A Change in the Alumni Lineup

Gunning and Brown are given new titles as the Foundation program comes of age

The rapid expansion of the private gifts development program of the University of Oklahoma Foundation, triggered by the 5-year $20 million "Plan for Excellence" campaign, has brought added responsibilities and a new title to R. Boyd Gunning, '35ba,'37Law, executive secretary of the University of Oklahoma Association since 1950. Gunning became executive director of University Foundation and Alumni Relations this month and was succeeded as alumni secretary by Guy H. Brown, '42ba,'49ma, former director of the Alumni Development Fund.

In his new position Gunning will be able to devote more time to University fund raising activities as well as oversee the programs involving the alumni, while Brown will be responsible for the direction of the Association itself. Gunning will maintain an Oklahoma City office for the Foundation at 501 First National Building in addition to the campus office in the Oklahoma Memorial Union.

Gunning held various assignments with the University extension division after receiving his law degree in 1937 and became director of extension activities in 1947. In 1948 he was named executive secretary of the University Foundation and kept that title two years later when he was chosen to succeed the late Ted Beaird as alumni secretary.

An active member of Phi Beta Kappa, Gunning also belongs to several civic and professional organizations and is a past district governor of Rotary International. He is a member of the Bishop and Council of the Episcopal Church.

Gunning and his wife (Eleonore Aderhold, '37ba) have four children. Two sons are studying at the University, Tommy, a senior in architecture, and Richard, a sophomore in arts and sciences. A daughter, Linda, is a ninth grade student at West Junior High, and a younger daughter, Mary Jean, is a fourth grader at McKinley School.

Brown became director of the Alumni Development Fund and assistant executive secretary of the University of Oklahoma Association in 1950 and spent the next five years organizing alumni clubs, conducting membership campaigns and organizing and conducting reunions and other special alumni functions. Since 1956, when he initiated the annual class campaign plan, he has devoted the major portion of his time to the Alumni Development Fund.

A total of 810 class agents, serving as volunteer workers, were enlisted in the ADF promotion that first year and the number of donors jumped from 1,558 to 3,316. The Fund has progressed steadily with 5,640 contributors counted during the 1961 calendar year; their donations totalled $268,438.12.

In addition to Brown's work with the ADF, he has served on several important University committees, including present membership on the University Scholarship Committee and the Band Committee.

Before joining the alumni association, Brown was a high school speech instructor at Bristol, Virginia, and Claremore (where he was also assistant football coach). He taught speech and English at Cameron College at Lawton and joined the University of Oklahoma speech department in 1947 as an instructor and state director of the Oklahoma High School Speech League.

Brown and his wife Betty are the parents of a son, Randy Guy, 12, and a daughter, Betsy Lou, 6. Brown was recently elected to the Norman Board of Education and has served as chairman of the Cleveland County Child Welfare Advisory Committee. He is also a Parent-Teacher Association officer and a Boy Scout troop committee chairman.

Gerald Keen, '47bus, who joined the University staff as field director of the University Foundation in October, will succeed Brown as ADF director. Previously Keen had been sales promotion manager for Tyler and Simpson Wholesale Grocers. Ted B. Neptune, '60ba, will remain as assistant executive secretary of the alumni association.

Veteran ADF Director Guy H. Brown (left) has become the new alumni executive secretary as R. Boyd Gunning (right) moves to the new post of director of Foundation and Alumni Relations.