

Endowed Chairs and Named Professorships

The Public/Private Partnership

Fourth in a series on the University of Oklahoma's
most distinguished faculty members

The principle of privately endowed faculty positions was late coming to the University of Oklahoma. Just as singling out individual professors as "distinguished" was somewhat revolutionary in the egalitarian Sooner State of the mid-'40s, so was adding private stipends to faculty salaries in the early '60s. Yet both modes of faculty enrichment have enabled OU to attract, reward and retain the services of many superb teachers, scholars and researchers who might otherwise have been lost.

The prestigious George Lynn Cross Research, David Ross Boyd and Regents' professorships, lifetime appointments with one-time monetary awards (featured in the first three parts of this series), and the privately endowed chairs and named professorships (on the following pages) are providing the margin between adequate and excellent.

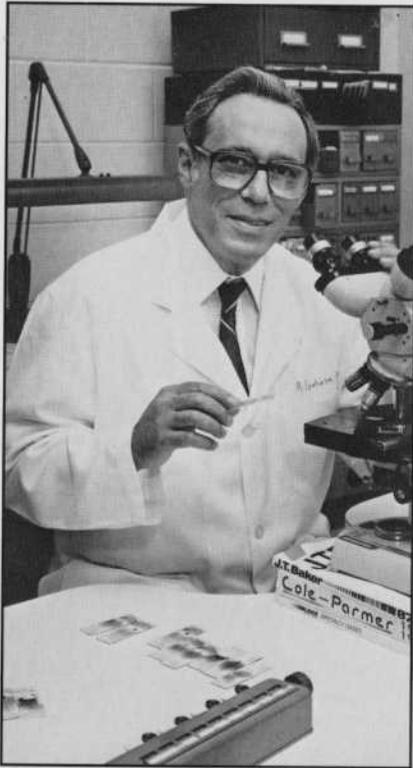
Charged with the ultimate responsibility for assembling a superior faculty, a succession of OU presidents have testified that nothing brings increased quality to the classroom and research programs as quickly as the endowed position. The forerunners of such private support at OU were the faculty salary supplements that were part of the institution's first comprehensive funding campaign, the 1962 Plan for Excellence. The University of Oklahoma Foundation board chairman, the late T. Howard McCasland of Duncan, directed his personal contributions to that purpose and continued the supplements long after the cam-

paign was over, formally endowing his program in 1975.

The top-of-the-line in faculty positions is the endowed chair. As with any endowment, the principal is invested with only the earnings available for expenditure on an annual basis. The chair's endowment pays the salary of the holder of the chair and also provides other assistance, such as library materials, graduate assistants, secretarial help and research support. The minimum principal required to endow a new chair, which bears the name designated by the donor, has increased over the years and today stands at \$1 million.

The first endowed chair to be fully funded at the University was the Merrick Chair in Western American History in 1973. Since that time a total of 16 chairs have been established, 12 of them completed and four still being funded. Seven of the fully funded chairs are occupied while recruitment is under way to fill five newly established or vacant positions.

The named professorship is similarly endowed, currently with a minimum principal of \$500,000, the earnings being added to the salary of the faculty member holding the professorship. Nineteen such endowed positions have been established, 11 of which are completely funded. Five of the 11 currently are occupied with six being recruited. Three other special professorships receive private salary supplements.



Robert Epstein
The Eason Chair

Robert Epstein has held the Eason Chair in Oncology while serving as chief of the oncology section in the Health Sciences Center's department of medicine since coming to the University in 1982. He also is an adjunct professor of pathology, chief of oncology for the Veteran's Administration Medical Center and a consultant to Presbyterian Hospital in Oklahoma City.

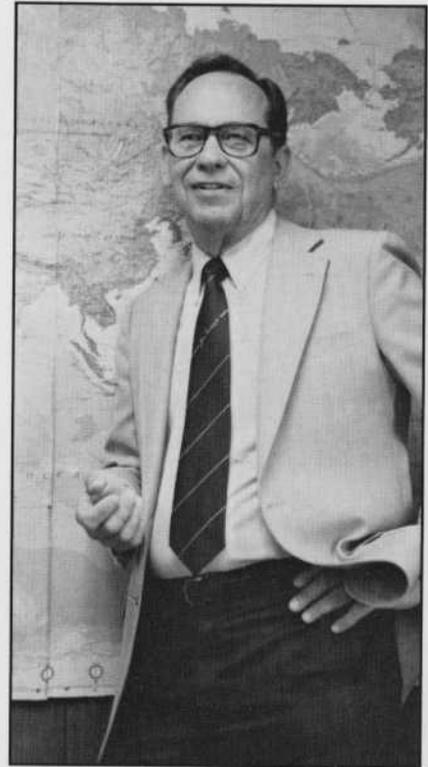
A pioneer in the field of bone marrow transplants, Epstein is a member of The Transplantation Society, the International Society for Experimental Hematology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The former director of clinical oncology for the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and past senior surgeon for the U.S. Public Health Service also is a member of the American Association of Immunologists and the American Federation for Clinical Research.



Larry W. Canter
The Sun Company Professorship

Larry W. Canter is the Sun Company Professor of Ground Water Hydrology and director of OU's Environmental and Ground Water Institute. He also is a co-director of the National Center for Ground Water Research, a consortium of OU, Oklahoma State University and Rice University. He joined the OU faculty in 1969.

Canter has written numerous papers and authored several books, the latest of which were *Ground Water Quality Protection* and *Environmental Impacts of Agricultural Production Activities*. He has advised, conducted research and presented short courses at institutions in Algeria, Columbia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kuwait, Panama, Peru, Mexico, Morocco, Scotland, Thailand, The Netherlands, People's Republic of China, Tunisia, Turkey and Venezuela.

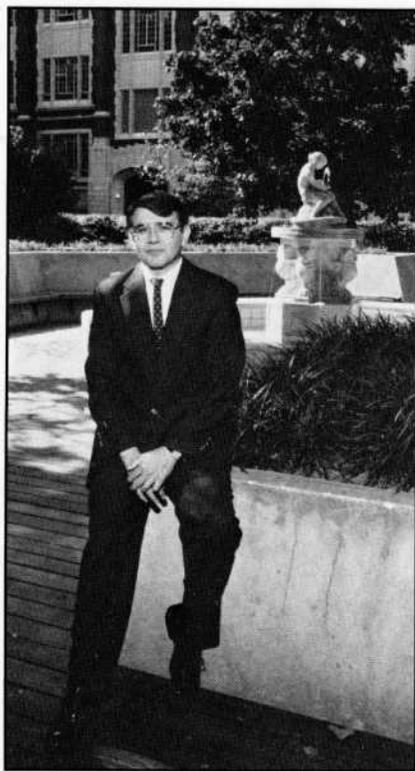


Paul W. Glad
The Merrick Chair

Paul W. Glad, who has held the Merrick Chair in Western American History at OU since 1957, just returned from Austria and his second Fulbright Lectureship, having completed a Fulbright in Germany earlier in his career. Glad also held a Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship. He has directed more than a dozen Ph.D. dissertations and is an enthusiastic member of University and departmental administrative committees from search to tenure review.

Historian Glad has edited or authored numerous books, articles and essays including *The Trumpet Soundeth: William Jennings Bryan and His Democracy, 1896-1912*, his book selected for the White House Library and a World's Fair exhibit. Several of his articles and essays appear in *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. He currently is working on *Wisconsin Between the Wars, 1914-1940*, a 600-page volume in *The History of Wisconsin* series to be published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

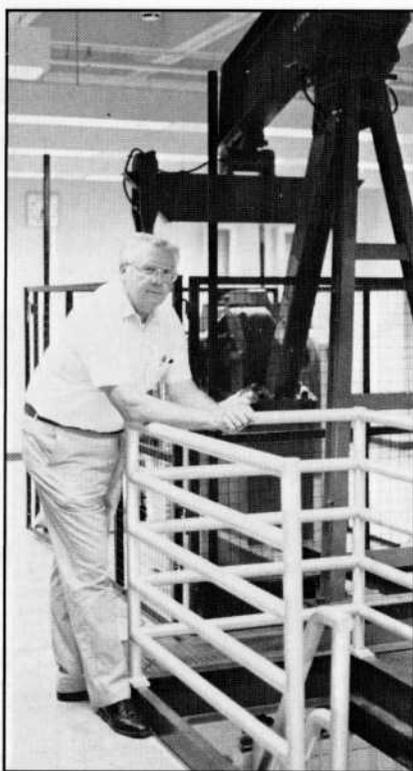
Endowed Chairs and Named Professorships



Richard J. Tersine
The Baldwin Professorship

Richard J. Tersine is professor of management in the College of Business Administration and coordinator of Management Information Systems/Production Operations Management in the department. A member of the OU faculty since 1980, he was named Baldwin Professor of Business Administration in 1985.

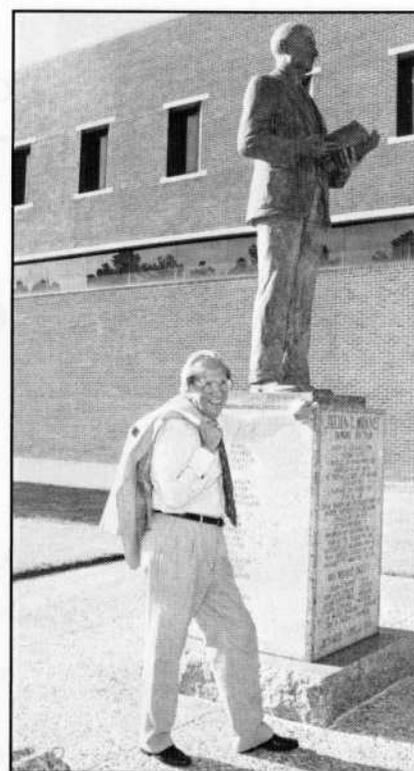
The author of more than 70 articles in professional journals, Tersine also has published four books, including his latest, *Principles of Inventory and Materials Management*. His curriculum vitae includes industrial experience with aerospace firms Martin Marietta, Hercules and Boeing and the Saturn project at Cape Kennedy. Tersine is a member of the Decision Sciences Institute and the Institute of Management Sciences.



Ronald D. Evans
The Mewbourne Professorship

Ronald D. Evans joined the OU faculty in 1980 and holds the Mewbourne Professorship of Petroleum Engineering. He has received grants to guide many research endeavors from gas well performance to reservoir modeling, including several with his former employer, the U.S. Department of Energy.

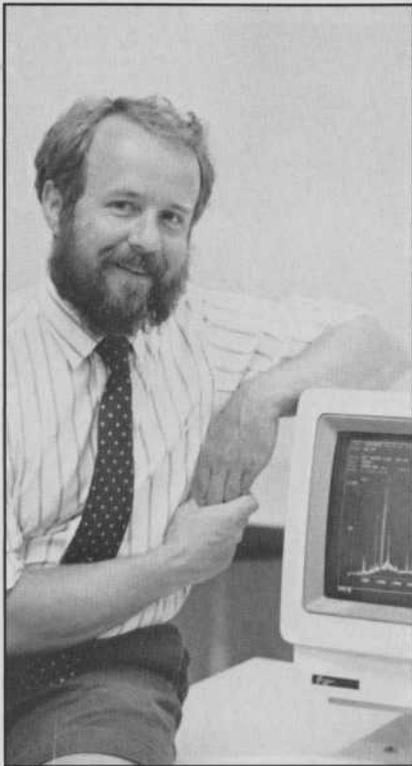
Evans is author or co-author of 72 technical papers and reports in the petroleum and mechanical engineering discipline and is writing a book, *Oil and Gas Well Completion Technology*, and has received funding for eight research projects since coming to OU. Evans currently is president of Ronco Energy Resources Inc. in Norman. He is serving as interim director for the School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering.



Joseph F. Rarick
The Murrah Professorship

Joseph F. Rarick, Alfred P. Murrah Professor of Law, has been teaching law at OU since 1953 and is a three-time faculty participant in OU's summer programs at Oxford University. He has served on committees at the Oklahoma Legislature and Oklahoma Water Resources Board and his research and drafting have contributed to nearly every major piece of water legislation and six sets of board regulations and rules enacted since 1961.

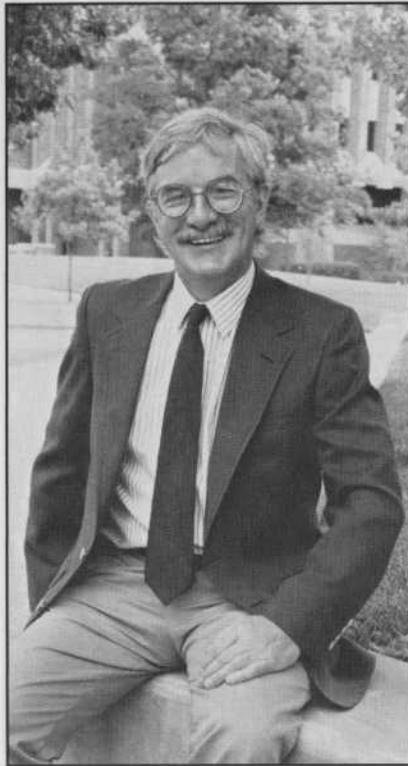
Rarick was honored for his years of scholarship by the state House of Representatives with the distinction "Father of Oklahoma Water Law" and by Gov. Henry Bellmon as "Oklahoma Water Pioneer." Author of books, manuals and articles in law reviews, he also is an expert on land titles and most recently wrote *A Guide to Rarick's Oklahoma Indian Land Titles and Cases and Materials on Problems in Lands Allotted to American Indians*.



Richard Paul Philp
The Klabzuba Professorship

Richard Paul Philp is the Joe and Robert Klabzuba Professor of Geology and Geophysics with an extensive bibliography to support his major research theme, the application of organic chemistry to fossil fuel research. He has visited Argentina, China, Japan, Brazil, New Zealand and Venezuela on educational assignments.

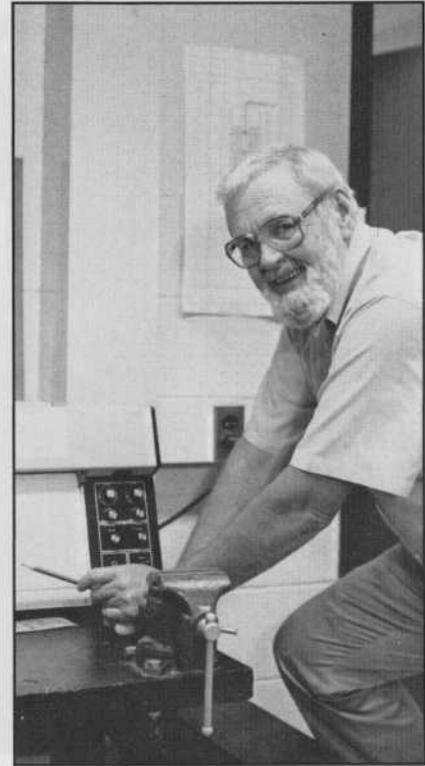
A British citizen, Philp also is interested in the characterization of source rocks, coals and oil shales using microscale pyrolysis techniques combined with gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. He currently is assisting in several investigations of the Anadarko Basin and recently completed a study of the Black Creek Basin in Alberta, Canada. Philp has been a member of the OU faculty since 1984.



Michael C. Flanigan
The Brown Directorship

Michael C. Flanigan is the Earl A. and Betty Galt Brown Director of English Composition, the only named position in OU's department of English. During his tenure that began in 1982, English composition has emerged to support departmental research and writing and produce both undergraduate and graduate degrees in the discipline. The author of *English*, a textbook, and numerous articles in journals and periodicals, Flanigan contributed a two-part essay, "What Do Writers Do?" to *Sooner Magazine* in 1982.

In 1987, he accepted a Fulbright Senior Lectureship to Sweden's Lund University. While there, he also conducted composition workshops for the faculty and addressed the University of Gothenburg. He has produced other workshops in Sweden, South Africa, Canada and locally. Flanigan is a former co-director of the Oklahoma Writing Project and currently consults on OU's Ford Foundation grant, "The Empowerments of Literacy."



David W. Stearns
The Monnett Chair

David W. Stearns interrupted his tenure in the Victor E. Monnett Chair in Energy Resources only twice since accepting the position in 1980 — to serve as interim dean of the College of Geosciences in 1981-82 and 1986-87.

In 1987, he concurrently served as interim director of OU's new Cooperative Institute for Applied Remote Sensing. He teaches four graduate courses and chairs at least three Ph.D. and four master's committees yearly. His research is published in geological and related literature, and he has appeared by invitation at research symposia.

Stearns conducts multi-week industrial seminars in structural geology for a minimum of four major oil companies annually and has presented similar seminars for other organizations. In addition, he has consulted in Egypt, Pakistan, South America and the North Sea area for firms including Amoco Production, Phillips Petroleum, Atlantic Richfield, Cities Service, Mobil Oil, Superior Oil and Monsanto.

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Endowed Chairs and Named Professorships



Duane H. D. Roller
The McCasland Professorship

Duane H. D. Roller became the McCasland Professor of the History of Science in 1963, nine years after he began his OU tenure as professor of the history of science and curator of the DeGolyer Collection, which was re-named the History of Science Collections in 1966. Roller has authored and edited many books and articles on his principal research interests, the histories of physical, Greek and Renaissance sciences and bibliography of the history of science. He is compiling a microfiche catalog of OU's History of Science Collection.

Roller was a consultant for the Dictionary of Scientific Biography and is an editor of monographs and scientific journals for *Landmarks of Science*. In 1980 the University conferred upon him its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Citation, and in 1981 awarded him a David Ross Boyd professorship.



Richard W. Hemingway
The Kuntz Professorship

Richard W. Hemingway was appointed the Eugene O. Kuntz Professor of Law in Oil & Gas and Natural Resources two years after joining OU's College of Law in 1981. He is of counsel with McAfee and Taft law firm, practicing exclusively in oil, gas and associated regulation areas. In 1987, he was retained to rewrite oil and gas lease forms for all states in which a major U.S. oil and gas corporation operates.

Hemingway is the author of student and attorney editions of *The Law of Oil and Gas* and other books, articles and publications. He created a system of computer hard disk storage and retrieval of most U.S. cases dealing with oil, gas and minerals since 1964. Hemingway has been invited to arbitrate in Saudi Arabian, Australian and U.S. oil and gas disputes.

THE PRIVATELY SUPPORTED FACULTY POSITIONS



Edwin G. Corr
The Bellmon Chair

Edwin Gharst Corr is the second appointee to the Henry Bellmon Chair in Public Service. A career foreign service officer and most recently U. S. Ambassador to El Salvador, Corr is assigned to the State of Oklahoma as a diplomat-in-residence by the U.S. Department of State to help Oklahomans understand the role of diplomacy and international relations in national defense and economic well-being. He is an expert in economic and political development, counter-insurgency, narcotics control and leading countries from repressive dictatorships to constitutional democracies.

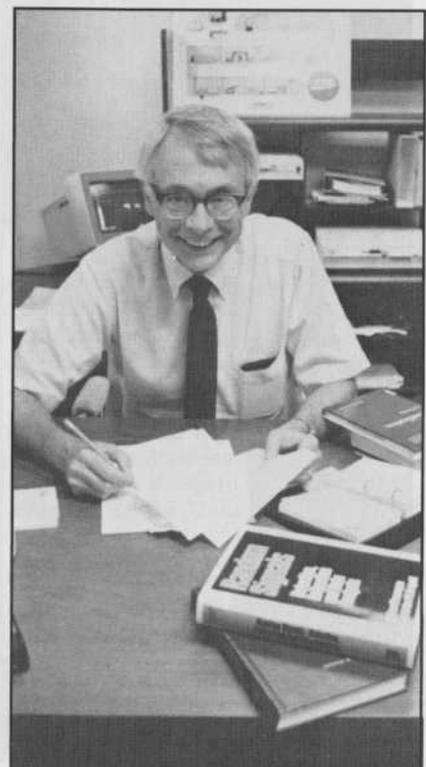
Corr has served as Ambassador to Bolivia and Peru and held posts in Ecuador, Thailand and Mexico. Author of *The Political Process in Columbia*, the OU alumnus will continue his research and writing as he travels the state conducting conferences and seminars, teaching and speaking.



Charles W. Bert
The Perkinson Professorship

Charles W. Bert has been a professor of aerospace, mechanical and nuclear engineering since 1963. In 1978 he was named the Benjamin H. Perkinson Professor of Engineering, which in 1986 became the Perkinson Chair. He also is a George Lynn Cross Research Professor.

Bert's industry experience includes American Flexible Coupling, AF Armament Center, Fairchild Aircraft and Battelle Columbus Labs, and he has consulted with, among others, Cessna Aircraft, McGraw-Hill Book Company and General Dynamics Corporation. Author of more than 260 publications, Bert is a director of the Society of Engineering Science, past associate editor of *Experimental Mechanics* and of *Applied Mechanics Reviews*. He is a member of the Japan Society for Composite Materials and serves on the editorial board of *Composite Structures*.



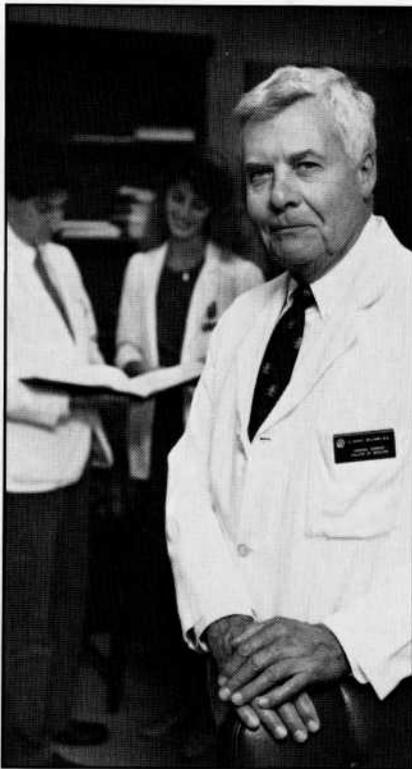
Arthur M. Breipohl
The O.G.&E. Professorship

Arthur M. Breipohl accepted the Oklahoma Gas & Electric Professorship in OU's School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in 1984. His interests include probabilistic system studies, decision analysis and reliability analysis of electrical power systems. He frequently has been called for expert witness testimony at utility hearings and consults for Sandia Corporation, Boeing, the Kansas Corporation Commission, Kansas Department of Economic Development and the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

Breipohl is engaged in research sponsored by OG&E and Public Service of Oklahoma. He co-authored *Random Signals: Detection, Estimation and Data Analysis*, his latest book, and another co-authored book, *Probabilistic Systems Analysis*, is in its 15th printing.

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Endowed Chairs and Named Professorships



G. Rainey Williams
The Schilling Chair

G. Rainey Williams became a faculty member at the OU Health Sciences Center in 1958 and in 1974 was named to the John A. Schilling Chair in Surgery. He has served as associate chief and twice as chief of staff of the University Hospital Clinics. In the College of Medicine, Williams was chief of thoracic surgery from 1965-75 and has been head of the department of surgery since 1974. The physician also is currently interim dean of the college, a position he has held three times.

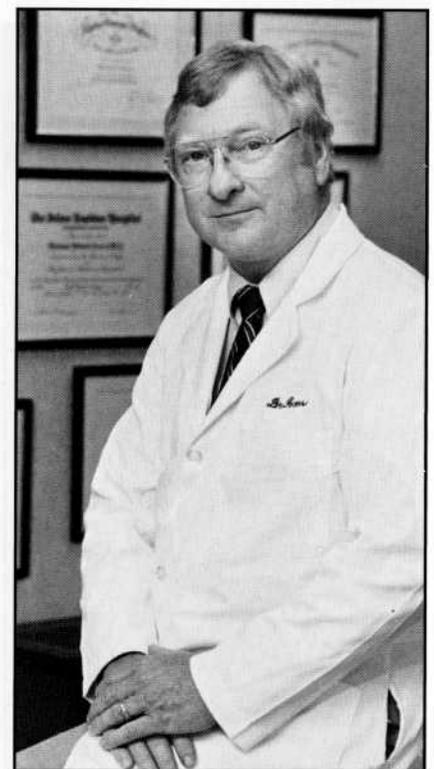
A recipient of OU's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Citation, Williams was named to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1986. His extensive bibliography, including textbooks and articles concerning surgical and medical topics, is published in the professional literature.



Mary Adams
The Parry Chair

Mary Adams became the first recipient of the Parry Chair in Gerontological Nursing in OU's College of Nursing in 1987. An associate professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland for 24 years, Adams has been involved in various aspects of gerontological and nursing care most of her career. In the course of her research, she has worked with the Easter Seal Foundation, the A. M. McGregor Home in Cleveland, the U.S. Public Health Service and the American Nurses' Foundation.

Adams recently began a study for the Presbyterian Health Foundation profiling and analyzing some 5,000 functionally dependent Department of Human Services clients who receive personal care, home maintenance and registered nurse supervision at home, through the first such long-term program in the nation. Adams also was a member of the Study Committee on Aging for the National Science Foundation and was a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging.



Thomas E. Acers
The Gaylord Chair

Thomas E. Acers is chairman of the OU College of Medicine's department of ophthalmology and director of the affiliated Dean A. McGee Eye Institute. A 23-year member of the OU faculty, he has held the Gaylord Chair in Ophthalmology since 1986.

Acers has an extensive bibliography to his credit and has published many articles in the medical literature. He has written two textbooks, the latest of which he co-authored, *Congenital Abnormalities of the Optic Nerve (and Related Forebrain)*. He has made numerous presentations at invitational lectureships, most recently concerning silent aneurysms before the American Eye Study Club and investigations into the Holey Disc Syndromes at Duke and Tulane universities.

THE PRIVATELY SUPPORTED FACULTY POSITIONS

The Eason Chair in Oncology was established in 1975 by T. Winston Eason of Oklahoma City to honor the memory of his wife Ada S. Eason, a victim of leukemia. The board chairman of Eason Oil Company, Eason was a major benefactor of many aspects of research and treatment at the OU Health Sciences Center.

The Parry Chair in Gerontological Nursing was part of a 1986 gift of \$1.6 million from the Parry Foundation of Houston, the balance going for gerontological nursing scholarships. OU graduates William and Mabel Parry organized their foundation in 1952 and became interested in giving to nursing when Mrs. Parry was hospitalized. They both died in the 1970s.

The Gaylord Chair in Ophthalmology was established in 1986 by Edward L. Gaylord of Oklahoma City at the Dean A. McGee Eye Institute through the Oklahoma Eye Foundation Inc. Closely affiliated with the OU College of Medicine, the institute houses the department of ophthalmology and its patient services.

The John A. Schilling Chair in Surgery bears the name of the former head of the department of surgery in the OU College of Medicine. Dr. Schilling initiated his funding of the chair in 1963; the chair was activated in 1974, the endowment completed in 1980.

The Merrick Chair in Western American History, established by the Merrick Foundation of Ardmore in 1973, was the first fully endowed chair at the University. The late oilman Ward S. Merrick Sr. was one of the OU Foundation's original trustees, followed on the board by his son Ward Jr., who was succeeded in turn by his sister, Elizabeth Merrick Coe.

The Victor E. Monnett Chair in Energy Resources honors the memory of the director of the OU School of Geology (1924 to 1955), who influenced the education of nearly half the practicing geologists in the United States. The funding campaign, begun in 1975 and completed in 1978, was headed by Dallas alumnus Frank A. Schultz on behalf of the Geology and Geophysics Alumni Council.

The Benjamin H. Perkinson Chair in Engineering, originally established as a named professorship by anonymous donors in 1977, was upgraded to an endowed chair in 1985 through prudent investing and additions to principal. The late Mr. Perkinson was a 1922 OU mechanical engineering graduate.

The Henry Bellmon Chair in Public Service was a 1984 project of friends and colleagues to honor the statesman and political leader when he returned to Oklahoma after two terms in the U.S. Senate. Bellmon himself was the first holder of the chair until he returned to public life to run successfully for his second gubernatorial term.

The Joe and Robert Klabzuba Professorship of Geology and Geophysics is one in a long series of benefactions of Robert and Doris Klabzuba of Fort Worth. Both Robert Klabzuba and his brother Joe of Prague are OU geology graduates and leading independent oil operators. The gift was made in 1978.

The Mewbourne Professorship of Petroleum Engineering is the gift of Curtis W. Mewbourne, a 1958 OU petroleum engineering graduate and president of Mewbourne Oil in Tyler, Texas. The position was endowed in 1983. Mewbourne is an Energy Center Founder and former OU Foundation trustee.

The Eugene O. Kuntz Professorship of Law in Oil & Gas and Natural Resources honors the legal scholar, teacher and administrator who retired in 1981 after 29 years at the OU College of Law. The endowment was an OU Law Center Board project, chaired by Kenneth Heady of Phillips Petroleum.

The Alfred P. Murrah Professorship of Law was established in 1978 through the efforts of the Alfred P. Murrah Foundation, formed to honor the memory of the eminent jurist who died in 1975. The campaign was headed by Oklahoma City attorneys Norman Hirschfield and Richard G. Taft with the major contribution coming from J. Hugh Roff Jr. of Houston.

The Sun Company Professorship of Ground Water Hydrology was given to the University in 1983 by the Sun Company of Radnor, Pennsylvania, in honor of its long-time executive vice president and OU Foundation trustee, Gordon Hillhouse, a 1949 OU mechanical engineering graduate.

The Baldwin Professorship of Business Administration has been supported in part since 1971 by the bequest of 1913 graduate Jasper P. Baldwin whose purpose was to promote the interests of the College of Business Administration.

The Earl A. and Betty Galt Brown Director of English Composition receives annual salary support from Mr. and Mrs. Earl A. Brown Jr. of Houston. Established in 1979 to upgrade the teaching of freshman English, the program is directed at improving the writing skills of students and the ability of faculty to communicate these skills.

The OG&E Professorship of Electrical Engineering was one of the earliest industry support programs for OU faculty, established in 1964 by the Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company to pursue instruction and research in areas related to the electric power industry.

The McCasland Professorship of the History of Science was part of the effort by OU Foundation trustee chairman T. Howard McCasland to promote private support for faculty salaries in the 1962 Plan for Excellence.

Several fully endowed faculty chairs and named professorships are already into the search process or have been vacated very recently by retirement or resignation. Other endowed positions are partially funded and are being completed on a pledge basis or through an ongoing campaign. Included in this group are:

The Oklahoma Bankers Chair in Finance was initiated in 1978 and completed in 1981 in partnership with the banking community of Oklahoma as part of the new emphasis on bank management in the College of Business Administration. A volunteer banking advisory committee, composed of some of Oklahoma's leading bankers, chaired by J. W. McLean of Oklahoma City, secured the funding in a statewide campaign.

The Lloyd Rader Chair in Pathology was established at the OU Health Sciences Center in 1981 as the Chair in Pathology with the major gift of \$400,000 coming from the Mark Allen Everett Foundation of Oklahoma City. In 1983, at the request of Dr. Everett, who is head of the OU department of dermatology and former interim head of the department of pathology, the chair was renamed in honor of the late long-time director of the state department of human services.

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The Paul and Carol Daube Sutton Chair in the Humanities, created in 1979 as the Distinguished Professorship of the Humanities and later upgraded to the Chair in the Humanities, was originally an anonymous gift of Carol Daube Sutton of Ardmore and was occupied by Chaucerian scholar Paul Ruggiers until his recent retirement. In 1988 the OU regents asked to be allowed to rename the chair for Mrs. Sutton and her late husband in appreciation for her longtime support of the institution. Holders of the chair may come from English, philosophy, or modern languages/classics.

The Fred E. Brown Chair in Finance bears the name of its donor, one of the nation's leading investment counselors. A 1934 OU business administration graduate, Brown is chairman of the board and chief executive officer of J. & W. Seligman & Co. Inc. of New York City. The endowment was established in 1981.

The McCasland Chair in Petroleum Engineering began as a named professorship in 1981 with the combining of several support funds sponsored by members of the McCasland family of Duncan through the McCasland Foundation. This faculty position, which was upgraded to chair status in 1987, honors the memory of T. H. McCasland Sr., who died in 1979.

The Puterbaugh Chair in American Enterprise, initiated by the Puterbaugh Foundation of McAlester in 1983, is to be used by the College of Business Administration to promote the understanding of the theory and practicality of the free enterprise system, capitalism and traditional American values.

George Lynn Cross Professorship of Botany and Microbiology was established in 1977 by the Noble Foundation of Ardmore, whose contributions have touched every aspect of University life from student scholarships to the Lloyd Noble Center. The professorship in the honoree's own academic specialty pays tribute to President Emeritus Cross for his 25 years as OU's chief executive, 1943-68.

The Frank A. and Betty Schultz Professorship of Geology and Geophysics came about in 1979 after successful completion of the Frank Schultz-directed Monnett Chair drive. The Schultzes have supported University projects for many years, serving on numerous boards and committees and as personal University representatives in the Dallas area. Frank Schultz is a trustee of the University of Oklahoma Foundation.

The Willard L. Miller Professorship of Geology and Geophysics was made possible in 1986 by a gift from Dorothy B. Miller of Oklahoma City as a memorial to her husband, a 1920 OU geology graduate who died in 1973. A Ramsey Petroleum Corporation geologist and independent oilman, Willard Miller was active in the mapping of the Oklahoma City structure.

The William K. Warren Professorship of Diabetes Studies and the Natalie O. Warren Professorship of Medicine were established in 1986 with initial funding from the Warren Medical Research Center through the Saint Francis Hospital of Tulsa Medical Research Institute. Dr. C. Alton Brown also directed private gifts to these Centennial professorships from individuals and groups, the most substantial being the Oklahoma State Medical Association.

The Robert W. Hughes Professorship of Engineering was an expression of appreciation to the College of

Engineering from a 1958 chemical engineering graduate, now chairman and president of Prime Cable Corporation, one of the largest companies in the cable industry. The 1987 gift is part of the OU Centennial Campaign.

The Kingfisher College Professorship of the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics has received its support since 1951 from the endowment of an academically respected Congregational Church institution which closed its doors in the community of Kingfisher in 1922. Its records, part of its library, recognition of its degrees and its alumni also were transferred to the University in 1927.

The Guy Fraser Harrison Visiting Professorship of Music was established in 1973 by friends of the late former conductor of the Oklahoma City Symphony Orchestra to support his teaching at the University one semester each year. The position subsequently was to be available for other visiting artists.

The Bartell Professorship of Geosciences, initiated in 1983, is a benefaction of independent Houston oilman J. Denny Bartell. Bartell is an active supporter of the School of Geology and Geophysics, the College of Engineering, where he received his degree in 1954, and the new Energy Center.

The Josh Lee Professorship of Oratory has received initial funding from Mary Louise Symcox, the daughter of the late U.S. Congressman and U.S. Senator. Established in 1983 to promote excellence in public speaking, the position will be in the department of communication, formerly the department of speech, which Lee chaired from 1919 to 1934.

The Bruce Alonzo Goff Professorship of Creative Architecture is a project begun in 1984 by admirers and former students of the late director of the OU School of Architecture, who was one of Frank Lloyd Wright's most renowned and respected disciples. Principal among the donors are Joe D. Price and Shin'enKan Foundation of Bartlesville.

The Kenneth E. McAfee Centennial Professorship of Law honors the memory of one of OU's most distinguished graduates and co-founder of one of Oklahoma's largest law firms. The fund was initiated in 1987 with gifts from the McAfee family and the Oklahoma City law firm of McAfee and Taft.

The Earl Sneed Professorship of Law was launched in 1987 by a major gift from the family of the late OU law dean, a major figure in Oklahoma education, law, business and politics. This Centennial project is being completed by contributions from friends, classmates, former students and associates.

The David A. Burr Chair in Letters is a 1987 Centennial contribution of the Sarkeys Foundation of Norman in memory of the veteran University vice president who died in August of that year. The interdisciplinary program in the humanities is designed for the student interested primarily in history, English and philosophy with a secondary interest in classics, art history and languages.

The Chair in Molecular Biology is a 1988 project of the Committee to Develop Biotechnology Industry. Major contributors to this OU Health Sciences Center position, also part of the Centennial campaign, have been the Presbyterian Health Foundation, the Noble Foundation and the Kerr Foundation. 