

(new series)

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C O N T E N T S

4 THE GEORGE LYNN CROSS PROFESSORS

Forty-four years ago, the University created the George Lynn Cross Research Professorships to recognize outstanding faculty. Of only 65 to hold the prestigious title, 26—the elite among faculty researchers—still are on board today.

13 THE LAST LECTURE: VIVIEN NG

Recently several OU professors were asked to present a hypothetical “last lecture.” In the first of a series, *Sooner Magazine* offers the text of that lecture, delivered as if it were the last opportunity to bequeath a lifetime of learning.

18 AMERICA'S MATH REPORT CARD

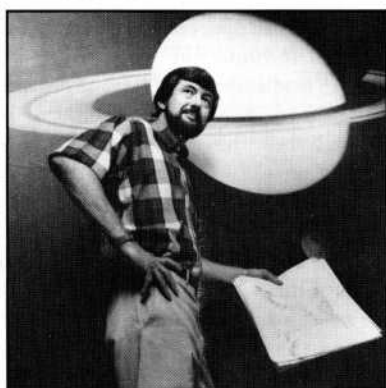
It appears secondary school students should have been hitting the books a little harder in mathematics. International test results are extremely disappointing, but an OU professor believes help is on the way for a nation of underachievers.

24 THE UNFORGETTABLE PERCY BUCHANAN

A colorful, witty man, Buchanan was a history professor who always hoped his audience would not forget what he said. Former student Eddie Frost remembers that this professor imparted lessons extending far beyond history texts.

28 MY SHIRT SAYS I'M A SOONER

The next time you pull on that OU T-shirt, pat yourself on the back. Last year, Big Red fans contributed a quarter of a million dollars to OU through the purchase of licensed Sooner memorabilia. Those royalties add up!



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Sooner Spotlight on Jerry Vannatta • Inside Back Cover

ON THE COVER

In his best Carl Sagan pose, physics and astronomy professor David R. Branch stands as OU's newest recipient of the prestigious George Lynn Cross Research Professorship, the University's oldest such named faculty distinction. See Page 4.

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