

The Distinguished Professorships

No Greater Honor

by Margaret French

photos by Robert Taylor, Tom Isbill and Terri Jennings

Biennially Sooner Magazine pays tribute to faculty members who have reached the elite circle at the University of Oklahoma: the Distinguished Professorships—the George Lynn Cross Research, the David Ross Boyd and the Regents’. The University follows an exhaustive selection process and bestows the honors sparingly. Since the positions were established in the mid ’40s, only 87 Cross, 93 Boyd and 43 Regents’ professors have been named. Recipients receive a \$6,000 one-time stipend and retain the titles for life.

Established in 1943 during the administration of and later renamed for President George Lynn Cross, the first Research Professorships were created to meet the mounting challenge of faculty retention by rewarding the institution’s top educators. The title recognizes outstanding leadership over a period of years in his or her field of learning or creative activity and recognition by peers for distinguished contributions to knowledge or creative work.

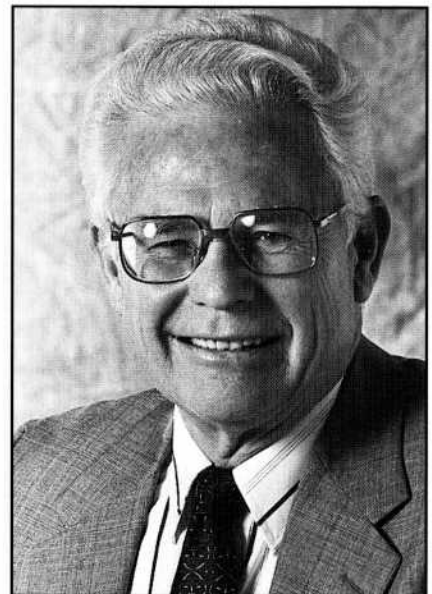
In 1945, the David Ross Boyd Professorships were founded to honor OU’s first president, who combined teaching with his administrative duties. The recipients are honored for dedication to their students through superior teaching—in the classroom or laboratory, in student/faculty conferences and through individual guidance and counseling.

The third position, the Regents’ Professorship, was created in 1946 to reward individuals for extraordinary, long-term contributions to the University, the academic community or an academic discipline and outstanding achievements in academic administration or professional service.

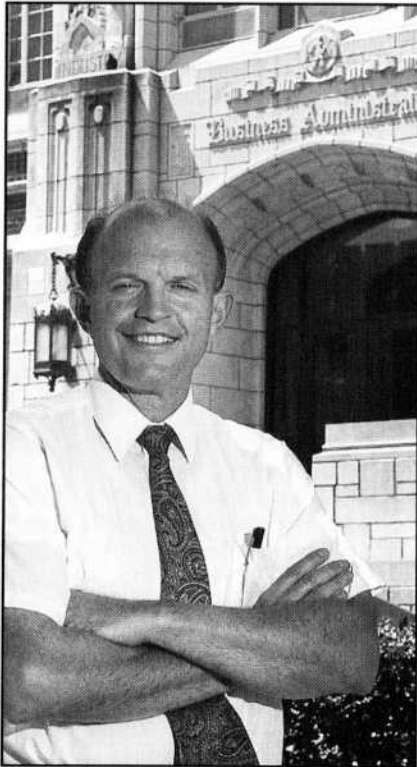
The combined historical roll of the professorships reads like a veritable who’s who among those who have graced the OU campus. Following are capsule biographies of the most recent additions to this prestigious group.

Robert E. L. Richardson, who was named a David Ross Boyd professor in 1995, joined the OU College of Law in 1964. He has taught contracts, interviewing and counseling, criminal law, criminal procedure, judicial administration, law and psychiatry and legislation. He served for two years as a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. He also chaired the subcommittee on Crimes and Punishments of the Oklahoma Recodification Committee and was a member of the public defenders committee of the Oklahoma Bar Association that created the new indigent defender system.

Richardson previously was assistant dean of the college and directed its Oklahoma Center for Criminal Justice for 19 years, during which grants were received totaling three-quarters of a million dollars. He has received the college’s William Gentry Lee Award and is a four-time recipient of the Floyd and Irma Calvert Award for Meritorious Service. Richardson has been a member or chair of executive, personnel, curriculum and scheduling and admission committees in the college and University committees including advisory council to the president, campus disciplinary council and legal advisor to the faculty appeals board. The author of several books and many research articles, he also has drafted legislation for the Oklahoma Legislature, spoken to legal groups and appeared on national television news shows dealing with legal issues.



Robert E. L. Richardson



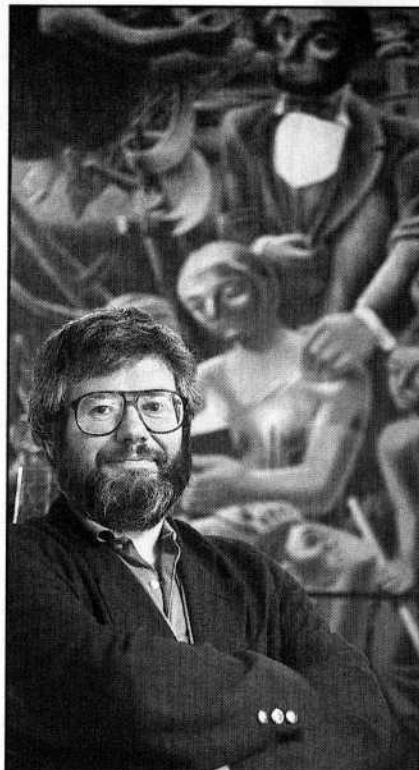
Larry Michaelsen

Larry Michaelsen was named David Ross Boyd Professor of Management in 1994, 20 years after joining the faculty of the College of Business Administration. His specialty is organizational behavior with emphasis in small group decision making, problem solving and conflict resolution. He is a past visiting professor at Michigan and Brigham Young universities and visiting scholar to the Swinburne Technical Institute, Melbourne, Australia, and the University of South Africa. His industrial experience includes terms as a visiting scholar to the Westinghouse Electric Corporation and the Center for Naval Analysis as a consultant to such firms as AT&T, the FAA, Western Electric, Kerr-McGee, Fleming Companies, OG&E, Phillips Petroleum and Lockheed Aircraft.

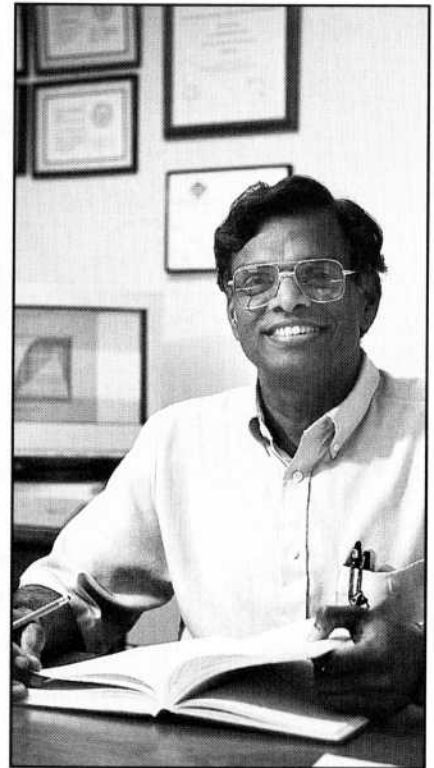
A widely published author with countless refereed publications and papers presented at professional meetings to his credit, Michaelsen is also a student favorite who has received many OU awards including the Baldwin Award, Outstanding Instruction and Service Award, Innovation in Instruction and an Associates Distinguished Lectureship. His college awards include Outstanding Management Professor, the Bruce McGoan Master Teacher Award and the Hurley Roberson Excellence in Teaching Award.

Keith R. Busby, who joined the OU faculty in 1988, is professor of French and director of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies in the University's department of modern languages, literatures and linguistics, which he chaired from 1988-91. He has supervised dissertations, and in 1993-94 his research received matching grants from the Phillips Petroleum Foundation and the Oklahoma Foundation for the Humanities. He served on the search committee for the editor of *World Literature Today* and is an advisor to the Chaucer Variorum and the annual Medieval Fair.

A 1994 George Lynn Cross Research Professor, Busby is past president of the Mid-America Medieval Association and organizer of the 18th MAMA meeting held at OU in 1994. He is president of the North American Branch of the International Arthurian Society and international secretary and editor of its *Bibliographical Bulletin* and a delegate to the Modern Language Association of America. The author of numerous books, collections and articles, Busby has lectured and presented papers at Göttingen, Harvard, Brown, Montreal, UC Berkeley, Utrecht, Notre Dame, Bonn, Glasgow, Toronto, London, Leuven, Atlanta, Durham, Leeds, Belfast and Amherst.



Keith R. Busby



S. Lakshmivaran

S. Lakshmivaran was named a George Lynn Cross Research Professor in 1995. His current areas of research interest are analysis and design of parallel algorithms and their applications, interconnection networks for parallel computers and learning algorithms. Since joining the OU faculty in 1978, Lakshmivaran has been recognized several times with University awards including the Regents Award for Superior Teaching and is both an Associates and Halliburton Distinguished Lecturer.

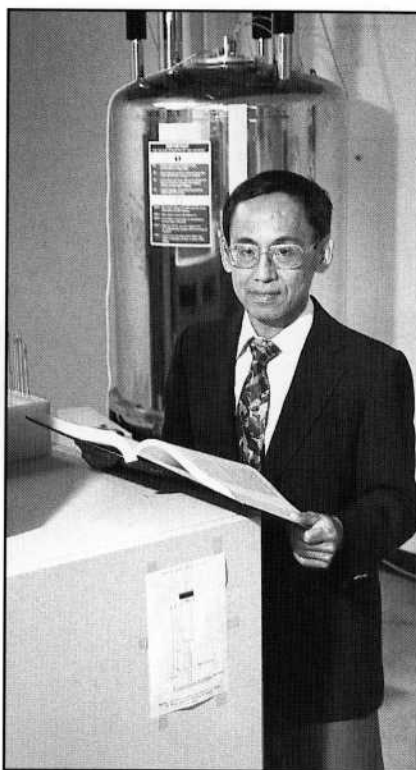
The computer scientist has received outside funding of more than half a million dollars and was a member of a team securing \$400,000 of state funding for a mini super-computer. He has directed and co-directed 17 Ph.D. dissertations and has taught short courses in the United States, Mexico, India and Taiwan. Additionally, he has presented papers and lectures worldwide from Germany to Canada to Singapore and served as a committee member at the school, college and University level. The author and co-author of four books and two chapters, Lakshmivaran's research appears widely in international and national conference papers and journals.

Thomas DeVore Carey, whose rich baritone voice has made him an international favorite, has performed and taught as a member of OU's vocal music faculty since 1969. As a college student, Carey received both the John Hay Whitney and Martha B. Rockefeller grants and later won the international vocal competition of Holland. Engagements followed with opera companies in Amsterdam, Berlin, Stuttgart, Stockholm, Zagreb, Belgrade, Madrid and Munich and concert and orchestral appearances throughout Europe.

In 1975, with his late wife, Carol Brice Carey, he founded the Cimarron Circuit Opera Company, to give young singers a forum for their talents and an opportunity to gain the valuable stage experience necessary to forge professional careers. The Norman-based opera troupe tours the state to provide Oklahomans with first-rate operatic and concert performances that can be enjoyed locally as a shared community experience. He continues with CCOC as its executive artistic director. Carey, whose students are members of opera houses throughout the United States and Europe, also is a member of the voice faculty of the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. He was named a Regents' Professor in 1994.



Thomas DeVore Carey



Bing M. Fung

Bing M. Fung was named a George Lynn Cross Research Professor in 1995. A physical chemist and an authority on nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, he also has been recognized as the Oklahoma chemist of the year and received the Regents' Award for Superior Research. During the last 12 years he has focused his research on studies of ordered systems—liquid crystals and surfactants. Fung has been a visiting professor at the universities of California at San Francisco and Berkeley; the University of Southampton, England; University of Paris at Orsay and the Institute of Atomic and Molecular Studies, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.

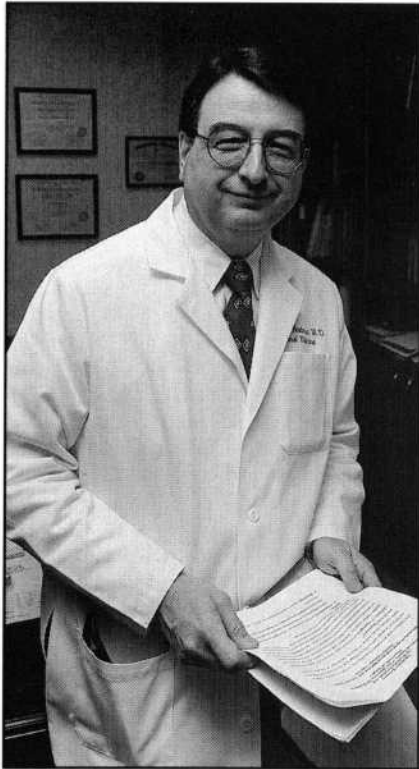
The chemist also directed his department's summer undergraduate research program. He has published more than 170 research papers and has been funded continuously with external grants since joining the faculty in 1972. His current funded research totals nearly half a million dollars.

Richard L. Van Horn is a 1994 Regents' Professor of Business, serving the College of Business Administration as senior member of the Management Information Systems faculty with primary interests in MIS, system design, simulation and client/server computing. As the University's 12th president from 1989-1994, Van Horn oversaw an increase in enrollment of National Merit Scholars, which now ranks OU in the top three public universities in the nation. During his administration, endowed positions at the University grew from 22 in 1988 to 106 in 1994, and faculty and staff amassed a record \$86 million in research grants and contracts for fiscal year 1994.

The president emeritus is a board member of the Nelson-Atkins Art Museum in Kansas City and the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri, and formerly of Oklahoma City's Kirkpatrick Center and OETA-TV. Co-author of three books and numerous articles on computing science, he previously served as chairman of the visiting committee for information technology at Harvard University. Van Horn received the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America and an Alumni Merit Award from Carnegie-Mellon University, where he occupied various administrative positions.



Richard L. Van Horn



M. Dewayne Andrews, M.D.

M. Dewayne Andrews, M.D., received the David Ross Boyd designation in 1994. He came to the OU College of Medicine faculty in 1976 and is currently appointed at Presbyterian Hospital as well as the Veterans Administration Medical Center and University Hospital, where he is director of medicine. An internal medicine specialist, he has received honors at the Health Sciences Center including the prestigious Aesculapian Award for Excellence in Teaching Clinical Sciences, the Outstanding Medicine Faculty Award and the Physician of the Year Award in Academic Medicine by the college's Alumni Association.

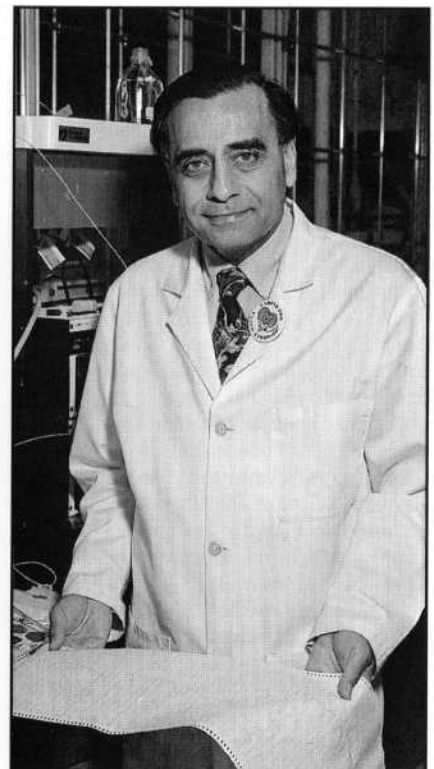
Andrews is the editor of the *Journal of the Oklahoma State Medical Association* and author and/or editor of abstracts, books and journal articles in the professional literature. A long-time member of HSC advisory groups at the College of Medicine, he currently serves on committees including tenure, clinical care developments task force, standards of practice/professional practice plan, departmental executive and clinical competence. Andrews also serves on committees for the Oklahoma State Medical Association, Oklahoma County Medical Society and is governor of the Oklahoma Chapter of the American College of Physicians.



Alan R. Velie

Alan R. Velie has taught in the English department since 1967, including a four-year term as chairman. The popular professor teaches Shakespeare, contemporary criticism, renaissance drama, American Indian and religious literature. He has received the Amoco Award for Outstanding Teaching, the Baldwin Award for Excellence in Classroom Instruction, the Summer Faculty Instructional Award and was named Outstanding Faculty Member by the Mortar Board Honor Society. Velie was named David Ross Boyd professor in 1994.

A prolific author, Velie has written and edited several chapters, articles and books, including his latest, *Native American Perspectives on Literature and History*, which was published by the University of Oklahoma Press. He has presented lectures at Charles University in Prague, Bogazici University in Istanbul, University of the Virgin Islands, UC Berkeley, Brown, Oxford, the universities of Genoa, Turin and the Universidade do Minho, Portugal.



Goverdhan P. Sachdev

Goverdhan P. Sachdev has worked as a medicinal chemistry faculty member in the department of pharmacy at OU's Health Sciences Center since 1984. Named a George Lynn Cross Research Professor in 1994, he also won the Regents' Award for Superior Research and Creative Activity and the Provost's Research Award for Senior Faculty. Sachdev's current research focuses on the biochemistry of cystic fibrosis respiratory mucus secretions and the molecular biological studies of airway mucins; funding for both studies totals nearly \$800,000. To date, his research has attracted grants totaling \$3.4 million.

The author of 50 publications and 48 abstracts, Sachdev currently supervises three postdoctoral associates and three graduate students in the department and serves on the OUHSC senate research and scientific affairs committee, the academic appeals board, campus tenure committee and OUHSC Research Council. He has lectured before the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation; the Upjohn Company; the International Symposium on Glycoconjugates in Lille, France; and the IIIrd International Symposium on Biochemical Roles of Eukaryotic Cell Surface Macromolecules in Delhi, India.