

# SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

*Sooner Staff Members:* David A. Burr, '50, Editor; Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law, Managing Editor; Mrs. Dorothy Duffy Work, '50fa, Roll Call Editor; Mrs. Mary Turnbull, Alumni Records; Harold Keith, '29ba, '39ma, Sooner Sports; Glenn Copeland, '53, Mailing. Photography by the University Photographic Service.

VOL. XXIV

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1951

NO. 1

## The Cover

Football in all its pomp returns to the sports scene this month. The cover boys are the Sooners (in black and white) and a mythical opponent in grey and black suits. The artist was Jack C. Moses, '50fa. Some of the team play and spirit that help make football what it is is presented in the drawing.

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*Sooner Magazine* is published on the 5th day of each month (except June and August) by the University of Oklahoma Association, Union Building, Norman, Oklahoma. Entered as second-class matter October 13, 1928, at the post office in Norman, Oklahoma, under the Act of Congress March 3, 1879. Subscription \$4.00 per year; cost includes Alumni dues. Single copies 25 cents. Opinions expressed are those of the editor and do not necessarily represent official action of the Alumni Executive Board. Member of American Alumni Council.

## On The Sooner Scene

By Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law

The Alumni Executive Secretary considers the subject of where the emphasis is placed at the University. He finds that the real emphasis at O.U. is not on any single phase of the University's program but on the excellence of every field and activity.

An alumnus was visiting the campus in Norman this summer. Looking over the new Geology building, he wandered into a room where a student seemed to be examining rocks through a microscope.

This, sensed the visitor, was a good place to start getting the "real lowdown" on the University of Oklahoma in 1951. What kind of a school is it? What kind of an education does it offer the student of today? These were the questions running through his mind. So he planted a "loaded" question which raised these and other points and which is being asked about higher education by many serious-minded people in the national press today.

"Where is the emphasis placed at O.U.?"

The geology student at the microscope, a veteran of World War II, trying to wind up a master's degree at the end of five and a half years of study, reacted in this way: "Brother, you asked me a question. I have been in this same room every day this summer for two months, usually twelve, thirteen hours a day. The University's investment in this new building is a million dollars. I have a good job waiting for me as soon as I get this thesis out of the way. So I can tell you where the emphasis is around here. It is in geology, of course."

What answer would this alumnus have heard to his question if he had asked it in the Law building, in the Press building, or asked at other points on the campus? Or better still, how would you as an alumnus answer the question yourself?

The fact is, I believe you will agree, there are many points of emphasis on the Uni-

versity scene. As the University begins its sixtieth year this fall there are a number of departments which meet the test of excellence.

It might be argued good teaching is being emphasized by the University. For in spite of a cut in the total amount of funds available, expenditures for supplies, travel, and maintenance were reduced drastically so that it was possible for the Regents to increase teachers' salaries for the coming year. This kind of careful management makes it a little more difficult for other institutions to raid our teaching staff.

Why not say the emphasis at O.U. is on the publication of fine books? The University of Oklahoma Press continues to publish books which attract national and international acclaim. The distinguished director of the Press, Savoie Lottinville, '29ba, accurately described the position of the Press in a recent report, when he said of it, "Nothing that the University does more clearly reflects the progressive spirit, the tremendous physical, intellectual, and cultural resources, and the human potential of Oklahoma."

Of the seventeen new titles appearing this year, each has added something to the Press's reputation for excellence. Wide attention has been given Lt. Col. William R. Kintner's *The Front is Everywhere*—Militant Communism in Action, revealing the world-wide conspiracy of the Communist Party. In anticipation of the 175th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of

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## Sooner Scene . . .

Independence, the Press issued Edward Dunbald's scholar interpretation, *The Declaration of Independence and What It Means Today*. Other books issued this year included such titles as Gladys Carmen Bellamy's great study, *Mark Twain As A Literary Artist*. D. Howard Doane's *Vertical Farm Diversification* became a Farmer's Book Club selection and was generally used throughout the United States.

In education as in business or government, the greatest achievement does not always follow the largest expenditure of money. No state funds are spent on the University Press. It is entirely self-supporting.

Many are apt to say, "What about athletics? The only University ever to win three national championships in one year (football, wrestling, and baseball) must place considerable emphasis on athletics. That it true, it does. Athletics are emphasized at O.U., both varsity and intramural. Everyone knows about the success of the University in intercollegiate athletic competition. You can be proud of this success; it has won a lot of friends for O.U. It has gained support for all phases of the University program. You should also know that 5,000 students participated in organized games on the campus last year. As a student health activity, intramurals must be rated superior.

There is emphasis on the Bureau of Business Research which conducts research, provides statistical reports and analyses of value to all types of business in Oklahoma. There is emphasis on Extension where Dean Thurman White, '41ms, and his staff of specialists work night and day to bring the resources of the University to every county and every community of the state.

There are many other points of emphasis that could be mentioned. Some as important as those named. To the average individual, any one of them may appear to be over-emphasized. But there is a pertinent and common significance in all this talk of emphasis. It is becoming more apparent each year that the *real emphasis* at O.U. is on the excellence of every activity.

## State of University . . .

teaching for the student body. It is less well understood that a University faculty has the added responsibility of conducting research to extend the boundaries of knowledge in the various fields of learning.

Research by the faculty of the University of Oklahoma is growing in volume. But with the increased cost of equipment, apparatus, and supplies, most of this research must be subsidized in one way or another.

These subsidies come from many sources. Faculty research is encouraged at the University of Oklahoma and supported by individual departments, by the Faculty Research Committee, by the organized research units of the University, by the University of Oklahoma Foundation, by the Oklahoma Geological Survey, by the University of Oklahoma Research Institute, and by various outside agencies, such as national foundations.

This summer, for example, the Faculty Research Committee is making it possible for several faculty members to do important research in various places throughout the country. Professor Sears of History, Professor Tongue of Classical Languages, and Professor Pritchard and Professor Ruggiers of English, have been enabled to travel to distant states to consult and examine research materials which are available only at such places. Many other faculty members are doing their research here in Oklahoma.

In Anthropology, we are continuing our excavations of Indian sites. This important research is being done during the present summer at a point 13 miles southeast of Tahlequah. The project has the cooperation and support of the Smithsonian Institute. In the Anadarko area, under the sponsorship of the University's Institute of Human Studies, valuable investigations are being made on Indian linguistics.

The Biological Survey, one of the University's organized research units, has a number of men in the field, continuing the careful investigations of the plant and animal life of Oklahoma. Through the kind offices of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, several faculty members are enabled to develop important geological problems relating to Oklahoma's natural resources.

The Bureau of Business Research completed six major research studies on industrial problems during the year. These will be or have been published, and all will be available to those interested. The University's Institute of Community Development has undertaken planning projects for several Oklahoma cities and counties at the request of the cities and counties themselves. Such surveys have proved to be valuable contributions, and the Institute is rapidly developing its program.

The Bureau of Governmental Research of the University has completed and published during the year several studies on legislative procedures and other governmental activities. The 609 page book, *Oklahoma Constitutional Studies*, has been revised and edited.

The University of Oklahoma Research Institute is facilitating the progress of much research on the campus, sponsored by industry and by various governmental agencies. Much of this work is directly related

to the defense effort. At the moment, 31 faculty members from 12 departments are supervising research projects under the auspices of such agencies as the Atomic Energy Commission, the Office of Naval Research, and other governmental departments.

The University of Oklahoma is a member of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies. Faculty members are able to participate in the basic and highly important research activities of this Institute. The knowledge and abilities thus gained by the faculty are of great value in the program of teaching and research on the campus. Several faculty members from Chemistry and others from Engineering are spending some time at the Institute, learning the newest nuclear research techniques.

Important fellowships have been awarded to increasing numbers of the faculty. Next year, for example, Professor Livezey of History will have a Ford Fellowship for advanced study in his field, and Professor Elconin of English will have a similar fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies.

One important result of faculty research is the impetus which it gives to the graduate program. The Graduate College grows and develops in direct proportion to the research activities of the faculty. This is reflected in the recent new programs leading to the doctor's degree. Next year we shall offer for the first time work leading to the Ph.D in Medical Sciences, and in Government. This brings to 21 the number of departments which offer programs leading to the Ph.D degree.

Much additional could be written concerning the state of the University. The increasing prestige of the University Press and Books Abroad, the expanding service of the Extension Division to Oklahomans and the contributions of our various bureaus to the welfare of the State are all sources of pride and satisfaction. Three national championships in athletics during a period of one year give the sports minded something to think about.

The University of Oklahoma is becoming a truly outstanding institution. This has been recognized by Mr. Green Peyton, author of *America's Heartland, the Southwest*. In his chapter entitled "The Beginning of Wisdom," Mr. Peyton writes "Of all the institutions I have mentioned in this chapter, my own first choice is the University of Oklahoma . . . It aspires to fulfill what seems to me the true functions of the university; to enlighten the minds of young men and women, and instill in them a respect for learning." This fine tribute coming to a great school from a citizen of Texas is something of which all alumni of the University of Oklahoma can be proud.