



# THE SCHOLAR PROGRAM

By CHARLES LONG

*it's designed to  
let the bright  
students shine*

**D**R. GLENN C. Couch has 44 good reasons to hold his head a little higher these days. The proud dean of O.U.'s University College can now give ample proof how some remarkable young people helped to break the shackles of his imagination. It all started a year ago when Dean Couch and Dr. J. R. Morris, assistant dean of the college, introduced a new plan directed toward meeting and fulfilling the educational needs of exceptional students—an idea calling for the immediate transformation of outstanding high school graduates into *University Scholars*. The new honors program was meticulously designed for a select group of students to begin and continue throughout their college careers academic work under study agendas tailored as closely as possible to each one's particular abilities. It posed a great challenge for the freshman who was willing to go above and beyond what was demanded of him—to plunge (*Continued*)

## *an honors program is not for speed but to permit a depth of study*

into courses usually reserved for sophomores and juniors, to carry a class load of 20 semester hours—and still maintain the excellent grades he made in high school.

Top-rated high school seniors from large and small cities and towns were contacted about the new program, and through a screening period of competitive examinations and thorough interviews, the first participants were selected to begin the fall semester.

Dean Couch had found his University Scholars, students who he believed not only possessed above-average abilities but also were highly motivated. He left it up to them to produce the facts and figures.

By the fall semester's end, any skepticism about the experimental project was quickly erased. The Scholars' accumulative record read 351 hours of A, 279 hours of B, 48 hours of C and 7 hours of D for an amazing over-all grade point average of 3.42 (4.0 is perfect). This array of figures appears even more impressive when considering that the average for all students for the first semester of their freshman year is usually about 2.02 or slightly above a C average.

The Scholars dramatically broke from the

lock-step of the average, as Dean Couch had hoped they would.

Of the average 17 hours of classwork in which these students were enrolled, 12 hours were honors courses. One girl successfully completed 18 hours of honors courses plus one hour of physical education. Also, most of the 44 participants took advanced standing examinations, enabling them to earn additional hours of credit without attending classes in subjects in which they had special knowledge. These subjects included mathematics, English, history, chemistry, astronomy, geology, French, Spanish, German and Russian. By combining regular classwork with advanced standing examinations, the Scholars averaged 20 credit hours during the first semester with one girl completing the amazing total of 50 hours. And six of the freshmen earned 26 or more hours of credit, making them eligible to transfer from the University College to begin work in various degree-granting colleges of the University half a year ahead of schedule.

In a speech given April 2 before a group of outstanding Oklahoma City high school students, Dean Morris explained the exist-

ence of honors programs and advanced standing examinations at O.U. "Honors courses," he said, "permit the capable student to explore in depth, along with students of his caliber, a wide variety of subjects. Our experiences with honors courses at the University have been vastly rewarding. The advantages are several—the classes are small, the teachers are outstanding, the students are of high ability, the pace is rapid and the material significant in depth. But more than anything else, the program provides the climate and the circumstances in which bright people can think together and share with each other living ideas. The honors program is not for the purpose of accelerating a student's pace through college—it is rather to permit him to study at depth in areas of his choosing.

"The same thing might be said of advanced standing credit examinations. We encourage capable students to take examinations for extra credit in fields for which they are already unusually well prepared, not to catapult them through college in record time—though some may honestly wish to and may do this—but, the greatest advantage of advanced standing credit is that it gives the student more freedom to use the time saved to strengthen his education in other areas. An engineering student saved 17 credit hours by advanced standing and used this time to study German; a chemistry student saved 21 hours and used this time to study philosophy and art. They won't graduate any sooner, but



The class meets weekly to hear faculty members like Sam Olkinetzky (right), director of the Museum of Art, discuss their fields of interest. Listening to Olkinetzky during a tour of the museum are Dean Couch and Linda Harris. Other speakers have discussed ballet, philosophy, science, math.

they will graduate as better scholars and thinkers."

Linda Locke of Oklahoma City, who had a 3.81 grade average at the end of the first semester, will have 77 credit hours after her freshman year. Because of meeting the challenge that the University Scholars program offers her, she expects to be entering medical school after two years of undergraduate work. "I had very good teachers in high school," says Linda, "teachers who challenged me at all times to study and make good grades. What appealed to me about the University Scholars was the idea of a further challenge."

"Being around the others gives me a lot more incentive," agrees Marilyn Echols, English-education major from Tulsa, who will have 50 credit hours at the end of the year to match with her 3.5 grade average. "I tell myself, 'If they can do it, so can I.'" And there is no arrogance in her statement. As a University Scholar, she knows she *can* and *must* produce good work.

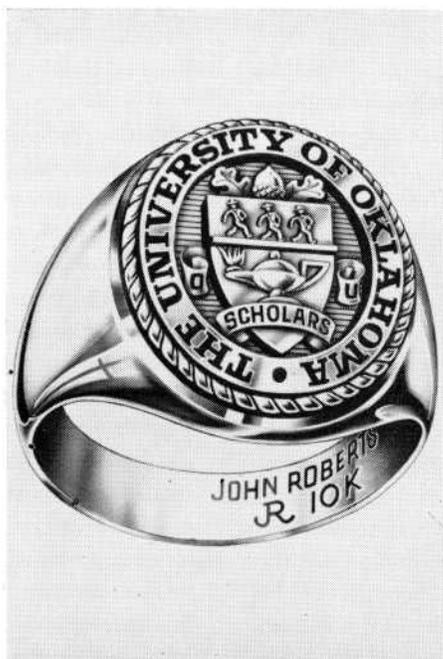
With over 120 credit hours between them, it would appear that Linda and Marilyn are too overloaded with school work to enjoy the rest of university life. However, Linda, who averages eight hours of classwork per day, is involved in a number of outside programs, such as the O.U. Glee Club and Model United Nations, and Marilyn is an active member of her social sorority. Many of the Scholars are on Union Activities Board committees, hold offices in their respective housing units and are band and glee club members. Several have part-time jobs, including one girl who works 15 hours a week in Midwest City.

A few of the extracurricular activities are group affairs. One is a series of Tuesday night seminars in Bizzell Memorial Library where the Scholars meet and talk informally with members of the O.U. faculty.

Among the speakers have been Dr. George M. Sutton, research professor of zoology, who lectured on ornithology, the study of birds that has made him world renowned; Dr. J. Clayton Feaver, Kingfisher College professor of the philosophy of religion and ethics, who discussed existentialism, and Dr. Duane H. D. Roller, professor of the history of science, who outlined the origin of mathematics. English professor Dr. Paul G. Ruggiers discussed with Scholars the University's honors program which he directs; Dr. William B. Lemmon, director of O.U.'s Psychological Clinic, told of research in animal behavior, and

Yvonne Chouteau and her husband, Miguel Terekhov, related their experiences as international ballet stars.

The Scholars have reaped other rewards. Norman jewelry manufacturers John and Robert Waugh gave each student a class ring, and James C. Mayfield, director of the University Book Exchange, offered the group specially engraved notebooks. One of the most important offerings came from Melville R. Spence, acting director of University Libraries, who gave the Scholars exclusive library cards, entitling them to the same library privileges granted to graduate students. This includes extended loan periods for books and access to special collections.



A special ring designed for the University Scholars was a gift from John and Robert Waugh.

Marilyn Echols says that, in addition to the free advance standing examinations, the library cards have been the greatest help to her. "But, everything about the program has been worthwhile," she continues. "'University Scholar' are magic words around here; they open up all sorts of avenues. Dean Couch and Dr. Morris personally have seen to it that we find ourselves in our work. They are the ones who have made the program the success that it is."

Each of the Scholars has his or her favorite phases of the program. Miss Locke likes listening to such people as Yvonne Chouteau and Miguel Terekhov; Paul Powell, a 4.0 student from Ponca City and member of the President's Leadership Class, uses the opportunity to compare his work with other students in the group; Norman's Kyle Mc-

Carter, another 4.0 student, says the beauty of the program is the ability to receive a large number of credit hours and still have time to do other things.

In addition to these four students, the other University Scholars are:

Susan Virginia Armstrong, Oklahoma City; William L. Baker, Lindsay; Frank R. Bernhart, Norman; Gary Lee Blasi, Alva; Mark Chambers, Enid; Judy Chapman, Ponca City; Edward Louis Coyle, Ada; Jene Criswell, Midwest City; Virginia Lee Croft, Hobbs, New Mexico; Joel Ewing, Norman; Patrick Fitzgerald, Oklahoma City; Joseph Robert Flippo, Norman; William Clark Gilpin, Oklahoma City; Pamela Darlene Glisan, Oklahoma City;

Nancy Louise Gorton, Midwest City; Paul R. Hamilton, Tulsa; Michael Rowe Harkey, Midwest City; Lynda Margaret Harris, Oklahoma City; David Ronald Hattaway, Ponca City; Anita Hughes, Bartlesville; Newell Don Jenkins, Lawton; Paul R. McLaughlin, Oklahoma City; Ken Maddox, Norman; Barbara Gail Mann, Del City; Randall D. Mason, Guthrie; Newton D. Moscoe, Norman;

James R. Mott, Noble; Terry Newkumet, Norman; Carolyn Platter, Hominy; Phillipa L. Prather, Tulsa; Vicki Jean Rands, Okmulgee; Carol Ann Reid, Oklahoma City; Roger B. Rensvold, Duncan; John E. Sakaly, Oklahoma City; Robert S. Srigley, Altus; Bernard Ferrell Stekoll, Wewoka; Sherri Sweet, Mangum; William Weinrich, Ponca City; Billy Wilkinson, Duncan, and Ramon Edward Williams, Dewey.

The fine records accomplished by these people indicate that it matters little whether they come from large or small school systems. They are from varying economic backgrounds, and less than half of them are receiving aid in the form of scholarships and loans.

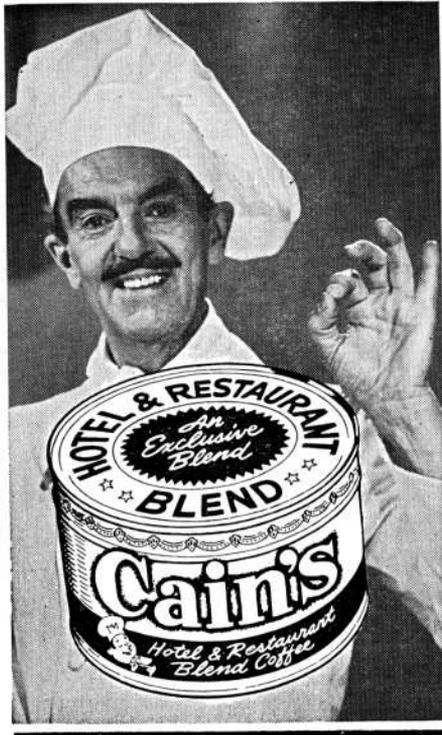
As Deans Couch and Morris prepare to receive next year's freshman harvest of University Scholars, what kind of student will they be looking for? A letter from an 18-year-old girl who will come to O.U. this fall as a Scholar gives a strong answer. She writes:

"Each person is, I think, basically a combination of the different influences his experiences have on him; so to tell about myself, I shall tell about those things that influence me.

"Reading interests me more than any-

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Choice of  
Famous Chefs

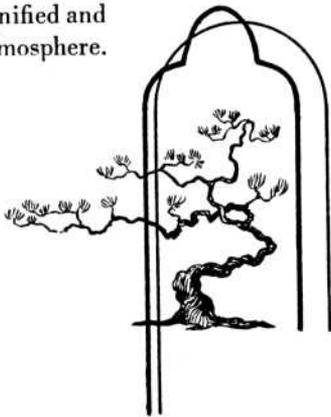


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D.C., where Ray is employed by the Bureau of the Budget.

**BIRTHS:** Ross Porter, '59journ, and Mrs. Porter (Lin Gates) have chosen the names Roscoe Underwood III and Rosalyn Ann for their twins born January 18 in Oklahoma City. Porter, sports director of WKY and WKY-TV in Oklahoma City, has been named Oklahoma's outstanding sportscaster of 1963. He is the youngest state announcer ever to win the award and the first telecaster in Oklahoma to be a recipient. The Porters make their home in Edmond.

Robert Clapp, '60eng, and Mrs. Clapp (Judy Cathey, '61ed) have chosen the name Deborah Ellen for their daughter, born February 8. The Clapps live in Dallas.

Dennis Price, '60bus, and Mrs. Price (Ann Dunn) have chosen the name William Mark for their son born February 15. Price, former All-Big Eight guard at O.U., recently announced his retirement from basketball with the Phillips 66ers. He played four years with the Bartlesville club and is two-time AAU All-American.

Don Crosby, '60eng, and Mrs. Crosby (LaNita Pacey, '60) have chosen the name Traci Lynn, for their daughter born March 8 in Newark, Ohio. They also have a son, Carl Wynn, 19 months. Crosby has recently been promoted to party chief with Independent Exploration Company.

#### 1961-62

**MARRIAGES:** Sandra Edwina Schacht, became the bride of Ronnie Viner, '61bs, January 19 in Temple Beth Shalom in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Linda Raye Martin, '62ed, became the bride of James Edward Dickson February 8 in St. Luke's Methodist Church, Oklahoma City. The couple will reside in Seaside, Oregon.

**BIRTHS:** John R. Imel, '61eng, and Mrs. Imel, Wichita Falls, Texas, chose the name Jeanne Kay for their daughter born October 9. Imel is staff engineer with Phillips Petroleum Company.

2nd Lt. Bob Ruggles, '61journ, '62m.journ, and Mrs. Ruggles (Connie Burke, '62journ) chose the name Kelly Elizabeth for their daughter, born February 21. Lt. Ruggles is now assistant editor of *Infantry Magazine*, Fort Benning, Georgia. Mrs. Ruggles is a former editor of the *Sooner News-Makers*.

#### 1963

John Stuemky, '63ba, was presented the Newkirk Chamber of Commerce's annual achievement award for his civic and Boy Scout work.

Wilbur Lee Smith, '63ed, former University track star, has been assigned as running coach and executive officer at the Pentathlon Training Center of Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Smith, now a second lieutenant, will have charge of training the 14 army athletes who will compete in the pentathlon at the *Conseil International du Sport Militaire* May 9 at Fort Sam Houston.

Fred Rizzo, '63ma, Dearborn, Michigan, is the first winner of the Edgar Lee Masters Poetry Award. Rizzo received the award for his poem "The Hands of Sheol." The award is sponsored by the Oklahoma Science and Arts Foundation. Rizzo is a graduate English student at the University.

**MARRIAGES:** Ellen Kay Jones and Allan Vaughn Cecil, '63journ, were married February 1 in the First Presbyterian Church, Bristow. The couple will reside at Mather Air Force Base, Sacramento, California.

Suzanne Hickey, '63h.ec, and John Sidney Kerr, '56geol, '64Law, were married April 4 at Oak Lawn Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas. They will live in Altus, Oklahoma, where Kerr is a partner in Kerr & Kerr law firm.

## The Scholars

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thing else right now. I like to read, because I am trying to discover what I myself think. When I read, I can see what other people think, and their outlooks and opinions help me to develop my own. The philosophies of these authors present me with angles I have never considered and make me look at my own ideas differently. When I have finished reading a book, I try to decide what the author was saying. Next, I see if I agree with him. After I have gone over his ideas, I accept what he has said, accept a part of what he has said or mentally file away his ideas for future comparison with other ideas.

"After reading, my second love is meeting new people and talking with them. I benefit from this communication of thoughts. In a book, the author presents his statement to the reader, who accepts or rejects it; in a conversation, an exchange, an out-pouring as well as an in-pouring, exists.

"All new people fascinate me in some way, but I especially enjoy foreign people. I enjoy them as much as I do their food—immensely. For some reason, foreigners simply make me happy. In fact, *many* things, such as Bach, good jazz, the ocean and beagle dogs, to name a few, have this mysterious power to flood me with waves of happiness that is joy, contentment or bliss, depending on my original mood.

"Walking is my third favorite activity. When I am walking, I do some of my clearest, most logical thinking. Besides walking, I like to fence, swim and play tennis. I do none of these things, thinking included, as well as I would prefer.

"This leads to the reason I am anticipating my college career. I know that in college I will have the opportunity to improve my thinking. I know that there I will find new things to make me happy—new books and new people."

It is quality and ambition from students such as this that O.U. seeks in perpetuating its University Scholars program. Dean Morris calls them young men and women "endowed with lively imaginations, inquiring intellects and the freedom of their dreams."

And as more grade reports come flowing into the University College office, Dean Couch most likely will repeat:

"The Scholars certainly have helped me break the shackles of my imagination about what people can do."