The David A. Burr Scholarships

The Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and the Board of Trustees of the University of Oklahoma Foundation Inc. are pleased to announce the acceptance of a $2 million challenge grant from the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Inc. of Ardmore, Oklahoma, to establish a $4 million Centennial endowment to attract top Oklahoma high school graduates from throughout the United States.

A Centennial Challenge

Very seldom does a university have the opportunity to add to its student body some of the very finest scholars in the country while at the same time perpetuating the memory of a man whose name became synonymous with service and devotion to the institution. The University of Oklahoma finds itself in this most favored position with the announcement of a $2 million Centennial challenge grant from the Noble Foundation Inc. of Ardmore, Oklahoma.

When matched one-for-one by other private contributions, the Noble gift will create a $4 million endowment for the David A. Burr Scholarships to provide full-expense, four-year scholarships for outstanding high school graduates from Oklahoma and throughout the United States.

The Noble Foundation Inc.

No other private donor has been more intimately involved in the development of the University of Oklahoma than the Noble Foundation. Founded in 1945 by prominent Oklahoma oilman Lloyd Noble in memory of his father, Samuel Roberts Noble, the Noble Foundation has a long and distinguished record in supporting both agricultural and cancer research, in addition to its many benefactions to education.

As a member of the University Board of Regents from 1934 to 1949, Lloyd Noble was instrumental in the establishment of the University of Oklahoma Foundation. The association with both groups has continued with Lloyd Noble's son, Sam R. Noble, currently serving as a University regent and Noble Foundation President John Snodgrass as a trustee of the University Foundation.

The Noble Foundation's support of the University has included major gifts to the Samuel Roberts Noble Laboratory for Electron Microscopy, the Huston Huffman Physical Fitness Center, the E. T. Dunlap Tower and Plaza at Bizzell Memorial Library, the Lloyd Noble Center multipurpose arena, academic program support for the College of Business Administration, and the endowment of the George Lynn Cross Professorship of Botany and Microbiology.

David A. Burr

As a senior administrator under five University presidents and three interim presidents and holder of three different vice presidencies, David A. Burr served his alma mater for 37 years until his death on August 6, 1987. After building the Sooner Magazine into the best alumni publication in the nation, he became assistant to the president and later architect and long-time sponsor of the nationally acclaimed President’s Leadership Class. As vice president for the University Community, he preserved the peace on campus during the turbulent days of racial and anti-war demonstrations. As vice president for Development, he designed and directed a private funding program which enriched the University by nearly $200 million. As vice president for University Affairs, he directed public, media and legislative relations; fund raising; publications; and student recruitment.

During his lifetime and in the months since his death, he has been honored by students, faculty and staff, professional, civic and alumni groups. In 1983 he received the University's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Citation.