

Top 12 Ranking Creates Golden Opportunity For Sooner Architects

When the University of Oklahoma College of Architecture was notified last fall of its inclusion in the top 12 undergraduate programs in the United States and Canada, there was just cause for celebration in the north stadium classrooms and studios which the architecture students call home.

The rating authority was a prestigious one, *The Gourman Report*, a California-based publication, which evaluated 1,845 colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada to select the 241 different institutions to be rated in 103 degree programs. Such academic recognition brings with it benefits in faculty and student recruitment, degree enhancement for graduates, professional pride and personal satisfaction. In this instance it also brought the opportunity for OU student architects to have their work exhibited at the 1985 national convention of the American Institute of Architects being held in San Francisco in June.

Each of the top 12 undergraduate and graduate architectural programs was invited to submit representative projects to demonstrate the caliber of

20th Anniversary Reunion Planned for PLC's Alumni

One of the University's most prestigious student honor groups, the President's Leadership Class, will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Saturday, September 21, with a reunion and dinner for past and present members. A letter from OU Interim President Martin C. Jischke was mailed this spring to all PLC alumni with known addresses, asking them to reserve the date. A formal invitation will follow in August.

Special guests for the event will be former presidents George L. Cross, Paul F. Sharp, William S. Banowsky and their wives and the OU staff members who have served as advisers to the group since its founding in 1961.

Additional information is available from Kenneth Conklin, Office of University Affairs, 900 Asp #236, Norman, OK 73019, (405) 325-1701.



Architecture senior Se Jong Ding, left, discusses details of the project he will exhibit at the San Francisco convention of the American Institute of Architects with Dr. Tom Selland and fellow exhibitors, Walter Smith and Chris Kelly.

work being produced by its students. Senior projects selected for the exhibit were "The Fourth National Bank Building in Tulsa" by Se Jong Ding, Perak, Malaysia; "The Van Alen Competition" by Chris Kelly, Oklahoma City; and "A Justice Center for Portland, Oregon" by Walter Smith, Norman. Faculty supervising their work included professor Arn Henderson; visiting professor Robert Jones; chairman of the division Thomas Selland; and the college's dean, Raymond Yeh.

The College of Architecture's 12th place ranking among the 90 accredited undergraduate programs in the country placed OU at the top of Big Eight institutions, with the University of Kansas next at 14th. In graduate program rankings, OU was 17th among the 84 institutions evaluated, second in the Big Eight behind the 14th rated University of Colorado.

The purpose of *The Gourman Report* is to "evaluate the total structure, direction and performance of each academic department and non-departmental areas of colleges and universities," according to editor Jack Gourman, a professor of political science at California State University at Northridge. Criteria for selection of the institutions include professional

productivity of the faculty, standards and quality of instruction, faculty research, scholastic work of students, curriculum, research and library.

National recognition in *The Gourman Report* came on the heels of an internal reorganization and renaming of the college from "environmental design" to the more professionally descriptive "architecture." Organizationally the college now is comprised of four professional divisions — architecture, construction science, interior architecture and landscape architecture.

"The new name casts a sharp focus on the professional nature of the college and its programs and does not indicate a lesser commitment in our responsibilities to the overall environment," Dean Yeh explained. "The generic meaning of 'architecture' encompasses the planning, design and building of our total built environment. We will take the meaning of the word in its fullest sense in the development of this college."

The College of Environmental Design was the name adopted by the School of Architecture, formerly part of the College of Engineering, when it gained college status in 1969 at the height of national concern for the ecology.