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THE JOURNAL RECORD

IN PRINT. ONLINE. IN PERSON.

PROGRAM

Aug. 17, 2017 • 11:30 a.m.

Embassy Suites Downtown
Medical Center
741 Phillips Ave.,
Oklahoma City, OK

EMCEE

Ted Streuli
Associate Publisher and Editor
The Journal Record Publishing
Co.

WELCOME

Ted Streuli

CREATIVITY AWARD PRESENTATION

Dr. Tom Friedemann
Superintendent/CEO
Francis Tuttle Technology
Center

Susan McCalmont
President
Creative Oklahoma

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Tom Friedemann

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

John Scavona Jr.
Vice President of Sales
BIS

INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS PRESENTATION

Dr. Tom Friedemann

Ted Streuli

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OVERALL INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

Ted Streuli

INTRODUCTION



From the shopping cart and parking meter to the pressurized flight suit, Oklahomans have demonstrated a knack for innovation. Oklahoma inventors have developed numerous other diverse products through the years such as the yield sign, the compact trencher known as the Ditch Witch, and crystalline polypropylene.

Acknowledging Oklahomans' ingenuity, Gov. Henry Bellmon in 1966 established the Oklahoma Inventors Congress, which all succeeding administrations have supported. It is believed to be the oldest continuously functioning organization in the nation dedicated to inventors and the inventive process.

In that spirit, The Journal Record established the Innovator of the Year program. Each year, we celebrate business innovation by honoring Oklahomans who set themselves apart with products and services that change the market and create a better place to live and work.

Each year, nominations are submitted from around the state for those products and services that exemplify an innovative spirit. This year's group of honorees continues Oklahoma's rich tradition of innovation with developments in software for a variety of industries – from energy to health care – as well as advancements in mobile apps, groundbreaking eye surgery, and even a travel-sized nontoxic toilet seat cleaner, just to name a few.

Recognizing the efforts of these innovators would be impossible without our sponsor, Francis Tuttle Technology Center.

We celebrate each honoree with a salute in this publication, and challenge our readers to start thinking about which extraordinary innovators should be recognized at next year's Innovator of the Year program.

THE JOURNAL RECORD

The Journal Record Publishing Co. | 101 N. Robinson Ave., Ste. 101 | Oklahoma City, OK 73102 | 405.235.3100 | JOURNALRECORD.COM

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BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES, VENTURE CAPITAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

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SPEAKER



JOHN SCAVONA JR. BIS VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES

John Scavona Jr. is vice president of sales for Edmond-based BIS. In his role, Scavona directs the efforts of the BIS sales team, building the BIS brand and expanding the Grooper portfolio. He has been with BIS since January 2015.

Previously Scavona was a district manager for EMC prior to that company's merger with Dell, creating the tech giant Dell EMC. Scavona represented southern Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma, where his team consistently set sales records. Under Scavona's leadership, his district achieved an all-time annual revenue record, delivering more than \$80 million in sales in 2014. The achievement represented more than a 30-percent increase in year-over-year growth to take the top spot in the Mountain Plains Area for EMC.

With Scavona's guidance, the BIS sales team has won more than two dozen Grooper installations for organizations representing such industries as banking and credit unions, oil and gas, county government, and higher education. The Grooper brand has grown to include Grooper Content Manager and GrooperSign, which eliminates paperwork and improves workflow for businesses.

Scavona earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology from Oklahoma State University.

He offices out of BIS' Tulsa location, where he resides with his wife, Stacie, and the couple's three children, son, Jett, 14; and daughters, Summer, 11, and Reese, 10.

Where Do Innovators Go to Grow their Ideas?



MNTC Business Development Center

We exist to assist entrepreneurs during the startup phase of their business venture. By offering business guidance and services targeted to the individual entrepreneur, the BDC aims to create an environment that is beneficial to the entrepreneur, and increase the likelihood for the success of their business venture.



***Congratulations to
2017 Innovator of
the Year nominees
and BDC clients***



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Agric-Bioformatics



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Innovation

30 Years of Innovation Excellence

The Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology works to diversify Oklahoma's economy through strategic investment in innovation, science and technology. The investment we make locally improves the quality of life globally, while growing Oklahoma's economy.

Since inception OCAST has:

- funded 2,641 projects
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- had a return on investment of 22:1

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The Dean McGee Eye Institute
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extend their sincere congratulations to



Mahmoud A. Khaimi, MD

Clinical Associate Professor
Dean McGee Eye Institute
Department of Ophthalmology
University of Oklahoma
College of Medicine

*For being selected as a finalist for the
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- Sleeping Room Design layout is more flexible with side-by-side suites allowing more natural light and a true residential feel.
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Francis Tuttle Technology Center helps power Oklahoma's economic development efforts, making business and industry more competitive by having a well-trained, highly-qualified workforce. Whether an organization needs personalized training for its particular niche or industry standard methods or processes, Francis Tuttle can help nearly any organization. Career training programs and career development offerings are developed and delivered to satisfy district communities' needs while fulfilling the career goals of area patrons.

Unique training options include: The Center for Municipal Excellence (a partnership with the city of Edmond to cross-train municipal public works employees to enhance efficiencies); the Launch Pad FT business incubator (with a mission to provide small business owners with the necessary management and business skills

needed to succeed); and programs such as the Women in Technology initiative.

Women in Technology was developed to encourage female students to pursue employment and/or degree programs in non-traditional, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) career areas and to provide them with access to industry professionals. These mentors support and advise the students as they progress through training and prepare for their futures.

Not only does the Women in Technology program prepare students for career success in STEM fields, it develops a much-in-demand workforce for area businesses. This outcome facilitates growth, expansion, and viability for for both developing and established companies.

More information is available at francistuttle.edu or by calling (405) 717-7799.

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Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology





PAST WINNERS

This marks The Journal Record's 20th year to host an awards ceremony to help celebrate business innovation in Oklahoma. Since that time, hundreds of companies have received recognition for their products and services. *The Journal Record* started naming an overall winner in 2002.

2002

Soundtec – implantable hearing device that requires less invasive surgery than traditional hearing aids.

2003

Advanced Financial Solutions – Endpoint Exchange – the nation's first and only digital check-clearing network dedicated to helping all U.S. financial institutions clear their check-based transactions by exchanging images, instead of paper checks between member banks, savings and loans, credit unions, servicers, clearinghouses and the Federal Reserve.

2004

Telos-OK – Security Services Business unit to provide information risk and vulnerability assessments for commercial markets.

2005

InterGenetics – OncoVue, the first genetic-based cancer risk prediction test applicable to all women.

2006

J. Donald Capra – The longtime president of Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation played a significant role in transforming medical research in Oklahoma into a major economic force.

2007

W. Arthur 'Skip' Porter – The founding director of the Center for the Creation of Economic Wealth at the University of Oklahoma was instrumental in helping the Norman university spin off more than 30 startup companies that have generated millions of dollars in revenue. As the state's first secretary of science and technology and as vice president of technology development

and dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Oklahoma, he helped pass legislation and put the process into motion that for the first time permitted state universities and faculty members to commercialize their innovations.

2008

Martin Bionics – iPed prosthetic technology tailored to meet the needs of lower-limb amputees, not just on level ground, or at typical walking speed, but in all conditions and in all environments. The design allows an amputee to have a more natural-looking gait pattern, while maintaining unmatched stance stability and ease of swing.

2009

Selser Schaefer Architects – design of Tulsa Community College's Center for Creativity using a combination of traditional and digital arts.

2010

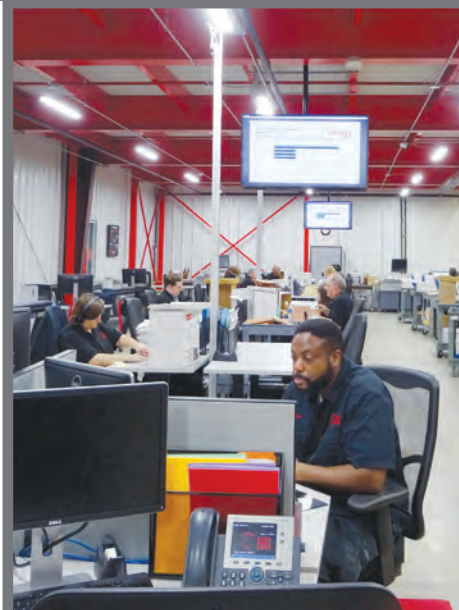
Elliott + Associates Architects – Turbinomics concept involving the integration of vertical axis wind turbines into a building's structure. With the concept, an office tower would be energy-efficient because it could generate some or all of its own power thanks to the Oklahoma wind.

2011

Big Time Brands – collectable items including Zanybandz, Slapwatch and Splashwatch.

2012

AliveCor – electrocardiogram (ECG) device that is designed to enable a smartphone, tablet or laptop user to perform a clinical-quality ECG at any time, in any place, and at a fraction of the average ECG cost.



2016

BIS – Grooper software platform that examines how users perform document-driven processes, how people perform the processes and what they do with the information within the documents, then learns from them and takes over the functions.

2013

Moleculera Labs – testing of children suffering from pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) and pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disease associated with streptococci (PANDAS).

2014

Oklahoma Innovation Institute – implementation of the Tandy Community Supercomputer installed in Tulsa's City Hall. The supercomputer, capable of handling 35 trillion computations per second, drastically reduces the amount of time it takes researchers to crunch data.

2015

WeGoLook – custom inspection and tasking service that uses crowdsourcing technology to connect online shoppers with people who can inspect the items they are browsing online and send them a report, complete with photographs.



The Francis Tuttle
CREATIVITY AWARD

Bruce
L. Carter

**FOUNDER OF THE
TALLGRASS ART GALLERY,
PAWHUSKA**

Bruce L. Carter is an entrepreneur, silversmith and artist residing in Pawhuska.

Carter was raised in a family surrounded by creativity. His mother was an avid crafts person and his father produced woodwork and furniture. Creativity and production of handcrafts were encouraged. After a resident artist came to visit his high school in Blackwell, Carter further developed his interest in art and fine crafts.

He learned silversmithing at the age of 19 and pursued art and silversmithing through much of his adult life. Carter's work has been featured in galleries, museums and private collections across the United States. In the '90s, he worked for several years as a trainer for computer and internet sales call centers in the United States.

Carter has been an entrepreneur for much of his life. He is currently the owner of Tallgrass Art Gallery in Pawhuska as well as Tallgrass Tours.

In addition, Carter said he tries to look at and address the needs of his community in creative ways. He has worked to find productive ways to transform Pawhuska, while being true to its past and identity.

He is a founding member of Preserving Arts in the Osage and the Pawhuska Merchants Association. He serves on the board of the Osage County Industrial Authority and is a member of the Osage County Tourism Board. Other community activities include serving as director of the Pawhuska Cultural District Initiative and recently being named director of Oklahoma Creative Communities – Pawhuska.

"He has ignited transformative change through creativity and there's just so much to say about what he's done to turn around this small Oklahoma community," said Susan McCalmont, president of Creative Oklahoma.

Carter's philosophy can be summed up in his favorite quote: "There are no problems, only creative opportunities."



THINKING
THE
BOX
OUTSIDE

The Journal Record is presenting the seventh annual Creativity Award in collaboration with Creative Oklahoma, a statewide nonprofit organization advancing Oklahoma's creative economy through creativity and innovation-based initiatives in education, commerce and culture. For more information on Creative Oklahoma, go to www.stateofcreativity.com. The award is sponsored by Francis Tuttle Technology Center.



AGBOOST SOFTWARE

When Sean Akadiri moved to Oklahoma from Nigeria to attend college, he didn't expect to become an entrepreneur who decodes livestock genomic data for the cattle industry.

After working a few years in the biotechnology industry, Akadiri decided to use his knowledge of genomics to help the agriculture sector. In 2013, he started his own company called Agric-Bioformatics to help revolutionize how large and small cattle producers manage their livestock through a software program called AgBoost.

AgBoost allows livestock producers to acquire and aggregate big data by analyzing the data and providing information that livestock producers use to selectively breed their animals and make informative decisions on their operations.

Unlike AgBoost competitors, the technology integrates and analyzes all different types of data like genomics, performance, market, nutrition and health on the same platform, making the data more interactive and visually available to the end user in real time.

AgBoost is also designed to connect all supply chains involved in the operation to share the data moving back and forth in real time so producers and consumers can track the quality of the product from farm to fork.

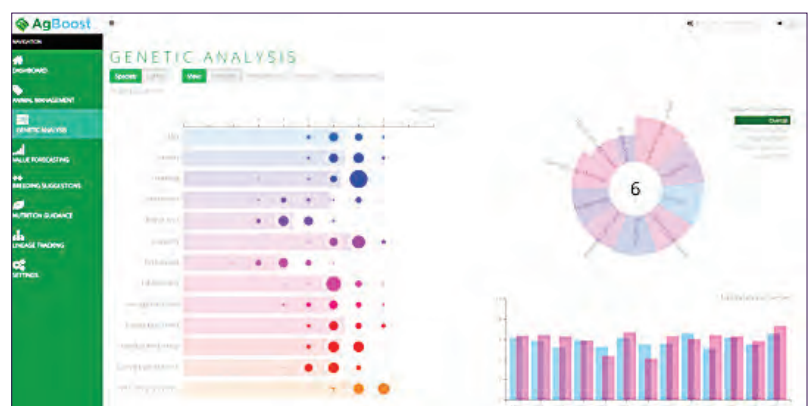
"Agric-Bioformatics has been fortunate enough to work with several partners in the agricultural industry that have been directly and indirectly involved in the design and development of AgBoost," Akadiri said.

Those strategic and investment partners include i2E, Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Noble Foundation, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute UK, Oklahoma State University, Iowa State University and the University of Alberta.

AgBoost, which was launched December 2016 and has users currently in five states in the U.S., is in a closed beta phase. Akadiri said the next phase is to release the minimum viable product in September. The company plans to launch a pilot test in the U.K. with several commercial firms and a research institute by the end of the year, he said.

"Agric-Bioformatics has created a technology that has the potential to revolutionize the cattle industry," said Eddie Peck, business development coordinator at Moore Norman Technology Center.

"Sean Akadiri envisioned this innovation some years back and has been relentless in his pursuit of making it a reality," Peck said. "It is more than a business to him; it is an opportunity to make a difference in the quality of beef products, which in turn has the potential to provide a better product to the consumer."





Life is busy and complicated. Over time, couples can find it difficult to have quality time together, and because of that disconnect, some couples become distant, dissatisfied and unhappy.

"Datebox was born to make date night simple for couples, because, at our core, we believe relationships matter," said Kolomyjec. "Our mission is to help couples rediscover date night. Each month we create a fun, exciting, and unique date night for couples, and send them everything they need to enjoy that date together."

"We exist to help all couples stay connected and find that satisfaction with the most important person in their lives," Kolomyjec said.

Since the company started in November 2015, Datebox has shipped more than 85,000 date boxes. Revenues totaled \$3 million for the first year and are expected to climb to \$18 million this year.

DATEBOX™

"We've found there are many couples who have resonated with the idea that date night is important and should be made consistent," Kolomyjec said. "Our team is well-equipped to build this company. Our core leadership has unrivaled experience in relationship and marriage psychology. Our team has proven success in bringing relationship products to market including No. 1 New York Times bestselling books, industry leading counseling platforms and the popular dating website eHarmony."

With 60 million married couples in the U.S., coupled with the U.S. “sub-box” market growing 3,000 percent per year for the last three years, Kolomyjec said the company’s development of proprietary algorithms, artificial intelligence and machine learning will lead to more efficient and targeted experiences and tools for couples.





AB-INTERNO CANALOPLASTY PROCEDURE

An estimated 2.7 million Americans have glaucoma, a disease in which fluid builds up in the front part of the eye and increases the eye pressure, damaging the optic nerve and leading to the loss of vision. It is a leading cause of blindness for people over the age of 60.

Traditional treatments for glaucoma have included topical eye drops, laser treatments, and invasive surgery, each with its own limitations. A new canaloplasty surgery was developed about 10 years ago that allowed a surgeon to keep the natural drainage system in place by inserting a stent, but the procedure still carried with it the inherent risks of an invasive surgery.

Since then, two developments would lead to inspiration. First, minimally invasive glaucoma surgery procedures were developed for certain glaucoma-related interventions eliminating the need for risky, invasive surgery. Second, a three-year clinical study of 300 patients who had received traditional canaloplasty surgery showed 30 patients experienced lower eye pressure even though they were unable to receive a stent. Mahmoud A. Khaimi, an ophthalmologist and clinical associate professor with Dean McGee Eye Institute in Oklahoma City, began to question whether canaloplasty had to be an invasive procedure and if a stent was even necessary.



Dean McGee
EYE INSTITUTE FOUNDATION

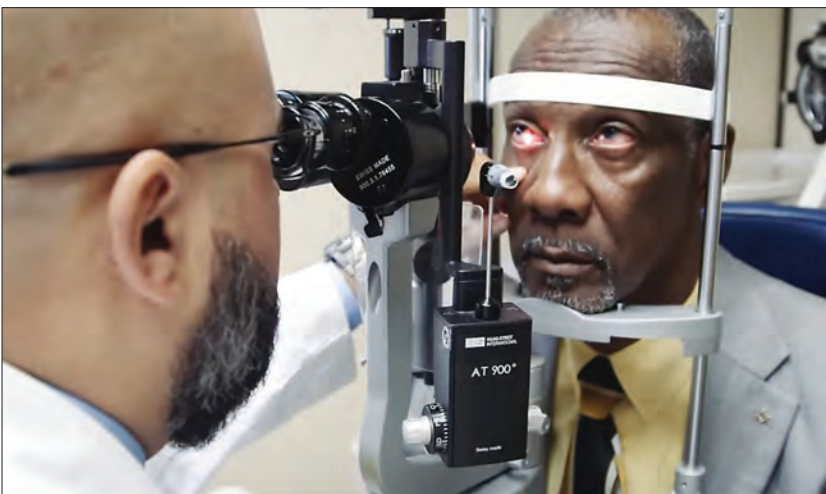
Vision...for Life.

So he went to work at DMEI and developed a new minimally invasive glaucoma surgery called ab-interno canaloplasty, known as ABiC for short, which opens up the natural outflow channels of the eye to restore normal aqueous flow, without damaging tissue or leaving behind a stent or shunt.

"Based on the same principles as angioplasty, ABiC uses microcatheter technology to enlarge the eye's natural drainage system, improving outflow and lowering eye pressure," Khaimi said. "This procedure provides glaucoma surgeons with a new treatment option between topical medications and traditional glaucoma surgery and its attendant risks, allowing doctors to treat patients at an earlier stage of the disease and saving more of their sight."

Khaimi performed the first ABiC in early 2015. Since then, he has treated several hundred patients using this procedure and has shared his innovation with surgeons around the world. In March, Khaimi performed a live ABiC surgery broadcast from DMEI's ambulatory surgery center to more than 150 surgeons worldwide.

DMEI projects Khaimi will perform 400-500 ABiC surgeries in 2017, reaching revenues of \$1 million to \$1.25 million. This does not include ABiC surgeries performed by other DMEI surgeons.





Digital Six Laboratories LLC

WHISKER.IO PLATFORM UPGRADE

As more companies are using the Internet of Things to help save their businesses time and money, one Oklahoma City-based company continues to cash in on the growing technological concept.

In 2015, Digital Six Laboratories LLC developed a platform called Whisker.IO that provided a long-range, long-battery life method of connecting devices (or things) to the cloud. Since then, the company has revamped that platform, essentially releasing a new product but continuing with the Whisker.IO name.

The new platform added some important features and capabilities, including a completely redesigned web portal, Whisker.Agent and application-specific Whisker.Blocks, said founder and CEO Steve Montgomery.

The redesigned web portal provides customers with the tools they need to install and maintain their devices in the field, monitor their status in real time, and perform historical analysis on data Digital Six Laboratories collects from its customers' devices, Montgomery said.

The Whisker.Agent is a smart agent that runs in the cloud and monitors data from devices 24/7, looking for trends and problems that need attention.

"It can run the data through analytical prediction engines to, for example, predict failure of equipment in advance," Montgomery said. "When a problem is identified or predicted, the agent can send out notifications via phone, text,

or email; the agent can also interface with other applications in the cloud to push data and notifications, allowing our solution to integrate with third-party apps."

The company also has developed battery-powered, wireless sensor devices, called Whisker.Blocks, that are designed for specific applications. For example, its new AC.Block can monitor an air conditioning unit for energy consumption, theft, and proper operation using a variety of sensors.

"With this latest release, Whisker.IO is a complete IoT solution platform for building management applications," Montgomery said. "For example, a convenience store would use 20-30 of our sensors to monitor their walk-in coolers, A/C units, refrigeration plants, water filters, pumps, and tanks. The data from these devices would be collected as often as every five minutes and is used to predict equipment failure, indicate when consumables need to be re-ordered, and lower energy cost, allowing the company to operate its stores more efficiently, improve its overall customer experience, and reduce product loss.

"Our technology helps campuses, stadiums, hotels, and retail stores (to name a few) manage their facilities better by connecting their equipment, assets, and devices to the cloud and collecting real-time data that they can use to manage their businesses better," he said.



Whisker.io



D6 Labs
Engineered IoT Solutions



UNIVERSAL BOOK LINKS

One of the greatest challenges for authors is discoverability – getting readers to discover the author’s books. Part of that challenge is managing numerous weblinks to an ever-increasing multitude of e-book retailers. As links become out of date or disappear altogether, it can become a marketing and logistical nightmare for authors.

Draft2Digital, with its release of Universal Book Links in August 2016, now makes it much easier for authors by simplifying an avalanche of retailer links down from hundreds to just one.

Oklahoma City-based Draft2Digital provides digital formatting, conversion and distribution services for self-published authors and small presses. The company makes it easy for an author to convert a manuscript into an e-book that can be read on consumer devices, including smartphones and e-reader tablets, and then list it for sale on all of the major bookstores through a streamlined, easy-to-use website.

“UBLs represent a first of its kind – a free resource for independent authors that allows them to market and promote their work with a single link,” said Draft2Digital CEO Kris Austin.

These Universal Book Links, or UBLs for short, allow authors, book reviewers, bloggers, podcasters, and anyone else to give readers a single link that will connect them to everywhere a book is sold online. The links allow the author to track how many times they’ve been clicked and which retailers were visited. Authors can also associate affiliate codes from various vendors, allowing them to make additional income when a book sells.

“The key benefit is that authors can use just one link to sell their book from every retailer online, and they never have to worry about it going ‘stale’ or expiring,” Austin said. “The link can be updated with new storefronts by clicking a single button. And all of this makes the link evergreen, as easy to use in printed materials as in digital materials.”

Austin said competitors for Universal Book Links might be link shortening services, such as Bit.ly and Google URL shortener, but neither has the ability to automatically provide authors with a link to all storefronts for their book, in one place.

“Draft2Digital has always had a policy of building tools that benefit indie authors, while never charging the authors directly,” Austin said. “All of D2D’s tools can be used by any author or publisher, for free, regardless of whether they use the service for distribution of their books.”



DRAFT DIGITAL



OIL AND GAS FIELD SERVICE SOFTWARE

After discovering the challenges faced by field service companies, Heath Clinton, Shane Kempton and Mark Towler saw a need for an integrated platform to manage people and assets as well as warehouse and job operations in the oil and gas industry.

The three played strategic roles in the leadership and launch of Drakewell and its development of directional drilling software for oil and gas field service companies to manage their people, assets and drilling activities on one easy-to-use software platform.

Drakewell was developed by Phase 2, which has been on the leading edge of custom business software development and solutions for more than 20 years and served as an incubator for Drakewell. Andy Morris, chief software architect, and Jeremy

Kuhlman, director of implementation, have been working on this platform for the past eight years and play a large role in guiding the direction of the development. Alison Grogan, vice president of business development, has expanded Drakewell's presence from

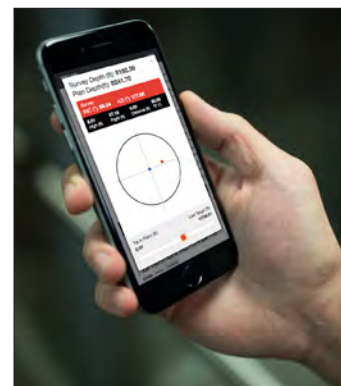
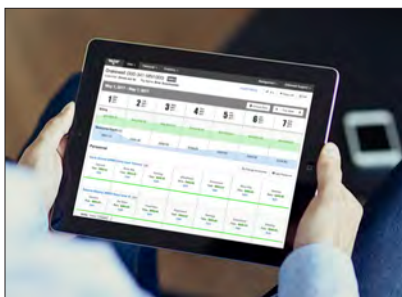
Oklahoma to Texas and across the nation.

From asset and inventory management to job usage and field tickets, Drakewell is designed to be the complete package for directional drilling, rental tool and measurement while drilling, or MWD, companies.

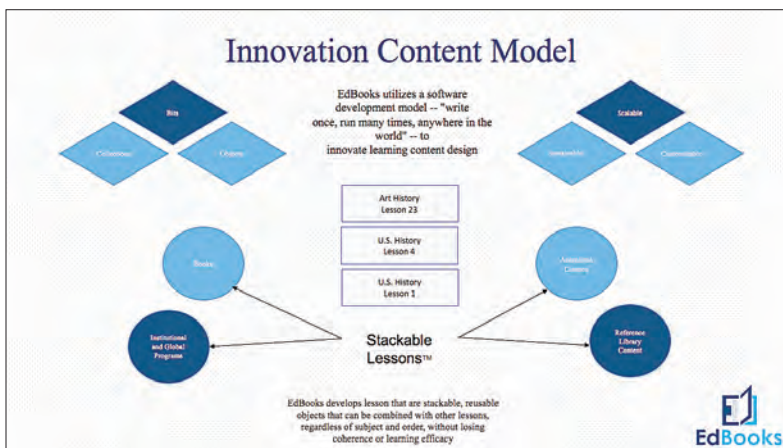
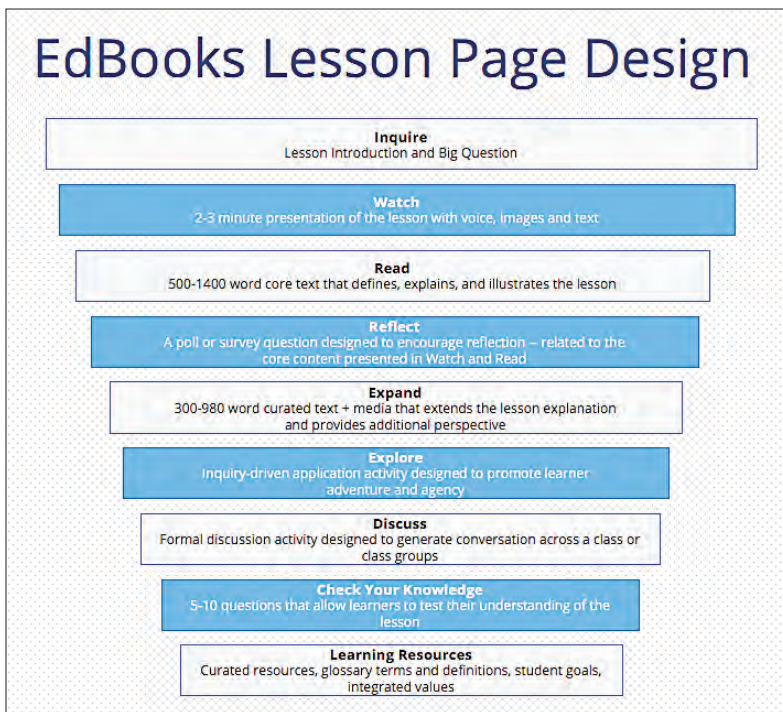
"By combining a willingness to get our boots dirty with world-class software engineers, we crafted a platform that is beloved by field personnel for its ease of use as much as it is by management for its business insight," said Kempton, chief technology officer at Drakewell.

"With Drakewell, the oil and gas industry can leverage the best information technology available to gather massive amounts of clean data for analytics and to prevent knowledge loss as an effect of a generation reaching retirement," said Danielle Williams, marketing strategist at Drakewell. "This kind of technology makes it possible to embark on oil-field artificial intelligence and help make decisions based on actual operational data rather than one person's experience alone. Ultimately, Drakewell allows oil and gas field service companies to gather their data and use that information to make million-dollar decisions on the rig and in the office."

Drakewell has software engineers in the field with people actively drilling wells to watch what they do and figure out the best way to improve those people's lives and the way they work. During the recent industry downturn, Drakewell was investing in its platform by adding new features, enhancing the user experience, and listening to the needs of the industry.



EdBooks Lesson Page Design



STACKABLE LESSONS CONTENT DESIGN

Imagine a world in which any student on earth can have access to two years of a university education for less than \$2,000. That’s the dream of EdBooks founder and Managing Director Vance Fried, who has 30 years of experience as a professor of entrepreneurship and free enterprise at Oklahoma State University.

EdBooks is a next-generation publishing company committed to providing affordable access to education for students worldwide. At the heart of EdBooks’ innovation is its Stackable Lessons content design. All EdBooks products are built using independent learning blocks called lesson pages. These lesson pages are developed as stackable, self-contained, reusable objects that can be combined with other lessons, regardless of subject and order, without losing learning efficacy.

With this approach, EdBooks can create content rapidly through a distributed authoring model without sacrificing quality. It also allows the company to create learning solutions that can be customized easily for instructors, institutions or countries at low or no cost. Traditional publishing models focus on product silos connected to specific subjects, grades and authors. The content cannot be re-sequenced without sacrificing learning integrity, and the products cannot be customized inexpensively.

By contrast, EdBooks’ lesson pages are designed as standalone learning environments that can be reused at any point across the curriculum, meaning the company’s products can be re-sequenced and bundled into any collection type without any associated cost. “This means that EdBooks can deliver turnkey, high-quality textbook replacements in the high school and higher education markets for \$19, compared to products from other publishers that range in price from \$75 to \$125,” said Eddie Peck, business development coordinator at Moore Norman Technology Center. “This means that a student can take 30 hours of university credit a year for less than \$1,000.”

Since November 2016, the company has been under the leadership of CEO Rob Reynolds, who is well-established in the education technology industry and has held executive-level positions in publishing companies such as McGraw-Hill, Cengage, and MBS Direct. The company plans to launch a full catalog of general education products in the 2017-2018 academic calendar year, with 13 new products available for fall 2017.



Thanks to a new company, downtown Oklahoma City residents can have their favorite cup of coffee delivered to their door or desk in just 30 minutes with a delivery fee of just 50 cents per cup.

Espress, created by Gideon Elliott, Garrett McCurrach and John Conner in May, aims to reduce the cost of coffee delivery for customers ordering from their desktop or mobile device. As compared to other food delivery services that charge \$3 to \$4 per cup on top of the price of coffee, Espress has introduced what is believed to be the only coffee-only delivery service in the state.

"My friends and I talked a lot about opening our business," said Elliott. "We all love coffee. We wanted to find an affordable way to do a startup and find a niche. We discovered no one delivered first-party coffee."

Espress, located a block east on NW Eighth Street from Broadway Avenue, will be a coffee shop that delivers to the downtown area. The company is also putting in a full-service kitchen and hopes to also deliver homemade cinnamon rolls as well.

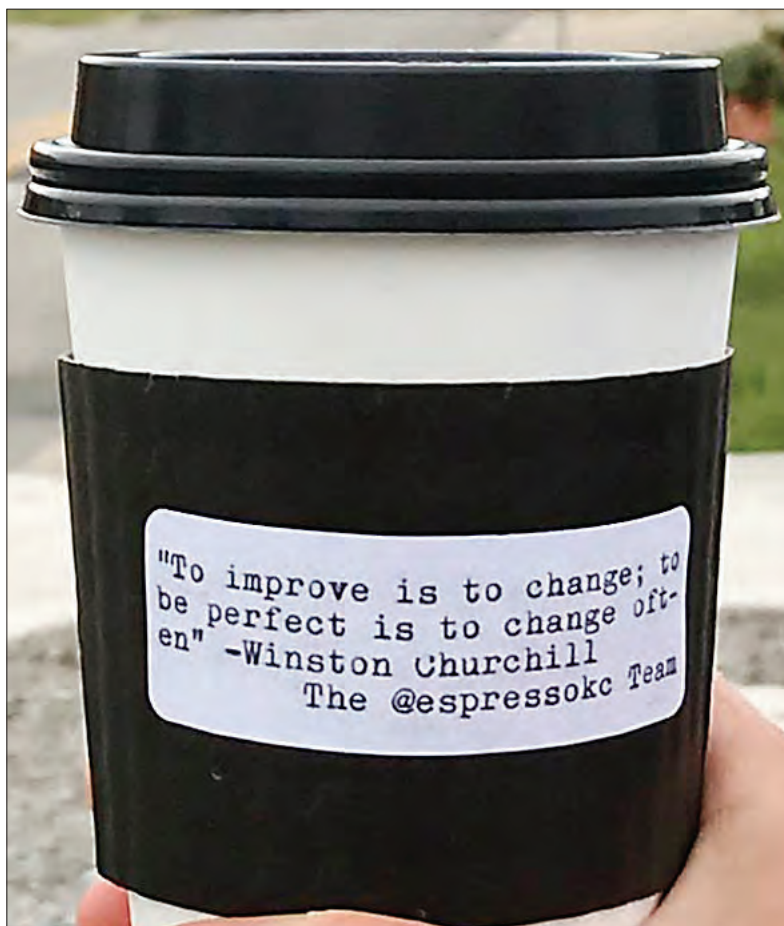


"Our business model fits perfectly to downtown OKC, allowing customers to enjoy amazing coffee without the hassle of traveling to a coffee shop in the busy metropolitan" Elliott said.

From production to delivery, Espress is able to control not only the quality, but also the efficiency. Espress currently operates with the three owners and two employees.

"John has repeatedly shown leadership by doing the small things to make Espress happen," said McCurrach. "This kind of business doesn't exist because of the large amount of infrastructure needed to make it work. John has worked to negotiate deals that allowed for the infrastructure to be built out at a fraction of the cost in order to bring this service to Oklahoma."

Espress will deliver its own coffee brands and creations and expects the coffee shop to open in August 2017.



In the global technology market, collaborating and exploring data is key to new innovations, but swimming through the mind-boggling amount of data can be daunting.

Thanks to an Oklahoma City-based software company, software developers, data scientists and researchers can explore and collaborate with data at a lower sunk cost, which is a cost that has already been incurred and cannot be recovered.

Exaptive, created by CEO Dave King, makes it easier and faster to experiment and discover insights from data. Today, Exaptive is being used by geneticists at major pharmaceutical companies to develop new cancer treatments. The company also is helping a major non-governmental organization use big data in a global effort to address childhood malnutrition. In addition, a consortium studying post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury in veterans is using Exaptive to help researchers across the country collaborate with their data.

"Market forces drive technology predominately into specific business verticals and technology silos," King said. "Creative solutions are hard to find, support and fund. With the proliferation of data technologies that solve specific problems, there's a gap in the market for a platform that facilitates experimentation and new ideas. That's where Exaptive comes in."

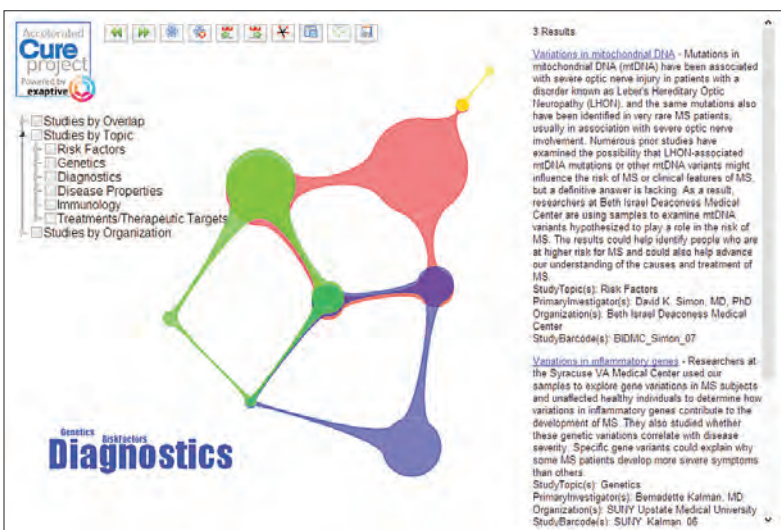
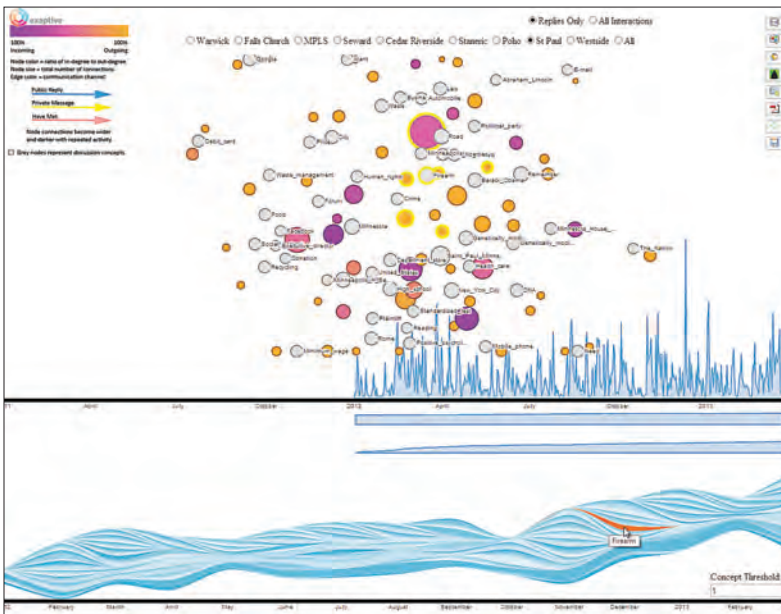
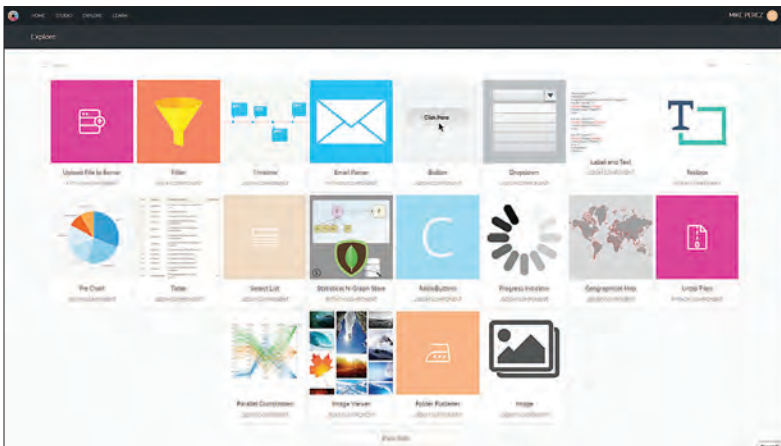
Exaptive gets data products deployed faster, and partial-stack developers and enterprise teams use Exaptive Studio to rapidly build prototypes and finished applications.

Exaptive was founded in 2011 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, but relocated its headquarters to Oklahoma City in 2014. The company used its platform internally in a consulting capacity for a few years before making it publicly available in early 2017.

In 2016, the team grew from 13 to 20 full-time employees and achieved profitability. Exaptive projects total revenue to double again in 2017 over the previous year's numbers.

Exaptive has been also recognized by market analysts and trade associations for the potential of its innovation. Exaptive was listed as a Gartner Cool Vendor in 2015 in Life Sciences. In 2016, it was on the Bloor Group's top 10 technologies to watch. The Oklahoma Venture Forum named Exaptive the Most Promising New Business in 2016.

"Exaptive consistently finds new ways to connect data and people. The company's focus on creativity among people and new ideas from user interactions parlay into the company's support of Oklahoma City, its entrepreneurial community and its data scientist community," said i2E's Claire Robison. "Exaptive is not only creating an exciting new product, they are also building a creative, vibrant community where they live and online."





Fast Inc. Network

For years, Oklahomans Kim England and Lisha Crytzer ran a successful multimillion-dollar health care recruitment firm assisting hospitals with hiring strategies. However, after a while their company's growth stalled and stagnated.

It stood at the verge of bankruptcy. Years of passion and hard work balanced on the line of giving up and throwing in the towel.

After a final leap of faith and attending an inspiring business conference, England and Crytzer realized what they'd missed all along, which was access to experts. They also realized their experience and frustration wasn't unique.

Through their new creation, Fast Inc. Network, the two multiplied their business revenue tenfold in just two years. Fast Inc. Network grew from this experience and is built for entrepreneurs who feel alone and who seek involved colleagues and collaborative events, not boring Friday business luncheons where no one belongs, Crytzer said.

Fast Inc. Network is an opportunity for other small business owners to have the same growth. Their two-year journey built

the Business Accelerator Experience, a signature moment for entrepreneurs that combines exclusive access with industry experts and ignited inspiration.

Fast Inc. Network provides access to experts and resources for those

who do not know where to turn or whom to trust, but who want an emerging entrepreneur network. Fast Inc. Network curates experts in marketing, sales, finance and branding so that other entrepreneurs can have access to what they need to fuel growth and reach goals.

The Fast Inc. Network is built on three programs. The Fast Inc. Network Business Accelerator delivers direct access to renowned influencers in world-class venues. Customers choose from three-hour workshops that match their business needs and learn from the masters. They also engage in a small group environment to share strategies.

The Fast Inc. Network Founder's Circle allows entrepreneurs to join other entrepreneurs and leverage their experience for their own business through an interactive community, an informal board of advisers and in-depth master classes.

The Fast Inc. Network Entrepreneurial Escape is designed to connect clients with "their best self in a place to change the conversation for your business." Fast Inc. Network Entrepreneurial Escapes are an interactive personal-development environment designed around smaller groups outside of a typical business setting.

"This is the event we needed when our business was struggling," said England. "Like most entrepreneurs, when you can't find what you're looking for, you just build it! The Fast Inc. Network Business Accelerator is built with your business in mind."



Francis Tuttle Technology Center



WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

Encouraging women to choose technology careers is a challenge that educational and industry leaders and tech developers continue to struggle with. Gender imbalance in tech seems to be more systemic in Western nations, as countries like China and India have higher proportions of female engineers than many Western countries.

To many, it's a question of expectations and opportunity. For Francis Tuttle Technology Center, the answer may also lie with mentorship, as well.

With a renewed emphasis on encouraging young females to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering or mathematics and help fulfill workforce demand, Francis Tuttle launched a new initiative that focuses on attracting women and girls into high-tech fields.

Francis Tuttle's Women in Technology initiative began with support of industry partners and a broad network of professional women in the technology sector. Unique activities included such things as a Summer STEM camp for female middle school students, as well as a private screening of the movie *Hidden Figures*, immediately followed by a panel discussion of female professionals employed in STEM careers, both of which were funded by industry partners.

"The increasingly diminishing workforce to serve the STEM fields has earned significant attention across the country, along with the small percentage of females in related industries," said Jeff Knapp, Francis Tuttle spokesman.

"Francis Tuttle's renewed emphasis is intended to encourage females to pursue these careers and to remove barriers to entry for young women wishing to enter the technology sector."

The Women in Technology Initiative was developed to encourage female students to pursue employment and/or degree programs in nontraditional career areas and to provide them with access to industry professionals as mentors to support and advise them as they progress through training and prepare for their respective futures.

Launched in 2015, Francis Tuttle's Women in Technology initiative offers many activities throughout the school year at Francis Tuttle campuses. Several Francis Tuttle employees were involved in development of the initiative, dating back many years, including instructors, staff and administrators, as well as industry professionals who have served as mentors.

"Surveys have rated the initiative, to date, high or very high, with many positive comments," said Knapp.





MACHINE LEARNING PLATFORM

As an engineering major at Oklahoma Christian University, Garrett McCurrach said friends frequently asked for help understanding their classes' grading systems.

"People would ask 'What do I need to do to get this grade I want?'" McCurrach said. "But knowing what grade you need to get doesn't change how you study, it's just giving you a baseline for how stressed out you should be. It's a psychological issue causing this warped view of grades."

McCurrach wanted to give students a tool to not just understand class grading systems but also connect them with actual resources to help them boost their grades. He knew the tool had to be an app.

After graduating from Oklahoma Christian last year, McCurrach launched GradeScale, which is still currently in beta testing. In the interest of protecting his intellectual property, he was cautious about sharing details on how his software works. But McCurrach said he is confident GradeScale can be successful, and he pointed to a study done at Georgia Tech using similar ideas to his own, which was able to improve the university's retention rate by 50 percent.

Others involved in the development include Drew Bellcock and Stacey Brandhorst.

McCurrach emphasized that GradeScale is different from current data-gathering programs at universities.

"The education software industry has long ignored the fact that students want to do good in school," McCurrach said. "No one wants to procrastinate and not study, but that's the perception they have, so they end up just selling to the university with no connection to the student. Their idea is we have to corral the students and trick them into doing better. We (at GradeScale) are the first to be on the student's side. We want the student to say 'I'm taking ownership of these grades,' and utilize every opportunity to get better grades."

GradeScale gives students a good handle on their grades in every class directly from their phones, McCurrach said. If they are struggling in a particular class, GradeScale shows an ad-like promotion of a tutoring session or available resource to help them boost their grade.

McCurrach hopes to get grade-related dropouts down to 2 or 3 percent within five to 10 years of GradeScale being implemented at a university.

"We want to take the veil off of the grading systems so the student knows exactly where he's at, and show him the path to a good grade in a statistical way," McCurrach said.





For the oil and gas industry in Oklahoma, 2015 was a brutal year. LevelOps, an Oklahoma City-based startup that primarily does electrical and engineering work for energy companies, was facing serious trouble when the company's revenue dropped by one-third that year. Regular customers such as Chesapeake Energy and Devon Energy stopped drilling, and LevelOps' employees found themselves out of work.

LevelOps' leadership wasn't about to let its employees become casualties of the tough times in the energy industry, so they evaluated their employees' skills and put together an innovative plan to get their people work, even if it wasn't for oil companies.

The LevelOps crew is made up mostly of licensed electricians and data technicians, so they decided to go after electric contracts and data work outside the energy industry. Despite stiff competition, LevelOps was able to land projects with big names like Walmart and Johnson Controls.

Because of LevelOps' unrelenting efforts to keep the company afloat and keep people employed, LevelOps was able to make it through 2016 reducing only two net employees.

LevelOps had already won an International Business Innovation Association Incubator Client of the Year Award in 2015, and the quick and incredibly successful pivot that LevelOps pulled off in 2016 earned the company much respect of colleagues.



Fred Green, director of Launch Pad FT, a business incubator program at Francis Tuttle's Business Innovation Center in Edmond, has been watching their handling of LevelOps for a couple of years and has been nothing but impressed.

"How many companies can lose one-third of their revenue, maintain full employment and survive?" Green said. "Are there other oil and gas service providers who would be in a better financial position today if they had been this innovative?"

Although LevelOps' revenue for 2016 was down as compared to previous years, the company is anticipating a big revenue rebound in 2017. With the new money coming in from LevelOps' other projects outside the energy industry, the company hopes 2017 revenues will slightly exceed revenue from 2015.

Green said it's LevelOps' majority owner, Sid Helms', determination to make an employee-focused company that has helped him innovate solutions in the toughest conditions.

"He always put his employees first and found ways to reward performance," Green said. "His goal has always been to create a workplace that employees embraced and an environment where every employee wanted to come to work."



LIFESQUIRE FRANCHISING

When Valerie Riley had been a personal assistant for eight years and still thoroughly loved her job, she knew she had truly found her calling in life.

She wanted to share and expand her love for serving others, so in 2009 she opened her own personal assistant business. In 2015 she renamed it LifeSquire, and it became the first personal assistant franchise company in the United States.

LifeSquire is headquartered in Oklahoma City, but since Riley started the franchising phase, additional branches have opened in Edmond and Tulsa, and even beyond Oklahoma's borders in Dallas and Sarasota, Florida.

LifeSquire Director of Operations Katherine Gibbons said no real competition exists for their business model right now because the group works hard to find a particular type of employee, one who is thoroughly dedicated to making clients' lives free of stress and complication.

"We are passionate about giving people more time to do the things they love," Gibbons said. "Our people love taking care of people."



Only enthusiastic caregivers need apply, Gibbons said, and applicants will go through a background check, personality tests, and at least two interviews before they will get the opportunity for an intense training program at LifeSquire and finally be matched with a client. The thorough hiring process helps LifeSquire ensure consistent quality across its franchises, Gibbons said.

In another expansion, Gibbons said LifeSquire dove into the digital world with the soft launch this summer of its own app, developed in-house this year to create a product exactly crafted to the needs of LifeSquire clients and employees.

"Our app will be comprehensive," Gibbons said. "We waited to develop the technology until we were sure exactly what a service business would need in an app."

Gibbons said the app could be used with any service-based industry, and once it fully launches, LifeSquire may possibly white-label the program in order to provide other companies access to the app.

Looking to the future, Gibbons said she and the team at LifeSquire headquarters would love to one day see franchises in every major city in the United States.

"But more than looking for cities to expand to, we're looking for the right franchisee fit," Gibbons said, "People who can take the employee culture and the level of service we're providing in Oklahoma City and bring it to their city."





HEALTHY COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE-NE OKC

The Oklahoma City-based Lynn Health Science Institute has made a name for itself with medical research and clinical trials since 1997, but now its nonprofit branch, the Lynn Institute for Healthcare Research, is making waves by taking on major, long-standing health challenges.

Karen Waddell, president and CEO of the Lynn Institute's nonprofit branch, said community leaders have been trying to determine how to fix pockets of poor health in their cities for many years.

"An Oklahoma County Health Department study indicated that children born in one particular ZIP code have an 18-year shorter life expectancy," Waddell said.

Northeast Oklahoma City suffers from the most prolific health disparities in the city, so it was the first area to get the attention of Waddell's nonprofit task force. Lynn leadership studied the area during a three-year project that resulted in the publication of the Lynn Lifestyle Summary-NE OKC.

In February 2016, a group of approximately 30 community leaders gathered to form the Healthy Community Collaborative-NE OKC, all dedicated to solving the health problems of northeast Oklahoma City.



Waddell said the collaborative identified four specific areas of need including health, economy, transportation, community, and environment and developed teams to create sustainable goals and objectives to be achieved over the next 10 years. For example, one of the biggest obstacles to good health is transportation, she said.

"Indigent clinics report as many as 30 percent of appointments are no-shows," Waddell said. "We can't improve health if people don't have transportation."

One idea in the works is to give northeast Oklahoma City church leaders ride-share promotional codes or bus passes that they can hand out to those in need of transportation. "Pastors are so knowledgeable about the people in their communities," Waddell said, "However, they have to keep up-to-date with the programs, so we are helping them find existing resources."

Waddell has high hopes for change across all aspects of northeast Oklahoma City, including new businesses with new jobs for the residents, and new grocery stores so residents have access to fresh food, vastly improving the blighted areas of the community and creating an environment that promotes healthier lifestyles.

Even with such ambitious goals, Waddell said she is not looking for quick fixes, but rather steady, sustainable change with the residents themselves taking ownership of their community.

"It's not going to be just one thing that changes an area, it takes addressing an entire compilation of issues to make Oklahoma City healthy and thriving," Waddell said.





Martin Bionics

SOCKET-SOFT PROSTHETIC FITTING SOFTWARE

Martin Bionics founder Jay Martin has created a paradigm shift in how limb prosthetics are fit, making long-lasting comfortable prosthetics now accessible around the world. Conventional prosthetic sockets are sculpted in shape and made of hard plastics and carbon fiber, still resulting in a rigid uncomfortable socket for the user.

"The human body is dynamic, yet conventional sockets are static and rigid," said Martin Bionics founder Jay Martin.

Many amputees' lives are limited due to uncomfortable prosthetic sockets.

More than 30 million amputees live in developing nations and do not have access to prosthetics. The necessary equipment to fabricate conventional prosthetics and trained practitioners are scarce in many parts of the world.

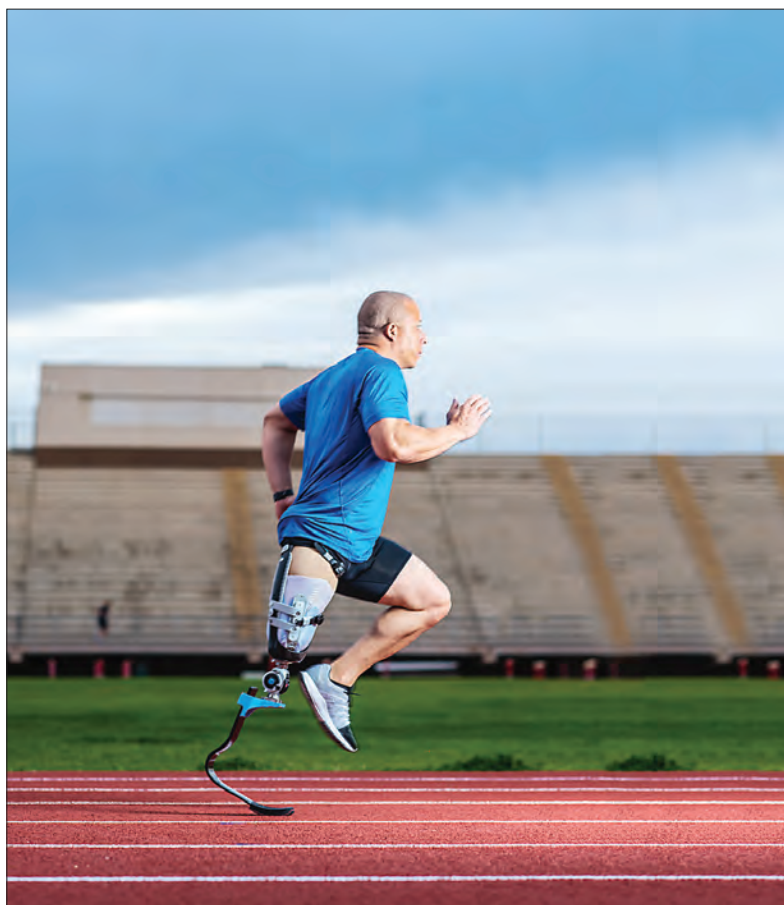
In 2012, Martin was invited by NASA to create a new connection method between exoskeletal robotics and astronauts for the space program, which led to the discovery of counterintuitive new methods for connecting prosthetics to amputees. Using a lightweight fabric design versus the rigid plastics used to make traditional "bucket-style" sockets allows the Martin Bionics new Socket-less Socket prosthetic technology to more comfortably conform to the body, fitting like an athletic sandal versus a wooden shoe.

Martin Bionics' latest innovation, Socket-Soft fitting software, converts simple limb measurements to a defined socket fit through a sophisticated algorithm-based web app – socket-soft.com. The ingeniously modular Socket-less Socket can be assembled and fit using only simple hand tools and results in an ultra-comfortable socket within about an hour.

The Martin Bionics Socket-less Socket technology redefines how prosthetics are fit for amputees in both developed and developing nations, and uniquely makes a long-lasting socket reachable for those without access to comfortable prosthetics. Thousands of amputees around the world are already able to walk with more comfort than ever before using the Martin Bionics Socket-less Socket technology.

"This is the most comfortable socket I've ever worn. I can now do things I couldn't do before. Putting on the Socket-less Socket is like wearing a pair of sneakers," said David Banks, transfemoral amputee and Socket-less Socket user.

"SocketSoft was an audacious undertaking, which is why a platform of this kind had not been attempted," said Joel Shultz, design engineer and research prosthetist with Martin Bionics. "The fact that Jay invested the time and resources to make it happen is a testament to his commitment to serve the amputee community above all else."



MartinBionics

MOBILE APPLICATION DESIGNED TO HELP USERS REMEMBER FACES

It was a lot of personal experience that motivated Will Edwards to invent a solution for that awkward social moment everyone has had at some point in their life – forgetting another person's name.

"I was in a college fraternity, and there were 200 guys we needed to know," Edwards said. "And we couldn't remember each other's names so we were just calling each other 'man, guy, buddy,' anything other than their first name. I just thought there has got to be a better way!"

It was 2011 and Edwards was a freshman at the University of Arkansas. He knew cellphones were already a ubiquitous part of every college student's life, so he put the info on their phones and turned it into a game, creating flashcards for each member and quizzes to help them remember facts about each other.

"It became an addictive tool and I had every sorority house on campus using it within a couple weeks," Edwards said.

He applied for a patent on the idea, and in 2015, only five weeks into law school, his attorney told him his patent was approved. Edwards walked out of law school and never returned.

"Both my parents are attorneys, but when I told my mom I left law school she hugged me and said 'Thank goodness!'" Edwards said, laughing. "I had always talked about having my own company."

Edwards and his partner, Evan Tipton, immediately got to work, named the app MetKnow, and began attending numerous competitions, winning awards and raising seed money.

In 2016, MetKnow won the Tulsa Startup Technology award and G60 Startup Pitch. This year the company won the SCORE Foundation's American Small Business Championship as well as the Midwest Digital Marketing Conference Startup Competition.

Edwards has big plans for the future, including hooking up with big names like Facebook, LinkedIn and other social media companies. Getting a jump on that goal, MetKnow recently got on board with Slack, a widely used group messaging app.

"We really see ourselves as a human resources group," Edwards said. "We think we are a great supplement to other companies, like Facebook. We want to be something special to help grow Oklahoma and Tulsa. We want to make programmers stay, and we want to make people want to move here. We have a bright future and we really believe in the Silicon Prairie."





The Ninety10 Foundation

When Drew Bellcock built an operational airplane for his senior engineering project in college, he was not as excited as most students.

"That airplane just got put on a shelf, and it never helped anyone," Bellcock said. "The whole reason I wanted to be an engineer is to help people. I spent hundreds of hours building this, and I would have loved for it to have made a difference."

But that experience gave Bellcock an idea for helping developing nations. The dream was big, and there were some big obstacles, but Bellcock's determination proved bigger.

"My friend and I stayed up late one night and worked until we figured out a way to do it," Bellcock said.

In 2016, his idea became reality in The Ninety10 Foundation, which he calls an information hub, connecting nonprofits in developing countries with engineering students in universities, who then connect with tech companies for resources and support.

Ninety10, a nonprofit itself with only three volunteer staff members, got its name from the fact that 90 percent of the world's newest technology affects only 10 percent of the world's wealthiest population.

This year, their main project was with Ohio Valley University in West Virginia, which designed a low-cost, solar-powered fish farm system for the

African Transformation Network in Rwanda. Growing things in Rwanda's desert climate is tricky, Bellcock said, as is finding the materials to build and maintain technology.

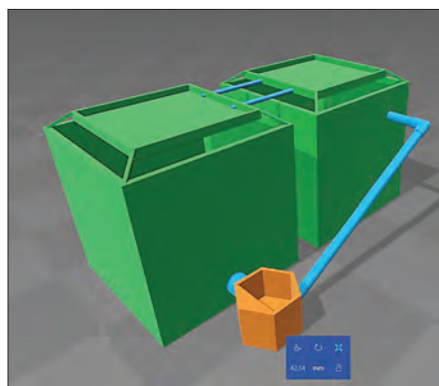
One side of the pond will grow plants for the community, and the other side will grow fish, which will feed off the roots of the plants, making the entire system self-sustaining.

"The students have to think about implementation from the start and use only things they could find in Rwanda, which makes it more challenging," Bellcock said.

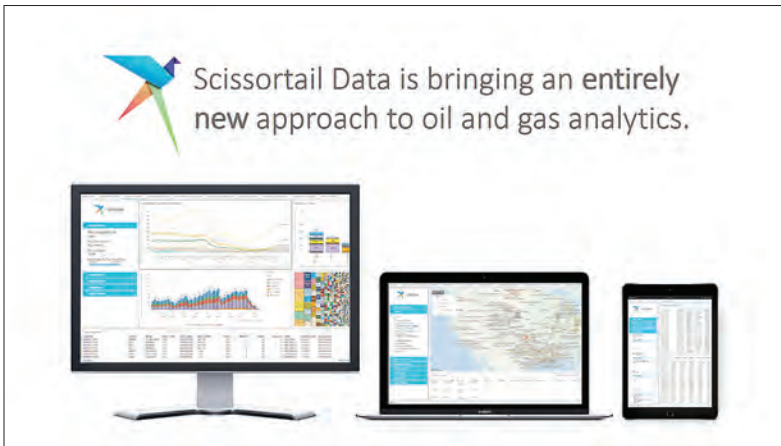
The Ohio Valley students far exceeded expectations with their design, Bellcock said, which is now being built into a prototype that he plans to deliver to Rwanda before the end of the year.

Bellcock already has plans for a wind turbine project next year with Oklahoma Christian University, his alma mater, as well as expanding Ninety10 to include medical technology. He has already begun working on an app that could transform cellphones into microscopes for identifying diseases.

"I love helping others," Bellcock said. "We match these student design teams with projects they're interested in and instead of just an academic exercise, they get to do real meaningful work."



Scissortail Data LLC



UPSTREAM PACKAGE

After working years in the energy industry and sifting through large amounts of data, Matthew Jensen and Zack Todd decided it was time to develop something better in terms of data services.

"The idea came about as the result of our experience as previous end users of these data services while working for one of the largest oil and gas service companies in the world. We identified several gaps in existing products and began to formulate ways to improve the user experience.

Jensen and Todd launched their own business, Scissortail Data LLC, in June 2016 and released the company's first advanced energy analytics product to the U.S. oil and gas industry in April 2017.

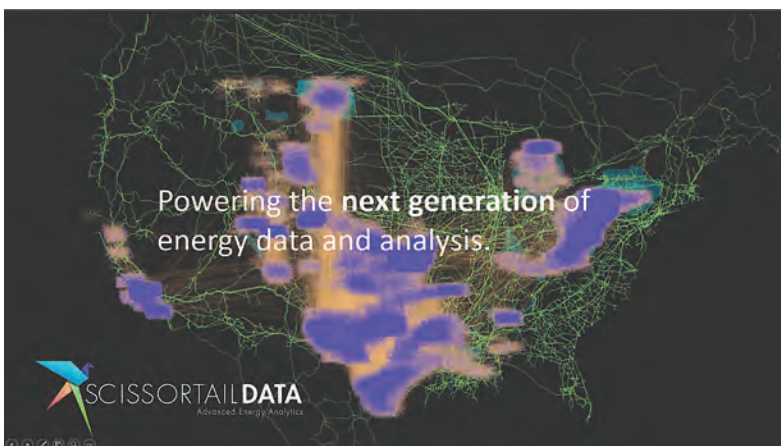
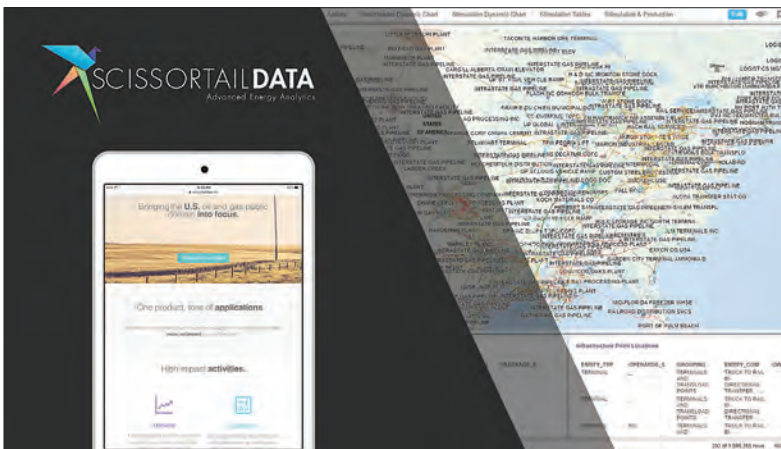
"Scissortail Data enables oil and gas companies to make more informed decisions by providing access to data and documentation from millions of wells across the United States and Gulf of Mexico," said Jensen, president and CEO of the Oklahoma City-based company. "Our product consolidates many of the industry's existing offerings into one user-friendly platform, allowing our customers to save time, reduce costs, and focus on analysis activities that will increase their performance."

Jensen said the combination of the company's data science expertise and its oil and gas background is a significant advantage, giving Scissortail Data the ability to fill a unique gap in the market.

"We can truly partner with our customers through our understanding of the challenges they face in the industry and our ability to creatively respond with better, more relevant technical solutions," said Jensen.

"Our offering is generating interest from both small and Fortune 500 oil and gas companies, including requests for enterprise-level contract submissions," said Todd, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Scissortail Data. "In almost every instance, we are asked by our customer audience how we amassed so much information in less than one year."

"Zack and Matt saw a big opportunity to reinvent the wheel for oil and gas data processing and production," said Claire Robison, venture adviser with i2E. "They are a pretty incredible team: both have a keen grasp of how data gets created and how people make decisions using that data. Matt is a gifted analyst and programmer. Zack is an unstoppable connector of people and closer of sales. We are thrilled to see Scissortail Data revolutionize the way oil and gas data sets are created and used in the market."



YukBGone

Jody Harris was only 23 years old, but she knew she wouldn't be a victim anymore, so she took her three kids and fled an abusive relationship. Two decades later, she has had a lengthy career as a commercial loan officer for the federal government, designed and marketed problem-solving products, written a book and somehow found time for speaking engagements all over the country.

"I call myself a problem-solver," Harris said. "I'm always looking for opportunities to solve problems."

Her most recent solution is a toilet-seat cleaner called YukBGone, and less than two years after Harris first conceived the idea, the product is available on Walmart.com and Amazon.com, as well as independent retailers all over the nation.

"I travel a lot and the airport and public restrooms always bothered me," Harris said. "And I thought there has to be something better."

So after returning from a long business trip in 2015, she set to work inventing a solution and found the perfect combination of just three

ingredients, which not only sanitizes toilet seats, but is also safe enough to use as a hand sanitizer. As a bonus, YukBGone smells great, Harris said, and covers up any of the unpleasant odors of public restrooms.

At first Harris gave YukBGone to friends only, but after getting overwhelmingly positive feedback she began marketing to the public, and last year was able to get YukBGone certified by the UL Wercs system and two independent laboratories as a safe, nontoxic and effective product.

"If my 3-year-old granddaughter happened to drink it she would only get an upset stomach," Harris said. "If I was going to take a product to market, I didn't want someone to get sick over it."

In 2016, YukBGone won both a silver Stevie Award from Women in Business for best new product of the year and a Rule Breaker Award from Nextiva.

As far as what's next for the ambitious entrepreneur, she believes the sky is the limit.

"I'm building an empire, and like Warren Buffet says, you have to diversify," Harris said. "I see YukBGone as my star child, but there's probably something else out there and I like to keep an open mind. Everything is just a platform to share my story and help others. I plan to retire (as a loan officer) in June of 2018, but I will never quit working. I am passionate about problem-solving, and I love inventing."





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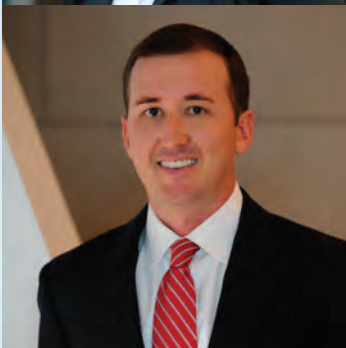
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