Alumni Are Cogs in UMT

By CPL. JOHN D. SMITH, ’44-'46

Universal military training, indeed, is more than an experimental unit in the hills of Kentucky. The nation willing, UMT is the shape of the Army in the future.

Here at Fort Knox, Kentucky, is the Army Ground Forces experimental battalion of 17, 18 and 19-year-old trainees undergoing the second six months cycle of universal military training.

Until recently there were four former O.U. students in the UMT cadre complement, but Lt. Col. Edwin H. Burbo, ’38bus, McAlester, formerly the headquarters executive officer and who was working on the History of Universal Military Training, was transferred to the joint Naval and Military school in Virginia. However, there are three Sooners still teaching teen-agers the arts of soldiering and leadership.

First Sgt. James L. Quong, ’40, Norman, is the ranking non-commissioned officer of the first training company. He makes certain that 166 trainees are properly clothed, fed, housed and trained in every respect.

Sgt. Jim Downing, Jr., ’45-'46, Norman, son of James Downing, ’21pharm, executes all company administration, training records, and the newly adopted determ system of the third training company in the position of company clerk.

Cpl. John D. Smith, ’44-'46, Clinton, formerly from Oklahoma City, is assigned to the special service section of UMT. He is a staff member of the UMT service club. His duties require the planning, arranging and producing of all types of entertainment for UMT trainees. This type of work constitutes all from master of ceremonies to making classical music recordings.

Even though these men are making small contributions to the universal military training experimental unit at Fort Knox, their efforts along with many others are moulding the Army of the future into an educated and well trained Army.

Alumni in The News

Beaird Holds High Legion Post

Ted M. Beaird, ’21ba, alumni secretary at the University, has been appointed to the membership chairmanship in the Oklahoma department of the American Legion, and Earl Fisher, Norman, to the employment committee, according to an announcement by Brad Risinger, ’23ba, state commander from Sand Springs.

Mr. Beaird, a veteran of both World wars, held the post last year.

Max Cook, ’38ba, ’41law, Clinton, World War II veteran, was appointed department judge advocate. E. S. Dunaway, Bartsville, is chairman of the vital rehabilitation committee.

Joe J. Miller, ’22ma, Chickasha, was chosen to fill the only vacancy on the Americanism committee, and Peter Hoffman, Oklahoma City, was appointed department finance officer.

Alumna Holds High Legal Post

Miss Vivien McConnell, ’41law, former law clerk to Judge Bower Broaddus of the Federal District Court in Oklahoma City, has become acting attorney general for Guam, the first woman attorney to hold such a high position in any of America’s possessions.

Miss McConnell will be chief legal adviser to the Governor and all department heads of the government of Guam. Her office also is charged with the responsibility of all prosecutions in the courts of Guam.

Miss McConnell will be chief legal adviser to the attorney for the land and claims commission, which was charged with settlement of war damage claims caused by the reoccupation activities of the U.S. armed forces. In April, she was appointed condemnation attorney for the commission. In July, she was commissioned by the Governor of Guam as an assistant attorney general.

Miss McConnell is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. McConnell, Stigler, where she attended high school. She was graduated from the University of Oklahoma law school in 1941 and became associated in the general practice of law with W. G. Sigler, ’16, now congressman from the second Oklahoma district. She entered the federal service in 1942 as law clerk for Judge Broaddus.

She is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association, American Bar Association, Oklahoma Association of Women Lawyers and the Kappa Beta Pi international legal society. Besides being admitted to practice in the state supreme and inferior courts, she also has been admitted to federal district court for eastern Oklahoma, the tenth circuit court of appeals and the United States supreme court.

Kenneth Nelms Re-enters Navy

Kenneth Nelms, ’42law, young Ardmore attorney and city commissioner, has resigned his post on the board to accept an appointment as a lieutenant senior grade in the U. S. Navy, legal division.

He will report for duty at the eighth Naval district headquarters in New Orleans. He requested that his resignation be made effective immediately.

Mr. Nelms, elected to the post at the last election, has been one of the board’s active members.

The appointment to the legal division in the Navy was tendered him in August. He served throughout the war in the Navy, mostly in the South Pacific, and was discharged with the rank of lieutenant commander.

School Heads Meet

More than 500 superintendents and principals attended the fall meeting of the Oklahoma Association of School Administrators at the University on October 25.

Events on the day’s program included a morning session, a noon luncheon and the Texas Christian-Oklahoma football game in the afternoon.

Officers of the association are Paul B. Allen, ’36ma, Pauls Valley, president; H. R. Russell, Stillwater, vice president, and James R. Frazier, ’24ba, ’32m.ed, Wewoka, secretary-treasurer.
Mike's Act Aids Congress

Collier's-award-winner Mike Monrooney, 24ba, fifth district congressman, saw during the first session of the 80th Congress his Reorganization Act in operation. In a speech before the House, this newspaperman-turned-legislator reported that after seven months' experience with the act, congress had run up a 50-50 score on performance.

Mike fostered the Reorganization Act from its infancy. He first made the resolution that congress should streamline what he was in the 78th Congress, November, 1944. His resolution was that a bipartisan joint committee of the House and Senate be set up to study means for streamlining Congress and government departments.

The Oklahoma Congressman proposed a study and modernization of the committee system; proper staffing of congress, its committees and its members, and improvement in relationship between Congress and government departments.

The committee was set up with young Mike as vice-chairman under Chairman Robert M. LaFollette, Wisconsin senator.

After months of work the act was passed during the 79th Congress, August 2, 1945. Though passed, the bill did not become operative until the 80th Congress convened in January, 1947.

During the first session of this congress, Mike saw only one of the three principal objectives of the act carried out in full. That was the realignment of the sprawling, overlapping, and duplicating committee structure of both houses. The standing committee structure was reduced from 48 to 19 in the House, and from 33 to 15 in the Senate. The second principal objective, that of furnishing congress with skilled technical service of its own through improved staffing and research facilities, was only partially successful in the first seven months of operation. However, experience through trial and error is expected to improve this situation.

The third objective, strengthening of congress in handling the vast fiscal powers of the federal purse, was virtually ignored and unused. To correct some of the most apparent deficiencies in the historic system of appropriating, the Reorganization Act recommended many reforms designed to tighten and improve fiscal control. Very few were put into force. Failure of the Appropriation Committee of the House to vote itself adequate staff members for the gigantic job of going through the $35 billion budget with a fine-tooth comb marked another department from the reorganization plan.

Other failures of the act, include the establishment of too many subcommittees under the committee structure. Many will gradually be eliminated, however. Even with the increase in the number of subcommittees, Congress made fewer committees of all types operating now than in the 79th Congress. Attesting to the improvement in efficiency of congress is the number of bills handled. The first session of the 80th Congress passed more than twice the number of bills passed by either the House or Senate during this year's session.

Despite the fine record, even the strongest proponents of the reorganization have not claimed the act to be perfect. "The act should be improved when it is passed," says Mike.

It was for his "fostering legislation intended to reform the organization and procedure of congress," that won Mike the first annual award given by Collier's Magazine to the "most valuable congressman of the year." However, in the April 12 citation, Collier's also gave him credit for his valuable work in laboring for American participation in the British point planning for world reconstruc-

In accepting the award, modest Mike explained, "The judge's decision had to be made on issues and not men, and I greatly appreciate the fact that they considered the issue of reorganization of Congress worthy of their consideration." He happen to be lucky enough to have been connected, along with others, with the issue they considered meritorious.

The $10,000 check that went along with the silver plaque award immediately was donated by Mike to the Episcopal Diocesan Center west of Britton. The Right Rev. Thomas Casady, bishop of the Diocese of Oklahoma, accepted the money in the name of the center. To explain his reason for donating the money to the church, Mike said, "Somehow or other I feel the getting that without the approved help of religion and its teachings, it will be pretty hard for the world to recover from the latest war or to prevent the next one." Representative Mike didn't wait until he got to congress to make a contribution.

While in the University he was editor of The Letzcciser Medal. He was a Peet; member of the student council, and winner of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism fraternity; member of Phi Delta social fraternity; a Peet; Checkmate, member of the student council, and winner of the Letzcciser Medal.

Among those appointed to the committee were several University graduates and former students. They are: E. E. Battles, 26ba, 39m.ed, superintendent of schools, Durant, and past president of O.E.A.; Paul Allen, 56ma, superintendent of schools, Paul Valley, president of the School Administrators Association; John Bender, professor of school administration, University of Oklahoma.

Elbert Costner, 29ba, 35ma, superintendent of schools, Poteau, representing southeastern districts; George D. Hann, 56m.ed, superintendent of schools, Ardmore, representing the State teachers organization of O.E.A.; and Harry D. Simmons, 24ba, superintendent of schools, Muskogee, past-president of O.E.A.

Navy Cross Awarded Caldwell

Lt. Comdr. Richard Wayland Caldwell, 29ba, Cincinnati, Ohio, has received the citation for the Navy Cross from former Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal acting for the president, the navy has announced.

Lt. Comdr. Caldwell, who has been released to inactive duty, earned his award serving as commanding officer of a large infantry landing craft during the assault on Sicily. Although his ship was beached and threatening to capsize in the face of
enemy mortar and machinegun fire, he maintained the fire of the ship's guns until ammunition was exhausted and the landing of Army troops was accomplished, the citation read. The navy man earlier received the Silver Star Medal for his bravery in the action, but the Navy asked him to return the Silver Star and accept the Navy Cross which ranks next to the Congressional Medal of Honor. Although the citation does not mention it, Mr. Caldwell saved the life of one of the army men aboard his ship during the engagement by performing a surgical operation.

This is the way he recalls the incident: "We were bringing Army troops in for a landing at the time and as the smoke from the enemy fire began, I had to send them below deck because they couldn't leave the ship in face of the heavy fire. We had to have the deck cleared for action. During the course of the battle Oklahoma Extension Division, which went on in to the troop compartment. Several Army personnel were killed by it. It was some time later that Secretary of the Navy Thurman J. White, assistant director of the University of Oklahoma Extension Division, was recently given leave of absence to continue work on a book probably will be published early in 1949. Dr. Rister to obtain information which will be used in a story of the southwest oil industry. The new grant will be used through next August and the book probably will be published early in 1949.

The University of Oklahoma will operate its own flying school this year under a plan aimed at reducing instruction costs to students. Flying started October 1. The University has placed six two-place training planes in operation, according to Joe Coulter, 40th, field manager, and Babb, who did not belong to the original grant of $15,000 has been used by Dr. Rister to obtain information which will be used in a story of the southwest oil industry. The new grant will be used through next August and the book probably will be published early in 1949.

Dr. Rister's view that the field was the nation's largest. Final tabulation showed one of the runway lengths, 5,255 feet, 25 feet longer than necessary to qualify the field for class V rating. The lengths were obtained from field blueprints mapped by the Navy Department.

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The building, a three-story brick structure which will harmonize with the architecture of Holmberg Hall, will house practice music room. Work is expected to begin in the fall and the proposed music building is expected to be financed by a self-liquidating bond issue of $175,000. Income from practice room fees will be used to retire the issue.

MacMinn Fills Ricks' Post

Paul V. MacMinn, director of student affairs, will act as counselor of men until a new appointment has been made to fill that position.

Victor Ricks, who was assistant and acting counselor of men, resigned September 4 to accept a position as dean of men and part-time teacher at Evanston, Illinois, Junior College and Township High School.

Dr. MacMinn, also associate professor of psychology, came to the University in October, 1936. From 1927 until his appointment as University director of student affairs, he was counselor of men at Northwestern University, Evanston. During a 4-year interim he held the rank of major in the Army and worked in personnel as a teacher and military psychologist.

He received a B.A. at Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, attended Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, and was graduated with an MA in psychology from Northwestern University.

Dr. Rister Continues Oil Study

On Standard Company's Grant

A supplementary grant of $15,000 for use in the preparation of a book on the development of the oil industry in the southwest has been received by the University.

President George L. Cross has announced that the Standard Oil company has provided for a continuation of the study begun a year ago by Dr. Rister, research historian. The original grant of $15,000 has been used by Dr. Rister to obtain information which will be used in a story of the southwest oil industry. The new grant will be used through next August and the book probably will be published early in 1949.

Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Rister have returned from Boulder, Colorado, where Dr. Rister taught history and gave a series of special lectures during the summer session at the University of Colorado.

School of Flying

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