raise funds to make the holidays a little brighter for children in need. But they were looking to do something different.

"I looked at that little bear and it dawned on me that we could have a Teddy Bear tea party with cookies and tea and people could bring stuffed animals," she remembers.

"I looked at that little bear and it dawned on me that we could have a Teddy Bear tea party with cookies and tea and people could bring stuffed animals."  
- CONNIE SMITH

Thus was born the Teddy Bear Tea, one of OU's most beloved holiday events.

"It was a success from that first party, and over the years just grew and grew," Smith says. "People had a great time. Even those you might have thought would never bring a stuffed animal came with one and everyone was quite proud of and attached to whatever critter they brought."

There was a poignant side, too, of course.

"Sometimes it would break your heart when you took the bears to a charitable organization in Norman and saw the need," Smith relates. "I have seen grown men cry when we left after dropping off some of the donations. One year a little boy came in and donated a much-worn and obviously loved tiny little blue corduroy bear and had some difficulty parting with it. His face was sad as he said..."
goodbye to his dear friend. We tried to get him to keep the bear and he wouldn’t. But thinking of others is what the Teddy Bear Tea is all about.”

OGS spearheaded the event until eight years ago, when coordination began rotating among the units in the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy. Devon Harr, special events and donor relations coordinator in the ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics, oversaw last year’s event.

“The Teddy Bear Tea gives staff and faculty from across the campus and the public an opportunity to come together as a family and give to others in need during the holiday season,” Harr explains.

The event has benefited many local philanthropic organizations throughout the years. The most recent is the Mary Abbott Children’s House in Norman, which serves child victims of abuse and neglect through coordinated interagency investigation, intervention, education and advocacy. The bears, toys and other items collected give comfort to children and teens of all ages during a difficult time in their young lives.

“It is the Mewbourne College’s way to give back to the community that surrounds and supports OU,” Harr says.

“THE TEDDY BEAR TEA IS THE MEBOURNE COLLEGE’S WAY TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY THAT SURROUNDS AND SUPPORTS OU.”

– DEVON HARR
The idea of starting a mentoring program for University of Oklahoma petroleum engineering students came to Toby Deen after he discovered a similar program in the OU Price College of Business School of Energy Management through which the Oklahoma City Association of Professional Landmen pair professional landmen with students.

“I heard about it when I was recruiting at OU for Devon Corp.,” recalls Deen (B.S. petroleum engineering, 2010), a Devon production engineer. “It turned out the chair of that OCAPL program worked here at Devon. I sought him out, learned the history and structure and proposed a similar concept to the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering Industry Advisory Board.

“I found out that the concept of offering industry mentors to undergraduates was by no means a new idea to the board. In fact, several members were doing that sort of thing. With their input and lessons learned plus additional advice from my colleagues at OCAPL, I was able to form a structure tailored for MPGE.”

The result is Future Trailblazers, a joint effort of the Oklahoma City Section of the Society of Professional Engineers, which fully funds, manages the program and recruits mentors, and MPGE, which recruits students.

Future Trailblazers launched in fall 2013 with 20 mentor-mentee matches.

“The key to the program’s success is sustainability,” says Deen, who serves as the program’s first chairman. “SPE OKC provides the organization and continuity that will ensure Future Trailblazers will be around long after I’m no longer involved.”

Here’s how it works: Mentors complete an information sheet that describes their professional experience (which to date ranges from three to 35 years in the industry and spans 12 Oklahoma City area companies), hobbies and other general data. Meanwhile, MPGE director Chandra Rai and his staff promote Future Trailblazers to MPGE juniors and collect their applications.

“I pair those I think will fit well together,” says Deen, who also is a mentor. “Not everyone is going to be a perfect match. A mentoring relationship isn’t something you can force. We’re just trying to do our best to facilitate it.”

“Mentoring relationship isn’t something you can force. We’re just trying to do our best to facilitate it.”

– TOBY DEEN

He says his biggest hurdle recruiting mentors was their concern that participating would require a big time commitment. “The first year, I promised them we would have only one scheduled event each semester,” he explains. “Outside of that, the mode of interaction was completely between the student and the mentor. It could be emails, phone calls, monthly lunch meetings, whatever worked best for them.”

During 2013-14, those events were an early fall networking dinner on campus and a spring outing to an Oklahoma City Thunder home game.

This year, there are 28 mentors and 31 students, a challenge solved when some members offered to sponsor two students instead of one. And based on feedback from last year’s participants, Deen has doubled the number of events. An on-campus career fair-related program and a field trip to an interesting industry site were planned for fall, while another Thunder game and a dinner are tentatively slated for spring.

Although the program currently is available only to juniors, Deen says there is a conscious effort to remain flexible and be able to adapt to the college’s needs.

“Our goal is to choose students we can help,” he says.

Jon Willinger, one of the program’s inaugural mentees, is one of those students.
“Coming into an industry without a family background or connections, I thought the Future Trailblazers was a great opportunity for me,” says Willinger, a native of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and currently a petroleum engineering senior. “My mentor works for a small independent company that I otherwise wouldn’t have learned about. The networking events gave me a chance to hear from industry professionals about their struggles and successes as well as career options I hadn’t considered. The program really expanded my awareness of opportunities in Oklahoma City.”

He stays in touch with his mentor through emails and occasional lunches. And when he needed advice for a class project, Willinger turned to his mentor.

Although Future Trailblazer mentors don’t have to be OU alumni or hold a petroleum engineering degree, they must be registered SPE OKC members.

“It’s important that the mentors are local, so that contact between them and the students isn’t restricted to emails and phone calls,” Deen states.

“THE NETWORKING EVENTS GAVE ME A CHANCE TO HEAR FROM INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS ABOUT THEIR STRUGGLES AND SUCCESSES AS WELL AS CAREER OPTIONS I HADN’T CONSIDERED. THE PROGRAM REALLY EXPANDED MY AWARENESS OF OPPORTUNITIES IN OKLAHOMA CITY.”

- JON WILLINGER, PETROLEUM ENGINEERING SENIOR

Mentors also must commit to the program for one full year.

“The pool of students is larger than the pool of mentors, so if someone is just now hearing about it and wants to sign up, they’re more than welcome,” he adds.

For more information on the Future Trailblazer program or to become a mentor, visit http://connect.spe.org/OKC/future-trailblazers.
She didn’t know it at the time, but when JoAnn Meyer was a high school junior in Ada, Oklahoma, she had her first mentor.

Meyer (B.S. petroleum engineering, 1982) figured she would become a teacher.

“I went to my trigonometry teacher and said, ‘I really like math classes and science classes, so does that probably mean I should be a teacher?’ He got a funny look on his face and said, ‘Well, JoAnn, you could be an engineer.’ I thought of engineering in terms of trains and I’m sure I had a blank look on my face. So he explained engineering to me,” remembers Meyer.

“I look back on that now and think what a very progressive man he was. If I hadn’t picked the right teacher to ask, I probably would have heard, ‘Yes. You would be a great teacher.’"

Perhaps she would have been. Instead, she embarked on a fabulously successful career as a petroleum engineer and executive.

After 28 years with major and large independent exploration and producing companies in positions ranging from operations engineer and production foreman to senior executive managing high-profile projects and upstream field operations, Meyer decided she was ready to do something different. She joined a large consulting company for three years, where she was exposed to the corporate cultures and operations of other companies.

Last year, her entrepreneurial spirit kicked in. “I had in mind a slightly different business model [from that of the traditional, large consulting firm] that I hoped could be valuable. So now I’m testing that hypothesis.”

That test is Houston-based Previse Consulting, which Meyer founded in summer 2013.

“We’re a syndicate of senior E and P industry leaders and professionals with a distinct offering. Clients can access decades of first-hand experience at developing and deploying improvement efforts that deliver bottom line results. Each of us at Previse brings a different expertise in areas such as operations excellence, well construction and delivery, production surveillance, reservoir management and portfolio management, to name a few. She is the only woman in the group.

“By now I’m used to it. It’s always been that way,” she states. “Throughout my career, particularly when I was at the senior executive level, I was the only female in the room. But most of the time, I didn’t even notice.”
She suspects a primary reason women engineers remain a minority is many young girls decide early on that they are not good at math or don’t like it. “My fear is if you decide that very early on, then you’ve got no chance of ever thinking that you’d like to be an engineer,” she explains. “I’ll be honest: Math was not my best subject. I did fine, I persevered and I was too stubborn to quit. And you know what? I haven’t done that much higher-level math as an engineer. If I had gone into research, perhaps I would have. But engineering is just like any other profession – there are so many different avenues.”

Her experience, success and determination have enabled Meyer to pay it forward by mentoring other promising women engineers.

A couple of years ago, the College of Earth and Energy development office contacted Meyer and asked if she would meet with a young female petroleum engineering graduate who was moving to Houston to join ExxonMobil. She’d love to, Meyer said.

That graduate was Ashley Zumwalt (B.S. petroleum engineering, 2012), who currently is a lead drilling and completions engineer for Argentina Exploration at ExxonMobil.

Meyer, too, had worked at ExxonMobil and had several contacts and a very good friend – a senior executive – with whom she wanted to connect Zumwalt. “My friend is the controller for all of ExxonMobil upstream, so even though she’s not in engineering, I thought it would be good for Ashley to know some women in the company.”

The three began meeting for happy hours and dinners to catch up on life events.

“JoAnn has been a constant supporter, always offering advice or introducing me to someone who could offer a new perspective or insight on something I’m working through at work or in my life,” says Zumwalt. “It’s inspiring to see a successful woman like JoAnn who, like me, started out working in the oil patch and went on to have a dynamic career across the oil and gas industry and then start her own consulting company.”

On a recent trip from Argentina back to Houston, Zumwalt got to pay it forward herself at a dinner party hosted by Meyer.

“I had an opportunity to speak with JoAnn’s son, Beth’s (Casteel, Meyer’s friend and ExxonMobil executive) daughter and their colleague’s daughter, about pursuing engineering as a profession,” Zumwalt relates. “I told them about my current assignment in Argentina and what being an engineer is really like. One of the vital steps in increasing the number of women in STEM careers is to eliminate the misconception that engineers are dull people who sit in an office all day and punch numbers into their calculators.”

“Ashley is a very good ambassador for engineering and women in engineering,” Meyer states.

As, Zumwalt says, is Meyer.

“JoAnn is a source for advice, encouragement and celebration. She is incredibly accomplished and a good example of where I would like to be in the future,” she says. “I hope to continue our friendship and continue learning what a mentor-mentee relationship can be.”

**ZUMWALT: SEEK MENTORS AND BE ONE**

“Seeking out mentors and eventually becoming a mentor are incredibly valuable experiences for all professionals, both female and male. I encourage all young professionals to have many mentors, some inside your company, but most outside the company.

“It’s nice to have a variety of opinions when seeking advice and it helps to understand how other companies and other industries operate. Mentors are also helpful to bounce ideas off of when trying to determine what your next career move will be. One person hasn’t done everything, but she often knows someone with different experience to refer you to.

“When a person is going through a situation for the first time, it can seem overwhelming and scary – the unknown is always scary. But if you have been through that experience, you can shed some light on it for another person.”

**MEYER: THE VALUE OF MENTORING**

“I never had a female engineer as a mentor. I don’t think there was ever a great tragedy or traumatic time when I absolutely needed someone, but there were times when I wished I had somebody to talk to and thought, ‘What about this person or that person?’ If I had reached out to those people, it probably would’ve been great. I just didn’t feel comfortable doing that.

“The reality is that what you typically worry about and what weighs you down is probably not as big of a deal as it seems at the time. It helps if you have somebody who can say, ‘You messed up and you made a mistake. Let me show you MY list.’

“Having someone who can say, ‘I know it’s bothering you now and I’m sorry for that, but you know what? It’s not that big of a deal. It’s going to be all right’ – that has real value.”
A LEGACY REMEMBERED

Bill Saxon, alumnus and generous supporter of University of Oklahoma and former member of the OU Energy Center External Advisory Board, passed away May 13, 2014.

Saxon was born June 20, 1928, in Paoli, Oklahoma. When his father’s bank failed in the crash of 1929, the family moved to Norman. Saxon served a brief stint in the Marines near the end of World War II, after which he returned to Norman to earn his bachelor of science degree in business administration and petroleum management in 1951. He then served in the Korean War and was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

Upon his return, Saxon joined the training program at Gulf Oil Co., learning the business from the ground up in the Oklahoma oil patch. After several more years in equipment, drilling, and exploration and production companies, he formed Saxon Oil Co., in 1963 in Abilene, Texas, and moved operations to Midland, Texas, in the early 1970s. The company eventually drilled more than 700 successful wells through a series of public and private partnerships. Saxon Oil Co. became public in 1980.

Throughout his career, Saxon supported OU in a variety of ways. He advanced the arts and culture of Oklahoma through his support of the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History and the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, where he created the Wylodean Saxon Memorial Lecture Series to bring distinguished artists, collectors and authors to the museum and other university programs. To support the campus he held dear to his heart, Saxon contributed to the Boyd House renovation, OU centennial arches and the Energy Center.

Saxon served on OU’s Centennial Commission, Price College of Business Administration Alumni Council and Alumni Board, and Reach for Excellence Campaign. A life member of the President’s Associates and Alumni Association, he was a member of the university’s Seed Sower Society and was honored with the Regents’ Alumni Award in 2013.

On May 9, 2014, OU awarded Saxon an honorary doctorate of humane letters. Although too ill to attend, he enjoyed a live feed of the presentation of the degree at the Regents Luncheon and the conferring of the degree at Commencement, both of which resulted in standing ovations. He declared them “a great send-off.”

“No one ever loved the University of Oklahoma more than Bill Saxon,” OU President David L. Boren says.

“The legacy of Bill Saxon is one that has helped to build and maintain the cornerstones of OU,” adds Tripp Hall, OU vice president for development. “He represents what it means to be an alumni, donor and friend.”
1950s

JOHN A. BROCK (B.S. geological engineering, 1953) has retired from Medallion Petroleum Inc. He lives in Tulsa.

After retiring in 1988 after a long career with Willbros, that culminated as vice president of the Middle East, LEYCEL A. BURGER (B.S. petroleum engineering, 1959) retired in 2006 from a second career in ranching. He and his wife, who live in Wilburton, Oklahoma, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in May.

After retiring from J.M. Huber Corp. in 1995, ROBERT “BOB” HANLEY JR. (B.S. petroleum engineering, 1959) formed RDH Energy Inc., providing oil and gas as well as drilling and completion consulting services. He currently manages his non-operated and royalty oil and gas interests. Hanley is a former chairman of and current senior adviser to the board of directors of the Houston chapter of the American Petroleum Institute.

PATRICK HOSFORD (B.S. petroleum engineering, 1958) enjoys retirement in The Woodlands, Texas, with his wife of 58 years, Colleen. They are the proud grandparents of seven and great-grandparents of two.

J. PAUL JENNINGS (B.S. petroleum geology, 1950) has served as president of the Kansas Geological Society, Mid-continent Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association. He also has served on the executive committee of the Independent Petroleum Association of America and in 2005 was elected to the Kansas Oil and Gas Hall of Fame. Jennings and his wife, Ruth, are founders of the Sarkeys Energy Center. Two of their three adult children are OU graduates.

LEALON LEE SARGENT (B.S. geology, 1958) sold his company, PetroCorp, in 2004 and subsequently retired. He lives in Coldspring, Texas.

ROY SEYMOUR (B.S. petroleum engineering, 1958) lives in Longview, Texas, and is a real estate investor, purchasing and renovating houses, then renting or selling them. He currently has rental property in Bowie and Gregg counties.

As a petroleum reservoir engineer for Hunt Oil Co., JIM TROMBLA (B.S. geological engineering, 1956) worked in the Texas panhandle and Gulf Coast, as well as eastern Europe, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. He retired from Hunt Oil in 1999 and currently resides in Dallas. He works with the Boy Scouts of America and is a radio-controlled model airplane hobbyist.
**CLASS NOTES**

**GENE VAN DYKE** (B.S. geological engineering, 1950) is an independent oil operator based in Houston doing international exploration and production work. He recently has become active in deep water West Africa and is currently making acquisitions and developing fields in offshore Netherlands.

**JOHN LOLLAR** (B.S. geology, 1960) retired in 2013 after GE acquired Lufkin Industries, where he served as director and plains exploration and production co-director since 1999. Before that, Lollar held high-ranking executive positions at Shell Oil, Gulf Resources, Transco Exploration Co., Cabot Oil & Gas and Newgulf Exploration Co. He and his wife have two daughters and seven grandchildren.

**DAVID FAGIN** (B.S. petroleum engineering, 1960) is semi-retired after serving in high-ranking positions at such companies as Rosario Resources, Homeskate Mining Co., Golden Star Resources, Western Exploration Co., T. Rowe Price Funds, and Dayton Mining and Pacific Rim Mining. He currently serves on the board of directors of Atna Mining Co. and as a trustee for the K.M. Fagin Oil Trust. His grandson, Kasey Fagin, is a sophomore in the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy.

**KEN RUZYLA** (B.S. geology, 1969) worked as senior staff geologist in the IRS division of Core Lab. He lives in Houston, where he enjoys writing fiction, restoring vintage motorcycles and playing golf. He has a 2-year-old grandson, Richard.

**JOHN E. SQUAREK** (B.S. petroleum engineering, 1966) lives in Alberta, Canada. He and his wife, Cynthia, recently celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary. They have three children and 14 grandchildren. Squarek is a member of the Legion of Honor of the Society of Petroleum Engineering for 50 years of continuous membership.

**BRADFORD JAY SINEX JR.** (B.S. petroleum engineering, 1969) retired in 2011 after spending many years at Petrofac. He lives in Colleyville, Texas, where he owns and operates a Teddy’s Bigger Burger restaurant.

**1960s**

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**1970s**

**BOB SANDERS** (Ph.D. geology, 1977) retired in 2008 from a career that began in academia, then progressed to the coal, energy and general mining industries with the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of Energy, Alaska Director of Mining and private industry. The last few years before retiring, he worked with the Army Corps of Engineers, traveling to many places, including Iraq, Thailand to study Tsunami damage and New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

**ROBERT HEFNER IV** (B.S. geology, 1980) joined Continental Resources in Oklahoma City three years ago as a senior geophysicist. He and his wife celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary this year. They have four children, the youngest of whom is a freshman at OU, and four grandchildren.

**JONNY JONES** (B.S. geology, 1982) is the CEO of Jones Energy. He lives in Austin, Texas.

**H.W. “DUB” PEACE** (B.S. geology, 1986; M.S. geology, 1989) is chairman of the board of Farmers Royalty Co. and a director of the Oklahoma section of the National Association of Royalty Owners.

**JACK RAYMER** (M.S. geology, 1987) lives in Atlanta, where he is senior geological engineer at Jacobs Engineering. He has spent the last 16 years developing geotechnical designs for tunnels.

**TYLER TIBBITS** (B.S. geology, 1989) lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, and is vice president of sales and marketing at Tethis Inc., which is launching a new class of bio-based polymers for water desalination and total dissolved solids removal for oil field and industrial water management.

**1980s**

**CHARLOTTE BRONSTAD** (B.S. petroleum engineering, 1986) resides in Houston, where she is a business analyst for Shell. She previously had a 13-year career in horse racing as a professional jockey and taught fifth-grade science for three years. She is married with two children.

**SCOTT CLINE** (Ph.D., petroleum engineering, 1999) is lead petroleum engineer for the Internal Revenue Service and lives in Rochester, New York. He recently was selected as a member of the 2014 Potential Gas Committee, which prepares a biennial assessment of total chronologically recoverable U.S. natural gas resources.

**JOHN LAWSON** (B.S. and M.S. petroleum engineering, 1994) started his new company, EcoCentri, in April. EcoCentri will install equipment to reduce sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, metals, particulates and carbon dioxide from the emissions of power-generating plants. He lives in Traverse City, Michigan.

**JIM SWARTZ** (M.S. geology, 1990) is Shelf Asset Development Manager-Gulf of Mexico for Chevron in Covington, Louisiana.

**1990s**

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**2000s**

**JOHN ARGO** (B.S. petroleum engineering, 2006) has joined Continental Resources as engineering manager in business development. He also is a member of the inaugural cohort of the OU Price College of Business Executive MBA in Energy.

**CHARLES BAKER** (B.S. geology, 2008) helps new OU students make the transition from high school to college and develop the proper skills to succeed. He and his wife welcomed their first child in May.
BRYCE BALLARD (B.S. petroleum engineering, 2008) will wed Carrie Yeley in Billings, Montana, in December.

FREDDY ESCOBAR (Ph.D. petroleum engineering, 2002) is a professor at the Universidad Surcolombia in Neiva, Colombia. He will spend 2015 on sabbatical year at OU as a visiting professor in the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering.

KEYSTONE HUGHES (B.S. petroleum engineering, 2007) and his wife and welcomed their first child in June. He is vice president of operations for Richland Resources Corp.

OYETUNDE OYEWU (M.S. natural gas engineering and management, 2009) recently started a new position in Mont Belvieu, Texas, as engineering supervisor for his project group at ONEOK. He and his family are relocating from Tulsa to Texas.

The Society of Petroleum Engineers has named D. NATHAN MEEHAN (M.S. petroleum engineering, 1976), senior executive adviser at Baker Hughes, as 2016 president of the international professional society. Meehan, who is based in Houston, took office as president-elect in October.

Meehan previously served as an at-large director on SPE’s board of directors.

Prior to Baker Hughes, Meehan was president of CMG Petroleum Consulting, vice president of engineering for Occidental Oil & Gas and general manager exploration and production at Union Pacific Resources.

Meehan serves on the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission and the advisory board of World Oil. He is the recipient of SPE’s Lester C. Uren Award for Distinguished Achievement in Petroleum Engineering and DeGolyer Distinguished Service Medal and served as a Distinguished Lecturer. Meehan is a licensed professional engineer in four states and has published scores of papers and two books.

MARK BALLARD (B.S. petroleum engineering, 2010) is development engineer for Crescent Point Energy and Abby (Strickland) Ballard (B.S. petroleum engineering, 2011) is a production engineer with Antero Resources. They recently relocated to Denver from Oklahoma City and are expecting their first child in March 2015.

GUANG CHEN (M.S. geology and geophysics, 2013) is a project leader working in the seismic depth imaging team for Total in France.

CODY CROSSLAND (B.S. petroleum engineering, 2013) attended the U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School and now is in Navy flight school in Texas.

BRANDON GUTTERY (B.S. geology, 2010) is a geologist with GeoComp Energy. He lives in Austin, Texas.

ZONGHU LIAO (Ph.D. geology, 2013) has been promoted to associate professor of geology at the China University of Petroleum. He lives in Beijing.

BORA YALGIN (M.S. geology, 2012) is a junior developmental geologist for Genel Energy, an Anglo-Turkish exploration and production company. He previously was employed by National Oil Company of Turkiye.

IN MEMORIAM

John A. “Jack” Taylor (B.S. geological engineering, 1947; M.S. geological engineering, 1951) passed away in April at the age of 87. He was the first chairman of the Oklahoma Commission on Marginally Producing Oil and Gas Wells, and is recognized as the first person to drill a deep natural gas well in southern Oklahoma.
MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND FIELD TRIPS

2015

APRIL

16  Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering Industrial Advisory Board
    Sonya Grant
    (405) 325-6822
    sdgrant@ou.edu

    Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering Awards Banquet
    Sonya Grant
    (405) 325-6822
    sdgrant@ou.edu

17  ConocoPhillips School of Geology and Geophysics Alumni Advisory Council
    Devon Harr
    (405) 325-0360
    devonharr@ou.edu

    Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy Board of Visitors
    Allison Richardson
    (405) 325-2449 or (405) 343-8508  arichardson@ou.edu

    Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy TrailBlazer Society Dinner
    Allison Richardson
    (405) 325-2449 or (405) 343-8508  arichardson@ou.edu

MAY

8  OU Commencement
    The Gaylord Family–Oklahoma Memorial Stadium
    (405) 325-0841
    commencement@ou.edu

9  Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy Spring Convocation
    Liz Ehrhardt
    (405) 325-4005
    lehrhardt@ou.edu