Run for the Fine Arts

The annual OU Arts Classic Run is coming up on March 22, 1997. In just two years this College of Fine Arts event has raised over $40,000. The race—which includes a one-half marathon, a 10 km and a 20-mile fun run/walk—has become one of the most highly attended and successful running events in the state.

The race again will be presented by KOCO-TV Channel 5 and Sonic, America's Drive-In. Other sponsors include American Airlines, Bank of Oklahoma, OU Athletic Department, McAfee & Taft, Advantage Marketing Systems, Boise Cascade Office Products, C.L. Frates & Co., Fred Jones Companies, Great Plains Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Harold's, KYIS FM 98.9, Merrill Lynch, Oklahoma Publishing Company, OU Health Sciences, Oral & Maxillofacial Associates, The Runner and Wilshire Running Club.

OU President David L. Boren will be the official starter (with the help of a howitzer, courtesy of the Army ROTC). The runs will start at 9 a.m. in front of Memorial Stadium and finish on the 50-yard line of Owen Field. In addition to entertainment provided by the College of Fine Arts along the courses and at the start and finish lines, the Oklahoma Health Center will present its 1997 Project Fun & Fitness, just north of Memorial Stadium.

All pre-registered entrants will receive an extra-heavy, 100 percent cotton Arts Classic T-shirt, designed by fine arts students, and a runner's bag with many other "goodies."

For additional information and entry forms, write the Registration Coordinator, Fine Arts Program, OU College of Continuing Education, 1700 Asp, Box 13, Norman, OK 73019-0560 or call (405) 325-1086.

Dudley Hyde, '66 B.A.
Race Director
1997 OU Arts Classic Run

Tribute to "Doc" Comp

An OU alumnus who was a real pioneer in aeronautical engineering in Oklahoma passed away on January 11 at age 90. Professor Laverne A. ("Doc") Comp was a member of the OU faculty for 47 years from the era of Lindbergh (1927) to the space era (1974). You ran a good article on him in 1989 when he returned for a semester to help modernize the wind tunnel and teach a course.

In the late 1920s, Doc was a faculty member in the Theoretical and Applied Mechanics Department and assigned to initiate development of a program in aeronautical engineering. Later aeronautical engineering became an option in mechanical engineering, and still later, when it became a separate school, Doc was its first chairman. In 1963 it was merged into the present-day School of Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering, and Doc was the holder of its first distinguished professorship: David Ross Boyd Professor, named after OU's first president and awarded for outstanding teaching and advising.

Professor Comp was the founder of Tau Omega, an honorary society for aeronautical engineering which later joined with a similar society founded at Purdue to form Sigma Gamma Tau, the present-day honorary society for aerospace engineering. Doc worked for several large aerospace companies, but was especially known for his contributions to the development of the Aero Commander Series of executive aircraft. He performed the wind tunnel tests for its prototype in OU's wind tunnel, which is now named the L.A. Comp Wind Tunnel.

Professor Comp is one of the very few faculty members who have had an endowed chair named for him by the donor, a grateful former student. The L.A. Comp Chair was endowed by James A. and the late Rosemary Close with matching funds from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Endowed Chairs Program. The first and present holder of this chair is Professor M. L. Rasmussen.

Geologists as Poets

The Fall 1996 issue of the Sooner Magazine was a delight. Thank you so much for the poetry of Charles N. Gould. Just shows that musty old geologists have hearts that soar with the beauties of the land and the people, too. His use of the word "plastic" for malleable shows how much the meaning of the word has been enlarged over the years.

The article about Steve Bradford's experiences in Vietnam interested us very much since both of our sons served a tour of duty over there. We'll have to buy the book!

Betty Hall, '42 B.A.
Austin, Texas

"Witness" Appreciated

Sooner Magazine is always beautifully written and superbly produced. I enjoy every issue, always finding an article or photograph that captures my interest.

This is the norm, the usual, the expected. But I wonder if the University appreciates the magic of Sooner Magazine? I know I do.

And the Fall 1996 issue was, as always, wonderful. In particular, I was impressed by "Witness for Fallen Friends," which magnificently recaptured hard and difficult days and one man's effort to give them dignity and grace.

Thank you for this issue and for all the issues you have created with beauty and care.

Carolyn G. Hart, '58 B.A.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma