

Sooner Scene

AN ALUMNI INSTITUTE IS BEING ADDED TO THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM AT O.U.

WHEN members of the Class of 1912 return to the campus for their 50th reunion, they will find many changes and reason to reflect with satisfaction upon the value of a degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1962. Ideas that are *exciting, sound* and *useful* have brought about a change in the profile of this campus. Some say the most significant development of the past 50 years is the program and the plant of the new Center for Continuing Education.

These ideas were brought into focus and promoted to reality by Dr. Thurman J. White, dean of the College of Continuing Education and Extension Division. They are based upon the best thinking of the leading adult educators of the country. It is a generally accepted principle on this campus, as it is on many others, that education is a continuing process and that a state university has an obligation to offer educational opportunities to adults as well as to the undergraduate youth.

The sense of obligation that comes from this concept is being translated into a program of action by a committee of alumni and faculty. Alumni members of the committee are Mrs. Jack (Mary Frances McCasland) Maurer of Duncan, chairman; Mrs. C. R. (Kitty Shanklin) Rountree, Oklahoma City, secretary; Mrs. John A. (Nadine Norton) Love, Shawnee; Judge Don Barnes, Okmulgee; Herbert Branan, Oklahoma City, and Senator Fred Harris, Lawton. The faculty members are Dr. J. C. Feaver, professor of philosophy of religion and ethics, chairman; Dr. Jim E. Reese, professor of economics; Dr. Rufus G. Hall, professor of government, and Dr. Thurman J. White, dean of the College of Continuing Education.

This joint committee has developed a two-day program for an alumni institute to be held on May 26th and 27th, coinciding with the Commencement weekend. Seminars will be scheduled on two main topics. The first topic is "The Influence of the European Common Market on United States Economy," and the second is "A Look at the Emerging Nations of Africa."

Lecturers and discussion leaders will be members of the faculty, joined by distinguished alumni who are recognized authorities in these fields. All alumni are invited to attend the sessions and special invitations are being sent to members of the ten

classes holding reunions this spring. These are the classes of 1912, '17, '22, '27, '32, '37, '42, '47, '52 and '57. In addition, parents of graduating seniors, who are here for Commencement, will also be extended special invitations to participate in the alumni institute. Those who wish to attend should register in advance with Lee Hayden, director of short courses at the Center for Continuing Education. Additional information about the sessions, faculty and reading material can be secured by writing the Alumni Office in Norman. Housing will be available at the magnificent new Center for Continuing Education, and all sessions will be held there.

It is intended that this program should be one of real substance and intellectual stimulation. The ideas expressed at the institute and the problems raised should provide direction for additional study and reading for several months to come. In addition, it is assumed that some of those who participate in this experience will find their way into more extended study in other programs of continuing education.

Last spring a new program of education for adults was started including the broad areas of social sciences, natural sciences and the humanities. This is a program of self-education with guidance and assistance from the University faculty; it leads to a degree of Bachelor of Liberal Studies. The requirements are based on the attainment of a level of proficiency in the three areas by the students, and emphasis on independent study shortens campus time to 13 intensive weeks. Approximately 100 students are now enrolled in this program and are making progress towards meeting the requirements of the Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree.

Another significant program, just get-

ting under way, is for the training of industrial development specialists. Instruction includes study of such subjects as economics, business law, statistical analysis, marketing, taxation and other subjects related to industrial development. This program represents a regional effort, and as a matter of fact, it was established here by a committee of the Southern Industrial Development Council after several months of evaluation of many universities. The decision was based on the University's experience in developing adult education, the ability and desire of the faculty to develop the program, physical facilities, library resources and geographical location.

Another new program is organized in a field called "urban science." The bewildering complexities of orderly development of urban areas calls for new skills and concepts. There are no standards by which to evaluate urban development plans and programs, and institutions of higher learning are aware of the inadequacies of their existing urban services. To meet this need the University of Oklahoma, with support of a Ford Foundation grant, has developed a bold, intensive, graduate-level program of seminars and weekend courses to train the urban scientist, while he is working in his respective community.

There are many other examples of opportunities for adult learning at the Center for Continuing Education, particularly in the areas of professional advancement and cultural enlightenment. The University has recognized the value of such work for many years. Since 1913 the Extension Division has pioneered in adult education, and thousands of alumni and other interested citizens have benefitted from this effort. But when the new Center is opened this month, the greatly enhanced opportunities will attract more and more alumni to establish a life-long intellectual relationship with their alma mater. The Center will make it possible for alumni to become an integral part of the college community.

—R. BOYD GUNNING

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Association Membership: Any former student who completed satisfactorily one or more semesters at the University of Oklahoma is eligible for membership. Annual membership is \$5.00. Life Membership is \$80.00, payable \$5.00 down and \$5.00 quarterly.