

# Your Letters

*"I'm proud to be a Sooner, and the article reminded me just how great it is to be a Sooner."*

## Retiring OU Foundation trustee reflects

You always wonder what you will say at a time like this to show your true appreciation. So to all of you who serve either as a trustee or on the great staff of the OU Foundation, I sincerely say thank you.

When driving past the Seed Sower statue on Lindsey Street, we cannot forget the seeds that were given to each of us by our professors to help us plant our own gardens that grow to benefit families, communities and our country. I am most grateful for the influence of our professors.

Fifty years ago, in 1965, my first job out of OU was as a Firing Platoon Leader for an Artillery Battery stationed in Korea. The men in my platoon depended on my decisions each day as we ran our missions along the Demilitarized Zone attached to the Korean Army in the most severe weather and terrain. The success we had is directly related to the influence OU had on me through the College of Business in management and organizational courses, the Army ROTC training in technical and leadership fundamentals, and even through my baseball coach, Jack Baer, who let me walk on as a team member in 1961. For four years, he encouraged me to give my best each day and never give up, no matter what came your way. I am grateful for how all these learning skills have helped me these many years in my profession, as well as in volunteering for many nonprofit organizations.

As I look to the future, I am reminded that, as we were given the seeds for success, it was up to each of us to work hard to grow our own gardens. We now experience the true greatness of a successful garden by sharing it with the OU Foundation for the nurturing of our future students. Thank you, OU Foundation. You have made a difference in my life by emphasizing the value of sharing in a most meaningful way, and thank you trustees and staff for your friendships, loyalty and professionalism. It has been an honor to serve the Foundation, and I know OU will continue to plant the seeds for years to come. Good luck and Boomer Sooner!

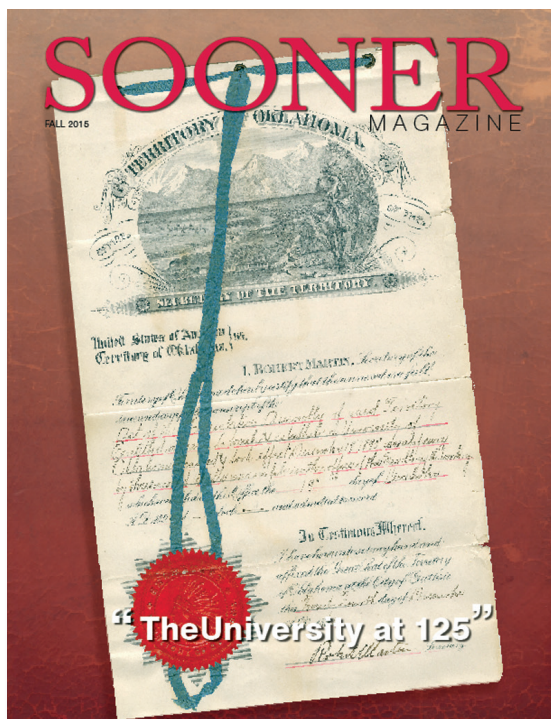
*William L. Ford  
OU Foundation Trustee, retired  
'64 bba, '67 mba  
Shawnee, Okla.*

## Art patron thanks athletics

I am very proud of being a graduate of the University of Oklahoma in 1953. Through the years I have been back to campus from time to time. It has been wonderful to see how it has grown and the campus looks so good. Sometimes when I am there I go to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. Your wonderful article about Oscar Jacobson made a trip to the museum a must on my last visit to the campus.

Through the years, I have paid a fee to enter the museum, but not so this time. The attendant told me that the cost of admission was underwritten by the Office of the President and the Athletics Department. That is wonderful. I have told many people about this because I am so pleased with the priorities of my school!

*Nancy Gee  
'53 bs, home ec  
Miami, Okla.*



## OU history

Thanks for writing an interesting and yet relatively brief article on OU history.

The pictures spoke plenty for our history, and I appreciated seeing all of that. It's nice to look back and think about my dad's graduation in '68, mine in '87, and now as my son ponders his college choices, whether OU is the right fit for him.

I'm proud to be a Sooner, and the article reminded me just how great it is to be a Sooner.

*Jay Estes  
'87 bs, aero eng  
Friendswood, Texas*

As an OU graduate, the son and father of OU graduates, I am greatly offended by the homage given to the 1970 hippies shown protesting the Naval ROTC Field Day on page 9 of the Fall 2015 issue. Many of my ROTC colleagues served honorably, and at least one member of my Army ROTC class made the ultimate sacrifice in the Vietnam War.

I am proud of the naval cadets shown in the background in the picture. I am equally proud you honored Congressional Medal of Honor winner John Lucien Smith on page 7.

*William C. McAlister  
'61 bs, mech eng  
Edmond, Okla.*

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## Print vs. online

Congratulations on the best edition of *Sooner Magazine* I have seen in a long time.

Please do not discontinue the printed edition. There is nothing like a hard copy at the breakfast table and I fear I would lose interest in the institution if only a digital version would be available.

David Reith  
'63 ba  
Kent, Ohio

I love the *Sooner Magazine* in any form. I save all my printed issues so I can share them.

The pictures in this issue on the computer are awesome. Some bring back memories.

My parents moved their big family to an apartment house they bought in 1946 at 521 West Symmes, so we were two blocks from OU. Nine of their 11 children are OU grads, as well as a grandson, who graduated in mechanical engineering (his father has a master's from OU in electrical engineering) and a granddaughter, who went several years to OU and did well. We recently had a reunion of the eight living siblings of Andrew and Elsie Pannell.

Our mother started taking OU courses when I graduated from OU in 1956. She got a degree in elementary education (a dream of hers) when a son and daughter-in-law graduated in the 1960s. Three of their sons played football for OU, her first five children played in the OU band.

Thank you for always being a school we can be proud of.

Mary Bearden  
Class of 1956  
Tulsa, Okla.

## Gridiron memories

I started school at OU in 1946, the same year Coach Jim Tatum and his assistant, Bud Wilkinson, were hired. Tatum soon left and Wilkinson took over. At the end of Wilkinson's first season, the record was 7-2-1. Then came 1948, when the team won all 10 of its regular season games but lost the Sugar Bowl to North Carolina. 1949 was even better, because OU won all of its games and the Sugar Bowl against Louisiana State 35-0.

Could Oklahoma continue its winning ways my senior year? OU won its first 1950 game against Boston College 28-0, but then came the game against Texas A&M at Oklahoma Memorial Stadium.

A&M scored first on a 62-yard drive, then OU full-back Leon Heath sped 25 yards to even the count. A pass down the middle from OU quarterback Claude Arnold gave OU a 14-7 lead. Our celebration was short-lived; before the half ended A&M had knotted the score at 14-14. We needed halftime to catch our breath and relax our throats.

The third quarter started well. 1952 Heisman win-

ner Billy Vessels put OU in front 21-14, but A&M staged a 60-yard match capped by a scoring plunge from the 4-yard line. And the game did not get better. On the first play of the final period, A&M made it 28-21 in their favor.

OU's responding scoring drive put them within one point. Kicker Jim Weatherall hadn't missed that season; if he could make the extra point, OU would tie the game with three and a half minutes to play. Our happiness turned to misery when he missed. The chances of winning were slight, but OU did not give up. There was only a little over 100 seconds left. The Sooners weren't known for their passing game, but there was only one option.

Miraculously, Claude Arnold completed five of six aeri-als. OU fans were screaming so hard that most of us became hoarse. The excitement was more intense for a longer period than I've ever felt at a game. And when Leon Heath fought his way into the end zone with 37 seconds left, 40,000 fans went ballistic. There was more hugging and kissing than at all of the weddings in the U.S. for the year. Did it really happen or was I just dreaming? It did happen, and OU went on to win all of their 1950 regular season games.

Since I moved to California in 1956, I have attended three OU games – against Stanford in 1983, UCLA in 1990 and the 2003 Rose Bowl against Washington State. Whether I watch OU games on TV or in person, you can bet that I will be yelling at the top of my lungs, "Go, Sooners!"

Leonard Leventhal  
'50 ba, econ  
Placentia, Calif.

## Galileo

Your fall issue article *Discovering Galileo* brought memories of taking a three-hour course under Dr. Roller. I have never forgotten the course or Dr. Roller. It was an interesting and challenging course. I graduated in 1960, so I think I took the course in 1959. Thanks for a great issue.

Lawrence Williams  
Class of 1960  
Owasso, Okla.

I was astonished that the article on the several Galileo exhibits at OU in the Fall 2015 issue of your magazine, that is intended for donors and alumni, did not mention Everette DeGolyer, the alumnus, geologist, oilman, book collector, and donor who started the History of Science Collections in the 1950s. There are two biographies of him, including a recent one.

Margaret Rossiter  
The Marie Underhill Noll Professor  
of the History of Science, Cornell University  
Ithaca, N.Y.