

Each year in September students return to a painted and polished campus.

The best University foot is placed forward. In an August "lull" period, the President considers the

State of the University

By Dr. George L. Cross

This is being written during the week following summer commencement exercises on August 6 when nearly 600 young men and women received diplomas. This number, added to the number graduated last spring, makes a total of approximately 3,000 new alumni of the University of Oklahoma.

When I came to my office Tuesday morning after commencement day, I had vague thoughts of several quiet days which might be spent getting caught up with work which had accumulated during the summer term, but the editor of the *Sooner Magazine* was waiting in my office with a request that I prepare something by way of a report on the "State of the University" to be used in the September issue of the magazine. I was happy to do this because I realize that "the State of the University" is always of great interest to our alumni.

August is the month when we attempt to get our Physical Plant in shape for the opening of school in the fall. The campus is relatively quiet during August. The students have gone home with the exception of approximately 400 who have remained to do advanced work. Most members of the faculty have left town in an effort to recuperate somewhat before starting the autumn session. This gives the Department of Physical Plant an opportunity to take over, to clean, paint, and repair University buildings.

A good Physical Plant does not insure that we shall have a good University, but it is equally true that we cannot have a good University without a good Physical Plant. Maintenance of our buildings has been excellent since President Bizzell brought Walter Kraft to the campus during the twenties. But for many years the University of Oklahoma has had inadequate classroom, laboratory, and research facilities. The classrooms and laboratories on the Main Campus have not been nearly adequate to take care of a student body of the size which we have served since the war or even before the war. There is evidence, however, that this condition is being remedied. *Eleven new buildings, or major additions to buildings, have been constructed on the campus since the end of World*

War II. Fifteen new buildings, or major additions to buildings, are currently under construction. It might be said that our efforts "to develop a University of which the football team can be proud" has begun to show results.

The campus, of course, is badly torn up by the construction program, but taking our cue from the State Highway Department, we regard this as a "sign of progress." A brief statement of some of the highlights of our construction program may be of interest to former students.

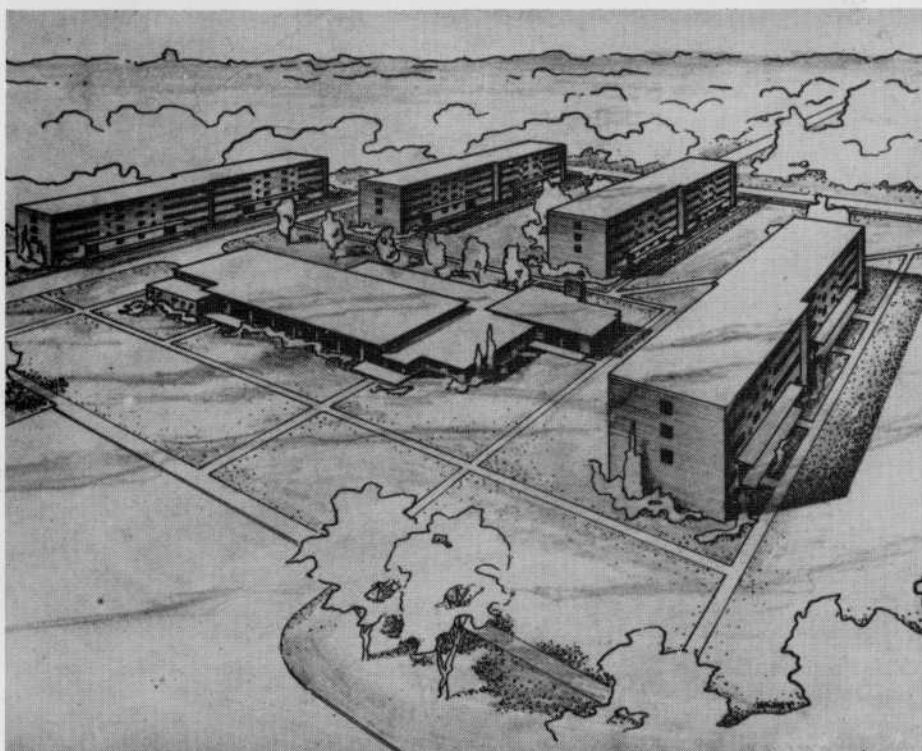
Graduates of OU's fine School of Geology will recall that the first unit of a new \$1,000,000 Geology Building was completed last spring. The steel frame for the second unit is now being erected, and it is hoped that the new building will be completed no later than the spring of 1952. Because of rising construction costs, it has been necessary that all funds available be

spent on the building itself, and very little has been left for equipment and furnishings. The alumni of the School of Geology are making an organized effort to raise money to equip and furnish the building under the able leadership of Norman Brillhart, '17ba, of Madill, Oklahoma.

The new Men's Quadrangle, which will include 16 houses for men and a central dining unit, is well under construction on what was formerly the polo field. This new housing is modeled closely after the Quadrangle for Women and when completed will give the University of Oklahoma some of the best student housing to be found on any college campus.

A wing to the Chemistry Building approximately equal in size to the original building is under construction to the west of the old building. The work is proceeding rather slowly because of the complexity of the plans for the student and research

The new Men's Quadrangle, modeled after the Women's Quadrangle, is well under construction. Shown is an architect's drawing, the unit "will give the University of Oklahoma some of the best student housing to be found on any college campus."



laboratories. However, the new wing should be ready for use by the fall of 1952.

A Commissary and Cold Storage Building is being built just east of Jefferson House on the southwest corner of the old golf course. It should be ready sometime during the coming spring.

The Graduate Education Building, one of the greatest needs of the University for several years, is going up on the south oval immediately south of Kaufman Hall. It will be ready for the opening of school in 1952.

A Social Sciences classroom building is also being constructed on the south oval, north of Kaufman Hall. This new building has been planned in such a way that it is virtually a mirrored image of Kaufman Hall. Sometime in the future, we plan to build an auditorium which will connect these two buildings, thus providing a very extensive and beautiful teaching unit. The new Social Sciences unit may be ready for the opening of the autumn semester in 1951.

The rapid development of our College of Law has made a library addition to the Law Building necessary, and this addition is being constructed as a wing extending east of the Law Building. It should be ready for use early in 1952.

A new Home Economics Building is underway on the site formerly occupied by the School of Religion which was purchased by the University from the Lew Wentz estate. These new facilities should

make it possible for us to offer a course in home management to every young woman who comes to our institution.

The north and south additions to the Student Union Building are rapidly nearing completion and should be ready for the opening of school about the middle of September, 1951. I believe that our alumni will be amazed at the beauty of the interior of the new and remodeled Student Union Building. It will be one of the show places of the southwest.

A new modern laboratory for Aeronautical Engineering is nearing completion on the North Campus, near Westheimer Field.

Holmberg Hall, with its battered, uncomfortable theater seats, peculiar acoustical effects, and very bad ventilation, is being redone completely as a modern theater. While this work is underway, the School of Music will be housed in other facilities on the Main Campus.

When you return for the football games this autumn, by all means take the opportunity to go through the new Student Union. Visit also the new golf course, the new track, and the new facilities under the stadium. In regard to the latter, you will be surprised to find that we have combined athletics and culture by providing library facilities for over 600 undergraduates in the north end of the stadium. The beautiful Bizzell Memorial Library is not nearly large enough to meet the needs of our student body.

With the completion of our building program we hope to discontinue use of many classrooms on the North and South Naval Bases. However, if our enrolment continues approximately as large as it was during the year just past, it will be necessary for us to leave the School of Architecture, the School of Aeronautical Engineering, the Extension Division, and the University Laboratory School on the North Campus. And for the present it will be necessary for us to leave the School of Art on the South Campus.

Naturally, we are looking forward to the future when additional construction may make it possible for us to bring all of our departments together on the Main Campus. The use of the two Navy Bases as educational facilities has been satisfactory as an expedient, but the excessive maintenance costs and the very great inconvenience to students who must travel back and forth from one campus to another, make it desirable that we leave the Bases at the earliest possible moment.

Now a word about the faculty—the men and women who teach and advise the youth of Oklahoma.

I believe that we shall begin the session of 1951-52 with the best faculty in the history of the University. I believe this to be true despite our budgetary difficulties of the past year when, because of a decline in the enrolment of veterans, it was necessary to reduce our operational budget by something in excess of \$1,000,000. By effecting every possible economy in other phases of University activities, we have been able to preserve the quality of our faculty.

In order to retain our best faculty members, it was absolutely necessary that salaries be raised somewhat for the coming year. With a budget which has been decreased approximately \$1,000,000, this created an interesting problem. After painstaking study of the problem it was finally decided that small raises for the faculty could be financed by withdrawing, at least temporarily, institutional subsidy of intercollegiate athletics. Since 1946 the University has provided annual support for athletics amounting to nearly \$100,000 each year. In return for this subsidy the Athletic Department has admitted students to athletic contests free of charge. Effective this fall our financial support of athletics will be withdrawn, and the Athletic Association has been authorized to charge each student \$5.00 plus tax for a football season ticket and \$4.00 plus tax for a season ticket to all other sports.

It is well known that a college faculty has the responsibility of providing good



O.U. President George L. Cross (center) and Charlie D. Payne, executive director of the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board (right) are shown presenting Gov. Johnston Murray with the film "William H. Murray, Pioneer Statesman." The picture was produced in the Extension Division as part of the Resources Board's series on outstanding pioneers. The film was presented Governor Murray in late July.

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SOONER MAGAZINE

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.