

#1 Sooner Graduate Pleased with Progress

What a change! I went to the University in 1899 and I remember vividly what strenuous efforts President Boyd had to put forth to persuade an unwilling legislature to give the pitance necessary to maintain the fledgling university in one building on a prairie campus.

How the university has grown! How the public has changed! The legislature favorable and the alumni so generous in these wonderful gifts, and yet the growth of the institute is faster than its income. But, how delighted I am to see the generosity of the alumni and friends in this great movement. My wishes for the greatest success!

May I add an idea? That the funds themselves be a contributor to their increase and perpetuation. When I was in Brazil the Dukes took over Trinity College and made it into Duke University. When they had raised the greater parts of the vast sums needed for that transformation they ceased contributing from their own funds and began taking twenty percent of the income of the funds being accumulated and added it to the capital. In a very short time they had realized their goal. I conceived the idea of the ten percent permanent deduction in several funds that I had to deal with in Brazil with very satisfactory results.

I would suggest that you try this experiment with funds of this campaign at OU. By way of parenthesis, I have from a niece of Buck Duke and her husband, who were my colleagues

in Brazil, that not one single dollar of tobacco money went into the Duke Enterprise. The Dukes made their first windfall in tobacco and then the great windfall from the hydro electric enterprise of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

My best wishes.

Rev. Charles A. Long, '05BS
Tulsa, OK

Editor's Note: At age 100, Rev. Long is the University of Oklahoma's oldest living graduate. His reflections on the pre-statehood University were featured in the first issue of the new Sooner Magazine, Spring, 1981. A missionary in Brazil from 1911 to 1952, he has been living at the Methodist Manor Home in Tulsa since 1974, still maintaining an active and lively interest in his alma mater.

Praise from RBG

Dear Carol Jean:

Congratulations on bringing *The Sooner Magazine* back to life better than ever. When the magazine disappeared it left a blank page in the telling of the ever-changing story of the University. Your experience and expertise made it all happen in just the right way at just the right time. The University must be able to relate and communicate with its many publics if it is to thrive, and for more than fifty years *The Sooner Magazine* was one of the best ways of doing this.

There is a great story to tell today about the changes taking place. The library, more than doubled in size, is made even more exciting by the prospects of endowing the special collections as private support continues to grow. The concept of the Energy Center brings hope for new sources of energy and new techniques for exploration and development of the hydrocarbons.

The Health Sciences Center is becoming a national leader because of the attraction of such men as Dr. Fletcher Taylor, Dr. William Weglicki, Dr. Robert Good, and others of equal stature in oncology, radiology, basic sciences, cancer, heart and arthritis research, all backed by new facilities and endowments to help meet operational expenses.

The Governor and the Legislature

are encouraging the University to take full advantage of these opportunities. This all adds up to signs of maturity for Oklahoma, bright prospects for its future.

I am just glad to be around to have the thrill of seeing all these dreams come true.

I hope you make all your deadlines.

Boyd Gunning, '36BA, '36Law
Norman, OK

Editor's Note: Wherever representatives of the University of Oklahoma travel, alumni most often inquire about R. Boyd Gunning of all the people they have known at OU. Retiring in 1978 as executive director emeritus of the OU Foundation, Gunning is now managing trustee of the Sarkeys Foundation of Norman, a private charitable foundation which assists higher education, agricultural research, the health sciences and other humanitarian causes. As executive director of the OU Alumni Association from 1949 to 1969, Gunning was the Sooner Magazine's editorial godfather, employing a succession of fair-to-middlin' editors and writing a monthly column, "Sooner Scene." He seldom—if ever—remembered his deadlines, but he never forgot his friends.

Retirees Revisited Bring Back Memories

Dear Dr. Bliss: (or should I say Dear Leader of the "Over the Hill Gang"?)

There is nothing better to bring back pleasant memories than to open a copy of the *Sooner* and see a picture of your old chemistry professor (especially when he was the one who graciously let you catch up on your unknowns on your own time, a favor I will never forget).

Seriously though, it was good to read about you and to see your picture. You haven't changed much since I was there.

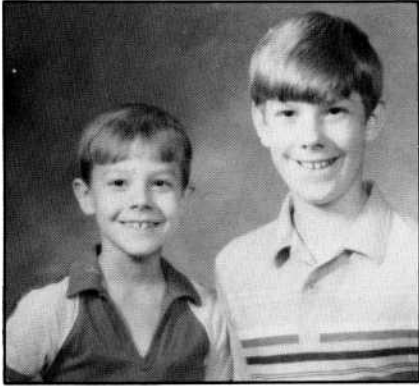
All of you should be proud of the work you are doing with FASE. I think it's great . . .

One of these days I'm going to get back to Norman — I'd love to walk across the campus again. (Would probably get lost).

H. W. Phelps '49BS
Pittsburgh, PA

Letters Policy

Sooner Magazine welcomes letters from readers on any subject concerning the University of Oklahoma. The editor reserves the right to select letters for publication and to edit where necessary in the interest of space with careful consideration of content. The address is Editor, *Sooner Magazine*, 660 Parrington Oval, Room 214, Norman, OK 73019.



Letter from a Donor

"I have received thousands of letters in the last three years," the president of the University of Oklahoma wrote. "All are special, but no letter will ever be more meaningful nor please me more than yours."

A suitable reply to the generosity of a private donor — a \$100,000 Energy Center Founder, perhaps, or a \$1,000 University of Oklahoma Associate? Actually, Bill Banowsky's reply was to the library donor whose letter is reproduced on this page. The donor's name is Tim Kirk of Shawnee, Oklahoma. Tim is 11.

Tim first heard about the new library project on a Big Red football broadcast. "At halftime, the man told about a man who had given a big gift to the library," Tim explained to *Sooner Magazine*. When his alumni parents, Robert and Vicki Kirk, received a mailing from the ADF book campaign, Tim remembered the radio spot and decided to become a donor himself. He even sold his younger brother, Mark, age 7, on joining him in the project.

Tim is interested in science and history, plays basketball and wrestles. (His dad was a freshman wrestler at OU.) Tim, however, would rather play football for the Sooners.

The Kirks have a collection of OU degrees. Vicki, a speech pathologist, received a bachelor's in education in 1968. Robert earned his B.S. in education in 1966, served in the Air Force, then returned for a master's in 1972 and taught at OU for two years while working on a 1977 Ph.D. He has been on the faculty of Oklahoma Baptist University, but will be mov-

ing the family to Weatherford where he has accepted a position at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

"You are a remarkable young man to be willing to share 15 per cent of your allowance with the University of Oklahoma," Banowsky's letter to Tim continued. "I assure you that no contribution, whatever its size, will ever have greater significance for me personally. I'm glad that you are planning to attend OU. You will be a

great Sooner, and I hope I have a chance someday soon to meet you and your parents and thank you in person."

The president may have that opportunity this spring at the dedication of the Doris W. Neustadt Wing of Bizzell Memorial Library. The Kirks are being invited to join in the festivities with the Neustadt family, whose \$2 million gift inspired Tim Kirk's first venture into philanthropy.

Dear Dr. Banowsky,

My name is Tim Kirk I'm in fifth grade and I attend Grove Public School in Shawnee, Okla.

Both my Parents attended Oklahoma University and graduated from it. I plan to attend it myself.

I heard a large library is being added on the system.

I wish to contribute my allowance to help the growth of the School. I will contribute as much as I can to help the growth of the School.

My allowance is \$3.00 a week. I will contribute a minimum of \$2.00 a month which is \$24.00 a year for one year. I will notify you if I wish to contribute more.

Good luck on the Building!

Sincerely
Tim Kirk

Tim Kirk, top photo with younger brother Mark, sent this letter to President Banowsky with a check for \$2 for the library and a pledge of more to come.