

Paul Walker, '12law, chairman of the telephone division of the Federal Communications Division, is one of the University's most outstanding alumni in Washington, D.C.

A Leader Is Honored

By PAUL A. WALKER, '12

FOLLOWING is the address of Paul A. Walker, '12law, chairman of the telephone division, and member of the Federal Communications Division, at the conferring of the degree of doctor of laws upon Mr. Samuel Thomas Bledsoe, well known Southwesterner, at the Founders Day program at Washington and Jefferson college, Washington, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Walker represented the University at the program and brought greetings from the University during the ceremonies and conferring of the degree upon Mr. Bledsoe who is well known in Oklahoma and Texas. The address follows:

"It is my esteemed privilege on this happy occasion to bring cordial greetings from my Alma Mater, the University of Oklahoma, its faculty, the more than five thousand students who honor its rolls, and its loyal alumni everywhere, to historic Washington and Jefferson College, and to that great lawyer, renowned railroad president, and public spirited citizen of Oklahoma, whom you have honored today with the degree of Doctor of Laws.

"Educated and admitted to the bar in Texas, but growing to maturity and eminence in Indian Territory and Oklahoma, the life story of Samuel Thomas Bledsoe is woven into the warp and woof of the great Southwest. Effective assistance in the establishment and maintenance of our schools, our municipal governmental institutions and facilities, and in the very achievement of statehood itself are but part and parcel of a career embracing outstanding professional and executive accomplishments and un-numbered acts of benevolence and philanthropy, which have endeared him to Oklahoma.

"But with my message of good will and congratulations from Oklahoma on this occasion, may I bring a brief tribute to that splendid spirit which has made possible the event of thus honoring this distinguished son of the Southwest. It was

this spirit of the patriot pioneer which overcame unbelievable hardships in the conquering of the unknown, brought into this Nation some of our greatest States, and produced such men of honor, courage, service, and public benefaction.

"It is not without significance that from this very institution and its predecessor, Washington College, there marched forth sons of these early pioneers who lent a hand in the winning and making of the Southwest. One hundred years ago next September, Thomas Jefferson Morgan, just out of college, raised aloft in front of the Washington County court house the Lone Star flag of Texas, with its challenge of "Liberty or Death," and, with his brother, George Washington Morgan, a Washington College freshman, as one of his recruits, organized here a company of volunteers, who, with the sanction of President Andrew Jackson, went forth to fight for the independence of the Republic of Texas.

"General Sam Houston, the saviour of Texas, and her first President, went from his residence in the Indian Territory, now a part of Oklahoma, to lead the forces which conquered Santa Anna at San Jacinto and drove back the Mexican invaders beyond the Rio Grande. A part of the lands and many of the citizens of Oklahoma and their forebears once gave allegiance to the Lone Star. And thus are linked historically Washington and Jefferson College, Texas, and Oklahoma.

"These soldiers and the other pioneers who builded the Southwest established there great universities, such as the one whose fraternal salutation I bring you tonight, which are sending forth to the Nation and returning to you men whom you delight to honor for the service they have performed for their fellow men.

"It is in thus living the spirit of the pioneer, through the blazing of new trails of fearless, unselfish devotion to public



service and the needs of humanity, that we can justify the sacrifices of these early pioneer patriots, and the ideals perpetuated in the purposes of this institution which with conspicuous honor bears the illustrious names of Washington and Jefferson."



Nash in Hall of Fame

Dr. Mell A. Nash, '19as, '27M.A., president of the Oklahoma College for Women, Chickasha, was one of sixteen persons chosen by the Oklahoma Memorial association for membership in the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

Doctor Nash, a member of the University alumni association executive board, is serving his eighth year as president of O. C. W.

He attended Central State Teachers college originally and started teaching rural schools in 1909. He taught in Greer, Pottawatomie and Pontotoc counties and was then high school principal at Granite and Madill. He served as city superintendent of schools at Noble for two years, at Idabel for three years and went back to Madill for another year.

He taught a term at the University and at Central State Teachers college and for three semesters at Southwestern State Teachers college, Durant.

He was appointed state high school inspector in 1919 and four years later became state superintendent of public instruction. He resigned from that position in 1927 to become president of O.C.W.

In 1929, he was elected president of the Oklahoma Education association. Two years ago, he was elected to membership on the University alumni association executive board.