

Courtney Stephens

CEO

QED Energy Associates

Centenary College of Louisiana

BS Mathematics



After college, I wasn't quite sure what to do with my mathematics degree. I had chosen mathematics as a major because I love problem solving and always found the subject challenging. Without a clue of how mathematics can be applied in the energy industry, I sent my resume off to a few recruiters in Houston and got several immediate responses. It turns out that math degrees are sought out in the energy industry for the role of Reservoir Engineering Technician. It's a fancy title for "modeler and data analyst," which my professors would have referred to as "Operations Research."

I started my career as a Reservoir Engineering Technician at an engineering consultancy. I worked as part of a multidisciplinary team that modeled future oil and gas reserves, production, and profit. The team included geologists, geophysicists, reservoir engineers, and reservoir engineering technicians. It was my job to analyze the historical cost, price, and production data to determine input parameters for the models. I was also responsible for running the model, performing sensitivity analysis in conjunction with the reservoir engineer, and checking the model for errors and accuracy.

I then moved to an investment bank specializing in oil and gas transactions. Investment banks are sort of like the realtors of the oil and gas industry, helping companies to buy and sell oil and gas properties. In addition to modeling reserves and economics, it was my responsibility to locate synergies within the industry. For example, if Company ABC has one thousand gas wells in Texas and one oil well in

California and Company XYZ has one thousand oil wells in California and one gas well in Texas, doesn't it makes sense to coordinate a trade? Worldwide, there are thousands of databases that one can mine and manipulate to find potential value.

When I was ready to slow down, I moved to an oil and gas company. Oil and gas companies are known for having great work/life balance. While at this company, I worked on the budget planning team, the exploration team, the production and operations team, and the business development team. It was exciting and thrilling to see how large teams of scientists work together to safely and carefully produce the energy America needs.

After having my son, I reflected for many months on the great opportunities the oil and gas industry had afforded me. Over the years my phone rang time and time again with recruiters throwing out larger and more outrageous salaries. I had the thought, "Could I make copies of myself?" Could I engage new mathematicians to come and learn under my guidance and set them up for a career in oil and gas? It took a lot of soul-searching, but in April 2010 I started my own firm for just this purpose, QED Energy Associates.

At QED Energy Associates, my team makes best-in-class Reservoir Engineering Technicians and places them at top-notch industry jobs. Recent math-minded graduates train with us for six weeks to learn the ins and outs of the oil and gas industry, then we are paid by our clients to gain access to our super candidates. I was named Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 2012 by the Houston West Chamber of Commerce. I am proud to have made it through the commodity price downturn of 2014-15 without having to lay off a single employee. I have helped over two hundred recent grads get started in the oil and gas industry. If you are interested in following a corporate path, please reach out to us for more information. We would love to have the opportunity to speak with you.

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Chief Technology Officer and Founder, VivaQuant	
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Staff Engineer, Booz Allen Hamilton	
Joshua R. Davis <i>PhD Mathematics</i>	47
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Chandra Erdman <i>PhD Statistics</i>	61
Senior Solutions Consultant, Google, Inc.	

Kathie Flood <i>MA Journalism and Mass Communications</i>	69
CEO, Cascade Game Foundry SPC	
Harold Hausman <i>BA Mathematics</i>	85
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Kelly Hobson <i>BA Mathematics</i>	89
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Maribeth Johnson <i>BA Mathematics and Neuroscience</i>	99
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David Keyes <i>PhD Mathematics</i>	109
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Computer Vision Specialist, Ocuvera, LLC	
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Research and Development Computer Scientist, Sandia National Laboratories	

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Associate Director, NERA Economic Consulting	
Paige Bartholomew <i>BS Mathematics</i>	9
Consultant, Bain & Company	
Chandra Erdman <i>PhD Statistics</i>	61
Senior Solutions Consultant, Google, Inc.	
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Boost Consultant, Epic Systems Corporation	
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President and CEO, Delta Decisions of DC, LLC	
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Associate Professor, Columbia University; Chief Data Scientist, The NY Times	

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Finance Specialist, Multnomah County, Oregon	
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Senior Analyst, Quantitative Economics and Statistics Group, Ernst & Young	
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Associate Professor, Columbia University; Chief Data Scientist, The NY Times	
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Scientist, Space and Naval Warfare System Center Atlantic, US Navy	

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Inventory Analyst, The Vermont Country Store	

Sports

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Simulation Engineer, Chip Ganassi Racing	

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Senior Analyst, Quantitative Economics and Statistics Group, Ernst & Young	
Liz Uribe <i>MS Biostatistics</i>	235
Biostatistician, University of Iowa	

Writing and the Arts

Dana Mackenzie <i>PhD Mathematics</i>	117
Freelance Writer	
Alex McAdams <i>PhD Applied Mathematics</i>	121
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Elizabeth Morgan <i>MFA Theater Management</i>	141
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Founder and Chief Investment Officer, Bares Capital Management, Inc.	
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Consultant, Bain & Company	
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Mathematics Teacher, The Park School of Baltimore	
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Research Mathematician, US Army Corps of Engineers	
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Founder, Nutty Steph's; Land Steward, Onion River Campground	
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Owner and Senior Software Engineer, TechAscent	
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Software Tester, Internet of Things Solution, SAS Institute	
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Finance Specialist, Multnomah County, Oregon	
Stacy Beaudoin <i>MST Mathematics</i>	13
Math Teacher, St. Paul's School	
Ebonii Bell <i>MA Computational and Applied Mathematics</i>	15
Senior Supply Chain Analyst, Abbott	
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Software Developer, Epic Systems Corporation	
Kate Brady <i>MA Urban and Environmental Planning</i>	25
Senior Bicycle Planner, City of Colorado Springs	
Sarah Brown <i>MA Mathematics</i>	29
Senior Scientist, NATO Communications and Information Agency	
Lisa Byrne <i>MS Mathematics and Statistics</i>	31
Data Scientist, WeddingWire	
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Director of Strategy, Fixed Income Analytics, FactSet	
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Teacher, Co-Founder of NYC Math Lab, NYC Department of Education	
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Research and Development Manager, Sandia National Laboratories	
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Math Teacher, Clinton Hill Middle School	
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CEO, Director of Trading and Asset Management, Sion Capital, LLC	

PhD, MD, or JD

Xiaoling (Ling Ling) Lim Ang <i>PhD Economics</i>	3
Associate Director, NERA Economic Consulting	
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Assistant Professor, Smith College; Statistical Analyst, NY Mets	
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Statistician (retired), RAND, AT&T, and Google, Inc.	
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Research Scientist, Schlumberger	
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Director, Data Science Research, Recursion Pharmaceuticals	
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Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, Louisiana Tech University	
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Vice President of Data Science, TruMedia Networks	
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