Faculty Tribute Day

The first gathering of the four-man faculty of the University of Oklahoma opened with the cutting of a watermelon. The next order of business was the arranging of a class schedule. As no achievements had yet been recorded, no awards for meritorious service were presented.

One hundred years and unnumbered professorial meetings later, the OU faculty assembled for the Centennial edition of the annual Faculty Tribute Day for the Norman campus. Once again the gathering opened with food, no watermelon but a catered luncheon fit for the successors of David Ross Boyd. This time the accomplishments of the teaching and research staff were legion, and the recognitions were well documented, well deserved and well received.

Among the Norman campus awards presented were a David Ross Boyd Professorship to Jack Bickham, journalism; a George Lynn Cross Research Professorship to R. Paul Philp, geology/geophysics; and the Fred Jones Foundation Master Teaching Award to Arthur Johnson, chemistry/biochemistry. Regents’ Awards for Superior Teaching went to Barbara Hillyer, human relations and women’s studies; Kenneth Nicholas, chemistry/biochemistry; and Md. Musharraf-Uz Azman, civil engineering/environmental science; the Regents’ Awards for Superior Research and Creative Activity to John Cowan, physics/astronomy, and Joseph M. Sulflita, botany/microbiology; and the Regents’ Award for Superior Professional and University Service to Michael Mares, Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

Burlington Northern Foundation Faculty Achievement Awards were presented to Karl H. Bergey, aerospace/mechanical engineering; Richard Henry, physics/astronomy; and William Weitzel, management. Amoco Foundation Good Teaching Award recipients were Dennis Garrett, marketing; Allen Hertzke, political science; Wayne Rowe, educational psychology; and Stewart Ryan, physics/astronomy. The Merrick Foundation Teaching Award in American Free Enterprise winner was William Clark, economics. Receiving Baldwin Study/Travel Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching were Rena Cook, drama; Mark S. Cracolice, chemistry/biochemistry; Shirley A. Ramsey, journalism; and David Walters, architecture.

Centennial faculty awards announced at the Health Sciences Center included David Ross Boyd Professorships to Barbara Curcio, radiologic technology; Richard M. Hyde, microbiology/immunology; and Glenda J. Ochsner, communication disorders. George Lynn Cross Professorships went to Elisa T. Lee, biostatistics/epidemiology, and Morris Reichlin, microbiology/immunology.

HSC recipients of Regents’ Awards were Evelyn McKennon, nursing, and Teresa M. Stacy, radiological sciences, for superior teaching, and Nabih R. Asal, epidemiology, for professional and University service. Allison Anne Welder, pharmacology/toxicology, received the Provost’s Research Award. The Stanton L. Young Master Teacher Award winner was M. Alex Jacocks, surgery.

Alumni Lecturers

The Centennial offered the perfect time for invitations to distinguished alumni to return to the campus for lectures in their major colleges. In March the College of Engineering secured the services of General James Abrahamson, pictured above, former director of the Star Wars project and now an official of the Hughes Aircraft Corporation, who addressed an audience of more than 200 on the advances in technology. Abrahamson, OU aerospace engineering 1961, received the college’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in the fall of 1989.

The College of Business Administration welcomed alumnus Carlos Castillo, president of Maraven, S.A., and affiliate of Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A., who spoke to honors students in economics. Castillo, accompanied by fellow alumnus Benito Luongo, also with Maraven, S.A., attended the Centennial Homecoming events on November 9-10 and presented a commemorative Centennial sculpture to the University on behalf of the many Venezuelan alumni of OU.