

Your Letters

“Ray and I really enjoyed the spring 2012 issue of Sooner Magazine about Bud, Pat and Jay [Wilkinson]. Those two little boys used to come practice session to watch their dad.”

Spring cover story on Zika triggers memories

It may be of interest to know that a Sooner was actively involved in viral epidemiology a long time ago.

I arrived at OU in 1963 with the desire to learn everything I could about viruses. Fortunately, the Department of Botany-Microbiology had hired Dr. Donald C. Cox to undertake a program in virology. After completing my M.S. in virology in 1969, I began my military service in the United States Air Force. Through a number of amazing encounters, I eventually became assistant chief of virology in the USAF Epidemiology Division, School of Aerospace Medicine. In that capacity I investigated numerous disease outbreaks, including Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis in south Texas, rubella virus in neonates, and individual and mass rabies virus exposures. We demonstrated how influenza virus entered and spread within continental United States in 1972, and investigated numerous Acute Respiratory Disease outbreaks, including a high mortality adenovirus pneumonia epidemic at Lackland AFB.

When I left the Air Force in 1973, I applied my experience to start a clinical virology laboratory at the University of California, Davis, Medical Center in Sacramento. I continued as the clinical virologist/microbiologist in various facilities until my retirement in 2015. My fascination with viruses and viral pathogenesis will remain with me all my days. I will always be grateful to Professor Cox and the University of Oklahoma for the impetus to start a fascinating career.

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'67 bs, microbiology
'69 ms, virology
Lincoln, Calif.*

Educator brought music to life

I was so anxious to read the article about Gail Boyd de Stwolinski. She was a great professor and I enjoyed all my classes that I took and for the influence she had on me.

I played French horn in the Pride of Oklahoma. Leonard Haug was the director. Also, I had several classes under Chester Frances. He always sang the “Star Spangled Banner” at all



the OU home games.

My husband, Ray, played four years with Coach Bud Wilkinson, as Ray had a full scholarship. Ray and I met mid-term our freshman year. We married mid-term our junior year and had our first baby mid-term our senior year. Ray's scholarship even paid for our son's birth after Ray asked Bud if he could help him get his baby “out of hock.” Ray was on OU's first national championship team in 1950.

Our years at OU were very special for us. Ray is 85 and I am 84, so we will celebrate our 65th anniversary in January. Ray served thirty years as a Marine aviator and we have had a wonderful life together. We had five children—now we have 15 grandchildren.

Ray and I really enjoyed the spring 2012 issue of *Sooner Magazine* about Bud, Pat and Jay [Wilkinson]. Those two little boys used to come to practice session to watch their dad.

We have many fond memories of OU.

*Beverly Powell
'52 music ed.*

Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

Help sought rounding up staffers for Oklahoma Daily reunion

The Oklahoma Daily is turning 100 this fall, and all former OU Student Media alumni and friends are invited to gather on campus October 14-15 to celebrate this special milestone. A reunion committee has been formed to plan the event and contact as many former staffers as possible — but we could use your help. Not all OU Student Media veterans listed their participation on their graduation profiles — and, of course, addresses aren't always current. If you haven't been contacted or know others who have not, please spread the word.

This weekend will be a great opportunity to renew friendships and share those many OU memories that center around our work on *The Daily*, *Sooner Yearbook* and other Student Media staffs. We don't want any of our former colleagues to miss out on either the dinner on Friday evening or the tailgate before Saturday's game with Kansas State. Follow the event on Facebook or check out the website at <http://medium.com/oudaily-100>.

You can register online or call (405) 325-3666 for more information.

*Andy Rieger
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