



Provenance Consulting

# Provenance Quarterly

July - September 2011

## Letter from the Partners

### Inside this issue:

Letter from the Partners	1
Newbies & Anniversaries	3
Summer Picnic	3
Family Updates	4
Company Training	4
Did you Know?	5
Community Involvement	5
Getting to Know Minh Bui	6

### Are We Really “A Big Deal”?

Recently Inc. Magazine published their annual listing of the 5,000 fastest growing privately held companies in the United States. While there are a few criteria that must be met to be considered for the list, the rankings are primarily based on revenue growth over a three-year period. Inc. magazine evaluated over 200,000 companies in 2011 and published the top 5,000 on their website (find the complete listing [here](#)). Provenance Consulting took the 558<sup>th</sup> spot on the overall list, and we were named the 5<sup>th</sup> fastest growing engineering firm.

While I personally feel it is treacherous to compare your personal life against others, it is nearly impossible to avoid comparisons in the business world. Regardless of whether these comparisons are healthy or not, comparisons are just simply part of running a business - clients and customers continually compare cost and service quality between providers, personnel compare pay and benefits between employers, different operating philosophies of companies are debated in boardrooms – just to name a few. While the Inc. 5000 achievement is significant, we cannot lose sight of Provenance’s true value – our ability to take care of our

families, our capacity to support our community, our willingness to participate in community events – again, just to name a few. So as long as we keep our eyes on the important and meaningful achievements, we should also celebrate other milestones that will inevitably come with our success.

To celebrate the Inc. 5000 milestone, Provenance made t-shirts stating “We are Kind of a Big Deal”. If you know anything about Provenance and our employees, you also know we don’t just work hard – we also know how to have a good time. When the idea to make these t-shirts was suggested it was a reference to the movie *Anchorman* with Will Ferrell (see the related clip from the move [here](#)). It is interesting that we do have many leather bound books and our office in the bank building, on occasion, does “smell of rich mahogany” (you need to watch the clip to understand). The t-shirts were partially tongue in cheek – to paraphrase one of the partners: “Do we really want to brag about coming in 558<sup>th</sup>?” As a corporation we are proud of many of the team’s accomplishments, but growth at a certain level, in and of itself, is not “A Big Deal”. The t-shirts were initially made to poke fun at the fact that simply having a specific revenue increase really is *not* a “Big Deal” from a business perspective – especially since client satisfaction, employee

fulfillment, profitability, or other critical business measurements are not part of the Inc. magazine equation. Thankfully, Provenance has been blessed not only with strong revenue increases but success in many of the other critical business measurements. So we should be proud of what we have accomplished from a business perspective; however, even these do not make us “A Big Deal”. What does make Provenance a “Big Deal” is our Christian faith, the families that support us, our employees’ work ethic, our phenomenal clients, and the amazing charitable contributions – both in time and money.

So, if you are so bold to wear one of our t-shirts – please remember two messages are intended. One is a light hearted reminder that revenue does not define our organization and the other is that many of our meaningful accomplishments do... kind of... in some ways... hopefully... indicate that “We are Kind of a Big Deal”.

*Patrick M. Bui*



## Letter from the Partners

### Five Year Anniversary

Provenance Consulting was formed in September of 2006 by three out-of-work consultants. At the time, Patrick and I lived at the Ice House where we “won” our first project as Provenance Consulting – remodeling the Ice House which would become our Corporate Office. Limited finances, zero clients, and random “ideas” of how to start a business was our reality, but we also had faith, close friendship, and ultimately common goals. Those common goals were essentially 1) provide for our families, 2) positively impact the communities where we live and work, 3) provide exceptional service to our clients, and 4) provide a work environment where employees enjoy coming to work every day and where they have the opportunity to excel in their careers. We spent the next few months remodeling the offices and formulating how Provenance Consulting would set out to achieve those broad goals. *To say we had a humble provenance as a company is quite the understatement.*

This past September, we all celebrated the 5 Year Anniversary of Provenance Consulting. Since the Ice House days, we have grown from three friends starting a business to approximately fifty employees and contractors working at many different offices and client sites. Due to the efforts of every person employed at Provenance Consulting, the company

has been blessed with the opportunity, and we feel the obligation to contribute over \$800K to various charities in the communities where we have the honor of working. Our employees include brothers and sisters, spouses, prior bosses, prior college interns and coops, and close friends.

Reflecting back on the early days at the Ice House, I can honestly say that I am amazed the three stooges are still blessed to be working together and for Provenance Consulting five years later. We often say that our employees are the greatest asset of the company and that remains true. Our company did not become what it is today because Curly, Moe, and Larry had a stroke of genius at the Ice House, but rather because the amazing individuals that we are honored to employ. Our employees are what has made Provenance Consulting the company that it is today, and they are also the primary ones deciding what the company will be tomorrow by their execution and client interactions today.

Thank you for the previous five years, and we look forward to what the future holds for all of us at Provenance Consulting.



### ARTS Update

ConocoPhillips has standardized on Provenance Consulting’s Asset & Records Traceability System (ARTS) for their refining organization. Multiple ConocoPhillips refineries have utilized ARTS in the past few years. The benefits led ConocoPhillips IT to select ARTS as a corporate endorsed strategy for Process Safety Information (PSI) management. The licensing agreement allows the software to be deployed at any ConocoPhillips refinery in the United States. With this agreement ARTS will continue to play a primary role in Provenance’s strategic planning in the coming year. If you are not familiar with ARTS, please sign up for an upcoming training class that will be offered in the coming months at the Provenance office.

# Newbies & Anniversaries

## Welcome aboard:

*Minh Bui*, PSM Consultant

*Chyi Chin Hew*, PSM Consultant

*Danielle Hutchinson*, Data Technician  
(Alliance)

*Derek Manasco*, Mechanical Field  
Technician

*Ashlee Morgan*, Data Technician  
(Sweeny)

*Seth Shields*, Mechanical Field  
Technician

## Thank You For Your Commitment & Dedication:

*Gary Grammer*, 31 July

4 Years of Service

*Jamie Breedlove*, 7 August

4 Years of Service

*Alan Gertonson*, 20 August

1 Year of Service

# Summer Picnic

This September marked the 5-year anniversary for Provenance Consulting so we wanted to celebrate in a huge way! Talon Point in Channing, Texas seemed to have everything we were looking for to have this blowout Summer Celebration! From bounce houses and water slides to delicious barbecue and, of course, the annual washer tournament, we could not have asked for a better evening with friends and family.

With luck, we had a break from the Texas heat as Provenance employees brought out their families for a great day of fellowship. With three bounce houses to choose from, kids stayed busy

while the adults tried their hand in the washer tournament. To top it off, the fun-filled day ended with a late night poker game.

Thank you to everyone who came out and made the event such a success!

August 13, 2011  
Summer Celebration  
Talon Point



# Family Updates

## It's a Girl!

Welcome beautiful Eliza Lynn Shedd!

Morgan and Cassie welcomed their little girl to the world on Wednesday, October 5th at 8:07am.

Miss Eliza weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 20 inches long. Congratulations Shedd Family!



**Congratulations on your engagement,**

**Lauren & Dane!**

Lauren and Dane met at the company Christmas party in 2009, and began dating after HOPE 2010. It seemed only fitting that Dane popped the question a year later after this year's HOPE!

## Company Training Opportunities

While companies continue to improve their PSM programs, they are constantly looking for ways to take PSM beyond the minimum requirements of the OSHA regulation. Provenance prides itself on being at the forefront of the “next generation” of PSM initiatives and wants to ensure our employees are aware of these new developments. To ensure our employees are up-to-date on industry developments, Provenance will begin offering training classes next quarter. The training programs will be a great avenue to ensure that all employees have the opportunity to expand their knowledge of PSM and our industry as a whole. The classes will cover a wide range of topics including general refinery operation, PSM specific topics, project management, and new/developing best practices in our industry.

As our company continues to grow and reach multiple sites, it will become more important than ever to have a setting for employees to share their knowledge and experience with others within the company. It is our hope that these classes will build a network that facilitates the exchange of information across all locations. In addition to the classes, we plan to house a library of information on the company portal for easy access on all topics that have been discussed. New employees will also have access to previous training documentation to help shorten their learning curve.

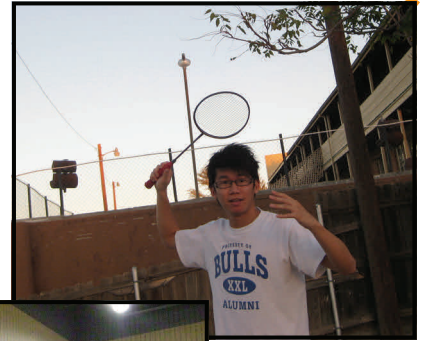
All employees are welcome to attend these trainings! Email invites will be sent once the first date is set.

## Did you Know?

Did you know that one of our newest employees, Chyi Chin Hew, is an avid badminton player?

His passion for the sport began in his high school years. Chyi Chin was president of the Badminton Club at the University of New York at Buffalo. While in school, he played in the university's badminton competition making it all the way through the semi-finals for men's doubles!

If you haven't introduced yourself yet, make sure to stop by and say hello!



## Community

It is hard to believe that summer has already come and gone! Thankful for the cooling temperatures, Friday night lights, and the changing of seasons, we reflect on the past few months here in our community. From United Way to American Cancer Society, Provenance Consulting is proud to have helped make a difference in the community this summer.

This past July we celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Nutterville fundraiser benefiting Hutchinson County Cares, also known as H2C. H2C was created by the vision of several people to serve the needs of children and families in Hutchinson County that are facing a crisis

situation, when other resources may not be available to them. Nutterville brought everyone together through live music and a BBQ cook-off while raising money for this worthy cause!

By the time September rolled around we were ready to roll up our sleeves with United Way's Day of Caring. This year United Way had over 65 requests throughout Hutchinson County! Requests to repair and winterize homes, along with other odd jobs, came in over the summer months from the elderly and disabled. Companies and individuals pulled together for a weekend to successfully complete the entire request list.

We finished up the summer with HOPE, Hutchinson County Oil Patch Extravaganza! This American Cancer Society gala helps raise funds for cancer research and services that benefit those in the Texas Panhandle. Held at the Crutch Ranch, this event includes a silent auction, live auction, raffle drawing along with live music by Aaron Watson and great food! After 24 years going strong, it is still great to see how this event pulls the community together while benefitting this national organization.



September 17, 2011  
United Way's  
Day of Caring



Provenance Consulting

## Upcoming Events

Company Benefits Meeting  
Friday, December 2nd, 7:00am

Christmas Party  
Friday, December 16th

Our goal is to make a Provenance Quarterly newsletter that includes all of YOU. If you have any special events, pictures or suggestions that you wish to include in our next quarterly newsletter, please contact Jenny Brancheau.

## Pop Quiz!

Be the first employee to correctly answer all three questions below and win a \$10 Sonic gift card.

- Who is this Provenance employee?



- What is the name of the oil field in southeast Texas that is credited for the turning point of the Texas Oil Boom in 1901?
- Which Provenance employee has the honor of being with the company the longest?

Call Jenny to submit your answers!

## Getting to Know Minh Bui

Many of you already know Minh from the two co-ops she did with Provenance last fall and this past summer. She recently graduated from the University of Texas with her Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and we are thrilled that she came on as a full-time employee this September.

We thought it would be fun to ask some questions to get inside the mind of Minh Bui. Here is what we found out:

Hometown: Fort Worth, TX

Mountains or the Beach? I prefer the beach

Favorite Season, why? Fall.

- Nature: trees turning great colors and the falling leaves
- Weather: The temperature out
- A season for love and romance, I think.

What cartoon character best describes you?  
Casper

If your life had a theme song, what would it be?  
Better in Time by Leona Lewis

What is your life motto?  
Everybody has problems. Everybody has bad times. Do we sacrifice all the good times because of them?

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?  
Here is what I want to see myself 10 years down the road:

- might obtain Master degree
- continue to keep flexible; continue to learn, to experience and to follow my career path
- get married
- own a house
- travel to Paris, Korea, and Japan

What cd is playing in your car right now?  
Taylor Swift

What is your favorite thing about Provenance?  
A very friendly work-environment.

What is the best/worst piece of advice your supervisor has given you?

Best and Worst advice at the same time:  
"Jeans with no holes please!" - Jon

