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Fall 2012

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Price College of Business

Letter from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends,



Dean Ken Evans presents Nicole Upshaw with the college's Student Service Award at the 2012 Honors Luncheon.

Welcome to this fall 2012 edition of *Price Magazine*. Each time we prepare one of these magazines my (our) first reaction is: we have so much to convey and so few pages to tell you about the exciting things that are going on in the college. Before I comment about our feature articles, let me draw your attention toward the College News section of the magazine. Here we briefly highlight a number of student experiences such as study abroad, corporate visits and practicums, and much more. Our varied speaker events inclusive of the distinguished speaker program, executives-in-residence and our recent social responsibility panel also are highlighted. Three faculty in the college were recently recognized at the campus level for their outstanding contributions to our students. Additionally, we have launched a successful executive management education program targeted at the energy industry. You also will find updates on our faculty and highlight articles on three of our faculty.

Turning to our feature articles, we sought in this issue of *Price Magazine* to focus on those among our alumni who have played leadership roles in the real estate and related industries. If you have ever walked into a stuffy room and turned the ceiling fan on or opened a window to let in some fresh air, you may have benefited from two

Price College alumni. Chuck Smith is the chairman and CEO of Hunter Fan Co., which is the leading market share firm in the ceiling fan category. Ken Silverman owned Silver Line Building Products Corp., which was the largest producer of vinyl windows and doors before he sold the company in 2006.

You can't live in Oklahoma without knowing of and most likely purchasing an item (or more) from Mathis Brothers Furniture. Brothers Bill and Larry are OU business graduates. Bill's son Rit and stepson John Tarkington are becoming vital parts of the company's next generation of leadership with more than 20 locations (and more planned) in Oklahoma and California. Mathis Brothers is certainly a centerpiece of the furnishings marketplace.

Ann Kerr took an interesting turn in her career, having worked in energy and education. She decided to find a career that would permit her and her family to stay in one community. She chose real estate

and is recognized as one of Denver's top real estate producers.

Howard Lester took a passion for gourmet cooking, a facility for software system design and a partnership with Chuck Williams into the amazing success story that is Williams-Sonoma. Lester served as president, CEO and chairman of the board of Williams-Sonoma, a highly successful multichannel retailer of high-end kitchenware, home furnishings and accessories. It was among the pioneers of e-commerce.

Most of us don't have a city named after our family but that is not the case of the Fosters. T. Jack Foster, his father and now T. Jack's three children have not only spent their lives in real estate development, but building a community. Welcome to Foster City in San Mateo County, Calif. It is a community of 31,000 residents, various commercial ventures and is often noted in *Money Magazine* as one of the best places to live.

Whether it is real estate, building materials, home furnishings or entire cities, Sooners are providing leadership in these vital areas of the economy. We hope you enjoy this edition of *Price Magazine*. As always, many thanks to Kate Burch Downing for her great work in putting this edition together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ken Evans'.

Ken Evans
Dean and Fred E. Brown Chair

Who's Who in Real Estate

Ann Kerr found her passion in real estate after working for years in the energy industry. Her ability to persevere, problem solve and go after what she wants was developed while earning her business degree at OU.

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Windows to the World

From one entrepreneurial family business to the next, Ken Silverman's entrepreneurial spirit and roots in Price College make for an adventure in the business of windows and then commercial and residential real estate.

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Not Only a Fan of OU Business

As Hunter Fan Co. CEO Chuck Smith helped grow the company into the household name it is today, he had the opportunity to use skills learned at OU in many areas of the company.

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The Art of Crafting Houses Into Homes

The Foster Family has invested itself in putting the "home" in hometown with the development of Foster City in San Mateo County, Calif.

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Furniture and Family Work Together

Price College alumni John Tarkington discusses his OU legacy and success in Mathis Brothers Furniture as the next generation takes the lead.

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Bringing Others Into the Kitchen

Howard Lester was looking for the next step after retirement and discovered the small French-inspired gourmet kitchen supply store that he would grow beyond anyone's expectations.

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PRICE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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Throughout this issue of *Price Magazine*, the artwork on the exterior of Adams Hall is featured. It was sculpted by faculty artist Joseph Richard Taylor (1907-1999) in 1936 when Adams Hall was built. The stonework embodies the ideals of business and industry.

On the cover: Three well-known companies led by Price College alumni, Mathis Brothers Furniture, Williams Sonoma and Hunter Fans, are among those featured in this home-focused issue. License plate art and map by Design Turnpike • www.designturnpike.com.

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The Real Deal

*OU Alumna Ann Kerr is Known
for Her Professionalism and
Integrity in the Real Estate Industry*

By Debbie Rudy

There's a reason TV shows like *House Hunters* and *My First Place* are popular. The circumstances of each episode are familiar. Who hasn't dreamed of owning a home? And who hasn't feared the process?

At some point in time, we all find ourselves in the shoes of those house hunters, making what is possibly the most important – and biggest – financial transaction in our lives.

And when that time comes, it's important to have an experienced Realtor like Ann Kerr, a 1980 University of Oklahoma finance alumna and a broker associate with the Kentwood Co. in Denver.

"My business philosophy is fairly simple: to understand the goals of each client and to provide excellence in every aspect of our relationship," said Kerr, who deals in luxury real estate. "The biggest responsibility is to be the most informed expert in my market and to listen carefully to the hopes and dreams of my clients. I've gained the reputation of being fair and knowledgeable in my transactions with other brokers, and willing to go the extra mile to make sure the deal turns out to be a winning one for all involved."

Recognized as one of Denver's top real estate producers and named to the *Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate*, Kerr has successfully closed more than \$200 million in real estate transactions in the Denver area. The secret to her success is ensuring her clients have the tools and market data to make sound decisions. Kerr said she also stays up-to-date on housing trends, which, in Denver, include commuter-friendly high-rise properties and an increased consumer interest in smaller, green-minded homes.

So what motivated Kerr to become a real estate professional after having enjoyed a successful career





Seated in their Sooner red car are, clockwise from front, passenger seat, Ann Kerr; sons Preston and Cameron Kerr; and husband Tripp Kerr. Preston, 27, is working on his master's degree in geology from OU. Cameron, 24, who earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Denver, is now working toward a second bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering from Colorado School of Mines.

working in exploration and production for Phillips Petroleum, serving as director and principal of the Riverbend Montessori School in Houston, and teaching at the Montessori School of Denver?

“My husband, Tripp, also an OU business alum with a degree in energy management, and I moved eight times in five years,” she said. “We had good experiences and not-so-good experiences. I decided to do my own research for our next move, and I discovered that I could do it. I formally entered the profession in 1998 as an apprentice to a respected local Realtor.”

Prior to joining Kentwood in 2011, Kerr was an original member of Fuller Towne & Country Properties, a locally owned boutique firm in Denver. The firm was sold and affiliated with Sotheby's International Realty in 2007. Kentwood, an affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate, is the top locally owned and operated real estate

firm in Denver, consistently recognized for its service and sales performance.

While Kerr didn't enter the real estate profession immediately after earning her college degree, she credits her OU business coursework for providing the foundation for her success in the field, noting that she learned “to work through a problem from start to finish, and the communication skills needed to listen and negotiate on behalf of my clients.”

In the end, Kerr's success stems from her passion for Colorado and for ensuring her clients' expectations are not only met but exceeded.

“I'm passionate about our quality of life in Colorado, and it's easy to convey that to my clients who are buying a crucial piece of that lifestyle,” she said. “It's exciting to know your clients well enough to show them a home that you know they will love.”





MAX WEITZENHOFFER AND JAN BABIAK SERVE AS EXECUTIVES-IN-RESIDENCE



Max Weitzenhoffer meets with JCPenney Leadership associates during his visit as an executive-in-residence.

The OU Price College of Business was fortunate to have two Executives-in-Residence during the spring semester. OU Regent Max Weitzenhoffer and Jan Babiak, retired managing partner at Ernst & Young, spent a full day going to classes, speaking with various student groups and sharing their experiences from across the globe.

In addition to service on the OU Board of Regents, Weitzenhoffer is the president of Weitzenhoffer Productions and is a highly acclaimed, independent producer of New York and London theatre productions, owning five theatres in the West End in London. During his visit on Feb. 2, he spent his time in the New Venture Development and Business Strategy and Policy classes. He also met with the JCPenney Leadership associates

and entrepreneurship students in breakout sessions and participated in a roundtable discussion with Dean Ken Evans and numerous MBA students specializing in entrepreneurship. He wrapped up his day in a meeting with the Price College executive committee, receiving an update on Oklahoma higher education and the future of the university he continuously supports.

Babiak has nearly 30 years of international management and board-level experience. At the end of 2009, she resigned from a 28-year career with Ernst & Young to begin a full-time portfolio career. In April, she was elected the 12th member of the board of directors for Walgreens. With her broad background, she spoke to accounting and management classes, discussed her many leadership roles with MBA students at a roundtable lunch and hosted a Women in Leadership luncheon with JCPenney Leadership associates, MBA students and entrepreneurship students. Babiak discussed many of the challenges she has faced in her career, both as a woman and as an American working in large companies in many different countries.



Jan Babiak speaks to an accounting information systems and database management class during her visit as an executive-in-residence.



Spencer Tillman, CBS sports reporter, author and former OU and NFL player, speaks to Price College staff during this year's luncheon.

ANNUAL STAFF RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

Price staff members were recognized during the annual Staff Recognition Luncheon, held May 30. After opening remarks by Dean Ken Evans, attendees enjoyed the keynote by OU alumnus and former NFL player Spencer Tillman. Tillman defined the true meaning of the "Red Zone" and talked to attendees about developing focus in their lives utilizing the VECTOR approach - Values, Energy, Courage, Talent, Organization and Resources. Following his remarks, individual staff members were recognized

for outstanding performance. Award winners were Joanne Stoy, Staff Member of the Year; Keith LeBaron, Dean's Excellence Award for Professional Staff; Melia Alderman, Dean's Excellence Award for Support Staff; Dena Newhouse, Bruce Magoon Award of Service Excellence; and Taylor Heatly, College Choice Award. Years of service awards were given to Cathy Little, 35 years; Tina Mahle, 25 years; and Blane Anderson, Shawn Lam and Jim Wheeler, each with 10 years of service.

PRICE STUDENTS SERVE AS MEMBERS OF GREAT NATIONS BANK COLLEGIATE BOARD OF ADVISORS

The Office of Professional Development, along with Great Nations Bank, has created an opportunity for Price students to serve on a collegiate banking board of advisors and earn a \$500 scholarship. The initial Great Nations Bank Collegiate Board of Advisors convened in fall 2011 with nine students who were interviewed and selected by the bank. Students attend a monthly board meeting where they have the opportunity to learn from bank executives and outside industry experts. Activities include reviewing monthly profit and loss statements to better understand what impacts the profitability of a bank; listening to speakers on topics including banking regulations; board members'



The collegiate board of advisors for Great Nations Bank consists of, from left, bottom row: Alice Dombrowski, Allison Turley, Katy Cox and Brooke Powell; and from left, top row: Son Tran, Kevin Watson, Pat Williams – executive vice president with Great Nations Bank, Brenner Roath and Andrew Bayne.

fiduciary responsibility; criteria for making a commercial loan; and the importance of community service. Students also are encouraged to give their input on what they would like to see in services offered by a bank.

Additionally, student board members have the opportunity to participate in a day of community service. This year's board volunteered their time at the Oklahoma City Regional Food Bank.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP STUDENTS VISIT CHINA DURING UNIQUE WINTER BREAK EXCURSION

In January, Jim Wheeler, Stanley White Executive Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship, and six Price College students majoring in entrepreneurship had the chance to explore the business world of China. Seven nights in Beijing and seven nights in Shanghai exposed students to both culture and industry in the country. They visited the Great Wall, Forbidden Palace, Silk Market, Tiananmen Square, the Bund, Shanghai Museum, Pudong and others, along with various communities and companies.



Visiting with three executives at Mundipharma while in China are, from left, Nneka Igbokwe, Creigh Hawkins, Geoffrey Hamm, Haley Kirk, Jaren Collins and Garrett Pearce.

Through tours and discussions with companies headquartered in China as well as local American and European companies, students gained an understanding of how business ethics and practices differ in China. Corporate leaders, some of whom were OU alumni, talked with students on such topics as global business competition, intellectual property, management styles, and different business and investment models as well as their thoughts on entrepreneurship.





During the presentation of the second-place award at the case competition are, from left, Brian Callahan, senior vice president of ISN Software Corp.; Roger Lumley, vice president and senior relationship manager in the national banking division at Bank of the West; team members Kristin Peterson, Tyler Jones, Kristina Sutton and German Chavez-Majluf; and Joe Eastin, president of ISN Software Corp.

MBA STUDENTS PLACE SECOND AT BIG 12 CASE COMPETITION

Price College full-time MBA students Kristin Peterson, Kristina Sutton, Tyler Jones and German Chavez-Majluf won second place March 3 in the Big 12 Case Competition, which was hosted by Oklahoma State University. Students competed against eight other schools during the competition, where all teams received a case with 24 hours to prepare their presentation. The Price team was judged on the quality of its analysis and recommendations, clarity and a question-and-answer session. OU faculty and MBA team advisors Ana Bolino and Ron Anderson said the students put together a compelling case analysis, which resonated with the judges and was recognized at the individual and team level. In addition to the second-place honor, Jones was recognized for the best question-and-answer session, and the best presenter honor went to Sutton.



Mike Utsler, president of the Gulf Coast Restoration Organization with BP, speaks as part of this year's Parker Leadership Conference.

PARKER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS DIVERSITY

The Third Annual Price College Parker Leadership Conference was held Feb. 24 in OU's Thurman J. White Forum building, with more than 120 Price students in attendance. This year's theme was leadership and diversity with Jeanette Davidson, director of African and African American studies and associate professor of social work at OU, serving as the keynote speaker. Participants from Williams Co., JCPenney Co., Ernst & Young and OG&E helped facilitate the conference, which is designed to expose a broader array of Price students to timely leadership topics each year.

2012 WOMEN IN BUSINESS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

On March 9, the Price College of Business hosted the Women In Business Leadership Conference at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. The main objective of the conference was to raise awareness regarding women in business and leadership roles. Topics included breaking barriers and overcoming obstacles; literally and figuratively: facts and metaphors for women in leadership; and tools to achieve balance and cultivate personal fulfillment. Speakers included Martha Burger, senior vice president of human and corporate resources for Chesapeake Energy Corp.; Kathryn Jenson White, associate professor of journalism at OU's Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication; Patsy Gaberino Carey, managing director of investments at Gaberino Carey & Mitchell Group of Wells Fargo Advisors LLC; and Terry Carr, senior adviser, communications and congressional relations for Ginnie Mae. Beverly Carmichael, Price College MBA board member and former human resources executive for Ticketmaster and Southwest Airlines, moderated the successful event.



Beverly Carmichael asks the panel a question during the Women In Business Leadership Conference.



Parker Dooley, far right, wins the Bruzzy Westheimer Leadership Award and is pictured with, from left, Bruzzy Westheimer and finalists Zack Mabry and Kristen Anderson.

PRICE COLLEGE HONORS LUNCHEON RECOGNIZES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI, FACULTY AND STUDENTS

The 2012 Price College Honors Luncheon took place May 4 in the Molly Shi Boren Ballroom of Oklahoma Memorial Union. Outstanding Price College alumni, faculty and students were recognized for their achievements. All divisions honored students who achieved a level of excellence in their field of study. The Bruzzy Westheimer Leadership Award went to Parker Dooley, international business and finance junior, and the Price College Student Service Award went to Nicole Upshaw, accounting and finance sophomore.

Alumni receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award included Phil Kramer, executive vice president of Plains All American Pipeline; Harry Pefanis, president and chief operating officer of Plains All American Pipeline; and Randall Stephenson, chairman of the board, chief executive officer and president of AT&T. Sam Hinkie, executive vice president of basketball operations for the Houston Rockets, was awarded the Recent Alumni Award of Distinction.

Faculty members honored at the luncheon included Dan Ostas, Harold Hackler Award; Janya Golubeva, Harold Hackler Award; Bret Bradley, Bruce Magoon Master Teacher Award and Price College Ethics Teaching Fellowship; Mano Ratwatte, Hurley Roberson Teaching Excellence Award; Marlys Lipe, Houston and Mary Jo Johnson Master Teacher Award; Vahap Uysal, Price College Ethics Teaching Fellowship; Chitru Fernando, Dean's Excellence Research Paper Award; Bill Megginson, Dean's Excellence Research Paper Award; Craig Russell, Price College Ethics Teaching Fellowship; Kevan Jensen, Partners In Learning Award; Anthony Klotz, PhD Teaching Excellence Award; Kate Holland, PhD Research Excellence Award and Jean Jeon, PhD Research Excellence Award.



Phil Kramer is honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award by energy management and finance senior Robert Elliott and Dean Ken Evans.



Ryan Fightmaster, entrepreneurship and venture management senior, and Dean Ken Evans present Harry Pefanis with the Distinguished Alumni Award.



Dean Ken Evans and Shannon Bass, accounting and economics senior, present the Recent Alumni Award of Distinction to Sam Hinkie.





Joseph Dzurik prepares for his mock interview with ONEOK.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS STUDENT ASSOCIATION SPONSORS INTERVIEW PREPARATION EVENT

Drawing inspiration from the television reality show “What Not to Wear,” the Management Information Systems Student Association sponsored their second annual mock interview event March 12 titled “What Not to Say.” The event was facilitated and co-hosted by ONEOK, a Tulsa-based natural gas and natural liquids energy company. The goal of the event was to help students learn more about the career search process so they can be successful in their search for internships and full-time positions.

Students were invited to send in their resumés, prior to the event, to be considered for a sample position within ONEOK. Three students – Joseph Dzurik, Nick Enthoven and Elizabeth Hunt – were selected to be interviewed in front of the group and then provided with constructive feedback. All students received advice on the job search process, an explanation behind the theory of behavioral-based interviews and tips on how they can better prepare themselves to find the internship or job that they desire.

DISCUSSION ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FEATURES PANELISTS FROM DEVON, CHESAPEAKE AND SONIC

On April 26, Price College hosted three local executives to discuss the growing importance of corporate social responsibility. The Second Annual Business Ethics and Excellence Panel Discussion on Corporate Social Responsibility was held at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art before an auditorium of students and faculty. Guest speakers included Bill Whitsitt, executive vice president of public affairs from Devon Energy; Marc Rome, vice president of corporate governance and assistant corporate secretary from Chesapeake Energy; and Claudia San Pedro, vice president of investor relations and treasurer from Sonic. Vahap Uysal, assistant professor in Price College’s Division of Finance, moderated the discussion.

Each speaker provided an interesting look into the motivations and methods of approaching this relatively new idea of corporate social responsibility and spoke candidly about the feelings of both shareholders and the corporation with regard to CSR. Whitsitt shared that Devon defines CSR as, “The commitment of a corporation to conduct itself in ways that benefit its shareholders while providing sustained societal benefits that build public trust and acceptance. It is this public trust and acceptance that provides the basis for our social license to operate.” Rome believes that at Chesapeake, CSR is a three-pronged ideal taking into consideration environmental concerns, social concerns and corporate governance concerns. San Pedro highlighted the fluidity of CSR and Sonic’s commitment to art and education as a form of CSR. It was obvious after the discussion that CSR means different things to different people and organizations.



Marc Rome with Chesapeake Energy discusses how they approach corporate social responsibility.



The Price student team for Bright Sanitation prepares for the business plan competition, from left, Garret Pearce, Tom Spurgat, Steve Brachtenbach and Megan Walsh.

TEAM TAKES SECOND PLACE IN VALUES AND VENTURE BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

Bright Sanitation, a Price College team of undergraduate students, including Steve Brachtenbach, Megan Walsh, Garret Pearce and Tom Spurgat, won second place in the Values and Venture Business Plan Competition, which focuses on social entrepreneurship and was hosted by the Neely School of Business at Texas Christian University in April. Twenty-two teams from many top-20 schools in Entrepreneurship competed with Team Bright Sanitation, introducing a concept that offers a cost-effective sanitation solution for India's poorest urban slum areas. The team also placed second in the Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup Competition this year.



Dean Ken Evans congratulates Wade Brockway on his Outstanding Accounting Senior honor.

PRICE COLLEGE STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT CAMPUSWIDE AWARDS CEREMONY

On March 30, OU awarded numerous outstanding seniors with individual honors pertaining to their major field of study. Dean Ken Evans presented the awards to each business student for his or her academic excellence, including Wade Brockway, Accounting; Alice Dombrowski, Economics; Robert Elliott, Energy Management; Ryan Fightmaster, Entrepreneurship; Anh To, Finance; Anna Lukeman, Human Resources Management; Amy Grosser, International Business; Larissa Lynn, Management; Taylor FitzGerrell, Management Information Systems; and Taylor Champlin, Marketing and Supply Chain Management.

KANALY LECTURE SERIES SPEAKER FEATURES RICHARD FISHER

On April 10, Richard Fisher, president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, spoke to a large audience in Oklahoma Memorial Union as part of the E. Deane Kanaly Lecture Series. With a live feed streaming to various national media outlets, his talk was timely with what is occurring in today's economy. He also met with JCPenney Leadership associates during a student breakout session and visited with OU President David Boren during his day on campus.

The E. Deane 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 also is an OU business graduate.



Richard Fisher begins his discussion with an overview of the Federal Reserve's districts.





Ana Bolino, left, and Shelly Grunsted are congratulated by Dean Ken Evans at this year's Faculty Awards Ceremony.

PRICE FACULTY RECOGNIZED AT ANNUAL OU FACULTY AWARDS CEREMONY

Three faculty members of the Price College of Business were honored for their outstanding work at the annual OU Faculty Awards Ceremony, held in April at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. Honorees included Nim Razook, associate dean for undergraduate programs and David Ross Boyd Professor of Legal Studies, for the President's Distinguished Faculty Mentoring Program Outstanding Mentor Award; Shelly Grunsted, director of the First Fidelity Integrated Business Core and lecturer of legal studies, for the Merrick Foundation Teaching Award; and Ana Bolino, assistant professor of management and director of international business and education study abroad programs, for the Good Teaching Award.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS STUDENT ASSOCIATION VISITS CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CO.

In keeping with the MISSA theme of "Connecting to the Real World," MISSA students and MIS faculty visited Chesapeake Energy Co. April 13 to learn about the roles of IT specialists in the real world. Chesapeake community relations specialist Amanda Horvath and college recruiting coordinator Tanzeena Francka hosted the Price College students' visit, where they had the opportunity to learn about the roles and challenges of working in a large IT division for a company with more than 13,000 employees. Throughout the visit, students were provided insights into transitioning into the corporate world, along with advice on how to be successful in their internship and job search.



MISSA students and MIS faculty get a first-hand look at Chesapeake Energy's information technology division.



Josh Hack, energy management senior, presents his team's recommendations to the class as well as to the company they assisted.

STRATEGY STUDENTS WORK WITH LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER

Students from the Business Policy and Strategy course interacted with local businesses during the spring semester to help develop plans to assist owners in meeting their business goals. Class members were able to take concepts and principles learned in the classroom and apply them to their assigned businesses, which included JJ's Pizza Stop, Casey's Tire and Auto, Glow Salon, Downtown Fitness of Norman, and Crimson and Whipped Cream. Presentations were held, with the business owners, on April 30 for students to highlight their findings and make suggestions. The owners were pleased with the student recommendations and findings, and several are considering implementing many of the suggestions made by students. Based on the success of the program, the goal will be to continue this project in the future with a separate group of business owners. Instructor Aaron McKenny says, "The students appreciated the ability to work with and do a project that would actually help a local business."

PANEL DISCUSSION FOCUSES ON ENERGY FINANCING

The Price College Business Energy Solutions Center and the Oklahoma Bankers' Chair in Finance organized a luncheon and panel discussion on April 27 titled "Energy Financing: The New Realities," attracting significant participation from students, faculty, alumni and others interested in this area. Marc Rowland, chief executive officer of FTS International; Christopher Watson, managing director in Barclays Capital's Mergers & Acquisition Group in Investment Banking; and Maynard Holt, co-president and head of E&P Investment Banking at Tudor Pickering Holt & Co., all spoke as part of the panel discussion that was moderated by Chitru Fernando, John and Donnie Brock Chair in Finance and research director of the Business Energy Solutions Center. The panel discussion covered a wide range of recent developments in the risk management and financing of energy projects. Among the topics discussed were the challenges posed by the current natural gas and oil price climate, the role of private equity financing in the accelerated development of shale plays and the current debate on the effect of speculators on oil prices. Additionally, the potential impact of the Dodd-Frank Act and moves to curtail the position limits of speculators in energy derivatives markets, the tying of bank lending to the hedging of oil and gas price risk, and the recent entry of Sovereign Wealth Funds and other foreign investors into the U.S. energy capital market were topics covered.



Visiting Devon Energy are students and their instructor, from left, John McMican, Muaaz Mahmud, Nick Madden, Vahap Uysal, Taylor Foltyn, Brooke Sheppard and Kristen Oyler.

CLASS VISITS DEVON ENERGY CFO

Price College of Business students enrolled in Vahap Uysal's Advanced Business Finance class traveled to Oklahoma City to meet with Jeff Agosta, executive vice president and chief financial officer of Devon Energy, on April 23. Agosta is a 1990 graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a bachelor's degree in accounting and has been with Devon since 1997. After a brief tour of Devon's glass-domed atrium with its spectacular view of the new Devon Tower, the students were taken to the "tree house" conference room for a meeting with Agosta. They discussed the energy industry in general as well as current industry issues. He explained the science behind horizontal drilling, which allows for more efficient extraction of hydrocarbons. Current industry events discussed ranged from the recent dismissal of the Keystone Pipeline to ONEOK's new gas processing plant to be located in western Oklahoma's Cana Woodford Shale play. Agosta's insights on the impact of these issues on Devon and the country were informative and the students left with a better appreciation of the oil and gas industry and the finances behind it.





Dawn Rittenhouse speaks with Mark Sharfinan as well as the audience during her visit to Price College.

DAWN RITTENHOUSE SPEAKS AS PART OF THE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

As director of sustainable development at DuPont Co., Dawn Rittenhouse works to integrate sustainability strategies into DuPont's business management processes. She also leads DuPont's efforts at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Global Compact. Her newest project focuses on DuPont's efforts on climate change. During her visit on March 1, Rittenhouse spoke at a fireside chat with Mark Sharfinan, director of Division of Management and Entrepreneurship, along with 250 alumni, students and faculty. She was able to shine a light on the challenges companies face with new environmental issues, as well as up-to-date and creative solutions being pursued by companies. She held a roundtable discussion with JCPenney Leadership associates and a luncheon with Dean Ken Evans, faculty and students as well as meeting with several MBA students.

PRICE COLLEGE HOSTS ENERGY EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Two sessions of the highly successful Energy Executive Management Program were held Feb. 6 through 10 and April 16 through 20 at Price College. This unique program is designed to provide an overview of the business side of an energy enterprise for those working in the energy industry with a technical background. Taught by multiple subject matter experts in energy, the learning experience combines lectures, class discussion, small-group projects and case analyses, and an interactive process of exchanging new ideas, state-of-the-art concepts and best practices. The intensive, five-day program seeks to accelerate the development of high-potential managers and prepare them for advancement into senior management positions in the energy industry.



Janya Golubeva, assistant professor of finance, is one of the Price College professors who teaches during the Energy Executive Management program.



Photo by Party Pics of Norman

T.H. Lee Williams, dean of OU's Graduate College and vice president of research, Norman campus, stands with his daughter, Samantha Kahoe, upon her graduation in May with her MBA.

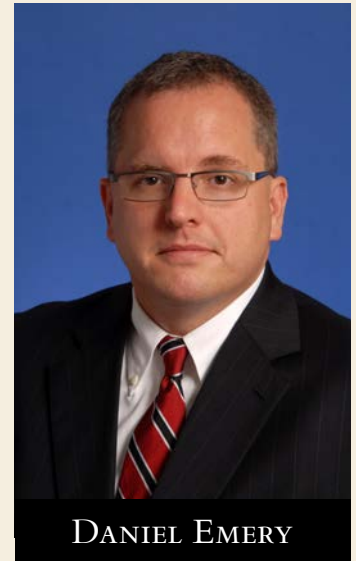
CONVOCATION FEATURES GENE RAINBOLT, CHAIRMAN OF BANCFIRST CORP., AS ALUMNI SPEAKER

This year's Spring Convocation took place at Lloyd Noble Center May 12, with H. E. "Gene" Rainbolt, chairman of BancFirst Corp., delivering the alumni address to more than 400 graduates, along with the thousands of family and friends in attendance. Rainbolt encouraged students to make a "positive, satisfying and lasting difference." Taylor FitzGerrell, Management Information Systems graduate, delivered the student address, and the National Anthem and OU Chant were led by Energy Management and Finance graduate Alyx Reeser. Ana Bolino, Kevan Jensen, Mano Ratwatte and Jeff Schmidt all served as faculty marshals for the event.



Suman Basaroy, Ruby K. Powell Professor of Marketing, and **Daniel Emery**, curriculum leader in business communication, jointly received one of the first grants from the University of Oklahoma's Course Innovation Grant for a course redesign of Principles in Marketing. The grant, which totals \$150,000 for two years, allows Basuroy and Emery to completely revamp the core course in marketing for undergraduates in Price College.

The Office of the Provost created these grants to encourage innovation in classroom teaching for high-enrollment courses for improving retention and documenting effective learning outcomes. The team from Marketing and Supply Chain Management joins the Department of Biology as the 2012-2013 recipients of the grant.



Mark Bolino, Michael F. Price Chair in International Business, recently published a paper titled "Choices, Challenges, and Career Consequences of Global Work Experiences: A Review and Future Agenda" in the *Journal of Management*.



The paper focuses on better understanding the choices, challenges and career consequences of global work experiences. Another paper, titled "A Self-Regulation Approach to Understanding Citizenship Behavior in Organizations," recently appeared in *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*. This research focuses on explaining how and why employees make conscious and unconscious decisions to go beyond the call of duty at work. Additionally, Bolino was a visiting scholar in the International Summer School Program at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Bret Bradley, assistant professor of management, had an article that deals with personality and conflict in teams, titled "Ready to Rumble: How Team Personality Composition and Task Conflict Interact to Improve Performance," accepted in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*. He and his coauthors found that teams with a lot of open-minded and emotionally stable people are best equipped to benefit from internal conflict, and not be damaged by it. Specifically, they found that when teams have high levels of these traits, increases in conflict translated into better team performance. When teams have low levels of these traits, increases in conflict translated into worse team performance.



Bradley also presented a research paper, "How Teamwork and Team Talent Interact to Impact Team Performance," at the Interdisciplinary Network of Group Researchers in Chicago in July. The presentation focused on research, which finds that the performance of teams of relatively equally talented members increases when they engage in good teamwork, but the performance of teams with a few highly talented members did not increase when they engaged in good teamwork.





TRACI CARTE

Traci Carte, associate professor of MIS, and **Tina Wang**, doctoral student in MIS, served as co-chairs of a mini-track titled “Affect and Social Process in Virtual Communities and Virtual Worlds” at the Americas Conference on Information Systems in Seattle this past August. The track included sessions that brought together researchers focused on social processes within virtual communities and worlds to develop a better understanding of how individuals communicate, sense and interpret the affective states and social processes of other individuals in their social community or workgroup via technology. Papers presented focused on such varied environments as Second Life, Twitter and collaborative workspaces. Additionally, Carte recently joined the executive council of the Americas Conference on Information Systems.

Gary Emery, professor of finance and the Oklahoma Bankers’ Chair, retired in May after 26 years of service to OU and the Price College of Business. Not only did he help build the Division of Finance, he also served as senior



GARY EMERY

associate dean from 2002 to 2007. During his time as dean, Emery handled many significant financial issues for the college, including the building of Price Hall. He and his wife, Molly, are retiring to Emery’s family home in Kansas, where he will continue with his interest in car racing.

Karen Hennes, assistant professor of accounting, and her co-authors Brian Miller and Andy Leone, were recognized in 2012 with the Emerald Management Reviews Citations of Excellence Award for their article “The Importance of Distinguishing Errors from Irregularities in Restatement Research: The Case of Restatements and CEO/CFO Turnover.” The paper originally was published in *The Accounting Review* in 2008 and studies the increase in the number of companies restating their financial



KAREN HENNES

statements around the passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act in 2002. In their paper, the authors note that although the number of restatements had increased over time, the relative percentage of restatements caused by fraud had actually decreased. Hennes and her co-authors show that failing to account for this changing mix in restatement types can result in misleading conclusions in research on the causes and consequences of restatements.



JEREMY SHORT

Jeremy Short, Rath Chair in Strategic Management, was chosen to speak at OU's first TEDx conference in February. At TEDxOU, Short explained how he took his writing for graphic novels and developed it into a teaching tool through graphic textbooks. He discussed how normal college textbooks are often boring and how adding a narrative to textbooks makes for better reading. Short and his coauthors have written numerous graphic textbooks to date as well as a traditional textbook that is graphically intensive and available free online. "Graphic novels offer storytelling used in many memorable films, and we've worked to adapt that idea to our works, "Short notes." I've found that while individuals can recall numerous quotes from movies, very few can recite lines from a textbook."



DUANE STOCK

Duane Stock, the Michael F. Price Student Investment Fund Professor and professor of finance, and his coauthor, Dong Kim, have an article titled "Impact of the TARP Financing Choice on Existing Preferred Stock" forthcoming in the *Journal of Corporate Finance*. The Oct. 14, 2008, Troubled Asset Relief Program mandated a forced issuance of TARP preferred stock by the largest U.S. banks. Soon after, many smaller banks

chose to issue TARP preferred stock after being approved for issuance. Stock and Kim focused upon two different types of outstanding preferred stock: (1) trust preferred stock, which is senior to TARP preferred stock, and (2) non-trust preferred stock, which has equal claim to TARP preferred stock. Consistent with the priority rule theory, but inconsistent with the default theory, the authors find that trust preferred enjoyed greater benefits from TARP issuance than did non-trust preferred for both forced and non-forced banks on the Oct. 14 TARP announcement date. In contrast, there is no clear priority rule effect on the approval dates for non-forced banks.

Robert Zmud, the first Michael F. Price Chair in Management Information Systems, George Lynn Cross Research Professor and a recipient of five lifetime achievement awards, retired from OU in August after nearly 15



ROBERT ZMUD

years on the faculty. His contributions to the field of MIS have informed and influenced thousands of scholars across the world and include numerous publications, many of which have appeared in leading business journals; leadership roles in several top journals and conferences; and research collaborations with doctoral students and faculty colleagues at institutions worldwide. He and his wife, Joann, have been an integral and important part of the MIS family at Price College, and their presence will be missed.



The Windows of Opportunity

By Kathryn Jenson White

If eyes are the figurative windows to the soul, windows are the figurative eyes of a home. They function basically to keep out heat and cold and let in light, but they also give homeowners a view out, connecting home with community. No house is truly a home without all that windows do.

Ken Silverman, owner/chairman/CEO of New Jersey's The Silverman Group, knows windows, and doors, too, for that matter. In 1973, when he graduated from the College of Business with a degree in finance, he joined Silver Line Building Products Corp., a business started by his father in 1947. At one time, Silver Line was the largest manufacturer of vinyl windows and doors sold through retailers and lumberyards across the country. When Silverman took over leadership of the company in 1984, it had 50 employees and one plant. When he sold it in 2006 to Anderson Windows, where it

has become Silver Line Windows by Anderson, he had almost 8,000 employees in about 10 plants. The decision to sell was not one he took lightly. "We loved the business, but the market changed and it was time," he says.

After the sale, Silverman and his son, Blake, knew they wanted to continue the family business tradition. "My dad and I had the window business; now it was time for Blake to decide what we should do as partners," Silverman says. "He was excited about the real estate and private equity business. So that's what the family business is now."

Blake says that in the Silverman family, the difference between the family setting and the family business setting has never really existed. "The way I was able to see my father was going to work with him every Saturday," Blake remembers. "We talked about the business at meals. My father has been an amazing mentor to me,

and I could not be happier than working with him every day. Family businesses are tricky, but when it works there is nothing better."

It works in The Silverman Group, the organization the second- and third-generation Silvermans now run. Based in Short Hills, N.J., it owns and operates 6 million-plus square feet of commercial, industrial, office and medical space. In addition, it owns more than 5,000 apartments. As Silverman built his family company's window plants, he purchased the industrial parks in which they operated and began a real estate department within the manufacturing business. Those holdings were the beginnings of the real estate side of The Silverman Group. Blake runs the leasing department and operates the business day to day. Silverman's daughter, Britany Nelson, also is involved. She runs the Kenneth and Claudia Silverman Family Foundation, which focuses on various projects, including stem cell research and autism.

"We keep the foundation low key, but we want to give back," Silverman says. "I don't ever forget that I had the opportunity to go into a family business. Many don't. But I didn't coast. I worked seven days a week for many years. But the truth is you've got to be a dreamer to be an entrepreneur. I was a dreamer, and I dreamed big. I still am and do, in fact."

Lately that dreaming has been about creating and about connecting with



With his Silver Line Windows display, Ken Silverman talks about his product that was eventually sold to Anderson Windows.



Ken Silverman talks to an entrepreneurship class while visiting as an executive-in-residence.

people. Blake says his father thrives on personal relationships with those he does business with. Silverman agrees. “We’re excited about the venture capitalization of start-ups,” Silverman says. “Some people buy a football team. We want to invest in companies that will do some great things. That’s our idea of fun. To help create businesses that will make a difference.

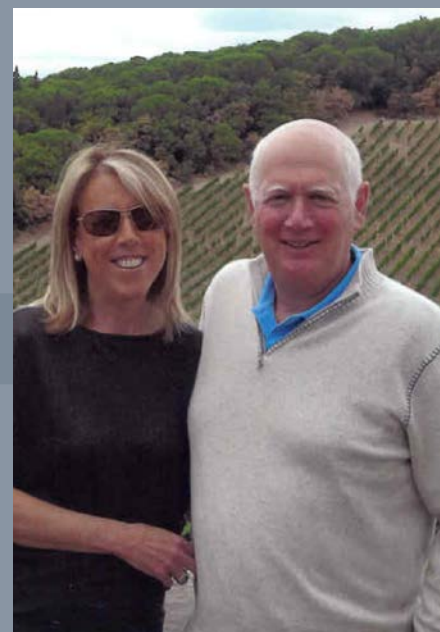
“I believe strongly in the importance of personal connection. The private equity space in which we will fund companies and have seats on their boards will connect us more. I had that in the first business; I look forward to more of it in this one.”

Price College Dean Ken Evans says that one of the elements of his position he enjoys most is the opportunity to get to know alumni like Silverman, whose stint as an

executive-in-residence has allowed him to share his manufacturing and real estate development experiences. Silverman’s recent gift to the college will provide experiential learning opportunities for students in the Center for Entrepreneurship. It also will help support a campus-wide student entrepreneur competition, allowing students to visit venture capitalists in their work environment and tour key manufacturing plants.

Evans sees Silverman commitment as one of this Price College supporter’s strongest qualities. “Ken has boundless energy,” Evans says. “He combines his infinite capacity for passion for business with a genuinely personal demeanor that leaves those who meet him with a clear sense of how much he cares. Price College is proud to count Ken Silverman among our alumni.

We look forward to watching his company’s new chapter unfold in the private equity space.”



Silverman with his wife, Claudia, last summer on vacation in Tuscany.



THE GEOGRAPHY OF SUCCESS:

Hunter Fan Company CEO Chuck Smith

By Brooke Barnett

With a career that has taken him from Texas to Oklahoma to Illinois to Missouri to Tennessee, geography has always played a large role in the life of Price College of Business alumnus Chuck Smith. Growing up in the small Texas town of Van Alstyne (population: 1,500), the business leader came to the University of Oklahoma mostly for geographical convenience. As the current chairman and chief executive officer of the Hunter Fan Co. in Memphis, Smith champions a company that has offices in three countries and retail outlets worldwide — and says his experiences at OU played a large role in his success today.



Landing in Norman

"I originally wanted to be an engineer," Smith recalls, "but eventually came to my

senses and ended up in the business school. I am happy that I ended up choosing OU. I met my wife of almost 27 years there, when we were paired together as Sooner Scandals partners."

Smith graduated in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in management and calls his time on campus one of the "best experiences" of his life.



During his visit to campus as an executive-in-residence, Chuck Smith enjoys talking with MBA students and Eddie Edwards, executive director of the MBA program.

"Some of my best friends are people I met while at OU," Smith says. "My wife, Beth, and I are still avid OU football fans."

Smith returned to the Norman campus last spring, when he served as an executive-in-residence. "It gave me an appreciation and perspective of campus that I haven't had in a while," Smith explains. "I spent time with the JCPenney Leadership Program associates and students majoring in entrepreneurship. The students are just terrific."

Hitting the Road

In 1985, Smith started his career at the ground level of Hunter Fan Co.,

a Memphis-based manufacturer of ceiling fans and home environment enhancing products.

"I started on the road, servicing Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana territory, mainly calling on hardware stores and then later, larger retailers," Smith explains. "It was a great way to learn the business and get a feel for how Hunter was perceived by customers and consumers."

Smith held a number of progressively more responsible marketing and sales positions over the next seven years. "I spent my first four years on the road, as an evangelist for the brand and the



Chuck and his wife, Beth, also an OU graduate, vacationing in Napa Valley.

company and it was very valuable time for my understanding of Hunter and business in general.”

A fast-growing fitness company, the Roadmaster Corp., recruited Smith in 1992. Smith worked at Roadmaster until 1995, marketing and selling bicycles and fitness equipment under the Vitamaster, Flexible Flyer, DP and Body by Jake brands, and the company doubled in size in the three years that Smith was on board.

“Next, I ended up in St. Louis running American Recreation Products, which holds the No. 2 market position after Coleman,” Smith says. American Recreation markets and sells outdoor recreational products under the Kelty, Slumberjack, Sierra Designs, Wenzel, Swiss Army, and Eddie Bauer brands. Smith was promoted to president during his 10-year tenure with the company.

“Eventually, I had the urge to try my hand in other areas,” Smith recalls. “I accepted a position at a Fortune 500 company, but ended up agreeing to come back to Hunter

as president in 2005.” When the then-CEO retired in 2007, Smith assumed the position of chairman and chief executive officer. “I’ve been in my current position for the past five years, and I feel like it’s been a great experience both for the company and for me professionally.”

Growing Hunter

Hunter Fan Co. is a 125-year-old company that employs more than 300 people in the Memphis area, functioning under a rich history of developing products that make everyday living more comfortable. “That’s our vision,” Smith says. “We hold a 90 percent market share in the branded ceiling fan category.” Today, the company also markets ceiling fans under the Casablanca brand and manufactures high-performance air purifiers, premium bath and portable fans and energy-saving thermostats. Hunter fans and home environment products are available in retail showrooms, home centers and discount stores nationwide and around the world.

“We are the only branded supplier in the business,” Smith says. “Home

Depot and Lowe’s have their own private label, so it creates a unique environment. Our largest customers are also our biggest competitors. This creates the need for strong relationships and excellent communications.”

“With the housing bust and economic downturn, household remodeling has been down 40 to 50 percent since its peak in 2006. So, it’s been a challenging environment for the past few years,” Smith explains. “Despite the downturn, Hunter has been able to gain both market share and revenue during this time. We are in a great position to see outsized revenue gains as we begin to see a recovery in the housing market.”

Future Destinations

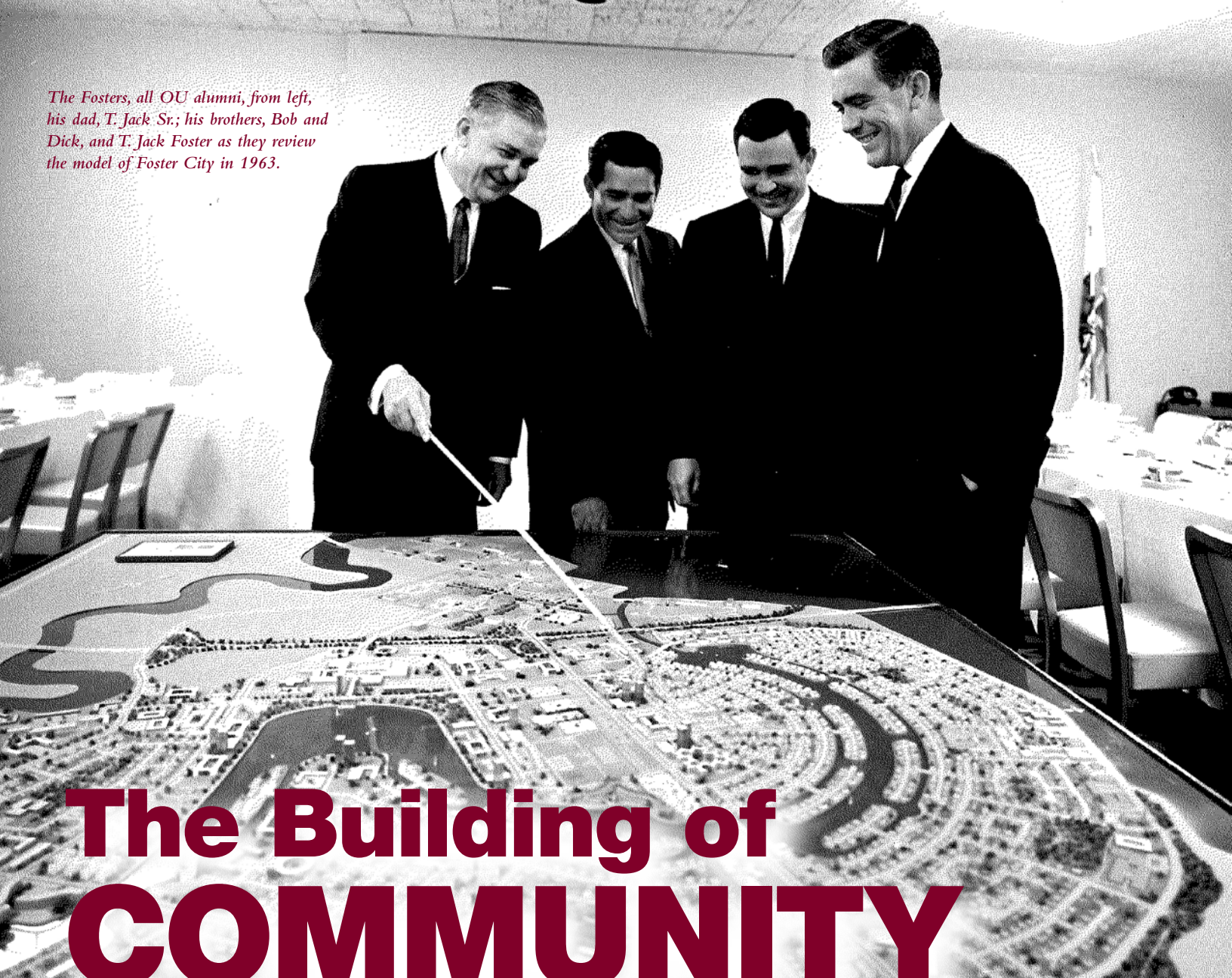
“My time at OU gave me great perspective,” Smith says. “My education gave me the ability to hone my people skills. My skills in listening and really adapting to the needs of business were truly developed during my time at OU.”

Smith says his future plans include working into his mid-60s as he focuses on growing the company both organically and through strategic acquisition. “I just enjoy it too much to stop before then,” he says. “We have many exciting initiatives in place as we continue to develop Hunter into one of the best consumer products companies in the world.”

As to the final geographic destination and home for this hard-working CEO when he decides it’s time to retire? “My wife and I are still debating where that will be,” he laughs. “So, future destinations are still up for discussion.”



The Fosters, all OU alumni, from left, his dad, T. Jack Sr.; his brothers, Bob and Dick, and T. Jack Foster as they review the model of Foster City in 1963.



The Building of COMMUNITY

By Kathryn Jenson White

When people talk about “home,” they can mean different things. They might mean the house in which they live life, raise families and strive to realize their dreams. In addition, home could be the community containing those structural homes. T. Jack Foster, his father before him and now his three children have spent their lives not just developing real estate projects that provide homes for people, but building a community.

The Foster family has invested itself in putting the “home” in hometown with the development of Foster City in San Mateo County, Calif.

“In 1960, when we started the Foster City project, my father made me project manager,” says Foster, a 1951 OU College of Business graduate. “Today, it’s a thriving, balanced community of 31,000 people and various commercial ventures. We have great schools and a strong cultural

life as well as all the beauty and activity associated with life on the water.”

Forbes magazine ranked Foster City No. 10 on its 2009 list of America’s Top 25 Towns to Live Well and *Money* magazine also has recognized it multiple times as one of the Best Places to Live. But creating this planned community required a remarkable feat of engineering, all of which Foster oversaw. The community was incorporated as a city in 1971.



The development of 2,600 acres is behind levees, and Foster Enterprises imported 18 million cubic yards of fill and excavated 230 acres for lagoons, all on what had once been tidelands.

“Dad and his father had a real vision of this place,” says daughter Lee Foster, who has spent most of her adult life in Foster City, running the locally owned community theater for about 14 years. “It was called ‘the island of the blue lagoons.’ When Rotary honored my dad a few years ago, Jackie Speier, our state representative for the 12th congressional district, said something like, ‘T. Jack constantly challenges me to higher levels of thinking, different types of thinking.’ That’s a paraphrase, but it’s close.”



Foster City, Calif.

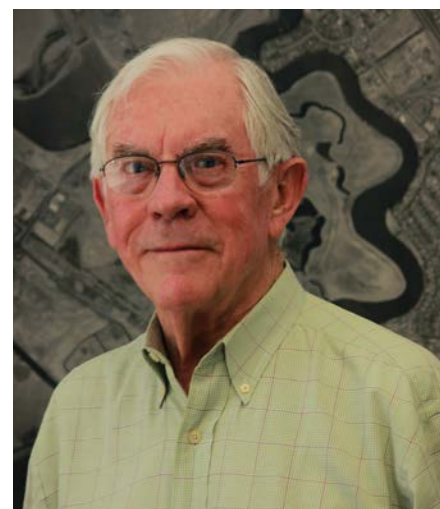
Foster speaks with pride equal to Lee Foster’s in him when he discusses his own father’s accomplishments — including Foster Sr.’s serving as the “schoolboy mayor” of Norman beginning in 1929 when he was in law school at OU and going to Washington, D.C., to secure Navy bases for Norman, then working with OU President George Lynn Cross to get that Navy land — South Base — for the university. He is careful to say Foster City was his

father’s dream, although he had the responsibility and, he says, the pleasure, of realizing that dream.

Long before father and son began to work together, Foster’s time as a youth in Norman established core ideas of what a home is and is not. “I grew up until age 11 in a house with Mom, Dad and two brothers,” he says. “We lived in two bedrooms with a sleeping porch and one bathroom. It would be considered substandard today, I suppose, but there was absolutely nothing substandard about my growing up. Since I’ve had a family, I’ve had big houses and medium-sized houses, and I can say without doubt that there’s a lot more to a home than size.”

Today, he lives next to Foster City in San Mateo in a high-rise apartment building he and his brother, Richard Foster, BBA 1956, developed. Foster is finishing a book called “The Development of Foster City,” to, he says, get the facts straight. Despite that undertaking, he calls himself “substantially retired.” His son, Mark, runs the day-to-day operations of the business. In addition to Mark and Lee, there’s son T. Jack Foster III, who also lives in Foster City.

Craig Lilly, shareholder in Greenberg Traurig LLP, lives and works near Foster City. His wife grew up there, and he has known Foster well for about eight years. He speaks with admiration of the vision behind Foster City, the challenge of its physical creation and the quality of life for which it provides a setting. “T. Jack and his father before him saw that people can contribute to community building in several different ways, not just personally



T. Jack Foster pictured with an aerial photograph of Foster City behind him.

and socially but also through building businesses and supporting organizations,” he says. “Foster City is a community based on the things people value: family, friends, faith, business and social relationships.”

Despite challenges he has faced in his own career as a real estate developer, Foster is happy with his life’s work. “Making money is one kind of reward for a successful career, but creating is just as important,” he says. “We’ve created many communities around the country of many different kinds. The real pride is Foster City. The people are so happy there. We’re in third generations living there because their grandparents lived there. The San Francisco Bay area has about 8 million people and a lot of cities are in trouble, but Foster City is sort of sitting on top of the heap. And it’s evolving to fit the needs of more families; we’re building some multifamily residences now. “More important than money is making a valuable contribution to your community.”

More important yet, perhaps, is making the community itself.



A New Face for a

Recent Price College Graduate Learning the

By Brooke Barnett

Sonic, Hobby Lobby, Braum's, Mazzio's – all well-known Oklahoma-based companies thriving in the retail landscape. But perhaps no local business is more iconic in the Sooner State than the family-owned and -operated Mathis Brothers Furniture, complete with the company's well-known commercial tagline of offering "everyday low prices" at their location at "3434 West Reno."

Since its founding by Don and Bud Mathis in 1960, Mathis Brothers Furniture has provided an extensive array of home furnishings, accent pieces and interior design services from its 130,000-square-foot showroom and warehouse in Oklahoma City. The company expanded to include a location in Tulsa in 1993, followed by a branch in Indio, Calif., in 1999 and a location in Ontario, Calif., in 2007. Today, the company has eight retail chains, including 14 brands and more than 20 locations, with several more planned throughout Oklahoma and California.

AN EXPANDING FAMILY BUSINESS

Since Don's retirement in 1988, his sons Bill and Larry Mathis have continued the family business. Both brothers earned business degrees from the University of Oklahoma – Larry in Finance in 1975 and Bill in Economics in 1980. The company continues to be a family affair, having recently expanded to include Bill's son Rit as company spokesman and stepson John Tarkington as marketing director.

Tarkington, a 2010 graduate of Price College's Entrepreneurship program, says that working with his stepfather and step-uncle has been a life-changing experience. "They are brilliant businessmen and tough bosses," Tarkington explains. "Bill especially has been a big influence in my life."



John Tarkington, third from right, celebrates with his fellow business plan team members after presenting at the Governor's Cup.

BUSINESSMAN IN TRAINING

Before coming to the University of Oklahoma, Tarkington lived in Santa Barbara, Calif. "I attended school and had my 'young and reckless' period," he says. "I decided to move back to Oklahoma to get serious. OU was a big growing-up experience for me."

Tarkington cites Price College's First Fidelity Integrated Business Core program as one of the first steps toward the maturation process he enjoyed while at OU. In IBC, students get hands-on, real-world training while developing the skills necessary to launch a successful business. Tarkington participated in the program in 2008 and says it provided him with great management experience. "Overall, it was a great experience and really took me out of my comfort zone. It forced me to become a more extroverted person," he reflects. "Without it, I do not think I would have done as well in my other classes."

While at OU, Tarkington also competed in the Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup Collegiate Business Plan Competition, which encourages students of Oklahoma universities and colleges to develop their entrepreneurial ideas and skills. Tarkington jokes that he's "never spent so many days researching without sleep," but is emphatic

n Oklahoma Icon

Family Business at Mathis Brothers Furniture



From left, Bill and Larry Mathis today at their Oklahoma City retail location.

that “it is a great program and I would recommend everyone taking the course.” His team made it to the final round of competition, but inevitably did not place. “The best thing about the program was that I felt comfortable leaving college and ready for anything.”

LEARNING THE ROPES

To learn the family business, Tarkington says he started at the very bottom. “Bill has always told me that family has to work the hardest in order to gain the respect that leadership requires. That’s why they started me out small and made me work my way up to marketing director.”

He started out on the warehouse crew, worked up to the sales floor, became a merchandiser, then a business analyst, and then e-commerce manager before finally earning the title of marketing director. As far as working with his stepfather and step-uncle, business truly is a family affair. “I work with them every day,” Tarkington says, “I’m happy to know that they trust me with holding a director title at the company.”

USING HIS PRICE KNOWLEDGE

Tarkington says his degree from Price College has

had a big impact on the career success he has enjoyed thus far. “Initially, I used the entrepreneurship skills I learned to create and manage a new department and revenue stream,” he explains. “I established an e-commerce department that operates mathisbrothers.com and several other sites. The structuring of personnel, equipment, policies and procedures were all things I focused on at Price and they have played an important role in my success.”

And successful Tarkington has been – the e-commerce department has become the fastest-growing department within the company in terms of sales, month after month. “Now, my priority is to develop a progressive structure solution on a larger scale to help organize all our marketing and advertising through TV, print and the Web,” says Tarkington.

When asked about his future plans, Tarkington says his goals for the future include “investing in my sibling’s ventures, climbing the corporate ladder at Mathis Brothers and retiring in Switzerland.”

And for this young Price College graduate, it looks like success does indeed run in the family.





Home Is Where the Heart Is

Oklahoma Native Howard Lester Was Passionate About Creating Thoughtful, Inviting Domestic Spaces

By Debbie Rudy

In 1978, entrepreneur Howard Lester wanted to buy a small, French-inspired gourmet kitchen supply store. Already a multimillionaire, the Oklahoma native was in his early 40s and had recently retired. But Lester was not one to put his feet up. So when he was introduced to Chuck Williams, founder of the kitchen supplier Williams-Sonoma, he viewed the business model with fresh eyes and immediately saw its potential to transform the domestic space into a dream home. That

meeting not only brought Lester out of retirement and into an enduring partnership with Williams, but also would ultimately lead to the creation of the largest upscale home retail and mail order operation in the United States.

“At this point and time of his life, he was more interested in what would make him excited about getting up every morning, something he could be proud of doing, that combined good taste and quality,” said Mary Lester of her late husband, Howard, who passed away in 2010 at the

age of 75. “He certainly had strong feelings about kitchen items and housewares, as they are the basis of success in the kitchen and for enjoying one’s home.”

Because Lester enjoyed the art of cooking, Mary said, he understood the needs of the Williams-Sonoma customer. “He knew if his needs were met, then the customer’s were, too,” she said.

Williams-Sonoma Inc., which offers high-end kitchenware, home furnishings and accessories, marked Lester’s first and only

retail venture. Once he touched the retail world, however, he made a tremendous impact: Lester pioneered multichannel retailing, the concept of enabling the customer to experience a brand through multiple channels — brick-and-mortar stores, catalogs and the Internet. Williams-Sonoma Inc. quickly adapted to the Internet and today is the 24th largest E-commerce company in the United States. Even though the company has almost 600 retail stores, it derives almost 45 percent of its revenue through its catalogs and E-commerce websites.

He also continually searched for opportunities where he saw voids in the market, and expanded the company from the original Williams-Sonoma brand to include Pottery Barn, which was acquired from the Gap in 1986. Under his leadership, Pottery Barn expanded with the development of Pottery Barn Kids and PB Teen, as well as West Elm and, more recently, Rejuvenation.

Lester was born and raised in small-town Durant, finished high school in Altus and attended OU, studying business, before ultimately embarking on a successful career in building and selling computer businesses. He got his professional start selling office machines for IBM and later established several of his own companies, including the Coley/Lester Employment Agency, as well as a few computer service and software businesses.

He also formed Centurex Corp., which became one of the leading suppliers of software systems to the American banking industry; he sold the company in 1976. Two years later, he and silent partner



Howard and Mary Lester enjoy time with their family.

James McMahan bought Williams-Sonoma, which at the time had four stores with \$4 million in annual sales and \$700,000 of debt. By 1983, only five years after Lester took the reins, Williams-Sonoma had gone public and its annual revenue had risen to \$35 million.

Lester, who served as president, chief executive officer and chairman of the board at Williams-Sonoma, built the company on seven principles, known as “Howard’s Rules.” Although broad, this foundation formed the bedrock of what he saw as good personal and corporate governance: having a vision/dream, eschewing arrogance, celebrating the contributions of others, being self-critical, having integrity, seeing one’s self through the eyes of others and focusing on the future.

Lester lived by these rules in all facets of his life, Mary said, theorizing that his self-taught erudition and principled approach to work and life stemmed from his

Oklahoma upbringing, his innate pioneering spirit. Howard was 13 years old when his father left the family; he looked to his mother — whom Lester had described as hard working, God-fearing and honest — for guidance.

“Her favorite slogan was, ‘Son, there is no such word as ‘can’t.’ There’s only ‘can’t hardly,’” Mary said. “Without question, Oklahoma and OU left an indelible stamp on his character. Howard always remembered where he was from. Growing up in Durant on the wrong side of the tracks, his family bounced around from one house to another, moving at least 12 to 15 times. His parents divorced early on and, during these difficult years, his mother worked as a maid to take care of Howard and his younger brother, Jimmy. Howard had to grow up and become the man of the house at a young age.”

With grit and determination, Howard ultimately was able to

continued on next page . . .



A large photograph of Howard Lester, president and CEO of Williams-Sonoma, smiling and leaning on a wooden counter in a Williams-Sonoma store. The background shows various kitchenware and store displays.

Lester...president, chief executive officer and chairman of the board at Williams-Sonoma, built the company on seven principles, known as **“Howard’s Rules.”**

create the life and home for himself that he had envisioned. Mary said her husband was grateful for all he achieved in life – including such honors as being inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2001 and being awarded an honorary degree from OU in 2004, among many other honors. Philanthropy was a way to express gratitude, while fulfilling another one of his goals: assisting others in achieving their own aspirations. “We both feel strongly about giving back to the communities that have been so good to us,” Mary said.

Among many contributions, Mary and Howard Lester have

provided scholarship support for OU students with financial need, as well as the lead gift for the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art’s Mary and Howard Lester Wing – which not only provides a proper home for the Weitzenhoffer Collection of French Impressionism, but showcases galleries recreating the warm domestic space in which the collection originally was displayed.

“Howard chose to give back in the manner he did because he experienced firsthand the financial hardship that exists for those whose postsecondary education is not assured,” Mary said. “He knew how difficult it was to overcome



Howard Lester during his time at OU in the 1950s.

such constraints and sought to help others be able to focus exclusively on obtaining their education. Moreover, it was a sense that OU had nourished him as a young person and he wanted the same type of environment to exist for those who came after him.”

Shelly GRUNSTED

Director, First Fidelity Integrated Business Core
and Lecturer in Legal Studies

Shelly Grunsted is one of the most remembered professors by Price students who have gone through the First Fidelity Integrated Business Core program. For the past seven years, she has directed this program to be even more fulfilling than before and led it to pass the \$1 million mark last fall in money donated to local charities since the program's inception. She is not only a memorable professor and director of this program – she is a mom, wife and lawyer as well.

Grunsted grew up in Maroa, Ill., outside Decatur. She has a brother who is now a Ph.D. research scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a sister who is the co-director of homeland security for the Illinois State Police. When it came time to decide what to do with her future, Grunsted said it was easy. “I’ve always wanted to be in law since my late grandmother took me to her law office where she was a secretary,” she says. “I loved the law library and enjoyed reading the cases, though I had no idea what they really meant at the time.” She went on to earn her bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois, her juris doctorate from OU’s law school, and her LL.M from the University of Tulsa College of Law.

In 2000, Grunsted originally started at Price as an adjunct professor teaching legal studies while also teaching business law at the University of Central Oklahoma. Additionally, during this time, she was employed by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as a law clerk to the District Judge and Supreme Court, drafting legislation, working on federal grants, traveling and researching to write her dissertation for

her LL.M. Grunsted began teaching full time for Price College in 2004 and has never looked back.

She has taught Legal Studies for IBC, Legal Studies for Non-IBC, Real Property, International Business Law at the

undergraduate and graduate levels and Employment Law at the graduate level while earning many teaching awards along the way. Some of these include the BP Fellowship in Energy Management, the ConocoPhillips Teaching Fellowship, the Hurley Roberson Award for Teaching Excellence and the Merrick Foundation Teaching Award. Grunsted’s teaching interests are in the area of group dynamics and teaching in teams, and she considers Native American policy and employment-related issues along with social responsibility her research interests.

Her husband, John Grunsted, MBA 2001, is an adjunct professor in energy management at Price while also serving as the head of information technology at Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co. They have four children: Brittany, 21; PJ, 16; Michael, 13; and Sheridan, 11. The couple enjoy many activities, such as attending OU football games and their children’s sporting events, which include volleyball, baseball and tennis. Grunsted also likes to volunteer her time in many ways, such as through tutoring with the Norman Public Schools, working with Habitat for Humanity and the Make-a-Wish Foundation, and helping at-risk youth in Muskogee, Tulsa and Okmulgee counties.

Grunsted also enjoys her participation in the First Fidelity IBC program. “IBC has been such a rewarding experience, both personally and professionally. To be part of a program that has donated more than \$1 million of hard-earned money to charity, more than 50,000 hours of sweat equity and to make such a difference in the community is really quite astounding when you sit back and take in the impact this program has on everyone involved,” she says. “Not often can you find the thing in life that really makes you happy like teaching does for me.”



The Grunsted Family includes, top row, Shelly, Britt and PJ and bottom row, John, Sheridan and Michael.



Grunsted takes time to talk to students after their First Fidelity Integrated Business Core end-of-semester presentations.



Ana and Mark **BOLINO**

Mark Bolino, Professor of Management and Michael F. Price Chair in International Business, and Ana Bolino, Assistant Professor of Management and Director of International Business and Study Abroad Programs

Although both Mark and Ana were both raised in large cities, they grew up in different environments. Mark grew up in Fairfax, Va., with his parents, an older brother and younger sister. Ana lived with her parents in Romania, which until 1989 was a communist country under the rule of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Ana considers herself lucky because the communist regime collapsed the same year she entered college at the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest. After graduation, she worked for Xerox in Romania for a few years and then was awarded a scholarship to pursue her MBA at Winthrop University in South Carolina. After finishing this degree, she decided to go for her doctorate in international management at the University of South Carolina.

During this same time, Mark earned his undergraduate degree at James Madison University. He double majored in international business and Spanish and studied abroad at the University of Salamanca in Spain. After graduating, he spent three years working for the Naval Air Systems Command negotiating contracts with McDonnell Douglas for the Navy's F/A-18 program. Mark also pursued an MBA at night from George Washington University. After earning his MBA, he attended the University of South Carolina to pursue his doctorate in organizational behavior.

Mark and Ana met at the University of South Carolina during her first semester and his last semester, having already accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Notre Dame. After a quick courtship, they



Ana and Mark tour the Great Wall of China with Mackenzie, left, and Lindsay.

were engaged in 1999 before Mark left for South Bend, while Ana stayed in Columbia to finish her second year of the Ph.D. program. In 2000, they got married while Mark taught in the undergraduate and MBA programs at Notre Dame, and Ana taught a couple of classes as an adjunct faculty member. During their five years in South Bend, Mark and Ana had two daughters, Lindsay and Mackenzie, before moving to Norman, where Ana finished her doctorate from the University of South Carolina.

In 2004, Mark and a friend from Kansas made a road trip down to Norman to see an OU football game. Mark enjoyed Norman and had an interest in working with doctoral students, but Notre Dame did not offer a doctoral program. When OU was searching for an organizational behavior professor, he decided to look into it, and the Bolinos came to OU. Mark says, “At the time, neither of us really believed we would move, but after visiting Norman we realized that the University of Oklahoma was a special place.”

At Price College, Mark teaches organizational behavior in the full-time and professional MBA programs, organizational behavior and human resource management in the Ph.D. program, and international business in the undergraduate program. He also teaches in the Energy Executive Management Program, does extensive research and serves on a number of editorial boards. Ana teaches corporate strategy in both the MBA and the undergraduate programs as well as undergraduate courses in international business and cross-cultural management. Mark has won several teaching awards, including the Bruce Magoon Award, Howard Hackler Award and the university’s Merrick Foundation Teaching Award, and Ana recently was recognized with OU’s Good Teaching Award.



The Bolinos enjoy the Price College Tailgate last year before the Texas A&M football game.

During the past five years that Ana has coordinated the Price College Study Abroad Program, it has grown to include Spain, France, England, Italy and Costa Rica, and more than 800 Price students have participated. Mark and Ana lead the summer study abroad program in Alcalá de Henares, Spain. Ana says, “We both love teaching and traveling. After the study abroad program in Spain, we typically spend some time sight-seeing. This year, Mark was invited to teach at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, so our family was able to see a lot of Hong Kong, and we also visited India and China. Given that we teach international business, it was a wonderful opportunity to see, first hand, the tremendous economic development that is taking place in this part of the world.” The Bolinos enjoy spending time with their daughters (who are seasoned travelers) as well as attending sporting events since all four of them are diehard sports fans, especially when it comes to Sooner football and Thunder basketball.



Mark and Ana take several cultural trips with students while studying abroad in Spain.





CLASSnotes



Lamar Wallace, BBA 1936, decided after turning 100 years old last year in his hometown of Tyrone, Ga., that he would like to visit the University of Oklahoma campus, as he had not stepped foot in Norman since his graduation 76 years ago. This active centenarian often tells others his advice to live a full life as he has. "Live life every day and do everything in moderation," he says. "If you do that you'll survive much longer and have a happier life."

When Wallace visited campus on May 28 with his stepson, Paul, he took a tour of campus and then toured Price College to see the new part of the college in Price Hall and to relive some memories. He told stories of Dean Adams, the first dean of the College of Business Administration, and the construction of Adams Hall while he was a business student at OU. Wallace enjoyed his day on campus tremendously and commented numerous times on how much had changed in the past 76 years. Price College was honored to host one of OU's oldest alumni.

Don Warrick, BBA 1963, MBA 1964, is a professor of management and organization change at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and was named the 2011 Outstanding Faculty Member for the College of Business. He also received an Outstanding Teacher Award for 2011. Warrick has authored a number of new books including "Lessons in Leadership," "Lessons In Leading Change" and "Lessons In Changing Culture."

Gary Holland, BBA 1974, joined the Mercer Group, Inc. as senior vice president in 2006 and serves as a consultant to local governments specializing in executive search.



Prior to joining the Mercer Group, he worked in the city manager's office in Kissimmee, Fla., retiring as deputy city manager. Holland's early career included work with Public Technology Inc., where he authored reports on innovative technologies relevant to improving efficiency in local government operations. He also served as a charter member of the County Government Training Program established by the Oklahoma Legislature to develop and present educational materials to elected county officers in Oklahoma.



William "Bill" Rex, BBA 1977, recently was presented with two awards: the 2010 Landman of the Year award from the American Association of

Professional Landmen, and the Dallas Association of Professional Landmen. Rex currently is the vice president of U.S. Land and Negotiations for Hunt

Oil Co. in Dallas, and is serving his fourth term on the board of directors for the Dallas Association of Professional Landmen.

Louis Medina, BBA 1979, has been named senior vice president of commercial lending for Stillwater National Bank in Tulsa, Okla. He has spent more than 30 years in the Tulsa banking market, specializing in business development and commercial lending.



Todd Liebl, BBA 1980, was promoted to vice president of land and business development for Cabot Oil and Gas Corp. in Houston. He recently served as director of land and business development for Cabot and has been with the company since 2008. Liebl originally joined Cabot as the regional land manager for the Gulf Coast area.



Kevin James, BBA 1985, is running for mayor of Los Angeles. He moved to Los Angeles more than 25 years ago to begin his legal career. He has served as

an assistant U.S. attorney, a litigator at Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher and as an entertainment lawyer. While maintaining his legal practice, James also has contributed much of his time, talents and resources to the community. He joined the all-volunteer board of directors for AIDS Project Los Angeles, where he served for six years as board vice chair and co-chair. James also has been a local radio broadcaster for the past 10 years on 790 KABC and 870 KRLA.

John Yeutter, MAcc 1993, MBA 1996, is the associate professor of accounting and tax policy at Northeastern State

*in*memoriam

Gerald Eason, BBA 1947, passed away Dec. 13, 2011, in Lawton, Okla. After earning his accounting degree from OU, Eason entered the U.S. Army and was commissioned as second lieutenant to the 16th Armored Division of the 3rd Army in Europe under the command of Gen. George C. Patton. Following his discharge from the Army in 1946 with a rank of captain, he returned to Oklahoma City, where he became a certified public accountant and

served as vice president of Fain Porter Drilling Corp. for 11 years. In 1960, he founded Hadson Oil and Gas Co. with his longtime business partner and friend, Harry Hadler, and served for many years as president and chairman of the board for Hadson Ohio Oil Co. He participated in many other successful business ventures, including a car rental company, hotels in Oklahoma City and San Jose, Costa Rica, and apartments

in Wichita Falls, Texas, as well as Altus and Lawton in Oklahoma. In 1972, Eason purchased the Coors Beer Distributorship in southwest Oklahoma; the distributorship is still owned and operated by the Eason family. In 2006, he set up a bequest to benefit Price College in the form of the Gerald N. and Marion A. Eason Chair in Accounting to assist the college in recruiting and retaining accounting faculty members of the highest quality and reputation.

Tom Goodner, BBA 1958, passed away April 29, 2012, in Norman, Okla., at the age of 77. A successful grocer and businessman in Duncan, he was the owner of Goodner's Supermarkets and Goodner's Steakhouse for 54 years; owned seven different grocery stores, including Buy for Less stores in Oklahoma City and Norman; served as president and director of the National Retail Grocer's Association; was co-founder and chairman of Farm Fresh Dairies; and was co-owner of the Elk Plaza Shopping Center and

Duncan Carmike Theater. Goodner also was a significant supporter of the city of Duncan and the state of Oklahoma and represented small business owners on a national level. He was a proud OU alumnus, helping to refurbish the marketing conference room in Adams Hall, serving on the Price College advisory board and as a founding member of the alumni council. Goodner also extended his generosity to OU Athletics and the Pride of Oklahoma Marching Band, was president of Sigma Phi Epsilon's alumni council

when the fraternity's new house was constructed on campus, and provided scholarships to students from Duncan pursuing a musical degree at OU. He received many awards and recognitions throughout his life, including induction into the Duncan High School Athletic Hall of Fame, the National Grocer's Association "Spirit of America" Award, the Duncan Chamber of Commerce Free Enterprise Award, the Stephens County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award and the OU Regents' Alumni Award.

University in Tahlequah, Okla. His research paper titled "Mustached Americans and the Triple Bottom Line" prompted the recent campaign efforts by the American Mustache Institute to adopt the Stimulus To Allow Critical Hair Expenses, or STACHE Act. The STACHE Act would provide a \$250 annual tax deduction for expenditures on mustache grooming supplies based on Yeutter's statement that mustache maintenance costs qualify for and should be considered as a deductible expense related to the production of income under Internal Revenue

Code Section 212. To promote this proposal, the American Mustache Institute launched the "Million Mustache March," which took place April 1. H&R Block also pledged that, for every person who participates in the march, it will contribute to the Millions From One effort, which provides clean drinking water to people who cannot obtain it.

Gary Hanna, BBA 1995, is president and chief executive officer of Energy Partners Ltd., in Houston, and has nearly 30 years of executive experience in the energy industry. Before

joining Energy Partners, he served as president and CEO of Admiral Energy Services, a startup company focused on the development of offshore energy services. He currently serves on Price College's Energy Management board of advisors.

Vanessa Dutton, BBA 1998, was named in The Journal Record's "Achievers Under 40" list. She is a certified public accountant and currently holds the position of audit partner at Eide Bailly in Oklahoma City. Dutton was named the audit department head of the Oklahoma

continued on next page...





CLASSnotes

offices at the age of 34 and participated in the firm's First Focus program, an initiative aimed to provide leadership opportunities to younger staff members. She began her career at KPMG after graduating in the top 5 percent of her class at OU. Dutton is a member of the Oklahoma Society of CPAs, American Institute of CPAs and EWF International, a peer advisory group for women business owners.

Frank Sewell, MBA 1998, recently was promoted to president of UMB Bank and continues to serve as manager of the commercial lending group in Oklahoma City. He was recognized this year by The Journal Record as one of the top "Achievers Under 40." Sewell is a board member of the Payne Education Center, president of the Stockyards City Main Street Association and a member of the Oklahoma Bankers Association Commercial Lending School Board of Regents. He also serves on OBA's government relations council. Since 2009, he's played a key role as a member of the United Way of Oklahoma City's community investment subcommittee.

Michael Hodges, BBA 2000, recently was appointed as chief financial officer of Rex Energy in State College, Pa. He is a certified public accountant with more than 10 years of oil and gas experience in finance, accounting and financial reporting. Most recently, Hodges served as E&P controller with SandRidge Energy, where he led the accounting functions for its oil and gas assets and drove substantial process improvements within the finance department. Prior to this role, he led the accounting transition and integration team during the merger of Arena Resources and SandRidge Energy as an independent consultant.

Matt Clouse, BBA 2001, was promoted to branch president of Valliance Bank in Norman, Okla. He has been with

Valliance Bank since 2004 and has worked in the banking industry for 10 years. Clouse is active in the Norman community and serves on several boards, including Health for Friends and the United Way of Cleveland County. He is the rush advisor and board member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Jonathan Lunardi, BBA 2002, founded an online veteran support community, VeteranCentral.com, which aims to provide military veterans with unprecedented tools to help them succeed personally and professionally. The site offers social technologies to build virtual resumes, meet employers and connect with local advocates and veterans. Users also can find listings of jobs and job boards, veteran hiring best practices and resources for health, benefits, housing and money management.

Michael Morris, BBA 2003, is the executive chef for Putman City Schools in Oklahoma City on behalf of Sodexo. After earning his marketing degree from OU, Morris obtained his culinary arts degree from Platt College. He has worked with Sodexo for the past five years, and also provides culinary assistance and support to several other accounts in Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado and Nebraska. Morris' goal is to expose students to a formal lunch setting that consists of four-course meals that are beyond the common perceptions of "school food."

Blair Humphreys, BBA 2006, is executive director of the Institute for Quality Communities at the OU College of Architecture. Additionally, he is an assistant professor and teaches Urban Design Theory at the graduate level, and has previously taught in the Urban Design Studio. Humphreys is a founding member of Urban Land Institute Oklahoma, currently serving as the vice chair for mission advancement of the statewide organization. Last year, he served as the faculty advisor of OU's

award-winning Hines/ULI Urban Design Competition team. He also has acted as a consultant in development efforts along Automobile Alley and in the MidTown in Oklahoma City.

Jonathan Horton, BBA 2009, and **Chris Brooks**, BBA 2010, represented the United States during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London



as members of the U.S. gymnastics team. Horton, who won the silver medal in high bar during the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, placed

sixth this year in the final high bar competition in London. Brooks served as an alternate for the team.

Erin Melissa Juarez, BBA 2012, is branch manager of First State Bank in Norman and was named employee of the month in February. She joined the bank in April 2009 as a teller and recently held the position of loan service representative and correspondent bank clerk.

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OU has had a big impact on my life and I carry it with me every day. I made a promise to myself that if I was successful, I would give back and be active at OU. I've had the privilege to spend quite a bit of time at the university as an alumnus, enjoying each opportunity whether it is lecturing in Energy Management classes, spending time with the JCPenney Leadership associates or my activities on the Price College Board of Advisors.

Another impact that has been fun for our family is that my wife, Chris, and I currently have our children both attending OU. Claire is a senior at Price majoring in International Business and Finance, and my son, Michael, is an incoming freshman excited about Energy Management. It gives us another excuse to return to campus! Claire had a great summer interning in Vichy, France, as part of her International Business requirements. She had the good fortune of working with the US Olympic swim team as an interpreter and athlete liaison. We got to meet up with her in London and all go to the Olympics to cheer on the USA!



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