BUSINESS news

Energy Management graduate receives national honor



The American Association of Professional Landmen in April named Energy Management senior Martin LeBrun as the 2010-2011 Outstanding Graduate.

LeBrun was selected from 12 other finalist from all of the six AAPL -approved Energy Management/Petroleum Land Management programs in North America. Each Director was allowed to submit two

candidates. This year there were over 240 graduating seniors from all of the programs, who were eligible for consideration.

"Martin is most deserving of this award and has represented both the University of Tulsa and the Energy Management program at the Collins College of Business in a very professional manner," said Ted Jacobs, Director of Energy Management. "This is also a feather in the cap for our program, given the program is just now completing its third year of offering courses."

As a reward for winning this award, Martin wins an expense paid trip to attend the AAPL Annual meeting in Boston this summer, where he will receive his award in a formal ceremony.

The American Association of Professional Landmen is a professional organization that unites about 12,000 landmen and land-related persons through professional development and service. AAPL's mission is to promote the highest standards of performance for all land professionals, to advance their stature and to encourage sound stewardship of energy and mineral resources.

Conference explores technology

Experts gathered at The University of Tulsa in April to discuss the impact of technology on the future of accounting at the 65th Annual Conference of Accountants. The conference was sponsored by the School of Accounting and Management Information Systems at the Collins College of Business.

"Each year, we pick a timely topic that consistently attracts about 400 accounting professionals from around the region," said Karen Cravens, director of the School of Accounting and MIS. "This year we had a great mix of high-profile speakers to discuss data analytics, advancing business, social media and how the healthcare reform and emerging trends in international tax policy will affect our accounting practices of tomorrow."

Established in 1947, the conference was initiated by TU professor Paul J. Graber with a mission to discuss both current and emerging issues that affect accountants and the accounting professions. Net proceeds of the conference provide scholarships to accounting students at The University of Tulsa.

TU student team wins \$10,000 in Governor's Cup

Two student teams from The University of Tulsa advanced to compete in the final round of the Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup in April, with the graduate team winning the second place prize of \$10,000.

Nearly 40 teams from colleges across Oklahoma entered business plans this year, with six graduate and six undergraduate teams competing in the final round. The statewide business plan competition enables student teams to learn about entrepreneurial processes. They created business plans to present to potential investors with the goal of obtaining start-up funding.

This year's award winners were announced April 14 at an awards dinner attended by nearly 500 people at the Coca-Cola Bricktown Events Center in Oklahoma City. The event was hosted by i2e, Innovation to Enterprise, the competition's managing company.

Team Suavis Communications competed in the undergraduate division for TU, with what they called a revolutionary replacement technology for the obsolete and costly landline telephone. The "netphone" developed by their team will fill the niche left behind by landlines, providing consumers the capabilities of a landline combined with new social integration features. Ahmen El-Kishky, Andrew Brooks, Dylan Morrow and Stephen Macke created the product, under the eye of their advisor, TU Professor John Hale.

The graduate student team, IASO, took second place with a plan for their developed product SPI Gel, an environmentally friendly, silica-based enhanced oil recovery system. SPI Gel seals off inefficient reservoir zones, resulting in a 50 percent increase in daily oil recovery and decreased expenses. MBA Students Stephen Fain, Ryan Eslicker and Nathan Garrett made up team IASO, with Michell Witt as the faculty advisor.

Team IASO, along with other first and second place winners from undergraduate and graduate divisions in Arkansas, Nevada and Oklahoma were scheduled to compete May 25 in Las Vegas for additional prize money.

Students involved in the competition gain access to networks of successful entrepreneurs, lenders and investors, team-building opportunities, business planning skills and media exposure.



Team IASO includes Ryan Eslicker (MBA student), Nate Garrett (MBA student), Michelle Witt (MBA graduate and team advisor), Stephen Fain (MBA student).