

For sixteen days in October the University celebrated its 75th anniversary with a flurry of special events beginning with Homecoming and ending with a campus-wide open house. In between were the dedication of four buildings—as many faculty members as OU had when it opened its doors three-quarters of a century ago—banquets, reunions, art exhibitions, tours, a variety show, a drama production, a concert and a special seminar. Throughout the commemorative observances ran a double-edged theme of pride and anticipation—pride in the past, in the people who had brought the University so far so fast, and anticipation for the future, bright with the promise of continued growth, leadership and the never-ending quest for excellence. The motto of the 75th anniversary is an appropriate one: “The Spirit of Learning Is A Lasting Frontier.” The major events of the anniversary observance are reviewed in the following pages.



The Botany and Microbiology Building

First of the four new buildings to be dedicated during the 75th anniversary observance was the nine-story Botany and Microbiology Building, located on the east side of the South Oval between the zoology building (Richards Hall) and the geology building (Gould Hall).

Dr. Barry G. Commoner, professor of plant physiology and chairman of the botany department at Washington University of St. Louis, was the guest speaker at the dedication ceremony on Oct. 22. Following Dr. Commoner's address, Dr. Mark Johnson of the Board of Regents dedicated the \$2 million building, a combination of office, classroom and research facilities which ranks it among the nation's best.

Completed in the summer, the building has 56,833 square feet of floor space, a 250-seat auditorium on the main floor, and a long list of paraphernalia and appointments which may mean little to the layman but can cause a biologist's heart to pump with joyous excitement. These ac-

couterments include two walk-in incubators, six walk-in cold rooms and seven growth chambers. There are also areas for chromatography, electron microscopy and radiation studies featuring an X-ray room designed for a 350-kilovolt machine. There are other plums: a 50-liter mass culture fermenter for growing organisms, an ultra-high-velocity centrifuge, an electron microscope and sparkling, well appointed areas.

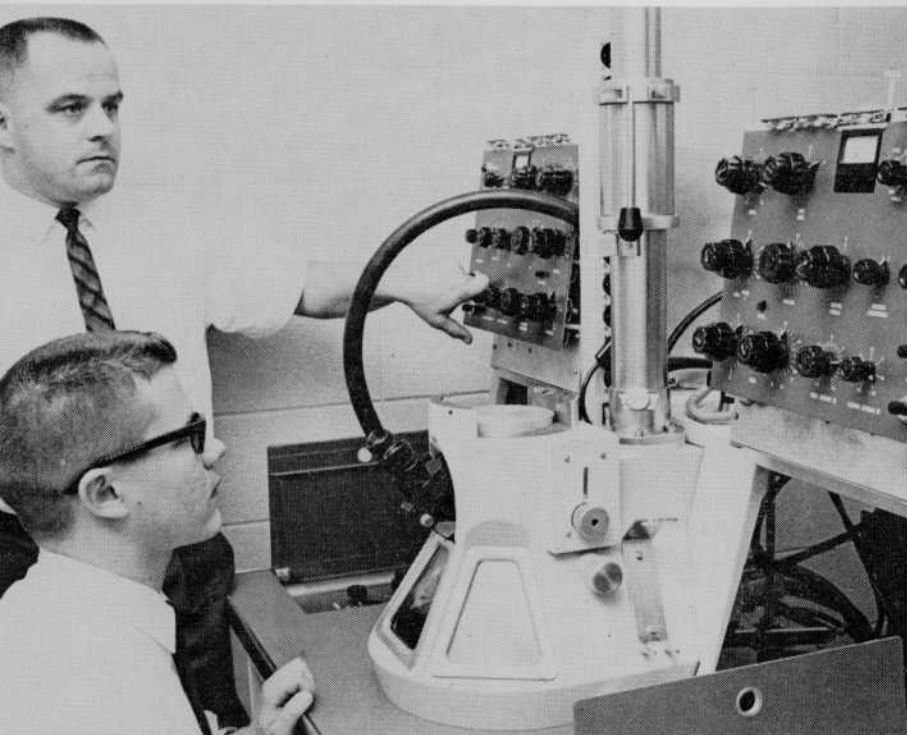
The top two floors contain the animal quarters (the animals and their handlers share one of the best views of Norman) and pathological laboratories for the study of diseased animals. Medical mycology—medicinal studies of fungi—has its headquarters on the seventh floor, and virology has the sixth floor as its domain. The fifth floor is used for the investigation of pathogenic microbiology, the fourth level houses cooling and heating equipment chiefly and the third floor contains a number of labora-

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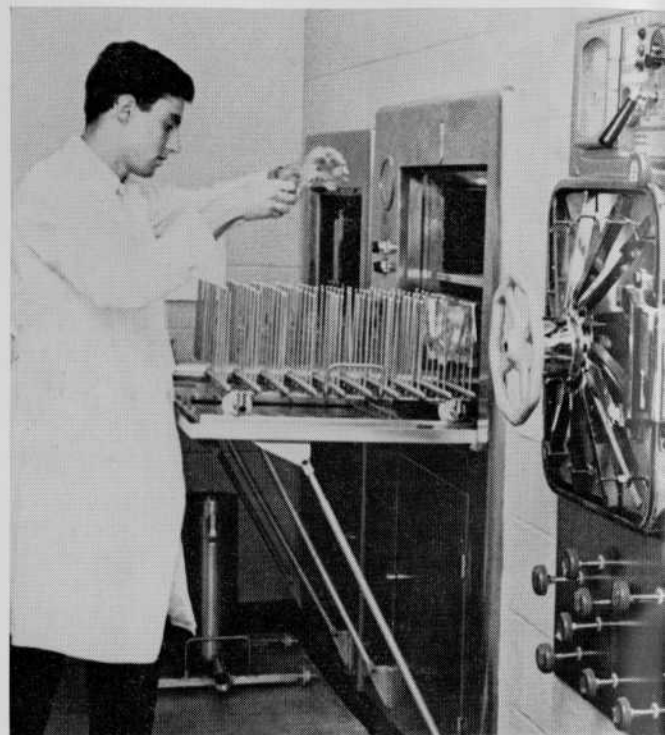


Noted scientist Dr. Commoner (above left) was guest speaker at the dedication ceremony. Above right, a protective hood enables a research assistant to work safely with potentially harmful organisms in the pathology lab. Spacious, well equipped labs like the one below are the rule in the imposing new building.





Dr. John Skcarla is in charge of the \$42,000 electron microscope, a marvelously intricate piece of equipment used in the study of cells capable of 2-million-power magnification and resolution to 500-millionths of a centimeter.



A student inspects glasswear before placing it in a washing unit. At his right is an autoclave, a pressurized sterilizing unit capable of temperatures above the boiling point of water.

THE BOTANY AND MICROBIOLOGY BUILDING

The department was created in 1960

ories. The herbarium with its 150,000 flower specimens dominates the second floor, and classrooms, labs and office fill the first floor and basement.

The department of botany and microbiology is a recent creation, existing by that name since 1960 although course work in both areas have been offered almost from the first years of the University.

Work in botany was included in the courses offered when the school opened its doors in September, 1892. Dr. Edwin DeBarr taught the first courses. In 1898 Dr. Albert Heald Van Vleet came to the campus to head the new department of biology. He organized other courses in the plant sciences and became head of the department of botany in 1907. When Van Vleet died in 1925, Dr. Royal Edward Jeffs, who joined the faculty in 1918, became head of the department, serving until 1927 when he was succeeded by Dr. Paul B. Sears who held this position until his resignation in 1938.

Dr. George L. Cross, who had joined the faculty in 1934, became head of the department in 1938 and remained as such until he was named acting dean of the Graduate College four years later. Dr. Milton Hopkins followed Cross and served until his resignation in 1945.

From 1945 until 1962 Dr. Howard W. Larsh served as chairman, stepping down upon his appointment as Research professor of microbiology. Dr. Doyle Anderegg is the present department chairman.

Although botany has shown steady growth, microbiology and its predecessor, bacteriology, went through a lengthy period of readjustment.

The first course in bacteriology was offered in the department of biology in 1898 by Van Vleet. The course number grew to seven by 1906, taught in the department of pathology and bacteriology which was associated with both Arts and Sciences and Medicine. In 1912 the name was shortened to the department of bacteriology. Courses proliferated until the Med School moved to Oklahoma City in 1928, taking the bacteriology department with it, except for a couple of orphaned courses.

Rebuilding was slow. Only five courses were offered in 1937 and six in 1938 but by 1942 the first bachelor's master's and doctoral degrees were offered in bacteriology through the newly named department of plant sciences. The first M.S. in the field was awarded in 1943 and the first doctorate in 1956.

Today the future is bright and the view breathtaking for the thriving School of Botany and Microbiology. Just go up to the ninth floor and see for yourself.