Construction Zone: Engineering expansion projects on track

A visit to Keplinger Hall leaves one with the certain knowledge that it is bursting at the seams: both in terms of space and exciting innovations. Hallways, classrooms and labs in the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences are filled with students, faculty, equipment and the hum of intellectual curiosity.

To accommodate the college’s growing student enrollments and dramatic increase in research funding, TU has begun construction on the college’s greatest physical expansion in history.

In the summer of 2010, TU officially broke ground on the site of Rayzor Hall, a 37,600-square-foot building that will house the computer science and electrical engineering departments. Precast concrete panels have been applied to the exterior, the roof is now in place, and work on the interior will commence soon. The building is planned to be completed in December 2011 with faculty moving in during the winter break.

Rayzor Hall will feature 24 integrated classrooms and teaching/research laboratories, including dedicated space for information security, bioinformatics, optics, critical infrastructure protection, and electrical engineering senior projects, to name a few. The facility also includes faculty and graduate student offices, conference rooms, and student commons areas.

The cost of the project is an estimated $14 million, including a permanent maintenance endowment. Evelyn Rayzor Nienhuis made the lead gift for the hall in memory of her father, J. Newton Rayzor, who was an accomplished attorney and businessman. Other major donors include the Mabee Foundation, John and Sarah Graves, McElroy Manufacturing, Odele Foundation, Dr. Dayal Meshri, and Sanjay and Julie Meshri. Construction also began in 2010 on a 1.5-acre plaza to connect all of the ENS buildings. Funded through a gift from Samson, Samson Plaza is named in memory of the late Charles Schusterman, in tribute to the exploration and production firm founded by the noted Tulsa businessman and leader in the oil industry. The outdoor space will include amenities such as vintage acorn lamps, oak and crape myrtle trees, seasonal flowerbeds, outdoor seating furniture, and a fountain with a black granite base.

The third piece of the college’s expansion will soon join those already under way. Construction is set to begin by summer 2011 on Stephenson Hall, a 38,600-square-foot facility that will house the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the McDougall School of Petroleum Engineering.

Charles and Peggy Stephenson contributed the lead gift for the building, which is expected to cost $16.1 million, including an endowment for permanent maintenance. Other major donors include Jimmy and Mary Brooks, Arnold and Pat Brown, Chevron, Donna and David Dutton, Carrie Kirk, Noble Energy, Thomas and Pam Russell, Bob and Stella Schwartz, Sherman Smith Family Foundation, Jack and Lynn Wahl, and Williams Companies.

Stephenson Hall will include several key labs for drilling, rock fluid, thermofluid, instructional controls, and composites and materials. Construction is expected to take approximately 16 months.

The two-story gothic-inspired structures and plaza are being erected near the corner of 5th Place and Gary Place, just east of the Allen Chapman Activity Center. Following completion of these projects, Keplinger Hall is slated to undergo a $5 million renovation to expand the footprint of its remaining departments including chemical engineering, mathematical sciences, chemistry and biochemistry, physics and engineering physics, and geosciences.
On October 8, 2010, TU celebrated the start of construction on J. Newton Rayzor Hall, which will be the home of the computer science and electrical engineering departments. Students and faculty from across the college joined the donors to celebrate this exciting facility. Lunch and commemorative long-sleeved T-shirts were provided to the crowd as they enjoyed a lively band and the unveiling of the rendering of Rayzor Hall.

Beyond the physical transformations at the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, the institution has brought a new energy to one of TU’s flagship programs.

Jeffrey J. McDougall, a Tulsa-based oil and gas learning center. As part of an ongoing relationship, McDougall will serve on the Patrons Board, which will include select top-level corporate partners who will have the opportunity to closely interact with the school, faculty, and students. The Executive Committee will feature seven to nine experienced individuals, including McDougall’s brother, Chad, who will advise and facilitate the work of the other groups.

Chevron commitment continues at TU

Ali Moshiri (BS ’76, MS ’78) is part of a rich tradition of TU engineering alumni who have gone on to work for Chevron and are strengthening the global energy community’s partnership with the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

Moshiri, president of Chevron’s Africa and Latin America Exploration and Production Company, is based in Houston and serves as Chevron’s Executive Sponsor of the Chevron-TU relationship. He was on hand in November 2010 when the university announced the naming of the Chevron Center for Education and Research, made possible by a generous $3 million commitment.

The donation, made through Chevron’s University Partnership Program, will establish the new center on the bottom floor of the soon-to-be constructed Stephenson Hall, home to the McDougall School of Petroleum Engineering and Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The University of Tulsa and Chevron share a vision in which dedicated colleges such as TU produce knowledgeable graduates with hands-on experience who help advance the goals of energy companies such as Chevron. Our investment in TU’s engineering programs will create opportunities for both students and our company,” said Moshiri.

He presented TU President Steadman Upham with a check for $320,000 on the field during halftime of TU’s November 6, 2010, football game. This represented an initial payment toward the Chevron Center for Education and Research as well as an additional gift of $120,000 to support the engineering, science, and energy management programs.

With this commitment, Chevron’s generosity to TU through its University Partnership Program totals more than $11.5 million. Perhaps the most high-profile example of the university’s productive relationship with Chevron is the TU Center of Research Excellence (TUCoRE), which began in 2002 as a research and development partnership featuring the Chevron Center for Research Excellence. The Center is tasked with shaping the next century of engineering excellence at TU. President Steadman Upham said.

ENS Hall of Fame welcomes Charles and Peggy Stephenson

For more than five decades, TU Trustee Charles C. Stephenson, Jr. and his wife, Peggy, have been partners—building companies in the energy and financial worlds and good stewards throughout community and educational organizations.

Among their many charitable acts, the Stephensons have generously supported TU initiatives, including providing the lead gift of the 35,000-square-foot facility that will house the McDougall School of Petroleum Engineering and the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Construction of Stephenson Hall is expected to begin later this year.

To honor their many accomplishments and acts of service to their community, Charlie and Peggy Stephenson are set to be inducted into the ENS Hall of Fame on April 29, 2011.

“They are honored and humbled to be counted among the very distinguished list of past inductees,” said Charlie Stephenson, who has served on the university’s board for more than three years.

Stephenson’s ties to the university date back to a time when TU was known as Kendall College. His grandfather, a Presbyterian minister, was a teacher and preacher on campus. And while Stephenson is not an alumnus—his son, Steve, received his petroleum engineering degree from TU in 1982.—he’s “proud of our support.” Stephenson said of his son, who worked alongside his father in the oil business. “This new facility will enhance the university’s programs in mechanical and petroleum engineering.

Stephenson launched his career in the oil and gas industry with Amerada Petroleum Corporation and later Anderson Oil Company, where he served as an owner and president. In 1983, he founded Vintage Petroleum Inc., a Tulsa-based independent energy company that became listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1986. He served as chairman, president, and CEO of Vintage, which grew from three people to more than 750 people with worldwide operations when it was acquired in 2006 by Occidental Petroleum.

He currently serves as co-founder and chairman of the independent oil and gas firm Premier Natural Resources and president of Stephenson Investments Inc., and he has leadership roles with two venture capital firms.

Individually and together, the pair has been active in community organizations including the Salvation Army, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa Historical Society, American Red Cross, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Goodland Academy, First Presbyterian Church, and OU, where Charlie and Peggy have received honorary degrees.

Peggy serves as the executive director of the Charles and Peggy Stephenson Family Foundation and co-manages their personal philanthropic activities. In particular, she has been honored repeatedly for her work on behalf of breast cancer awareness, research, and treatment.

The Stephensons have been inducted into the Tulsa Hall of Fame, and in 2013, the couple received the National Journal Medical Research Center Tuberculosis Millennium Award.

Charlie was inducted into the TU Collins College of Business Hall of Fame in 2006 and the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2008.

The couple has two children and six grandchildren.

“A cause, I have seen firsthand the incredible transformation at TU,” Stephenson said. “Both Peggy and I are honored that our efforts can help further TU’s progress, which benefits our students and our community.”

Chevron commitment continues at TU

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Secret Service leaders tour TU’s Cell Phone Forensic Laboratory

The senior leadership of the U.S. Secret Service toured the Cell Phone Forensic Laboratory in July 2010. The lab, operated in partnership with the agency and The University of Tulsa opened two years earlier, in July 2008, and was developed based on TU’s well-established expertise in information security.

Secret Service Director Mark Sullivan and Deputy Director Keith L. Pierson toured the cell phone lab and met with students from TU’s Cyber Corps Program. This lab shot was part of a two-day meeting on TU’s campus, hosted by the Secret Service’s Tulsa Resident Office, which included Secret Service supervisors from more than 50 offices nationwide.

During the tour, Sullivan said TU’s cutting-edge facility, which continually researches new devices, operating systems and cell phone technologies, provides valuable tools in the Secret Service’s fight against cybercrime.

Because of the widespread use of cell phones and GPS units in modern society, many crimes involve a mobile communications device as an “evidence container.” Digital evidence recovered from these devices can be critically instructive. The Cell Phone Forensic Laboratory at TU provides a facility that continually researches new devices, operating systems and cell phone technologies. The facility develops techniques, tools and training to support Secret Service’s Electronic Crimes Special Agent Programs ECASP agents, as well as the larger U.S. law enforcement community.

Since the doors opened in 2008, the facility has hosted nine basic and advanced training classes, training 370 representatives from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. TU graduate and undergraduate students taught some of the course modules. The attendees were trained regarding current cybersecurity issues and were equipped with tools needed to combat forensic examinations on mobile devices.

The Secret Service also recognized the lab for its ongoing work. The Director’s Recognition Award was given to Professor Sujeet Shenoi, who runs the TU Cyber Corps Program, in appreciation for his many contributions in support of the Secret Service mission and his utilitarian commitment to the ideals and principles of law enforcement. Shenoi also is the university’s I.P. Walker Professor of Computer Science.

Cyber Corps program featured in magazine, on TV

The University of Tulsa’s Cyber Corps Program, which produces some of the nation’s top young cybersecurity experts, was profiled in the December 2010 edition of the “Career Magazine” in the journal Science. Cybersecurity is one of a handful of scientific areas in which job opportunities outnumber the number of job seekers.

Cyber Corps prepares students for a variety of career trajectories, including research, operations, project management, and career-track positions in the federal government. The most intensive course of study requires hardware, software, and linguistics skills to students who intend to join the intelligence community.

The program is widely regarded as the most secure educational program in the United States. “It is a model because of its combination of foundational education and hands-on skills that will allow them to thrive on Day One in solving real-world problems,” Richard George, technical director of the National Security Agency’s NSA Information Assurance Directorate, told Chapman.

Then in February 2011, a national television program called “Forensic Files” profiled a 2005 Tulsa triple-homicide in which National Science Foundation Cyber Corps students helped police crack the case.

To find out more about TU’s Cyber Corps Program, go to www.utulsa.edu/cybercorps.

Patriotic investment results in great gains for TU’s Cyber Corps

As a TU criminal justice studies graduate and current Tulsa police officer, Jim Graves (BS ’78) supports the growth of TU’s Cyber Corps Program: catch the bad guys. Cyber Corps students learn to walk and capture potential terrorists, identity thieves and online predators.

However, as president and CEO of Cyclonic, Jim sees another opportunity to utilize cybersecurity for the good of the nation, this time protecting intellectual property such as patented equipment and industrial trade secrets.

“CyberCorps catches the bad guys. CyberCorps students learn to walk and capture potential terrorists, identity thieves and online predators. As a TU criminal justice studies graduate and current Tulsa police officer, Jim Graves (BS ’78) supports the growth of TU’s Cyber Corps Program.”

The Graveses have generously stepped forward to help fund facilities that would serve these programs as he strongly believes in— including an Enterprise Security Lab, Reverse Engineering Lab, Criminal Information Lab and a Student Commerce—all unlike others. The facility will be the Computer Science Department’s own current construction is complete.

“Many recent advances within the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences trace back to the robust support of TU students and friends such as Jim and Sarah,” Dean Steven Bellovich said.

The couple also provided a gift to establish a full-tuition scholarship for a Cyber Corps student who is interested in service to the public sector after graduation.

“Recipients of this scholarship should be eager to take the skills learned at TU and apply them at the Department of Defense, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, U.S. Secret Service, EISA, NSA, FBI or a myriad other agencies and departments that use so desperately in need of cybersecurity experts,” Graves said.

He and his wife were married in 1978 and have worked hard to give back to their community and their country. Gravens serves on the Advisory Board of the Tulsa Metro Area Salvation Army and is the Executive Board of the Boys Scouts of America Indian Nations Council; and Mrs. Gravens has been an active community volunteer for several nonprofits, in particular Family & Children’s Services of Tulsa. On May 19, the agency will formally dedicate its newly renovated facilities thanks to the generosity of Jim and Sarah Gravens.

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Research shows a breath of fresh air improves students’ test scores

Students in well-ventilated classrooms perform significantly better on standardized tests than their counterparts who receive inadequate fresh air, according to recently published research conducted by The Breathing of Tulsa’s Indoor Air Program.

“For too many schools talk short of providing a healthy learning environment for children. By doing things as simple as improving more fresh air into the classroom, schools could potentially help every student perform at a higher level,” said Richard Szwagonski, program director of Indoor Air Research. “A test in Research and a test in the Department of Chemical Engineering.

The research suggests that increasing classroom ventilation rates toward recommended guidelines would translate into improved academic achievement. Research has shown that the mandated guidelines and pursuing a better understanding of the underlying correlation would enhance sustainable and productive school environments.

Circulating an adequate amount of outside air through classrooms dilutes the amount of pollution and contaminants.

“With poor ventilation, contaminants that may be present in a classroom including particles, molds, viruses and odors from products such as cleaning supplies, air, adhesives, glues, fuels and chemicals — are more concentrated, which may result in more sick days and higher absenteeism. This is especially important as financially challenged public school districts attempt to improve test scores and learning ability in elementary schools,” he said. “This information has surfaced and is now international implications.”

The new equipment was installed in the Microscopy Lab in October 2010. It replaces the department’s older microscopes, which have seen thousands of hours of use. The Nikon has a heavier frame — perfect for student use — as well as afinity optics, a 10-megapixel camera, and bigger, better lenses. The microscope was purchased through the annual fund support of college alumni and friends.

EOPLE WANTED FOR “AIR” of Work

The Department of Geosciences has acquired a new microscope that allows Dr. Brian Stagg and his post-doctoral research associate Amethyst Cavallaro to collaborate with faculty and graduate students to conduct significantly better research into the composition, development and distribution of surface and textures of samples such as silicate minerals and coal.

The world-class Nikon reflection microscope is intended for microscopy and photomicrography of alums, rocks, minerals, and other materials using a polarized light illumination.

NanoJapan receives 5-year, $4.5 million NSF grant

Nanos, an undergraduate program co-administered by TU and Rice University, was awarded a five-year, $4.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation Office of International Science and Engineering.

The program combines research in nanoscience with study abroad in Japan. It targets science and engineering undergraduates and has received national recognition for its success in mentoring diverse students to enroll in international education.

This award places Rice at the hub of a collaborative network of researchers and educators, while leveraging Tsinghua’s strength in international education. By expanding its expertise in developing international education programs for science and engineering students, an Introduction to Nanotechnology, the International Online Summer will also be developed, webcast live and archived online.

Air Quality Research at TU and a research associate

The study was published online and appeared in the February 2011 issue of the Indoor Air Journal. It may be found online at www.utulsa.edu/vision/rronjan.htm.

Professor Ryan Tipp with Nano-microscope

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Eason wins AICHe national student paper contest

36-year-old John Eason won the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AICHe) national student paper contest, earning $1,000 plus a trip to accept the award during a meeting and dinner in Chicago in March 2011. The paper, “A Statistical Comparison of Related Production Rates” by Eason and Chem. Assistant Professor John Gonnella, was the first Pine-Strawberry Division Barry West Student Paper Award.

The paper describes a model that shows the validity and comparison of limited production techniques. Rather than only addressing the processing of common crops such as corn and soybeans, the model considers bacteria and other plants that can produce biofuels and other bio-products. The economic feasibility of this process is based on both the cost of raw materials and the energy required to process the product. A reward of $2,500 was awarded for the best research paper at the AICHe meeting in Chicago, March 2011.

Four students compete in Chem-E-Car contest

Four chemical engineering students traveled to Salt Lake City, November 2010 to participate in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AICHe) Chem-E-Car competition. The team goal of the Chem-E-Car competition is to create a small car that is propelled by a chemical reaction that must be capable of completing a certain distance, under certain time conditions. During the competition, the judges give the project points for completing a certain distance and under a set amount of time. The team members that make up the Chem-E-Car team members include juniors John Eason and Maddi Laizure, and seniors Sarah Swearing and Wesley Wilson.

Tri-Beta students awarded grants for biology research

Several students in TU’s Tri-Alpha Chapter of the Biologas, have been awarded research grants totaling $2,500 from the national biological honor society, which promotes undergraduate research in biology.

The students, all part of the research project, grant amounts, and research advisors are:
- Adriana Stanley, Molecular detection of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in real-time, $100
- Dr. Mohamed Fakhr, Molecular detection of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) from field samples, $400
- Kevin Bohn, Visual care uncommon in Epitachius milloti, $200
- Shumon Kispert, Bringing social behavior of mammals and predators into waste treatment systems, $400
- Ashley Reed, Social behavior in a nutrient deprivation test, $250
- Kayla Reinhart, The importance of three heat recovery concepts in Aquasphere plants, $250
- Jessica Tellermehl, Sensory perception and response to a natural earned student with dual degree by immediate
- Sara Showel, $200
- Zachary Neeley, Sensory perception and response to a natural earned student with dual degree by immediate
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SENENA members visit to assess needs

EE Professor Rich Smith, ME Professor Kimberly Poff and ME student Maria Holland traveled to the Okeechobee Preserve from December 29, 2010 to January 1, 2011, to assess the needs of children and staff at an orphanage in the city of South Beach, Florida.

Three students are members of the State’s South Florida, which provided the trip along withTU. In the past, many SENENA members have visited China, but this was the group’s first trip to Cambodia.

While at the orphanage, the group sought opportunities to survey the current conditions and by interviewing the pastor who runs the facility. They evaluated the buildings, игром, lack of classrooms, electrical systems, and water conditions. Using the water testing materials they brought with them, the students determined that the water from the pump was positive for heavy metals. However, the orphanage’s water is not safe for cooking and drinking.

The proposed project for the orphanage will include a solar-powered laundry machine, a biogas digester to harness methane, a wind-powered laundry machine, and a biogas digester to harness methane. Before departing, the group spent time identifying where they might be able to buy tools and materials.

A Solar-powered laundry machine is planned for this summer. Professor Steven Tipton’s students really got into the swing of things in November. As their senior project, about a dozen ME students chose to build a pedal-powered machine — no electricity, hydraulics, etc. — that could swing a 7-ton to hit golf balls.

During a demonstration at Haskell Stadium November 10, each student’s machine was required to strike three golf balls within two minutes. The students were judged on distance and trajectory.

Meanwhile, 53 first-year mechanical engineering students were asked to do a design designated to launch golf ball with the energy produced through the stump of our feet. These students formed teams and played a middle school nine-hole golf course on November 18 in Chapman Commons. The hole ranged in distance from 70 to 260 feet. Tipton, the Frank W. Murphy Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering, graded the students on the accuracy of their shots (lowest shots into the hole) as well as the speed of play.

According to Ed Richey, the Harry B. Rogers Chair of Mechanical Engineering, his department fall 2010 undergraduate enrollment was a record 173 students. The graduate enrollment includes 12 master’s students and 10 doctoral students. This fall 2010 enrollment for mechanical engineering was 265, which also is an all-time high.
McCoy recognized as “innovative educator” by Tulsa People magazine

TU Applied Assistant Professor of Physics Jerry McCoy was honored in Tulsa People magazine in February 2011 as one of four of the area’s “innovative educators.”

It’s another feather in the cap for McCoy, who serves as president of the Coalition in the Advancement of Science and Mathematics Education in Oklahoma (CAREER) this year and was Oklahoma Higher Education Educator of the Year in 2010.

Every science and engineering student at TU is required to take McCoy’s physics course, so he is in a unique position as a true catalyst for students. “I want them to leave my class thinking, ‘I really learned something, and I really like physics,’” he said.

McCoy’s latest honor, recognizing his passion for physics research, was the “Deepestgreen” Researcher of the Year award by the Coalition for the Advancement of Science and Mathematics Education in Oklahoma (CAREER) in May. McCoy is an invited speaker for the annual CAREER conference and has served as president of the Coalition in the Advancement of Science and Mathematics Education in Oklahoma (CAREER) this year.

E’nuf News

Wang on team researching fuel refining

Samos Wang, assistant professor in physics at TU, is one of the members of a research team from TU, OU and OSU that received a $2.5 million grant to help develop technology to efficiently and cleanly refine complex fossil and fuels. The award, from the U.S. Department of Energy, Exploratory Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, will help establish a new Center for Interfacial Reaction Engineering.

As part of the research, Wang will contribute fundamental understanding about nanocatalysis based on quantum theory. Large-scale quantum mechanical calculations will be employed to investigate the atomic structure, electronic properties, and pertinent catalytic nanostructures of the copper nanosheet, silver, and metal-nanoparticle electrocatalysis. A series of the associated catalytic chemical reactions involving decomposition of formate to carbon monoxide and methanol and hydrolysis of aromatic compounds, as well as partial oxidation of the carbon compounds to light olefins, will be investigated.

Wang’s manuscript “Passivation effects of BaF2 and BaO at the SiCO/H2 interface has been accepted for publication in Applied Physics Letters, which is a leading journal in physics and applied physics. One graduate and two undergraduate students are involved in our research.

4 ENS professors honored at SPE conference

Three TU faculty members were honored during the Society of Petroleum Engineers Annual Technical Conference & Exhibition in Florence, Italy, in September 2010. Professor Chris Searis produced the Petroleum and Operations Accent, and Jonathan Dry, Outstanding Early Career Scientist. William Earle was named Distinguished Member.

Also at the conference, Steve Tipton, the Frank W. Murphy Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering, was recognized as a distinguished lecturer. He presented lectures on risk-robust decision making research in California, Canada, Indonesia, Malta, Norway, Austria and Croatia. Tipton’s research also garnered him an honor from another society, the National Academy of Engineering, was recognized as a distinguished lecturer. He presented lectures on risk-robust decision making research in California, Canada, Indonesia, Malta, Norway, Austria and Croatia. Tipton’s research also garnered him an honor from another society, the National Academy of Engineering.

The TU research group is part of an alliance of researchers, informally called “deepestgreen” who include an assessment of plant origins. Professor Buchheim noted that the results from this investigation “challenge the existing theory of plant traits, ultimately influencing our knowledge of organ-“
Singh will oversee R&D intern partnerships at Miratech, Holly

Two research and development intern partnerships—supervised by E. Professor Sunanda Singh and advisor from private-sector companies in Tulsa—were awarded $123,000 over two years by the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST). Singh and Miratech will continue two undergraduate intern teams developing a catalytic reactor control system, a direct oxidation catalyst and optimization of a throttle valve. The research is expected to improve the environment by targeting engine emissions and the health and comfort of drivers.

Singh will also supervise undergraduate students working at Holly Refining and Marketing on increasing efficiency of oil refinery operations. They will be involved in all phases of engineering design, specifications, development, testing and deployment of Holly’s process changes, above ground storage tanks and relief valves.

Brennan wins ENS award for outstanding research

Dylan P Brennan, assistant professor of physics, was awarded the College of Engineering and Natural Science’s 2010 Zelliker Scholarship Award for performing exemplary research resulting in significant scientific advances and widespread recognition. “He is active in research into nonlinear aspects of magneto-hydrodynamics (MHD) stability theory.”

Sublette chairs environmental conference

ChE Professor Kerry L. Sublette chaired the 17th International Petroleum and Environmental Conference held August 31 through September 2, 2010, in San Antonio, Texas. The conference was organized by the Integrated Consortium for Biofuels Environmental Conference and featured 10 keynote addresses, 28 technical presentations, technical tours and 10 exhibitors.

Teeters receives Oklahoma Chemist Award

Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Chair Dale Teeters, who holds the world’s first nanotechnology patent, has been honored with the Oklahoma Chemist Award. This is the most prestigious honor given to Oklahoma chemist each year.

Teeters was recognized for the “outstanding contributions to fabrication and characterization of electronic systems in nanoscale membranes” on March 12 during the 56th Annual Postdoctoral Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Barstow, CA. Professor Nancy Joshi presented Teeters with the award.

TU Chemistry Professor Bob Howard, who received the Oklahoma Chemist Award in 2008, nominated Teeters for the honor.

Teeters graduated from Thomas High School in western Oklahoma. He received his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1975, and his doctorate from the University of Oklahoma in 1981. He worked with Dow Chemical in Brookport, Texas until joining TU as an assistant professor of chemistry in 1985.

Teeters served on the world’s first nanotechnology patent in 2001, and in 2005 he and his graduate student published his investigation of lithium battery nanoelectode arrays.

Teeters has more than 30 journal publications and seven patents, and has authored four book chapters. He received external research funding totals $1.5 million from federal agencies and private corporations.

Shiraï attends Corrosion UAE Conference

Dr. Hisam Shiraï attended the Corrosion UAE Conference from February 27 to March 1, 2011, in Abu Dhabi. Shiraï was among a half-dozen university representatives on a panel discussing the potential and prospects of their research projects in R&D: An Exclusive View on Tomorrow.

Geosciences faculty member presents at GSA

Robert W. Scott, a research associate in the Department of Geosciences, submitted two abstracts to the Geological Society of America that were accepted for presentation at the GSA Annual Meeting & Exposition in Denver, Colorado, October 31-November 4, 2010. The first abstract was titled “Albian/Cenomanian Integrated Biostratigraphy from Texas to Western Interior, New Mexico.”

The second was titled “Albian–Cenomanian Transition, Processes, Timing and Rates in the Western Interior Cretaceous Basin.”

McMahon elected to association board

Biology instructor Karen McMahon was elected in July 2010 to the Board of Directors of the Association for Biology Laboratory Education as a member at large for a four-year term. She also was appointed senior editor of the journal for Laboratory Teaching Vol 92, Proceedings of the 33rd Workshop/Conference of ABLE.

CESE instructors give participants tools to succeed

Teaching a class called “Petroleum Engineering for Non-Engineers,” research about as easy as teaching a cooking class to people who don’t have kitchens, but somehow John Farina finds ways to keep his students engaged.

Jeff Wilkie has the opposing dilemma: convincing leadership and communication skills to engineers, many of whom are accustomed to spending days or weeks on sometimes exclusive sites.

These courses are aimed primarily at TY’s Continuing Engineering & Sciences Education.

“I guide myself with giving people solutions and tools to improve their job performance,” said Wilkie, a Tulsa native and training facilitator for Leadership Tulsa.

Dr. Dale Teeters, chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, received the Oklahoma Chemist Award from American Chemical Society President Janet Swadler during a meeting in Barstow on March 12, 2011.

Teeters served as chair of a board member of the Oklahoma Nanotechnology Initiative, was on the Steering Committee of the NSF Oklahoma Nanotech Center, and has organized the Five-State Undergraduate Nanotechnology Symposium. Beyond his service to chemistry, he has been active in Leadership Tulsa and was the founding founder and member of the Executive Committee of Leadership Oklahoma.

Teeters, who previously worked as a professional trainer for First Corp. and Williams, teaches in the CESE, program Executive Leadership Institute for Technical Professionals & Engineers. “ELITE gives technical people that soft skill or leadership skill development they need to succeed in upper management,” he said.

McMahon,//Farina and Wilkie lead courses for several groups, but both said those “are improved with the depth and breadth of programs offered through CESE.

To find out more about CESE and what courses might benefit your organization, log in to http://www.cese.tu.edu or call 918-638-3988.

All six of CESE’s 2010 ELITE participants were awarded certificates during a ceremony at Pat Tolles’ office in Tulsa. They are, from left to right, Ana Mihalea, T. D. Williamson, Karen McMahen, Scott Swearingen and Lynn S. Bockmeulen.

In November, six men from area businesses completed CESE’s 2010 Executive Leadership Institute for Technical Professionals & Engineers program, which provides skill sets needed to excel in management and leadership positions.

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Jackson: Inside and outside the classroom, TU prepares grads for excellence

Christina Bishop Jackson credits her years at The University of Tulsa with having a critical influence on her career, which enabled her to become the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in Chemistry even though her degree was in Chemical Engineering. She was an officer in both organizations at TU and earned her doctorate in 2008.

“Callidus’ principal products and services are custom-designed and fabricated boilers, gas-fired liquid contractors and vapor combuster units. Callidus also provides engineering and consulting services for environmental and combustion engineers. Callidus’ principal products and services are custom-designed and fabricated boilers, gas-fired liquid contractors and vapor combuster units. Callidus also provides engineering and consulting services for environmental and combustion engineers.

EE alumnus: TU provides skills to succeed in work, life

Kevin T. Hart puts himself in the driver’s seat, whether he’s in the office or on the road, and he says the key is to ensure the presence of people who can provide him with the critical process of any undertaking at TU.

Hart’s BS in Chemical Engineering is complemented by his MBA in Chemical Engineering, held at TU in June 2010. Hart has led the transformation of the information technology systems at the company, which annually invests over $20 billion in new products and services. The company also provides services to the agriculture, manufacturing, and energy sectors.

“Customer satisfaction is my end goal. Callidus is a global business, and we’re always looking for ways to improve our services and processes. It’s important to me to ensure that our customers are satisfied with our products and services.”

The following stories highlight the unique ways that alumni have made use of what they learned at the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences. Although their journeys differ, the theme is the same: Their time at TU changed their lives. In return, they continue to inspire others as proud graduates of The University of Tulsa.

Christina Bishop Jackson graduated from The University of Tulsa with a degree in Chemical Engineering. Through her involvement with the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, a group she was affiliated with in college along with the TU Chemical Engineers, a group she was affiliated with in college along with the TU Chemical Engineers, a group she was affiliated with in college along with the TU Chemical Engineers, she was able to find her passion and make a difference in the field.

The couple wed at Sharp Chapel and held their reception in the Allen Chapman Activity Center.

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YOUR GIFT AT WORK

The annual fund for the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences is a critical resource in providing students an exceptional educational experience. In this issue of Vision, you’ve read about our students whose research and talents have taken them to Cambodia where they are designing and implementing projects to dramatically improve the quality of life for local orphans. You also have read about our Nikon refracted microscope in the Geosciences Department and our students’ efforts to spread passion for engineering and science to middle school students through E-Week. All of these projects were made possible through the Annual Fund. Your commitment makes a real and measurable difference in the education of today’s students. We hope you’ll join us in continuing to provide extraordinary opportunities to the college’s students and faculty.

Make your gift online today at www.utulsa.edu/giving
or contact Heather Apodaca, coordinator of the TU Annual Fund, at 918-631-3524 or at heather-apodaca@utulsa.edu.

Your Gift at Work

The University of Tulsa does not discriminate on the basis of personal status or group characteristics including but not limited to the classes protected under federal and state law in its programs, services, aids, or benefits. Inquiries regarding implementation of this policy may be addressed to the Office of Human Resources, 800 South Tucker Drive, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104-3189, 918-631-2616. Requests for accommodation of disabilities may be addressed to the University’s 504 Coordinator, Dr. Jane Corso, 918-631-2315. To ensure availability of an interpreter, five to seven days notice is needed; 48 hours is recommended for all other accommodations. TU#11206

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