

BY CAROL J. BURR

A good script writer would have had the threatening skies clear and a dazzling sun break through—just as David L. Boren stepped to the podium to be invested with the symbols of his office as the 13th president of the University of Oklahoma. But Oklahoma must have needed the rain, and rain it did—on the protected and the unprotected, 6,000 strong, who filled Parrington Oval for the Friday, September 15, inaugural ceremonies.

The good news is that there were few complaints. The crowd had come for a joyous occasion, and it would have taken more than a little rain to spoil this day. Besides, Oklahomans dry quickly, and apparently their guests do as well. Participants were a mix of representatives from universities and colleges, the tribes of Oklahoma, learned societies, public officials, the 76 countries with students at OU, regental boards, alumni, faculty, staff and students.

The inaugural ceremonies, however, were just the beginning of a day and night full of opportunities for learning, fellowship, entertainment and a challenging plan for the future.

**Mix a dash of ceremony  
with a dollop of optimism,  
add a pinch of excitement  
and a generous portion of learning,  
stir in a taste of fellowship,  
blend with a cool, clean fall rain  
and you have the recipe for . . .**

# A Weekend

Inaugural Photos by Gil Jain, Robert Taylor,  
Lanny David and Terri Jennings

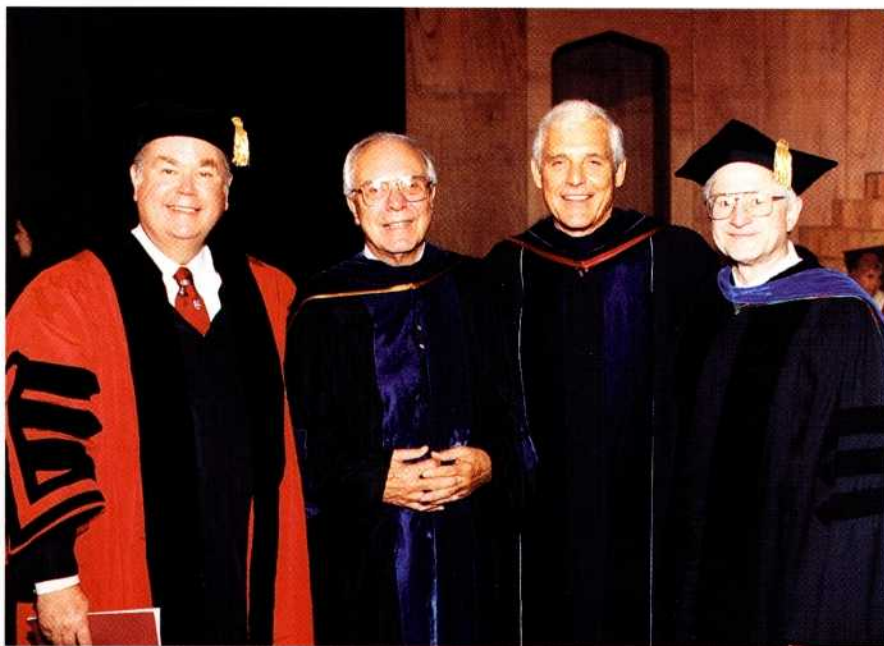


*His arms loaded with his academic regalia, David Boren heads for the robing room in the Fine Arts Center, followed by his wife, Molly Shi Boren, and daughter, Carrie Boren.*

# to Remember

## The Inaugural Ceremony

The occasion was historic, the ritual symbolic, the address inspiring. But the inauguration was also a collection of memorable if not terribly significant vignettes. The young men and women of Crimson Club in their crested navy blazers and khakis using rolls of paper towels in a vain attempt to dry a lawnful of folding chairs. David Boren delivering his address oblivious of the downpour. The chairperson of the Norman Faculty Senate stepping forward to hold an umbrella over an already-soaked president. A single, rather benign protest sign proclaiming "Give Back Student Radio" being maneuvered into camera range, for some recalling other, not-so-good-natured demonstrations. Coeds shedding their soaked sandals to make their way barefoot from the oval across the lawns to the other events.



*In a historic moment, four OU presidents—David L. Boren, Paul F. Sharp, William S. Banowsky and Richard L. Van Horn—prepare for the inaugural procession.*

*Continued*

*Undaunted by the showers that threatened the day, Allece Garrard, of McAlester, waits excitedly for the inaugural ceremonies to begin.*



*ABOVE: Carrying the flags of 76 nations in the inaugural procession, the University's international students served as official delegates from their home countries.*



*William Wakefield conducts the University Wind Ensemble in "Fanfare for Excellence," by Jerry Neil Smith, commissioned by Ann Alspaugh, of Oklahoma City.*



*President Boren receives congratulations from UOSA presidents Kim Hefty, right, Norman campus, and Jandra Mayer, Health Sciences Center.*

*David and Molly Boren receive well-wishers at the buffet luncheon in the Oklahoma Memorial Union Ballroom.*



## The Luncheon

A stand-up buffet in the Oklahoma Memorial Union Ballroom awaited inaugural participants and guests. The food was good, but the crowd around the Borens was more interested in offering their congratulations, sharing impressions of the day, greeting friends. Then they were off to the academic symposia, to campuswide open houses or to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art to view the "Inaugural Exhibition" of artwork by former and current School of Art faculty and students and the visiting exhibition of Rembrandt sketches.

*BELOW: Alumni Affairs Executive Director Paul Massad, left, visits with DeVier Pierson, Washington, D. C., and Bill Paul, Bartlesville, at the buffet luncheon following the inaugural ceremonies.*



*LEFT: International student Richard Holligan, right, who represented his native Scotland during the inaugural ceremonies, draws a laugh from OU's first lady, Molly Shi Boren.*

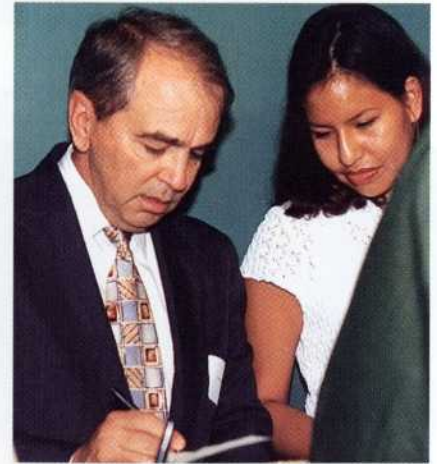
*Continued*

## The Inaugural Symposia

The number of distinguished speakers in locations all over the Norman campus was unprecedented. Nine separate symposia ran simultaneously on subjects such as higher education, international business, politics, architecture, U.S. intelligence, journalism, western history, the environment, the arts, law and health research. The response was so overwhelming that an estimated 2,000 persons were turned away as every session played to a capacity crowd.

A faculty member in Dale Hall was overheard to say, "Actually, I was going to wander around to see who had the fewest people—I didn't want us to be embarrassed—but they are all stuffed!" Unable to crowd into "The Future of American Politics," a Norman attorney commented, "I didn't feel so bad; they turned away two regents and Julian Rothbaum."

*Panelists for "The Future of American Politics" include Paul Tsongas, left, former U.S. senator and presidential candidate.*



*George Tenet, deputy director of the CIA, speaks on the "Future of U.S. Intelligence" to a packed auditorium in Dale Hall.*



*Hugh Newell Jacobsen, internationally known for his restoration architecture and principal architect for OU's Boyd House project, discusses "Architecture in the Public Realm" with students and inaugural visitors.*



*Maxine Frank Singer, president of the Carnegie Institute of Washington, D.C., a nationally recognized geneticist, appears as a panelist for the symposium, "Trends and Future of Health Research in the U.S."*



*Panelists for the session on "Competing in the Global Business Environment: Predicting Future Change" include Wayne Allen, left, chairman and CEO of Phillips Petroleum; Jerry Junkins, CEO of Texas Instruments; and Sheila Wellington, president of Catalyst for Women, Inc.*

## The Great Reading Room Reception

The setting for the Borens' pre-Gala reception for family, symposia participants, donors and out-of-town visitors could not have been more impressive. Even emptied of the massive study tables and chairs to accommodate more than 600 University guests, the beautiful Great Reading Room in Bizzell Memorial Library retained the aura of academic solemnity that makes it the most commonly cited "favorite place" of alumni returning to the campus.



*A member of the National Committee for The Reach for Excellence Campaign, Helen Walton, center, Bentonville, Arkansas, visits with Molly Boren's nephew, Tom Connally, left, and brother-in-law, Don Connally, Ada, at the Great Reading Room reception.*

*At a late afternoon reception in the Great Reading Room of Bizzell Memorial Library, the Borens host family, symposia participants, special guests and University donors.*

## The Reach for Excellence Gala

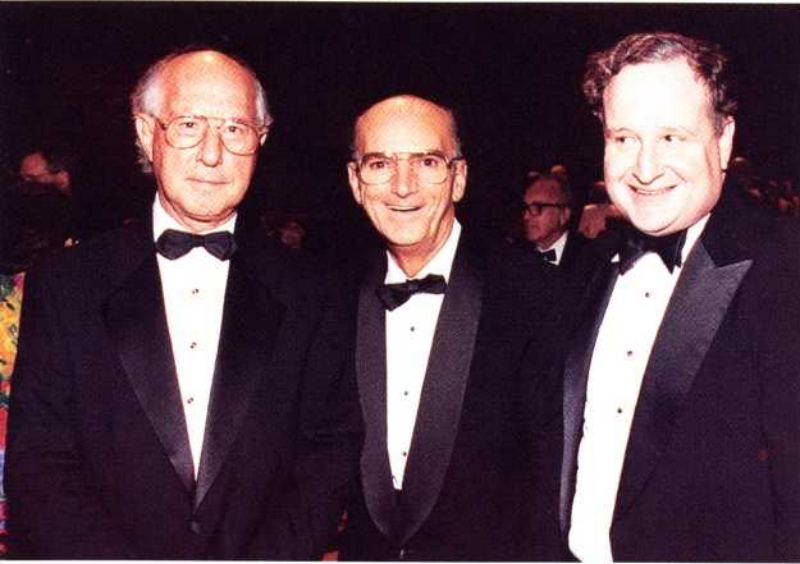
With 1,500 reservations returned for the banquet, only Lloyd Noble Center was large enough for the black-tie inaugural event, which also served as the annual University of Oklahoma Associates dinner and the kickoff for the \$200 million Reach for Excellence Campaign. Both the upper concourse and floor levels of the multi-purpose arena were filled with 279 round tables, with large television screens providing all the diners in the massive facility a better view of the speakers. Campaign chair James G. Harlow Jr. invited the assembled alumni and friends to join in the new private funding effort. Then, speaking without a prepared text, President Boren offered a personal testimonial in support of the University, living up to his reputation as an orator with the most eloquent sentiments of the day. *Continued*



*U.S. Senator Don Nickles, left, and Norman Mayor Bill Nations congratulate the newly installed OU president, David Boren, at The Reach for Excellence Gala.*

## The Reach for Excellence Gala

*OU's new vice president for development, David L. Maloney, center, greets longtime University backers Gene Rainbolt, left, Oklahoma City, and Lloyd Noble II, Tulsa.*



*Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Alma Wilson, left, dines with an old friend, Glen Watson, who came from Los Angeles to attend The Reach for Excellence Gala.*



*Master of Ceremonies A. Max Weitzenhoffer turned the spotlight on the OU College of Fine Arts during the public Inaugural Concert. Broadway producer Weitzenhoffer now spends a portion of each month at OU as producing director of the new musical theater program.*



*Singers and dancers from the OU musical production "Cole" entertain inaugural guests with a rendition of "Anything Goes."*

## The Inaugural Concert

A public concert following the Gala spotlighted the talents of the faculty and students of the OU College of Fine Arts. The University Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Allan Ross, opened and closed the concert, which also featured the internationally acclaimed baritone voice of OU professor Thomas Carey. Professor Mark Brotherton represented the School of Drama with selections from "Camelot." Oklahoma Festival Ballet, the department of dance's resident company, presented a classical offering with "Concerto Con Spirito," while the cast of the musical "Cole" followed with the popular "Anything Goes." The crowd departed near midnight with Saturday events still to come—the first gathering of the National Campaign Committee, a pre-game luncheon, the Southern Methodist University football game, a post-game reception and a sendoff for the symposia speakers. It was quite a weekend. 