MBA and Undergraduate Students Experience India

Energy Management Students Hit Wall Street

A select group of OU energy management students recently traveled to New York City to participate in an Oil and Gas Investment Conference. The students toured Wall Street and the NYMEX and met with CEOs, CFOs, investor relations executives, investment bankers and energy analysts. This hands-on visit was sponsored by Devon Corp.

From left, Laku Chidambaram, Alison Wilson, Paul King, Pam Charvat, Christine Seay, Isaac Helmerich and Chris Mock visit Anglo-French Textiles, one of the oldest textile manufacturing facilities in the country, based in the former French colony of Pondicherry.

During a two-week program at Loyola College in Chennai, India, eight Price College students, accompanied by Laku Chidambaram, director of the Division of MIS, learned about India’s commerce and industry through corporate visits, classroom instruction and cultural experiences. They visited such companies as Brakes India, a manufacturing plant that makes brakes and brake components for U.S., European and Indian automobile companies; Infosys, India’s largest IT services provider; Coca Cola Bottling Co., an American-owned Indian-operated bottling plant; Anglo-French Textiles, one of the oldest textile manufacturing facilities in the country; and Dell Computers, based in the Special Economic Zone on the outskirts of Chennai. The students also earned credit for a class focused on doing business in India and the cultural, economic and social challenges that go along with this.

ConocoPhillips President and COO Serves as a Distinguished Speaker

John Carrig, president and chief operating officer of ConocoPhillips, discussed global energy solutions with students, alumni and friends, faculty and staff on Feb. 20. He discussed how new energy is needed in this economy and demonstrated how the growing demand will affect the country.

The Distinguished Speaker Series presents top-level business executives from a broad range of backgrounds, industries and geographies. It is designed to promote face-to-face interaction between global leaders, the Oklahoma business community and Price College students.

John Carrig speaks on the current energy situation to a large audience in Oklahoma Memorial Union’s Meacham Auditorium.
Ken Silverman and Max Weitzenhoffer Come to Price College as Executives-in-Residence

Ken Silverman, chairman and CEO of The Silverman Group and Max Weitzenhoffer, Broadway and London theatre producer and chairman of the OU Board of Regents, visited Price College as Executives-in-Residence in the spring.

Silverman came to campus on Feb. 23 and met with many MBA and Entrepreneurship students and spoke in three classes. He discussed his company - how he started out in assuming leadership of a small company of 50 employees, developed a brand in American Craftsman Windows and Doors for The Home Depot, and eventually sold the multi-facility, 8,000-employee company in 2006.

Weitzenhoffer visited Price College on April 21 and met with Entrepreneurship students as well as Marketing undergraduates, sharing his background and business history. He also spoke to JCPenney Leadership associates about leadership and the importance of community engagement in addition to giving an update on the status of Oklahoma higher education.

OG&E CEO Speaks to Energy Management Students

Pete Delaney, CEO of OG&E, talked to students on April 22 in John Grunsted's Energy Production and Markets course. He discussed such topics as the future of energy for an electrical generation and the effect of recent public policy changes on the electrical generation business. He also shared his views on the demand side of electric use and how important it is in an overall energy plan.

Luncheon Recognizes Professional and Support Staff

The Price College Staff Luncheon was held May 29, recognizing a few of the many excellent staff members from the college. Lynn Baker, who works for OU’s Department of Human Relations, spoke on the power of “nice.” Award winners included Mary Bowring, Staff Member of the Year; Iris Qu, College Choice Award; Robert Harper, Bruce Magoon Award for Service Excellence; Shawn Lam, Dean’s Excellence Award for Professional Staff; and Sheila Vercher, Dean’s Excellence Award for Support Staff. Other staff were honored for their years of service to OU, including Donna Wade, 15 years; Tom Greenlee, 15 years; and Ingrid ter Steege, 10 years. Linda Smith had been awarded the OU Distinguished Performance Award for her outstanding contributions to the university community on April 22 at the OU Campus Awards program as well.

Eggstravaganza

Children of all ages enjoy running and hunting for eggs during the annual “Eggstravaganza,” presented by the JCPenney Leadership Program and the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History on April 8. This free public event featured a giant egg hunt, plus free museum admission and extended museum hours. Face painting, crafts, photos with the bunny and games including limbo, a bean-bag toss, a peanut pitch, a cookie walk and pick-a-duck were the activities organized by the JCPenney Leadership Program student associates. More than 4,000 eggs were scattered across the back lawn of the museum with over 900 people in attendance at the 11th annual event. Local businesses including Cookies-N-Cards, Maggie Moos and Raising Canes generously donated to the success of this year’s Norman tradition.
MiS Summer Camp for High School Students

The first “It is HOT!” summer camp was hosted by the Division of Management Information Systems on May 19. Five teams from the two Norman high schools competed against each other to develop the next big business technology application to hit the Internet. The daylong IT case competition provided an opportunity for 21 high school students to learn about the MIS program at Price College and career opportunities in MIS. Each team of high school students was mentored by an undergraduate student majoring in MIS at OU. The teams brainstormed ideas about the case they had read, chose the one with the best business potential, developed the idea into a Web-based solution and presented it to a panel of judges, which included representatives from American Fidelity Assurance, Chesapeake Energy and the FAA.

Donald W. Reynolds Governor’s Cup

University of Oklahoma student teams won five of the six top honors at the 2009 Donald W. Reynolds Governor’s Cup Collegiate Business Plan Competition in Oklahoma City on April 13. The three top spots in the undergraduate division were all won by OU teams, with the first-place $20,000 prize going to OU for the Renephron Pharmaceuticals business plan, which presented life-changing drug therapies for patients with polycystic kidney disease and other inflammatory diseases. Team members include John Woodson, Ben Ikard, Juan Diego Alonso and Sam Galloob.

OU teams Dust Down and Fifth Slope were awarded second- and third-place honors in the undergraduate division. Dust Down’s team members are Blaine Pinard, Steven McClung, Ryan Reber, Taylor Toth and Heather Matthews. Their business concept provides an oil polymer that, when applied to unpaved roads, reduces dust and erosion. Fifth Slope’s business plan, presented by team members Andy Nicek, Bradley Short, Justin Shofner, Doug Rains and Daniel Sposito, introduces a form-fitting, inflatable ski boot liner that provides custom ski footwear that increases both the wearer’s comfort and safety.

In the graduate division, OU’s Digital Native Learning and Bio-Oil Extraction business plans took home second- and third-place honors. Digital Native Learning’s team includes Matt Colwell, Stafford Marquardt, Steven Watts and Glenne Whisenhunt. They presented the development of an innovative software program that provides a digital learning environment shown to be effective by the work of the K20 Center at OU. Bio-Oil Extraction brings an advanced technology to make biodiesel a viable alternative fuel. Nicholas Harrison, who also was awarded a $5,000 Oklahoma Business Roundtable Scholarship at the event, joined with Linh Do and Greg Khandogin as team members.

The team for Renephron Pharmaceuticals also took home second-place honors in the undergraduate division at the Tri-State Donald W. Reynolds Governor’s Cup Collegiate Business Plan Competition in Las Vegas in May, winning an additional $15,000. The teams are sponsored by the Price College of Business and the Center for the Creation of Economic Wealth.
The Second Annual Honors Luncheon

On May 8, four alumni and one friend of Price College received prestigious awards recognizing their outstanding achievement. The alumni honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award included Tom Clark, CEO of Tulsair Beechcraft and OU Regent; Deborah Kitchens, chief financial officer with the Peregrine Group; Doug Lattner, chairman and CEO of Deloitte Consulting; Carl Mayhall, a longtime partner of Ernst & Young; and Roy Oliver, president of Roy T. Oliver Investments. The Distinguished Partner Award was given to Ron Yagoda, founder and managing partner of DryAz Consulting. All have contributed greatly to their respective careers and organizations, held leadership roles on boards and in the community, and are involved with Price College.

Along with these exceptional honorees, Beta Gamma Sigma initiates were welcomed and recognized, as were the college’s top students in each division, who received Outstanding Student Awards. A new annual award, the Bruzzy Westheimer Leadership Award, this year went to Christine Seay, International Business senior. The award recognizes an exceptional junior or senior who has served a significant leadership role for the Price College student body; it carries a $2,500 cash gift that Westheimer generously provided. The other two finalists for this award were Chris Mock and Stafford Marquardt.

Faculty awards also were presented to superior faculty at Price College. This year’s recipients represented many different divisions and included Mark Bolino, McCasland Foundation Professor of American Free Enterprise – the Harold E. Hackler Outstanding MBA Professor Award for the professional program; Cindy Cuccia, lecturer in Accounting – the Bruce Magoon Master Teacher Award; Scott Grawe – Outstanding Graduate Research Award; Anthony May – Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award; Bill Megginson, Rainbolt Chair in Finance – Dean’s Distinguished Research Paper Award; Daniel O斯塔s, James G. Harlow Jr. Chair in Business Ethics and Community Service – the Harold E. Hackler Outstanding MBA Professor Award for the full-time program; Nim Razook, associate dean of Undergraduate Programs, David Ross Boyd Professor of Legal Studies and Robert Zinke Chair in Energy Management – the Hurley Roberson Award; and Wayne Thomas, John T. Steed Chair – Dean’s Distinguished Research Paper Award. Congratulations to all of this year’s honorees.

Convocation

Spring Convocation was held on May 16 at Lloyd Noble Center, with more than 250 undergraduate and 50 graduate students receiving their degrees in front of friends and families and Price College staff and faculty. Faculty marshals for the event included Lowell Busenitz, Ning Nan, Anthony Roath, Mark Shafman and Duane Stock. After Dean Kenneth Evans welcomed everyone and introduced the guests, Cristela Carrizales, advisor in the undergraduate advising office, sang the National Anthem; Deborah Kitchens, chief financial officer with Peregrine Group, gave the Convocation Alumni Address; and Amanda Holloway, senior marketing and advertising dual major, delivered the Convocation Undergraduate Address. A special guest, Bill Khourie, accepted a bachelor of business administration degree posthumously for his son and Price College Energy Management honors student Billy Khourie, who passed away in January.

Price College Outstanding Seniors

On April 3, 10 Price College seniors were awarded top honors by OU as the outstanding student in their division. The students receiving the Outstanding Senior Awards included Corrine Whitefield – Accounting; Matthew Kemp Brown – Economics; Tyler Jennings – Energy Management; Stafford Marquardt – Entrepreneurship; Elijah Lavicky – Finance; Julie French – Human Resources Management; Caitlin Dempsey – International Business; Whitney Olson – Management; Erin Cowee – Management Information Systems; and Amanda Holloway – Marketing and Supply Chain Management. Congratulations to all of these excellent Price College students.
Caitlin Dempsey receives grant to Study in Thailand

Caitlin Dempsey, International Business and Management senior, was one of three international recipients of a competitive global travel award to attend Florida International University’s Alternative Break-Global Leadership and Service Project in Bangkok in March. Dempsey has served as a big sister with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Oklahoma City, volunteered as a Whiz Kids tutor and spent a summer working as a charity fundraiser in Ireland with Face2Face Fundraising. She also was named Outstanding Student in Entrepreneurship and Management this year by Price College and Outstanding Senior at OU in International Business.

Kanaly Lecture Series Features American Airlines CEO

Gerard Arpey, chairman and CEO of American Airlines, was the honored speaker for the Kanaly Lecture Series on April 23 in Oklahoma Memorial Union. He motivated more than 200 students, alumni and friends, faculty and staff through his discussion about leadership and how in these tough economic times we need to persevere.

The Kanaly Lecture Series is named in honor of the late E. Deane Kanaly, founder and chairman of Kanaly Trust Co., who earned his OU business degree in 1952 and his MBA in 1953. The lecture series is funded through the generous support of his wife, Virginia Kanaly, who is also an OU business graduate.

Gerard Arpey speaks about leadership with a large audience as part of the Kanaly Lecture Series.

Billy Khourie – A Servant’s Heart Weekend

Price College granted William “Billy” Khourie II, from Elk City, a posthumous bachelor of business administration degree at Convocation in May. Bill Khourie, his father, accepted the diploma. Billy Khourie, 22, died Jan. 6 from a head injury he sustained while snowboarding in Breckenridge, Colo. An honors student majoring in energy management, he was set to graduate in spring 2010.

Fellow OU students organized A Servant’s Heart Weekend in memory of Billy during the weekend of June 20 in Norman to raise money for the William “Billy” Khourie II Memorial Scholarship and the Oklahoma Chapter of Prader-Willi. The scholarship will allow future energy management students to excel in the program as Billy did. The Oklahoma Chapter of Prader-Willi was especially important to Billy, as his younger sister, Lauren, was born with the complex and rare genetic disorder that affects appetite, growth, metabolism, cognitive function and behavior.

Scheduled events for the 160 participants included a luncheon at the Everest Pavilion of the Jimmie Austin OU Golf Course, followed by the inaugural Billy Khourie Memorial Golf Tournament. Other activities included a dinner at a local restaurant, live and silent auctions and live music. More than $40,000 was raised from the weekend; the proceeds were split between the scholarship fund and the Prader-Willi chapter.
The 27th Annual Archie Dunham Golf Invitational

Approximately 150 golfers enjoyed Price College’s annual Archie Dunham Golf Invitational on June 11. The invitational was held at the Jimmie Austin OU Golf Club, honored this year as one of Golfweek’s “Best Courses You Can Play.” Excellent weather for golfing, appetizers and door prizes afterwards, and team prizes completed the day, with all proceeds supporting Partners in Learning, a unique program that allows students to work one-to-one with professors for a yearlong project. Congratulations to all the winners who won gift certificates to the Jimmie Austin OU Golf Club and thank you to everyone who participated as a golfer or as a sponsor.

A team of two graduate students and one undergraduate student from Price College won the third annual ERPsim international competition, a business simulation game using enterprise resource planning software. Forty-one teams of three students participated from 20 universities worldwide, with eight teams making it to the finals in June. HEC Montreal developed the simulation and hosted the competition for the third year in a row. During the competition, participating teams demonstrate their ability to operate a virtual business over four simulated quarters with a real-life ERP system. The ERP software, SAP R/3, consists of an integrated suite of software applications typically handling the manufacturing, logistics, distribution, inventory, shipping and invoicing in larger companies.

Thomas Ratliff, MBA and law student; Thomas Kantowski, management information systems graduate student; and Jeremy Real, accounting undergraduate student, made up the Price College winning team from three different locations around the country. The team could not all be at OU for the competition, so they managed their company via Skype conference calls with one student in Los Angeles, one in Seattle and the other in Norman.

A screenshot of the final results from the ERPsim international competition.

Price Scholars 10th Anniversary Celebration

On June 24, MBA alumni from around the country came to New York to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Price Scholars program. Over 50 Price Scholar alumni, corporate partners and Price College staff and faculty attended the event to honor the program started in 1999 by Michael Price. At the reception held at the Links Club to commemorate 10 years of the program, Price Scholar alumnus Michael Mitchell, analyst with Breeden Partners, spoke on behalf of all Price Scholars in thanking Michael Price for the life-changing experience. He and Dean Kenneth Evans presented a framed collage to Michael Price to commemorate ten years of the program.

Michael Price visits with all of the Price Scholars present at the 10th anniversary celebration.