Message from the (Past) Head

As the new academic year begins, we are pleased to provide a look back at the 2017-2018 school year. Momentum to move to the “next level” continues to build as we graduated the second largest class in our history. The list of highlights below provides a glimpse into another year of outstanding accomplishments by our students, stuff, faculty and alumni. Please take a few minutes to check out the links that follow.

It has been my privilege to serve as school head for the past five years. I am retiring October 10. Dr. Heather Fahlenkamp was named interim head effective September 1 and will serve until a national search for a new head is complete. There will be no break in our momentum to the “next level.” Dr. Fahlenkamp’s passion, talent and commitment to our OSU CHE heritage (BS 97, PhD 03) are unmatched.

There are no limits on what our program can accomplish as we begin our second century of developing the very best students on the OSU campus. New students, new faculty, a new Unit Operations Laboratory, new endowments and scholarships... the future is incredibly bright. There is a reason we are America’s Brightest Orange!!!

Rob Whiteley, PhD, PE
Bartlett Chair, Professor and Past Head
School of Chemical Engineering
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Academic Year 2018 Highlights

• Successfully recruited 4 new faculty bringing total to 18
• Second largest undergraduate class in history (66 seniors)
• Two of the fourteen OSU Outstanding Seniors for 2018 are chemical engineers
• Two more ChE seniors headed to Cambridge University in the fall
• ChE senior leads the commencement parade
• Dr. Ashlee Ford Versypt among first group of recipients of AIChE “35 Under 35” award for outstanding service to the profession
• Two faculty offices named
• John Klopp (BS/MS 62/65) inducted into CEAT Hall of Fame
• ChE Centennial Celebration
• Growth in endowed scholarship funds to support 8 additional ChE scholarships in perpetuity (Culver, Klopp, Dickerson, Wilson)
• AIChE National Student Design Competition (team) winners again - 6th time in 23 years
• Hosted AIChE Mid-America regional student conference
• 1st place ChemE Car at regionals - qualifies for national competition in October
• OSU senior wins AIChE national student paper competition
• Staff member receives CEAT Outstanding Performance award
• Two graduate students receive highly prestigious national awards
**Undergraduate Students**

2nd Largest Undergraduate Class in History (66 Seniors)

ChE Senior, Tyler Martin, Leads the CEAT Commencement Parade

Each year, the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology selects one senior to lead the CEAT graduates into Gallagher-Iba Arena for commencement. This is a special honor signified by the “orange robe” worn by the selected individual. This year, Chemical Engineering senior Tyler Martin was selected. Tyler was a CEAT and Allen scholar and served as president of CEAT student council in 2017-2018.

5 ChE Graduates Hooded by Honors College

The OSU Honors College presented its degrees and awards to 110 students during a hooding ceremony in May. The degree is the highest that can be presented with the undergraduate degree. Five ChE graduating seniors were hooded: (clockwise starting from upper left) Alicia Aguilar, Jamie Jennings, Kevin Moseni, Quentin Price, and Thomas Zelesky. Pictured with OSU President Burgs Hargis.
2017 Seniors of Significance

The Oklahoma State University Alumni Association named 48 students as OSU Seniors of Significance for the 2017-2018 academic year. The Seniors of Significance Award recognizes students who have excelled in scholarship, leadership and service to campus and community and have brought distinction to OSU.

Five of the 2017-2018 Seniors of Significance were chemical engineering students:

Clockwise starting from upper left: Alicia Aguilar, Tyler Goldsmith, Josh Seaberg, Cassidy Geirhart, Tyler Martin

2018 Outstanding Seniors

Chemical Engineering seniors Cassidy Gierhart and Tyler Martin have been selected as OSU 2018 Outstanding Seniors!

The Outstanding Senior award recognizes seniors who excel through academic achievement; campus and community activities; athletic or extra-curricular honors or awards; and service to the student body during their time at OSU.

The OSU Alumni Association Student Awards and Selection Committee selected the 14 winners after individual interviews with 47 of the Seniors of Significance selected in the fall of 2017.

This is a tremendous honor, and Cassidy and Tyler’s hard work, accomplishments and contributions to ChE, CEAT and OSU are unmatched. This marks the third year in a row that two chemical engineering seniors were recognized as OSU Outstanding Seniors.

2017 AIChe Team Design Competition National Champions

Four 2017 OSU Chemical Engineering graduates tied for 1st place at the 2017 AIChe Design Competition. Jessica Catlin, Madeline Ley, Lauren Austin and Yen Nguyen tied with a University of Utah team for 1st place.

The project objective for 2017 was to design and analyze an industrial process for the production of Nylon sixty-six, which is a polymer used in a wide range of textile and plastic industries. Students had to design the process to produce 85 million pounds of nylon each year and had to choose whether or not to produce nylon fibers or nylon pellets. Adding to the complexity, the students had to design the process to operate at a reduced capacity of 67%. Perhaps most importantly, design teams were expected to perform a HAZOP analysis to determine that the process could be operated safely. Lastly, the design team had to make a business case for the project by doing an economic analysis to justify the building of a new plant.

This marked the sixth time an OSU student team has won the national competition since the team format was added in 1995. No university has won or placed as many times as OSU.

Anna Condacse won 1st place in the national Student Paper Competition at the 2017 AIChe Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN. Anna is pictured with her advisor, Dr. Josh Ramsey. Anna presented results of her undergraduate research project supervised by Dr. Ramsey. Congratulations, Anna!

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Clockwise starting from upper left: Alicia Aguilar, Tyler Goldsmith, Josh Seaberg, Cassidy Geirhart, Tyler Martin
Two More ChE Graduates Headed to Cambridge University in the Fall

Tyler Martin (left) and Tyler Goldsmith are the two most recent OSU ChE students to be admitted for graduate study at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. This brings our total to eight over the last eight years.

Admission to Cambridge is a highly competitive multi-stage process culminating in a final on-campus interview. We wish both Tylers great success during their studies at Cambridge.

Three Niblack Scholars in ChE

OSU named 14 students as 2018-2019 Niblack Research Scholars, each receiving $8,000 scholarships and the opportunity to conduct research guided by faculty sponsors and graduate student mentors. Three chemical engineering students, Carley Eastep, Shelby Mohr, and Fatama Sornaly, are 2018-2019 Niblack Scholars.

Carley Eastep
Advisor: Dr. Ford Versypt

Shelby Mohr
Advisor: Dr. Fahlenkamp

Fatama Sornaly
Advisor: Dr. Madihally

OSU Society of Petroleum Engineers Receives Outstanding Chapter Award

2017-2018 SPE Officers are pictured (L-R): Chris Poulon, Nicole Tucker, Chase Holderman, Michael Tantillo, Link Strickland, Taylor Newville, Clark Cunningham, Tyler Goldsmith, Dr. Prem Bikkina, Advisor

2018 CEAT versus SPEARS Week

CEAT versus SPEARS is an annual event held by the College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology and the College of Business. Some of the different events this year included a kickball game, bake sale, Pie in the Face (students could pie professors in the face), trivia, Case Event, dedication of the new business building, etc.

AIChe received the third place award for their “Pop Quiz” game at the 2018 CEAT Week Club Fair. Austin Bounds and Vikas Krishnan helped with the event.
OSU Hosts AIChE Student Regional Conference

OSU hosted the 2018 AIChE Mid-America Regional Conference April 20-21. Twelve schools were represented, including Benedictine College, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, University of Arkansas, University of Iowa, University of Kansas, University of Nebraska, University of Oklahoma, University of Tulsa, Washington University at St. Louis, Oklahoma State University, and Missouri University of Science and Technology.


OSU’s team Orange Juice won the ChemE Car Competition. Team members include Richard Leber, Sarah Rechtin, Zachary Fletcher, Aaron Frerichs, Hunter Billen, Conner Blatt, and Sarah Desharnais. Also pictured is Dr. Brad Rowland. Orange Juice’s car used student built batteries to power an electric motor. A second reaction, an iodine clock, was used to stop the car at the designated distance.

OSU’s team Real Potential placed 6th. Team members include Kota Taylor, Jake Evans, Aubrey Scoggins, Casey Easter, Yifan Zhang, Carter White, Gerardo Toth and Daniel Wood. Real Potential’s car used pressurized carbon dioxide generated by a reaction of sodium bicarbonate and acetic acid. The pressurized gas was contained in a pressure vessel, and powered a pneumatic drill motor for movement.

OSU’s team Orange Juice also won the Regional ChemE Car Trophy. The traveling trophy was first awarded in 2006 by OSU when we last hosted the AIChE Student Regional Conference. This is the first year the trophy has returned to OSU since 2006.

Alicia Aguilar, 2018 ChE B.S. Graduate, earned 1st place in the poster competition, and 2nd place in the paper competition. Team Orange Juice and Alicia will compete in the 2018 AIChE National Conference in Pittsburgh, PA in October.
Ibrahim Asad Receives a SWCA 2018 Scholarship Award

Chemical engineering senior, Ibrahim Asad, has been awarded a Southwest Chemical Association (SWCA) scholarship. SWCA awards scholarships to selected engineering and science students whose studies focus on the chemical and/or energy industries from approved universities in the Southwest region. Congratulations, Ibrahim!

2018 Women for OSU Endowed Scholarships

Chemical engineering juniors, Cardin Hart and Rebecca Lane, received 2018 Women for OSU Endowed Scholarships.

Women for OSU is a diverse group of visionary women who share a passion for inspiring leadership and financial support to Oklahoma State. Including this years recipients, Women for OSU has awarded 61 scholarships, totaling more than $200,000. Cardin Hart and Rebecca Lane were also named OSU Top 10 Freshman two years ago.

Luke MacNaughton Receives 2017 Donald F. Othmer Sophomore Academic Excellence Award

This award is presented to one member of each AIChE Student Chapter who has attained the highest scholastic grade point average during his/her freshman and sophomore years. Luke was also previously recognized as an OSU Top 10 Freshman.

Rebecca Lane Attends the 2018 National Student Leadership Forum

The National Student Leadership Forum, held annually in Washington, D.C., is different from other leadership programs in that it encourages students to be better individuals as well as leaders by challenging their decision making, values, and belief systems using the platform of servant leadership. Rebecca is majoring in Chemical Engineering, Pre-Medical.

Alexis Vance on Space Cowboys Team

Seven OSU undergraduate student members of the Space Cowboys team represented OSU at the NASA Johnson Space Center’s Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory in Houston, TX to conduct experiments to test concepts for future space flights. Alexis Vance, ChE junior, is a member of the team.
Ashwin Raman Selected to Attend the PepsiCo Journey Through Science Day

Ashwin Kumar Yegya Raman, a ChE Ph.D. student, was one of 50 applicants selected worldwide to attend the PepsiCo Journey Through Science Day in New York City. Each year, the New York Academy of Sciences and PepsiCo partner to host the Journey Through Science Day. Select students from across the country are given the opportunity to network with PepsiCo’s R&D leaders, learn about the company’s deep scientific and technological expertise, and discover first-hand how science can shape their own career paths. Ashwin is advised by Dr. Aichele.

Minu Pilvankar Awarded ACM SIGHPC/Intel Computational and Data Science Fellowship

Minu Pilvankar, a ChE Ph.D. student, was 1 of 12 graduate students worldwide awarded an ACM SIGHPC/Intel Computational and Data Science Fellowship. The fellowship is funded by Intel and presented at the annual SC conference. The fellowship is awarded on the basis of the nominee’s overall potential for excellence in data and/or computational science, and the extent to which they serve as leaders and role models to increase diversity in the workplace. Minu is advised by Dr. Ford Versypt.
Utkarsh Kapoor Earns Multiple Awards

Utkarsh Kapoor, ChE Ph.D. student, was awarded first place in a poster competition at the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) Conference. The title of his poster was “Structural Investigation of Ionic Liquids at Nanoscale, A Simulation Study.”

Utkarsh also received a 2017-2018 OSU Foundation Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. Criteria for selection included evidence of creative activities or scholarly contributions to the discipline and/or the academic community, including awards, honors, research projects, publications, presentations at professional meetings, performances, creative writings, leadership activities, etc. A Distinguished Graduate Fellowship carries a $2,500 annual award and may be renewed for two additional years with appropriate graduate program progress.

Utkarsh was also awarded a 2018-2019 ISA ChemPID Scholarship and an ISA Scholarship in the amount of $3,000. Utkarsh is advised by Dr. Jindal Shah.

Yen Nguyen Receives 2018 Women’s Faculty Council Research Award

Yen Nguyen, ChE MS student, received a 2018 Women’s Faculty Council Research Award. Her project is titled, “Mathematical Modeling of the Metastatic Cancer Migration through a Remodeling Extracellular Matrix.” Yen is advised by Dr. Ford Versypt.

Students Win 3rd Place in OSU 2018 Health Data Shootout

Regina Chan and Ahmadreza Haghnegahdar, ChE MS students, participated on a team that secured 3rd place at the OSU 2018 Health Data Shootout.

Students from across campus participated in teams of five. Teams worked together to seek health care solutions for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Team Pre-Traumatic Stress Dispatchers, which included Regina and Ahmadreza, placed third in the competition. They also received the Riata Incubation Prize which includes the opportunity for students to work with the Riata Center to develop a business model centered on the team’s presented solution, which was titled “PTSD: Medicuro App.”

2018 Love’s Entrepreneur’s Cup

The Multivate Team, which included chemical engineering Ph.D. students Yasmine Gobal and Momen Amer, was awarded 2nd place at the 2018 Love’s Entrepreneur’s Cup. They developed a novel multi-chamber, single-use bioreactor bag that reduces the cost of cell line production scale up by biopharmaceutical manufacturers. Multivate’s technology can save bio manufacturers up to $200,000 annually in fixed costs.

The Love’s Entrepreneur’s Cup is a statewide collegiate business plan competition that simulates the real-world process of researching a market, formulating financial projections, writing a business plan and pitching the opportunity to potential investors. Yasmine Gobal is pictured with her advisor, Dr. Ramsey.
Alumni

John Klopp (BS/MS 62/65) Inducted into CEAT Hall of Fame

John Klopp was inducted into the CEAT Hall of Fame in October, 2017. John earned two OSU chemical engineering degrees - a BS in 1963 and a MS in 1965. He currently resides in San Jose, CA, after two full careers working for DuPont (1965-1993) and Johnson & Johnson (1993-2009).

John spent most of his career in business development. He was responsible for licensing, acquisitions, start-up and turnaround management, and strategic planning. He was Worldwide Vice President, Business Development, for Johnson & Johnson Diabetes Care Franchise when he retired in 2009.

While at Johnson & Johnson, he led a $2 billion acquisition of a diabetes monitoring technology that brought in over $40 billion in revenue, took the #1 position in market share, saved over 1500 jobs, and improved the lives on countless patients living with diabetes.

John currently serves on the Board of Directors for Applied BioTech, Inc., a division of Astellas Pharma, Inc. and is the Non Executive Director for SpeeDx Pty Ltd, a private Australian biotech company specializing in molecular diagnostic solutions to improve healthcare. John is a recognized industry expert on diabetes and was appointed to the Research and Development Committee of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in 2010.

Faculty Offices Named to Honor Dr. Ruth Erbar and Jo Lynne Higganbotham

ChE faculty, alumni, family, and guests gathered March 3, 2018 to honor Dr. Ruth Erbar and Jo Lynne Benson Higganbotham. Two faculty offices were named during the ceremony in honor of Dr. Erbar (top photo) and Jo Lynne.

Dr. Ruth Erbar was the first female Chemical Engineering professor at OSU. She began her teaching career at OSU in 1984. Dr. Erbar was a role model and major source of inspiration during the 70’s and 80’s when the enrollment of women in engineering began in earnest. She left a legacy of success and professional accomplishments when she lost her battle with cancer in 1992. Eighteen former students, and family members donated $15,000 to name a faculty office in Dr. Erbar’s honor.

Jo Lynne Benson Higganbotham graduated from the School of Chemical Engineering in 1986. She married a fellow classmate, Chris Higganbotham (OSU ChE BS 86). She worked for Dow Chemical from 1986 to 1994. Jo Lynne later ran her own engineering placement company. Her multidimensional career as an engineer, teacher, and mother was cut short by a heart condition in 2011. Her impact will always be remembered as a faculty office was named in her honor by the class of 1986.

Noah Gade, 2017 ChE Graduate, Earned NCAA Elite 90 Award

Noah Gade was honored with one of the NCAA’s most prestigious awards, the NCAA Elite 90 Award for academic excellence. Gade was a member of the OSU Men’s cross country team, and also competed in both indoor and outdoor track. Noah graduated in May 2017 with a ChE B.S. degree.

Nuthiah Nagappan, 2002 ChE Graduate, Received ISA Award

In January 2018, the ISA Standards & Practices Department recognized Nuthiah Nagappan as a 2017 award recipient for his leadership and dedication in supporting the work of the ISA84 committee and for his contributions to ISA-TR84.00.09, Cybersecurity Related to the Functional Safety Lifestyle. Muthiah is a 2002 ChE MS graduate.
Dr. Peter Clark retires

Dr. Peter Clark, the first Director of OSU’s Petroleum Engineering program, was honored at a retirement reception in September, 2017. Dr. Clark joined OSU in 2012 as the first director of OSU’s Petroleum Engineering program. Under his leadership, a minor in Petroleum Engineering and a M.S. degree in Petroleum Engineering were established. Three additional faculty were subsequently hired to join Dr. Clark and support the education and research missions of the Petroleum Engineering program. Dr. Clark is an OSU alumnus (BS and PhD degrees in Chemistry) and spent time with Dowell, the U. of Tulsa and the U. of Alabama before joining OSU. We are deeply appreciative of Dr. Clark’s successful efforts to fully launch our petroleum engineering program and wish him and his wife, Linda, all the best in retirement.

Professor Ken Dickson Retires (for the second time)

Professor Ken Dickson (OSU CHE MS 87) joined us in 2016 with 33 years of industry experience to serve as a co-instructor in our capstone design courses, CHE 4124 and 4224. He had just retired from ExxonMobil as a Senior Project Executive managing billion dollar international projects. Working with Dr. Josh Ramsey, Ken did an outstanding job updating the professional practice and process safety elements of our curriculum. He teamed with Dr. Ramsey for five semesters. During this time, OSU student teams won the AIChE National Student Design Competition (Team) in 2017 and received the SACHE Student Design Competition award for safety in design in 2016. Ken’s contributions during a time when our enrollment doubled were greatly appreciated. We wish Ken and his wife, Terry, all the best as they “retire” for the second time!
Dr. Jeffery L. White  
Professor of Chemical Engineering

Dr. Jeffery L. White joined Oklahoma State University in 2005 following appointments as an Assistant and Associate Professor (with tenure) of chemistry at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC. Professor White has an extensive and varied background in scientific research, including appointments as a polymer research scientist with Exxon Chemical Company, a group leader in catalysis with ExxonMobil, and as a postdoctoral fellow with AT&T Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, NJ. He was also named a 2010 Fulbright Research Fellow. Dr. White has enjoyed continuous research funding from the National Science Foundation since late 2001, has served on the Editorial Advisory Board of the ACS journal Macromolecules, and is the author of over 70 peer-reviewed publications, patents, and book chapters. These include multiple publications in the Journal of the American Chemical Society, the premier research journal published by the American Chemical Society. Highlights from Dr. White’s research program can be accessed at whitegroup.okstate.edu.

Dr. Mileva Radonjic  
Associate Professor of Petroleum Engineering

Dr. Mileva Radonjic was an associate professor at Louisiana State University Petroleum Engineering Department from 2015-2018, and also an adjunct in LSU Earth Sciences. In addition, she was associated with the Institute of Advanced Materials at LSU. Dr. Radonjic completed her PhD at Bristol University in the UK, and worked as a postdoc at the Interface Analysis Center at Bristol, before accepting a postdoc position at Princeton University. She worked at the Federation of American Science in Washington DC in 2005, and spent two years at BP America Drilling in Houston working with the CCS project team from the UK, before accepting the position at LSU in 2008.

Dr. Ömer Özgür Çapraz  
Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering

Dr. Çapraz graduated from Middle East Technical University (Ankara, Turkey) with a bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering in 2010. In December 2014, He received his Ph.D. degree in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering with a Mechanical Engineering minor from Iowa State University. During his Ph.D. studies, he investigated nano-scale mechanical deformations during the formation of porous anodic oxide films and stress-corrosion cracking. He was a post-doctoral researcher in the Beckman Institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, working with Prof. Nancy Sottos and Prof. Scott White. His post-doctoral studies focused on the understanding and controlling of chemo-mechanical degradation modes in Li-ion batteries.
Dr. Shohreh Hemmati
Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering

Dr. Shohreh Hemmati received her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering in 2016 from the University of New Hampshire. She conducted research under the direction of Prof. Dale P. Barkey on synthesis and characterization of silver nanowire suspensions for printable conductive media. She received her M.S. in Energy System Engineering in 2009 from Sharif University of Technology (Tehran, Iran) where she conducted research on hydrogen production from biomass, and then worked for the Sharif Energy Research Institute (Tehran, Iran) as a Research Assistant and Technical Manager (2009-2012). She received her B.E. in Chemical Engineering in 2006 from Arak University (Arak, Iran). Dr. Hemmati was a Postdoctoral Research Associate in Prof. Michael T. Harris’s group, in the Davidson School of Chemical Engineering at Purdue University, where she worked on metal nanostructure synthesis. Her future research will focus on millifluidic green, smart, and sustainable synthesis of metal nanostructures for nanoelectronic applications, specifically solar panels and photovoltaics.

Faculty Promotions and Reappointment

Dr. Heather Fahlenkamp
Professor, Anadarko Petroleum Chair in Chemical Engineering
Graduate Program Director

Dr. Fahlenkamp was promoted to Professor.

Dr. Fahlenkamp joined OSU in 2006 as an Assistant Professor. She received her B.S. in Chemical Engineering from OSU in 1997, M.S. in Bioengineering from University of Utah in 2000, and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from OSU in 2003.

Dr. Fahlenkamp has taught Unit Ops Lab, Chemical Reaction Engineering, and Senior Seminar to undergraduate students, Biopress Engineering and Tissue Engineering to Undergraduate/Graduate students, and Chemical Engineering Process Modeling and Chemical Reaction Engineering to Graduate student.

Dr. Fahlenkamp’s research is funded by NIH, NSF, OCASCR, and OSU TBDP.

Dr. Clint Aichele
Associate Professor and Lew Ward Fellow

Dr. Aichele was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

Dr. Aichele joined OSU in 2012 as an Assistant Professor. He received his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from OSU in 2004 and his Ph.D. in Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering from Rice University in 2009.

Dr. Aichele has taught Senior Design and Unit Ops Lab to undergraduate students, and Process Simulation to graduate students.

Dr. Aichele’s research is sponsored by several industrial partners including the Fluid Phase Kentic Joint Industry Project and Fractionation Research, Inc.
Dr. Seok-Jhin Kim
Assistant Professor

Dr. Kim was reappointed as an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Kim joined OSU in 2015. He received his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Yonseir University in 1999, M.S. in Chemical Engineering from Yonseir Unveristy in 2001, and his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Cincinnati in 2001.

Dr. Kim has taught Transport Phenomena to undergraduate students, and Advanced Chemical Reaction Engineering, Membrane Separations, and Chemical Engineering Seminar to graduate students.

Dr. Kim’s research is sponsored by Technology Business Development Program.

Faculty Accomplishments

Dr. Ford Versypt Receives Multiple Awards

AIChE 35 Under 35 Award
Dr. Ford Versypt is the recipient of an AIChE 35 Under 35 Award. The award was created to acknowledge the successes of members under the age of 35 who have made significant contributions to AIChE and to the chemical engineering profession. Each award winner was selected for their achievements in one of seven categories: bioengineering, chemicals, education, energy, innovation, leadership, and safety.

Health Research Award
Dr. Ford Versypt received a Health Research award from the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology. The title of Dr. Ford Versypt’s project is “Computational Modeling of the Onset of Diabetic Kidney Disease.”

2017 ASEE Chemical Engineering Summer School Poster Award
Dr. Ashlee Ford Versypt’s poster was titled, “Self-Evaluation and Reflection for Professional Development of Chemical Engineering Students.”

Dr. Shah Named as Emerging Investigator by Journal of Chemical & Engineering Data

Journal of Chemical & Engineering Data published a special issue naming 25 “Emerging Investigators” in chemical thermodynamics. As stated on the issue’s preface, “These are the researchers who will be defining our field over the coming decades. By seeing and understanding the perspectives of this group, we get a sense of the shape of things to come.”

Dr. Jindal Shah is one of the 25 chemical engineers included on this prestigious list.

Dr. Feng OSU App Development Competition Finalist

Dr. Yu Feng was a finalist in the OSU App Development Competition. His proposed app is, “Personalized Pulmonary Surgery Planner.”
Fluid Phase Kemics Joint Project

Chemical Engineering faculty are part of a Fluid Phase Kemics Joint Industry Project sponsored by Anadarko, Chevron, and ExxonMobil. The principal investigator is Dr. Clint Aichele, working with Dr. Joseph Conner, Dr. Sayeed Mohammad, and Dr. Rob Whiteley. The project focuses on quantification of fluid phase kinetics in hydrocarbons.

Dr. Rhinehart Publishes Book

Professor Emeritus Russ Rhinehart published a book titled Engineering Optimization: Applications, Methods, and Analysis (2018, John Wiley & Sons.) It is a practically-focused introduction to best practices, covering fundamental analytical and numerical techniques throughout each stage of the optimization process. The book is based on the interdisciplinary engineering course that Dr. Rhinehart taught at OSU.

Although essential algorithms are explained in detail, the focus lies more in the human function: how to create an appropriate objective function, choose decision variables, identify and incorporate constraints, define convergence, and other critical issues that define the success or failure of an optimization project.

Department News and Events

Growth in Endowed Scholarships

We will award eight additional scholarships in perpetuity due to the ongoing generosity of four alums – Cecil Culver (BS 54), John Klopp (BS/MS 63/65), Mark Dickerson (BS/ME 75/76) and Gary Wilson (BS 89). All four made significant additions to scholarship endowments they had previously established. The earnings from these endowments are awarded as scholarships to eligible sophomores, juniors and seniors (scholarships for freshmen are provided by the college rather than the schools). We greatly appreciate the commitment of these donors and our other alums who made contributions to other endowed or non-endowed scholarship funds at the OSU Foundation. The impact cannot be overstated; we have more high-quality students with need than we can support. Thank you to all!
The school was very well represented at the CEAT Awards Banquet in May. Pictures below show the awards.

CEAT Outstanding Faculty Award: Dr. Heather Fahlenkamp

CEAT Excellent Teacher Award: Dr. Jindal Shah

Chemical Engineering Outstanding Senior: Tyler Martin

Dean’s Outstanding ChE Graduate Student: Nicholas Flynn

St. Patrick’s Award (CEAT Student Council selects 5 top graduating undergraduate students): Alicia Aguilar, Cassidy Geirhart

CEAT Outstanding Staff Performance Award: Eileen Nelson

5 Years of Service in CEAT Dr. Sayeed Mohammad & Dr. Clint Aichele
Not pictured: Dr. Sundar Madihally - 15 Years
On September 29-30, 2017, Oklahoma State University celebrated one hundred years of Chemical Engineering. Many chemical engineering alumni, faculty, and supporters gathered for this once-in-a-lifetime reunion and celebration. They celebrated the past, introduced current faculty and practices, and shared plans to take our program to the next level.

OSU Chemical Engineering: Expect the best... be the best... change the world!
Final Thoughts - Three simple way to help the school.

1. **Promote the school.** Let others know you are an OSU alum. Display something in your office with the OSU logo. Wear your OSU ChE polo shirt at work with pride. Encourage high quality students to apply to our program. Tell us about students we should contact and recruit.

2. **Strengthen the ChE family network.** Forward this newsletter to former classmates. Encourage them to provide current e-mail addresses (we never share contact information). Attend ChE sponsored events on campus or in your region when possible. Share ideas on how we can facilitate alumni interaction.

3. **Join hands.** Remember we all made it through the program working together. The same holds true now. Providing the best educational experience requires greater resources than the state can offer. Donations by alumni provide the margin of excellence for our program. We all benefitted from the generosity of alumni who preceded us in school. We have the opportunity to do the same now for the next generation of chemical engineers. Donations of any size to the Chemical Engineering Next Level Endowment fund create impact in perpetuity (the donations are invested and only the earnings are spent). From a strategic standpoint, growing this endowment is the key to taking our school to the next level.

   The number of individuals donating to the school has increased over the past four years to over 200. In many cases, the donation qualifies for an employer match. We can help check if you are uncertain. There is tremendous flexibility in terms of types of donations and the time period of the actual giving. Deferred gifts including “estate plans” are powerful means to create future impact for the school without risk to the donor in an uncertain world. Pledges are non-binding and do not require financial disclosure by the donor. Our colleagues in the OSU Foundation are available to answer any questions you may have.

   As a donor, you always have the ability to specify how your gift will be used. You do so by designating the account where your gift is deposited. A detailed list of our accounts at the OSU Foundation and the restrictions on how funds in these accounts can be used is available on our website (https://che.okstate.edu/giving).

   The margin of excellence in our program… past, present, and future… is provided by our alumni and supporters. We are striving to be the best… to reach the next level… and I hope you will consider joining hands with me and fellow alums from the 1940’s to present in supporting our school!

   Go Pokes!!!

Rob Whiteley, PhD, PE
   Bartlett Chair, Professor and Former Head
   School of Chemical Engineering
   Class of 1977