

Scholarships, Internships: *Investments with Big Dividends*

Imagine being a freshman, and female, and telling your mom that you've accepted a summer internship as a roustabout on an off-shore production platform rig out of New Orleans.

If you are curious about how that might go, ask Tia Watts, a fifth-year petroleum engineering senior who will be graduating from OU this May.

"I know my mom was really concerned about how I would be treated, but it was the best internship. I learned so much, and those guys took me in like a little sister."

And how many other women worked on the platform? Two full-time cooks and one secretary. Tia was the only female engineer, working seven days on and seven days off through the summer of 1995 as a roustabout for Chevron. Her experi-



Tia Watts

ence at Marathon Oil Company, where she interned last summer, and where she will begin full-time employment after graduation, was another great experience. "My internships definitely helped me decide what kind of company I wanted to work for. I liked that I had co-workers at Marathon who were young, and there were several female engineers."

Watts encourages freshman and sophomore PE majors "to consider internships very, very, very important."

guished Scholar. Now in his junior year, he has one internship under his belt and is committed to the same company, Mewbourne Oil Company, for another internship next summer.

"The internship experience is priceless," says Steve. "The chance to get out there in the field and learn how to establish a good rapport with the guys you will be working with and for, it's just so crucial." Joseph Odom, vice president for Administration at Mewbourne Oil Company, agrees. "Internships help us find out so much about a poten-

"You can apply and relate what you learn in the classroom to what you are actually going to be doing and that can be incredibly helpful," says Watts. She is also grateful for the scholarship support she received during her undergraduate career at OU. "I am definitely planning on contributing scholarships for other students as a result of the contributions that were made to me.

"(Scholarships) totally enabled me to have a successful college career, I was able to concentrate on school."

Tia credits Sydney Jones, assistant director of OU's Minority Engineering Program (MEP) with helping her decide to major in petroleum engineering. Tia has been a member of MEP and has held offices in both the student chapter of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) and Pi Epsilon Tau, the petroleum engineering honorary. The PGE faculty selected Tia 1998-99 Outstanding PGE Senior. She is originally from McAlester, Oklahoma. ■

The oil and gas industry was all around when Steve Meacham was growing up in Clinton, Oklahoma. He always liked math and science and was pretty sure he would study engineering in college when he picked OU over OSU. But it wasn't until after a successful freshman year, when Teri Walker, coordinator for student relations for PGE at the time, called to invite him to consider a career in petroleum engineering that Steve committed to the program and became a PGE Distin-



Steve Meacham

tial employee that you can't learn from their grades or even their skill level. How quickly can they learn? Do they take initiative? How do

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they get along with people? Our internship program is a real mainstay of our company.” Of the seven interns Mewbourne has lined up to work next summer, four are from OU.

Steve says he prefers “fieldwork” to “bookwork” and his career goals will require a healthy dose of both. Steve plans to graduate from OU in May of 2000 with two degrees, one in petroleum engineering and a second degree in letters, an interdisciplinary program with a concentration on the humanities. He has thought about attending law school and becoming an oil and gas lawyer. With a strong academic record and the experience gained through summer internships, Steve has lots of options. ■

Murray Gardin grew up in “the heart of the Canadian oil patch” in Olds, Alberta, Canada, north of Calgary. He gives credit to OU alumni like Leo O’Rourke, and many others from Canada, who attended the University of Oklahoma then returned to build the oil and gas industry Canadians enjoy today. Murray heard all about “the tradition, the quality of the graduates, and the Boomer Sooner school spirit” from these Canadian Sooners. He already knows the OU Club of Canada is the University’s largest alumni association outside the state of Oklahoma.

“Even though I had heard all about OU when I was growing up, I spent about a year looking at petroleum programs in the United States and Canada,” reflects Gardin. “All



Murray Gardin

things considered—tradition, quality of graduates, reputation of the program-when you add in the generous scholarship support, OU just could not be beat.”

Murray knew all along that he would go into the oil business, what he calls the “most exciting, dynamic business around.” “But the scholarship support was really instrumental. Without it, this would not have been a reality for me.” He has also benefited from both summer internships and working part-time while attending school full-time. His work at Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas in Oklahoma City and Union Pacific Resources in Fort Worth, Texas, have helped him form definite perspectives about the future of the industry, and his role in that industry.

“To be successful, and in this industry in particular, you need to have a flexible vision of the future. The industry needs people who are dynamic, resourceful, clever and quite tough, to bring it into the 21st century. I want to be one of those people.” Murray is a former member of President David Boren’s International Leadership Class and was recently elected St. Pat’s Day representative for Pi Epsilon Tau, the petroleum engineering honorary. ■

Engineering King



Don Miller, Petroleum Engineering senior from Neilton, Washington, elected 1999 OU Engineering King, the second PE major in a row to be so honored. Craig Stewart was Engineering King in 1998.

New PGE Staff Members Since July, 1998:



Kelly Foster , Assistant to the Director



Dawn Mueller , Accounting Specialist



Lisa Schmidt, Coordinator , Student R elations and Editor, OU Discovery



Chyrl Yerdon, Graduate Secretary

A Note from Roy Knapp

It was my privilege to serve your school as interim director for the past two academic years. When asked to serve, I was pleased for two reasons. First, the university's officers thought my service could be useful to one of the university's important programs. Second, I was anxious to see if I had the physical stamina to work on things that were important. I feel that together with the faculty, staff, students and alumni we have accomplished some things of value. First, we have continued to be an important source of petroleum and geological engineering talent for industry. Second, we have continued to add to the knowledge base of petroleum and geological technology and understanding through a robust research program. Through the leadership of our Industry Advisory Board, our alumni have continued to support our industry, university, and school. Finally, our faculty recruited two new colleagues. Keith K. Millheim (MS '64) joined us at the start of the academic year as director and Eberly Chair. At the start of the spring semester, Richard G. Hughes joined us as an assistant professor. We look forward to the new ideas and energy they will bring to our programs.

Our students, along with many of the rest of us, are having a stressful time with job searches and career doubts. The important thing for our students is that they obtain a quality education, one that prepares them



Roy Knapp and recent graduate Warrick Combs.

for a career in providing and using the technology to produce the essential sources of energy minerals. As economies in the less developed countries regain their normal growth, the balance between demand and supply will be reestablished. Then things will become good again.

For me, things are good now. I have the privilege of returning to my regular faculty duties, duties to which I eagerly look forward. It appears there may be renewed government interest in research directed toward enhancing the value of the domestic hydrocarbon resource base. My interests in microbial enhancement of oil recovery and using reservoir characterization and simulation to identify opportunities for increasing recovery factors seem to be timely again. Additionally, I want to commit time to reviewing and perhaps revising our students' laboratory learning experiences in reservoir mechanics.

Lifelong learning is a current focus of ABET. I believe that as faculty, we always try to convey that continued learning is essential for

continued success. I want to contribute a little to your pursuit of continued learning. There are five books you can benefit from reading during the first five years after you leave OU. During your first five or so years, every change of job assignment opens career growth opportunities. These books can help you develop

perspectives on some of the choices you may be offered and on your and others' roles. Even if you have been gone for more than five years, you may enjoy reading these books. All are available in paperback and relatively inexpensive. Only two of them are recent. The others are "classics" or should be. Read them in any order. I think you will find they are interesting, sometimes amusing and surely provocative.

- *How to Read a Book* by Mortimer J. Adler and Charles Van Doren.
- *The Prize: the Epic Quest for Oil, Money, and Power* by Daniel H. Yergin and Joseph Stanislaw
- *Parkinson's Law and Other Studies in Administration* by C. Northcote Parkinson
- *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* by Charles Mackay
- *Generations: the History of America's Future, 1584-2069* by William Strauss and Neil Howe

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For those of you who have been in any of my classes, you know that I generally start each class with announcements. My book list is a small effort to continue that tradition.

Please stop and visit when you return to your alma mater. ■

Dr. Roy Knapp is the Mewbourne Professor of Petroleum and Geological Engineering and former Director of the School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering.

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ship Award. He is a board member of several technology-based corporations and is a corresponding member of the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences.

Before joining HARC in 1985, Porter served as director and CEO of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, part of the Texas A&M University System. In addition, he was a tenured professor of electrical engineering and director of A&M's Institute for Solid State Electronics. His research led to numerous publications and patents as well

as regular funding from government and industry.

As a member of the technical staff of Texas Instrument's Semiconductor Research and Development labs (1966-1968), he developed the first fully automated system used in manufacturing integrated circuits.

Porter received his bachelor's and master's of sciences degrees in physics from the University of North Texas and his Ph.D. in interdisciplinary engineering from Texas A&M.

Algerian Program Update

Two groups of students are currently enrolled in the University of Oklahoma Graduate Program in Petroleum Engineering in Algeria. The \$2.5 million program, which officially started in July, 1997 is funded totally by Sonatrach, with Djebbar Tiab, UNOCAL Professor of Petroleum Engineering, as project director.

The 12 students of Group-1 have completed their coursework. Six OU PGE faculty members taught courses in the program. The OU Graduate College also granted "Special Graduate Faculty Membership" to two Algerian professors who taught courses in the program.

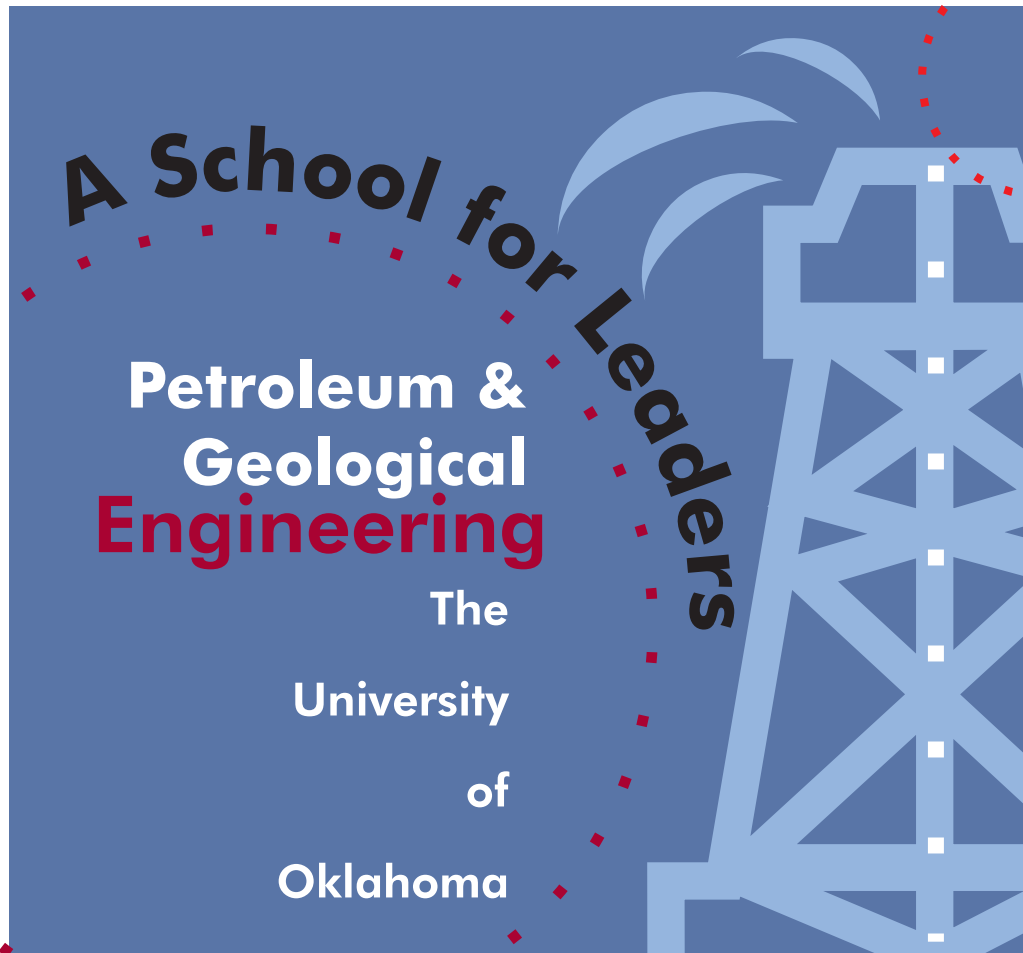
All 12 students in Group I chose the thesis option and are expected to defend in the summer of 1999 in Boumerdes. "This is certainly an outstanding group of students," observed Tiab. "No one has a grade point average lower than 3.25, and three students have a perfect 4.0."

Three PGE faculty members will travel to Algeria in May 1999, to administer exams: Samuel Osisanya, who is supervising research projects for three of the students; Subhash Shah (supervising two students' research), and Tiab (seven students).

The 14 Algerian students in the second group started the graduate program in the 1999 spring semester and are expected to graduate in

December 2000. A research associate/adjunct professor is expected to join Tiab in the fall semester 1999. She or he will be totally supported by Algerian Graduate Program funds and will begin teaching courses in the spring semester 2000.

The University of Oklahoma and Sonatrach/Institut Algerian du Petrole (IAP) signed the contract establishing the University of Oklahoma Graduate Program in June 1996. The contract was signed by David L. Boren, president of the University of Oklahoma, and A. Sebbagh, director of Human Resources - Sonatrach. The duration of this initial program is eight years, July 1997 through June 2005. ■



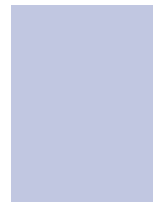
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