

Springtime Is Trophy Time

Taking home the President's Trophy has become a very serious quest, inspiring student groups to go all out in pursuit of excellence in a variety of areas.

BY CAROL J. BURR



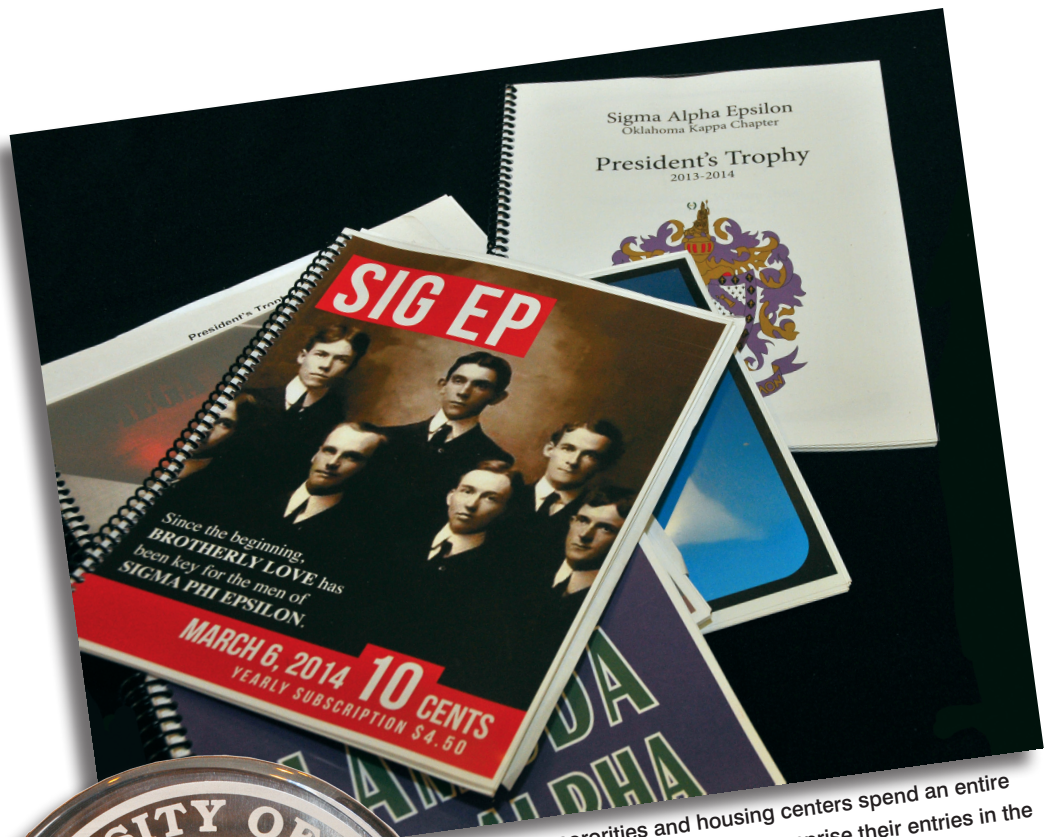
No shortage of trophies exists at the University of Oklahoma. The athletic teams bring home boatloads. The Pride has its own national championship trophy, while the debate team is building quite a stockpile. The drama students seldom return from contests empty handed, and the shining symbols of success can be found at Price and Gaylord Colleges and among the engineers. Yet one literally towers over the others: The President's Trophy stands six feet tall and is the subject of intense, year-long competition.

There are actually three of the massive President's Trophies, which along with \$5,000 cash awards, are presented each spring to the Outstanding Housing Center, Outstanding Fraternity and Outstanding Sorority, based on excellence in the categories of academics, campus activities, community service and volunteerism, and multi-cultural interaction and diversity. The cash and

a smaller trophy stay with the winning houses with their names engraved on the traveling President's Trophy, which remains in their possession only until new recipients claim the title the following year.

The houses no sooner turn in their entries in early spring than preparation begins on "the book" for the next competition. The books are creatively designed records of achievement in each of the criteria areas. Since the population of the housing centers changes from year to year more than that of the Greek houses, their criteria are focused on programs created and pursued rather than statistical achievements of the members.

The selection committee, comprised of the University President, the chairs of the Faculty and Staff Senates, the Student Government Association President and the Vice President for Student Affairs, also awards \$500 to the runners-up *continued*



Fraternities, sororities and housing centers spend an entire year assembling the books that comprise their entries in the hotly contested competition for the President's Trophy.



in the overall competition, and \$500 to two unaffiliated commuter students. The top house in each of the categories receives \$250 and an acrylic medallion.

The scope of the awards has grown considerably since David and Molly Shi Boren established the President's Trophy program in spring 1995, soon after he took office. The next spring only the top three trophies were awarded to Walker Center, Lambda Chi Alpha and Chi Omega. Overseeing the competition then and now is the Crimson Club. That group's first student coordinator was Jeff Hickman, who is now Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and his advisor was Anona Adair, whose graduate assistant, Nanette Shadid Hathaway, took over the next year.

The Crimson Club receives the book entries, verifies the information, tallies the volunteer hours, grade averages, and activity and multicultural participation, then prepares packets for the selection committee. President Boren often selects an area of emphasis for the year, with some interesting results. Several years ago when the emphasis was on Big Brothers/Big Sisters, that organization experienced a big bump in student participation that has continued. One fra-



President David Boren hosts an awards luncheon for representatives of groups competing for the coveted trophy, but attendees are more interested in the entries than the food.

ternity took advantage of the year's focus on adopt-a-faculty to provide an office in their house where their faculty member could meet with the members. This year's runner-up, Delta Delta Delta sorority, has an ongoing tradition involving 70 members who volunteer weekly in various community service areas.

Beta Theta Pi fraternity has won the President's Trophy the past two years, giving back part of its first-year prize to the Sooner Heritage Scholarship Fund. The sorority overall winner

President's Trophy Winners

Sororities, Fraternities and Housing Centers

1995-1996	Chi Omega Lambda Chi Alpha Walker Center
1996-1997	Delta Delta Delta Pi Kappa Phi Couch Center
1997-1998	Gamma Phi Beta Lambda Chi Alpha Sooner Housing Center
1998-1999	Delta Gamma Alpha Sigma Phi Cate Center
1999-2000	Kappa Kappa Gamma Alpha Phi Alpha/Sigma Phi Epsilon Cate Center
2000-2001	Delta Gamma Alpha Phi Alpha Cate Center
2001-2002	Kappa Alpha Theta Lambda Chi Alpha Couch/Cross Center
2002-2003	Delta Delta Delta/Gamma Phi Beta Pi Kappa Alpha/Lambda Chi Alpha Sooner Housing Center
2003-2004	Pi Beta Phi Beta Theta Pi Walker Center
2004-2005	Pi Beta Phi Phi Delta Theta Sooner Housing Center
2005-2006	Chi Omega Omega Delta Phi Cate Center
2006-2007	Delta Delta Delta Sigma Phi Epsilon Walker Center
2007-2008	Pi Beta Phi Sigma Phi Epsilon Sooner Housing Center
2008-2009	Alpha Gamma Delta Lambda Chi Alpha Sooner Housing Center
2009-2010	Delta Delta Delta Delta Upsilon Cate Center
2010-2011	Kappa Alpha Theta Sigma Phi Epsilon Walker Center
2011-2012	Kappa Alpha Theta Lambda Chi Alpha Traditions West
2012-2013	Kappa Kappa Gamma Beta Theta Pi Adams Center
2013-2014	Kappa Alpha Theta Beta Theta Pi Headington Hall



Walker Center President Emily Howard accepts the top award in the Volunteerism category from President Boren on behalf of Walker residents. Other individual categories are academics, campus activities, and multicultural participation.

for 2013-14 was Kappa Alpha Theta, which has recorded the highest academic record for the past eight semesters. The residents of the University's newest housing center, Headington Hall, got up and running quickly to claim the top trophy in that division. Recipients of the Commuter Student Award were Neal Walia and Pooja Vijayvargiya.

President and Mrs. Boren established the President's Trophy as one way to keep the University's focus always on its students by encouraging and recognizing their outstanding accomplishments in a wide range of academic and extracurricular areas. The results of that special emphasis can be seen throughout the campus community—and they don't need a trophy to prove that the program has worked.

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