The Distinguished Professorships:

NEW NAMES ON A HISTORIC ROSTER

he highest honor which the University of Oklahoma bestows on its faculty is appointment to the three categories of distinguished professorships, the George Lynn Cross Research, the David Ross Boyd and the Regents'. During the 1987-88 school year, Sooner Magazine focused on the active faculty members among the 170 who had received these designations from 1944 to 1987. Since that time, nine new names, featured here, have been inscribed on the honored list.

First awarded in 1944, the Cross title is reserved for faculty excelling in research activities. Similarly, since 1946, the Boyd professors have been recognized for their exceptional classroom teaching, while the Regents' honorees have made outstanding contributions to the University, the academic community or an academic or professional discipline. Each distinguished professorship carries a $6,000 award in the year of selection, but the designation is for life.

Joseph A. Bastian, an internationally recognized scientist, specializes in neuroethology and sensory neurophysiology research, which has won him many honors and awards during the OU career he began in 1974. The OU zoology professor has received several annual Associates Distinguished Lectureships, the Regents' Award for Outstanding Research, and nationally, the Jacob Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award from the National Institutes of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke.

A popular lecturer, Bastian has been invited to Australia and Japan, as well as to many U.S. universities including California/Berkeley, Notre Dame, Ohio Wesleyan, Texas and Cornell. He also is a well-published author whose research appears as abstracts, book chapters, reviews and in other professional publications. Bastian was awarded the George Lynn Cross Research Professorship in 1989.

Joseph A. Bastian, George Lynn Cross Research Professor of Zoology
Juneann W. Murphy earned her bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. at OU, where she has served as a faculty member in microbiology on the Norman campus and at the Health Sciences Center since 1969. She was named a George Lynn Cross Research Professor in 1988. She is credited with a major breakthrough in the study of Cryptococcus neoformans, the fourth-ranking infectious disease causing death in AIDS patients, and her work in medical mycology has been described as “landmark.”

Murphy, who served a Ph.D. fellowship at NASA, also has received several annual Associates Distinguished Lectureships. Her research findings are widely published, and she is a member of the editorial board of infection and immunity of the American Society for Microbiology Publications. Murphy has received more than $1.6 million in research funds.

Maurice L. Rasmussen, professor of aerospace and mechanical engineering, came to OU in 1967 and received the David Ross Boyd distinction in 1988. Since earning a Ph.D. from Stanford, his research specialties have been gasdynamics, kinetic theory, applied mathematics and combustion theory. He has received a wealth of superior teaching awards from the OU Regents, the Amoco Foundation and student groups, and was the first Halliburton Distinguished Lecturer in his college.

Rasmussen is associate editor of the journal of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and is extensively published himself including co-authorship of A Course in Advanced Engineering Analysis, one of the most widely used books in his field. He has had visiting professorships at the Air Force Armament Laboratory, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; and Cranfield Institute of Technology at Cranfield, Bedford, England.
Robert D. Foreman, professor and head of the department of physiology and biophysics at the Health Sciences Center, is a 1989 recipient of a George Lynn Cross Research Professorship. The appointment honors Foreman’s work in the area of neural control of circulation and cardiac pain. He previously received the Provost Research Award for Excellence in Original Research and was a recipient of an Associates’ Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.

An OU faculty member since 1977, Foreman has supervised many students conducting postgraduate research and is himself a widely published researcher and a popular lecturer. He is an active member of the American Heart Association, American Physiological Society, Society for Neuroscience and International Association for the Study of Pain and holds an adjunct professorship in the OU College of Dentistry.

Jack M. Welsh, a 1989 David Ross Boyd Professor of medicine and chief of the digestive diseases and nutrition section at HSC, boasts the longest tenure among recent distinguished professorship honorees. Taking time out for a visiting professorship at Rutgers Medical School and repeated assignments with the postgraduate internal medicine program at the American Medical Association’s Saigon Medical School, he originally joined the HSC staff in 1959. Welsh also is a staff member and chief of gastroenterology at Veterans Administration Medical Center and an attending physician at Children’s Memorial, Oklahoma Memorial and Presbyterian hospitals. He serves in editorial capacities for many professional publications and has been honored with the William Beaumont Award for Clinical Research, the Development Award from the National Institutes of Health and the prestigious Aesclapian Award from OU’s College of Medicine.

Fred Miller joined the OU College of Law in 1966 and specializes in commercial and consumer credit law, for which he is an advisor to the state attorney general’s office and a past consultant to the department of consumer affairs. He has been a consultant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve system and a past member of the Consumer Advisory Council. Author of numerous articles and books, Miller is a regular panel member and speaker before bar associations and industry group meetings. In 1984 he was named to the prestigious American Law Institute.

Miller joined the ranks of the George Lynn Cross Research Professors in 1989, highlighting University service that has included an associate deanship; membership on the Faculty Senate; and search, budget, curriculum, scholarship and award committees. He is of counsel to McCaffrey and Heselton, Edmond.
Andy Magid is only the third mathematician to be named to a George Lynn Cross Research Professorship in its 46-year history. A 1989 selection, Magid is the current chair of the Norman campus Faculty Senate whose distinguished career at OU began in 1972. In 1977, at age 33, he became one of the University's youngest full professors. Firmly established on the international mathematical scene, he is also an officer of the American Mathematical Society and a member of the Mathematical Association of America.

A past visiting professor of mathematics at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel, and the universities of Illinois, Virginia and California/Berkeley, Magid also has been associated with the Communications Research Division of the Institute for Defense Analyses. His academic interest is directed primarily toward abstract algebra, and he is the author of three books, many papers and is co-editor of two volumes of conference proceedings.

Andy Magid, George Lynn Cross Research Professor of Mathematics

Daniel A. Wren, David Ross Boyd Professor of Management

Daniel A. Wren, David Ross Boyd Professor of management, is also curator of the University of Oklahoma's renowned Harry W. Bass Business History Collection, a position he has held since his OU tenure began in 1973. Under his direction, the collection has grown from 12,000 to 22,000 volumes, becoming the second highest ranking business and economic history resource in the United States. The most recent DRB appointment on the Norman campus, Wren, who consistently ranks in the top percentile on student evaluations, has been named the college's outstanding professor by student government and received a Merrick Foundation Teaching Award.

A fellow of the Academy of Management, the most prestigious honor in his discipline, he also chairs the organization's management history division. Wren served two years as director of the OU division of management. He is the author of The Evolution of Management Thought, a classic in its field, and Principles of Management, and has directed more than 50 doctoral dissertations.

Daniel A. Wren, David Ross Boyd Professor of Management

Patrick A. McKee, George Lynn Cross Research Professor of Medicine

Patrick A. McKee has been professor and chairman of the department of medicine at the Health Sciences Center since joining the faculty in 1985. Named a George Lynn Cross Research Professor in 1989, he also is a recipient of the 1989 Physician of the Year-Academic Medicine Award from the OU College of Medicine Alumni Association.

During his tenure at OU, sponsored medical research has more than doubled. He personally has recruited more than a dozen physicians/scientists to OU and secured full funding for an extensive medical student research scholarship program. He established the first link between OU and a hospital in Frederick, Oklahoma, to enhance training and clinical activities and provide special care to rural residents. McKee, who received his medical degree from OU and spent 16 years on the Duke University faculty, is best known for his research on the biochemistry of blood coagulation. His bibliography includes more than 100 publications, many in his main area of study, thrombosis research.