TU Graduate Community Launches Social Networking Sites

Over the past several years, the Graduate School has strived to create a sense of community between our graduate students, faculty members, and administrative staff. These endeavors have included increased professional development opportunities, expanded social/recognition events, as well as the amazing strides seen in the programming and scope of the Graduate Student Association and affiliated graduate organizations. The next logical step was to take our community building efforts online, through the use of the social networking sites that have become such a phenomenon in recent years.

This past summer, the Graduate School office and the Graduate Business Programs launched Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube sites to begin bringing our community together in an electronic forum. The purpose of these sites will be to expand our graduate community into more interactive venues, allowing for improvements in communication between students, faculty and administrators. In addition, these sites will allow prospective graduate students to see and follow how our community is growing while they consider whether to join us for their own graduate studies.

We hope that you all will consider connecting with us on Facebook or following us on Twitter. Get real time updates about events, policy changes, and news releases for programs from across campus. You can congratulate a student or faculty member on a recent award, consider research funding opportunities available through university partnerships, or sign up for a variety of social/professional development events throughout the year. These sites will foster a greater interactive presence in our electronic communications and we look forward to any suggestions or improvements you might have to expand these offerings further.

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Hertz Rent-A-Car Program Up and Running

The University of Tulsa has joined Connect by Hertz’s university sector to supply the campus community with an economical, convenient and environmentally friendly ‘set of wheels’ that makes carpooling to and from campus more attractive and convenient. Connect provides members with the assurance that if they need to run an errand or leave campus for any reason, a car is easily accessible.

Students, faculty and staff can sign up for Connect by Hertz on www.connectbyhertz.com. Sign up by Oct. 31, and the application fee and membership fee will be waived. Annual membership fees of $50 will be waived until July 2011. Annual renewal fees are $25.

Cars are equipped with Eileo® technology, and benefits covered by the hourly rate include gas, insurance, NeverLost® in-car GPS turn-by-turn navigation, 24/7 roadside assistance, 24-hour Member Care Center communication, and 180 free miles per day. Two Ford Escape SUVs parked on the TU campus are available for rent for $9 an hour or $68 per day. Vehicles can be rented 24 hours a day, seven days a week after members receive their enrollment packet. One vehicle is located at Allen Chapman Activity Center, and another is parked in the Westby Lot.

Vehicles must be returned to the original marked parking space in a clean condition with no less than ¼ tank of gas. Any unauthorized vehicle parked in a Connect by Hertz space will be towed immediately. The Connect by Hertz program is in keeping with TU’s efforts to promote sustainability and maintain an environmentally friendly campus. The promotional code is 1883165 for students and 76475 for faculty and staff.

For more information about Connect by Hertz or to sign up, visit www.connectbyhertz.com.
Student Research Colloquium Continues to Grow in Thirteenth Year

The TU community should be proud of our students' performance in the 13th Annual Student Research Colloquium that was held this past spring from March 22–28.

There was a total of 146 participants that included TU undergraduate and graduate students, local high school students, and outside presenters in a series of oral and poster presentations throughout the week. We had 106 TU students deliver oral presentations and 13 TU students participated in the poster session. The remaining presentations were given by visiting researchers and graduate students from universities across the southwest and Midwest. There were also 25 local high school students that participated in our annual High School Research Poster Contest from 13 different schools in Green Country. Sixteen TU students and three high school students received monetary presentation awards, setting a new record.

Students and faculty that came from other universities were impressed with the quality of our students' presentations and the organization of the meeting. Our students are to be commended for more than their personal performance; this is a student-led function with co-chairs Faisal Al-Mutahar, Jacob Cantu, Carla Landrum, George Louthan, and Austin Roberts determining the overall organization of the Colloquium, and graduate and undergraduate students serving as session chairs and judges. We also greatly appreciate the faculty and staff that judged and therefore helped make this event a success. A total of 60 judges (45 faculty and 15 students) and 15 student session chairs covered all of the college oral and poster presentation sessions, as well as the high school poster session.

In addition to the general contributed paper sessions, we also had a number of people step forward to organize special topic symposia. We had six special topic symposia included in this year’s event that included topics such as English literature, community service, study abroad experiences, high school educational techniques, psychological trauma studies, cybersecurity, and Oklahoma science education.

Are there any research topics that you would like to see discussed during next year’s meeting? Are you interested in organizing a symposium? This is an excellent opportunity for our TU faculty and students to showcase their research and scholarship from across the whole university.

For the list of last year’s winners and a copy of the conference program, please visit www.utulsa.edu/research_colloquium.

Please also watch the website for updates concerning our 14th Annual Student Research Colloquium planned for March 28—April 3, 2011.
President Upham Declares a Graduate Student Appreciation Week

President Steadman Upham declared April 12-16, 2010 Graduate Student Appreciation Week at the University of Tulsa. This was in response to a request from the Graduate Student Association after they began interacting with the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students.

Our graduate students contribute to the research, teaching and outreach mission of our university, with over 40% of TU graduate students acting as graduate assistants and contributing to these endeavors. The research and development contributions made by TU graduate students not only strengthen Oklahoma, but also our nation.

Programming for this seminal celebration included daily morning coffee breaks, an off-campus pub crawl, a trivia night competition, a family picnic, as well as recognition events for our active Ph.D. candidates and our GSA senate and officers.

The week’s events were a great success and GSA looks forward to making this a tradition every year.

GSA Senate Welcomes Lots of New Faces

If graduate students have a particular concern or request they would like represented to the Graduate Student Association and administration, the GSA Senate is the place to come. Each graduate program has representation on the senate, continuing the university’s push to solidify a strong graduate student community. Elections were held on September 7th & 8th on Web CT. Almost every graduate program has representation on the senate and this year includes a number of first year graduate students eager to make a difference. Below is a list of the senators that will be serving GSA senate for the upcoming academic year. Please touch base with your departmental senator if you have any concerns or programming requests you would like to see GSA tackle. They are here to represent you to the graduate community as a whole.

Anthropology: Colleen Bell and Sarah Chandlee
Art: Billijo Zorn
Biochemistry: Christina Craig and Jing Sun
Biology: Warren Myers
Business: Corrina Barnes and Whitney Davis
Chemical Engineering: Samuel Odewale and Mark Vaccari
Chemistry: Steven Kennedy
Clinical Psychology: Namik Kirlic and Samantha Overstreet
Computer Science: Matt Hale
Education: Hilary Hudspeth and Kate McGee
Electrical Engineering: Philip Korvick
Engineering Physics: Jared Seay
Geosciences: Laura Hensch and Tabatha Hibbs
I/O Psychology: Jessica Little
Mechanical Engineering: Laura Browne and Elicia Hrabal
Petroleum Engineering: Fardis Najaffifard

Beninchalinsky Jeyachandra and Anton Skopich
GSA Passes First Year Review by SA on Student Activity Fund Management

Last spring marked the first year of a three-year probation term where the Graduate Student Association managed a larger percentage of the graduate student activity fees. After a two-year petition process through Student Association (SA), the Graduate Student Association (GSA) was granted temporary permission starting Fall 2009 to manage these funds for increased graduate student event programming and conference travel grant opportunities.

At the end of last semester, GSA presented their financial and legislative documentation to SA for review and was approved for another year of funding with a slightly higher percentage. The original agreement gave the Graduate Student Association 60% of the graduate student activity fees paid in. Following last year’s review, SA temporarily approved 75% for use by GSA. This increase in funds and its management over the academic year will be reviewed again in April 2011 to see if GSA can continue to receive this amount for the final year of the probationary period.

As a result of this increased funding and the expansion of the graduate student activities the extra funds encouraged last year, three new organizations have joined the ranks of GSA. The Indian Student Association has been designated a graduate organization, as has the Persian Student Association, based on the percentage of their membership that currently included graduate students. Both organizations were active prior to the new arrangement between GSA and SBA. One new organization is in the process of being approved: the Chemistry Graduate Student Association. Membership will include all graduate students currently active in the chemistry and biochemistry programs. Final approval is left to SA before GSA takes responsibility for the new organization’s finances.

GSA will also continue to offer travel grant opportunities for those graduate students that have used up their Chapman Travel Grant funds through the Graduate School and the Student Research Grants through the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. These grants also allow second authors presenting papers to apply for grants, which is not currently an option with the other two travel grants from university offices. The GSA travel grants still require for the student to be presenting in a conference, but they are not required to be a first author for GSA travel grant eligibility.

To learn more about GSA, their plans for the year and guidelines for conference travel grants, visit their website at http://orgs.utulsa.edu/gsa/. You can also reach them at grad-sa@utulsa.edu.

GSA is always looking for students that are interested in helping with events. You do not have to be an officer or senator to participate or help with the planning.

If you would be interested in helping to organize a graduate student event, please contact GSA at grad-sa@utulsa.edu.

We’re looking forward to a great year!
DOCTORAL STUDENTS

MARY CARDONI, Ph.D. - Clinical Psychology
EDWARD JERDEN, Ph.D. - Industrial/Organizational Psychology
DAVID STEWART, Ph.D. - Industrial/Organizational Psychology
KATE WITHERIDGE, Ph.D. - Clinical Psychology

MASTER STUDENTS

NOELLE BALLETT, M.A. - Clinical Psychology
CARRIE BOEDING, M.A. - Industrial/Organizational Psychology
AMANDA BOWLES, M.S. - Speech Pathology
DAVID CHANDLER, M.A. - English Language & Literature
MEGAN GORENFLO, M.S. - Speech Pathology
ELIZABETH GRETZ, M.S. - Speech Pathology
MATTHEW HEPLER, M.A. - English Language & Literature
BRANDON JORDON, M.A. - Industrial/Organizational Psychology
JERROD LANDRESS, M.S. - Speech Pathology
TIFANIE LYN, M.S. - Speech Pathology
RANDI NARCOMEY, M.F.A. - Fine Arts
SUMMER NELSON, M.A. - Clinical Psychology
HANNAH OROZCO, M.S. - Speech Pathology
CHERIE PELLEBON, M.A. - Industrial/Organizational Psychology
ALYSON PLATT, M.S. - Speech Pathology
DANIELLE RAY, M.S. - Speech Pathology
SHANNON REYNOLDS, M.A. - Clinical Psychology
HEATHER ROCKWELL, M.A. - Anthropology
KARA SEXSON, M.S. - Speech Pathology
ERIN SMITH, M.S. - Speech Pathology
KAILA THERRIEN, M.S. - Speech Pathology
JACQUELINE VANBROEKHOVEN, M.A. - Industrial/Organizational Psychology
ELIZABETH WHITLEY, M.S. - Speech Pathology
CAN YIN, M.A. - Education
PAUL ZINTGRAFF II, M.A. - English Language & Literature

New Arrival

Rachael Swopes, Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Candidate, had a beautiful baby boy this summer -

Finnegan Gene Swopes,
born on July 27th, 2010 at 5:39am.
He was 7 lbs, 5 oz, and was 20.5" long.

Congratulations!
Student/Faculty Updates

TU Associate Professor of Art, Whitney Forsyth was awarded Best of Show at this year's VisionMakers Exhibition. This exhibition has been showcasing the work of Oklahoma fine craft artists for over twenty two years. 1988 was the show’s inaugural year, organized under the auspices of the Oklahoma Arts Council and its visionary director, Betty Price. Premiering both at Tulsa’s Philbrook Museum and Oklahoma City’s Kirkpatrick Center, it included Philbrook’s Director Marcia Manhart as juror. Solely in Tulsa the next year, VisionMakers was held at the Bank of Oklahoma Tower. The Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition (OVAC) then assumed sponsorship of VisionMakers and held the next 16 exhibitions in various venues throughout the state.

Clayton Keyes, TU MFA Candidate, has been awarded first prize at the Seventh Annual Marge Brown Kalodner Graduate Student Exhibition at The Clay Studio in Philadelphia for his sculpture, The Collector. This annual exhibition, now in its seventh year, highlights the best work of students or recent graduates, from the best graduate programs in Ceramics from across the United States. This exhibition identifies emerging artists whose work is deserving of attention. It provides them a forum for the exhibition of their work and introduces our ceramics community to this next generation of talented individuals early in their careers.

Lamont Lindstrom, Kendall Professor of Anthropology, received a research grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation to support fieldwork in Vanuatu, July-September 2010. He will be doing life history interviews with people he met 32 years ago who have moved from village to urban settlements.

Joshua Meier, TU MFA Candidate in photography, recently exhibited some of his work at the Missoula Art Museum. The images certainly evoke surrealism, with dream-like worlds and improbable scenarios, but they are more. The artist crafts each individual narrative from personal milestones, frustrations, doubts, sadness, and joy. "Like a parable," Meier says, "each image is a distillation of my own reality as it relates to the greater society." This body of work represented 8 years of creative and personal struggle, examination, and growth for Meier. The series began while Meier was living in Missoula and has expanded slowly and intensely for the artist since he and his family moved back to his home state of Oklahoma.

George Odell, Professor of Anthropology, was presented with the first Excellence in Research Award by the Henry Kendall College of Arts & Sciences, at the College's Honors Convocation in April, 2010.


Peter Stromberg, Professor of Anthropology, has a forthcoming article, "Person and Community in the Culture of Entertainment," which will be published in the journal Pastoral Psychology.
An experimental program to provide nonviolent female drug offenders with an alternative to prison celebrated its first year on July 22, 2010. All six of the first-year participants in The Women in Recovery program were recognized for completing the program in a ceremony at the Tulsa Center for Behavioral Health.

This is the project where clinical psychology graduate students Rachel Wiedeman and Brandi Liles conduct pre-program assessments. They typically assess women at the jail for appropriateness and occasionally out of jail when women are in bond. The students and clinical supervisor Elana Newman are also conducting evaluations of the program pro bono this year after having received a grant from Kaiser Foundation/Family and Children's for this evaluation which will fund a student next year under TITAN (Tulsa Institute of Trauma, Abuse and Neglect).

Legislators, judges, and philanthropists were all in the audience among others. TU was acknowledged in the program and verbally at the event for the work of TITAN and psychology graduate students.

Completion of the program requires for participants to engage in substance-abuse counseling while securing stable employment and housing in order to improve their self-image and become self-reliant in their daily lives. In some instances, this included participants completing the requirements towards their GEDs, to help with their employment prospects.

"Many people focus on the substance abuse, but co-dependency on a boyfriend, husband or a significant other helped them get into the situation they were in." said Mimi Tarrasch, director of Women in Recovery.

Funding for the first year of this program was provided by the George Kaiser Family Foundation. The most recent class began the program this fall with a combination of state and private funding, allowing for a larger class in the Tulsa area and the implementation of a sister program in Oklahoma City. It is hoped that programs of this type will help to support legislature currently in the state senate that will directly address different ways of providing programs in prisons and dealing with non-violent offenders. Because the state will begin funding the program, in addition to funds being matched by the Kaiser Foundation, the number of participants in the next class will be increased.

**Psychology Student Awards/Publications**

**Emily Bartley** - TU Bellwether Fellowship Award, 2010 American Pain Society Young Investigator Travel Award

**Jennifer DelVentura** - 2010 American Pain Society Young Investigator Travel Award

**Jacob Finn** - TU Bellwether Fellowship

**Lincoln Lim** - TU Bellwether Fellowships


Delventura, J. Poster at the American Pain Society Conference (May 6-8) entitled: Alexithymia does not moderate emotional modulation of pain and nociception.


OCAST Grants Supports TU Research into Celiac Disease

University of Tulsa assistant professor Tyler Johannes is leading a project that may help people suffering from celiac disease, a digestive disorder that is believed to affect more than 2 million people in the United States.

Johannes, a member of the faculty in TU’s chemical engineering department, recently was awarded $135,000 over three years from the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology to aid in his research. Johannes’ project seeks to initiate the development of a potential microalgae-based treatment for celiac disease. People who have celiac disease cannot tolerate gluten, a protein found in wheat, barley and rye. There is no known cure for the disorder.

The OCAST program seeks to strengthen the competitiveness of Oklahoma health researchers for national funds, recruit and retain outstanding health research scientists for the state, improve health care for Oklahomans and bolster the state’s health care industry.

Spring 2010 Engineering & Natural Sciences Graduates

DOCTORAL STUDENTS
CHRISTINA BISHOP, Ph.D. - Chemical Engineering
AMITKUMAR CHRISTIAN, Ph.D. - Mechanical Engineering
MARK DAVIS, Ph.D. - Computer Science
REZA TAVAKOLI, Ph.D. - Petroleum Engineering

MASTER STUDENTS
JOSEPH AGUAYO, M.S. - Computer Science
MUNEEF ALMUTAIRI, M.En. - Mechanical Engineering
ALI ALNASSER, M.En. - Electrical Engineering
BALBINO AREVALO, M.S.E. - Mechanical Engineering
 MUSTAFI ATIQ, M.S.E. - Petroleum Engineering
CAS BRIDGE, M.S. - Geosciences
TIMOTHY BUTTERWORTH, M.S. - Applied Mathematics
JOSEPH COLLETTE, M.S.E. - Electrical Engineering
KYLE COOK, M.S. - Computer Science
RACHEL COOK, M.S. - Applied Mathematics
WEIWEI DAI, M.S. - Biological Sciences
SWATHI DODDI, M.S. - Computer Science
JOSEPH EDMONDS, M.S. - Computer Science
MEHAN ESFAHANI, M.S.E. - Electrical Engineering
SCOTT FUJAN, M.S. - Computer Science
EAN GARVIN, M.S. - Geosciences
VINCENT GONZALES, M.S. - Computer Science
AMANDA HAWKINS, M.S.E. - Mechanical Engineering
JOHN HOSEY, M.S. - Computer Science
PETER JENSEN, M.S. - Computer Science
ELIZABETH JOELS, M.S. - Biological Sciences
JARED JOELS, M.S. - Computer Science
SURAJ KADAM, M.S. - Computer Science
KHALED KAUCAU, M.En. - Petroleum Engineering
CARLA LANDRUM, M.S. - Geosciences
KE LIU, M.S. - Physics
YINGDI LIU, M.S. - Physics
AVINASH MAKEY, M.S. - Computer Science
MATTHEW MOYER, M.S. - Computer Science
ANIKET NARAVANEKAR, M.S. - Computer Science
RISA OKITA, M.S.E. - Mechanical Engineering
HUCKSOO PARK, M.En. - Petroleum Engineering
KIEN PHAM, M.S. - Computer Science
CODY POLLET, M.S. - Computer Science
STEPHEN PONDEL, M.S.E. - Electrical Engineering
AKE RITTIRONG, M.S.E. - Petroleum Engineering
VINEET SINGH, M.S. - Computer Science
NATHAN SINGLETON, M.S. - Computer science
JASON VERMETTE, M.S. - Applied Mathematics
BRIAN WALKER, M.S. - Chemistry
TONG WU, M.S.E. - Electrical Engineering
FENG XIAO, M.S.E. - Petroleum Engineering
TINGTING YU, M.S.E. - Petroleum Engineering
ABHIJIT ZALTE, M.En. - Mechanical Engineering
PGUILIN ZHANG, M.S. - Biological Science
Controversial Analysis by TU Researchers Attracts Worldwide Attention

University of Tulsa researchers have explored the legality of a cure for society’s scourge of computer viruses and botnets — government-mandated vaccinations for all computers before they connect to the Internet.

“An analysis of the legality of government-mandated computer inoculations” will be was published in the spring 2010 issue of the *International Journal of Critical Infrastructure Protection*, a leading scientific and policy publication for information security. The paper has been featured in international magazines and the ideas behind its analysis have generated commentary from industry and international law experts. Authors of the paper include Sujeet Shenoi, the F.P. Walter Professor of Computer Science; TU doctoral students Mason Rice and Jonathan Butts; and Robert Miller of the National Defense University.

The paper compares the current epidemic among the nation’s computers to the public health situation in early 19th-century America when vaccinations were sporadic and disease outbreaks were prevalent. Strong steps by public and private health advocates protected America from crippling diseases like smallpox and polio. Currently, all 50 states require children to have up-to-date vaccinations before attending public schools in order to protect those most vulnerable to diseases. Comprehensive and mandatory computer inoculations could provide immunity in cyberspace, reduce outbreaks and help protect the critical infrastructure. However, the Constitutionality of such measures must be examined before pursuing a course of action. The authors do not advocate comprehensive and mandatory computer inoculations. Rather, they focus on the legality of government-mandated computer inoculations if such a strategy were to be deemed necessary.

Shenoi and his colleagues analyzed three possible scenarios where the U.S. government could set up centers for vaccines, monitor the health of inoculated computers, quarantine infected computers and even use computers in a crisis to defend against widespread cyber attacks.

“Based on our analysis of case law related to mandatory medical inoculations and treatment, all three scenarios would likely withstand Constitutional challenges if enacted into law,” Shenoi said. “However, in every scenario, the government would have to demonstrate that the implementation satisfies a compelling need, produces tangible results and is non-discriminatory. Moreover, the implementation should be the least restrictive alternative and have strict safeguards to protect privacy and prevent abuse.”

Considerable obstacles would still exist beyond the legal realm, however. Politics, privacy concerns and public acceptance will determine whether or not any form of government-mandated computer inoculation will become a reality, Shenoi said. His goal is to make sure policymakers, technology experts and the public have the information they need to make balanced and effective security decisions.

Biology Professor, Dr. Charles Brown, Receives NSF Research Grant

Dr. Charles R. Brown, a professor of biological sciences at TU, was recently awarded a three-year, $225,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to support his long-term study of social behavior in cliff swallows. His mark-recapture project on cliff swallows in western Nebraska is the largest bird-banding dataset in the world, involving more than 210,000 banded birds and more than 375,000 captures of birds in the field. The new grant will support the statistical analysis of the data and some additional fieldwork. NSF has funded Brown’s research for more than 20 years.

The data will examine how size of a nesting colony affects annual survival of cliff swallows and whether individuals use the same size colony each year. The research also will determine why nesting success in most seasonally breeding birds declines with time during the summer. Brown’s research addresses fundamental questions about what factors create and maintain diversity in group sizes; what is discovered for swallows may apply to other species that live in social groups. The work will be relevant for conservation, too, because understanding colony choice and annual variation in survival probabilities of species such as cliff swallows could help in establishing management guidelines for similar migratory species that are declining.
**ORAU Representative Discussed Funding Opportunities**

In early September, Dr. Arlene Garrison, Vice President of University Partnerships from Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), toured various research facilities on campus and spoke with faculty members about opportunities for research funding and professional networking.

Since 1993, students and faculty of the University of Tulsa have benefited from its membership in ORAU, a consortium of 98 colleges and universities and a contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. ORAU works with its member institutions to help their students and faculty gain access to federal research facilities throughout the country; to keep its members informed about opportunities for fellowship, scholarship, and research appointments; and to organize research alliances among its members.

Through the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), the DOE facility that ORAU operates, undergraduates, graduates, postgraduates, as well as faculty enjoy access to a multitude of opportunities for study and research. Students can participate in programs covering a wide variety of disciplines including business, earth sciences, epidemiology, engineering, physics, geological sciences, pharmacology, ocean sciences, biomedical sciences, nuclear chemistry, and mathematics. Appointment and program length range from one month to four years. Many of these programs are especially designed to increase the numbers of underrepresented minority students pursuing degrees in science- and engineering-related disciplines.

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**TU's Petroleum Abstracts Celebrates 50 Years**

Petroleum Abstracts, an information service of The University of Tulsa, observed its 50th anniversary this past August. Petroleum Abstracts is recognized as a leading information resource for the oil and gas industry worldwide. It publishes the weekly Petroleum Abstracts electronic bulletin and produces the online TULSA® database, which now contains about 1 million entries directly relevant to oil and gas exploration and production (E&P). Petroleum Abstracts covers E&P-related scientific and technical papers, articles, meeting proceedings, patents and patent applications, government reports, books, maps and many other published sources of interest to the energy industry. Petroleum Abstracts is supported primarily by subscription revenues from large oil and gas companies and government oil ministries, as well as universities, research groups and other energy-industry organizations in 24 countries.

“Petroleum Abstracts’ success is the result of our partnership with the petroleum industry. Ten oil and oilfield service companies joined together with The University of Tulsa in 1960 to form the service,” said Thomas E. Burchfield, director of Petroleum Abstracts. “We achieved the 50-year milestone as a result of the continuing support of these companies. Today our close relationship with our subscribers remains a hallmark of our organization.”

Scott W. Walker, then dean of the TU College of Engineering, first proposed establishing an E&P information service at the university. He appointed E.T. Guerrero, then chair of the Petroleum Engineering Department, to organize and direct this new service. The first issue of the Petroleum Abstracts bulletin appeared on Jan. 7, 1961. The TULSA® database was introduced in October 1975, making it one of the first searchable, online, scientific and technical databases in the world.

“During the past 50 years, Petroleum Abstracts has survived several major downturns in the oil and gas industry, an upheaval in the information industry and a significant consolidation among large oil companies. More remarkably, not only has PA survived, it has thrived,” Burchfield said.
Dr. Dylan P. Brennan, Assistant Professor of Physics, has been awarded the College of Engineering and Natural Science's 2010 Zelimir Schmidt Award for "conducting exemplary research resulting in significant scientific advances and widespread recognition."

In his new book, *Dude, Can You Count?*, Christian Constanda, professor of mathematical sciences, takes an offbeat approach to inspiring a sound mathematical education. Part algebra class and part *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, Constanda's latest book is sure to please anyone with a good sense of humor and an inquisitive spirit. Fusing algebra class with exciting narratives, the book blends animated conversation, fact, humor, wit, light scholarly argument and elementary challenges. The chapters explore quirky topics such as a mathematical proof that anyone can afford a Porsche, the quantitative methods behind spelling as a cure for ice cream obsessions and flies that demonstrate a mathematical point.

TU Applied Assistant Professor of Physics Jerry McCoy has been elected president of the Coalition for the Advancement of Science and Mathematics Education in Oklahoma (CASMEO).

Faisal Al-Mutahar, Ph.D. student in Mechanical Engineering, and his wife welcomed their second child this summer, Maryam.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Dr. Indurani Dayal Meshri
was honored in memoriam and inducted into the Engineering and Natural Sciences Hall of Fame on April 22, 2010.

A pioneering, award-winning woman in her field, Dr. Indu Meshri earned her doctoral degree in geochemistry from the TU Department of Geosciences in 1981. She was the second woman to receive her PhD from the department - a legacy she carried on in her mentorship and encouragement of female scientists around the world. She had a long and productive research career at Amoco Research Center in Tulsa, serving 22 years as a geochemist. She became one of the world's leading experts in basin modeling, and her research led to numerous patents and the development of 3-D modeling that successfully predicts the permeability and porosity of rocks in oil and gas reservoirs. Her dedication to research, commitment to service and deep love of her family and friends served as a model for a life well lived.
MBA Students Prepare Real Life Business Solutions for International Companies

The Collins Consulting teams, as part of the spring 2010 International Business Applications class, completed two business strategies to provide companies the opportunity to accelerate with their global expansion process. Collins Consulting is a student project at The University of Tulsa led by Professor J. Markham Collins. This year's team was composed of four MBA students: Luis Chaves, Michelle Sechser, Laura Campbell, and Kyle Grooms.

One client company was IntelliAd, based in Munich, Germany. IntelliAd is a software company that allows users to maximize their profitability in Search Engine Marketing (SEM). The product launch of its bid management software for advertisers and agencies occurred in May 2009. Though it is new to the industry, intelliAd has been able to grow through acquisitions of other SEM agencies such as OneAdvertising AG and bigmouthmedia GmbH. intelliAd currently manages 1,500 accounts. Working with a broad range of company sizes, its clients include large companies such as AirBerlin and Neckermann, but also small-sized business with monthly SEM budgets under €500. intelliAd's business model is two-fold: customers can either receive more clicks and conversions at the same cost or the same number of clicks and conversions at a lower cost. The firm’s main competitors consist of Efficient Frontier, Marin, Clickable, Acquisio, Omniture, and Atlas. intelliAd is now looking to expand the company and its sales by entering the US market. It does not currently have the funding resources available to do this and will be, therefore, seeking a venture capitalist in the United States.

The second company, Vacuworx, is a Tulsa based manufacturing company. The team developed a Market Analysis of China, India, and the Middle East as well as provided recommendations for the best market of the three and a brief entry plan for the company. The Vaculift™ System is the pioneer of vacuum lifting for field application. The company is privately held as Vaculift™, Inc. and operates out of its main headquarters in Tulsa, OK under Vacuworx® International. The product has an excellent reputation around the world and is regarded by the Oil & Gas Industry as one of the best innovations in 20 years. The consulting teams worked over a 3 month period closely with the company to gather industry and organizational knowledge in order to deliver a detailed strategy report and final presentation.

During the two years the course has been offered, Collins Consulting teams helped 5 companies around the world with their global strategy and most participating companies based an action plan on the teams’ findings.
Doing Business in China - TU MBA Style

In the spring 2010 semester, several TU MBA students began studying Chinese history, politics, culture, and economics to better understand China’s influence on the global business environment. These students studied with Professor Michael Troilo and Professor Wen-Chyuan Chiang for several weeks before heading to China to experience international business transactions. In China they met with the managers at GE Aviation and Haworth Company and paid a visit to the Shanghai World Expo with stopovers at the Terra Cotta Warriors and the Great Wall.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE TRIP?
- **Jana:** I really enjoyed visiting the Shanghai World Expo, where I toured with our local tour guide, Elsa. The size of the expo and the architecture of the facilities were incredible! I also enjoyed learning more about Shanghai and the pride the city and country felt for hosting the event.
- **Prof. Troilo:** I enjoyed seeing the Terra Cotta Warriors and Great Wall again; it had been 12 years since I visited these treasures. Lukas: Seeing several different cities in such a short time. The difference among areas in China is quite astonishing.

HOW DID THE COURSE CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE?
- **Lukas:** “Doing Business in China” can only be learned by actually going there.
- **Sara:** Although we had read and studied plenty of material about China before the trip, books cannot replace experiencing China firsthand. There is so much about the Chinese culture that influences their business practices that the only way to get a real feel for it is to have face-to-face contact.
- **Luis:** I was able to learn in a more vivid way how things worked in China and why China has had such growth during the last decades.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU LEARNED ABOUT CHINA’S IMPACT ON WORLD BUSINESS?
- **Prof. Troilo:** China changes constantly. Whatever you think you know may well be obsolete in a year. You need to keep current with the changes. For example, many people associate China with low-cost manufacturing. The reality is more nuanced. The interior still has low wages, but the coastal areas have had high wages for years now. The coast is transitioning to high-tech manufacturing and services.
- **Sara:** The Chinese need to be respected for the assets and potential that they have in regards to global business, but there are many political and economic hurdles that they will need to cross before they can truly wield the power they wish to have.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN THAT YOU WEREN’T EXPECTING TO?
- **Jana:** I learned a lot more about the Chinese culture than I was expecting. Everyone we talked to was really up-front about their lives — from how their upbringing had been to how they felt about their job and how they felt about the government. And I learned how to peel a shrimp with chopsticks!
- **Sara:** Traveling to most of the Asian countries has always intimidated me a bit, so I was pleasantly surprised to find how easy it was to get around, and how friendly the Chinese citizens are.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR FUTURE STUDENTS WANTING TO TAKE A STUDY ABROAD COURSE?
- **Lukas:** Don’t hesitate. Go!
- **Prof. Troilo:** Be flexible, and come prepared to work. For the former, things don’t always go as planned, and you have to have a sense of humor. We missed our flight to the U.S. because a domestic Chinese airline kept us waiting for seven hours in Beijing; these things happen. For the latter, recognize that you are there to learn. It will be fun, but it’s not a vacation.
- **Jana:** When working full time, there will always be excuses for not taking the time off to study abroad. There will always be family and work obligations that make you question if you should really go. My best advice is to just jump in and do it! It will be worth it, and all of those obligations you were worried about will still be there when you get back.