



LETTERS

The Other Side of the Issue

I must comment on this article after seeing the letters to the editor that were published in the current issue [Re: "Living on the Wild Side," Winter 2006]. I am surprised that you would choose to print so many negative commentaries on this article without considering the other side.

I am a hunter, born and raised in Oklahoma. I hunted while growing up, and I hunt now in my adopted state of Pennsylvania. I suspect those who commented negatively about hunting have never had any first hand experience and have adopted attitudes popularized by the mass media.

As stated in the article, hunters are the primary proponents of conservation, wildlife management and habitat management in this country. All species of game that currently have a season for hunting in this country and in others are carefully regulated and controlled. Were it not for some organized management of game species, their wild populations would not be sustainable.

As a group, hunters are the ones we owe for ongoing interest in our environment and its preservation.

I strongly encourage those who enjoy hunting to continue to do so, and I encourage those who know nothing of the sport to inform yourself of the facts and not adopt the liberal media stance.

I applaud *Sooner Magazine* for choosing to publish "Living on the Wild Side."

*Gina M. Rooker, '84 bs micro, '88 md
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Hunting Contributions Lauded

I was mildly surprised at the outrage expressed by some readers of your article about Professor Scott ["Living on the Wild Side," Winter 2006]. As a non-hunter in an extended family full of hunters, I was always conscious that I felt differently about killing wildlife than did the rest of my family. However, I never saw that difference as evidence of a moral defect, as some of your correspondents suggested; it was simply a difference. Hunters have done more to preserve wild-

life populations and habitats than all of the hand-wringing animal lovers combined. The money put into the economy by eco-tourists is a fraction of that contributed by hunters. According to the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, annual direct retail expenditures by hunters exceed \$21 billion; the total economic impact exceeds \$65 billion. Hunters pay approximately \$53 million a year to hunt on public land, and hunting alone directly supports approximately 600,000 jobs—without consideration of any multiplier effect. The excise tax on firearms, ammunition and archery supplies funds over \$150 million in programs every year.

Wildlife management programs, funded almost exclusively by hunters—not by the Humane Society or ASPCA—have resulted in populations of some North American game animals increasing beyond what existed in 1700. No North American game animal population is endangered due to hunting, and several would be extinct now were it not for the efforts—and dollars—of hunting organizations.

From the perspective of the game animal, I doubt it matters much whether they starve in the winter due to insufficient habitat, are killed by hunters, or taken by animal predators. Certainly, wolves and coyotes are not particularly sympathetic to their prey; they don't even wait until the animal is dead before they start feeding on it, and particularly during winter, surplus killing is common. Hunters donate millions of pounds of meat per year to local food banks and soup kitchens, and there is little waste—unlike wild predators, who frequently eat only the most succulent portions and leave the rest.

So, I don't consider it 'outrageous' that *Sooner Magazine* publishes a feature article on an activity in which I choose not to participate. People who dislike hunting are free to feel that way, but unless they are willing to replace the dollars provided by hunters from their own pocket, they shouldn't be hypocritical about trying to outlaw a legal activity enjoyed by millions.

*Patrick G. Cherry, '74 poly sci
Ventura, California*

Who Supports Conservation?

One needs to consider the ignorance of the people who were *appalled, aghast, disappointed, and troubled* concerning the excellent and well-written article "Living on the Wild Side" [Winter 2006]. Their comments in letters to the editor are mostly the rumblings of the uninformed or the do-nothings who *do nothing* to help our wildlife but complain.

The sad fact is that the above critics of this article have most assuredly never contributed one dime to conservation nor do they understand the efforts of sportsmen, hunters, and conservationists in managing wildlife and their habitat. Hunting is a vital part of the management of our wildlife. People who don't understand this fact need to be informed. Those that refuse to accept this scientific fact are in fact the "outrageous and repulsive" detractors of the "planet's natural balance." There are many studies of how to manage wildlife, and hunting is a vital part of managing their populations. For example, William Koch, refuge manager of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, said, "Deer hunting is vital to the health of this 8,000-acre refuge. Deer can have a very negative impact on habitat, which not only affects deer but many other species." (*American Hunter Magazine*, August 2006)

I mostly see the anti-hunters coughing up unsubstantiated rhetoric and the "antis" have never contributed one dime or one physical minute of their time to help wildlife and their habitat. Personally, I belong to Ducks Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation, and I have been a financial sponsor of their conservation efforts. I also have built duck nesting boxes, participated in habitat restoration projects and have actively helped educate children concerning conservation and the value of our wildlife.

Incidentally, I am sure that the "morals and ethics" of the staff of *Sooner Magazine* and the faculty of the University of Oklahoma are intact and doing just fine. Also, my sons (one an

engineering graduate of Texas A&M and the other a current student at OU) stare me in the eye and ask when we are going hunting.

*Dennis Bradshaw, '68 ba journ
Gainesville, Georgia*

Editor's Note: Sooner Magazine received an outpouring of heart-felt letters from readers on both sides of the controversial subject of sport hunting, which have been printed in their entirety. Interestingly the original intent of the article was to feature an instructor who brings an unusual background to his classroom, which he uses to enliven the teaching of finance. So it is appropriate that Professor Scott, the subject of the article, in the letter below, has the last word on this very sensitive matter.

The Last Word on Hunting

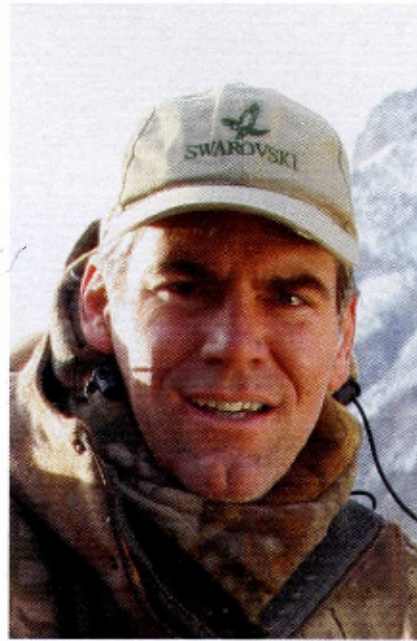
After reading the numerous, and sometimes passionate, responses to the article published about me in *Sooner Magazine* ("Living on the Wild Side," Winter 2006), I feel compelled to defend the editorial staff from the spurious and unfair comments made against them, and perhaps rectify the misconceptions of several of the writers regarding the validity of sport hunting in the modern world.

Hunting is an issue that evokes passion from both sides. While I understand and appreciate not everyone will agree with, or even be interested in, my unique occupation, I find it incredibly narrow minded, and even elitist, to question the "ethics and morality" and "taste" of the editors for publishing a story on a subject they do not care for. We are a large and diverse University family, and there are many issues on which we disagree. Having been associated with Oklahoma University for over 25 years, my story was deemed unique and possibly interesting. Castigating *Sooner Magazine* for featuring an activity that is legal, a significant economic benefit to indigenous peoples, and an integral tool of wildlife management indicates the writers' criticisms are based on emotion, not fact. To that

end, I would like to dispel a few mis-statements about hunting and our television programs.

In every instance possible, the animals that we harvest are utilized. Over the years, we have provided tens of thousands of meals of fresh protein on six continents to people in need. Meat/protein is a scarce commodity in the third world, and sport hunting is a primary source of protein for indigenous populations in many regions.

In addition, sport hunting provides significant infusions of foreign exchange into areas that would otherwise have none. Jobs, economic development and funding of wildlife conservation projects



Steve Scott

are made possible by hunters. Through taxes, licenses, trophy and concession fees, hunters fund the vast majority of wildlife research and conservation projects, and are responsible for the comeback of numerous formerly endangered species, including the white rhinoceros, pronghorn antelope, wild sheep and African elephant. In fact, the elephant is so *overpopulated* in many areas of Africa, sport hunting or government culling programs are the only alternatives to keep the herds from com-

pletely and irreversibly destroying the ecosystem.

With nearly 6.5 billion people in the world, wildlife will lose the battle with humans for habitat. In order to survive, wildlife must pay its own way, and the only scientifically proven method for many species to survive is sustained-use sport hunting. I appreciate *Sooner Magazine's* courage in addressing a topic that is considered by some, "politically incorrect."

*Steve Scott, '83 bba fin, '86 jd
Norman, Oklahoma*

Medicine as a Science

I take exception to Professor Arthur Prince's letter, "Medicine as an Art," *Sooner Magazine*, Spring 2006. Dr. Prince states that medicine can never be a science, but rather it is known that the practice of medicine is an art. One description of science (Athabasca University) is studies that normally encompass courses based on knowledge of facts, phenomena, laws and proximate causes such as biology, chemistry, nutrition and physics. I believe the study and practice of medicine qualify.

Physicians spend 10-15 years in school and the remainder of their lives studying both the science and the art of medicine. Both are daunting subjects, but progress occurs. Since 1900 life expectancy in the United States has increased from 47.3 years to 77.6 years. That increase in longevity has come from scientific medicine and other applied science not from the art of medicine.

Physicians of the early twentieth century were masters of human relations; we are at our best when we emulate their qualities. A physician's management of a patient demands a sound scientific approach as well as the art of knowing the individual and helping him or her pursue the best therapy. When ill, Professor Prince should pray that his physician has attempted to master both the science and the art of medicine.

*Ray Smith, '63 md
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

Letters continue on Page 32

Weather Capital, U.S.A.



More than just a magnificent building,
the new **National Weather Center**,
with its visionary scientists and futuristic equipment, is the engine
powering OU's Cy and Lissa Wagner University Research Campus.



The saga of the National Weather Center building on the University of Oklahoma's Research Campus spans more than six decades. The story is one of perseverance, tenacity and patience, certainly; but mostly it is a story of great vision.

The vision of George Lynn Cross, OU's longest-serving president, who secured much of the land known locally as South Base from the U.S. Navy after World War II.

The vision of Ron McPherson, a key figure at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who in the closing decade of the 20th century saw the unlimited potential of close physical proximity between his agency and the University's world-renowned School of Meteorology.

The vision of John Snow, dean of OU's College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences, and Doug Forsyth, NOAA's National Weather Center program manager and National Severe Storms Laboratory executive director of facilities and strategic planning, who developed the joint project and have been its constant stewards.

And the vision of OU President David L. Boren, who for the past dozen years has driven the monumental—and sometimes seemingly impossible—effort to fund and build a multi-functional facility worthy of being called *the* National Weather Center.



Building the Partnership

By 1990, OU's weather programs had been consolidated in the new Sarkeys Energy Center. Explosive growth of funded research soon led to a severe space crunch. At the same time, NOAA's Norman-based weather research and operational units had run out of room in the 20-year-old building on OU's north campus that the National Severe Storms Laboratory leased from the University. While OU and federal weather units had been fostering collaborative projects from separate locations, both recognized the obvious benefits of co-locating.

BY DEBRA LEVY MARTINELLI

Photos by Robert Taylor

continued

No one is more excited that the new National Weather Center on the University of Oklahoma's Research Campus is finally a reality than the three men who have been the guiding forces behind its creation: from left, NOAA and National Severe Storms Laboratory official Doug Forsyth, OU President David L. Boren and College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences Dean John Snow.



When Boren assumed the OU presidency in late 1994, he immediately endorsed the concept of a joint location. Four years later the University and NOAA agreed to partner in the construction of a major facility that would become the anchor for OU's new Research Campus. That location would be on the prime piece of real estate Cross had secured for the University nearly 50 years earlier.

Boren set about raising the necessary construction funds from federal and state sources. It was tough going.

Then, on May 3, 1999, multiple catastrophic tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, delivering death, destruction and an irrefutable argument for a weather center in the heart of Oklahoma that could provide vastly improved weather technology and forecasting.

"As we were planning the National Weather Center concept, the region was devastated by what at the time was the worst outbreak of tornadoes in Oklahoma history," Boren recalls. "President Clinton came to tour the area. I had convinced Governor [Frank] Keating that this was an opportunity for Oklahoma to be a leader in the nation in a very important field that would help build the research base and intellectual property base of the state's economy. The weather center could be the poster child for change in the state's economy and be an anchor for University research for the future."

Boren and Keating agreed that the time was right to pitch the weather center to Clinton. "Before he left Tinker Air Force Base, President Clinton announced that Oklahoma—unfortunately and tragically—was an ideal laboratory for weather and that he endorsed the idea for the National Weather Center to be built here," Boren says. "I followed that up with conversations with the president, and we got the first \$3 million for the weather center in the budget he submitted to Congress for 2000."

Over the next three years, Boren spent hundreds of hours piecing together what he calls the most complex funding for any state or federal project he has seen in his 40 years in politics.

"The federal appropriation was contingent on matching funds from the state. Oklahoma came up with \$26 million, which meant we were roughly \$7 million short," Boren remembers. "That's when we came up with the idea of selling excess land on North Base [also postwar Navy land] to the OU Foundation. The Foundation paid close to \$12 million, which

also funded some infrastructure for the research campus."

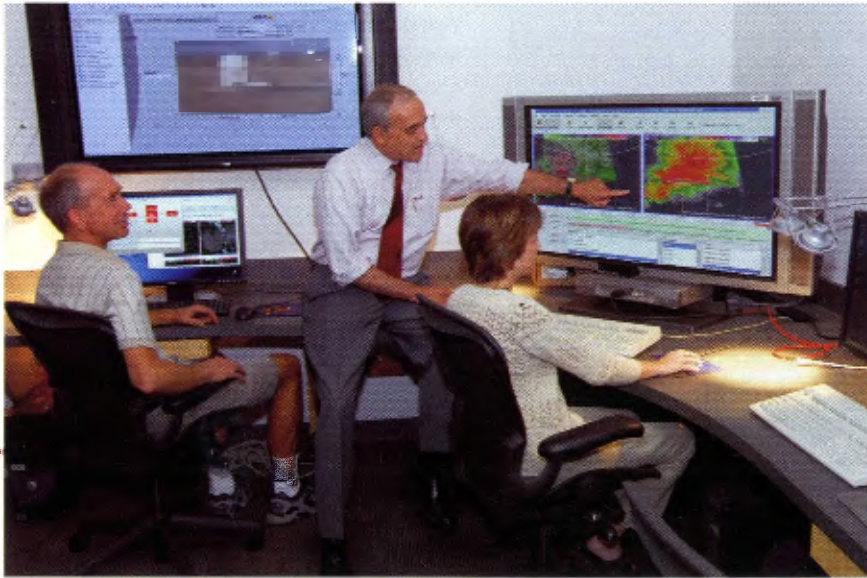
All told, the project totaled \$69 million. The \$25 million for the building came from three federal sources, with an additional \$11 million in bonds to be paid back by the federal government over 20 years, and another \$33 million plus the land from the state and the University. Construction began in August 2003 and was completed this past summer.

The road was long and arduous, Boren says, but the result is absolutely worth it.

Centerpiece of the Research Campus

Located on 22 acres just north and east of the intersection of Highway 9 and Jenkins Avenue, the National Weather Center is one of the largest facilities of its kind in the world and the crown jewel of OU's blossoming Research Campus. The building fronts David L. Boren Boulevard, the Research Campus' main east-west thoroughfare. The contemporary design combines the University's trademark exterior of red brick trimmed in white stone with modern metal panels. Within the walls is the sleek steel, glass and maple interior for which other Research Campus facilities—notably the Stephenson Research and Technology Center across the street as well as the multi-tenant One Partners Place and soon-to-be-completed Two Partners Place just to the east—are fast becoming known.

The grand, six-plus story National Weather Center structure provides 244,000 square feet of highly specialized space for education, training, operations and research for more than 550 students, faculty members, researchers, operational meteorologists and climatologists, engineers and technicians. Tailored to foster interaction and promote synergy among its inhabitants,



Jeff Kimpel, center, director of NOAA's National Severe Storms Laboratory, confers with radar software engineer Dave Priegnitz and Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies (CIMMS) research scientist Pam Heinselman in the J.C. Watts Jr. Radar Development Lab at the National Weather Center. The three are looking over one of several long-lived supercell storms that developed southwest of the Phased Array Radar during the afternoon of April 24, 2006.

the center promotes technology transfer as basic researchers, application developers and application users work side by side to quickly move new research discoveries into development and on to operational practice.

"This building is what Doug Forsyth and I refer to as an integrated structure," explains Snow. "It is a multi-faceted building intended to support an entire chain of activities from theory to applied research and development to outreach. It is designed to bring people together, to provide venues where they can meet and talk."

Forsyth cites many examples. "We have radar folks from the University next to radar folks from the NSSL. We have modeling folks from the University sitting across the hall from the NOAA modeling folks. We can test concepts and run experiments involving operational components. We have development labs where folks can see what's going on and what ideas are being developed. We have nice open spaces and lots of nooks and crannies where people can sit and talk."

That, of course, includes students.

"Students will be in a state-of-the-art, first-class educational facility where they have the opportunity to interact with leading theoreticians, applied researchers and forecast practitioners," Snow says. "There are numerous niches for students to fit into so their whole educational experience becomes enriched. I can't imagine a better environment for a young person interested in a career in this field."

And what an environment it is.

From Bottom to Top

Gazing skyward from the spacious floor of the central atrium, the building's dramatic juxtaposition of sharp angles and graceful curves comes into focus. The steel and granite "monumental staircase" climbs skyward through open space, connecting one floor with the next through the structure's core. The modernistic silhouette of the flights of steps is softened by the rounded walls and dappled natural light that filters in through walls of glass. Recessed wall up-lights further add to the artistic yet

National Weather Center Programs

OU Academic Partners

- *College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences
 - Department of Geography
 - School of Meteorology
- College of Engineering
 - School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science
 - School of Computer Science
 - School of Electrical and Computer Engineering
 - School of Industrial Engineering

NOAA Weather Partners

- *National Severe Storms Laboratory
- *National Weather Service Forecast Office – Norman
- *Radar Operations Center (Radar Applications Branch)
- *Storm Prediction Center
- *Warning Decision Training Branch

OU R&D and Outreach Partners

- *Center for Analysis and Prediction of Storms
- *Center for Spatial Analysis
- *Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies
 - Environmental Verification and Analysis Center
- *Center for Natural Hazard and Disaster Research
- *Oklahoma Climatological Survey

OU R&D and Outreach Associates

- OU Supercomputing Center for Education and Research

**Occupants of the National Weather Center building*



LEFT: From left, Patrick Marsh, Pat Hyland, David John Gagne, Vivek Mahale and Kathleen Dougherty enjoy the amenities of the NWC student lounge, complete with kitchenette, flatscreen television, overstuffed chairs and work area. BELOW: Students in William Beasley's graduate-level Atmospheric Electrodynamics class take advantage of the rooftop outdoor classroom for a firsthand look at Beasley's early lightning detection equipment.



unmistakably high-tech ambiance. The structure's ground floor houses offices for the dean of the College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences, an indoor/outdoor conference room, Oklahoma Climatological Survey Calibration Laboratory,

a food court (for which a naming contest will be held this fall), research vehicle and equipment bay, and a loading dock and storage facility. With direct high-speed computer connections between researchers' offices and the vehicle/equipment bay, where the latest in mobile weather radars will be housed, newly collected storm observations can be accessed immediately upon return of the vehicle from the field.

Accessible from the first floor but built underground to double as severe weather refuges are two auditorium-style classrooms, one with a 250-plus capacity and one that holds 75.

The building's second level is home to several high-profile NOAA programs, including the National Severe Storms Laboratory; Storm Prediction Center; National Weather Service Norman Forecast Office; Warning Decision Training Branch; and the NOAA/OU joint institute, the Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies. Because of the public's keen interest in seeing meteorology in action, a special hallway meanders through glassed-encased operations areas, affording visitors touring the facility an opportunity to observe the process without disrupting it. NOAA will conduct tours in conjunction with the University.

"People can see what's going on, but not be in the way in a critical situation," Snow says.

The Hazardous Weather Testbed, a space supported by the Storm Prediction Center, NWS Forecast Office and NSSL, also is located on the second level. There, research scientists from around the world will collaborate to develop and test new forecast tools to improve the timeliness and specificity of weather forecasts.

Nearby, a media room strategically sits between the Storm Prediction Center and Weather Forecast Office, providing a central location for experts to explain weather as it happens to reporters from around the globe. "We had the help of Ray Ban, executive vice president in charge of operations for The Weather Channel and a member of the College of Atmospheric and



The NOAA/OU meteorology library dominates the fourth level of the new building where Hamish Ramsey, foreground, and Kevin Goebbert, seated to his left, are shown researching study topics, while Yusif Nava, standing left, and Alex Fierro carry on a lively discussion. A coffee bar is located just outside the library.

Geographic Sciences Board of Visitors, in designing the media room,” says Snow. “It is flexible space where broadcasters can conduct an interview and have one of the operations areas as a backdrop. It is much like their own studios.”

The NOAA Radar Operations Center’s Applications Branch is located on the third floor, along with the Oklahoma Climatological Survey’s distance learning laboratory and conference room and the building’s computer operations.

On the fourth level, the NOAA/OU meteorology library takes center stage. A coffee bar, where building dwellers and visitors can grab an afternoon cup or a quick snack, is just outside the library entrance.

The fourth floor also is home to one of the many locations throughout the structure designed with professional interaction in mind. In this one, radar experts from the National Severe Storms Laboratory and the OU School of Meteorology work side by side, developing and applying the latest in radar discoveries. OU’s Center for the Analysis and Prediction of Storms also is located there, along with the Warning Decision Training Branch’s instructional classroom and the weather radar engineering lab.

“NOAA and OU are a weather family. We have always worked well together. The National Weather Center is an opportunity to bring us closer together, under one roof,” says Forsyth. “We will have our differences—we *are* scientists—but healthy discussions lead to better science.”

The fifth floor boasts an addition to the School of Meteorology eagerly anticipated by its students—an undergraduate student center that includes individual study carrels, glass-encased computer stations and offices for the student chapter of the

Satisfied Customers

Meteorologically speaking, it was a perfect day.

Lightning blazed, thunder roared and rain pounded outside on a Saturday morning in late spring as students toured the new National Weather Center for the first time.

They were home, in every sense of the word.

Throughout the day, small groups of meteorology majors followed as John Snow, dean of the College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences, and members of his staff guided them from the first-floor atrium to the top-level observatory and, floor by floor, back down again.

“This building is awesome,” says Michelle Schuldt, who became fascinated with weather as a fifth grader when her hometown of Woodward commemorated the 50th anniversary of the deadly tornado that struck the community in 1947. From that day, she knew she would come to OU to study meteorology and is thrilled that she will spend the second half of her academic career in the new facility. “My favorite parts are the magnificent views of all the trees and the observation deck. Whenever there’s severe weather, I can go there between classes and see what’s happening.”

Kristen Bartlett of Collinsville agrees. “From the top-floor observation deck, we can see weather developing from anywhere. It will be the perfect place for watching storms. Studying here will be really great because we can actually see the weather we’re learning about.”

From the moment transfer student Matt Elliott first visited the Norman campus, he was equally drawn by the academic programs and the National Weather Center facility. “This building is amazing. It’s so exciting to be here where some of our most severe weather happens,” says Elliott, who came to OU from a community college in the Washington, D.C., area.

Amarillo native David Haas is just as impressed as the others by the opportunities and advantages the facility offers. But he offers a different perspective as well. “We’re going to be pretty far from central campus, but these facilities will make it easier for us to make this our home,” he says.

—Debra Levy Martinelli



The glass-enclosed, all-weather observatory on the top floor of the National Weather Center, with its wall-mounted video screen displaying real-time data and broadcasts, is a favorite place for meteorology students, who cannot wait for the next storm front to bring them actual-life examples of the weather they are studying.

American Meteorological Society. An instrumentation lab and classroom, computer lab, conference room, spacious faculty offices and administrative offices complete the building's penultimate level.

"Even though we have a number of hard walls, we like to think we still laid things out and provided the building necessities in such a way as to get people together," Snow explains. "Certainly we have gone a long way to get rid of the monk-cell type approach to faculty offices."

And last, but assuredly not least, at the apex of the building are two of its most glorious features, both of which enhance the real-time study, analysis and prediction of weather and the development of life-saving technologies that grows from that research.

The first, a rounded, glass-enclosed, all-weather observatory, has a wall-mounted video screen that displays real-time data and broadcasts. Because it is what Snow calls "a standing and watching space," the observatory contains only a few carefully selected pieces of furniture.

The other feature is the rooftop outdoor classroom, complete with an array of antennae that communicates weather data to and from the center, where students can apply what they learn indoors. The rooftop floor is dotted with hook-shaped tie-downs for such mobile instruments as the laser Doppler ceilometer, which measures the height of the cloud ceiling, an important factor in tracking weather changes during the course of a day. The ceilometer is one of several instruments purchased with a gift from OU alumni Mark McCasland ('82 B.S. petroleum engineering) and Kandi Murphy-McCasland ('85 B.A. psychology) of Kansas City, Missouri, dedicated to enhancing both the outdoor classroom and the glassed-in observatory.

Befitting a state-of-the-art weather center, the views from the top are breathtaking. To the north, Sarkeys Energy Center and the Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium rise above OU's central campus. To the south, trees and vegetation stretch as far as the eye can see. To the east and west are Norman's thriving residential neighborhoods and commercial centers.

While just about every view from the National Weather

Center building is exceptional, Boren has a favorite Research Campus panoramic perspective that he believes represents the vision for Oklahoma's future.


"We talk often about changing the state from one that is solely dependent on natural resources to one based on intellectual talent. I like to think that when you stand on or near our Research Campus, you are in a sense where Austin, Texas, was 30 years ago. Looking north, I see basic research buildings along Jenkins Avenue, and then I imagine a whole row of private sector partners that have spun off from University-based research," he reflects.

"Before now, the only place in the state where people could see academic research producing new companies was at Okla-

homa City's Presbyterian Research Park, which houses partners spun off from the OU Health Sciences Center. Here is [One Partners Place anchor tenant] Weathernews Inc. next to the National Weather Center. Through our supercomputing network, the two can share information in real time about weather around the world and advising ships at sea. That kind of partnership has a very dramatic impact because it helps our policymakers see the potential for the transformative nature of University-based research.

"Norman is becoming the weather capital of America, and we will see more federal and private sector partnerships with the

University as a result," Boren adds. "We will see other areas of research—genetics and bioengineering, for example—spin off of our research campus, along with what is continuing to develop in Oklahoma City, with the new cancer and diabetes centers and expansion of existing centers of excellence. I think Norman and Oklahoma City are the future of the state economically.

"OU is the largest engine for economic change in the state. I look at the National Weather Center as the catalyst for helping the University transform Oklahoma's economy." 

Debra Levy Martinelli is director of public relations and marketing for the OU Office of Technology Development and writes freelance articles for Sooner Magazine.

Welcome to BOYD HOUSE

BY CAROL J. BURR Photos by Robert Taylor

*The grand presidential home on Boyd Street
is a century old and celebrating in style
by opening its doors to the University family.*

After ten years of hosting every conceivable combination of students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and visiting VIPs, David and Molly Shi Boren justifiably could have assumed that anyone who wanted to tour the magnificently enlarged and renovated Boyd House had done so. But as the official home of University of Oklahoma presidential families passed its 100th birthday, the Borens took no chances. For two days in September, the doors of Boyd House were opened to welcome the University family to one of Oklahoma's most storied structures.

"I have no idea how many people have come through Boyd House since November 1996 when we moved in," Molly Boren says. "We had a week of open houses that first month. It was very cold. The fence was not quite up, and the yard wasn't in—we had boards across what was almost a frozen tundra."

But the lack of landscaping did not deter the hundreds who could not wait to see what the vision of Washington, D.C.-based architect Hugh Newell Jacobsen and 18 months of reconstruction had accomplished within the walls of this beloved official residence.

What they found was a skillfully planned, elegantly furnished mansion that serves the University's entertainment needs while functioning as a real home for the present and any future presidential family.

"Any occupants of this house will do a lot of entertaining," Molly Boren says. "But when we're not entertaining, it's very much our home; we live all over the house. When we added the Cleo Cross Room, the architect created a very large master suite upstairs, a self-contained apartment; when we need to retreat, we can. We need that, and our successors will need that."

The structure has been significantly enlarged from the original house built in 1906 by OU's first president, David Ross Boyd, as his personal residence. The University acquired the house in 1914 and subsequent presidents have overseen several updates and re-

models over the years. President J. Herbert Hollomon preferred living off campus, and Boyd House was used for a variety of purposes for the next 27 years. When David Boren became president in 1994, a condition of his employment was a return to Boyd House. A com-



The Borens welcome visitors to Boyd House.



The traditionally furnished living room features a 600-year-old Chinese screen at left and an 1866 landscape above the fireplace on loan from the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art.

“They take as much pride in this house as if they had built it; they love Boyd House, and they take wonderful, wonderful care of it.”



The floral-themed guest room, left of the landing, has two impressive poster beds with an ancestral portrait above each.



A large, rust-colored antique carpet covers the floor of the guest bedroom above, which has twin beds dressed in blues and yellows and features, at left, a handsome armoire with inset floral panels.

plete, \$2 million, privately funded renovation and expansion ensued. In the first 22 months after the reopening, the Borens welcomed an estimated 15,000 visitors.

Besides adding the presidential master suite and the 1,000-square-foot entertainment area named for the late former

first lady Cleo Cross at the back of the structure, Jacobsen reconfigured the upstairs to accommodate three guest bedrooms. “Each bedroom is very private, with its own bath, and a common sitting area on the landing,” Mrs. Boren explains. “It’s easy to have houseguests and not be on top of each other.

“When we have official guests, we have a wonderful food service to cater the meals. We can serve buffet style; we can serve around the dining room table; we can take the furniture out of the Cleo Cross Room and have a seated dinner for 60 people. And weather permitting, we can use the terrace for

wonderful buffets outside. It's amazing how many people we can serve."

Outside entertaining is enhanced by three beautiful types of gardens—traditional, English cottage and natural woodland—which are Molly Boren's pride and joy—and a sprinkling of carefully selected trees. All were landscaped and installed and are maintained by OU's Landscape Department. Likewise the massive surrounding privacy fence was designed and built in-house, with OU Physical Plant employees designing hinged trellises that can be pulled outward to allow the fence to be painted without disturbing the climbing roses.

"I can't say enough about our physical plant and landscape people," Mrs. Boren



In spite of the complete interior renovation and expansion in 1996, historic Boyd House retains the familiar appearance from the 1922 addition of the trademark white pillars by President Brooks.

says. "They take as much pride in this house as if they had built it; they love Boyd House, and they take wonderful, wonderful care of it."

The house's furnishings are nearly as impressive as the structure itself. Most of the furniture was purchased, but a significant number of pieces—and many of the

decorator items and art works—were donated by some very special people. An Oscar Jacobson painting and needlepoint chair from the family of former President and Mrs. William Bennett Bizzell. Several pieces of furniture from Clara Rosenthal Weitzenhoffer and a painting on loan from the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art that was an early gift from Mrs. Weitzenhoffer and her husband, Aaron. A

James Everett Stewart painting from OU Regent Jon Stuart and his wife, Dee Dee. Two exquisite Chinese export pieces, an 18th century porcelain tureen and a 600-year-old screen, that belonged to Mary Ellen Monroney, the late widow of U.S. Senator A.S. Mike Monroney. A grandfather clock from the local Chi Omega sorority. Numerous pieces of art and antiques from the Borens' personal collection, much of which will remain permanently in Boyd House.

"We have been fortunate that almost everything that has been offered to Boyd House has been esthetically beautiful and appropriate for the house and its décor," Mrs. Boren says.

The Borens' expectations for Boyd House mirror the future they envision for the University itself. In keeping with their tree-planting efforts throughout the campus and in Norman, Mrs. Boren wanted to add her favorite tulip trees to the Boyd House yard. Better adapted to the eastern deciduous forest than the Oklahoma plains, one of the 10-year-old tulip trees succumbed to the past summer's extreme drought. The replacement tree will be a white oak.

"We expect this house to go on and on," the first lady says, "and we wanted a tree that would go on with it. The white oak has a life expectancy of 500 years."



Overnight guests can retreat to the privacy of the three second-floor bedrooms, each with its own bath and access to a common sitting area on the landing, pictured above. The sitting area opens onto the front balcony, with views of Parrington Oval and the campus beyond.



Bridging the gap
with language,
a new
international
program
builds
understanding
and
opportunities
between China
and the rest of
the world.

“By nature, men are nearly alike,”
wrote the Chinese philosopher. *“By
practice, they get to be wide apart.”*

The philosopher, of course, was
Confucius; his teachings and commentary
are as germane today as when he penned
those words some 2,500 years ago.

Known as “the Greatest Master” by
the Chinese people, Confucius encour-
aged a pragmatic philosophy for daily life
that emphasized social harmony, cultural
and personal understanding, sincerity and
justice. His teachings have profoundly
influenced East Asian thought and life for
centuries and have had considerable im-
pact elsewhere around the world.

The **OU** Confucius Institute

BY DEBRA LEVY MARTINELLI

Now, Confucian thought has found a new home in the OU Confucius Institute, created in August 2006 with a few strokes of the pen by OU President David L. Boren and a delegation representing the People's Republic of China.

What is a Confucius Institute?

Started by the Chinese government's Office of Chinese Language Council International—also known as Hanban—the Beijing-based organization works to strengthen the understanding, opportunities and bonds between China and other countries.

There are more than 80 Confucius Institutes in 38 nations around the world. The OU institute brings the total in the United States to 11. It will serve the south central region of the country for which the Consulate General for the People's Republic of China in Houston is responsible: Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida, plus Puerto Rico.

The OU Confucius Institute will bring together the college-level Chinese language program on the Norman campus, which includes an undergraduate major, and the K-12 Chinese language programs of the Oklahoma Institute for Teaching East Asia at OU-Tulsa, both in the College of Arts and Sciences; and the Chinese language outreach programs of the College of Continuing Education.

The University will offer credit and non-credit courses to school children, college students, business people and travelers. It also will provide language programs for teachers in both Norman and Beijing in cooperation with Beijing Normal University, one of China's top universities, and training for teachers to help them become certified teachers of Chinese.

In addition, Beijing Normal University will support OU's language training courses and workshops by sending faculty who specialize in teaching Chinese as a foreign language. Hanban will help OU recruit qualified Chinese language teachers to teach at the K-12 level. There also are plans to establish OU's Confucius Institute as a testing site for the proficiency certification test in Chinese.

"The Confucius Institute at OU will enormously enhance the understanding

between our two nations," Boren says. "Not only will it encourage exchanges between students and faculty members at the university level, it also will begin to reach students as early as the elementary school years in educating them about China and Chinese history and culture.

"Clearly, China will be one of the dominant leaders in the world during this century. There is no more important relationship than that between the United States and China," Boren adds. "If the two countries can forge a partnership on the important issues faced by the entire world, the lives of all of us will be safer and more productive. An antagonistic relationship between our two nations, on the other hand, has the potential of creating a world situation far more dangerous than the Cold War that existed between the United States and the Soviet Union.

"We should seize every opportunity to bring our two nations together to work on mutually beneficial projects. It is critically important that the next generation of Chinese and American leaders understand and respect each other."

Paul B. Bell Jr., dean of the OU College of Arts and Sciences and vice provost for instruction, has led the effort to establish the institute here. But Bell, who himself is learning Chinese, gives much of the credit to the University's college-level Chinese language program, headed by Ming Chao Gui, associate professor of Chinese and linguistics.

"Since he joined the faculty, we've seen accelerated growth in the program that has enabled us to offer a major in Chinese, which is a requirement [for an institution] to be considered for a Confucius Institute," says Bell. "It's no exaggeration to say that none of this would be happening if it weren't for Professor Gui."

After earning a doctoral degree in linguistics from the University of Texas, Arlington in 1990, Gui moved his family to San Francisco, thinking there would be a demand for his bilingual skills. Supply of bilingual talent in the City by the Bay far exceeded demand, however, and he was unable to land a job in his field. So he sold carpet, worked in tea and noodle factories, and delivered medicine for a large pharmaceutical company.

Three years after landing in San Fran-

cisco, Gui received a telephone call from his father, Cankun Gui, who taught Chinese at OU. "He was in his early 70s, and my mother was quite ill. They wanted to return to China, where members of our large family could help care for her," Gui remembers. "My father wanted to introduce me to the [OU languages] department to see if they liked me."

They did. With his wife and two young children, Gui arrived on the Norman campus in early 1994 to fulfill a one-semester visiting professor's contract as OU's sole Chinese language professor. That first semester, he had just 14 students in one beginning Chinese course. But instead of being discouraged, he was optimistic about the prospect of building the program.

With unwavering support from Boren and Bell, Gui has nurtured the Chinese language program from those first 14 students in spring 1994 to more than 170 in fall 2006 with an estimated 300-plus for the 2006-07 academic year.

The program reached another milestone last year with the launch of a Chinese language major, which requires extensive language proficiency as well as instruction in Chinese literature, culture and history, both at OU and abroad. This past spring, six students majored in Chinese, and another 17 pursued the language as a minor. The first student with a Chinese major degree graduated in August 2006.

The phenomenal success of the program means Gui no longer is a one-person operation. His colleagues include two other full-time and one part-time faculty and two graduate teaching assistants. A search has been initiated for an additional faculty member to teach Chinese literature in Chinese, which currently is taught only in English translation. "Then I will consider the Chinese language program complete," Gui declares.

With the program humming and the formal Confucius Institute signing ceremony now a happy memory, Bell, Gui and a host of others are quickly putting into place an impressive array of specific initiatives, including:

- Enhancing college-level Chinese in-

RIGHT: OU President David L. Boren and Liu Chuansheng, chairperson of the University Council of Beijing Normal University, sign documents officially establishing OU as a Confucius Institute, one of only 11 in the United States.

BELOW RIGHT: Sharon Gou (right), the executive director of the new Confucius Institute at OU, admires calligraphy held by members of the delegation from Beijing Normal University during their visit to OU-Tulsa.

struction, including the development of Chinese courses to be taught over the Internet for college credit, which Bell says is the most immediate priority.

- Increasing Chinese language education for K-12 students statewide. “There’s a growing demand among schools to add Chinese to their curriculum,” Bell explains. “OU already is very active in promoting Chinese language instruction in the schools through the Oklahoma Institute for Teaching East Asia at OU-Tulsa. Its director, Jessica Stowell, will be the Tulsa-based associate director of the Confucius Institute and will continue to expand the K-12 program.” Eleven Oklahoma K-12 schools—four high schools, four middle schools and two elementary schools in the Tulsa area and Norman’s Madison Elementary School—currently offer Chinese language classes.
- Establishing a summer institute at OU and in China to train American educators to teach Chinese. The first summer a teacher would learn basic Chinese at OU; the second would be spent at Beijing Normal University to improve Chinese language skills to a level at which he or she could qualify to become a beginning teacher. Bell foresees the first summer institute up and running by summer 2007.
- Earning designation as a teacher certification site. Using a multi-level test licensed by Hanban, the OU Confucius Institute would serve as a regional proficiency testing center for



Robert Taylor



Anibal Cuervo

“It’s very important for our graduates to be prepared to operate on teams with colleagues from all over the world.”

individuals who want to teach Chinese or become proficient enough to seek employment where knowledge of the language would be an asset.

- Facilitating the teaching of Chinese in non-traditional school settings, including established Chinese schools (where children primarily of Chinese ancestry learn the language as supplemental instruction, typically on weekends) and providing resources to expand that instruction. Sharon Gou, the Confucius Institute’s Norman-based director, will lead this effort.
- Providing Chinese language instruction for business travelers and tourists. Also on the drawing board are short, non-credit courses in intercultural communication, Chinese art, music, cooking and martial arts. “The two goals of the Confucius Institute beyond language instruction are promoting economic development and trade and promoting cultural understanding,” says Bell.

The Confucius Institute is only one of the recent efforts to strengthen ties between OU and China. In July, China’s Nanjing Automobile Group Corp. announced that it will locate its MG subsidiary’s North America headquarters, assembly plant and research and development facility in Oklahoma. The R&D center, to be housed on OU’s Cy and Lissa Wagner Research Campus, will create high-tech jobs and give OU students the real-world, intercultural experience that is essential in today’s global economy.

In the early stages, engineering students will help analyze safety, fuel economy, emissions control and other field test data. As the program grows, the range of activities will expand to include a new technology laboratory and styling studio. Students in other disciplines ranging from business to fine arts also will be involved in the automaker’s R&D operations.

“It’s very important for our graduates to be prepared to operate on teams with colleagues from all over the world,” says College of Engineering Dean Tom Landers. “Even if they continue to primarily do their work in their home country, in the global supply chain context they still will work with suppliers and customers who are of a wide range of countries and cultures. China certainly is foremost in that group because of its rapid emergence as a global economic power and also as a major global market.”

By all accounts, the credit for the phenomenal expansion in China-related programs at OU goes to Boren and his team, which also includes Edward J. Perkins, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, who directs the International Programs Center; Millie Audas, director of Education Abroad and Interna-




Ming Chao Gui, associate professor of Chinese and linguistics at OU, goes over some text with Paul B. Bell Jr., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Bell, himself an avid student of Chinese, credits Gui with the program’s remarkable growth in the past few years.

tional Student Services, home of numerous travel abroad programs, including "Journey to China" [see sidebar]; and Robert Cox, associate professor and director of the School of International and Area Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences, which has added five faculty for enlarged Chinese-related programs and has some 40 students working on Asian Studies degrees.

"When he came here 12 years ago, President Boren said that all students must graduate with an international perspective, regardless of their academic discipline. He's also been very consistent in saying that China is very important to that," Cox says. "That's a good vision, and one we're trying to achieve. I'm really encouraged that so many students recognize they need to find their place in the global society."

A major step in the continuing expansion of Chinese-related programs is the creation of the Newman Institute of U.S.-China Issues and a corresponding endowed faculty chair made possible through a \$1 million gift from Ruth and Harold J. Newman (B.S. geography, 1951) of Connecticut. The new institute will focus on topics of great relevance to the two countries, including trade, the economy, natural resources, the environment and industrial policy.

Peter Hays Gries is the inaugural Newman Chair and institute director. "As we envision it, the U.S.-China Institute has two functions: to promote China studies at OU and around Oklahoma and to focus on research and policy at the national and international levels," Gries explains. "That includes networking with the Oklahoma business community and making it aware of what's going on in China and the opportunities and risks of doing business there. OU has the potential to become a big player in fostering these relationships."

Indeed. As the Greatest Master wrote so many centuries ago: "I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." 

Debra Levy Martinelli is director of public relations and marketing for the OU Office of Technology Development and writes freelance articles for Sooner Magazine.

Journeying to

While the burgeoning Chinese language program provided the foundation for establishing the OU Confucius Institute, another crucial requirement was the number and type of available opportunities for strengthening ties between the University of Oklahoma and China. Perhaps the most well known is "Journey to China," a summer program in which 25 to 35 students experience four weeks in four different locations.

"The Journey to China program has given OU a presence and identity in China," explains Paul B. Bell Jr., dean of the OU College of Arts and Sciences and vice provost for instruction. "Many universities send students abroad with their own faculty, so the primary interactions are between English-speaking faculty and English-speaking students. They're in a cultural cocoon. We immerse our students in Chinese culture and the local community—they live in Chinese dormitories with Chinese students and are instructed by Chinese faculty."

Josh Woodward, who took the Journey to China in summer 2005, is one of more than 150 students who have participated in the program in its nine-year history.

"We started in Xi'an, the ancient capital of China, where we learned 'survival Mandarin' and got some basic history of and orientation to the culture," says Woodward, who graduated summa cum laude from OU in May 2006 with a double major in economics and marketing and currently is employed in the University's Honors College Leadership Center and the Center for the Creation of Economic Wealth.

The group then traveled south to Kunming, where they studied environmental, economic and cultural issues, followed by a week at Beijing University, where the curriculum focused on politics. "It was especially fun for me to see Beijing because one of my OU Cousins (international student friendship program) lives there, and I was able to meet his family," says Woodward. "It was incredible to be able to see him in his own environment after he'd seen me and my family in ours."

The last leg of the memorable trip was in Shanghai, the country's commercial center. "We learned about foreign investment in China, emerging markets and economic development," Woodward recalls. "In Shanghai, they're finishing a skyscraper every fourth day. Twenty years ago there were fewer than 20 in the city; now there are 4,000. Half the world's concrete was poured in China last year. They run out of metal scaffolding all the time and start strapping bamboo together to continue the process."

continued on Page 20

China

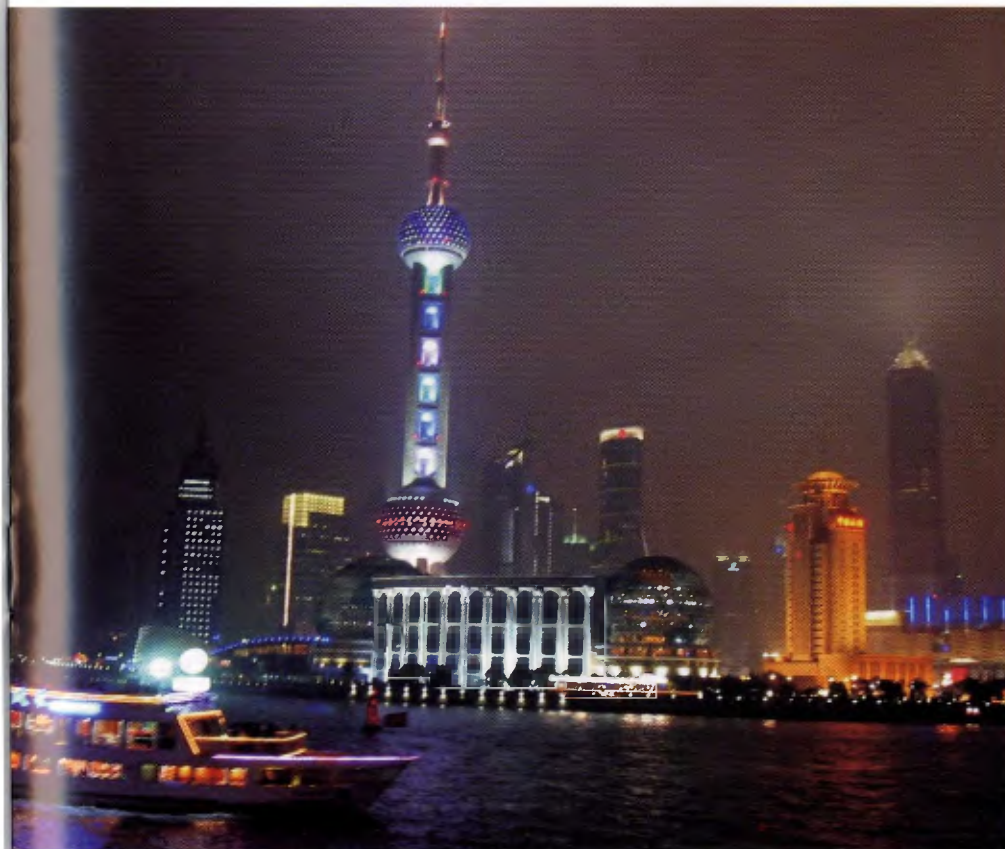


Clockwise from upper left:
Josh Woodward ascends the Great Wall of China during his Journey to China experience in 2005. More than 150 OU students have participated in the summer learning program since 1996.

At OU, rich cultural exchange is a two-way street. Here, Chinese students at OU perform during China Night, an annual celebration of Chinese culture.

The last leg of the OU summer program includes a trip to colorful Shanghai, the country's vibrant commercial center.

Photos provided





Elena Songster, OU assistant professor of history, makes frequent trips to the People's Republic while researching the panda's place in modern China. Above, Songster visits with friends at the Chengdu Breeding Center in the city of Chengdu, Sichuan Province.



OU alumna Caroline Cochran visits the Imperial Palace in Beijing. The popular tourist spot was once known as the Forbidden City because commoners were not allowed inside the royal compound.



Each year OU students from China share traditional dance and song with their University family during China Night, held in the Oklahoma Memorial Union.

Lesser known than Journey to China but just as life changing, is a two-week summer course called Chinese Architecture.

Caroline Cochran, an OU alumna who earned bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering and economics with honors in 2006, was one of roughly 20 students who took the course this past summer. The experience, she says, was way beyond what she had anticipated.

"I've been to Europe several times and to Honduras, so I've traveled quite a bit. But the non-Western culture really is something very foreign to us," explains Cochran, who works alongside Woodward as Internship Program administrator for the Center for the Creation of Economic Wealth. "At the time I went to China, I happened to be reading [German philosopher Friedrich] Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil*, in which he wrote about the Eastern idea of not getting beyond black and white, right and wrong. It's an interesting philosophy, but in China I saw the people living it. They have a different way of life, a different way of doing things. Reading it at that time really heightened the whole China experience for me.

"I've already told a lot of people that they really need to go to China," she adds, "and I hope to return some day."

—Debra Levy Martinelli

*The ceramics collection
at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art
tells an ongoing story of cultural history
one pot at a time.*

Formed with earth Forged by fire

BY LYNETTE LOBBAN



Plate with Avanyu Design,
one of 21 works by Maria Martinez in
the Fred Jones ceramics collections, is featured on the cover of the
University of Oklahoma Press' most recent printing of *Maria: The Potter
of San Ildefonso*, by OU alumna Alice Marriott.

continued

Often overshadowed by its French Impressionist neighbors across the gallery in the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, an exceptional collection of ceramics, from ancient artifacts to abstract expressionism, is finally getting its share of the spotlight, including a starring role in a national touring exhibition and an upcoming PBS special.

The exquisite black-on-black *Plate with Avanyu Design*, which will be featured in the spring 2007 PBS series "Craft in America," is a recent addition to the museum's collection. The work by the legendary San Ildefonso artist Maria Martinez and son Popovi Da was one of 476 paintings, textiles, sculpture and ceramics given to the museum in November 2003 by OU alumnus and collector R. E. Mansfield. Another major gift in 2005 from OU alumnus Harrison Jedel of Kansas City, Missouri, greatly strengthened the museum's contemporary collection with important works by Ken Ferguson and Paul Soldner.

"Our porcelain and ceramics from the Chinese dynasties have always been a foundation of the permanent collection," says Eric M. Lee, the Wylodean and Bill Saxon Director of the Fred Jones, "and now with two major acquisitions in the past three years, we have added significant depth and breadth in the areas of contemporary studio ceramics and traditional American Indian pottery."

Lee's reference to ceramics as a cornerstone of the museum's collection is no mere metaphor. The University of Oklahoma museum of art was founded in 1936, the direct result of a gift by Bartlesville oilman Lew Wentz and British photojournalist Richard Matzene. Wentz funded a number of Matzene's trips to East Asia, where he returned with treasures from tomb figures to tableware.

"A lot of what we know about early Chinese civilization depends on ceramics, since that is what has lasted," says Alan

Atkinson, adjunct professor of history and art. "Not only do ceramics represent distinct traditions within the country, the works themselves are literally 'parts of China.' There is the mud from a thousand years ago along with agricultural and mining products in the glaze. They have power, not only as works of art, but as functional objects people can relate to—a jar or a bowl."

Taken as a whole, Atkinson adds, the Wentz-Matzene Collection illustrates for students the technological and stylistic development of ceramics from the early Han (206 B.C. to 220 A.D.) through the Qing Dynasties (1644-1911).

Mary Jo Watson, the curator of American Indian art at the Fred Jones, who developed the American Indian Art History program at OU and now serves as interim director of the School of Art, agrees that the collection has grown in importance as a teaching tool.

"It is a joy to be able to bring students into the galleries and show them the actual work, not just a slide," says Watson, "The museum has wonderful examples of pre-Columbian artifacts through contemporary pueblo works." Many of the pre-Columbian pieces are gifts of R. Donald Walp, collector and long time friend of the museum.

The Mansfield Collection considerably boosted the University's holdings of several important Southwestern pueblo groups including San Ildefonso, Cochiti, Santa Clara and Hopi. Like the works from the Asian galleries, the collections have as much to teach about history, geography and the evolution of a society as they do about art.

Jane Aebersold, curator of ceramics at the Fred Jones, likens the collections to a family anthology. "In our collection you can follow the styling from a pueblo to the families within the pueblo, from pre-historic to contemporary times," she says. "The collections of American Indian ce-

ramics are family oriented and tribally oriented and culturally oriented, which provides a river of information that goes back centuries."

Prized among the museum's holdings are a black gunmetal pot by Maria Martinez and Popovi Da of the San Ildefonso pueblo and works featuring the single-hair brush strokes of



Maria Martinez and Popovi Da
Gun Metal Pot, n.d.
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. R.E. Mansfield, 2003

Acoma potter and painter Lucy Lewis. Both pueblos used the technique of building the base of the pot inside a rounded form called a puki and coiling ropes of clay upwards from the base to make the form. From there the pots were shaped with simple tools, burnished with stones, and often decorated with carving and the intricate brush application of “slips,” a liquid clay.

Lewis derived her designs from shards found on the pueblo from ancient Anasazi and Mimbres pottery that dates back hundreds, if not thousands of years. Like her ancestors, Lewis painted freehand a pattern of thin lines to accentuate the shape of the pot, creating an almost optical illusion effect. Contemporary Acoma potters such as Rebecca Lucario and Dorothy Torivio have taken the tradition into the world of fine art.

To fully appreciate this artistic evolution, one only need visit the museum. Grouped by pueblos and families, visitors can see how the tradition emerges and is built upon by subsequent generations. “We have works by sons and daughters, mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, extended families. You can see the knowledge base growing,” says Aebersold.

A living example, Barbara Gonzales, the great-granddaughter of Maria Martinez, will visit OU on February 6 for a demonstration and lecture at the art center. The museum also owns works by her son Cavan, who represents the next generation of San Ildefonso potters. A graduate of New York’s prestigious Alfred University, Cavan is gaining a reputation for his revival of polychrome pottery and black-on-black pots.

“It is so exciting to see this new generation take a 2,000-year-old tradition and build on it. The works are contemporary and at the same time respectful of their heritage. To be able to continue with these family lines, to have a work from ‘Old Lady’ Nampeyo or a contemporary piece by Tammy Garcia, great-great-niece of Margaret Tafoya would be fabulous,” Aebersold adds.

She is equally pleased with new works by artists represented in the Jedel Collection, the first major contribution to the museum’s contemporary studio holdings since the 1970s, when



Robert Taylor

Mary Jo Watson, curator of American Indian art at the Fred Jones, uses the ceramics in the museum as a teaching tool in her art history classes. She says taken as a whole the collection provides students a visual timeline through history.

the ceramics collection flourished under the guidance of OU art professor Roger Corsaw.

A potter and collector in his own right, Corsaw donated a large portion of his private holdings to the Fred Jones before his death. But perhaps his most valuable contribution was the technical information and knowledge he brought to the department, says Aebersold.

Also on the OU art faculty at the time was John Frank, an Oklahoma potter, who went on to establish the internationally known Frankoma Pottery. Some of Frank’s early works are also in the museum’s permanent collection.

“Contemporary studio ceramics typically came from a very comfortable frame of reference, a user-friendly, food-oriented clay tradition. The works in the Jedel Collection shake things up a bit,” Aebersold says.

“Included in the collection is a large abstract expressionist tondo by Jim Leedy (think Willem de Kooning on a plate) and later works by Paul Soldner and Ken Ferguson. Ferguson was a major figure in American art and enjoyed an international reputation,” she explains. “He started out as a very traditional, functional potter. His later pieces reflected a rapier wit and penchant for political satire. The Jedel Collection adds these later pieces to our collection.”

continued

Unknown (China)
Tang Dynasty (618-907)
Sancai Jar
Wentz-Matzene Collection, 1936



Jim Leedy
Blue Cup and Saucer, 1970s
Gift of Mr. Harrison Jedel, 2005

Another heavy hitter from the Jedel gift is Paul Soldner, known as the “founder of American raku.” In the collection room at the Fred Jones, Aebersold points out a large Soldner vase purchased by the museum in 1969. The rounded body is taut and smooth, while the pot rises from a small foot and ends with a vigorous and expressive lip, accented dramatically by the circular pour of the glaze.

“This is a very physically expressive piece that reflects a traditional vase form, only abstracted. Soldner made big vessels like this and then his work became more sculptural,” she says. “Thanks to Mr. Jedel, we now have some of his later work.”

The Soldner piece in the Jedel Collection is also a pot, but it functions less as a vessel than as a canvas for a reclining figure. “This piece is a great example of the organic abstraction movement developed in American Studio Ceramics in the mid to late 1970s,” explains Aebersold. “It’s a wonderful addition.”

Also in the collection is a “particularly excellent piece,” by Warren MacKenzie and his first wife, Alix. During their collaboration from the late 1940s until her death in 1962, the couple, both students of ceramics icon Bernard Leach, shared a creative passion.

In this instance, Warren threw the pot and while it was still wet, brushed it with a white Japanese slip decoration called “hakeme.” After the pot was glazed, but before firing, Alix decorated the piece with brushwork in a Bauhaus-style design. “It is very rare to find a work signed by both MacKenzies,” Aebersold adds.



Robert Taylor

Ceramics curator Jane Aebersold shows museum visitors a Cavan Gonzales polychrome plate with eagle feather design. Polychrome is a technique that requires the application of three or more colors of clay slips to develop the painted design.



Helen Cordero
Storyteller, n.d.
 Gift of Dr. and Mrs.
 R.E. Mansfield, 2003



In addition to \$50 million worth of French Impressionist paintings, the Aaron and Clara Weitzenhoffer Estate included several examples of Chinese export porcelain, of which Mrs. Weitzenhoffer was especially fond.



Lucy Martin Lewis
Jar, c. 1960-70s
 Purchase, Richard H. and Adeline J. Fleischaker Collection, 1996

A beautiful, yet utilitarian teapot in the Jedel Collection by Shoji Hamada brings the collection full circle to its Asian roots. Declared a Japanese Living National Treasure in 1955, Hamada was instrumental in elevating the importance of the unknown craftsman and celebrating pottery as a cultural expression, no matter what that culture might be. Like his kindred spirits in the galleries of the Fred Jones, Hamada adds another link to the recorded history of civilization, one not written with words, but shaped with earth and hardened by fire.

Lynette Lobban is assistant editor of Sooner Magazine.



Unknown
 Santo Domingo
Storage Jar, c. 1900-25
 Purchase, Richard H. and Adeline J. Fleischaker Collection, 1996

“The Fighting 21st”

As the clouds of WWII gathered in Europe and the Pacific,
28 OU physicians and dentists formed an elite
medical field unit that would serve with distinction
until the last battle was won.

BY JUDY FOSSETT KELLEY



Courtesy D. B. Pearson

Members of the U.S. Army's 21st Evacuation Hospital were sent to Bougainville, the linchpin in the Solomon Island campaign, in the winter of 1944 to prepare for the inevitable casualties that would result when Japanese forces launched their counterattack to retake the island. During the intense fighting from March 8 to 31, the 21st admitted 1,500 wounded to its beachfront hospital.

The unmistakable shriek of an artillery shell flying overhead broke the early morning silence of March 8, 1944, and roused Lt. Daniel B. Pearson from sleep.

"Is it coming in or going out?" Pearson whispered to his tent mate. It was a reasonable question, given the circumstances.

Hidden in bunkers in the jungle that began less than a mile from Pearson's tent were nearly 30,000 tenacious Japanese soldiers, determined to retain their stronghold on the Pacific island of Bougainville.

Behind him were the artillery batteries of the 37th and Americal Divisions of the U.S. Army, there to protect airfields built after the Marines gained the beachhead six months earlier.

Sandwiched between the combatants was the University of Oklahoma's 21st Evacuation Hospital—"The Fighting 21st."

The frightening sound that woke Pearson was the opening salvo in the "holy hell" that the group of physicians, dentists and nearly 500 enlisted men had come for—the long awaited Japanese counterattack and the U.S. infantry's furious response from big guns and its own jungle combat positions. Within an hour and a half, as many as 150 injured soldiers arrived for surgery on the hospital's 12 operating tables, Pearson recalled.

Between March 8 and March 31, when intense fighting ended in an American victory, OU's 21st Evac admitted 1,500 patients to its hospital on the beach.

The story of OU's 21st Evacuation Hospital has been almost forgotten in the 60 years since World War II ended in the Pacific. America turned its attention to other matters and to other wars on other continents. Most of the physicians and dentists who served with the 21st died as the decades rolled past, taking their memories to the grave. Most, but not all of them.

Two members of the original medical team, both alumni of the OU College of Medicine, survive to tell the tale of the 21st Evac and its vital work, not just on Bougainville but earlier on Guadalcanal and later near Manila in preparation for an invasion of mainland Japan.

Pearson, '41 M.D., is 91, yet still practices psychiatry three days a week in



Courtesy Paul Lingenfelter.

A long way from his practice in Clinton, Oklahoma, Dr. Paul Lingenfelter had a love for adventurous assignments, but nothing prepared him for the battlefield surgery he performed on the jungle island of Bougainville.

his office near downtown Dallas. Paul Lingenfelter, '33 M.D., will celebrate his 100th birthday in January. He retired long ago from his practice in Clinton and lives with his wife in a lakeside condominium in Oklahoma City.

Their story begins on May 3, 1940, when a group of College of Medicine faculty members and residents on staff at

University Hospital quietly resolved to form the 21st Evacuation Hospital of the U.S. Army. This act was in response to a nationwide call by the Surgeon General for universities with related hospitals to form medical units that would serve if the United States entered the war raging in Europe and the Pacific.

Although America was officially neutral at the time, and the attack on Pearl Harbor still 19 months away, the physicians and dentists who signed up were well aware of world events and knew that eventually they would be in the thick of battle.

On July 5, 1942, the 21st Evac was called to active duty. Among the group were Pearson, who had completed only his internship, and Lingenfelter, by this time practicing at a tuberculosis sanitarium in Clinton.

Lingenfelter had completed a residency in thoracic surgery at UCLA and had already experienced enough adventures to last a lifetime. He attended the famous 1936 Berlin Olympics and, just a few months later, took the China Clipper's first transpacific flight as Pan Am airline's resident physician in the Pacific. He no longer can recall how he happened to join the 21st.

Pearson's memories are crystal clear, even after 64 years, and he recalls petitioning to join the 21st after learning from the draft board that his low number would be called the day he finished his residency. Joining the medical unit then and completing his residency later seemed like the better option.

After spending a month with the 53rd Evacuation Hospital in San Luis Obispo, the officers and enlisted men of the 21st (of which the 53rd became a part) were ordered to the Desert Training Center at Needles, Calif., to prepare to join Gen. George Patton in North Africa. But after a nearly 14-month wait in searing heat, they were ordered to the Pacific. (Pearson's older brother, Murble Pearson,



Dr. D. B. Pearson, at 91, still maintains a psychiatry practice in Dallas.

'38 M.D., did serve with Patton's army in Africa and Europe.)

Radiologist Bert Ernest Mulvey, M.D., of Oklahoma City, commanded the 21st, succeeded by Col. Rex G. Bolend, a urologist, in January 1943, then a year later by Lt. Col. Robert E. Allen of Pennsylvania. Internist William W. Rucks Jr., M.D., of Oklahoma City, was chief of medicine. Neurosurgeon Jess Herrmann, '31 M.D., of Oklahoma City, doubled as the unit's psychiatrist during training in Needles.

On August 28, 1943, 28 OU physicians and dentists, another 35 physicians and administrators assigned to the unit by the Army, and 500 corpsmen sailed for New Caledonia aboard the U.S.S. *Lew Wallace*, an "old tub that moved at 8 knots an hour." When they arrived at Noumea Harbor on September 23, Pearson, who had ROTC training, was sent by Bolend to take three officers and some enlisted men to Guadalcanal where the Seabees would set up a hospital. The rest arrived a week later.

"They were still actively fighting, still having air raids and alerts," Pearson said. "We were in Guadalcanal about seven or eight weeks before the colonel called me in again and said to take three officers and 150 enlisted men to Bougainville to set up a hospital there."

Bougainville was considered the linchpin in the Solomon Islands campaign to eliminate Japanese air power before in-



Long retired from medicine, Dr. Paul Lingenfelter will turn 100 in January.

vading the Philippines. U.S. Marines had invaded Bougainville during the fall and gained the beachhead. There was no doubt that the Japanese, who were holed up in jungle bunkers and tunnels, would eventually try to reclaim the area. The 21st Evacuation Hospital would be needed to care for casualties when the counterassault came and the Army responded. The long-anticipated fighting began on March 8.

"We had an underground surgery with 12 operating tables," Pearson recalled. "We operated those tables day and night for three weeks."

Because the 21st Evacuation Hospital was only 4,000 yards from the front lines at the nearest point of attack, the majority of the seriously wounded patients could be sent directly to the hospital to avoid delay at jungle clearing stations. Roads that Army engineers had earlier cut through the jungle made quick evacuation possible, and many patients were on the operating tables of the 21st within two hours of being wounded.

Virtually all the patients treated by the 21st were Americans. Withering fire from ground troops, artillery on the beach and destroyers in the bay killed 9,000 Japanese and left few of the enemy alive to treat, Lingenfelter said.

As shells flew over their tents, the unit performed 264 general surgical procedures and 278 orthopedic surgical procedures

during the period of intense fighting.

Pearson said the physicians and dentists worked three to a team. Austin Bell, M.D., Oklahoma City, was the chief of Pearson's team, and Evans Talley, M.D., Enid, was the third member.

Unit members operated around the clock during the battles, and "you'd lie down and snooze for a minute" between patients, Pearson recalled.

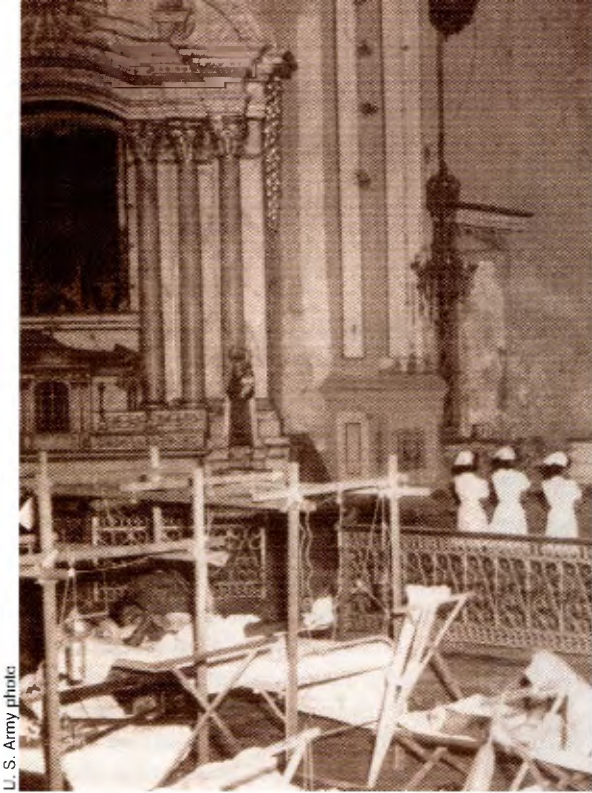
Surgical tents were underground so they could be isolated, both Pearson and Lingenfelter explained. Wards for the sick and injured were rows of large, above-ground tents on the beach.

"During fighting time, we did more surgery than medicine," Pearson said. "But when it was quiet, there was more medicine," primarily aimed at quelling malaria outbreaks and keeping the number of evacuations low. The oral surgeons performed general dentistry for the troops. In the 11 weeks between February 15 and April 21, the 21st Evac admitted an astounding 10,000 patients, according to unit records.

Pearson described the 21st as an "elite unit," a description echoed in the diary of Ashley W. Oughterson, M.D., clinical professor of surgery at the Yale University Medical School and Army surgical consultant in every major command in the Pacific theater. In *Wound Ballistics*, published by the Army in 1962, Oughterson wrote: "Perhaps never in the history of jungle warfare were professional talent and medical facilities so excellent and routes of evacuation so favorable as in the Bougainville campaign. Hence, the care of the wounded did achieve a very high standard.

"The 21st Evacuation Hospital was staffed with well-qualified specialists, and no patient here failed to achieve adequate specialized care. . . . Even the unavoidable errors of judgment incident to war surgery were at a minimum. Only one death could be attributed to an error of surgical judgment. The total operative mortality was 3.5 percent."

After six weeks of fighting followed by



L. S. Army photo

As American forces invaded the Philippines in January 1945, the 21st Evac set up a hospital in this 1587 Spanish church in San Marcos, having scooped up seven truckloads of bat guano from the floor to make it habitable.

eight months of relative calm, the 21st—without Lingenfelter, who had been ordered to language school at Princeton University—pulled out of Bougainville and headed for the Philippines.

When 68,000 American troops made a surprise, unopposed landing on the island of Luzon at Lingayen Gulf north of Manila on January 9, 1945, the 21st Evac was just two days behind, aboard the U.S.S. *President Polk* with the 37th Division. The unit unloaded the *Polk* by rope ladders into small landing craft carrying 30 men each. They waded the last few yards to shore and began a three-mile hike to just-captured Binmaley, site of their first bivouac.

Within three days, an advance detail had begun setting up a hospital for wounded soldiers inside a church built by the Spanish in 1587 in nearby San Marcos. Pearson recalled that the sanctuary floor first was thought to be covered by the dust and dirt of centuries; instead, the covering was a layer of bat guano so thick

John F. Kuhn, '31 M.D., was a faculty obstetrician and gynecologist when ordered to join the 53rd Evac Hospital, which became part of OU's 21st. Also a general surgeon, Kuhn was delighted to return to delivering babies after seeing so much death in WWII.

that “we scooped up seven truckloads.”

On January 21, the unit's 300-bed hospital at San Marcos began receiving patients at such a rapid clip that within a month, the patient census hit 1,400. With no beds available for them, both patients and hospital personnel slept on mattresses or litters on the newly cleaned tile floor.

Meanwhile, American troops who had landed on Luzon unopposed found that the closer they approached Manila, the more fiercely the Japanese resisted. February 1945

is remembered as the “month of horror,” when the streets were washed in blood, and the Japanese had to be wrenched out, block by block, building by building, room by room.

As the 37th Division pushed the battle lines too far away for the 21st to give quick service to the wounded, orders came for the unit to move south. On February 24, 1945, after all patients at San Marcos had been transferred or evacuated, the 21st began moving silently and without ceremony in a long convoy of trucks headed for Manila and New Bilibid Prison nearby.

Until its liberation by the 37th on February 4, New Bilibid had been used by the Japanese to hold civilian and military prisoners, including 80 percent of the survivors of the Bataan Death March. It was the transit point for boarding Allied POWs on the infamous “hell ships” bound for slave camps on

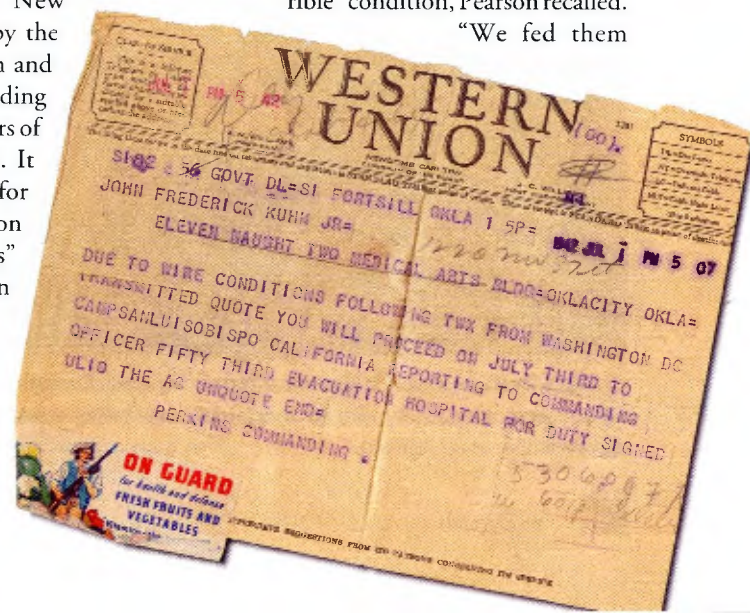
“Perhaps never in the history of jungle warfare were professional talent and medical facilities so excellent and routes of evacuation so favorable as in the Bougainville campaign.”

the Japanese mainland; relatively few POWs survived the journey.

Among the American prisoners freed from New Bilibid was the late William A. Berry, '40 Law, who had been captured at Corrigedor in May 1942. Berry, who became chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, tells of his harrowing 33 months in captivity at Cabanatuan POW camp and New Bilibid in the book, *Prisoner of the Rising Sun*.

Cabanatuan was liberated on January 30 in a spectacular, lightning raid by Army Rangers and Philippine guerrillas, freeing 512 POWs, mostly Americans. It was the sight of the sickest and most malnourished “litter patients” from Cabanatuan that greeted Pearson and the 21st when they arrived at New Bilibid a few weeks later. The men were in “terrible” condition, Pearson recalled.

“We fed them





The fighting on Bougainville was fierce for Hill 260 where Maj. Owen Royce and Maj. John "Robby" Robertson stand in this photo. Royce was a resident and Robertson taught oral surgery when they joined OU's 21st Evac Hospital.



Dr. D. B. Pearson sent home photos from Bougainville showing the work performed in an underground surgery with its dozen tables operating around the clock for three weeks of the worst fighting.


and got them better so they could be sent back to the States."

The unit's hospital at the prison was in full operation by March 3, and it grew quickly from 1,500 to 2,000 beds. In early June, the Army ordered the hospital closed, and the 21st was directed to "the finest set-up that the hospital had ever had" in prefabricated buildings on the grounds of the Wack Wack Country Club.

OU's 21st was not to remain in the relative luxury of the Wack Wack Club for long, however. An American invasion of the Japanese mainland was on the horizon, and the 21st was to be there to help treat the tens of thousands of expected casualties. These plans evaporated with the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and Japanese surrender on August 15, 1945. The war was over at last.

On September 27, the final entry in the Unit Diary was made when the receiving section admitted the 21st Evac's 30,601st patient.

By the end of 1945, the physicians and dentists of the 21st were en route to home and family and their interrupted careers. If their heroic service changed their lives or the way they practiced medicine, as it surely did, nothing was written, and little is known.

But there is this: Late in his life, neurosurgeon Jesse Herrmann confided to an interviewer that he never again walked into an operating room without the black, high-top "GI boots" he had been issued as a proud member of OU's Fighting 21st. 

Judy Fossett Kelley, '65 B.A. Journ, is writer/editor of OU Medicine, the magazine of the OU College of Medicine.

Primary written sources for this article are the Memory Book, 21st Evacuation Hospital, written by medical corpsman Beuna Chaney in October 1945 for the officers and enlisted personnel of the 21st; and Wound Ballistics and Surgery in World War II, both published by the Medical Department of the U.S. Army and available online.



postscript. The Other Boyd House

Tucked away on an obscure semi-circle drive, just a long block north of its more illustrious successor, sits the other Boyd House, the first home built in Norman by the University of Oklahoma's founding president, David Ross Boyd, for his wife, Jennie, and their daughter, Mary Alice.

Having occupied rented rooms in private homes since his arrival in August 1892, Boyd completed his house the following March 1893 on five acres of land along the grandly named University Boulevard, a dirt road bordered by a boardwalk, designed to tie the town to the University's first building, then under construction to the south. In her memoirs, Alice Boyd recalled a front room, which contained her mother's rosewood organ, divided by sliding doors from the larger living room with its Franklin stove. At the back was a "summer" kitchen separated from the house by a wide porch. Dr. Boyd planted pear, apricot and peach trees on his land, had a deep well dug and installed a cistern halfway to the barn, which housed a few cows, a buggy and a strawberry roan named Jock, a veteran of the Land Run of 1889.

Several years later, Boyd built a much grander residence on the corner of University Boulevard and West Boyd Street, which his family occupied in June 1906. When Boyd was fired two years later in the political upheaval of statehood, the Boyd "mansion" was first leased, then permanently acquired by the University as the official home of its presidents (see "Welcome to Boyd House" on Page 11).

A farmer named Charley Gorton, from whose land claim the University's first 40 acres was carved, gained ownership of the Boyds' first home and lived there from 1908 to 1927. According to a local historian, the late Wilma Rodgers, Gorton in 1921 enlisted R. M. Kirkpatrick of OU's maintenance department to help him move the house to the back of the long lot, turning it around to face Park Drive. The University repurchased the house in 1927 for use as a practice house for the Department of Home Economics, then sold it to Kirkpatrick in 1940. Kirkpatrick and his wife, Ruth, lived there until their deaths in 1978. Various members of the Bleakley family owned and occupied the house until 2000.

Against the universal advice of others, Susan and Jeff Greer, who were living next door, bought 431 Park Drive in spite of its deplorable condition, probably saving it from the wrecking ball. The young couple was charmed by the old structure's history and could see its possibilities, and with the birth of daughter Keever, now a first grader, shortly thereafter, the Greers mirrored the family unit that first occupied the house.

Both Susan and Jeff, OU graduates and current OU employees, had grown up in the neighborhood. Jeff's late father, J. Keever Greer, had been head of OU's Stovall Museum, and his mother, Marjorie, a retired professor of physiology and anatomy at OUHSC, while Susan's mother, Jaquine Hudson was a longtime employee in the Office of Development, where Susan now works.

The Greers lovingly undertook a renovation project that Susan admits probably will never be complete. Except for the roof replacement, they have done the work themselves. They ripped off the asbestos siding and scraped down the exterior to the bare wood—found to be in remarkably good condition—then repainted. They peeled away layers of linoleum and refinished the original wood floors. Using

his expertise as part of the environmental systems division of the OU Physical Plant, Jeff added central heat and air conditioning.

Previous owners had installed indoor plumbing, added closets and made numerous modifications, some mystifying, over the intervening century. The original porch had become a foyer and another porch added. The Greers think the home once had two fireplaces, now gone, although the transoms over some of the doorways still testify to the original design. Beneath multiple coats of paint, painstakingly removed, they found beautiful carved woodwork and detailed metal faceplates and vent covers.

As they work, Jeff and Susan continue to discover little hidden treasures—chief among them newspapers in the debris of the old kitchen—newspapers dated 1893, the year the Boyds took up residence. They are so fragile they cannot be touched, but the relics survive nonetheless as a message from the original owners—a welcome to the other Boyd House. —CJB



OU Western History Collections

David Ross Boyd built his first Norman home on five acres facing the boardwalk along the unpaved University Boulevard. Next to the house in this photo is the Boyds' horse, Jock, hitched to a buggy.

Hero's Story Recalls OU Days

I just read the fascinating story of Rick Rescorla written by Anne Harp in *Sooner Magazine* ["The Man Who Predicted 9/11," Summer 2006]. I found it of particular and personal interest because of the connection to OU and William Foster-Harris. I attended the University of Oklahoma as a journalism and English literature major from 1967 through 1970 and then remained in Norman until 1977, when I moved back to my native state of New York. When I arrived at the University in September 1967, I discovered that my assigned counselor was the eccentric and fascinating Mr. Foster-Harris. At first I didn't know what to make of him, a tall, stately, one-eyed fellow who wore a Stetson hat and smoked a pipe and often broke out in an amused chuckle in mid-sentence as if laughing at some inside joke that only he could understand. But I took several writing courses from him and became a great admirer of his unique intellect. He seldom spoke directly about writing but rather taught lessons of life, with great emphasis on the essential duality of nature and of all natural events, and little by little the lessons seeped into the brain and allowed for better writing to just 'happen' of its own accord. He was one of those characters that you can never forget.

I do not recall ever meeting Rick Rescorla at that time, but in all likelihood I passed him while walking around campus many times. He may have even been in one or two of the same courses that I took, as we were apparently there at the same period of time.

It was a turbulent period, and I met many an interesting character back then. One Iranian co-ed that I met was the daughter of a former mayor of Tehran. Her name was Azar Nafisi. I shared an apartment with her brother for a semester in spring of 1970 and did some casual dating with Azar, often just spending time at the well-known Library Bar. I lost track of Azar for many years but discovered a year ago that she had gone back to Tehran in 1979, was unable to leave again for 18 years, then came back to the United States and wrote a memoir en-

titled *Reading Lolita in Tehran* that reached number 1 on the New York Times best seller list. It allowed me the unique experience of having an in-depth account of the life of someone I had completely lost contact with. She's now teaching literature courses at Johns Hopkins University.

I also knew Vicki Monks quite well, who was a television reporter at the time, later a freelance journalist and documentary producer, and who I think may now be teaching at OU. She had a big, grumpy St. Bernard dog named Waldo who de-

portation. I was out on the road when the events went down. When I got back to my office at the regional state office building, it was cordoned off by state troopers and only employees were allowed back in. I called a young woman who I knew worked in the city, a close friend, and she was on the street in Manhattan when she answered her cell phone. She was crying. From her 60th floor office window at Penn Plaza, she had seen the twin towers fall, seen people jumping out of windows. Our conversation was obliterated several times by the roar of military jets sweeping over the city. Nobody knew what to expect next.

Now I know that thanks to an extraordinary soul named Rick Rescorla, the death toll in those buildings was only half of what it might have been. How many heroes have ever saved 2,700 people's lives and given their own life up in the process? I'm glad I now know about him and his remarkable life. . . . May he rest in peace.

*Gerard D. Redmond, '67-'70
Farmingdale, New York*

Shameful Image Recalled

I suppose there were many, many written responses to your article on Campus Corner ["Turning the Corner," Spring 2006]. One, however, that may have never been mentioned is something that will live in my mind forever: the image of an effigy of Ada Lois Sipuel hanging from the Main Gate when she was about to be admitted to OU. Shame on us and whoever perpetrated that hideous action. She sure proved the "coward(s)" wrong. May she rest in peace! OU forever!

*Burton Stern, '52 civil eng
Sarasota, Florida*

Jan Taylor Garrett

[Re: "Born with a Purpose," Spring 2006] This is an excellent argument against taking human life by abortion as well as what an individual can overcome and accomplish.

*J. W. Plant, '61 ba bus
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*



William Foster-Harris

manded you be re-introduced every time you entered her house.

And I befriended a neighbor of mine, Professor Emeritus George Miksch Sutton of the Ornithology Department. When I revisited OU in spring of 2002 for the first time in 25 years, I sat beside of a bust of his image at the museum and recalled how I'd talk to him about various birds and the places he'd gone in his long career.

I live in New York now, on Long Island, and was here on September 11, 2001. I know that the entire nation was shocked by the events of that day, but if you were here, it was much more intense. I'm a civil engineer now working for the New York State Department of Trans-

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