

Association Progress

TOM R. BENEDEM, '28law, Norman attorney, was re-elected president of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association at the annual meeting of the Executive Board in June.

Other officers re-elected were George Hann, '36m.ed, Ardmore, first vice president, and Charles H. Fawks, '19ba, Claremore, second vice president.

Roscoe Cate, '26ba, was elected secretary-treasurer of the association after the board accepted his resignation as executive secretary. He became financial assistant to the president on July 1.

The position of executive secretary was left vacant temporarily pending further word as to the probable date of return of Maj. Ted Beard, '21ba, now on leave of absence as alumni secretary to serve in the Air Force.

Sue Starr, '43ba, who has been field representative for the association during the last year, was given the title of assistant executive secretary and will be in charge of the office until the position of executive secretary is filled.

Edith Walker, '41ba, who has been managing editor of *Sooner Magazine*, monthly publication of the Alumni Association, for the last two years, was appointed editor and manager of the magazine. Elaine Larecy, '42ba, is assistant editor and alumni war records secretary.

President's Report

For the second consecutive year, the number of annual memberships in the University of Oklahoma Association has practically doubled, President Tom R. Benedum, '28law, reported at the annual Executive Board meeting in June.

The number of annual memberships increased from 1,420 on July 1, 1943, to 2,745 on June 20 of this year. During the same period, life memberships increased 180, President Benedum reported. Over the two-year period from July 1, 1942, to June 20, 1944, figures show a gain of approximately 25 percent in life memberships and nearly 400 percent in annual memberships.

In the annual report of the president, Mr. Benedum also gave an account of the progress made in the alumni placement program. Under a new setup which went into effect July 1, a full-time placement director began work as part of the alumni service program conducted jointly by the Alumni Association and the University. The addition of this full-time staff member leaves Mrs. Mary Turnbull free to devote her time to alumni records.

Mr. Benedum commented on the questionnaire on postwar educational demands



WILL SERVE AGAIN

Norman Attorney Tom Benedum, '28law, was re-elected president of the Alumni Association for another year.

from men who left the University to go into the armed forces without receiving degrees, which was sent out to approximately 1,800 men last fall. Replies were received from 352 and statistics were compiled which have been found useful by University officials, he said.

He also reported on alumni interest in the Charter Club plan under which ten Alumni Clubs have already been established.

The Executive Board at this meeting voted to join with Oklahoma A. and M. College Former Students Association in endorsing the two proposed constitutional amendments providing for constitutional boards of regents for both institutions.

'44 Class Sets Record

Transition of the Class of '44 from student to alumni status was easier than for any other graduating class in the history of the University.

More than 50 members of the comparatively small class became life members of the Alumni Association before graduation and other memberships have been taken out since degrees were received. This is the largest percentage of seniors ever to take life memberships before graduation.

In spite of the difficulties of organizing in a war year, with few civilian men on the campus and with accelerated schedules, the graduating class had a program of senior activities that was probably the most successful of any in recent years.

The '44 seniors had two senior weeks instead of one, since members of the class who finished work for degrees in February had an activity program at that time, held especially for the nearly one hundred seniors who thought they would not be able to return to the campus in June for formal presentation of degrees.

George Bloch, '44eng, Tulsa, now in the Merchant Marine, was president of the "first section" of the Class of '44. After he left the campus in February, Earl Patterson, '44eng, Oklahoma City, now with the Navy at Camp Macdonough, New York, took over as president.

The class tried an innovation in senior week this spring by scheduling it nearly a month before graduation, at a time when it was felt the largest number of seniors would be free to participate. A series of special events, each of which was well attended, was carried out under the direction of Betty Abbott, who had charge of senior week arrangements.

No Dead Wood Wanted

Much travel has naturally broadened my viewpoint of a lot of things and also given me many new ideas. From these ideas have emerged convictions regarding postwar education.

I think that because industry and commerce are going to be much more complicated after the war, the straight four-year college program should not be shortened. Having worked since my entrance into the Navy over a year ago in the field of Radar and electronics, I feel that this subject should have a definite place in the College of Engineering.

I feel that all of the old-fashioned, out-dated methods of teaching should be completely obliterated from the modern educational system. I think that visual education should be made a part of every course.

I very definitely plan to return to the campus at the close of the war. I feel that the best assurance of success in any field is a sound college education.

STEPHEN MILLER, '43
Radarman, Navy
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco

Tribute

Dr. Bizzell has gone and his passing leaves a poignant catch in all our throats. He was indeed a true gentleman and a friend to each.

During his brief time at O. U., Dr. Bizzell fought for us, the University and the future of Oklahoma. His two most cherished ambitions for the benefit and betterment of as yet unborn generations were the University Press and our famous Library, the most beautiful building in the Southwest.

He fought hard as was possible and wrung these two monuments from our politically dominated legislature. He stuck his neck out, inviting the political guillotine, because he wanted to do something for the University and the students.

The Library is the center of the University just as Dr. Bizzell was the center of the intellectual and adventurous culture of the Southwest. The Library was his largest dream. From the South Oval, his statue will face it. No more fitting, more growing, more alive tribute could be paid Dr. Bizzell than finally to give to the Library the name it should have borne all these years, the William Bennett Bizzell Memorial Library.

BOB LUNSFORD, '43BA
Lieutenant, Army
Camp Phillips, Kansas