

LANDMEN IN ACTION

OU Students Dig DUG

In April, energy management students from the University of Oklahoma attended Hart Energy Publishing's Developing Unconventional Gas (DUG) Conference in Fort Worth.

Featuring industry experts, DUG gave operators, investors and the service industry the latest insight on unconventional gas-plays, including economics, activity and the technologies needed to successfully develop these reserves. Topics ranged from Alabama's shales to the Barnett and Woodford shales to Simo-Frac technology.



EM on the Road: OU energy management students attended the recent DUG Conference in Fort Worth. From left: OU EM Director Steve Long, Brent Cody, Braden White, Rachel Christopher, Adrienne Barber, Garrett Bothun and Russell English.



Meeting a Legend: OU energy management students met Barnett Shale legend George Mitchell, founder and chairman of Mitchell Energy & Development, who with his team started the Barnett Shale play in 1981. Pictured back row, from left: Garrett Bothun, Brent Cody, Adrienne Barber, Rachel Christopher, Braden White and Russell English. Front, from left: Quantum Energy Partners Managing Director David Bole, George Mitchell and OU EM Director Steve Long.

Networking With VIPs: OU EM students mingled with Larry Nichols, chairman and CEO of Devon Energy Corp. From left: Adrienne Barber, Braden White, Larry Nichols, OU EM Director Steve Long and Rachel Christopher.



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OU EM Marks 50

On April 18, the University of Oklahoma celebrated the golden anniversary of its petroleum land management/energy management program at the annual Spring Awards banquet with about 600 alumni, students, faculty, families and friends in attendance.

Beginning with 11 students in 1958, peaking at 793 students in 1981, plummeting to six students in 1995 and with a current enrollment close to 300 students, the degree program has historically moved in tandem with the commodity prices of oil and natural gas. To date, more than 1,000 have graduated from OU with a PLM or EM degree.

Fifty years of success is directly attributable to the collaboration between the university, the oil and gas industry and AAPL.

When the American Association of Petroleum Landmen held its first annual meeting in Fort Worth on April 28, 1955, one of George Foster Brown's first acts as the inaugural president was to create an education and publicity committee. The goal of the committee was to establish a degree program to increase the strength and prestige of the AAPL as well as landmen in general.

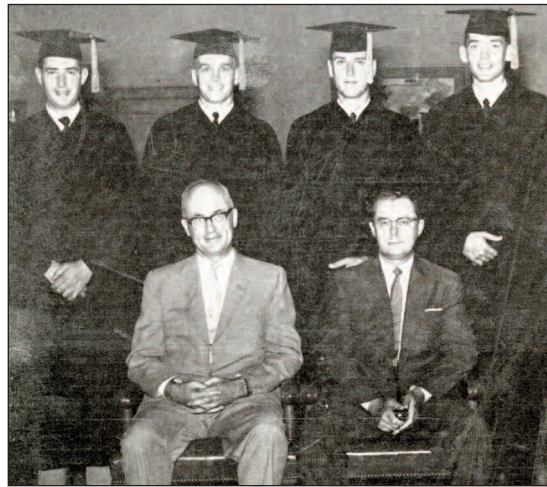
The initial efforts by the AAPL education committee were met with frustration. Post World War II, universities across the nation were bombarded by a multitude of professional organizations seeking degree programs. Universities were responding with favorable talk but little action due to budgetary problems caused by the influx of students on the GI Bill.

However, in September 1957, a group of Oklahomans headed by Keith Bennett of Continental Oil Co., took the lead in the degree movement. William M. Majors, president of Cal-Ray Petroleum Corp., chaired the planning committee for the first Petroleum Landmen's Institute, an in-residence one-week training program held on the OU campus and sponsored by AAPL. It was such a success that Dr. Horace Brown, dean of the business college, embraced the PLM concept and received approvals by the OU Board of Regents to create a PLM curriculum.

At the fourth annual meeting of the AAPL in New Orleans in June 1958, the education committee passed a resolution stating: "... be it resolved that the American Association of Petroleum Landmen extends to the University of Oklahoma its hearty congratulations in that this university is the first college or university in the United States to offer a fully accredited course of (landman) training. ... This Association offers to the University of Oklahoma its full cooperation and agrees to assist in any way, where it is possible to do so."



2008 EM student field trip



University of Oklahoma professor William Keown and Dean Horace Brown, left and right, mark a milestone in AAPL's history in 1960 with OU's first four PLM graduates---Phil Houser, Bill Brodnax, Gary Boren and Frank Spooner



Michael Bishop, AAPL outstanding graduate with University President David Boren

Over the years, the university has been responsive to the needs of the energy markets. For example, with the deregulation of natural gas in the 1990s, the curriculum was modified to include meteorology, energy risk management, commodities marketing and trading classes, and renamed the energy management program to reflect the growing convergence of the financial and physical markets in the upstream, midstream and downstream sectors of the energy industry.

Today's students are graduating at an ideal time: The oil and gas industry has not actively recruited since the mid-'80s, and many companies are faced with a 20-year gap in experience. The National Petroleum Council projects a personnel shortage of approximately 40 percent as a result of work force retirements over the next decade. In addition, the work force is aging, with a study conducted by American Petroleum Institute (API) estimating the average age in the oil and gas industry is 49 — the oldest of any American industry. And then there are the booming commodity prices, with oil at \$120 a barrel, natural gas prices at \$10/mmbtu and gas at \$4 per gallon. Rig rates are reaching new highs, and new nonconventional resource plays are on the rise.