

The Carl Albert Award isn't
just another plaque.
The recipients are bound
forever to the Speaker, to the
University and to each other.

A Most Auspicious Occasion

photos by Gil Jain



The head table gathers at the 30th anniversary reunion banquet for the Carl Albert Award recipients. From left are Julian Rothbaum, Arts and Sciences Dean David Young, Molly Shi Boren, President David L. Boren, Carl Albert, Mary Albert and University of Central Oklahoma President George Nigh.

However gratifying and appreciated at the time, most of the awards we receive in life—short of a Nobel, a Pulitzer or an Oscar—eventually are relegated to the recesses of our memories and our cupboards. The money, if any, is quickly spent; the plaques, loving cups and medals soon collect more dust than admiring glances. Not so the Carl Albert Award, given annually to the outstanding senior in the University of Oklahoma's College of Arts and Sciences.

Along with a \$1,000 stipend, a handsome plaque

and appropriate public recognition, the recipients of this 30-year-old distinction find that they have assumed an obligation "for future service" and acquired Carl Albert as friend and advocate. The 87-year-old former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, whom the award honors, seldom loses track of his group. He corresponds with them, encourages their endeavors, follows their careers with intense interest—and every five years, they are summoned back to renew their ties to Albert and the University and to share with each other the events of the intervening years.

Continued

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The host for this extraordinary gathering of some of the University's finest graduates is the man who established the Carl Albert Award in 1965-66, Julian Rothbaum, of Tulsa, himself an honored OU alumnus and a close friend of Albert for nearly six decades. Rothbaum inaugurated the reunions on the 15th anniversary of the prize, offering each recipient transportation and lodging to attend. Considering the busy lives they lead, an amazing number accepts. The fourth such gathering, marking the award's 30th anniversary, was held on November 4, 1994, at the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education. Earlier in the day, the 1994-95 prize was awarded to J. Kevin Shuck, a chemistry major from Elk City. The inaugural winner from 1966, Gary Blasi, of Los Angeles, was on hand.

The staff of the College of Arts and Sciences was able to contact all but two of the 30 recipients; of the 28 who responded, most sent special messages for the Speaker and their fellow honorees, and 19 were able to attend in person.

At the banquet Rothbaum was emphatic in declaring that “never before at the University had one room held so many brilliant scholars.” No one argued the point.

Featured speaker David L. Boren, who had just assumed his position as the University's 13th president, paid tribute to the continuity of friendship between Rothbaum and Albert. “Their friendship has been carefully tended,” Boren said of the two men, both of whom served as presidents of their respective student bodies at OU.

In citing the significance of the prize and the quality of its recipients, Boren reminded the audience of the place Carl Albert holds in the history of the University, as one of its most outstanding scholars, Phi Beta Kappa, Rhodes Scholar, and in the nation's history as distinguished congressman, majority whip, majority leader and ultimately Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Boren quoted Albert's assessment of his education as being indispensable to his career: “As a matter of fact, my career might be simply considered an extension of my education.” It was a sentiment repeated many times that night as the Carl Albert Award alumni each were recognized for their professional and personal contributions and public service.

The recipients of the award and their post-OU professional activities are:

Gary Blasi, 1966, received a master's in political science and a law degree from Harvard and is now a professor at the UCLA School of Law.

Carole Choate Lamotte, 1967, now of Woodbridge, Connecticut, earned a master's in physiology from Georgetown Medical School and a Ph.D. in physiology from Johns Hopkins University.

Susan B. Kennedy, 1968, after receiving a medical degree from Washington University of St. Louis, returned to her hometown of Muskogee to practice dermatology.

Marjorie Ann Clay, 1969, who earned a master's in philosophy from Northwestern University and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the State University of New York at

Buffalo, is a professor of ethics in medicine and family community medicine and ethicist for the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester.

Claude W. Johnson Jr., 1970, was not located.

John David Williamson, 1971, is a visiting professor of horticulture at North Carolina State University and lives in Morrisville. He received a master's in physical oceanography from the U.S. Naval Academy Post Graduate School in Monterey, California, and a Ph.D. in developmental plant biology from Oregon State University.

Terry McMahan, 1972, earned his medical degree from the UCLA School of Medicine and is a professor of psychiatry and assistant dean for medical education at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock.

Nancy McAfee Thompson, 1973, received an OU law degree and has her own practice in Oklahoma City, having previously served as law clerk for Judge William J. Holloway, 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Katherine “Kate” Henton Hora, 1974, of Manteca, California, earned a master's in German from the University of Michigan and a M.B.A. from Oklahoma City University. She is a public affairs specialist at the Federal Communications Commission.

Lisa A. Farrell, 1975, returned to her hometown of Austin, Texas, earned a master's in library science at the University of Texas and is now a documentation specialist at Schlumberger/SeaQuest Inc.



Carl Albert, here with the 1992 winner Alicia Boscarelli, takes a personal interest in the careers of each of the Carl Albert Award recipients.

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Julian Rothbaum, right, shares a light moment with professor emeritus of philosophy J. Clayton Feaver and his wife, Margaret, who attended the reunion to honor a special former student, Marjorie Clay, at left, winner of the 1969 Carl Albert Award.



President David Boren, second from right, meets three of the University's finest. From left are Carl Albert Award winners Christopher Clemens, '85, Iowa City; Scott Deatherage, '84, Dallas; and James Johnson, '82, Boston.

Melinda Wharton, 1976, earned a Harvard medical degree, did her internship and residency in internal medicine at the University of Michigan, was a fellow at Duke University and received a master's in public health from Johns Hopkins. She is chief of the Child Vaccine Preventable Diseases Branch, National Immunization Program, at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia.

Lisa Hemmer, 1977, who received her J.D. from Harvard Law School, is a trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice and lives in Bethesda, Maryland.

Lee Ann Lowder, 1978, received her J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law and is first assistant public guardian in the Office of the Public Guardian of Cook County. She lives in Chicago.

Lyle G. Ward, 1979, of Edina, Minnesota, graduated from Harvard Law School and earned a diploma in Roman law from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He is a partner in the law firm of Faegre and Benson.

Kerry Ashford, 1980, has remained in her hometown of Norman, where she works as an academic counselor for the OU political science department and expects to complete her OU law degree in the fall of 1995.

Charles C. "Chuck" Neal, 1981, earned a law degree and a M.B.A. from the University of Chicago before returning to Miami, Oklahoma, where he is president of Charles A. Neal & Company, a family firm that invests in venture capital, oil and gas exploration and production and banking.

James H. Johnson, 1982, received his master's and

Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago and is now an assistant professor of history and humanities at Boston University.

Barry Bryson Chadsey, 1983, who earned a doctor of osteopathy degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine-Tulsa, lives in Los Angeles, California.

Scott D. Deatherage, 1984, a Harvard Law School graduate, is an environmental attorney and shareholder

Margaret Michelle Browning, 1988, a graduate of the Baylor College of Medicine, is a resident physician of otolaryngology at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. She lives in Coralville.

W. Ryan Hauser, 1989, who lives in Springer, completed a one-year program at the American Film Institute, taught Latin and world history and was a legal intern with Phillips Petroleum. He expects to receive his



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Lori Kanitz, left, of Tulsa, winner of the 1987 Carl Albert Award, visits with the 1974 recipient, Katherine Henton Hora and her husband, Thomas, of Manteca, California.

with the firm of Thompson & Knight, P.C., in Dallas, Texas.

J. Christopher Clemens, 1985, who received his Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Texas at Austin, is a NASA Hubble postdoctoral fellow at Iowa State University in Ames.

Sirpa Helena Jarvenpaa, 1986, who came to OU from Finland to study political science, later earned her master's from the School of International Affairs at Johns Hopkins University. In 1990, she left Sweden for a two-year stay in Laos as the junior economic director for a United Nations project.

Lori Ann Kanitz, 1987, received her master's in literature and theology from the University of Durham, England, and is now an English instructor at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa.

law degree from the University of Oklahoma in May.

Amy Louise Kerr, 1990, returned to her hometown of Houston, Texas, where she is a real estate analyst for Harbor Financial Mortgage Corporation.

Sharon Kay Vaughan, 1991, received her master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin, where she is currently a Ph.D. candidate and teaching assistant in the department of government.

Alicia Boscarelli, 1992, returned to Norman after graduate study in philosophy at Colorado State University, to become a retail store manager. She plans to return to college in the fall of 1995.

Robert Charles Murphy, 1993, is pursuing a Ph.D. in molecular and cellular biology at Washington University Medical School in St. Louis. He lives in Clayton, Missouri.



Early arrivals at the 1994-95 Carl Albert Award Reunion dinner gather for a group photo. Back row, from left, are J. Kevin Shuck, '95; Gary Balsi, '66; Marjorie Clay, '69; Julian Rothbaum; Dean David Young; Alicia Boscarelli, '92; Lee Ann Lowder, '78; Katherine Hora, '74; Lori Ann Kanitz, '87; and Melinda Wharton, '76; front row, from left, Scott Deatherage, '84; Charles Neal, '81; James Johnson, '82; Carl Albert; Robert Murphy, '93; Christopher Schultz, '94; and Christopher Clemens, '85.

Christopher M. Schultz, 1994, is a Ph.D. candidate and graduate teaching assistant in the department of philosophy at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

J. Kevin Shuck, 1995, a native of Elk City, Oklahoma, who attended the Technical University of Berlin in 1993-94 as an exchange student, will receive his bachelor's degree in chemistry in May. He intends to pursue a doctorate in biochemistry and plans a career in medical research.

The inaugural Carl Albert Award winner, Gary Blasi, summarized for the group the effect of the prize on their lives:

"For a naive teenager from the prairies of northwest Oklahoma, the three years I spent at OU that propelled me to Harvard and beyond felt a little like being launched on a rocket. I have had the good

fortune to receive other honors, both then and since, but none had quite the effect of the Carl Albert Award. The plaque now occupies a prominent place on the wall of my office at the UCLA Law School, where I both teach and practice public interest law. Among the other things that hang on my wall, only the Carl Albert Award speaks not only of recognition ('most distinguished rank') but also of 'moral force of character' and 'promise of future service.'

"The Carl Albert Award thus carries with it both recognition and a certain obligation, one I have taken seriously over the past 30 years. One can never sort out the tangled webs of consequence in any biography, but I am quite certain that receiving the first Carl Albert Award has had a profoundly positive effect on me and, I hope, through me on others." 