

New Deans Take Over Old Colleges

Doerr and Clark have some young ideas
for the graduate and fine arts programs

By CONNIE RUGGLES



DR. ARTHUR DOERR was named dean of the University of Oklahoma Graduate College, effective July 1. Dr. Doerr, who has been associate dean for the past year, succeeds Dr. Lloyd E. Swearingen, '20bs, '21ms, who will continue his duties as vice president for research and development. Before coming to O.U. as an assistant professor of geography in 1951, Dr. Doerr taught at the University of Indiana and at Northwestern University. In 1958-59 he taught geography courses at the University of the Philippines as a Fulbright professor. He has traveled extensively in the Philippines doing research on tropical land use in 1950. He conducted a similar study for the Puerto Rican agricultural department. Dr. Doerr, who is now a full professor of geography, received his bachelor's degree in geography from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, in 1947, his master's degree from the University of Indiana in 1948 and his doctorate from Northwestern University in 1951. During World War II he was a lieutenant in the Army Air Corps and was awarded the air medal and battle star. The new dean is co-author of a textbook, Principles of Geography, and has written more than 50 articles and chapters for geography publications. He is a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Norman, and his professional memberships include the Association of American Geographers, Oklahoma Academy of Science, Gamma Theta Upsilon, professional geography fraternity, Sigma Xi honorary science society, and the Southwestern Social Science Association. In 1955 Dr. Doerr was one of 10 University of Oklahoma faculty members to receive a \$500 award for extraordinary excellence in student counseling and teaching of freshmen and sophomores. In addition to serving as chairman of the graduate council, he is a member of numerous University committees, including those concerned with faculty research, the biological station and Indian affairs. Dr. and Mrs. Doerr have one son, Marc, 5.

NEWLY appointed deans Dr. Arthur Doerr of the Graduate College and F. Donald Clark of the College of Fine Arts are a couple of young men in a hurry when it comes to plans for the physical and financial improvement in their programs and the advancement of the academic prestige of the University of Oklahoma.

As dean of the Graduate College, Dr. Doerr faces a problem of academic maturation. He envisions a graduate program in keeping with the total growth of the University—a program with less red tape and more opportunities, both academically and financially.

"We are ready to do away with some of the red tape that clogs the graduate student's progress," he says. "In the past year we've eliminated approximately 50 per cent of the paper work for master's and doctoral candidates. For example, we have stopped requiring an abstract from master's candidates." (An abstract is a summation of the findings in the thesis and often requires as much time as the thesis itself.)

In effecting changes in the Graduate College, Dr. Doerr plans to appoint a faculty committee to outline in specific terms the future goals of his college.

As with most areas of the University the most pressing need of the graduate program is money. In the next six months Dr. Doerr hopes to receive some additional support from the foundations. "We are handicapped because we are state supported," he says, "and the foundations suppose we are adequately supported by the state. This is incorrect in Oklahoma's case."

Foundation support would make it possible, he feels, to expand the departments which can offer doctoral programs. "We now have several departments which could offer doctorates," he says, "if we could hire one or two more staff members to carry the load."

O.U.'s Graduate College can offer good training, but financially it compares poorly to surrounding institutions.

"There is some competition among the colleges for the good and the brilliant students," Dr. Doerr explains. "We are not in a position to compete financially, although we can compete in the sheer number of students we are able to take." Dr. Doerr points out that there are absolutely no funds for fellowships which the Graduate College can award outright without restriction on the field of study. "We can't say to a prospective graduate student, 'Here is \$2,000; come to school here.' We get some fellowships from the government, but they are not awarded on a competitive basis—all institutions receive them. In a recent critique the North Central Association pointed to

the absence of fellowship money within the Graduate College as a weak spot in an otherwise effective program."

In addition to finding financial aid, Dr. Doerr sees a need for reducing the load of the faculty, especially the graduate faculty. "Supervising dissertations and theses take up much of a professor's time," he explains. "The Big Ten schools place anywhere from three to six hours lighter load on their professors than we do on ours. I would also like to see something worked out to provide a foreign exchange program for our professors. Such experience is necessary for proper perspective in modern student development."

In terms of facilities Dr. Doerr believes that O.U. is in fairly good shape. "It is the library that makes the university," he says. "When compared to others in this region, ours is pretty good, but it needs a great deal of strengthening in certain areas to make it a great library. Its high point is, of course, the DeGolyer Collection in the History of Science and Technology. This is one of the best in the nation, possibly in the world."

THE need for growth in the graduate program is obvious. The natural rise in population will bring more candidates seeking higher degrees. Too, in many fields of study the bachelor's degree is no longer adequate.

"It wasn't too many years ago," Dr. Doerr explains, "that a high school diploma was adequate in many fields; not so many years before that it was a rare person who went to high school. There is an ever-increasing amount to learn in each field, and more time is necessarily required to learn it."

The graduate program at O.U. already commands respect. "Most people place the Ivy League schools at the top of the heap," Dr. Doerr says, "but the demand for our graduate degree holders is high throughout the country. In certain departments here at the University we are outstanding, particularly petroleum engineering, English, and history."

Dean Clark agrees with Dr. Doerr on the immediate need for financial growth. His college is hamstrung by lack of funds—funds which are needed to provide student aid as well as new equipment.

From a physical standpoint, the College of Fine Arts is seeking consolidation of facilities. The music, art and drama schools are spread from the scenic studios on North Campus to Owen stadium where the band practices.

Most of the fine arts buildings were originally intended for other purposes. Jacobson Hall, now the art museum, was at one time the University library. Despite partitioning



Traveling art exhibits are refused because the climate cannot be controlled in Jacobson Hall.

and renovation, the building still falls short of the demands placed on it.

"We have had to bypass opportunities to bring in costly art exhibits," Dean Clark says, "because we have inadequate exhibition facilities, and we cannot control temperature and humidity in the building." This climate control is essential in protecting the priceless masterpieces that are a part of these art grants.

JOHNSON House, where applied music is taught, is a ramshackle affair with tilting floors, barricaded stairways and emergency building supports. But the house must do, for nothing else is available.

Holmberg Hall was built to house the School of Music. However, it must also provide auditorium space for all University functions and serve as a recital hall for music students. When drama performances are held in Holmberg, actors must improvise their own dressing rooms since there are none in the building, just classrooms. There are also no water fountains or restrooms backstage. Smaller performances are equally handicapped by the size of the auditorium. The small student recital audiences are virtually lost in the big hall.

During his year and a half as acting dean, Clark has been working on a program to centralize the schools. The end goal is a

continued

the University's responsibility is also to take artists out into the state

fine arts center where music, drama and art can achieve an academic unity under the fine arts name yet maintain their individuality as art forms.

The move toward improvement in the College of Fine Arts is not totally internal. Dean Clark recognizes the responsibility of the University to bring the art forms to the citizens of the state.

"The responsibility," he maintains, "is not only to bring artists to O.U. but to take artists out into the state. As *the* fine arts instruction unit in Oklahoma we have an obligation to the people to provide more and greater opportunities for understanding, enjoyment and application of the arts.

"We are now in the process of developing a program of live theatre productions and musical concerts to take out into the state," he says. "There has been some work done here in the past, but there is a cost factor involved. Eventually we hope to work out a mutual sharing plan between the University and the people of the state."

"Focus on Fine Arts," O.U.'s week-long

culture festival initiated last year, is another step in expanding the fine arts influence. In the future Clark hopes to attract state-wide participation in the event and later to bring significant performers and lecturers to the campus for the benefit of students as well as area citizens.

In terms of faculty members O.U. stands high among fine arts institutions. The artist-in-resident program, which has brought such people as Eva Turner, Sylvia Zarembo and the ballet artists Chouteau and Terekhov to O.U., has given a tremendous boost to fine arts prestige. Veteran director Rupel Jones still heads the School of Drama and John O'Neal, now on leave to study in Europe, will return next year to resume directorship of the School of Art. In his absence Sculptor Joe Taylor is filling that post. Assuming the music directorship vacated last spring by Robert W. Buggert is C. M. Stookey, formerly director of music at Eastern New Mexico University at Portales.

Despite its fine faculty, however, O. U.'s

fine arts program is seriously hampered by its shabby physical plant and the absence of student financial aid. The Lew Wentz Fine Arts Service Scholarships have helped make up for some of the deficiencies, but that aid cannot cover all needs. The entire College of Fine Arts has only two graduate assistants. There are no funds for others—no funds for grants, fellowships, much needed scholarships.

Dean Clark foresees constant progress in these areas. He is not simply an academic man stuck behind a desk with an eye toward internal improvement of his college. He has had his share of first-hand theatrical experience, and he recognizes the importance of a cultural exchange between the University and the people of the Oklahoma to produce a wide understanding and enjoyment of the arts.

"The ultimate goal then is this," he says, "when a person in this region thinks in terms of a program of training in art, music or drama, we want him automatically to think of O.U."



F. DONALD CLARK was appointed dean of the College of Fine Arts at the August meeting of the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents. He has been acting dean of the College for the past two years. Dean Clark joined the O.U. faculty in 1946 as assistant professor of radio. Prior to that time he had been on the faculty of Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia and Parsons (Kansas) Junior College and was head of the speech and drama department at Amarillo College. He has also worked in commercial radio in Amarillo and gained theatrical experience with the Globe Theatre Company in Dallas. After being graduated from his hometown high school in Wellington, Kansas, Clark attended Friends University in Wichita, Kansas, on a voice scholarship in preparation for a career as a public school music teacher. At Emporia he changed his major to speech with a music minor, graduating in 1936. In 1938 he received a master of arts in theatre at the State University of Iowa, Iowa City. As a member of the O.U. drama faculty Dean Clark has directed numerous University Playhouse productions and served as faculty director for 10 Sooner Scandals productions. Last spring he initiated the University's first "Focus on Fine Arts" week. Dean Clark is first vice president and a member of the standards committee of the Southwest Theatre Conference and is a former vice president of Alpha Epsilon Rho honorary radio fraternity. In 1959 he was appointed to the University retirement and tenure committee and began his third year as a member of the entertainment and social events committee. The new dean is also a member of the University (faculty) Senate. Dean Clark and his wife have one daughter, Candy Sue, 11, and are members of the Methodist Church.