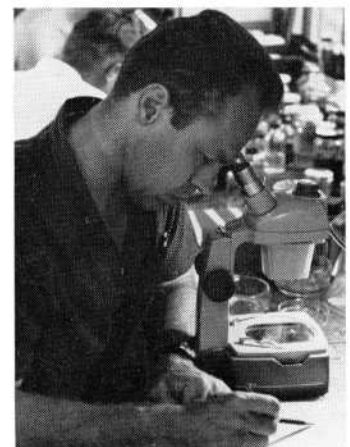
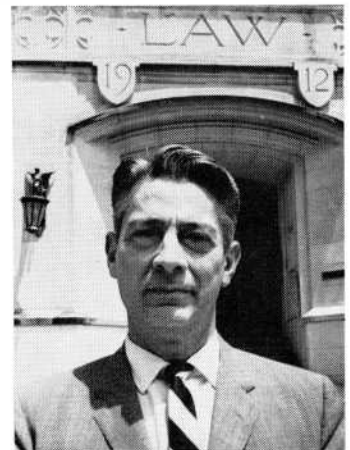
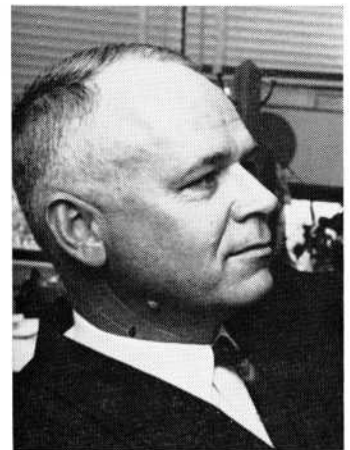


OU's new deans

Certainly one of the most imposing figures indigenous to the groves of academe is the college dean. On a university's prestige-and-power scale he generally is surpassed only by the president of the institution—and perhaps an occasional football coach. In earlier days of American higher education the college dean possessed power that would make some monarchs drool. At many universities he was final, and often sole, arbiter on salaries, promotions, appointments, and dismissals. Today though the prestige and influence of the position have not diminished, its absolute authority is as dead as the Lindy Hop, having been broken up and divided among the faculty. The dean is more like a chairman of the board than a potentate; decisions on curriculum, budgets, personnel are made after recommendations and study by special committees of faculty members, deans, administration officials. The dean advises, directs, inspires; he no longer rules. "I look upon my role," says one OU dean, "as that of a coordinator chiefly; and the two things I believe every good dean must learn to develop is first, the sincere belief that the other fellow might just possibly be right, and second, the ability to seek compromise." Says another, "One of the functions is that of interpreter. A dean must keep the citizens informed about what his college is doing, to represent education. He is also a filter between the faculty and administration, and he must interpret here also." Within the past 24 months three of OU's colleges and its School of Medicine have had new deans. On Sept. 1, 1965, Dr. James L. Dennis (*top photo*) succeeded Dr. Joseph M. White, interim dean for Dr. Mark R. Everett, who retired after 17 years at the School of Medicine. Last September Dr. John S. Ezell (*second from top*) followed Dr. William E. Livezey, who returned to full-time teaching, as dean of the University's largest college, Arts and Sciences, where over 5,000 students are enrolled. (The college taught 65 percent of the credit hours earned last year; its increase of 19,094 hours over the previous year was more hours than were taught by colleges of Engineering, Education, Fine Arts, and slightly fewer than Business.) The Graduate College's Dr. Arthur H. Doerr also returned to full-time teaching in September, turning over the important graduate deanship to Dr. Carl D. Riggs (*bottom photo*). At the College of Law Dean Earl Sneed stepped down after 17 years to enter private business; he was succeeded by Professor Eugene O. Kuntz, (*second from bottom*). All of these men were chosen because of their leadership and administrative ability. Three were picked from OU faculty, and one, Dr. Dennis, was an alumnus. Despite their different academic pursuits and specialties, they share a common background as teachers. All are men of the classroom, members of the faculty who know the peculiar agonies and ecstasies of the pedant. And all will continue to teach as well as administrate, coordinate, and interpret. To meet them and their families, see the next four pages.



dennis



Above, the dean, his wife, and daughter Connie. At left, Dr. Dennis relaxes at one of his rare diversions—the organ he had built into his home.

No. 1 at Med School—again

Dr. James L. Dennis is taking up where he left off at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine. In the Class of 1940, he was an honor student, class president, and named its most outstanding member. Today, as dean of the state's sprawling medical center, Dr. Dennis is known as a forceful and articulate spokesman for the needs and challenges faced by Oklahoma medicine as well as an able, assiduous administrator. Prior to becoming dean, Dr. Dennis was a professor of pediatrics at the University of Arkansas Medical School. He has also taught at the University of Texas medical branch at Galveston and was a lecturer in pediatrics at the University of California while serving as director of the Children's Hospital in East Bay, Calif. Despite the press of administrative duties, he still teaches a course in pediatrics. Dr. and Mrs. Dennis and their family live in an attractive white house on a wide, shady street in Oklahoma City's Nichols Hills. They have a daughter, Connie, 16, a sophomore at John Marshall High School, and two sons, Bill, 20, who attends Arkansas State Teachers College in Conway, and Jim, 17, a junior in John Marshall. Other family members are two dogs, shown at left with their master. (One of them, Sambo, has an uncanny ability to bare his teeth in a human-like smile.) Dr. Dennis used to paint in oil but hasn't found the time since moving into his new post. He still enjoys the electric organ which he learned to play as therapy to strengthen a hand disabled by a wound received while he served as a naval doctor in World War II. Oklahomans can be grateful that Dr. Dennis never let the organ become more than just a hobby, for his leadership as the eleventh dean of the medical school is vitally important to the state in maintaining high standards in medical training, research, and treatment. Dr. Dennis has fought hard for more competitive salaries for professors, and has presented painstaking diagnoses of the health of the medical school to state leaders. One of the bright spots is the plan for a new multimillion-dollar Children's and University Hospital approved by state voters in 1963 which will allow the present hospital to be turned into classrooms and laboratory space.



ezell

Dr. John S. Ezell, sixth dean of the University's largest college, has achieved an estimable record in every academic



pursuit he has followed, and he has followed them all—student, teacher, scholar, and administrator. At Wake Forest where he earned a BA, he was Phi Beta Kappa and was graduated magna cum laude. He received both the master's and doctor of philosophy degree from Harvard and taught at Carnegie Tech for a year before joining the OU faculty in 1948. As a teacher here, his record is glittering. In 1954 he was one of ten professors honored with an award for outstanding teaching and counseling of students. He won the Errett R. Newby Award for Teaching Excellence three years ago. Last spring he was named a David Ross

Boyd professor, one of the highest tributes a faculty member can receive. As a scholar he has been active, editing two books, The New Democracy in America: Travels of Francisco de Miranda in the United States and

the two-volume Readings in American History. He is the author of The South Since 1865 and Fortune's Merry Wheel: The Lottery in America, which have brought him recognition as a leading scholar in American social history. In

addition he has written a number of articles for national historical publications. Since 1962 he has served the department of history as its chairman. Dr. and Mrs. Ezell and their children, John McLean, 14, and Margaret Jean, 10, live near the campus in a two-story, red-brick Colonial house. Filling a triple-threat role as dean, professor, and scholar-writer leaves Dr. Ezell little time for any prosaic pastimes like golf or falcon-raising. In the best academic tradition he is a devoted pipe smoker, a habit which suits his introspective, unflappable mien and is an effective prop for his quiet humor. During World War II he was commander of a minesweeper and convoy ship in the Pacific, and the collection of carved figures he brought back from his visits (see above) interested him in wood-carving. Dr.

Ezell also plays an occasional game of chess, but the Ezell children, both avid chess players, are not overly impressed with their father's ability at the game, deanship or no deanship. "He's really not very good," confides Margaret.

A&S's Triple-threat man

At left, the dean and Mrs. Ezell in front of their home. Below, Dr. Ezell watches as daughter Margaret and son John engage in a game of chess.





Dean and Mrs. Kuntz (right) in their living room. Much of the work on Dean Kuntz's book is done in a study in the home with Mrs. Kuntz's assistance.



Transplanted Texan

A tall, distinguished native of Texas who to Oklahoma's good fortune was attracted north of Red River some years ago is the fifth dean in the history of the University's College of Law. Eugene O. Kuntz, the nation's foremost authority on oil and gas law, was born, raised, and educated on Texas soil but has been a naturalized citizen of Oklahoma for almost 20 years. He earned a BA and a law degree from Baylor in 1940 and 1946, the interruption being, of course, the Second World War in which like Deans Ezell and Dennis he served in the Navy. (Dean Riggs, who now spends more time near water than all three combined, paradoxically was in the Air Corps.) He received a master of laws degree from Harvard in 1947 and was a member of the Wyoming law faculty before coming to Norman. In becoming dean, Professor Kuntz gave up a highly successful law practice in a private Oklahoma City firm (McAfee, Dudley, Taft, Cates, Kuntz & Mark) of which he was a partner. Since 1958 he had taught on a half-time basis; today he has substituted the office of dean for his private practice while still teaching the three courses he has always taught, State Planning, Oil and Gas, and Oil and Gas Taxation. The dean is best known for his Kuntz on Oil and Gas, A Revision of Thornton, two volumes of which have been published with the third soon to be available. The volumes are the standard reference work on oil and gas law. He also wrote the 1960 supplement to Thornton on Oil and Gas Law, a book entitled Newspaper Laws of Wyoming. He is the author of many articles for legal publications and has lectured at numerous national and regional legal meetings. Most of his research and writing



is done at the Kuntz home, a modernistic house of wood and stone just a few doors from the Riggs home. An accomplished musician with the entire spectrum of stringed instruments (see photo at left with zither), Dean Kuntz has performed with concert orchestras but now limits his appearances to the annual Law School Gridiron Banquet. He and Mrs. Kuntz have a daughter, Karen, 14, a student at West Junior High School. The Kuntzes are active in church work. They are charter members and were on the steering committee during the organization of Memorial Presbyterian Church in Norman. He is president of the board of trustees of the Presbytery of Washita; Mrs. Kuntz is church treasurer and vice moderator of the Oklahoma-Arkansas Synod, the first woman in the United Presbyterian Church to hold such a high post.

riggs

Dr. Carl Riggs, OU's ninth Graduate College dean, is a tall, solemn, large-framed zoologist whose list of accomplishments and activities at the University is longer than the combined



Latin names for bream, crappie, and rainbow trout. In addition to overseeing the burgeoning graduate program, by far the largest among state institutions, Dr. Riggs is director of OU's Biological Station at Lake Texoma, curator of fishes at Stovall Museum (and until recently curator of zoology at the museum), and a new vice president of the University (see page 2). He also manages to direct and counsel a number of graduate students toward advanced degrees in zoology. From 1962-64 Riggs served on the Research Institute's three-man executive committee and from 1958-63 was a member of its board of directors. He is past chairman of the Oklahoma Fish and Game Council and since 1949 has conducted research on Oklahoma fishes—he and Dr. George A. Moore of OSU have collaborated in compiling a check list of state fishes. He is author of more than 50 articles on zoological research

and has presented in the neighborhood of 90 papers at scientific meetings. Active in civic affairs, Dr. Riggs was a member of the Norman City Commission from 1961-65 and mayor pro tempore in 1963-64. Dr. Riggs earned a BS, MS, and PhD from the University of Michigan and joined the OU faculty in 1948. He and Mrs. Riggs have four children, Margaret, 13, Dan, 11, Jeff, 9, and Catherine, 2. It's not surprising that Dr. Riggs is an ardent outdoorsman and fisherman, and he and his family spend a large portion of each summer at the Biological Station, which through his direction has become a model for all universities. He has been director of the station and the Oklahoma Biological Survey since 1950. Scores of students have used the station's facilities for research projects which have led to a number of grants from the National Science Foundation and other agencies. The new dean has spent almost every summer since he joined the faculty on, in, and near the waters of Lake Texoma. At Michigan he was a graduate assistant and teaching fellow and for several summers was field biologist for the Indiana Lake and Stream Survey. Dr. Riggs is a fellow of the Oklahoma Academy of Science and a member of several scientific groups, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Fisheries Society, American Institute of Biological Science, and is a past president of the board of governors of the Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

Outdoorsman at the Graduate College



At left, the Riggs family poses for the camera. Below, Dan (left) and Jeff, who share their dad's outdoor inclinations, prepare their fishing tackle.

