

## Bizzell's Great Reading Room Has Its Own Fan Club

I want to express my appreciation for the wonderful article on the renovation/restoration of the main reading room of Bizzell Library. My husband and I had just taken guests to see the rebirth of that special room the week before the *Sooner Magazine* arrived, and we quickly dispatched our copy so they could get the full story as well as see the superb photographs. Your cover photograph captured the ecclesiastical hush and the sense of scholarly refuge that always engulfs me when I work in that room.

I think we all can take special pleasure in seeing that magnificent reading room restored to its former grandeur, and we owe special thanks to the Physical Plant crew who showed great care and sensitivity in bringing the room back to life.

I am concerned that there were not sufficient funds to complete the task. As I recall, the massive library tables and the chairs await restoration. I wonder if that might be done through a special subscription? For example, an individual wishing to honor a family member, a favorite professor, a former classmate could pay for the restoration of a chair in that person's name. The chair could bear a small plate on the back with the name of the person being honored. I have no idea what the cost per chair might be, but I venture that it would be quite reasonable. What a gracious tribute to a special person's memory that could be. No single place in the entire University is a better symbol of what higher education should be than is the Bizzell Reading Room.

Anne Hodges Morgan  
Norman, Oklahoma

*Editor's Note: Physical Plant Director Ben Kinder was delighted with reader Morgan's suggestion. As he notes in the following letter, work on the library tables is funded. Of the 200 chairs in the Great Reading Room, 126 require restoration at \$95 each. Checks payable to the "OU Foundation/Library Chairs," may be sent to 100 Timberdell Road, Norman, OK 73019-0685. Specify: "Gift of \_\_\_\_\_" or "In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_."*

I just received a copy of the Spring 1993 *Sooner Magazine* and was very impressed with the cover and your story on "The Great Reading Room." We appreciate your acknowledgment of our role in trying to restore the room. I am pleased to report that we were able to squeeze out enough money in the current FY '93 budget to authorize the work necessary to restore the reading tables. With the budget cut we are taking for FY '94, the chairs will have to wait.

Morris B. Kinder  
Director, Physical Plant  
University of Oklahoma

The nostalgia and grandeur of "The Great Reading Room!" You and your staff are to be commended on the outstanding selection of photos and the descriptive narrative (*Sooner Magazine*, Spring 1993).

Your article brought back many memories of the quiet hours I spent in study, research and report preparation while attending Oklahoma University. The patient and supportive help of the Reference Librarians will never be forgotten.

The Great Reading Room in the Bizzell Memorial Library: the mark of a Great University.

Roy A. Haubert, '67 BLS, '70 MLS  
El Cajon, California  
P.S. I have a mineral collection on display in the Geology Building.

My wife (the former Norine Castle, '55 B.A.) and I enjoy the *Sooner Magazine* more than we can say, and I loved, particularly, the photograph of the Great Reading Room where I spent untold hours.

Richard D. Haynes, '54 B.A.  
Dallas, Texas

## OU Decals Available

Earlier this year I wrote to *Sooner Magazine* about the many Texas automobiles I see here in Dallas with window decals reading:

TEXAS EX  
LIFE MEMBER

Thank you for answering my request for a similar decal for my automobile as a graduate of the University



of Oklahoma. It is now plainly in view for all to see.

I've even had people honk at me and point to it and wave to me. One man even asked me to pull over while pointing at it. He then asked where he could get one like it. I gave him your address.

It would be good if the OU Alumni Association were to put an insert in a future issue of the magazine indicating that such a decal could be secured. I've now had nine people ask about it.

Ralph W. Widener Jr., '50 M.A.  
Dallas, Texas

*Editor's Note: OU Alumni window decals (pictured above) are available in a tasteful Sooner red. Any graduate or former student may obtain a decal at no charge (they even pay postage) from the OU Alumni Association; 900 Asp Avenue, MZ 1; Norman, OK 73019-0401.*

## On Commencement '93

Your comments in the "Prologue" section of the *Sooner Magazine*, Spring '93, were very apropos. I have attended or been part of several graduation ceremonies on the Norman campus. This year's graduation was indeed less than perfect. Part of this lack of inspiration may have come from the "disconnectedness" of the commencement speaker with the audience. The honorary degree recipients failed to inspire in our graduates any desire to emulate their "achievements."

Let us seek to bring back graduation to the graduates and their families. Look for speakers and degree honorees who will inspire them and make them proud to be a part of this large university. *Continued on Page 32*

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Since I am currently studying at the Health Sciences Center campus, I frequently experience this sense of being "cut off" or isolated from the larger university. Where were the welcoming guides or signs or instructions for those unfamiliar with the campus? Graduation should be a mini-homecoming for those proud relatives of the current graduates who may not have been back to campus in years or a welcome to first-time visitors.

Is there a student advisory committee for graduation? If not, there should be—with representatives from all the colleges in the OKC and Norman campuses, and perhaps a few parents as well, since, for the most part, this is their investment coming to maturity.

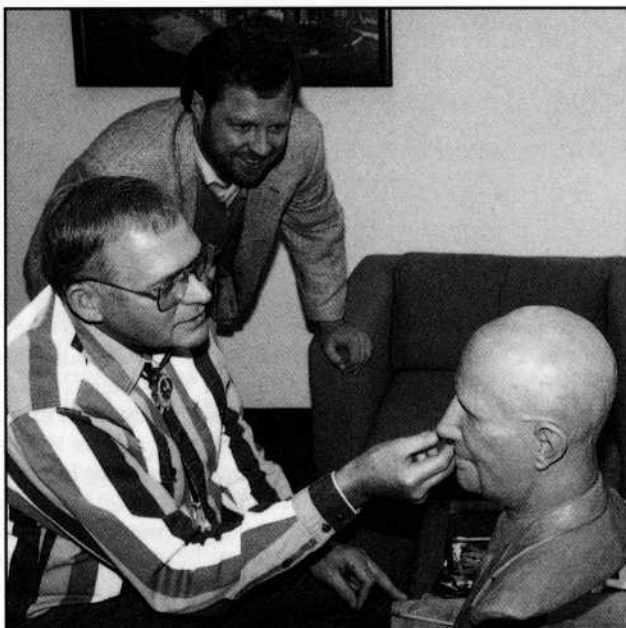
Commencement, or graduation, may seem an outdated or archaic pageant, but I have not attended one yet without a feeling for the traditions of the school. We have another student graduating next spring. Let's work together to make '94 the most memorable ceremony yet!

Mary Jane Calvey, '91 M. PH  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*Editor's Note: A hard-working Commencement Committee of faculty, staff and students (but no parents), is soliciting recommendations on revamping the ceremonies for the '90s.*

## A Tribute to the Dean

Grandson Rock Richardson watches as sculptor Rich Muno puts the finishing touches on the bust commissioned by the family of the late Dean W.H. Carson for the OU engineering center that bears his name. Joining Richardson for the July 28 dedication were Carson's sister Alice Parker and other grandchildren, Carol White; Dan, David and Jason Williams and Jim Carson.



## Old China Hand Recalled

The death of Everett Drumright, Class of '29, should not go unnoticed. He was one of the distinguished graduates of the University of Oklahoma, and one of the ablest United States Foreign Service officers.

He was always proud and loyal to his Oklahoma rearing and education. He lectured on his very interesting career at the University under the sponsorship of the Asian Studies Committee in 1976, at which time President Paul F. Sharp gave a small dinner in his honor. Drum came back for the 50th anniversary reunion of his class in 1979 (when he stayed at our house) and was on the program in 1990 at the time of the Centennial Celebration.

The town of Drumright, Oklahoma, was named after his father; and Drum himself was an authentic Old China Hand, who, after being assigned to the Legation School in Nanking in 1932, spent 22 years on assignment in China because of his fluency in Chinese.

Successive crises in the postwar years found him in responsible posts, as Chief of the Division of Chinese Affairs at the State Department in 1945, as the senior diplomat present in Seoul when the Korean War broke out in 1950, as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs in 1953, and as Ambassador to Tai-

wan, 1958-1962, when he handled the Quemoy-Matsu crisis over the offshore islands.

His subordinate at that time, William J. Cunningham, writes of the sad news of his passing on April 24, 1993, in Poway, California, at the age of 86, and hopes that Drum's native state will take note of his achievements. His widow, Florence Teets Drumright, a travel and aviation writer, notes that he was always loyal to his native state. *The New York Times* called him "a tall, solidly built native of Oklahoma" when it recounted his distinguished career; and I can confirm that he spoke with the accent of his native state in a cordial, easy manner to the end of his life.

Sidney D. Brown  
Professor of History  
Director, Asian Studies  
University of Oklahoma

## A Most Interesting Lady

Thank you so much for sending us the *Sooner Magazine*. I congratulate you on the production of such an excellent publication for the University of Oklahoma.

I especially enjoyed reading the article in the most current issue on the interview of Helen Robson Walton, an alumna of the university. She is such an interesting lady with an unusual philosophy and outlook on life.

E. T. Dunlap  
Chancellor Emeritus  
Oklahoma State Regents  
for Higher Education  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

## Kudos for Chemistry

It is no surprise to learn of the great things happening in the OU chemistry department ("Détente in the Laboratory," Spring 1993). In my view the chemistry department has always maintained the highest standards in research and instruction. I probably am a bit biased.

How good it was to hear of the restoration of the "Great Reading Room" of the Bizzell Library. For me there is no other place like it anywhere. I spent many quiet, beautiful hours in the room.

Sam R. Faris, '41 B.S., '47 M.S.,  
'49 Ph.D. (in chemistry, of course)  
Dallas, Texas