

# LEST OLD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT

Nothing bespeaks the lingering affection of the alumni for alma mater like the traditional college reunion. Nearly every identifiable group with shared experiences is likely to schedule one—graduating classes, clubs, sororities and fraternities, honor societies. The Centennial Celebration provided ample opportunity for such gatherings, some large and formally sanctioned by the commission, others more casual in nature.

### Alumni/Union Reunion

The close relationship that always has existed between the OU Alumni Association and the Oklahoma Memorial Union Board of Trustees was celebrated in a joint reunion of alumni presidents and former Union trustees on March 23, 1990.

The reception, dinner and dancing to music from the big band era drew more than 60 former presidents and trustees and their spouses.

### Carl Albert Arts & Sciences Recipients

Most of the past recipients of the Carl Albert Award who gathered April 27, 1990, had never met, and yet each felt an exceptionally strong bond with the others. Their shared distinction was that of being the best—the outstanding senior in the College of Arts and Sciences for each of the past 25 years. They also shared a profound respect for the remarkable man for whom the prize was named.

The Carl Albert Award was established in 1965 by former OU Regent Julian J. Rothbaum to honor his friend, the former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. The recipients are chosen on the basis of academic achievement, moral force of character and promise of future service to state and nation, qualities reflective of Albert's own career. One of the most outstanding students ever to attend the University, Rhodes Scholar Carl Albert represented Oklahoma in the U.S. Congress from 1947 to 1977, serving as Democratic Majority Whip and Majority Leader before attaining the speakership in 1971.



*Sally and Sam Matthews, right, Norman, recapture some of the ballroom magic of the big band era at the Centennial reunion of the 50-Year Alumni Class.*



*David Ross Boyd professor of history David Levy, left, visits with Scott Deatherage, the 1984 Carl Albert Award recipient. Levy has been commissioned to write the comprehensive history of the University of Oklahoma's first century.*



*Just barely old enough to attend the 50-Year Alumni Class reunion, Myrtle Evangeline West, Shreveport, Louisiana, joins her colleagues for the class picture.*

The past award winners also have achieved enviable records of public service. A number earned law degrees, one now serving as the president of the National Coalition for the Homeless; another supervises attorneys and social workers who work with abused children. Others are involved in environmental law, land and natural resources litigation, and general private practice. Among the medical doctors in the group is an epidemiologist with the national center for disease control, a professor of neurosurgery, a professor of psychiatry and a dermatologist. They also include academics working in philosophy, plant biology, political science and history, as well as a United Nations industrial development official, a banker, an investment counselor, an astronomer, a public affairs officer and several pursuing graduate degrees.

### **The 50-Year Alumni Classes**

Sooners whose collegiate memories span more than half the history of the University gathered in Norman on June 8 and 9. The weekend was spent renewing old friendships, attending mini lectures by several of the University's most distinguished professors, touring the ever-changing campus, dining and dancing to vintage bands and previewing the fall Centennial events.

The 50-year reunions are held every three years when members of earlier classes welcome the half-century graduates into the group. The honored classes for this Centennial weekend were '38, '39 and '40.



### **Pe-et**

The men and women of Pe-et celebrated the 80th anniversary of the founding of this senior honor society with a reception and dinner September 21 in the OU Museum of Art. OU President Richard L. Van Horn gave the keynote address.

The name Pe-et, adopted in 1910, is supposedly an Indian language derivation meaning "top 10." Membership was restricted to men until the late '70s, when both Pe-et and its sister honor group, Mortar Board, went co-educational.

*Old timers still have trouble remembering that the once all-male Pe-et has been coed since the late 1970s. Pictured at the 80th anniversary reunion of the honor society are current top seniors Lili Beth Sanger, Karen Eiler, Gene Frieda, Joy Kelly and Marcy Dense.*



ABOVE: Profiled for posterity are the five admirals with OU connections in attendance at the 50th anniversary celebration of the University's Naval ROTC unit. Pictured from left are Rear Admiral John Kirkpatrick, Admiral William J. Crowe Jr., and Rear Admirals Clyde J. Van Arsdale, Robert M. Collins and Jay Ackerman.

RIGHT: Caps await their owners attending the OU NROTC 50th anniversary dinner at the Waterford Hotel in Oklahoma City.



BELOW: Thurman White, who spearheaded the development of the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education and the College of Liberal Studies, second from left, attends the college's 30-year reunion with Margy Scales, Penny Dulaney and Helen Potts.



## NROTC 50th Anniversary

Gold braid and dress whites were in abundance on the campus September 14 and 15 as the University's Navy ROTC unit celebrated its 50th anniversary as part of the Centennial Celebration.

Guests of honor at the weekend's events were five U.S. Navy admirals with strong OU ties. Admiral William J. Crowe Jr., former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and now an OU professor of geopolitics, and Rear Admiral Robert M. Collins both attended the University. Rear Admiral John Kirkpatrick and Rear Admiral Jay Ackerman were part of the V12 program on the OU campus during World War II. Rear Admiral Clyde J. Van Arsdale Jr. taught in the University's NROTC program.

Following a Friday night reunion and banquet at the Waterford Hotel in Oklahoma City, the dignitaries joined the OU unit in Norman on Saturday for an open house, a display of the color guard and dedication of a new flag plaza east of the Armory. The plaza is a 50th anniversary gift from William W. Talley of Oklahoma City. Ceremonies included the presentation of the prestigious Legion of Merit to Marine Colonel Allen R. Moore, former commanding officer of the OU NROTC.

## College of Liberal Studies

Alumni, faculty, students and friends of the College of Liberal Studies gathered at the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education on October 5-7 to renew acquaintances and sample the sort of intellectual inquiry that had first drawn them together as part of the Sooner academic scene 30 years ago.

Oklahoma Attorney General Robert Henry delivered the keynote address on "The Importance of Liberal Education in Formation of Public Policy." A day of mini seminars, a recognition luncheon and a banquet honoring the college's role in the history and development of the University's academic life rounded out the weekend.

## OU Dads' Association

Since 1928, the OU Dads' Association has recognized the Outstanding Senior Man and Woman as a highlight of the annual Dad's Day festivities in the fall. As part of their Centennial observance, the Dads invited all former recipients of this premier student award to join all past association presidents at a reunion reception and banquet honoring the 1990 winners.

The names of the attendees read like a who's who among the student leadership of the past 60 years. Speaking for the Dad's Day winners at the banquet were the senior recipients present, 1930 honorees Velma Jones Calvert and Carl Albert.

Mrs. Calvert recalled of her famous colleague, former U.S. House Speaker Albert, "Carl Albert was so pleased when I was named Outstanding Senior Girl—because I was shorter than he was."

The diminutive Albert admitted that he had been the smallest man in the senior class that year. Referring to the change in nomenclature for the honor, he explained that his award was for the outstanding *boy* student. "I guess they have grown up some since then," he added.

"No honor I ever received meant more to me than the honor bestowed on me by the Dads' Association," Albert continued. "Now in the twilight of my life, I am proud that I was a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. I love this university as much as I love any place on earth."

Then Carl Albert took yet one more standing ovation from his fellow Sooners.

### Student Publications Staffs

The bond that develops among student journalists working long hours on *The Oklahoma Daily*, the *Sooner Yearbook*, *The Covered Wagon*, and other publications was recognized at a Centennial reunion October 19 and 20. Special tribute was paid during the weekend to the *Daily* and the Publications Board on their 75th anniversaries.

In addition to the annual School of Journalism and Mass Communication banquet Friday night, alumni had the opportunity on Saturday to meet present student staff members. During a pre-game open house, they also were invited to tour the publications' production facilities.

### President's Leadership Class

Freshman members of the President's Leadership Class are encouraged to develop their leadership potentials while learning all there is to know about the University of Oklahoma. With established networks in place for the rest of their OU careers, they make use of each other's talents and abilities in providing leadership for the whole spectrum of student activities. They support each other even as they compete for many of the same honors and opportunities.



*Returning alumni and on-campus PLCs paid tribute to their retiring sponsor, OU Vice President Anona Adair, center, at the 30th anniversary reunion of the President's Leadership Class. Co-chairing the event were seniors Krista Morton, left, and David Wise. PLC membership has been a top recruiting tool for OU since the first class was organized in 1961.*

The unique relationship that develops among PLCs was clearly in evidence at the group's 30th anniversary reunion on November 10 during the Centennial Homecoming Weekend. More than 300 current and past class members, their spouses and present and past class sponsors gathered in the student union study lounge to catch up on the five years since their 1985 silver anniversary reunion. Nearly 2,000 Sooners have participated in the President's Leadership Class since its first class entered as freshmen in 1961 at the invitation of OU President George L. Cross.

Terry Heineman, Tulsa, PLC '63, served as master of ceremonies for the program, which included remarks by the first class alumnus to be elected governor of Oklahoma, David Walters, PLC '69. Tim Rasnic, Norman, PLC '82, presented a commemorative gift to the family of the late David A. Burr, founder and long-time sponsor of the class, while Greg Kubiak, Washington, D.C., PLC '79, and Krista Morton and David Wise, PLC '87, made a special presentation to the retiring sponsor, OU Vice President for Student Affairs Anona Adair.

### Campus VIPs

They were the best-known names on campus during their OU days, and the experiences they shared drew them back to the Centennial Homecoming reunions of half a dozen honor groups taking place throughout the Oklahoma Memorial Union on November 10.

*The Junior College Merit Council* celebrated 20 years as the transfer student counterpart of the President's Leadership Class with approximately 70 alumni in attendance.

*Panbellenic and Interfraternity Council*, under the current sponsorship of Tracy Padek and Craig Little, welcomed back approximately 50 of their former officers and executive council members, and winners of the Outstanding Greek Man and Woman Award.

*The Honors Reunion* of approximately 200 former Sooner VIPs involved the memberships of Mortar Board and Pe-et, those named to Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges, and Big Men and Big Women on Campus, and the winners of the Outstanding Senior Award.