THE DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIPS:

HALLMARK OF EXCELLENCE

by Margaret French

In academia, recognition for faculty members comes from many sources: published research, grants and study awards, student evaluations and promotions. But at the University of Oklahoma, no honor is more treasured than appointment to the George Lynn Cross Research Professorships, the David Ross Boyd Professorships and the Regents’ Professorships.

Established in 1943 to retain outstanding faculty being tempted by offers from other universities, the Research Professorships were renamed for President Cross upon his retirement in 1968. Seventy-eight George Lynn Cross Research appointments have been made; 31 of the recipients continue as active OU faculty members.

The David Ross Boyd Professors, named for OU’s first president, are the very embodiment of the word teaching. Since 1945, 84 faculty members have received the designation; 21 still are teaching.

The third group, chosen to symbolize the final aim of the University’s triple-pronged mission of research, teaching and public service, are the Regents’ Professors, recognized for their outstanding contributions to the University, academic community or an academic or professional discipline. Of the 39 named since the 1946 inception of the Regents’ Professorships, nine remain on campus.

All the distinguished professorships provide a one-time $6,000 cash award; however, the appointment is for life.

Sooner Magazine last updated the list of distinguished professors in 1989. Since then, 18 new appointments have been made in the three categories. Those honorees appear on the following pages.

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Barbara M. Curcio has worked for more than 30 years in the field of radiography and as an educator in allied health. She joined the OUHSC faculty in 1969 and is now vice-chair of the department of radiologic technology and director of the radiography program. She played a key role in the development of the educational curricula and educational and professional strategies of the department's three baccalaureate degree-granting disciplines: radiography, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy.

Named a David Ross Boyd Professor in 1990, Curcio has served as a senator and chairperson of the HSC Faculty Senate. She has received the Regents' Award for Superior Accomplishment in Professional and University Service and the Regents' Award for Superior Teaching and twice has been awarded an Associates' Distinguished Lectureship. Currently she is a member of OU's Task Force for Undergraduate Advising. Curcio is a past president of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists and the board of trustees of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

Richard M. Hyde became a member of the OUHSC faculty in 1965 and was named a David Ross Boyd Professor of microbiology and immunology in 1990. His current funded research addresses the source of cryptococci in ARC and AIDS patients and the effect of normal intestinal bacteria on innate and acquired immunity. He also has focused recent study on curriculum design, student evaluation techniques and development of clinical simulations in infectious diseases.

An active participant in campus activities, Hyde has served on committees at departmental, college, campus, University, state and national levels. He currently is the vice chairman of the department of microbiology and received the Regents' Award for Superior Teaching. Hyde is a well-published researcher in medical literature who has authored or co-authored numerous articles and texts. He has presented papers at professional meetings nationally and internationally and currently is in consultation with the Institute for Microecology in Herborn, Germany, and the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Glenda J. Ochsner began her career at OUHSC with a four-year stint as a speech pathologist in 1963, returning in 1969 to the department of communication disorders, where she now chairs. She also is the director of the John W. Keys Speech and Hearing Center. Named a David Ross Boyd Professor in 1990, she has received both the Regents' and the College of Allied Health's Award for Superior Teaching and was recognized with the Associates' Distinguished Lectureship. She has served on the HSC Faculty Senate, several search committees and is the founder of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation.

Ochsner has procured several grants and externally funded contracts, the most recent of which calls for the development of a model preschool for the language impaired. Other projects—each funded at more than $1 million—are creating training programs for communication disorders and doctoral-level leadership personnel. She has directed 14 theses and dissertations and currently serves as faculty advisor for all master's and 15 doctoral students. She has presented many invited papers, tutorials and seminars at nationwide conferences and continuing education events.
Nabih R. Asal, chair of the department of biostatistics and epidemiology, specializes in epidemiology, early detection and control of chronic diseases, particularly cancer and renal disease. He joined the OUHSC faculty in 1968 and was named a David Ross Boyd Professor in 1991. Asal previously was presented the Regents' Award and the Distinguished Teacher Award by the student body of the College of Public Health in recognition of teaching, leadership and service. He has developed and taught graduate level courses in epidemiology for majors and non-majors.

Asal is principal or co-investigator on numerous current and pending funded research projects and has advised more than 45 graduate students to their degrees. He has served on nearly every committee at the HSC and state and national professional associations and presented research findings internationally. He has taught at the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine in Beijing, China, and currently is a consultant to the National Cancer Institute and the Nazareth Hospital in Israel.

E. I. Lancaster, a 1991 David Ross Boyd Professor of music, has designed degree programs with emphasis in piano pedagogy for students at the bachelor, master and doctoral levels, for which he has developed 10 new courses. He also coordinated the establishment and ongoing development of the Ruby Grant Piano Pedagogy Resource Center, the only one of its kind in the country housing computer, video and other teaching materials for piano teachers and pedagogy students; the Piano Pedagogy Laboratory Program, in which children are taught for observation by pedagogy students; and Music Images, a music awareness class for five-year-old students. He received the Regents' Award for Superior Teaching and an Associates' Distinguished Lectureship.

Lancaster has authored many pedagogy books, contributes to professional literature and is consulting editor of both Clavier and The Quarterly. He has conducted workshops, presented papers and adjudicated nationwide and has served on University committees since coming to OU in 1979. He has chaired or served on more than 150 graduate degree committees, and his students currently are on piano pedagogy faculties at colleges and universities in 17 states.

Roland E. Lehr, an OU faculty member since 1968, was named a David Ross Boyd Professor of chemistry and biochemistry in 1991. Assistant to the provost since 1990, he previously served as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and as acting chair of the department of chemistry. He has worked on several University steering and search committees, task forces, planning councils and other campus governing bodies, including the Faculty Senate.

As a professor recognized with the Regents' Award for Superior Teaching in his organic chemistry specialty, Lehr has taught a wide variety of courses for both undergraduate and graduate students, typically a lecture format and a laboratory or seminar/colloquium course. A popular speaker before professional and academic groups, he also is a widely published researcher with considerable outside funding support. Lehr is a member of the board of trustees for the Oklahoma School for Science and Mathematics and is active at several levels for the National Cancer Institute.

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The Distinguished Professorships

George Henderson joined the OU faculty in 1967 and was named Regents' Professor of human relations in 1989; he also is a David Ross Boyd Professor and the S.N. Goldman Professor of Human Relations. He designed the curriculum for the department of human relations and has taught courses dealing with racial, cultural and ethnic questions; strategies for change; social psychology; and a variety of topics including introduction to, literature in and humanistic education in human relations. A popular campus figure, Henderson won the Black People's Union Outstanding Teacher and Faculty Award, an OU Associates' Distinguished Lectureship and was recognized by the Oklahoma House of Representatives for his contributions to affirmative action in higher education.

He has consulted with social service agencies including the National Urban League, the Detroit Antipoverty Program, Social Security Administration and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; educational institutions including the universities of Missouri, North Carolina A & T and Mississippi; Tulsa, Okmulgee, Sapulpa and Oklahoma City Public Schools; the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; the National Conference of Christians and Jews; and the U.S. Army and Air Force.

Nathaniel S. Eek, named Regents' Professor of drama in 1991, came to OU in 1962 and was director of the School of Drama until 1975, when he assumed the deanship of the College of Fine Arts, a position he held until returning to the classroom in 1991. Additionally, Eek staged OU commencement exercises for 15 years. He currently writes "Musings," a weekly column for The Norman Transcript. He is also the author of Children's Theatre in the U.S.A., a booklet for the American Educational Theatre Association and Children's Theatre in Encyclopedia of Education.


Jerome C. Weber has come full circle at OU since beginning as a faculty member in 1964. In 1973 he became dean of University College and assumed the additional duties of Vice Provost for Instructional Services in 1980. Named an "Outstanding Educator of America," he returned to teaching in 1991 and was named Regents' Professor of education. His teaching interests include applied statistical methods, kinesiology, sociology and psychology of sport, higher education administration, leadership in organizations and the physiology of exercise. His most recent published research was "College Survival for Student-Athletes."

Weber has compiled a lengthy list of service at OU including committee work on admission requirements, academic programs, concurrent enrollment, human and school relations, cable television and computing needs. He also has been a consultant on university organization to Oklahoma State University, Tennessee State University, the University of Nebraska and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.
Daniel G. Gibbens, a Regents' Professor of law since 1988, has been on the College of Law faculty since 1962 and teaches criminal procedure, constitutional law and church-state relations seminar. OU's faculty athletics representative to the Big Eight Conference, NCAA and CFA, Gibbens was involved with the 1984 lawsuit and subsequent U.S. Supreme Court decision that changed college contracts with television. At OU Gibbens has assisted on several committees and task forces, including Publications Board; presidential, provost and law dean searches; scholarships and awards; curriculum; and admissions.

Robert E. Shalhope, named a George Lynn Cross Research Professor of history in 1991, has been a member of the OU faculty since 1967. He is the author of several books, including two biographies of prominent Southerners and an examination of American ideals from the pre-Civil War era. He has written several essays on the South, biographies and explorations into the politics of the period. Shalhope has been invited for presentations at colleges and universities across the country. Most recently he lectured at Middlebury College on "Republicanism and Liberalism: Political Culture in the New Nation."

Paul W. Glad was a visiting professor at OU for a year in 1971 and has been a member of the OU faculty since 1977. Glad was the Merrick Professor of Western History for 10 years, taking a one-year sabbatical for his second Fulbright Professorship at Karl Franzens Universitat in Graz, Austria. Since 1988, he has held the title of Regents' Professor of history.

Visible on the OU campus, Glad has served in several capacities on various committees, including searches for graduate dean/vice provost for research and curator of the Western History Collections. Most recently, he directed the search for the curator of the History of Science Collections and served as interim chair of the department of history. He has directed more than a dozen dissertations and is editor, co-editor or author of eight books, including The Trumpet Soundeth: William Jennings Bryan and His Democracy, 1896-1912, which was selected for the White House library and an American Library Association exhibit at the World's Fair.

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Alexander B. Holmes has taught economics at OU since 1974, with the exception of a three-year leave of absence to serve as Secretary of Finance and Revenue and Director of the Office of State Finance in the administration of then-Governor Henry Bellmon. Named a Regents' Professor of economics in 1991, Holmes also is the director of OU's Institute of American Enterprise. Active in state government before his Capitol assignment, Holmes has testified before legislative committees of both the House and Senate, consulted for special committees and served on commissions and boards including the retirement systems for law enforcement, police, teachers, state employees, firefighters and the state insurance fund board of managers.

A perennial student favorite, Holmes won the Outstanding Faculty Award from the OU Student Association, the Baldwin Outstanding Teaching Award and the Amoco Excellence in Teaching Award. The professor, who has served on OU's Faculty Senate, specializes in human resources, public finance, economics of education and econometrics and statistics and is author of volumes on taxation in Oklahoma 2000; he also has been a consultant to the School Land Commission, the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission, the Kerr Foundation and the Federal Energy Administration.

R. Paul Philp's major research theme for the past 10 years has been twofold: the application of organic chemistry to fossil fuel research as it relates to petroleum exploration and the characterization of source rocks, coals and oil shales via microscale pyrolysis and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. The professor of petroleum geochemistry was awarded the George Lynn Cross Research Professorship in 1990, and he is a past recipient of the Regents' Award for Outstanding Research.

An OU faculty member since 1984, Philp previously served as interim director of the School of Geology and Geophysics. He has traveled extensively presenting papers at international meetings and has accepted invitations to professional events worldwide. He was a visiting scientist in Argentina, lectured in China and has conducted short courses in Japan, New Zealand, Venezuela, Tanzania, Taiwan and Brazil.

Morris Reichlin has been chief of the immunology (allergy and arthritis) section in OUHSC's College of Medicine since 1981, and he was named a George Lynn Cross Research Professor of Medicine in 1990. He previously was presented the Provost's Award for Outstanding Research by a Senior Investigator and was a recipient of the Bunim Medal for Distinction in Arthritis Research from the American Rheumatism Association. A consultant in immunology to Abbott Laboratories, he has been an invited lecturer before academic and professional groups across the country, Canada and in London.

While his bibliography includes research findings documented primarily in arthritis and rheumatism journals, a recent Reichlin submission addressed sunexposed skin. Two other recent studies focused on systemic lupus erythematosus. He also directs the arthritis and immunology laboratory in the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.
Mary Jo Nye has taught the history of science at OU since 1970, including four years as a visiting assistant professor. Her research interests are the history of the physical sciences since the 18th Century, scientific institutions, the social and cultural history of science and the philosophy of science. An Associates' Distinguished Lecturer, she was named a George Lynn Cross Research Professor in 1991. She was the project co-director for the four-year History of Science in Western Civilization Postdoctoral Fellowship Program sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Nye assisted in the development of an independent study guide for a unit in the Women's Studies Option for the Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree at OU. She is the author of several books and articles and an invited lecturer in the U.S. and abroad, including The Netherlands, France and Israel. Serving her profession both nationally and campuswide, Nye is on the advisory committee for the Fulbright Scholar Program, history of science discipline and the editorial board of Osiris. She also was acting chair of her department.

George P. Hemstreet III has been on the College of Medicine faculty at the OUHSC as a professor of urology since 1982, and he also is adjunct professor in the departments of pathology and microbiology and immunology and the department of environmental health in the College of Public Health. He is a staff physician of the urology section and director of the quantitative fluorescence image analysis laboratory at the Veteran's Hospital and the director of Slide Cytometry Services in Oklahoma City.

The well-traveled and -published Hemstreet has lectured and presented findings at conferences nationwide and currently is a consultant with the Cancer Institute of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences. While teaching second-, third- and fourth-year medical students, residents in urology and graduate students in microbiology and immunology, pathology and environmental health, Hemstreet also directs his research efforts into infection, urologic oncology and image analysis. He was named a George Lynn Cross Research Professor in 1991.

Elisa T. Lee, a specialist in biostatistics and epidemiology methods, was named a George Lynn Cross Research Professor in 1990. Co-director of the Center for Epidemiologic Research, she has been a member of the OU faculty since 1975, including four years as an adjunct professor in the College of Education. She has won the OU Regents' Award for Superior Teaching and for Research, an Associates' Distinguished Lectureship and the Outstanding Research Award given by the College of Public Health Student Association.

In addition to a large amount of funded research pending and completed, Lee's bibliography includes academic journals, textbooks, abstracts and presentations, and she is a referee for several journals. She is a past member of the arthritis advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration and currently serves as a data collaborator and statistician for an ongoing study by the World Health Organization and another by the National Cancer Institute. Locally, Lee is active in departmental, college and campus activities including Faculty Senate, and she is a consultant to Presbyterian Hospital and the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.