



Ten faculty members received \$500 University of Oklahoma Foundation Teaching Awards in October for outstanding teaching and counseling. Front row: Dr. Philip J. Nolan, Dr. Johannes Malthaner, Dr. Besse Clement, Dr. Hans Schmidt. Back row: Dr. Bruce Houston, Joe W. Keeley, Dr. Elroy Rice, Dr. Charles W. Daily, Dr. Max Moorhead, Dr. Arthur Doerr. This year brings total to 40 faculty members receiving awards in the past four years.

## A University's Concern

This is a month in the life of a University . . . Ten faculty members are honored . . .  
One is dismissed . . . And President Cross discusses the economics of higher education.

By DAVID BURR, '52ba

*During the past 30 days President Cross discussed the economics of administering the University and found some areas of agreement and disagreement; a professor was fired for inadequacy; ten faculty members were cheered by \$500 checks for their excellent teaching and counselling. It was an active month in the academic life of the University.*

WITH THE PROSPECT of larger and larger enrollments and no proportionate gain in appropriations, President Cross is facing the same dilemma that is being evaluated by university presidents across the nation. With enrollment constantly on the upswing (1,000 more at O.U. this fall than last), and predictions of things to come suggesting the staggering possibility of a doubled enrollment by 1970, President Cross is searching for a workable solution for providing the necessary educational facilities.

Reduced to the simple facts of life, the problem is this: There is no reason to hope that money will keep pace with future enrollments. Plagued by the problem, the

president has discovered some areas of present economic weakness that may need to be eliminated regardless of appropriation. Among them:

*Item: Current estimates indicate that about 50 percent of those who enroll in the nation's universities never earn degrees. There are indications that O.U.'s dropout picture is near the national average. Too many who enroll at O.U. as freshmen drop out prior to completion of a degree.*

To determine why many who begin college become lost in the search for a degree, the University College is conducting a study of the 1952 freshman class based on their aptitude and preparation as indicated on entering placement tests. Every freshman is required to take a series of placement tests which serve the purpose of helping faculty advisors place the freshman in the proper class for his educational attainments. At the end of four full semesters (1952-54) that the study presently encompasses, the placement tests are serving other purposes also. They are providing a percentage prediction of those most likely to complete college.

Of students scoring in the lowest decile rating, only about 1 in 4 are still in college after but 4 semesters. Of the students scoring in the highest decile rating, about 3 in 4 are continuing. Of the lowest decile, only 12 per cent are making satisfactory progress towards graduation with a C or better grade average, but 50 per cent of the highest decile group are making a B or better average, and 70 per cent are making satisfactory progress toward graduation.

In President Cross' view, such a high mortality rate, as indicated by the overall estimate of 50 percent and buttressed by the survey figures, is economically bad for the University, for the State and for the parents. Strictly on the basis of finances, these dropouts are: 1) pre-empting faculty time that must be purchased cheap and is precious thin; 2) causing the state to realize only a partial profit from its educational appropriations; 3) requiring parents to spend money with little educational gain to show for it.

His answer to the problem: It would be better to strengthen and support junior colleges in order that students may get their

first college training at less expense to all. Also, the 2-year time period would allow those who do not wish to continue or have the capabilities to continue an opportunity to make such decisions before entering large colleges with their stronger competition and faster tempo.

He also believes personally that the current freshman level at O.U. (2,500-3,000) should be maintained. Expansion of the future, he believes, could best serve the interests of the state and its people by placing the emphasis on upper level students, and on the professional and graduate colleges.

How is the current freshman level to be maintained in the face of burgeoning enrollments? "If there is such a time as more wish to enroll than can be admitted, we should have some device to select those best qualified," Dr. Cross said. (No such device was needed for the 1955 freshman class.)

The study of placement test scores of 1952 freshmen may provide a direction in searching for the device. Although the data is in the preliminary stage, it is clear that those who score poorly on the placement exams are poor bets for college degrees.

*Item: Each year the University teaches courses and pays professors for teaching courses which could have been mastered in high school. These courses fall in the basic fields of math, science and English.*

Interpreting President Cross' remarks on the subject, which have appeared in state newspapers, as a slap at state high schools,

Dr. Oliver Hodge, '33m.ed, '37d.ed, state superintendent of public instruction, labeled the charges "unfair." To prove they were, he mentioned figures that proved only 3 percent of 14,476 graduates did not earn science credit in high school and only 7 percent did not earn any credit in mathematics. (For a teacher's viewpoint on the matter see story page 16.)

But the University had some other figures. They show that 682 students are enrolled in remedial mathematics, 79 in plane geometry, 764 in intermediate algebra and 314 in solid geometry—all courses which can be taught in high school. No figures were released on the number of students who lacked adequate pre-college preparation in science and English.

If the two sets of figures seem to be contradictory, Dr. Forrest C. Pogue, history professor at Murray (Kentucky) State College, soon eliminated part of the contradiction.

Speaking to the Oklahoma Education Association Convention in late October, he said, "Those who would say 97 percent of their graduates are graduating with credits in certain courses are entirely missing the point.

"A certificate of graduation is worthless when the graduate hasn't learned the subject matter," he stated.

A study of how the educational dollar can best be spent by the University of Oklahoma for the best interests of the people of

Oklahoma is of prime concern to the University's administration. At this point, President Cross has suggested that the best way to eliminate waste of higher education dollars is to strengthen the entire educational system of the state—from the lower levels through graduate college. He is known to believe that the top must be strengthened if potential scholars of 1970 are to receive their chance for college degrees.

#### PROFESSOR LOSES JOB

Following years of student complaints and an intensive study, the O.U. Regents took a course of action in October that is seldom practiced at the University. Dr. Howard O. Eaton, professor of philosophy at O.U. for 31 years, was dismissed from the faculty.

Charging that his stand against athletic scholarships was the cause, Dr. Eaton heard himself dismissed on the different grounds of being "academically inadequate."

What were the reasons for firing a man who had served the University for such a long time? How did it happen? Was there no alternative?

It was no overnight lynching nor were the professor's views of intercollegiate athletics involved. The case developed something like this:

For many years, complaints concerning Dr. Eaton's teaching had reached the Pres-

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At halftime of Homecoming game with Kansas October 15, Donna Sue Cason, Vinita freshman, was crowned Homecoming queen. Here she is shown with her attendants.

October 7. The couple is living in Oklahoma City where Dooley attends Oklahoma City University.

Miss Ruth Welch and J. M. Ivy, '51Law, were married June 29. The couple has established a home in Waurika.

Miss Mary Ann Hahn, Oklahoma City, and William Douglas Brewer, '55ba, Tulsa, were married August 20 in Oklahoma City. Mrs. Brewer was a member of Chi Omega sorority at Oklahoma A&M and Brewer is a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity. The couple is living in Tulsa.

Miss Sybil Marie Shilling, Wright, Arkansas, and Leonard Clay Sisk, '55pharm, Walters, were married August 5 in Norman. The couple is living in

Midwest City, where Sisk is assistant manager of Conrad-Marr Drugstore Number 1.

Miss Joyce Elizabeth Clemons, Oklahoma City, and Stanley Robbins Livesay, '55ms, Houston, were married September 4 in Oklahoma City. Livesay served two years with the Air Force in Korea. The couple is living in Fort Worth.

Miss Lavona Bernice Price, '55ba, Oklahoma City, and William James Rushton, III, Birmingham, Alabama, were married August 19 in Oklahoma City. Mrs. Rushton was affiliated with Kappa Alpha Theta sorority at O.U. Rushton graduated from Princeton University and served in Korea after graduation. The couple has established residence in Birmingham.

### Tribute for Bennie . . .

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courage comes perseverance, which is the ability to stick with a discouraging proposition when you are sorely tempted to pull up stakes and leave it.

"Applying this to my own life, I think it must have started with my mother who taught me to think right, and to work hard. Then my wife gave me the incentive to teach fair play and team work to the boys whom I coached in football.

"Opportunity comes next and for that I'm deeply indebted to the new state of Oklahoma and the opportunity it offered. I lived in southern Kansas, just a few miles

from the border of the territory of Oklahoma, so I could see for myself what a magnificent opportunity it afforded. It was my good fortune to come here at exactly the right time, when Oklahoma was just 'a-borning.'

". . . speaking of my own period here at Oklahoma, I can only say that while it was lots of work, it was also lots of fun."

### A University's Concern . . .

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ident and the professors in the Philosophy Department. Some of the complaints were discounted but many were lodged by students who could not be ignored. Most of the complaints dealt with the same issue—the irrelevance of material discussed by Dr. Eaton to the subject material of the courses he taught.

After much soul-searching, the faculty of the Department of Philosophy recommended unanimously last year that he be dismissed from the faculty. No immediate action was taken except to let Dr. Eaton know he was standing on thin ice—that he was undergoing a critical evaluation period.

At the end of the year, a committee of



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three deans concurred with the philosophy faculty that Eaton did not attempt to teach the prescribed course, but dwelt on outside subjects.

The recommendations of the deans and of the philosophy faculty, plus corroborating information, were given to a special committee of the Regents. In addition, Dr. Eaton represented himself. This was the last official act before the jury retired.

As an attempt to provide a fair answer short of dismissal, President Cross offered Eaton an opportunity to leave his post in philosophy and to take a non-teaching post in the O.U. library. His pay would be reduced to \$3,000 a year in the newly created position, but it would allow him retirement rights and he could keep his title and academic standing. This proposal he refused.

When the verdict was in, the Regents reported that they concurred in the dismissal recommendation. Dr. Eaton was to be paid a full year's salary (\$5,000) to run to June 1, 1956, but after that date he would no longer be officially associated with O.U. Until that time Dr. Eaton will do nothing to earn the \$5,000. It was offered in an attempt to see that he was fairly treated.

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