The Centennial Countdown began November 4, 1989, with a light-hearted Preview Event—a "Blast-Off Bash" built around a revitalized Homecoming weekend—designed to whet appetites for the coming 100th Birthday Celebration of the University of Oklahoma. The morning featured campuswide open houses and historical walking tours of the campus, then a South Oval "Lunch on the Lawn" barbecue and the OU/Missouri football game. From 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., the sounds of "Sooner Shindig" reverberated throughout Oklahoma Memorial Union—food and fun with dance bands, magicians and traveling entertainers.

It's only the beginning. After opening on this carefree note, the Centennial observance will feature a year-long succession of academic, cultural and historical events with time set aside for reuniting with friends, classmates and professional colleagues.

Almost everything that occurs at the University from December 19, 1989, to the official 100th birthday on December 19, 1990, will have a Centennial theme. Traditional events, whether for students, faculty and staff or alumni and friends, are being expanded and enhanced. In recognition of this milestone in the life of the institution, various University departments will play host to annual regional and national conferences of their professional organizations. Academically significant symposia and seminars have been scheduled, some of a highly technical nature, others of more general interest with sessions open to the public.

Articles and photographs of all the special moments of the Centennial year, from the Preview Countdown to the Closing Event, will be featured in a commemorative issue of Sooner Magazine, to be published at the close of the celebration.

Some dates of note for alumni and friends of the institution are listed below, with special attention directed to the "Alumni Reunions by Decade" on football Saturdays throughout the 1990 season. Further information can be obtained through the sponsoring departments or from the Centennial Office, #327 Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Avenue, Norman, OK 73019-0401, (405)325-1701.

DECEMBER
19 Newcomen Society Dinner, keynote address by OU President Richard L. Van Horn, Oklahoma Memorial Union Ballroom.

JANUARY
23 College of Medicine Research Dinner, recognizing the state's outstanding physicians and business leaders.

FEBRUARY

MARCH
1-3 Conference on Design Pluralism, sponsored by the College of Architecture.
21-25 National Conference of Law Reviews Chief Editors, keynote addresses by Browning Pipetem and Eleanor Holmes-Norton, Sheraton Century Hotel, Oklahoma City.
23 Reunion: former presidents of the OU Alumni Association and former members of the Oklahoma Memorial Union Board of Trustees.
27-28 Foreign Policy Seminar, participation by former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral William J. Crowe Jr. and ambassadors Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Edwin C. Corr, George McGehee, John Burns and Everett Drumright. Norman location to be announced.
28-30 Student Leadership Symposium, "Challenges and Values in Leadership in the 21st Century," bringing together selected students from OU and other state colleges with national leaders in government, the arts and humanities; public keynote addresses by Admiral William J. Crowe and President Vartan Gregorian of Brown University.

APRIL
1 Garrard Ardeneum Opening in McAlester, 2 p.m., celebrating World Literature Today, original Louis Ballard commemorative music performed by the OU Choir and musicians.
5-6 Neustadt International Prize for Literature Jury Meeting (closed to public) with press conference to announce the winner.
7-8 Medieval Fair, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Brandt Park and Duck Pond.
19-21 Symposium on the American Indian, "Being Indian in the 21st Century: Prospects and Speculations for the Next 100 Years," sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oklahoma Memorial Union.

MAY
11 Distinguished Service Citation Recipients Reunion and OU Associates Banquet.

JUNE
8-13 Centennial Seminar for Alumni of the College of Liberal Studies, evening speakers and events open to the public, OCCE.

JULY
15-21 "Close Up on Energy and the Environment," the inauguration of a national educational development program for high school students and teachers, sponsored by the Close Up Foundation and the OU Energy Center, a second week to follow in Washington, D.C.

AUGUST
Oklahoma Centennial Issue of World Literature Today, Summer 1990, commemorating "Literature In, From and About Oklahoma."
SEPTEMBER
6-8  History of Science Symposium.
14  OU Naval ROTC 50th Anniversary Reunion and Banquet for midshipmen, faculty, and friends.
15  Decade Reunion for OU Graduates of the 1960s. Naval Science Department Open House, OU Armory, 11:30 a.m.
22  Decade Reunion for OU Graduates of the 1970s.
29  Decade Reunion for OU Graduates of the 1980s.

OCTOBER
1-Dec. 31  Exhibit: Publishing Milestones of the University of Oklahoma Press, Western History Collections, Monnet Hall, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.
1-3  Student Leadership Symposium, continuation of March 29-30 program, bringing together selected OU and other state college students with national leaders in business, technology and education; keynote speeches are public.
4-5  National Research Conference for Academic Accountants, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education.
5-7  College of Liberal Studies 30th Anniversary/ Centennial Celebration, featuring mini-seminars, luncheon and evening banquet, OCCE.
11-13  Colloquium on 19th Century French Studies, sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Linguistics.
14-19  Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Program National Meeting, hosted by OU College of Liberal Studies.
18  Academic Convocation, featuring OU faculty, former and current students, delegates from other universities and learned societies; a historical look at OU's past and mission for the future; nationally prominent keynote speaker.
19  Public Affairs Pre-Symposium Dinner.
19-20  Centennial All-University Open Houses.
20  Decade Reunion for OU Graduates of the 1950s and prior to 1950.
23  Nationwide University of Oklahoma Birthday Celebration.
25  OU College of Medicine/Tulsa: luncheon with featured speaker Dr. Samuel Their, president of Medicine National Academy of Sciences, noon to 1:30 p.m.; scientific program on the advances in cardiology with six nationally recognized speakers and a panel discussion, 2 to 5 p.m., College of Medicine/Tulsa Auditorium; Alumni Homecoming Banquet, 5 to 10 p.m., Doubletree Hotel at Warren Place.
26  Health Sciences Center Campuswide Symposium, Oklahoma City.
27  HSC Colleges Alumni Activities and Campuswide Dinner.
31-Nov. 3  Physics/Astronomy Super-Symposium, eight public lectures on "super" topics—superconductors, supercolliders, supernovae and superstrings—by distinguished scientists, and a technical conference on high-energy physics at Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education.

NOVEMBER
27-29  "Directions in Geosciences in the 21st Century," featuring world-renowned geoscientists, 8 a.m., Conference Room B, Forum Building, OCCE.
31-Dec. 3  English Conference on Discourse and Theory.

DECEMBER
3  Holiday Tree Lighting.
19  100th Anniversary Centennial Closing Event with tentative plans for burial of time capsule.

LETTERS

The Spring '89 issue of Sooner Magazine has brought me more pleasure than any issue in recent (the last 20 years) memory. With the exception of the in memorium articles — Dr. Wurtzbaugh, David Burr and a few select others—and searching for news of former classmates, I was finding little of interest. This issue is information-packed. How I wish Dr. Wurtzbaugh, David Burr and Dr. Gibson could have read the fine articles written about them. So thank you for the article on the Pharmacy School—and for an alum who is alive and working happily, Bob Flexner. OU does produce other than football after all!!

Some of my great memories of class asides were those of "Fess" Campbell's (Stanley Vestal/Walter Campbell). He sometimes entertained us with his escapades and pleasures at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar—I believe from Southwestern in Weatherford, Oklahoma. My mother and father were students at OU when he returned and started teaching. It was my pleasure to have had several teacher/friends who had been instructors-professors/friends of my parents, but Fess Campbell and Kenneth Kauffman were extra-special.

Mrs. Paul T. Powell
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Editor's Note: Mrs. Powell, who as Lucille Elaine Hinshaw earned a '38 B.F.A. and a '39 M.F.A. in drama, is a member of a distinguished Sooner family. Both her father, Dr. J. R. Hinshaw, '19 B.S., '21 M.D., and mother, Lucille Whitenack Hinshaw, '20 B.A., '21 M.A., now deceased, were very active OU alumni. Her late husband, a physician, held three degrees from OU, and her brother, J. Raymond Hinshaw, '43 B.A., '46 M.D., now of Scottsville, New York, won the coveted Rhodes Scholarship in 1947. The Powells' son Paul H., '67 B.S., a former University Scholar and an Alumni Scholar sponsor, is with Phillips Petroleum in Bartlesville.