



by CAROL J. BURR

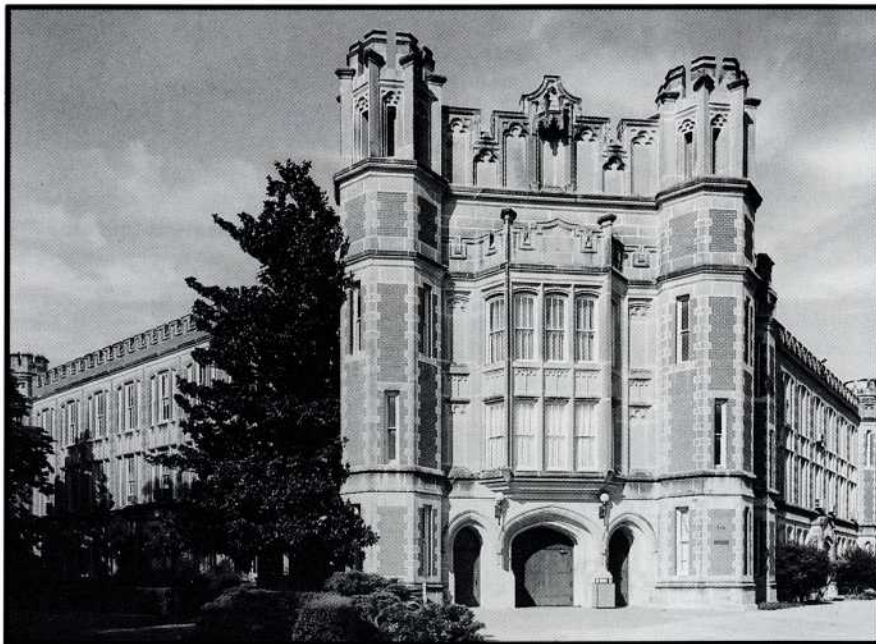
S miles aplenty could be found last November on the faces of University of Oklahoma planners as they went back to their drawing boards to fine tune projects to be funded by \$66.7 million in state capital improvement bonds.

The bonding process has become a way of life for funding the state of Oklahoma's capital improvements—but one whose benefits had bypassed the higher education system altogether since 1968. The voters corrected that oversight with resounding approval of a \$350 million capital bond issue for the state, nearly 70 percent—or \$258 million—of which was designated for Oklahoma's 26

institutions of higher education.

Projects associated with OU that will benefit from the voters' largess total \$66.7 million for improved classroom and laboratory space; health care research and clinical facilities; modernization of computing resources; health, safety and access projects; and consolidation of the University's fund-raising units charged with generating private support for academic programs. All three University campuses—Norman and the Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City and Tulsa—have bond-funded projects under way.

Continued



The auditorium within historic Holmberg Hall, built in 1918 and renovated in the late '40s, is scheduled for virtual reconstruction with better acoustics, contemporized sound and lighting and replacement of the air conditioning system.

THE OKLAHOMA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

A major item on the bond issue agenda was \$15 million as the state's commitment to the new \$35 million museum facility to be built on the southwest edge of the Norman campus near the Law Center. Earlier in 1992, the citizens of Norman approved their share of the cost with a \$5 million bond issue. The remaining \$15 million (and an additional \$5 million endowment for museum programs) is the goal of a private funding campaign to be launched by the University this spring.

The work of assembling one of the nation's finest natural history collections began 94 years ago. Always housed in make-shift quarters, at risk from fire, wind and rain, these priceless cultural and historical treasures are destined to be a major tourist attraction as well as one of the University's most valuable teaching and research resources.

The architectural design for the new museum currently is under way. Construction should begin within 18 months with five years expected for completion and full occupancy. The collections, however, can be moved to the safety of the new building's vaults before full completion of the facility.



J. Pat Carter

The long-awaited phase two of the Stanley B. Catlett Music Center will become a reality with bond issue and private funds.

NORMAN CAMPUS PROJECTS

• **Stanley B. Catlett Music Center and Holmberg Hall**—With \$6.2 million from the bond issue, the University can complete phase two of the Catlett Music Center and renovate venerable Holmberg Hall Auditorium.

In the euphoric '80s, Catlett was designed as a \$40 million, four-phase

project to house all the far-flung resources of the School of Music and provide for growth; only phase one was completed. A '90s reality check resulted in a compromise: a \$4 million Holmberg project, providing a medium-sized auditorium, faculty studios, teaching spaces and offices, and an \$8.7 million addition to Catlett for both a larger and a smaller concert hall, along with more faculty studios, classrooms and specialized teaching facilities. Of the \$12.7 million total cost of the two projects, \$6.2 will come from the bond issue and \$6.5 from other sources, principally private gifts, of which approximately \$1.3 million remains to be raised.

School of Music director Richard Gipson echoed the sentiments of his colleagues across the campus: "We are ecstatic about what this bond issue means to the arts and are eternally grateful to the people of Oklahoma. We have been hoping for this for at least 10 years. The passage of the bond issue makes a statement—that the arts are important."

The major focus of the Holmberg project is the virtual reconstruction of the auditorium—better acoustics, contemporizing the lighting and sound, replacing the patched-together air conditioning system. A previous renovation of the 1918 structure in the late '40s removed a second balcony and covered the original domed ceiling with a lowered flat ceiling, actions that, OU architect Arthur Tuttle admits, "may have seemed like a good idea at the time but actually were self-defeating acoustically."

The same architectural firm has been selected for both music projects, which will centralize music instruction and performance on one corner of the campus, if not in the same facility. "The bright side," Gipson says, "is that we get to keep Holmberg."

• **Physical Sciences Center**—Renovation of parts of four floors will provide 13,350 square feet of new, modern research space for the department of chemistry and biochemistry at a cost of \$2.7 million. The new facilities will alleviate the severe overcrowding in an area where 23 of the 24 faculty members are conducting externally funded research valued at \$3 million to \$4 million a year.



The \$7.75 million Family Medicine Building at the OU Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City will be built with \$4.5 million from the bond issue and the balance from other sources. The department has been housed in two outdated clinics, two houses, rented office space and a trailer.

Department chairman Glenn Dryhurst points out that laboratory research is part of the teaching program as well. "This is part of the training of our students," he says. "As their capstone experience, most of our undergraduates will opt for doing research for two or three semesters, and the labs are where they will conduct their research."

•Classrooms, Laboratories and Equipment—The bond funds will enable the University to spend \$2.7 million to renovate several heavily used classrooms, laboratories and other teaching spaces and to replace worn out and outdated classroom and laboratory equipment.

•Computer Resources Modernization—In the never-ending effort to keep computer resources up-to-date, the University will acquire \$4 million in computer equipment to establish additional computer laboratories for undergraduate and graduate instruction; improve hardware and software for computer-assisted instruction; and enhance the fiber optic "backbone" at the Norman campus to facilitate better campus interaction among faculty, staff and students and access to databases.

The University Libraries' computerized Oklahoma Library Information

Bond money will renovate overused labs and classrooms, replace old equipment.

Network also will be expanded.

•Engineering Facilities—Carson Engineering Center and the Engineering Laboratory Building will undergo renovation totaling \$1.8 million to accommodate the changing needs of the College of Engineering.

•Engineering Laboratory Building—The bond issue will provide \$1.2 million for renovation of one of the campus' oldest (1910) and most heavily used buildings. The entire project, with some funds from other sources, will total nearly \$1.4 million. Included will be installa-

tion of new mechanical and electrical systems and modifications to bring the building into compliance with current fire, life safety and accessibility codes.

•Adams Hall—The focus of the College of Business Administration's plans for the \$1 million renovation of its building is the centralization on the first floor of all its student services offices, including expanded undergraduate and graduate advising space. Improvement of the building's heating and ventilation systems is also anticipated.

•Whitehand Hall—The exterior of Whitehand underwent considerable repair several years ago, but lack of funds for complete interior renovation to make habitable the 1919 Masonic dormitory has left the building standing empty on the corner of Boyd and University Boulevard. After the \$1.5 million project is complete, Whitehand will bring together units of the division of University Affairs, currently being housed in several buildings on and off campus.

The division of University Affairs, under Vice President Frederick J. Bennett, is responsible for developing OU's external relationships. University Affairs encompasses the work of the development office, the University's private fund-raising arm, which generated \$32 million in gifts in fiscal 1992; and the offices of news services, photo and electronic services, publications, special events, the OU Alumni Association and alumni records.

Relocation to Whitehand of University Affairs units now in the Oklahoma Memorial Union also will free badly needed space for the activities of student organizations and the Office of Student Affairs.

•Health, Safety and Access Projects—Several older campus build-



Many of the faculty/scientists charged with doubling Health Sciences Center research grants and contracts to at least \$40 million annually will work in this new \$39.4 million Biomedical Research Building—\$17.9 million coming from the state bond issue.

ings are targeted for asbestos removal or encapsulation with the \$1.6 million provided by the bond issue. A number of roof repairs also are scheduled, along with health, ventilation and air conditioning improvements to two buildings.

HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

•**Biomedical Research Building**—Central to the strategic plan to reinforce the position of the Health Sciences Center as a nationally recognized academic health center is doubling faculty research grants and contracts to at least \$40 million annually. Much of this research will be conducted in the 117,000 net square feet of laboratory space in the new \$39.4 million Biomedical Research Center. The bond issue will provide \$17.9 million to match \$21.5 million from other sources.

Targeted areas of research will be those of highest scientific impact, such as molecular biology, biochemistry, cardiovascular physiology, pharmaceutical sciences and neurosciences. Besides enhancing the recruitment of distinguished faculty/scientists, the center's activities will strengthen the



OU now will own its Tulsa campus.

postdoctoral, Ph.D. and master's degree programs by attracting top quality graduate and postdoctoral students.

•**Family Medicine Building**—The 67,000 square feet of the new \$7.75 million home of the department of family medicine will accommodate state-

of-the-art educational space for student and faculty, family medicine clinics and clinical support areas. Of the total, \$4.5 million will come from the bonds, \$3.3 million from other sources. For the past several years, the department charged with training the family physicians and other health practitioners to provide prime care to Oklahoma's citizens has been housed in two houses, two outdated clinics, rented office space and a trailer.

•**OU College of Medicine-Tulsa**—The purchase of the Tulsa campus of the College of Medicine with \$6.6 million from the bond issue will free up more than \$5.7 million that would have gone to debt service over the next 15 years. That money now will be available to improve the quality of teaching, research and patient care at the branch that has educated 526 medical students and 458 primary care residents since its creation by the legislature in 1971.

The Tulsa campus, located on South Sheridan Road between East 28th and 31st streets, was acquired in 1980 through a lease-purchase agreement with the Tulsa Industrial Authority. Appraised value is \$10.8 million. 