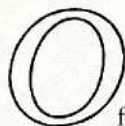


Homecoming



f all the events of the jam-packed Centennial Homecoming Weekend, none surpassed the OU Family Reunion Luncheon for sheer nostalgia and reverence for past contributions to the University of Oklahoma by those who had loved and served her best.

The OU Family Reunion was but one component of the Centennial Homecoming Weekend but answered a need unmet in other events of the celebration. This was a gathering of the insiders, attended by many of the present faculty, staff and administrators but focused on their emeritus colleagues, their spouses and children. For two hours in the Union Ballroom, it was memory time for those who had grown up with the University.

Compiling the invitation list took months of searching, checking and rechecking by a luncheon committee headed by OU regents' executive secretary Barbara Tuttle. The resulting attendee roster read like a page from institutional history.

A great-grandnephew represented OU's founding president, David Ross Boyd; the daughter and granddaughters of President Stratton D. Brooks were on hand, as were the daughter and grandson of President James S. Buchanan, the daughter and grandsons of William Bennett Bizzell, President Emeritus and Mrs. George L. Cross and their daughter and grandchildren, the widow of President J. Herbert Hollomon, President Emeritus and Mrs. Paul F. Sharp, their daughter and grandchildren, former President and Mrs. William S. Banowsky.

Josephine Paxton Larson came from North Carolina to represent her parents, Joseph F. Paxton, the Latin professor who coined the new University's motto, and Fantine Samuels Paxton, OU's first woman graduate. Among the other historic family names in attendance were Holmberg, Gittinger, Dale, Hassler, Kaufman, McFarland, Rader, Carson and many of more recent vintage. Families whose names grace University buildings were special guests, as were regents and former regents.

Former interim president and provost J. R. Morris Jr. served as master of ceremonies for a program devoted to historical overview and anecdotes. Professor emeritus J. Clayton Feaver, whose prayers have been a staple at OU football games since 1973, gave the invocation. Honorary chairs for the event were Elaine Bizzell Thompson, daughter of President Bizzell, and Virginia Kraettli Gasaway, daughter of long-time regents' secretary Emil R. Kraettli.

An unexpected dividend of the OU Family Reunion Luncheon was the announcement of the formation of the OU Generations Club. Under the auspices of the OU Alumni Association, the group will include second, third and fourth generation alumni whose purpose is to foster closer ties with the University and to recruit the children of alumni for the University. The club was the suggestion of alumnus Harold Powell, owner of Harold's clothing stores. Federal Judge Ralph Thompson, a grandson of President Bizzell, will serve as OU Generations' first chairman; his twin daughters, OU juniors Elaine and Maria Thompson, will co-chair the corresponding club for current OU students.



ABOVE: Master of ceremonies J. R. Morris, left, and committee chairman Barbara Tuttle welcome "family members" to the OU Family Reunion Luncheon in the Union.

BELOW: Emil Kraettli's daughter, Virginia, left, with husband Harold Gasaway and son Jim, visit with President Emeritus Paul F. Sharp and wife Rose at the Family Reunion.

OU FAMILY REUNION LUNCHEON

