

The President Speaks

BY DR. GEORGE L. CROSS

William Paul, outstanding scholar and individual, receives Dr. Cross' attention this month. The young man's record makes unusual and stimulating reading.

AS this is being written, the most stimulating time of the year is just in the offing. Next week more than 11,000 young men and women will return to the campus and, in a large measure, take over the institution. Included with the group will be men and women with unique abilities of every conceivable kind. Several of them will be destined for positions of national or even world leadership in various professions and activities. The challenge of helping them to prepare in the most effective way possible to live good lives is the most stimulating experience available to our faculty and administrative staff.

You will hear much in the year ahead about our great athletic teams. You will see many pictures of athletes who have distinguished themselves in national competition. Unfortunately, much less will be said and written about the several young intellectual giants who will perform even more remarkable feats in our laboratories and classrooms.

This month I would like to tell you briefly about one young man who will be here—a young man whom it will be my privilege to help honor as the freshman class of the coming year assembles for instructions concerning our enrolment procedures and life at the University.

This young man will not be a freshman. He was a freshman last year. He was the best freshman in a class of nearly 3,000, and it may well be that he is the best freshman in the history of the University—in terms of scholarship and extracurricular achievements. He will receive the Pe-et Freshman Scholarship Award for his remarkable record during his first year at the University.

The Pe-et Freshman Scholarship Award is made available by the Pe-et Society, an organization which has existed on our campus for forty years. The purpose of the society is to select, on the behalf of scholarship and all-around achievement, the ten most outstanding seniors each year. These seniors, in turn, lend encouragement to the freshman class by providing the Pe-et Freshman Scholarship Award.

The winner this year entered the University of Oklahoma in September, 1948. When he took our placement tests, which were given him in order that his advisors might know something about his basic abilities and levels of achievement, he made the best record made by any student since we started giving the tests many years ago.

By the end of his first year at the University he had earned thirty-one hours in credits, all of them straight A's—a perfect scholastic record—and I am told by several of his instructors that no one here ever had the slightest doubt at any time, but that he would be entitled to and earn a straight A record.

The young man's name is William George Paul, and his home town is Pauls Valley. He attended Pauls Valley High School where he took an out-

standing part in high school athletics, especially football, student government, and in the scholarly activities of his school. His achievements at the University, therefore, are not only a reflection of his own splendid character, but a reflection of the environment which he enjoyed from early boyhood—his home, the influence of his fine parents, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Paul, and the energy and stimulus of his teachers in encouraging accomplishments on the part of young people.

"Willie" Paul is not a one sided personality. He is definitely not a bookworm. He has continued his athletic interests and took active part in the intramural sports program at the University of Oklahoma. He took part also in an astonishing number of other extracurricular activities. A fraternity man himself, he was instrumental in developing a plan whereby Greek letter societies at the University of Oklahoma would sponsor a board and room scholarship for some displaced student from abroad, an astonishing demonstration of social maturity unexpected in a freshman. This spring he won the award of outstanding freshman N.R.O.T.C. student.

During Willie's first year at the University his father, Homer Paul, died, and it was necessary for Willie to take time out from his studies during his spring semester and help harvest a large alfalfa crop on the farm where his mother and younger brother live. Because of this interruption of his school work, it seemed unlikely that he would be able to continue the fine record that he had made during his first semester, but when examination time came around it was found that the quality of his work had not suffered in the slightest as a result of his additional responsibilities on the farm.

When I visited him this summer I found that he was up early every morning doing the tasks that farmers everywhere in Oklahoma do, and that he finds time also to read, fish and hunt on several occasions.

He has ambitions to study law and he will, therefore, attend the University of Oklahoma not only during his undergraduate years but during the required period of study for the law degree. In any university the size of this one the competition for good grades is fast and furious, and it is a very rare occasion when a student goes through a year without earning a single hour of credit with a grade lower than A, but it is rarer still when this record is made by a student in his freshman year. It is an amazing achievement for a freshman to make this record while participating extensively in extracurricular activities and, at the same time, carrying much of the responsibility of managing a farm located nearly fifty miles from the campus.

His first year record has been equaled only once in the history of the University. It has never been excelled and, in all likelihood, never will be ex-



celled. My colleagues and I on the faculty of the University of Oklahoma have such great admiration for his accomplishment that I thought the alumni might enjoy knowing about this "star" student who will become, I believe, an outstanding personality in state and national affairs. May we have more like him.

(Faculty Briefs continued)

► Dr. S. H. Wender, associate professor of chemistry, and Leonard B. Beach, professor of English, will go to Savannah, Georgia, to represent the University at work conferences for Southern Regional Education Board October 15-22.

► Dr. Leonard Logan, '14ba, director of the Institute of Community Development, left in September to attend a meeting of the American Council for the Community in Garden City, New York.

► Harold Keith, '29ba, '39ma, director of sports publicity, was in Chicago and Kansas City from August 9 to August 14 attending the all-star game held in Chicago and the Big Seven Conference meeting held in Kansas City.

► Laurence H. Snyder, dean of the graduate college and professor of medical genetics, went to Los Alamos, New Mexico, to study the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in June.

► Dr. William Lemmon, director of University guidance service, attended a meeting of the American Association of Szondi Workers at Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, July 30 to August 7.

► Max L. Moorhead, '37ba, '38ma, assistant professor of history, recently returned from Monterrey, Mexico, where he attended the First Congress of Historians of Mexico and the United States held September 3-9.

► John M. Raines, assistant professor of English, attended a meeting of the Modern Language Association of American Universities held September 3-12 in Palo Alto, California.

► Ellis M. Sims, professor of mechanical engineering, attended the Diesel Engineering Symposium held in Madison, Wisconsin, August 29-September 3.

► Wendell S. Taylor, professor in mechanical engineering, went to St. Louis to attend A.S.M.E. meeting September 12-14.

► Glenn P. Bradley, '39-'43, sales manager, University Press, was in New York City September 10-19 on a selling trip for fall books, meeting new salesmen and arranging advertising.

► Dr. Max Moorhead, '37ba, '38ma, professor of history at the University, spoke at a YMCA sponsored forum in July on the "Paradox of Latin America." The talk was delivered in the Union building at the University.