

# Your Letters

*"It is because of people like David and Carol Burr that I am so very proud to be a Sooner."*

## Carol and David: A Love Story

I read your "One Last Look" column and wanted to send my congratulations after 39 very successful years writing for *Sooner Magazine*. Patty and I have enjoyed your keeping us connected to OU through the magazine. Your writing and institutional memory have been special assets of OU. We are both well,

been a consistent highlight through the years and the Winter 2015 issue is no exception. Your dad's story may have done as much to highlight the concern for the cost of a college education as an issue devoted to the subject.

However, what made me sit up and blink several times was the mention of your husband. I am embarrassed to have failed to connect the editor of *Sooner Magazine* to David Burr. I was in the 1962 President's Leadership Class. David Burr and the PLC were one of the bright spots in my first two years at OU.

You are a superb editor and will be missed. Your husband was an extraordinary man and has not been forgotten. It is because of people like David and Carol Burr that I am so very proud to be a Sooner.

*Bill Woodard  
'67 bs, chem eng  
'71 ms, chem eng  
'73 phd, chem eng  
Bartlesville,  
Oklahoma*

and all-around great guy.

My children have since gone on to graduate from OU. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

*T. Logan Brown  
'70 ba, journ  
Miami, Oklahoma*

As a graduate of OU in 1948 and a faculty member, 1956 through retirement on January 1, 1988, I just wanted to drop you a note thanking both you and David for the truly great contributions to the University of Oklahoma that you both made. I had the privilege of getting better acquainted with David on a trip we made to visit some engineering alums in Texas not long before his untimely death. And I have enjoyed every issue of *Sooner Magazine* since you have been editor.

I can't think of any family that has done as much for the university than the two of you. And I know that even in retirement you will continue your support. I truly admire you both. You are the best!

*Tom Love  
'48 mech eng  
Norman, Oklahoma*

I write this with a smile on my lips and a tear in my eye. My parents, Thurman and Corrine White, adored both Carol and David Burr. Their names were familiar and much respected in our Norman home. I found it remarkable and, yet equally as perfect, to recall the enduring link between our families, along with that of my godfather, Boyd Gunning and his successor, Ron Burton.

Carol's "Prologue" in *Sooner Magazine's* Winter 2015 inside front cover begins the journey, and then Carol completes the circle with her "Postscript" on the last page regarding the Hacienda El Cobano and Arezzo. Embedded within these personal reflections is a remarkable past of love and dedication to expanding the

Thank you for the memories through your writing and other works at the university. We will miss your column dearly.

You will remember my parents, Wanda Jo and Jack Brown. They met at a dance at the student union in 1946. They had four children, of which all attended OU on the President's Leadership Scholarship. David Burr will always be thought of as Mr. OU! He was a great administrator, educator

having retired from the Presidency at Purdue in 2007. Our memories of OU and, in particular our times with David and you, are precious and quite fond. We send our best wishes to you.

*Martin Jischke  
Former OU interim president  
Lafayette, Indiana*

You will be missed as you step away from *Sooner Magazine*. "Prologue" has



Carol and David Burr

Photo Provided

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University experience through the OU Foundation, *Sooner Magazine* and then, at that point in time, a fledgling Study Abroad concept. This alumnae of Study Abroad and University faculty child is absolutely delighted! What a trip it has been...and the horizon beckons. The past really is prologue to the future.

*Sue Ann White Hyde  
'66 bfa  
Nichols Hills, Oklahoma*

### **Hester Hall remembered**

Thanks for the update on Hester Hall. While Hester-Robertson was initially for women, the fire that destroyed the BOQ on December 3, 1949, changed that. As one of the several hundred male students left without housing I was very grateful that the administration moved quickly to find us housing. The women living in Hester-Robertson were moved out, most to the newly opened Women's Quadrangle, and we moved in. There were still large hair driers in the restrooms. Needless to say we were happy to have a place to live. An extra advantage was being on the main campus.

*Richard Roberts  
'53 bba  
Richardson, Texas*

### **Doing things the 'right way'**

I would like to add my approval of the letters by Leon Cross, Wayne Lee and Jay O'Neal concerning the last football season. While not being a football letterman I was a basketball letterman and as such a loyal fan of all Sooner teams.

I am especially appreciative of the administration's determination to "do things the right way." Coach Stoops

has had several instances where despite possible harm to the team, he did things the right way. It is just a guess on my part, the extent that Joe Castiglione went to get Lon Kruger was an example of wanting to do things the right way. I am so glad to be supporting a team that is not under a cloud of questionable recruiting practices. Joe went after a basketball coach that could both recruit and teach and do both with character and class.

When young men go off to college the coach they play for becomes a surrogate father. As such the coach can instill principles that can guide these young men when they no longer are playing. When I got through playing not one person ever asked me to shoot a basket, but I was asked to work with others to accomplish some goal and do so within certain guidelines. Once in the world no one is going to ask them to block or tackle or shoot a basket. They are going to be asked to follow the rules, in other words "do things the right way." The lesson these young men can learn by following the instructions, rules and example set out by such fine coaches as Stoops and Kruger and I am sure the rest of the OU coaching staffs, will serve them well in their years ahead.

Keep "doing it the right way" and as loyal Sooner fans we will live with the results.

*Sherman Norton  
'52 bs, pet eng  
Lubbock, Texas*

I just had an email from Steve Sherrod (Sutton Center) saying I had "made it" by being mentioned in the most recent *Sooner Magazine*. Thus, I felt compelled to go to your website to see what he was talking about. I was very pleased to see the "Postscript" on Hacienda El Cóbano, although like many who spent time there we still wish it were not simply a postscript. That having been said, I

have been doing a lot of thinking about the Hacienda and Colima over the past several years, particularly as we have prepared a book-length manuscript on the "Bats of Colima, Mexico" for the OU Press. We completed the manuscript in mid-December (ca. 130,000 words and about 300 illustrations), and I am quite sure the editorial board of the OU Press gave final approval yesterday to proceed with production of the book. The Hacienda certainly came to mind many a time, along with Dick Hancock and Angel Lara.

I thought you would be interested in comments in the preface to the book, which outlines how we got to where we are now in terms of our work in Colima. Of the numerous authors (which really shows the team effort), four of them are former students of mine at OU (Mike Kennedy, Troy Best, Robert Owen, and Sara González-Pérez) and the other two (Cornelio Sánchez-Hernández and María de Lourdes Romero-Almaraz of the National University of Mexico) spent considerable time at OU, including a year-long sabbatical. This work on bats has resulted in the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History having the largest collection of bats from Colima in any museum, including those in Mexico. However, as hinted at in the preface, our greatest satisfaction has been the opportunity to take so many students on the trips to Colima to experience field biology and the wonderful culture. Most of these students have not become professional biologists but I can tell from later interactions with them that they hold their Colima experience in a special place.

*Gary D. Schnell  
OU Professor Emeritus of Biology  
Curator Emeritus of Birds  
Breinigsville, Pennsylvania*