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Sooner Scene

By R. BOYD GUNNING

Executive Secretary
Alumni Association

There is a growing concern for higher education in Oklahoma. More and more people are devoting their time and money to ensure the future availability and quality of a college education. The economic value of a sound educational program to the state is undeniable. A growing majority including the legislature and other state officials are determined to see our colleges remain strong and accessible.

The legislature appropriated to higher education an increase of \$4 millions for the year 1959-60. Approximately \$900,000 of this was allocated to the University of Oklahoma. This increase will be used to bring salaries more nearly in line with other leading universities of this region. Without this gain the situation would have become extremely critical.

Alumni of the university have been well informed about the problems and aspirations of the school. Their combined influence has strengthened it in many ways. We are now entering a new era of alumni cooperation which will be marked by an even more mature and constructive relationship between the university and its alumni.

By serving on various boards and committees alumni bring broad experience and training to bear on university problems. Alumni who believe in the university and who are informed are its best representatives in communities where they live. Alumni are the greatest single influence in attracting top students to the campus. The financial support given directly to the university by alumni and friends is of increasing importance. In the year 1958-59 gifts totaling \$942,944 were received by the Alumni Development Fund and the University of Oklahoma Foundation. This money provides the margin whereby the university may become a great institution, achieve extraordinary results.

During this time when nearly a million dollars in private money was raised, only once did the president of a large Oklahoma business concern say that his company would give only to private colleges because

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O.U. is tax-supported. He is woefully uninformed. There is no good state university in America today that does not rely on private gifts to support highly specialized programs of research, scholarships, faculty subsidies, library enrichment and some buildings.

To name just a few examples, Texas A&M College won a \$10,000 award this year in competition with all colleges and universities, private and public, for having the best fund raising program in America. The Alumni Fund of Ohio State University turned over to that institution \$1,300,000 received from 26,000 alumni in one

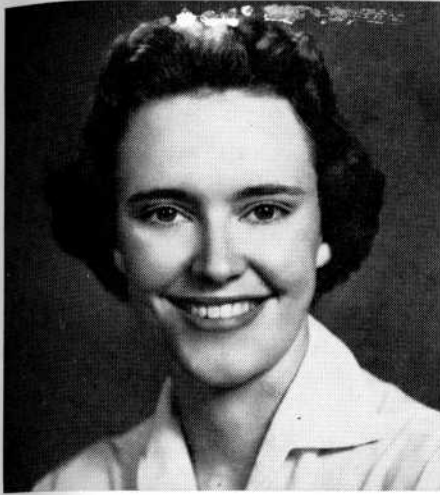
year. The University of Kansas now has under construction seven or eight buildings, none of which is financed by state funds. Fifty-six percent of the money spent for buildings at the University of Michigan came from private sources.

It is a fact that among the big universities of America none is supported exclusively by private funds or by public funds even though some are designated as private and some as public. The private schools rely on private money for their very existence, whereas public schools use such money for highly specialized programs and can only

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Carol J. Robinson, '59journal

NEW ALUMNI STAFF MEMBERS

Recent additions to the Alumni Association staff are Carol Jean Robinson and Frank Mitchell. Miss Robinson—whose BWOC background includes Phi Beta Kappa, Mortar Board, Tassels, *Who's Who* (in American Universities), and the editorship of the *Oklahoma Daily*—will edit the *Sooner Magazine* and assist with a new news publication called *Sooner Newsmakers*. Mr. Mitchell's title (as new as Mr. Mitchell) is Assistant Executive Secretary—which means he will work with alumni clubs in assisting them to set up their organization and programs, class reunions, and active membership services. Mr. Mitchell is married (to Ellen Murphey, '56ed), and before graduating he was active in Delta Sigma Rho, O.U. debate team, Interfraternity council, Student Senate and Beta Theta Pi. Miss Robinson is a member of Alpha Delta Gamma sorority.



Frank G. Mitchell, '56bba

Padua, Italy, specializing in oral and written communication. Emmel, who received his doctor of philosophy degree in speech from the Pennsylvania State University in June, has been a teaching assistant at Penn State since 1956.

Nelson B. Escue, '50geol, is now an independent geological consultant with offices in Liberal, Kansas. He was previously employed by Carter Oil Company in Liberal.

George E. Kunkel, '50eng, and Mrs. Kunkel have chosen the name George, Jr., for their son born April 17. They also have a daughter, Gracia Maria, 18 months. Kunkel is presently a production engineer with Mobil Oil Company in Anaco, Venezuela.

DEATH: Robert D. Smith, '50bus, died February 19 in Veterans Hospital, Oklahoma City, after an illness of two years. Smith, 35, was a field representative for the social security administration. He is survived by his wife and a daughter, Margaret.

1951

Marvin M. Mueller, '51bs, '54ms, Norman, has been employed by the University of California's Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory as a physicist in the Weapons Division.

Dr. Cecil M. Shaw, '51ed, '51m.ed, '58d.ed, Oklahoma City, has recently joined the University of Wyoming faculty as field supervisor in the Division of Adult Education and Community Service to be assigned in the Casper area. The Shaws have three children, Carroll, 14, Swifton, 12, and Marla Gaye, 5.

T. P. Red, '51pharm, Corsicana, Texas, has been elected president of the Navarra County Pharmaceutical Association for 1959-60.

James H. Clark, '51journal, is now a member of the national advertising staff for TV Guide in the Chicago office. Clark was formerly regional manager in Kansas City, Missouri. He is a native of Oklahoma City.

Travis Cortez Frensley, '51geol, died of cancer

June 2 in a Tulsa hospital. Frensley, 32, was a unitization engineer in the production department of Sunray Midcontinent Oil Company. Survivors include his wife and a daughter, Carolyn Sue.

Robert O. Bristow, '51journal, Altus, is author of a story which appeared on *Schlitz Playhouse* over a national television network. The story was previously published in September *Cosmopolitan Magazine*. A former *Altus Times-Democrat* advertising salesman, Bristow has been engaged in professional writing since 1956. He has sold 77 stories and articles since 1952.

BIRTHS: L. Barton Beemer, '51journal, and Mrs. Beemer have chosen the name Julie Anna for their daughter born May 29. The Beemers live in Oklahoma City.

Albert C. Nichol, '51fa, and Mrs. Nichol, '49, Garland, Texas, have chosen the name Marcus Darrow for their son born June 2. They have two daughters, Paula, 4, and Carolyn, 2.

DEATH: Mrs. Janie Tinsley, '51m.ed, Oklaho-

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expect from the legislature the basic costs of instruction, physical plant and a modest amount for research and special library collections. Many large private schools receive government money for research and related purposes.

State universities and land-grant institutions number only 93 in the total of some 1,800 institutions in America, yet their contributions to our society far outweigh their number. In 1957-58 these state institutions awarded 44 percent of the degrees granted by all colleges and universities, 30,233 bachelors, 6,513 masters, and 2,270 doctorates. While these institutions enrolled only 27 percent of all college students in the country, they conferred 53 percent of the doc-

torates, 39 percent of the masters, and 32 percent of the bachelors and professional degrees.

Writing in the March 1959 issue of *THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY*, Arthur M. Schlesinger cites public education as one of America's ten great contributions to civilization. Says Schlesinger, a professor at Harvard and graduate of Ohio State:

"The principle of government by consent made it imperative that the people be literate and well informed if they were to vote intelligently. To ensure this essential condition, statesmen agreed that society must at its own initiative and expense supply the means of schooling." Calling free public education an article of American faith and citing its spread around the world, Schlesinger concluded: "Probably America has conferred no greater boon on mankind, for popular education is the seedbed of virtually all other human aspirations."

Yet people connected with education feel a greater sense of responsibility to the fu-

ture. An attitude pointed up by Walter Lippman in a paragraph quoted by the Council for Financial Aid to Education, Inc., in *NEARING THE BREAKTHROUGH*:

"Our educational effort, on the other hand, has not yet been raised to the plateau of the age we live in. I am not saying, of course, that we should spend 40 billions on education because we spend that much on defense. I am saying that we must make the same order of radical change in our attitude as we have in our attitude towards defense. We must measure our educational effort as we do our military effort. That is to say, we must measure it not by what it would be easy and convenient to do, but by what is necessary to do in order that the nation may survive and flourish. We have learned that we are quite rich enough to defend ourselves, whatever the cost. We must now learn that we are quite rich enough to educate ourselves as we need to be educated."