



A Tribute to the Faculty

Approval of one's peers is gratifying in any profession.

Teaching is no exception. But when public recognition also comes simultaneously from students, regents and administration, you have all the ingredients of a very special day.

By CAROL J. BURR

What if we gave a party, and nobody came? That was the nagging doubt in the minds of planners three years ago when OU Regent Sarah Hogan first proposed a Faculty Tribute Day for the Norman campus.

Spring is a notoriously busy time in the University community. Every evening is filled with awards banquets as each organized campus group hurries to honor its own amid the flurry of term paper preparation and the inevitable countdown to finals. Presentation of the faculty awards had always been rather perfunctory, a function of a sparsely attended general faculty meeting, duly chronicled in subsequent newspaper articles. Besides, most academicians are by nature somewhat leery of public displays. Would they think the idea silly? Would they come?

Regent Hogan was not deterred. Morale needed a boost; budgets had been squeezed to the breaking point with little relief in sight; dissention was rampant throughout higher education circles. The faculty needed to know that somebody cared.

With the OU office of University Affairs providing the staff work, Hogan enlisted a group of her Oklahoma City alumnae friends—the busiest ones—to help plan a luncheon in the Union Ballroom. Answering the call were Jane Harlow, Sue Ann Hyde, Patti Leeman, Sylvia Lewis, Karen Luke, Patty Ramsey, Carol Wilkinson and Carolyn Zachritz.

The University of Oklahoma Foundation agreed to co-host the event with the OU Regents; Mrs. Evelyena D. Honeymon of The Woodlands, Texas, contributed the preparation costs; and anonymous donors were found to pick

up the check for lunch. The office of Student Affairs, working with the University of Oklahoma Student Association, Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council, coordinated student participation in the day.

The appointed morning in April 1987 dawned on South Oval trees hung with bright red apples, that traditional symbol of teacher appreciation, strung up the night before by the more agile among OU student leaders. Baskets of apples were delivered to each academic department. In the faculty parking lots, Greeks armed with spray bottles and paper towels gave their mentors' windshields a complimentary cleaning.

By 11:30 a.m., the ballroom tables were set, the ever-present apples forming the centerpieces. Individual luncheon invitations had been sent to each faculty member. The volunteers waited

expectantly. They needn't have worried. The faculty came in droves. Some were forced to come late; others had to leave early. It was, after all, a class day.

Names of the award recipients were a closely kept secret. That first year, a few department chairmen had to use subterfuge to ensure that their more tightly scheduled faculty were in attendance. The cameramen from OU Photo and Electronic Media had put in overtime assembling videotape on the careers of each of the major honorees, shown on large screens throughout the room.

The luncheon ran a little long; there was a lot to say about these distinguished folks. But no one seemed to mind. The aura of good feeling was almost tangible. As the guests left the ballroom clutching their programs, several commented that absent colleagues were certain to be in attendance next year. Emeritus faculty, while congratulating their successors, lamented that such an event had not come in their time.

Later one faculty member wrote: "If I could find the anonymous donor who started this and the persons who manage it in such a professional way, my thanks would be warm. I think the occasion is a terrific way to bring together people who otherwise meet all too rarely and who can learn how far we've come by listening to what is said about various distinguished colleagues. . . . The effect dispels pessimism and inspires us all to better efforts."

This spring, the third such Faculty Tribute Day, by now a tradition, was held in much the same fashion. Most of the original volunteers and donors, at the urging of the indefatigable Regent Hogan, are still with the program. Their chief concern is no longer, "Will they come?" but rather, "Where are we going to put them all?"

The luncheon menu notwithstanding, the main course for the Faculty Tribute Day was the announcement of the annual University awards for exceptional achievement and meritorious service. The internal selection process—by faculty or administrative committee, professional evaluation or student organization—is long and thorough. The awards themselves, whether they carry with them a



Penny Hopkins, center, past Norman Faculty Senate president, is congratulated on receiving the Regents' Award for Professional and University Service by new zoology colleagues, Geneticist David Durica, left, and Ecologist Nick Gotelli.



The new chairman of modern languages, literatures and linguistics, Keith R. Busby, left, shares a luncheon table with Mary E. Davis, center, who was honored with the Burlington Northern Foundation Faculty Achievement Award, and Vivien Ng, recipient of a Southwestern Bell Research Fellowship in the Humanities.

Photos by Gil Jain

monetary prize, study or research support or simply the honor of having been singled out as the best, are greatly coveted by the recipients.

The Norman campus honorees for 1989 are:

University of Oklahoma Student Association Outstanding Faculty Awards (by college): James Kudrna, architecture; Ken Hunter, arts and sciences; Leon C. Price, business administration; Paul Kleine, education; George Tauxe, engineering; Victor Youritzin, fine arts; Douglas Elmore, geosciences; and the late Joseph Rarick, law.

UOSA Professor of the Year: Steven Curtis, fine arts.

Baldwin Study/Travel Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching: (teaching assistants) Richard Bryant, education; Fred Lamb, political science; *(faculty)* Paula Reid, business administration; Ralph Doty, classics.

Summer Research Fellowships for Junior Faculty: James Hamill, accounting; Vassilios Theodoracatos, aerospace/mechanical engineering; Paul Minnis, anthropology; John Downard, botany/microbiology; Allen Hertzke, Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center; Daniel Glatzhofer and Ming-Cheh Liu, chemistry/biochemistry; David Sabatini and Asmare Atalay, civil engineering/environmental science; James Comas, English; Nandkumar Nayar, finance; David Legates, geography; Stephen Norwood, history; Shiyakumar Raman, industrial engineering; Charles Mills, philosophy; Maureen O'Halloran and William Romanishin, physics/astronomy; David Wilsford, political science; Michael Buckley, management; Ruediger Landes and Andy Miller, mathematics; Michael Layne, modern languages/literatures/linguistics; Martha Wilson, social work; Mitchell Chamlin, sociology.

Summer Research Fellowships for Senior Faculty: S. R. Gollahalli and Akhtar Khan, aerospace/mechanical engineering; Victor Youritzin, art; John Skvarla, botany/microbiology; Robert Con Davis, Nicolas Howe and Deborah Rubin, English; Duane

Stock, finance; Lowell Gudmundson, Robert Shalhope and Daniel Snell, history; Mary Jo Nye, history of science; Daniel Wren, management; Andy Magid, mathematics; David Etheridge and Michael Hennagin, music; Lynn Devenport and Frank Durso, psychology.

Summer Minority Junior Faculty Research Fellowship Awards: Renee Meyers, communications; Sue McPherson, health/physical education/recreation; Luis Cortest, modern languages/literatures/linguistics.

Southwestern Bell Research Fellowships in the Humanities: Larry Frank, English; Helga Madlan, modern languages/literatures/linguistics; Paul Gellia and Vivien Ng, history.

Merrick Foundation Teaching Award in American Free Enterprise: Burt K. Scanlan, business administration.

Amoco Foundation Good Teaching Awards: Homer Brown, business administration; Clayton Lewis, English; John Cowan, physics/astronomy.

Burlington Northern Foundation Faculty Achievement Awards: Sherril Christian, chemistry/biochemistry; Mary Davis, modern languages/literatures/linguistics; Gordon Uno, botany/microbiology.

Regents' Award for Professional and University Service: Penny Hopkins, zoology.

Regents' Award for Superior Research and Creative Activity: Paul Philp, geology/geophysics; Kenneth Nicholas, chemistry/biochemistry.

Regents' Awards for Superior Teaching: Douglas Elmore, geology/geophysics; Howard Bluestein, meteorology; Anant Kukreti, civil engineering/environmental science; Ryan Doezeema, physics/astronomy; Nim Razook, business administration.

Fred Jones Foundation Master Teaching Award: Michael Morrison, physics/astronomy.

In addition, Larry Toothaker, psychol-

ogy, was congratulated for selection as 1989 recipient of the *Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Gold Medal for Teaching at the College Level.*

This year, for the first time, the OU Health Sciences Center held its own tribute dinner for both the Oklahoma City and Tulsa faculty on May 3 at the Waterford Hotel in Oklahoma City.

Those honored included:

Regents' Award for Superior Teaching: Elisa T. Lee, biostatistics and epidemiology.

Provost Research Awards: Linda D. Cowan, biostatistics and epidemiology; Warren M. Jackson, medicine.

Faculty Governance Award: Martha J. Ferretti, physical therapy.

Amoco Good Teaching Award: Kathy Onley, clinical dietetics.

Stanton L. Young Master Teaching Award: Daniel Duffy, internal medicine.

Honeymon Distinguished Lectureships: Jay Paul Farber, physiology; Michael S. Gilmore, microbiology/immunology; Jay S. Hanes, biochemistry/molecular biology; Lester A. Reinke, pharmacology; Ronald L. Shew, anatomical sciences.

Associates Distinguished Lectureships: Loyd Allen, Stephen Hamilton and Casey Robinson, pharmacy; Joseph Barry and Glenda Ochsner, communication disorders; Kathleen Blevins, clinical laboratory sciences; Earl Colard, Manville Duncanson, Ram Nanda, Herbert Shillingburg, Herman Tow and Frank Wiebelt, dentistry; Barbara Curcio and Jean Lea Spitz, radiologic technology; James Darner, Janet Kristic, Elisa Lee, Herbert Nishikawa, Ruth Seideman and Janet Wilson, nursing; Stephen Glore, clinical dietetics; Marjorie Greer, physical therapy; Charles Lawrence, environmental health; Timothy L. Taylor, health administration.

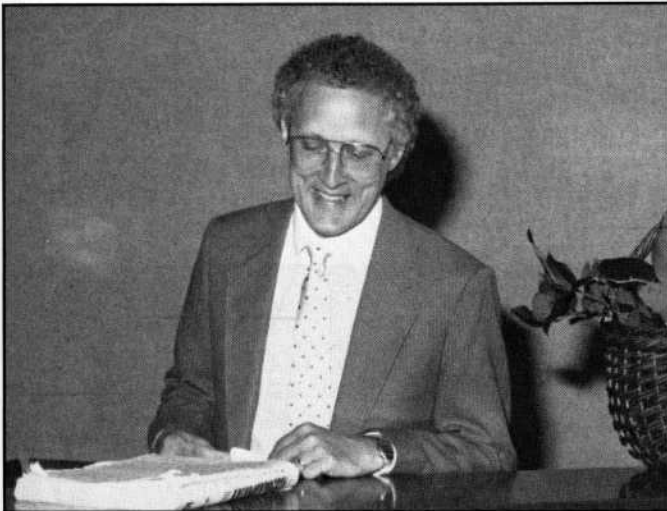
A listing of the 1989 recipients of the University's distinguished professorships begins on Page 18.



Dick Van Der Helm, left, visits with fellow George Lynn Cross Professor of Chemistry Sherril D. Christian, who received a Burlington Northern Foundation Faculty Achievement Award on Tribute Day.



Regents' Professor William Carmack, left, and Edmund Nuttall, both of the department of communications, were among those faculty to be hosted by the regents and OU Foundation at the annual luncheon.



ABOVE: Ann Swank, wife of Law Dean David Swank, then interim president, congratulates Leon Price, selected by UOSA as outstanding professor in business administration for the second straight year.

ABOVE LEFT: The students' choice as man of the hour (and professor of the year) was Steven C. Curtis, associate professor of music. The selection is made annually by University student government.

LEFT: Volunteer luncheon committee members Patti Ramsey, left, and Carolyn Zachritz, right, Oklahoma City, get some assistance from president's office staffers, Lianne Davis and Mary Jane Rutherford.