ALEX KAISER is a senior energy management and finance double major who is enjoying many of the opportunities that Price College offers. After starting out as a marketing major followed by a brief stint as a petroleum geology major, Kaiser was introduced to Steve Long, director of the Energy Management Program. “I met with Steve about two weeks into my sophomore year and he told me about all of the amazing opportunities available in the Energy Management program and to this day, I have never looked back,” says Kaiser. “Talking to him for 30 minutes certainly changed my college career and, in turn, changed my life. I could not have imagined the endless possibilities that lie ahead after that conversation.”

After choosing to pursue energy management and finance as his majors, Kaiser sought an internship and to study abroad. During summer 2010, he accomplished both of these endeavors by interning at Jones Energy, Ltd. out of Austin, Texas, and studying abroad in Reading, England. During his internship, he worked closely with two people whom he now considers mentors, Mike McConnell and Jody Crook, both Price alums. In fact, Crook is what led Kaiser to apply and be involved in the JCPenney Leadership Program. Kaiser says, “He told me all about what it has to offer students and that it was one of the best decisions he made at OU, with lasting impacts on his career.” Additionally, the study abroad program at Price College allows students to choose from six different programs representing different areas of study, with energy management being located in Reading, England. Kaiser took the Financial Reporting Issues in Energy class and visited many corporations in London during his study abroad experience, which was possible because of a scholarship from BP and a President’s International Travel Fellowship he received.

During the 2011 summer, Kaiser served as a land intern at Anadarko Petroleum Corp. in Houston. He was tasked with several long-term projects, including one involving leasing and working with the landowners and another preparing title work on different areas to which he was assigned, along with many additional day-to-day activities.

Kaiser, who is originally from Dallas, learned the importance of education from his parents. Like his parents, Kaiser took his education seriously, and fully utilized many of the Price College programs that assist in building the necessary groundwork. Between study abroad, internships, the JCPenney Leadership Program, and serving as secretary this year of the Energy Management Student Association, he is on the right path leading to his graduation this May and his future career in the energy industry.
Vanessa Thompson

VANESSA WIND THOMPSON, originally from Edmond, Okla., is representative of many recent Price College alumni. She majored in energy management and minored in finance while involved within the college as a student. She is a third-generation University of Oklahoma student. And Thompson interviewed for a job as a landman with ConocoPhillips in fall 2007 through OU Career Services and was offered the position. She graduated from OU in 2008 and immediately went to work in the industry in which she hoped to be employed.

The energy arena began to interest her during her sophomore year when she discovered the diversity of the classes offered in the energy management curriculum. “I was really impressed with the great opportunities available for energy management students, such as internships, interaction with alumni and industry professionals, scholarships and an active student association,” says Thompson. “Another thing that was special about the Energy Management Program is that it was a close-knit group of students, where the director was accessible and interested in each student.” This involvement and feeling of togetherness continued into the Energy Management Student Association, of which Thompson was heavily engaged and served as secretary her senior year.

While a student at Price College, Thompson was involved not only in EMSA, but also in her sorority – in addition to holding an extremely competitive internship.

She held several offices in her sorority, Delta Delta Delta, including president her senior year, which taught her time-management and leadership skills, especially, she says, in project management. Additionally, during the summer after her junior year, she interned with Morgan Stanley in New York City. She worked as a financial analyst supporting the commodities trading floor, where she witnessed a different side of the business, another great learning experience.

Three years later, Thompson is a senior landman for ConocoPhillips, working the San Juan Basin in Farmington, N.M. As a landman, she is responsible for the acquisition, management and divestiture of the company’s mineral rights. This entails drafting contracts, negotiating with external parties, determining ownership and analyzing title, and handling the unitization or pooling of mineral interests, among other things. She is a member of the American Association of Professional Landmen and the Four Corners Association of Professional Landmen. Thompson married her high school sweetheart, Trey, shortly after they both graduated from OU. She says she is happy with her career and the life they have created in New Mexico. “We love to ski, especially in Durango, as it is an hour from our home and we enjoy hiking and camping. In the end, I am really glad I chose to work for ConocoPhillips as a landman.”

Thompson works as a senior landman for ConocoPhillips.