Chitru Fernando was born and raised in Colombo, Sri Lanka, but since 1984 has considered the United States his home. Initially, his move to this country was to pursue graduate studies, but in the decades since, he has proven himself to be an accomplished scholar and instructor. He also is passionate about energy issues and the opportunity to be heading up the new Price College Business Energy Solutions Center initiative.

After earning his bachelor’s of science degree in mechanical engineering with first-class honors from the University of Sri Lanka and working for four years as an engineering manager at a Sri Lankan energy company, Fernando took his growing interest in business and management to the United States. He became interested in finance while completing his master’s of science in management at MIT. Having also earned his master’s of science in technology and policy (specializing in energy) from MIT, he moved to the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his master’s of arts in applied economics and doctorate in finance from the Wharton School.

Since entering academia, Fernando has worked extensively outside the classroom as well as inside. He has served as an economist, consultant and litigation expert on energy finance and economic issues for many companies and government agencies worldwide.

Fernando joined OU in 2002. He was attracted to Price College by the excellent reputation of the finance faculty and the close fit with his areas of interest. The potential for him to continue working on energy-related topics was an added attraction. He previously was appointed as the Michael F. Price Professor of Finance and the director of the Center for Financial Studies. In 2008, he was a visiting associate professor at Southern Methodist University, and prior to joining OU, he served as visiting assistant professor of finance at the University of Michigan and assistant professor of finance at Tulane University.

His areas of expertise include corporate finance, corporate risk management, energy, commodity and environmental finance and economics, and financial markets. Fernando has lectured on these topics to executives in the United States, Europe and Asia, published his research in the leading journals in his field, and has been cited for his teaching in three Business Week surveys of business schools. He is the recipient of several research awards and 10 external research grants/contracts, including three from the World Bank, and one each from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Fernando’s energy background and interest were a natural fit for the launch of the Price College Business Energy Solutions Center. “I am really excited by the opportunities in the energy space,” he says. “The BESC is an important initiative at the Price College, and has made tremendous strides in its first year.” The center received its first U.S. Department of Energy research contract in May, and another BESC proposal became the first-ever Price College proposal to win the OU federal appropriations contest. If successful, it will become the largest-ever research grant received by Price College. The center also launched a research fellowship program for doctoral students and organized panel discussions featuring leading experts in carbon management and alternative energy.

Fernando is married to Delini, an assistant professor of counseling at the University of North Texas. He says living in two places, two hours apart has been an interesting experience for them. They have two children, Prasanna and Namali, who both graduated from medical school in May. Additionally, Namali married fellow OU medical school student Brandon Pierson in April.
While Tony Roath is originally from Michigan, he actually never lived there growing up. He remembers it fondly from often visiting his grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins in the Detroit area. He and his two sisters, Cheryl and Alane, moved frequently with their parents, living in Texas, Colorado and Japan. Roath even graduated from high school in Lawton, claiming upon graduation that he would never return to Oklahoma. He enjoyed the military enough, though, that he decided to attend the Air Force Academy.

After earning his bachelor of science degree in engineering and serving in the Air Force as a pilot, Roath started to further his education. He earned his MBA at Michigan State University while also working at the Logistics Management Institute, which does research and analysis for logistics and supply chain solutions for various government agencies in Washington, D.C. This experience sparked his interest in the study of how global corporations develop capabilities to compete in various markets, and urged him to obtain his doctorate in marketing and international business from Michigan State University.

In 2000, after finishing in the Air Force Reserves, Roath began his career at the Price College of Business. Pat Daugherty, director of the Division of Marketing and Supply Chain Management, and Rodney Evans, former interim dean of the college, offered him the opportunity and challenge to help build a successful logistics and supply chain program.

Through the past decade at the University of Oklahoma, Roath has taught classes at the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels in international marketing and logistics management, among other subjects. Additionally, he recently was awarded a Fulbright grant to work on his research, titled “Implications of ‘Green’ Supply Chain Management on the Network’s Ability to Compete Globally,” which involves determining how global companies achieve efficiencies by developing capabilities to achieve and manage scarce resources through their global supply chain networks.

The Fulbright grant that Roath received involved a year-long process, including application and approval through committees such as the Fulbright Commission in Washington, D.C., and the US/UK Fulbright Commission in London. He will work with his host, the Manchester Business School, and the Sustainable Consumption Institute, a research center associated with MBS’ supply chain management group. While in the United Kingdom, Tony will continue to work closely with OU’s Marketing and Supply Chain Management Division. According to Roath, “The Fulbright is an outstanding opportunity for me to explore some of the many issues I’ve always been interested in pursuing. Working with an international university and faculty is a definite highlight, as this affords many avenues for future alliances and interaction on many levels. I am an ambassador of OU and feel that Price College and Manchester would benefit in some way from working together.”

When Roath isn’t teaching or working on his research, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Karen, who works in the U.S. Treasury Department as an Internal Revenue Service criminal investigator, and their 3 year-old daughter, Alexia, who has decided she must run the household. He also likes cycling and private flying when time and money allow.