The University of Oklahoma created the George Lynn Cross Research Professorships in 1943 to honor — and hopefully to retain — faculty members whose outstanding research records made them institutional treasures. The following year similar recognition was accorded the superior teacher with approval of the David Ross Boyd Professorships. Having focused on these outstanding researchers and teachers in the past two issues, Sooner Magazine now pays tribute to the third category of faculty distinction, extraordinary achievement in academic administration or professional service.

The Regents' Professorships, established in 1946, recognize outstanding contributions to the University, the academic community or an academic or professional discipline. The first appointment went to the versatile Dr. Roy Gittinger, who spent nearly half a century as OU student, instructor and registrar, then dean of undergraduates, the graduate school, administration and finally admissions.

Selection as a Regents' Professor carries a one-time $5,000 cash award; the term is continuous until retirement. Few such designations are made and only after long service. Of the 10 featured on the following pages from the 1987-88 faculty roster, six took retirement at the end of the fall semester.

Administration and professional service often carry lofty titles, but academicians who choose this route also become the enablers, sacrificing their own teaching and research for the advancement of their colleagues, students and the institution itself.

Paul F. Sharp served with distinction as OU's ninth president from 1971 to 1978 when he became a Regents' Professor of history and higher education. Although retired from the faculty in December, he remains active in his role as one of the nation's most respected authorities on higher education.

Internationally he has had educational assignments with the universities of West Germany, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Sydney, Melbourne and Australian National University. He has held lectureships and visiting professorships at universities throughout the United States since the 1950s and has participated in OU's international studies programs in Saudi Arabia, Japan, Ireland, England, Mexico, Peru, Panama and West Germany.

A past Fulbright lecturer, Sharp has served in numerous capacities with the American Council on Education and the Association of American Colleges and other professional groups and was a board member and later chairman of the Educational Testing Service.

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William R. Upthegrove is a professor of aerospace, mechanical and nuclear engineering whose research interests lie in physical and powder metallurgy, design application of materials, materials selection and fabrication, and design and failure analysis. Originally an OU faculty member from 1956 to 1962, he returned in 1970 to assume the deanship of the College of Engineering for 11 years.

He has consulted for Conoco, Royal Dutch Shell, IBM, U.S. Industries, PPG Industries and King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and also has received numerous research grants. He was a board member of Frontiers of Science Foundation of Oklahoma (Oklahoma's Future), SCORE (Student Competition on Relevant Engineering Inc.) and of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. Locally, he is president of the board of directors of United Cerebral Palsy of Cleveland County Inc. and Working for Independent Living Inc.

William E. Brown Jr. retired from OU's College of Dentistry in December as that college's first and only dean. Having served as acting provost of the Health Sciences Center in 1973-75, he played a key role in the design of the Dental Clinical Sciences Building completed in 1976. Brown was president of the American Association of Dental Schools, the American College of Dentists and the American Society of Dentistry for Children and was chairman of the Council of Dental Education for the American Dental Association.

A two-time recipient of the Gies Editorial Award, Brown was project director of a national dental curriculum study of the American Dental Association and served, most often as chair, on dental school accreditation teams for 20 years. He was a member of the Dental Education Review Committee, National Institutes of Health, and the Dental Health Research and Education Advisory Committee, U.S. Public Health Service.

Chesterfield Garvin Gunn joined OU's Health Sciences Center faculty in 1956 as assistant professor of medicine, physiology and preventive medicine and also served in psychiatry, neurology and behavioral sciences. Later associate professor, then professor of medicine and physiology and professor of biological psychology, he directed faculty education in the College of Medicine for 10 years. Recipient of the Regents' Award for Superior Teaching, he was a member of OU's Tulsa Medical College faculty from 1985 until retirement this year.

A fellow in the American College of Physicians, Gunn currently is a consultant for the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Muskogee, where he previously served as physician and director of the geriatrics evaluation unit. He has been a consultant to NASA's manned orbiting laboratory program, advisor to the chairman of the Oklahoma State Medical Research Commission and scholar-in-residence and advisor on medical education at Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communication at the National Library of Medicine.
Donald T. Counihan, communication disorders

Donald T. Counihan’s tenure at OU began in 1957 as assistant professor in the speech department on the Norman campus. He transferred to the HSC in 1960 and directed the John W. Keys Speech and Hearing Center for 14 years. He twice chaired the HSC Faculty Senate and won that group’s Faculty Governance Award. He served eight years in three different appointments on the faculty advisory committee to the president.

Counihan, who retired in December, won the Regents’ Award for Superior Professional and University Service and was honored by the Oklahoma Speech-Language-Hearing Association. He chaired the professional standards council of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, of which he was vice president for administration.

Mark A. Everett, dermatology

Mark Allen Everett is an alumnus of the OU College of Medicine who joined the faculty in 1957. Head of the department of dermatology since 1964, he is also chief of dermatology for Oklahoma Memorial and Oklahoma Children’s Memorial hospitals. He also holds adjunct professorships in anatomy and pathology and was interim head and pathologist-in-chief at University and Children’s hospitals.

Everett, who is associate editor, PDQ Extramural Board of the National Cancer Institute, served on the College of Medicine admissions board, the HSC governance development committee and is a director of the American Board of Dermatology. He has consulted for the U.S. Air Force, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Central State Hospital and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, among others. The author of an extensive bibliography, Everett holds offices on civic, cultural, University and community boards and is president of the Mark Allen Everett Foundation.

James R. Burwell, physics

James R. Burwell’s teaching and research record in physics is admirable, yet much of his nearly 30 years at OU has been devoted to academic administration. He has been chair of the department of physics and in the College of Arts and Sciences was assistant, associate, acting, interim and finally dean, a position he held until 1984. He retired from the faculty at the end of the fall semester.

Burwell served in the Faculty Senate and on the Continuing Education and Public Service Council, the Energy Resources Center Advisory Committee and various committees of the College of Arts and Sciences. Prior to his retirement in December, his classroom course load ranged from introductory physics to direction of Ph.D. dissertations. He also served as a consultant for AVCO Corporation and the FAA Civil Aeromedical Research Institute.

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John R. Morris, Regents' Professor of psychology and education, began his OU tenure as a graduate assistant in 1954. Since then, his duties have included assistant dean and dean of University College, vice president for the University community, senior vice president, interim provost and provost and interim president. He assisted in developing and directing the highly successful University Scholars Program.

Morris has consulted for the Peace Corps training programs, drug education for the U.S. Army in West Germany and joined a group of 80 U.S. educators who studied socialist education in Hungary, Romania, Poland and the Soviet Union. As president of the Oklahoma State Psychological Association, he led the campaign that resulted in the state's Psychologist Licensing Act. Morris developed the selection procedures for and coached OU's General Electric College Bowl team that was undefeated in five national television appearances.

Jack F. Parker had held public school positions ranging from science teacher to principal to superintendent of the Oklahoma City Public Schools system before coming to OU in 1966 as professor of education. He was interim dean of the College of Education from 1983 to 1985 and retired from the faculty on December 31, 1987.

Parker developed the current school finance formula used for the distribution of Oklahoma public school appropriations and acted as a personnel consultant on state and local levels, particularly in screening superintendent candidates. He is a past member and chairman of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority, a member of the OU Faculty Senate and Council on Planning and Development and was OU's representative to the Oklahoma Commission on Education Administration.

William R. Carmack joined OU's communication faculty in 1958 and later was named departmental chairman and then vice provost for communication and information. He has been a consultant to the Presidential Commission on Indian Reservation Economies and was the first director of OU's Southwest Center for Human Relations Studies at the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Public Service.

Carmack was executive director of the National Council on Indian Opportunity, a position reporting directly to the vice president of the United States; he concurrently served as assistant commissioner of community services for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He has been a member of the Norman campus Faculty Senate and has consulted for the FAA, the city of Oklahoma City, Oklahomans for Indian Opportunity, the State of Texas Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Civil Service Commission and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.