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# *Under Cover*

By DAVID BURR, '52ba

From time to time alumni write requesting some information about the University.

"We don't want too much dope," they will say. "We just want something that will allow us to argue with an alumnus of Kansas or Texas or Notre Dame, etc."

A brief answer to this problem has just been published by the University. Titled "Unusual Facts About the University of Oklahoma . . . on the occasion of the Semi-Centennial of the State of Oklahoma (1957)," the efficient folder offers a large amount of argument ammunition. A few examples:

"The School of Geology is the largest such school in the world. Not only has the school produced over 2,400 of the nation's geologists, but one-fourth of those in the petroleum industry and one-fifth of all geologists in the Western Hemisphere (approximate).

"The School of Petroleum Engineering is (one of) the largest in the world with a current enrollment from 17 nations outside the U. S. A.

"The University was the first college or university in the nation to sign a contract with Air Force ROTC, Washington, D. C., for campus flight training program for undergraduate Air Force ROTC cadets . . ., was the first to send a cadet in solo flight and the first to complete the requirements for a private pilot's license.

"O. U. professional writing courses have produced more sales from students than any other such course in the world.

"The University's School of Engineering Physics is the oldest school of its kind in the nation!

"Students enrolled in 1956-57 came from 47 states and from 33 countries outside the continental limits of the United States.

"One of the most valuable collections on the history of science and technology is the gift of the late Dr. Everette DeGolyer, world famed geologist and O. U. alumnus. It consists of rare first editions of works ranging from those of Aristotle to Einstein, supplemented by secondary works, translations and working copies.

"The University Press ranks as one of

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the three top university presses in the nation.

"The University publishes *Books Abroad*, an international literary quarterly, only publication of its kind in the world. It acquaints the people of America and scholars everywhere with the literature of non-English speaking people.

"The School of Architecture is earning an international reputation with strong endorsements from famous architects. Articles about the school have appeared in most architectural journals of the world. An O. U. architectural student recently won the world's most coveted architectural prize, the Prix de Rome!

"Many of the faculty in the Schools of Music, Drama and Art enjoy an international reputation. Among them are Miss Eva Turner, visiting professor of voice, from Covent Garden in London and great English diva; Joe Benton, who sang leading tenor roles at New York's Metropolitan Opera as Giuseppe Bentonelli; Dr. Gilbert Chase, one of the nation's leading musicologists; Dr. Harrison Kerr, who is one of the nation's leading composers . . .

"Dr. Laurence Snyder, dean of the Graduate College, is considered the world authority in the field of medical genetics . . . Dr. Snyder is the current president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the nation's largest scientific society.

"The Institute of Asiatic Affairs is one of only two in the country offering work leading to an undergraduate degree in Asian studies . . .

"Dr. Joseph Marshburn, distinguished David Ross Boyd professor of English, is one of the few citizens of this country asked to speak on 17th Century English Literature before the Royal Society of Literature of London!

"The University's second football coach (Dr. Vernon L. Parrington, who coached the team in 1897) was later awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Literature for his *Main Currents in American Thought*.

"University students and faculty have been awarded national recognition through Fulbright and other grants and awards to set what is believed to be a Southwestern record. In the last two years, 18 alumni and faculty members have received Fulbright grants to study abroad and a student has won a Rotary International grant to study in Rome . . ."

These are some of the thumb-nail sketches of University achievement which the brochure contains. What's that you say? It sounds like bragging. Of course it does. And it isn't accidental. But then, maybe there's something to brag about.