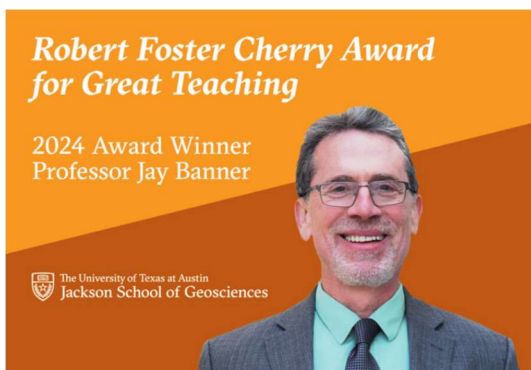




UT Energy Bulletin | February 2024

## Energy@UT News



### Geosciences Professor Honored With Top Teaching Award

[Jay Banner](#), a professor at UT's [Jackson School of Geosciences](#), has been awarded the prestigious Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching. This accolade, one of the highest honors for teaching in the country, recognizes extraordinary educators who have a lasting impact on students. With a record of distinguished scholarship and a passion for making geosciences relatable and accessible, Banner's teaching exemplifies his commitment to fostering understanding and excitement about the world we inhabit. [Learn more](#).

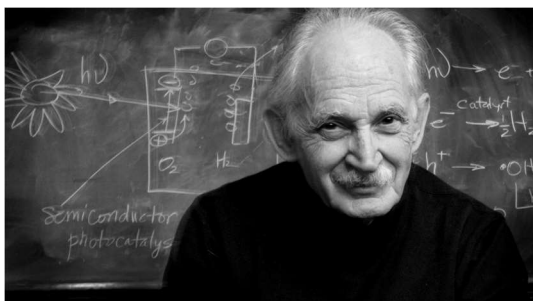
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## Professor, Alumna Elected to National Academy of Engineering

[Noel T. Clemens](#), a professor in the [Department of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics](#) at UT, has been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Engineering (NAE) for 2024. His groundbreaking work in laser-based measurements used to understand and control high-speed reactive and nonreactive flows have earned him this honor. Christine E. Schmidt, a UT alumna and former faculty member, has also been elected to the NAE, being recognized for her contributions in biomaterials and tissue engineering, particularly in neural regeneration and improved wound healing. [Learn more.](#)

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## Electrochemistry Pioneer and Texas Science Legend Allen Bard Dies

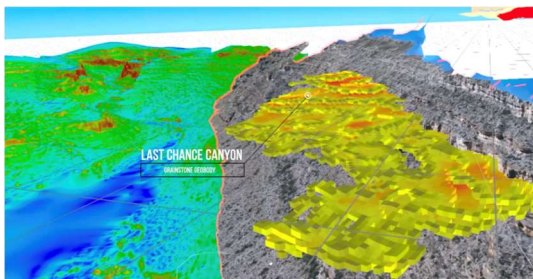
The electrochemistry community is remembering the life and work of scientific legend, Professor Allen Bard. Known across the world as the father of modern electrochemistry, Bard transformed the field of electrochemistry by developing the scanning electrochemical microscope, an analytical tool that enabled breakthroughs in chemistry and energy research. [Read more.](#)

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## MacDonald Announced as Winner of Inaugural Hill Prize in Physical Sciences

[Allan MacDonald](#), a professor and the Sid W. Richardson Foundation Regents Chair in Physics at The University of Texas at Austin, has been awarded the prestigious 2024 Hill Prize in Physical Sciences by the Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Technology. This accolade recognizes his groundbreaking research on a quantum supercapacitor, a novel energy storage device with the potential for a longer life and faster charging speeds. The prize aims to bridge the gap between research and innovation, providing \$500,000 in funding to each recipient. [Learn more.](#)



## Bureau Researchers Create Groundbreaking Virtual Reality Geoscience Experience

### [Bureau of Economic Geology](#)

researchers have crafted a groundbreaking virtual reality geoscience experience. The Reservoir Characterization Research Laboratory (RCRL) has previously used 3D digital outcrop models for research and education, but they've elevated the experience by creating immersive VR environments allowing virtual exploration of geological features. This innovative approach will ultimately enhance communication of geologic research

across disciplines and to non-specialists.  
[Learn more.](#)



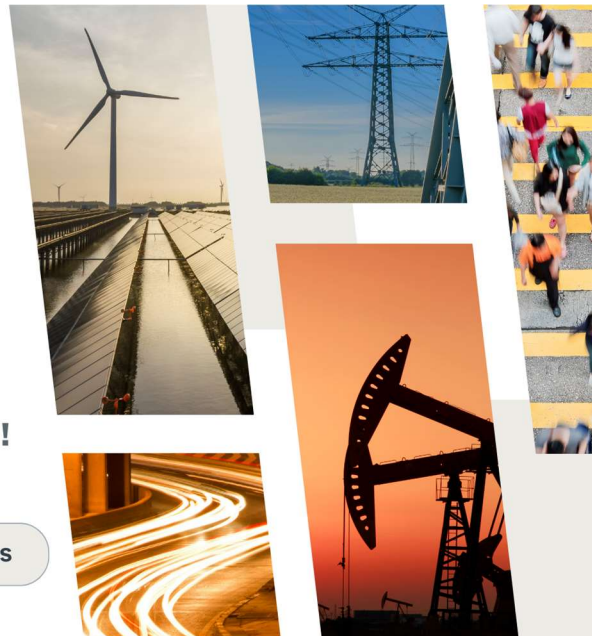
### Three UT Austin Researchers Receive Air Force Young Investigator Awards

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) has selected three UT scientists for awards via its Young Investigator Program. Assistant Professor [Edoardo Baldini](#) and Research Associate [Ou Labun](#), both of UT's Department of Physics, and Assistant Professor [Javad Mohammadi](#) of UT's Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering were among 48 investigators to receive the awards. [Learn more.](#)

# UT ENERGY WEEK 2024

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

March 25–29, 2024 | UT Austin Campus



[More Information](#)

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## News from Around Campus

Energy Institute



[Carey King](#) was quoted in a [Vox](#) article discussing the fragility of the Texas power grid and its recent trends in energy supply and demand.

[Dave Tuttle](#) was quoted in a [KVUE](#) article regarding the push to connect Texas' power grid with the rest of the nation.

#### **Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering**

[Michael Webber](#) spoke with [NPR](#) on the effectiveness of ERCOT's voluntary conservation calls and with the [Austin Monitor](#) about the possibility of connecting Texas's power grid with the rest of the country. Dr. Webber's successful docuseries, "[Power Trip: The Story of Energy](#)," was also the subject of an article in [The Daily Texan](#).

#### **Hildebrand Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering**

[Arvind Ravikumar](#) was quoted by [The Washington Examiner](#) on how the Biden Administration's pause on approving new U.S. LNG export terminals could paradoxically increase total emissions globally by shifting demand to older infrastructure or dirtier fuels.

#### **Webber Energy Group**

[Joshua Rhodes](#) was mentioned in the [Houston Chronicle](#) and [KUT News](#) highlighting recent grid share numbers promising to the clean energy transition. Rhodes also co-authored a blog for [Columbia SIPA](#) on the potential impacts of the BIG WIRES Act.

#### **Hildebrand Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering | Webber Energy Group**

[Hugh Daigle](#) and [Joshua Rhodes](#) co-authored an opinion piece for [Austin American-Statesman](#) exploring how adapting power plant maintenance schedules should be optimized to meet Texas' future energy demands.

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## **Upcoming Events**

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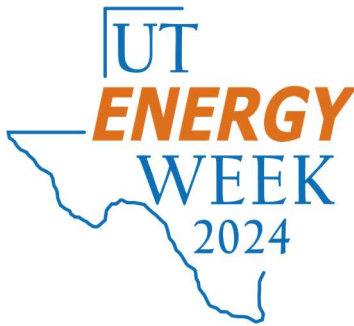


## Planet Texas 2050 Symposium: Resilience Research in Action

Tuesday, February 27 – Thursday, February 29, 2023

[More Information & Registration](#)

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## Continuing Education and Professional Development Opportunities at UT Energy Week 2024

UT Energy Week attendees have the opportunity to earn continuing education units (CEUs) for professional engineering (PE) licensing requirements, provided by [Texas Engineering Executive Education](#) at UT's Cockrell School of Engineering. You may indicate your interest in this option when you [register](#) for Energy Week.

In addition, [Texas Executive Education](#) will be offering free courses on [Creative Solutions to Complex Problems](#) and [Decision Quality](#) on Wednesday, March 27, and Thursday, March 28, respectively. [Register](#) for Energy Week to attend.

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## Continuing Education Course

### Energy Technology & Policy

May 6 – 7, 2024

Instructed by Dr. Michael E. Webber

[More Information](#)

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**Thanks to our corporate partners for their generous support of  
UT's Energy Institute.**

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