okche

fall 08

school of chemical, biological & materials engineering

college of engineering

askew gift

CBME alumnus **richard g. askew** is giving once again. Askew (shown here with Dean Landers after receiving the Seed Sower award in recognition of over $1 million in gifts to OU) has donated $250,000 to create a College of Engineering scholarship program that will match $25,000 gifts to create ten $50,000 endowed scholarships. Askew received a B.S. and M.S. in Chemical Engineering from OU. After a thirty-seven year career in a variety of domestic and international assignments, he retired as Senior Vice President of Phillips Petroleum Company and President of Phillips Chemical Company. His contributions to the University and the College have been many and significant following a pattern of leadership and participation established while a student at the University. Askew served as Chair of the OkChE Board as well as chair of the College of Engineering Board of Visitors. In addition to his many contributions to Engineering, he is an Energy Center Sponsor and is an active supporter of numerous OU academic and athletic programs. Although Askew's gift was finalized only recently, all ten of the matching gifts have already been committed – seven by very generous (and alert!) CBME alumni!

celebrating 40 years

Mark **november 21st** on your calendars. That day we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Oklahoma Chemical Engineers (OkChE), the oldest alumni support group in the college and one of the first at the University. The day's events will include a department open house showcasing CBME research and education, special speakers, lunch, student posters, chem e car demonstrations, and an evening reception. Look for more information via mail and email.

harwell named AIChE fellow

jeff harwell, George Lynn Cross Research Professor and Conoco/DuPont Professor of Chemical Engineering, was recently elected Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Election as Fellow is recognition of outstanding professional attainment and significant accomplishment in engineering. Referees noted Jeff's outstanding publication record (including four books, 19 patents, and around 140 refereed publications); research and technology developments related to enhanced oil recovery, surface modification, environmental remediation, and fundamental behavior of surfactant systems; and service to the profession. Only a relatively small fraction of AIChE members are elected as Fellows of the Institute.

check out the college of engineering @ coe.ou.edu

people to know...

An engineering degree is the ticket to a wide variety of career choices. These OU alumni are among countless others who took their educational experience to the highest professional level.

OKChE Board Members

Mr. Kenneth Applegate
Vice President-Wholesale Marketing
Valero Energy

Mr. Randall Couch
Principal
Crossover Resources, LLC

Mr. Robert Dye
Vice President-Investor Relations
Apache Corporation

Dr. Larry Evans
CEO
Rive Technology, Inc.

Mrs. Haley Finkelman
MTO Economics Planner
ExxonMobil

Dr. Bruce A. Finlayson
Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering

Dr. David C. Kendrick, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer
MedUnison, LLC

Mr. Spencer Knapp
Monsanto, Co. (Retired)
Produce Director, North Pacific

Mr. Michael E. Lee
Assistant General Counsel
ChevronPhillips Chemical Co.

Mr. E. Keith Mitchell
Vice President- Transportation Services
Enogex, Inc.

Mr. Kyle Pearson
President
Pearson & Associates LLC

Mr. Robert S. Purgason
Chief Operating Officer
Crosstex Energy Services

Mr. Steve Raybourn
President
Raydon Exploration, Inc.

Dr. Pamela Tucker
Vice President
Utility Composites, Inc.

Mr. John Waller
President-Retired
Cottonwood Corporation

Dr. Lance L. Lobban
Ex-officio
OKChE Board of Directors

CBME industry relations specialist

For the last year, Renee Ogan has been working to bring CBME students and potential employers together. Renee was hired in July to fill the newly created Industry Relations Specialist position within CBME. Recognizing a need and opportunity, the OkChE Board seized the initiative to create an employer outreach program to expand internship and employment opportunities for CBME students, especially in the growing fields related to biotechnology and biomedical engineering. CBME Advisory Board members provided $50,000, and an additional $50,000 was awarded by the Presbyterian Health Foundation for an 18 month pilot. Renee is providing information to CBME students and alumni about current employment & internship opportunities across the country while at the same time developing relationships with companies in the biotechnology sector. She is also working to forge partnerships with state and local Chambers of Commerce, and (of particular interest to the PHF) with the biotech companies in the PHF Research Park in Oklahoma City. During June, Renee attended the BIO2008 International Conference in San Diego as part of the delegation from Oklahoma that is being organized by The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. This conference gave her the opportunity to connect with a large number of biotech companies during the 3 day event. A portion of the grant monies from the OkChE Initiative will be used as an incentive for companies to develop an internship program, offsetting some of the stipend given to students during their summer employment. Biotech companies in the Greater Oklahoma City Metro area such as those in the PHF Research Park are the initial targets for the outreach efforts. Cytovance Biologics is the first company to participate in the program offering an internship to CBME junior Hope Baumgarner. Several other companies in the PHF Research Park have expressed interest and are currently developing plans for the addition of a summer intern.

college of engineering
chemical, biological & materials engineering
100 East Boyd Street, SEC #T-335
Norman, Oklahoma 73019-1004

GREETINGS FROM CBME AND OU!

Greetings, CBME alumni! Lots of news from OU, but one of the most exciting recent developments is the seven new endowed scholarships for CBME undergrads – more details in the story in this newsletter. We'd like to use this as a momentum builder to grow our undergraduate scholarship program. As many of you know, CBME has its own scholarship program, the Program of Excellence, which is one of the oldest on-going scholarship programs in the College of Engineering, dating back over 30 years. Endowed scholarships and annual gifts are used to fund the Program, but less than one in four chemical engineering majors who are eligible for the PoE actually receive the scholarship due to the limited funds available each year. Many, maybe most, of you recall how important scholarships can be for all sorts of reasons, and that is probably truer today than ever. We want to increase the fraction of CBME students receiving PoE support by increasing the number of endowed scholarships to 40 (nearly doubling the number we have now). It would be great to have these scholarships committed in time for our celebration of the 40th anniversary of OkChE (be sure to read the newsletter story about the celebration, and mark it on your calendar!). Expect to hear more about the scholarship appeal from me or one of your classmates soon. (I know I said that in the last newsletter, but this time I mean it).

I'd like to hear from you – email llobban@ou.edu with any news you'd care to share. Hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Best,

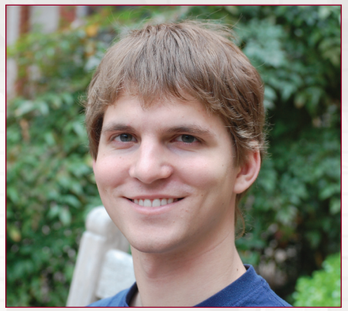
Lance

Lance Lobban, Director
Francis W. Winn Chair

GIBSON NAMED GOLDWATER SCHOLAR

Chemical engineering junior Tyler Gibson has been named a 2008 Goldwater Scholar. These prestigious scholarships are awarded on the basis of potential and intent to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering. Tyler was one of two students from OU to be named a Goldwater Scholar this year, with 321 named nationwide.

Gibson is a junior from Keller, Texas. He has worked with CBME assistant professor Peter McFetridge to engineer cardiovascular tissue from the human umbilical vein. His current project with McFetridge is in the periodontal field and involves decellularization methods to determine the effect of decellularization protocols on the adhesion of human gingival fibroblast cells. This summer, Gibson is interning with Chevron Phillips Chemical Company. His career goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in bioengineering and subsequently develop tissue engineering applications for regenerative medicine. The national scholarship competition, one of the most prestigious in the nation, is conducted by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program. This year, 1,035 college sophomores and juniors across the country competed for the scholarships. The one- and two-year scholarships will cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of $7,500 per year.



CHEM-E CAR PLACES AT NATIONALS

The Chemical Engineering Car Team "Windmills Work This Way" and its highly decorated car placed third in the national performance competition at the 2007 AIChE National Meeting in Salt Lake City. The competition requires the shoe box-sized car to run on a chemical reaction and travel a specific distance (which is announced only shortly before the competition). OU's third place finish was 8 inches from the target distance and only 4 inches farther than the winner. In addition to the team members, about 30 other CBME students attended the national conference. Each year OU Chem-E-Car teams are formed and compete for a chance to enter the Mid-America Regional Conference. Those teams who place in the top three at regionals can then compete at the National Conference. OU teams placed first and third at last year's regional competition but national competition rules only allow a single entry per school. OU will be represented at the 2008 national competition by the team BlackOUt, which finished third at the regional competition in March. Nearly 40 CBME students traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska for the regional conference and car competition.

CHEVRON PHILLIPS MENTOR PROGRAM

The Chevron Phillips Chemical Company has supported the CP Scholar-Mentor program for over five years. The mentor program was first established in 2002 through a gift from Chevron Phillips to help with sophomore retention and success. The only sophomore-focused mentor program in the college, the CP Scholar-Mentor program was patterned after the Dean's Leadership Council (a college-wide freshman mentor program) and aids sophomores through tutoring and through mentoring activities related to study habits, looking for internships, advising and more. Each semester six to eight upper-class CBME students are selected as mentors based on scholarship, leadership, and communications and interpersonal skills. The mentors maintain a tutoring room, emphasizing sophomore-level chemical engineering courses, approximately 30 hours per week in the Sarkeys Energy Center. The tutoring room also serves as the AIChe student chapter office, and was recently renovated through a gift from CBME alumnus Sam Wilson.

NEW FACE ON CBME FACULTY

CBME welcomes Dr. Friederike Jentoft to the faculty this October. Jentoft received her Ph.D. from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (University of Munich) and since 1996 has been a staff scientist and Research Group Leader at the Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society in Berlin. Already an internationally recognized researcher and associate editor of Advances in Catalysis, she brings additional expertise in heterogeneous catalysis and catalytic hydrocarbon conversion to CBME, and will be developing research programs in hydrocarbon conversion, biomass conversion, and fundamental catalysis. Jentoft's husband, Rolf, a PhD chemical engineer (University of California, Davis) will also be joining CBME as a senior scientist and will be working particularly on catalyst characterization and biomass conversion.

GRADY APPOINTED TO EXEC COMMITTEE

CBME professor Brian Grady was recently appointed to a 3-year term on the 15 person Executive Committee for the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE, www.4spe.org). SPE is the premier source of technical information for plastics professionals with 20,000 members worldwide. The Society of Plastics Engineers takes action every day to help individuals, educators and companies in the plastics industry succeed by spreading knowledge, strengthening skills, and promoting plastics. Brian has been active in governance for this organization for many years, serving as both Technical Programming Chair and Chair for the Engineering Properties and Structure Division, Chair of the ANTEC (SPE annual national meeting) Committee as well as Councilor for the Oklahoma section of the SPE. In his new position, Brian will help to oversee the direction of the society as it moves forward into the 21st century.