LETTERS

Brothers in Arms

I cannot tell you what a thrill and surprise it was to open the recent Sooner Magazine [Fall 2003] and see the wonderful article about the Enid Phi Dels that were killed in World War II. Losing our brother, Bob Bass, was the tragedy of our lives for my sister, Jerry Bass Jennings, and me. This fine article means more to us than we can express. I am sure it is as dear to the families of the other boys in the article. I knew them all, and they certainly deserve this grand tribute! Thank you so very much.

You mentioned the Robert Dean Bass Scholarship that has been in existence since 1948. It is a loving, worthwhile memorial that recognizes so many deserving young people. While it is not based on academics or need, rather, good citizenship, the résumés of the recipients are so outstanding! We are so pleased to receive letters of appreciation, each year, from every student that receives the scholarship, outlining their education endeavors and future plans. Jerry and I attend the Scholarship Awards luncheon, and are happy to meet these fine young people.

I am enclosing a copy of the letter my uncle Harry Bass, of Dallas, wrote my parents concerning the establishment of the Robert Dean Bass Scholarship. Harry Bass also established the Bass Business Library at the University of Oklahoma. My father would be very pleased that our mother chose the Western History Collections, at Monnet Hall, to receive our father’s Lincoln and Civil War library. It makes us very proud.

Barbara Bass Berry
Sapulpa, Oklahoma

Tribute to the Phi Delt Five

Only a very few—and certainly no Pi Phi or Kappa or Alpha Gam or any other reasonable discerning co-ed—would ever confuse me with the handsome Jack Holland, one of the Enid Phi Delt Five whom you memorialized in your Fall 2003 issue of Sooner Magazine. Jack, a member when I was a pledge, often and generously, although I’m sure against his mature and better judgment, loaned me his student photo ID, which I often needed. As the deception seemed to work, the resemblance must have been superficially passable, although just barely. My friend was outstanding, like his brother, Gordon, who bears the responsibility for my pledging, although he would now likely deny any responsibility.

Bob Bass was a good and wiser friend and a better man in most ways than those of us in whom he tried to instill his firm conviction that the good of society and his fraternity ideals were as one. Those other good men remembered by author Bill Hudson were older . . . but certainly we knew of “Philo” Vance and Alan Neal and Wayne Turk and their patriotism. Those to whom their story is new will read and be grateful for their sacrifice and that of many other fine Americans. Those who knew them will thank you and remember.

Charles W. Ward, ’50 b arch
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Editor’s Note: The article’s author, Bill Hudson, says of Charles Ward, a decorated WWII veteran and highly respected military history buff, “Now there was a real hero.” Architect Ward’s drawings of OU buildings often appear in Sooner Magazine and were featured in the 2002 OU Calendar.

Medal of Honor Correction

Just received the Fall 2003 issue of the magazine. Because of my lifelong hobby of military history, I especially enjoyed the “Brothers in Arms” article. In fact, I give luncheon talks on WWII at Rotary meetings and such.

For your information, there is no such thing as a “Congressional Medal of Honor.” The top military award in the United States is the “Medal of Honor.”

The confusion perhaps comes from the fact that the Congress created an association they named the “Congressional Medal of Honor Society,” to which all “Medal of Honor” winners belong.

Therefore, to say someone was awarded the “Congressional Medal of Honor” is an error. You usually see their name written with a MOH after it much like PhD, etc.

Jerry L. Cornelius, ’60 ba jour
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Nominee for the Niches

I just read the OU article about the new “Busts” to be displayed around the campus [“A Niche of Their Own,” Spring 2002] and was dismayed to see—or rather not see—my father-in-law, the late J. Teague Self, PhD, not included in a group that, if scientific achievement were to be considered, he would have risen to the top.

Dr. Self was a professor of zoology who published over 130 original research articles and was the author of numerous chapters in zoology and parasitology texts. His graduate students have excelled in their fields.

I have included a recent publication by Dr. John Janovy, professor of zoology, School of Biological Sciences, at the University of Nebraska and director of the Cedar Point Biological Station in Nebraska. This will further explain the unusual ability to take students and make them scientists of unusual notoriety.

His graduate students number 34 that I have identified, and many have become academic deans, chairmen of departments and directors of laboratories, and at least one has become president of a university.

He was associated with OU from 1932 until his retirement at age 70, having held appointments of instructor, assistant professor, associate professor and professor.

He served on the summer staff at Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory and was director for a term. He was chairman of the Department of Zoology at the University of Oklahoma from 1945 to 1956. During the summers from 1950 through 1966, he was professor of parasitology and helminthology at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station. In 1967 he was honored by OU as Regents Professor.

Many more appointments and academic programs were served (see Proceedings of the Oklahoma Academy of

He served as president of the Oklahoma Academy of Science and was permanent secretary (1957-1970), president of the Southwestern Association of Parasitologists, chairman of education of the American Society of Parasitologists, and most prestigiously selected as president-elect and president of the American Microscopical Society.

He not only published many scientific articles, but he also was cooperating editor for the Journal of Parasitology.

He has a collection of helminth parasites and other parasites at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

I'm sure there are deserving academicians, but I doubt none more deserving than Dr. J. Teague Seff.

If you would make this available to those making these decisions, I would be grateful and certain that it was an overlook.

Norman and OU will forever be our home in spirit even though we live in the land of longhorns.

James D. (Don) Brathear, ’65 m ed
Austin, Texas

Stadium Memories

What a wonderful article that was in your Fall 2003 issue about OU and the Gaylord Family [Oklahoma] Memorial Stadium. My wife and I were privileged to work for the Gaylords at the Oklahoma & Times after World War II ended.

President Boren has done a truly fantastic job in seeing that OU has become one of the nation’s outstanding institutions of higher learning. Athletics Director Joe Castiglione has made major contributions to OU’s athletic programs.

Renovations to the stadium brought back many pleasant memories. It was probably 1941 when “Indian Jack” Jacobs ran, passed and kicked our team to a victory over the Santa Clara Broncos. Only 5,000 of us brave fans watched the game during a fierce blizzard. I also remember that fall Poncan Roland “Waddy” Young was an All-American end. Sadly, his bomber crew failed to return from a mission over Japan during World War II.

Incidentally, I graduated from OU at age 19. Although it was considered an achievement then, it wouldn’t mean anything today.

George G. Anthony, ’43 ba journ
Boulder City, Nevada

Mary Scofield’s Mural

From time to time over the last 40 years, I have dreamed of returning to the Will Rogers Room of Memorial Union and discovering the Scofield mural intact [“Postscript,” Fall 2003]. Only to wake up wondering if it still was. And now I know!

Bill Weppner, ’64 m elec engr
Memphis, Tennessee

Business Grads Networking

Dallas-Fort Worth area graduates and friends of the University of Oklahoma and the Michael F. Price College of Business have formed the OU Business Network-DFW to connect area alumni and friends with one another and with the present, past and future of Price College. The organization’s 20-member board of directors is enlisting interested OU graduates from among those who now live and work in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The organization will host three to four events each year to promote networking for business leads, employment leads and support for building business in the area. Through the OU Business Network Distinguished Leadership Series, Network members will receive periodic briefings from successful, high-profile OU graduates with insight into building a successful career in the Dallas-Fort Worth business community. Elaine Agather, chief executive officer of JPMorgan Chase-Dallas Region, is a survivor of eight organizational mergers and a 1977 OU alumna, was the featured speaker at the organization’s inaugural event on April 1, 2004, at the Nasher Sculpture Center in the Downtown Dallas Arts District. She addressed the crowd on “The Leadership Challenge: How Do You Pass the Test?”

The Network’s Second Annual Golf Tournament is set for Friday, October 8, prior to the annual OU-UT game.

DFW area OU graduates and friends who are interested in the OU Business Network-DFW may visit the OUBN website, http://price.ou.edu/OU biznet/index.asp, or contact membership chair Stacy Schroeder, Class of 1994, at Stacy.Schroeder@brinker.com for more information.

L. Gerald “Jerry” Bryant, ’64 bba
Chairman, Board of Directors
OU Business Network-DFW
Dallas, Texas

Penn Square Date Too Early


Phillip L. Zweig
Editor’s Note: Zweig is an award-winning, New York-based business and financial writer and author of Belly Up: The Collapse of the Penn Square Bank.

Football Artifacts Sought

The museum portion of OU’s Barry Switzer Center currently is undergoing a sweeping $1 million renovation. Included in the upgrading of the exhibit areas will be new artifacts and other items, photographs and technology that recently have become available.

Donations of additional artifacts are being sought from the public, primarily from the 1895-1946 era, the Bud Wilkinson era, the 1971 OU-Nebraska game, fan support from the 1960s and early 1970s, the Barry Switzer era, anything relating to the Wishbone Offense and the Bob Stoops era. Items specific to the national championship seasons of 1950, 1955, 1956, 1974, 1975, 1985 and 2000 are of special interest.

Before making a submission, prospective donors should call the Office of Athletics Media Relations at 405/325-8231. Anything accepted by the Athletics Department becomes the property of OU and will not be returned.

Kenny Mossman
Assistant Athletics Director
University of Oklahoma