

# Student Life

LETZEISER awards for outstanding University records were awarded to seven members of the senior class at a dinner this spring. The presentations were made by Virginia Reinecke, counselor of women, and Fayette Copeland, counselor of men.

In the women's division, Mary Swinney, Ringling, received the gold medal, Katie Absher, Bartlesville, was second, and Mary Lou Arnold, Tulsa, and Martha Colvert, Ardmore, tied for third place. Ruth Collier McSpadden, Norman and Claremore, received the Alpha Lambda Delta award for maintaining a straight A grade average during four years of college.

Earl E. Patterson, Oklahoma City, president of the class and Navy V-12 trainee, received the gold medal in the men's division. J. Raymond Hinshaw, Norman and Butler, who graduated last December and is now attending University Medical School, received the silver award. Ensign Robert M. Loeffler, Bristow, one of the first three Navy R.O.T.C. men to receive commissions at the University, was winner of the bronze medal.

Because of the scarcity of metals, certificates were awarded which will be exchanged for the actual medals after the war.

## Murphy First in Oratory

George R. Murphy, Oklahoma City, won first place in the seventh annual Gordon Fuller Memorial oratorical contest at the University this year. Receiving second and third places respectively were Stanley N. Levitt, Oklahoma City, and Donald B. Johnson, Taloga.

Prizes were \$25, \$15, and \$10. Judging the contest were John W. Dunn, associate professor of drama, Stewart Harral, director of press relations, and John H. Leek, chairman of the department of government.

## Religion for Students

The place of religion as a necessary part of University student life was discussed by Acting President George L. Cross in a speech before the Wesley Men's Club of the Wesley Methodist Church in Oklahoma City.

Commenting on a topic which is not often discussed, President Cross stated that there are two kinds of religious tasks confronting the University.

He listed first the long-range task of building an educational system that in its pre-suppositions, aims and processes supports the values of religion, and secondly, the task of educating students in religion and faith of their own choice. "If higher education is to be a meaningful experience

it cannot fail to integrate its aims with those of religion," he said.

President Cross cited agencies now serving to promote religious welfare of students in Norman. Among these is the Oklahoma School of Religion which offers courses in religion for University credit, publishes a monthly magazine, *The Oklahoma Journal of Religion*, and sponsors a series of broadcasts over the state's educational station WNAD (640 kilocycles).

He also mentioned the campus chapters of the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. and the foundations and organizations supported by the various denominations in Norman for the benefit of students. Some of the Norman churches, usually in co-operation with the national group, provide full-time youth directors, he pointed out.

## 1944 Yearbook Released

Fred Waring, band leader, chose the co-eds for the beauty section of the 1944 Sooner Yearbook, a handsome volume bound in Navy blue and Army khaki. June Goodnow, Tulsa, now Mrs. Arthur Whitt, was named Yearbook queen by Mr. Waring.

The Yearbook was put out by a student staff headed by Betty German, Porter, senior in the School of Journalism. It features news and pictures of the Navy and Army units on the campus.

## Wins Architecture Prize

R. Bruce Miller, Navy trainee from Oklahoma City, won second prize recently in a national student architecture



LETZEISER WINNER  
*Mary Swinney, Ringling, received a Letzeiser award for scholarship and service to the University.*

competition sponsored by the Kawneer Company of Niles, Michigan, which manufactures equipment for retail stores.

The prize of \$75 was given Mr. Miller for his design of a unit of stores to be developed in a city block, including a motion picture theater and other business houses. His design, along with other winners, will be exhibited all over the country by the sponsoring firm.

## May Go Overseas

Three University co-eds from Oklahoma City reached the final tryouts late last month in a contest to select entertainers to go overseas with a U.S.O. troop to entertain servicemen. They were Annabelle and Lila Ferne Escoe, sisters, and Shirley Akers, all prominent on the campus for their singing and dancing ability.

## Navy Spectrograph Finished

An infrared spectrograph valued at \$10,000 has been shipped from the University to the Naval Research Laboratory at Washington, D. C., George L. Cross, acting president, announced.

This instrument, designed and built by the University of Oklahoma Research Institute in the physics department shop represents a year's work, and there is \$5,000 worth of accessories yet to be completed and sent.

Ralph Fearnow, head of the shop, and Elmer Miller, his assistant, were in charge of the construction which was under the supervision of Dr. J. Rud Nielsen, research professor of physics, and Dr. William Schriever, chairman of the department of physics.

The field of infrared spectroscopy recently has become of very great importance for the analysis of petroleum products, synthetic rubber and other materials, and the University has played a leading part in its development.

The spectrograph built here will be used by the chemistry division of the Naval Laboratories in research on aviation fuels and lubricants, a vital part of war research. It is one of the largest of its kind and employs 3 prisms of rock salt and other materials, each weighing about 15 pounds. These are the largest salt prisms ever constructed.

Mr. Fearnow, who built the spectrograph, is a living proof that the American legend of success isn't a myth.

Five years ago he entered the University, fresh off an Oklahoma farm. He obtained an NYA job in the physics department shop to help him through school.

Now, at the age of 23, Mr. Fearnow is head of the shop and has just completed a project which is ordinarily expected to take instrument makers with years of training at least a year and a half to accomplish. He is enrolled in the School of Engineering Physics, and received all his training in instrument work at the University.—ELIZABETH LEES.