OU Architecture Alumni Join Memorial Finalists

Late breaking news about the International Design Competition for the Oklahoma City Memorial. Two years after the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building, Bob Johnson, chair of the Memorial Foundation, announced the names of the five finalists. Among them was the team of Kyle Casper and Brian Branstetter. Their design had been chosen by a nine-member panel from a field of 624 entries. Their concept was cited for creating “a place of remembrance that is timeless.”

Both Casper and Branstetter are native Oklahomans. Both are 1993 graduates of OU’s College of Architecture. Both went on to study at the graduate level: Casper to MIT and Branstetter to the Architecture Association School in London. OU architecture faculty remember them well for their creativity, determination and spirit. Their work is an outstanding example of how our graduates contribute to the cultural legacy of Oklahoma and the nation.

Congratulations to both young men, their families, and to all who contributed to their success. All of us at OU wish them success in the final round of the competition.

Mack Caldwell
Associate Professor of Architecture
University of Oklahoma

Good Winter Reading

Grace and I, as OU grads, ’53 and ’58, have been enjoying your influence on the interesting and colorful reporting occurring in the Sooner Magazine for many years. But, somehow, it just seems to continue to improve and inspire us more as the years have passed. We were blown away by the current Winter of 1997 issue. All of the authors inspired us and tugged at our hearts, refueled by old memories, and delighted us with the accomplishments of our fellow alumni, along with the amazing transformation of Jacobson Hall. What a wonderful testimony to the success of David Boren in his continuing, positive impact on our beloved campus.

Thank you for your many years of excellent supervision of the productivity of the Sooner Magazine. We, and our two daughters and sons-in-law, all OU grads, send our best wishes for your continued success.

Jerry Nelms, ’57 B.S., ’58 M.S.
Estes Park, Colorado
Grace Nelms, ’53 B.S.

Sooner Connection Pays

The Winter 1997 issue of Sooner Magazine contained two articles of special interest. “Long Time Gone,” by Ed Frost reminded me of my years at OU and then at the University of Illinois, where I received my Ph.D. Along the way I developed an interest in OU football, an interest that began during my high school days in Muskogee. And I've never forgotten how impressed I was by the history faculty and the Library.

“The Legacy of Rainey Williams” reminds me of how loyalty to the University characterizes so many of the faculty. A second connection is that the Kent State University Press has published four books by H. Wayne Morgan, George Lynn Cross Research Professor of History, and two by Jack D. Welsh, David Ross Boyd Professor at the Health Sciences Center. I didn’t hesitate to exploit the OU connection.

John T. Hubbell, ’61 M.A.
Director
The Kent State University Press
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EDITOR’S NOTE: Readers who commiserated with Ed Frost on having missed “The Kick”—the Uwe Von Schamann last-second point-after that defeated Ohio State in 1977—can rest easy. A sympathetic fellow alumnus who had videotaped the game on an early home VCR sent Frost a copy, ending 20 years of a fanatic fan’s frustration.

Appropriate commencement attire for a perfect May day includes Sooner shades.