



# LETTERS

## Preserving the Archives

What a wonderful article by Lynette Lobban ["The Once and Future Ballet Russes," Spring 2010]—not because I am featured on the cover, which of course is thrilling—but because the history and background of all the magnificent artists which together wrote music, created dance steps, designed backdrops and the time lines of the Ballet Russe makes one wonder about the past and future of dance.

Lynette was able to capture the excitement of the companies, and her interviews and story regarding the archives at the University of Oklahoma makes one realize how lucky we are to have these artifacts preserved for the future. Hurray for The University of Oklahoma!!!

*Walda Welch Cobain  
Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo 1954-55  
Rensselaer, New York*

## Leon Bakst Omitted

I enjoyed very much reading the article about the Ballet Russes. I am originally from Europe, and that time of the ballet was always very interesting to me. To live now in the state where the five famous ballerinas were from is quite wonderful. The only person not mentioned in the article was the famous stage painter Leon Bakst. Thanks again for the article.

*Renata Fairweather  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

## From the Dance Partners

Many thanks for the fine coverage of the Ballet Russe Archives and the School of Dance in the latest *Sooner*. It was all we could ask for and more—the cover even!

Lynette [Lobban] did a fine job, very thorough.

On behalf of the Dance Partners Board, I send our appreciation and gratitude.

*Ann Ryan, '66 english  
Norman, Oklahoma*

## The Delts and Fred Waring

While enjoying the spring issue of the *Sooner Magazine*, one article brought back some old memories. The article about Fred Waring was very interesting.

Although I did not know Bob Harris, he had a great influence on the Delta Tau Delta glee club. Through Bob, our music was arranged mostly by Fred Waring and for the three years that I was a Delt, we won the University Sing every year, under the direction of Bill Bender. Bob was a Delt, and evidently he and Bill kept in close contact. Speaking of winning, the Deltas had won the University Sing 13 out of 14 years by the time I graduated in January of 1951.

As I recall, in 1949, we sang three songs which were arranged by Fred Waring. One song was a rousing rendition of "Oklahoma!" and the other was "All the Things You Are."

Unfortunately, the last time I attended a Delt reunion, they didn't even have a piano in the house. Too bad—a good memory though.

*John R. (Rich) Anderson, '51 history  
Gail, Texas*

## St. Pat Identified

In the current issue of *Sooner Magazine*, you have a very nice article on the one hundredth anniversary of the Engineering School ["One Hundred Years of OU Engineering," Spring 2010]. My father was the St. Pat sitting in the jeep on page 11. He would have gotten a huge kick out of seeing the photo. My husband handed me the page and asked if I could find my father—knowing he was at the University in '42. I was so surprised to see that photo—which is in my mother's scrapbook! It was in the newspaper, and she cut it out.

His name was James D. Richardson. He graduated from Northeast High School, Oklahoma City, in their very first graduating class. His major was Petroleum Engineering, Class of '42. Following the end of that school year, he joined the Army Air Corps, thinking that he had left an incomplete lab course and expecting to come back to OU to finish up after WWII was over. He found that his professors had petitioned to have that

last class waived, and he had actually received his degree in '42!

He worked for Amoco for his whole career, ending as Drilling Superintendent in New Orleans. He, sadly, passed away in 1997.

Thanks for the memory that you brought to light!

*Susan Richardson Scott, '66 poly sci  
Vienna, Virginia*

## And also the Engineers' Queen

I enjoyed reading the article, "One Hundred Years of OU Engineering," and was totally surprised when I saw the picture on the bottom of page 11—that is my mother-in-law riding on the front of the jeep! She was the Engineers' Queen in 1942, and at that time her name was Mary Lee Winters. Mary Lee grew up in Oklahoma City, and she married Harry Frantz Jr. from Enid in June 1942 prior to Harry going overseas for the war effort. Harry and Mary were loyal OU graduates, and all five of their children graduated from Norman also. Mary currently lives in the Tulsa area, and still follows OU quite closely.

Connie and I enjoy your *Sooner Magazine*.

*William W. Hesler, '67 mech. eng.  
Mission Hills, Kansas*

## Some Memories not Fond Ones

"One Hundred Years of OU Engineering" brought back some difficult memories involving the Dean and Associate Dean in 1963. I entered as a freshman in the fall of 1959, and during my first year, the college adopted a new system of academic programming, with a core curriculum of courses involving a broader selection of liberal arts classes. Current students could stay on the original degree programs or opt for the new programs, which I did.

One of the new options was a degree in General Engineering, which involved taking the core courses and then a select program of specialized courses, such as in nuclear energy or the fledgling computer field. Another option was a combined degree with the College of Law, as

had been available for decades in other colleges, such as business and liberal arts. I opted for that. Of course being the engineering college, it was still a little different, requiring 120 hours of credit in engineering before beginning law school. Then one would graduate from engineering after the first year of law school, just like in the other colleges.

I was quite proud of the fact that in the spring of 1962, I was one of three members of my class selected as Honor Junior members of Tau Beta Pi, in recognition of my classroom accomplishments, and in spite of my heavy schedule.

I began law school in the fall of 1962, and later filled out the forms and paid the fees to graduate in the spring of 1963 with my classmates in engineering and the many law students taking combined degrees in other colleges. Then, during the challenging law school final exam period, I received a postcard telling me that I was not graduating, and to come by the administration business [office] for my fee refund. I called the Dean's office and made an appointment to see why I was not graduating.

I walked into new Dean Gene Nordby's office, and he was sitting with both elbows on his desk. Instead of "hello," he said, "I don't see why you think you should graduate." I explained why, and he started talking about maybe I could graduate when I finished law school, but I wouldn't have an accredited degree.

Next I went to Associate Dean Cedomir Sliepcevich, who was my faculty advisor and who was in charge of the unique General Engineering program. He at least said "hello," before saying, "How are you going to be a lawyer when you can't even read?" He then proceeded to go through the degree requirements and my transcript, and discovered that I was indeed supposed to be graduating. The Registrar later added that there were no unaccredited degrees from OU.

The University then said it was too late for me to graduate with my classmates, but I would graduate in August. I elected not to attend that commence-

ment, and my diploma was mailed to me. No one connected with the College of Engineering or the University ever offered any apology for their treatment of me.

I went on to graduate from law school in January 1965. While I was there, the degree was changed from the long-standing LLB to Juris Doctor, which also meant that the combined degree programs with the undergraduate colleges were ended. I thus became the only student to graduate from both OU Engineering and Law colleges in 5 1/2 years, and with academic distinctions in both.

Those times being what they were, I was retired from the Army in 1968 at 90% disability.

Vance R. Kriete, '63 *bs. gen. eng.*, '65 *jd.*  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

### A Couple of Corrections

I appreciated the nice write up by Debra Levy Martinelli on the history of the College of Engineering printed in the recent issue of the *Sooner Magazine*. There is one major typo in the article. On page 10, the date of the WNAD broadcast reported should have been 1927. It was a much more important feat at that time than it would have been in 1972 as reported in her article.

Incidentally, the caption to the photograph of Dean Landers and me at the start of the article mentioned that the history is *being written*. The history up to 1970 was available, both in hard copy and electronic format, before the picture was taken.

Tom Love, '48 *mech.eng*  
Professor Emeritus of Engineering  
Norman, Oklahoma

*Editor's Note:* The University of Oklahoma College of Engineering: A 70-Year History by Tom Love is available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com).

### Senior Rx's Require Caution

Thank you for the awesome article on prescription drugs in the Spring 2010 edition ["Warning: This Prescription Could Be Dangerous to Your Health"]. It came just as I had gone through an

episode with my mother.

We went to the emergency room (after calling a nurse help line at the local hospital). They did a fine job of investigating and help on the initial problem. But they also did a urinalysis and prescribed an antibiotic. She started taking it on Thursday and by Saturday said she had little energy and not much appetite. By Tuesday she looked so drawn and frail. We went to her primary care doctor who took her off the antibiotic and said she probably did not need it in the first place. And, as your article said, it was doing more harm than good. He is a very conservative physician and provides more reassurance and less medication. I learned the lesson to inform the primary physician after an ER trip that prescribes.

I am proud that the University of Oklahoma has such excellent education in geriatric medication. We are all concerned about the cost and quality of health care. What better way to reduce cost and improve the quality of care and the quality of life than what OU and the Institute for Geriatric Pharmacy are doing.

I would say the least helpful thing a doctor can say is "what do you expect, you are getting older." You can expect thoughtful questions and investigation as the OU pharmacists are doing and teaching.

Vivian Cox, '66 *bs*  
Mineola, Texas

### Anyone Lose a Class Ring?

My husband and I found a man's OU class ring on Campus Corner the day after the Bedlam football game. The ring is very worn, so I figured it was old, but I was astounded to discover two identifying marks: "BS" and "39." This ring belongs to a 1939 graduate! I placed an ad in the *Norman Transcript* and called various offices on campus, but have not been able to locate the owner. I hope you can help me return this ring as I'm sure it means a lot to the owner or his family.

Erin Sloan, '02 *ba*, '05 *mlis*  
Carl Albert Congressional Research and  
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