From the Director

As we close a very productive and exciting 2019 for the Payne Institute, I would like to thank all of our supporters and partners.

During a tumultuous year in the energy and natural resources sectors, we established Payne as a go-to source for rigorous analysis and balanced discussion.

The multiple contours of the energy transition continue to provide rich fodder for our work.

We wish you a very Happy Holidays and a lovely New Year!

Morgan Bazilian
Director, Payne Institute and Professor of Public Policy

The Geopolitics of the Energy Transition

Payne Faculty Fellow in Action

Mining Plastic: Harvesting Stored Energy in a Re-Use Revolution

Payne Faculty Fellow [C. Michael McGuirk](#) writes about the future reuse of plastic. To spur action, the perception of discarded plastics must change from burdensome waste to a physical store of non-renewable resources. Major investment in developing catalysts, processes, and infrastructure for energetically efficient chemical recycling is critical. It is time for governments to commit to “mining” plastics. [Link to complete article](#).
Excellence to lead efforts to increase alumni engagement at the Colorado School of Mines. Battalora is the fourth Mines faculty member to receive a Fryrear Chair since the position was endowed by Mines alumnus Ben Fryrear ’62 in 2017 to recognize and support highly accomplished faculty members driving institutional change. Link to complete article.

Veterans Energy Project Launched

The Payne Institute is proud to partner with the Atlantic Council Global Energy Center in a new initiative to incubate a new generation of veterans to lead the advanced energy economy. This innovative initiative will recruit, equip, and empower a new generation of veterans, servicemembers, and military spouses to serve as leaders of the advanced energy economy and contribute to long-term US national security and economic competitiveness. Link to complete article.

New Coalition in Gulf May Not Fare as Well as Old
Payne Institute Strategy and Operations Manager Greg Lough joins with Morgan Bazilian on the difficulties in launching Operation Sentinel, a security initiative for protecting the Strait of Hormuz. [Link to complete article].

Payne Scholars

The Payne Institute offers a Payne Scholars program for Spring 2020 at Colorado School of Mines. The Payne Scholars program gives students the opportunity to perform research, collaborate across campus and engage with a broad network of international experts on global policy challenges. Students apply to the Payne Scholars program in the fall semester. As part of a one-credit independent study course, Payne Scholars participate in The Payne Institute activities, write a paper for The Payne Institute Commentary series and develop a research proposal on a related policy topic during the spring semester. At the end of the semester, selected students are eligible for a PAID Payne Scholars summer internship. Working with experts, interns will elaborate on their chosen policy paper, and draft a detailed article for publication in a relevant research journal. [Link to Payne Scholars Program].
New Oil Finds Could Mean a Tripling of Guyana’s GDP

Payne Institute Fellow Paasha Mahdavi co-authors a paper on Guyana's GDP. This year, ExxonMobil announced its 11th and 12th oil finds in the small South American country of Guyana. The estimates of recoverable crude in the country now stand at roughly 5 billion barrels. On a per capita basis, this would put Guyana among the top 10 oil producers in the world. Whether the people of Guyana see much benefit from the windfall could have much to say about the fate of the oil industry, which is facing an uncertain future during an ongoing energy transition. Link to complete article.

Observation Group presents at AGU 2019

Payne Institute Earth Observation Group's Mikhail Zhizhin presents on two topics at AGU 2019 (American Geophysical Union) in San Francisco, CA. The two topics were Reading Gas Flare Histories with VIIRS Nightfire Temporal Profiles: Preliminary Results and Fishery Management from Space: Matching VIIRS Boat
Upcoming Payne Institute Events

- Payne Faculty Fellow Nicole Smith presents Mining in Peru at the CO School of Mines. January 2020.
- Payne Fellow Trisha Curtis, President and Co-Founder of Petronerds, presents New Insights on the Global Oil Market in Marquez Hall, Room 310, CO School of Mines. January 30, 2020.
- Morgan Bazilian will present on the Energy Transition during the UT Energy Week 2020, in Austin, TX. February 17-21, 2020.

For Media Inquiries

For media or interview inquiries for any of the Payne Institute leadership, please contact Greg Clough at (303)384-2218 or gclough@mines.edu.