

Star-Telegram

August 1, 2008

Record crude-oil prices lead to record Exxon quarterly profit - by *Jim Fuquay*

Record crude-oil prices pushed Exxon Mobil's second-quarter earnings to a record, but the Irving-based company ran into criticism for spending more to buy back its stock than it spent to explore for oil.

Exxon earned \$11.68 billion, the highest in company history as well as the biggest quarterly profit for a U.S. corporation, not counting profits from one-time gains like asset sales or legal settlements. Exxon's second-quarter profit included an after-tax charge of \$290 million to account for a recent Supreme Court ruling that put a \$508 million cap on punitive damages for the company's 1989 Alaska oil spill.

Texas Christian University business professor Stan Block said he can understand Tillerson's stand on alternative energy but thinks that the company is wrong on stock buybacks. He's not a fan of stock buybacks in general, he said, especially not when there is a worldwide shortage of crude oil.

"It shows a lack of creativity," **Block** said. "Why not try to enhance profitability? I see other people coming up with innovative ways to find more energy," he said.

Fort Worth Business Press

August 11, 2008

West Seventh: Restaurant Row, or overdevelopment? - by *John-Laurent Tronche*

The redevelopment of West Seventh Street will introduce about 25 restaurants to an area no longer than a mile. And while developers say traffic will keep the tables full, others say oversaturation could come into play.

Developers are hoping the public is hungry — but are they biting off more than they can chew?

Texas Christian University's Julie Baker, a professor of marketing at the Neeley School of Business, said the risk of oversaturation is ever-present.

"The restaurant business in general is extremely competitive, and it's important for each restaurant, each location, to have something special — what we call a differential advantage," she said. "You get four or five restaurants in the proximity that [offer] the same kind of food, and it will be tough."

On the flip-side, however, **Baker** said diversity could help the area thrive, along with destination business provided by the new shops and the museums.

"I just think that overlap in type is going to be the most critical thing in terms of whether a restaurant will survive in a particular area, like Seventh Street," **Baker** said.

Fort Worth Business Press

August 14, 2008

Summer internship for TCU biz student is 'bellissimo' - by *Betty Dillard*

Austin Hoffman could have stayed home in Tyler this summer, lounging around the pool and hanging with friends.

Instead, the junior entrepreneurship student at the **Neeley School of Business at Texas Christian University** took advantage of an internship opportunity sponsored by TCU and partner TECH Fort Worth. Now Hoffman is Italy-bound, hoping to help work out a deal between the company where he interned and a prospective business partner in Milan.

For the past four summers, TCU business students have gained real world experience working with client companies at TECH Fort Worth, a nonprofit business and technology-based incubator that fosters life science-oriented products and services.

Hoffman, who was the **TCU Texas Youth Entrepreneur of the Year** in both 2004 and 2006, applied for the internship and was matched with Fred Kimble, founder and CEO of MobiMed Technologies Inc.

Star-Telegram

August 19, 2008

Shlachter & Co: Summer internship has big results for TCU student

Austin Hoffman, 21, who had just finished his sophomore year at **Texas Christian University**, thought he might only be "serving coffee or something like that" during his summer internship at Fort Worth-based MobiMed.

Instead, Chief Executive Fred Kimble had Hoffman carry out a global search for manufacturers of equipment that his home-health monitoring company could use.

Hoffman discovered the Irish unit of an Italian company that created a single system that could track a number of different vital signs, an advancement that would simplify life for MobiMed, which now relies on devices that don't communicate with one another.

Next month, Hoffman will skip a few classes when he accompanies Kimble for a round of negotiations in Milan, Italy, which Kimble hopes will lead to exclusive rights to distribute the centralized control console and remote patient monitors that can be worn like a watch.

It was a win-win for Kimble, whose startup works with TECH Fort Worth, a nonprofit technology incubator at the James E. Guinn Complex on the south side. He found a talented and eager business student and didn't pay a nickel.

Hoffman's 200-hour internship, arranged through TECH and TCU's **Neeley Entrepreneurship Center**, was covered by a grant from Tommy Glenn, described as a "local serial entrepreneur."

Fort Worth Business Press

August 25, 2008

Infinity Contractors has huge 'pop' in 2007 sales - by Betty Dillard

Jim Salter, president and owner of Infinity Contractors International Ltd., ... saw soaring sales in 2007.

Revenue jumped a record 127 percent to just under \$13 million in 2007, from \$5.6 million the previous year.

Salter started Infinity Contractors in 1994 to perform all facets of mechanical contracting, including mechanical systems service and maintenance, for commercial projects. Notable clients include Cabela's Retail Center in Fort Worth, Mansfield High School, Tyler Junior College, Texas Women's University, Eagle Mountain Water Treatment Plant, John Peter Smith Hospital and Tarleton State University.

A native of Fort Worth, **Salter earned his MBA in 2002 from Texas Christian University**, having been one of only a few individuals to be accepted into the **Neeley School of Business** without an undergraduate degree.

"I got pretty lucky," he says. "I've had five mentors in my career. TCU helped me think differently about business — not just my own but a way to look at other businesses and how it all fits together."

DAILY SKIFF Serving Texas Christian University since 1902

August 26, 2008

Neeley dean remembers friendships from college years - by Krystal Upshaw

It's the personal relationships between students and faculty that set the **Neeley School of Business** apart from other business schools in the mind of **O. Homer Erikson**. The relationships Erikson forged during his college days at TCU still linger, and he hopes to develop new relationships with faculty and students as the new **John V. Roach Dean of the Neeley School**.

After 34 years, the native Houstonian returns to his alma mater from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he served as dean of the Bloch School Of Business and Public Administration for six years. He also served as Harzfeld professor of economics and business policy during his term at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Prior



to this experience, he spent 24 years at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, as the associate dean for academic affairs and associate dean for graduate studies. He also served in other positions which include director of planning and operations, economics department chair and honors coordinator. TCU appointed Ereksen as the dean of the **Neeley School of Business** in March.

Q: How did you react when you were first offered the dean position at TCU's **Neeley School of Business**?

A: I was very excited. As an alumnus of TCU, I know just how special TCU is as a university, and the good things the **Neeley School** is doing and can do in the future.

Q: How is the transition from being a student at TCU to the dean of the Business School 34 years later?

A: As a student, one of the things I really appreciated here was the very close contact I had with faculty. The classes were small so I really had the opportunity to know faculty, not only as an instructor, but to get to know them as people and learn how they pursue their professional work in teaching and research. I really had that close relationship. I think coming back as dean, one of the real hallmarks for TCU and the **Neeley School** is that very personal relationship between students and faculty. It's still here. It's been very clear the first two months, I've been visiting with faculty and some students, that it's still one of the big strengths of the Neeley School and TCU, and we intend for it to stay that way.

Q: What are your goals for the **Neeley School of Business**?

A: I'd like to say we're not going to change direction, but we're going to elevate the programs that are here. To have a great program, a great university, or great **Neeley School** - it does take resources to fill that vision. We have to continue to be clear about our vision and to work with partners in the community and beyond who are willing to invest in the program and our students to elevate the quality of some the programs that are already very good, and to raise the Neeley flag and the TCU flag in a very bold way with the greater Dallas-Fort Worth community, and well beyond. We have graduates all over the country and the world. We have to tell our story, excite people and develop those partnerships.

Q: What do you think will be your biggest challenge?

A: Personally, the biggest challenge is finding time to do all the things that need to be done. There's so many good opportunities for the **Neeley School** and TCU. It's going to be important for all of us to prioritize to do the very best we can so that we can be effective in building partnerships.

Q: Under your leadership, where do you see the **Neeley School of Business** in the next five years?

A: I think you'll see us having the best undergraduate business program in the state of Texas. You'll see the graduate programs continue to increase in quality, and increasingly build a reputation that has national respect. I think we'll see over that five year period, greater and increased partnerships with Dallas-Fort Worth businesses so that we're telling our story and we're adding value both to our students and those businesses.

Q: Did you ever dream of being a dean someday during your college days at TCU?

A: As an undergraduate, you look at so many possibilities. I'll always be a student because I like to learn whether it's about business, economics, science or religion. I grew up with parents who were both teachers, so education has always been important. Whether the route led to me being a faculty member, dean or being a student in another profession, as a student, you don't know. One of the exciting things, for myself and students now, is that we're preparing our graduates at the **Neeley School** and TCU not only for employment or graduate school right after graduation, but for careers that may not even exist in the form they do now.

Q: What do you look forward to this year?

A: Lots of things. Finding the next visionary step for the school, finding the path for the next five years, and working with faculty, staff and students to identify that vision. I look forward to a winning football and basketball season. I look forward to the great opportunities on this campus like concerts and speakers. I look forward to getting to know Fort Worth even better, the wonderful restaurants and people in the community. It's a wonderful quality of life, and for my family who's not from Fort Worth, to get to know Fort Worth in a very rich way.

Q: What's your fondest memory at TCU?

A: I had so many good friends to share a lot of memories with whether it was in the classroom, playing intramural basketball or marching band. I had an active student life. On the other side, it was the faculty I got the opportunity to know. I really enjoyed the Honors Program. I enjoyed the four honors seminars I participated in, and the experience of writing an honors thesis. Those were very special learning experiences, but beyond that, they were fun.

Dallas Business Journal

August 29, 2008

Home schooling: TCU business school dean Homer Ereksen returns to alma mater to help educate next generation of Texas business leaders - by Casey Smith

Homer Ereksen, 56, is the new John V. Roach dean at Texas Christian University's Neeley School of Business.

Ereksen, who attended the university from 1970-74 and graduated with degrees in economics and political science, returns to the Fort Worth campus after four years as dean of the University of Missouri-Kansas City's business college.

He says it's because "You don't get many chances to work at a place you care so much about." **Erekson**, who earned a Ph.D in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, also worked at Miami University for 24 years. This Horn Frog, who also became a published author, is now back home at his alma mater.

DESCRIBE YOUR FAMILY. My wife, Sarah, is a health education consultant, and right now she's getting to know Dallas-Fort Worth. My son Andrew, 26, is in New York City working for Goldman Sachs; and Cameron, 19, still lives in Kansas City where he's going to community college. MacKenzie, 17, will be a senior at All Saints Episcopal School. We have two cats, Max — he's a Maine coon, he's huge — and Chi Bella, she's a calico, a tiny little thing.

WHAT WAS YOUR CHILDHOOD LIKE? I grew up in Houston. My parents were both schoolteachers. My mother was an elementary schoolteacher and my father taught math and science in high school and was a very successful coach. I had a wonderful life growing up — I was involved in all sorts of activities. I was a trombonist and a tennis player; I loved the opportunities of life. With parents who valued education, I had the opportunity in high school to travel to the U.K. to experience different cultures and to see how fun it is to learn about them.

AS A CHILD, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP? I probably didn't have any one idea growing up. I did always love education, and being around the education process was fun. I considered law, music, medical school. I loved learning and was very open to what was in the world. I didn't look toward any one vocation.

HOW HAS TCU CHANGED OVER THE YEARS? Obviously, the facilities continue to improve. I think the selectivity of the student body and the quality of faculty have enabled TCU to move from being a well-regarded regional university to a true nationally respected university.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TCU HANGOUT? As a student you grow up loving Joe T. Garcia's, but now in my more senior years I love the myriad of wonderful sole-proprietor restaurants around. Park Hill Cafe is an example. You go next-door to the wine store Put A Cork In It and then go to Park Hill Cafe and have some unique, made-from-scratch food. Fort Worth has a lot of fun little places around.

WHAT CHANGES WILL YOU BE MAKING TO NEELEY? The **Neeley School** is already very well-positioned at the undergraduate and graduate levels, so it's not about changing things dramatically. I think it's finding ways to continue to elevate the programs to a national stature. A key to that will be significantly expanding the school's relationship with both the Fort Worth and Dallas business communities.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO EDUCATION? In the process of considering whether to take a job out of college or go to law school, I think my decision was heavily influenced by John Wortham, an economics professor at TCU, and Ron Flowers, who was a religion professor. They were mentors who helped excite me about learning, what it would be like to do research about ideas of interest and how fulfilling it could be to work with students as they are developing their personal and professional lives.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES? I love biking, golf, tennis, hiking, wine tasting and travel.

WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU COULD LEARN TO DO? Probably play the piano and guitar a lot better than I do and master the BlackBerry.

WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET AND WHY? I think probably Einstein. To have the opportunity to get inside his mind, but not just about science. He had a lot of provocative thoughts about politics, religion.

WHO ARE YOUR ROLE MODELS? Probably my father was my greatest role model. It was his love of life and belief in the possibilities people held. He started with humble beginnings and really modeled what was possible if you believe in yourself and other people.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE? I think far and away it's when people are mean to each other.

WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY READING? I tend to read four or five books at once ... One of the books is "Riding With the Blue Moth" by Bill Hancock. His son died in an airplane crash and it was his story of taking a cross-country bicycle trip to find himself. It's a very powerful book.

WHEN ARE YOU HAPPIEST? Celebrating life with friends and family. That can be a family or friend's occasion, traveling ... celebrating life.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR STUDENTS? Find what you have a passion for and pursue that in life, in your career, and remember to give back to the world and to people who may not have the same opportunities you have.