By Deborah Benjamin

The heart of Wall Street may beat in New York City, but, for some students in the University of Oklahoma’s Michael F. Price College of Business, the financial capital of the world might as well be Norman, Okla. That’s because, as part of OU’s Student Investment Fund and Fixed Income Fund classes, they’re managing high-value, real-dollar portfolios just like professionals in major Wall Street firms.

Both courses are designed to provide students with a sound foundation in portfolio management by allowing them to handle real investments. Working in groups, students screen and evaluate stocks (Student Investment Fund class) or bond-like instruments (Fixed Income Fund class) using sophisticated analysis, and are also required to pitch and defend new purchase recommendations.

“Both of these courses — the Fixed Income Fund and Student Investment Fund courses — are extremely state-of-the-art,” said Pradeep Yadav, director of Price College’s Finance Division and W. Ross Johnston Chair in Finance, who teaches the Fixed Income Fund course. “Other classes provide a rigorous conceptual and theoretical framework for students, and these two classes work with real data and enable students to be fully appreciative of the limitations of theory and for the reality of where the rubber meets the road. It allows students to have a much more tempered and realistic view of the theoretical framework, and thereby enriches their understanding of theory for the real world.”

The Student Investment Fund class started in the fall of 1996 as a result of a generous gift from Michael F. Price, who provided a $100,000 initial contribution. The course gives