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GEOLOGY EXPERT TO VISIT, GIVE LECTURE ON ENERGY

04/11/2019 by [Luke Barrett](#) — [Leave a Comment](#)

A renowned geologist will speak this month on campus about energy and economics.

Dr. Scott Tinker, state geologist of Texas and director of the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin, will visit campus Monday to deliver a lecture.

The lecture will be from 1:30-3 p.m. in Kerr-McGee Auditorium in the Meinders School of Business. The event is free and open to everyone, but RSVPs are encouraged. To register, go to okcu.edu/tinker.

"I'm going to talk a little bit about energy and its impact on the world; economic impact, how it impacts positively our efforts to lift people from poverty, and some of the environmental impacts, and some of the things that are being done and can be done better," Tinker said.

Megan Hornbeek Allen, director of alumni engagement, said the lecture is a great opportunity for people to hear Tinker speak about sustainable energy transitions. Tinker previously worked with Steve Agee, dean of the Meinders School of Business, Allen said.

Tinker said he worked in the oil and gas industry for 17 years and has worked at the University of Texas for 20 years. He has traveled extensively and explored the topics of energy, economy and environment in various locations, he said.

Tinker also founded Switch Energy Alliance, a nonprofit that works toward an energy-educated future that is

objective, nonpartisan and sensible, according to the organization's website.

The organization is born out of the award-winning documentary *Tinker* created with documentary filmmaker Harry Lynch, entitled [Switch](#), about how energy transitions will likely occur in years to come. The movie is available online, and Tinker is creating a sequel titled *Switch On* to be released in September, he said.

Tinker said his talks have a global focus, and he emphasizes the connection between energy, the economy and the environment. He said he concentrates on the environment and economy equally, focusing on data instead of a particular framework.

"They're all important, you know, very important to have a healthy environment. The environment is broad, it's not just the atmosphere. That's part of it, but local air emissions, and land use, and water, those are all things we all depend on. We all benefit in this country from a really healthy economy, but that's not the case in many parts of the world," Tinker said.

Tinker said his goal is to encourage people to examine available information more deeply before forming opinions, no matter their political perspective.

"It's really important to look at the data and the information that's available and not come to conclusions without seeking and looking and investigating a little bit into multiple sources of information," he said.

Sarah Kelly, coordinator for special events and alumni management, said she wants a wide array of people to attend, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other members of the Oklahoma City community.

Kelly said the talk will include a Q&A portion, which presents an opportunity for community members across the generational gap to be involved in the conversation.

Allen said the information in Tinker's lecture will be important for everyone to hear.

"This is a topic that kind of transcends interests, and I think that the knowledge that he has to share is really pertinent for our future community, again, locally and globally," Allen said.

Sammi Bronow, economics senior, said she was unfamiliar with the upcoming talk but would attend a lecture on the topics.

"I think it would be very interesting, and obviously, living in the state of Oklahoma, it's something that affects

everybody's lives, whether they realize it or not," she said. "We are one of the biggest producers of oil and natural gas in the United States, just given the natural resources that the state has to offer, so, naturally, it's a big part of the economy."



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Officials conduct 'sexual respect' survey

Emily Wollenberg
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

University officials are assessing sexual assault responses and prevention on campus.

"Students often think we're not as good as the campus community April 1 with a link to a sexual respect survey and information about it," said Taylor Denny, OCUC's associate editor.

"April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and OCUC is conducting an anonymous survey of our students to assess their experiences," she said.

"The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete, according to the results. Students who complete the survey may enter themselves in a drawing for a \$100 OCUC bookstore gift card."

Officials have distributed the survey annually since 2014, and Jay Condit, who presides for business executives and Title IX coordinators.

"It's a long-term effort to try to raise awareness of sexual assault," he said. "It's a community effort to try to eradicate these types of behaviors."

Officials want to ensure they are meeting students' needs for sexual assault resources, Condit said.

"We try to make the prevalence of sexual assault on our campus in an effort to ensure that we're providing appropriate prevention, programming and education," he said.

Condit said the survey was made to be sensitive to those who may have experienced sexual assault.

"We make sure to provide resources within the survey so that if people who are taking the survey need to contact with someone to make a report, they can do that," he said.

OCUC's survey was modeled off of a survey conducted by MIT, Condit said. The results will be compared to previous years to determine trends and help update programming and training, Condit said.

"We look at that every year to make sure it's still going to meet our needs," he said.

"Students should take the survey to share their perspective and experiences," Condit said.

"I hope it will make students aware of their own actions and make them a little more confident to stand up if they see something."

Taylor Denny, OCUC's associate editor and Title IX program coordinator, said the survey includes questions about an individual's personal experience with sexual assault or how an individual might react in a situation involving sexual assault. The questions also address how each gender would react to a situation and how sexual assault impacts sexual assault, she said.

"I hope it will make students aware of their own actions and make them a little more confident to stand up if they see something," she said.

Officials will be able to add more sexual assault awareness and prevention programming because there is a new campus and Title IX coordinators, Denny said.

"I'm looking forward to what's to come next year," she said.

Kristi Pendergast was kind to the new Title IX coordinators and filled in the Title IX coordinator position after Pendergast resigned in February. Pendergast said her new position includes investigating all cases presented under the new discrimination policy in addition to investigating Title IX cases.

"It is more inclusive than just looking at the Title IX investigation process," Pendergast said.

She said she wants students to feel safe at the university and take the non-discrimination policy seriously.

"I want students to know who I am and know that I am approachable," she said.

The OCUC community has a strong awareness of sexual assault but can always improve, Denny said.

"The fact that we still have Title IX cases means there's still work to be done and however good our community is now about making it a safe place, we can always do better," she said.

Students with questions about the survey may call Emily Wollenberg, director for institutional research, at the university at 860/439-0000.



Fiji fraternity disbands due to low membership

Emily Jones
AD DIRECTOR

The Gamma Delta chapter disbanded their OCUC chapter earlier this month at the encouragement of their leadership.

Fiji members have considered closing the chapter since December 2018. Delta Haden, member and Fiji advisor, said their leadership requested a chapter review and recommended they disband the chapter.

Fiji was established as a chapter at OCUC in 2010 and disbanded in 2015.

Haden said he was at the April meeting where members voted to disband the chapter. He said the brothers agreed it was the best decision for the chapter and its members.

"It's our job to give them the fraternity experience," Haden said. "We don't have the resources to provide that."

Carlin Sanchez, English advisor and Fiji president, agreed that the loss of the chapter affected members negatively.

"Our graduate advisor suggested that we give it until Spring Break, see if we could recruit more guys, and if we didn't, we would have another meeting to discuss it more actively," he said.

Fiji gained over new members this year through fall and spring recruitment.

Fiji had 10 members at the end of the fall semester, compared to Lambda Chi Alpha with 33 members and Kappa Sigma with 45. Haden said Fiji served as a "sister fraternity" on campus.

"They could just come and visit themselves. They have that from day one," he said.

When the members received the first suggestion from leadership to review the chapter, their faculty advisor encouraged them to wait a semester to decide.

Sanchez said despite losing their chapter, the brothers will not lose contact with each other.

"We're all brothers, and even if we're not, we're still friends. We're still going to hang out."

The members planned to have one last game night at the end of the semester, but there were too many conflicts with other events, Sanchez said.

Despite Fiji's inability to gain enough new members to sustain their chapter, Lambda Chi Alpha, Haden said, was in the production of the film. The production had performances April 12 and 13 at 8 p.m.

Audience in attendance from 100 to 150.

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