Dr Edwin DeBarr of Norman, one of the first four faculty members of the University of Oklahoma, first head of the chemistry department, was honored by Alpha Chi Sigma fraternity, which presented the university a portrait of Doctor DeBarr May 5.

Father of Oklahoma Chemistry

The "Father of Oklahoma Chemistry" received recognition for his services to the state and to the University of Oklahoma when the Alpha Chi Sigma fraternity pledges presented the university with a portrait of Dr Edwin DeBarr, first head of the chemistry department, May 5.

Doctor DeBarr, formerly vice president of the university, was one of the four original faculty members of the University of Oklahoma, having come to Norman in 1892 before there was a single building on the campus. He, President Boyd, F. S. E. Amos, now instructor in government at the university and W. N. Rice of Oklahoma City, constituted the first faculty of the university.

During the years of growth Doctor DeBarr aided in the development of the university. He served the university for thirty-one years, retiring in 1923. He was principally instrumental in obtaining the present chemistry building, which is named for him. For a long period he was director of the state laboratories established under the food and drug act of the state.

Several weeks before the ceremony, a pledge of Alpha Chi Sigma, which is the professional chemical fraternity, approached Dr Guy Y. Williams, '06 arts-sc., one of "Daddy" DeBarr's ablest graduates and long a co-worker with him, saying that this year the pledges wanted to do something for the department that would be a permanent memorial.

Doctor Williams, head of the department, suggested that he could think of nothing better than to hang a picture of the first head and builder of the department, Doctor DeBarr, in the building.

The suggestion was enthusiastically received. The portrait, an enlargement of the photograph reproduced on this page, was formally unveiled May 5 at 5 o'clock in the chemistry library, preceding the initiation ceremonies.

President Bizzell, Professor J. F. Paxton, Earl Porter, '11 arts-sc., M. A. '12, general manager of the Amerada Petroleum Corp., and Mrs Pearl Goodrich Porter, '09 mus., '10 arts-sc., both of Tulsa and former students of Doctor DeBarr, Paul D. Barton, '19 sc. and Mrs Rosetta Briegel Barton, '15 arts-sc., M. A. '16, also former students, both of Tulsa, John Barbour, '97 pharm., of Norman, a former student, Professor Joseph Paxton and Doctor Williams, were guests of honor at the unveiling.

Doctor Williams, in an informal talk, told the members of the fraternity and the guests the services Doctor DeBarr had rendered the department. He traced the development of the department from the time that Doctor DeBarr had begun teaching and the influence that he had on building the university through his wide personal and fraternal connections.

A most significant feature, Doctor Williams continued, was the great number of students of Doctor DeBarr who had pursued graduate study—the highest percentage of students of any department in the university. This same ratio held today.

Professor Paxton congratulated Doctor DeBarr on his good health and his mental activity, Mr Barbour, who was one of Doctor DeBarr's first students, spoke of him as a teacher and as a friend.

"I have attended many unveilings of pictures and statues, but this is the first time I have had the pleasure of attending such a function in honor of a man who is yet living," President Bizzell declared. The president congratulated Doctor DeBarr on his signal achievements for the university and on his real ability to make and keep friends. He congratulated the fraternity on according Doctor DeBarr recognition.

Cecil T. Craft, '32 eng., of Oklahoma City, on behalf of the pledges of Alpha Chi Sigma, unveiled the portrait. He declared: "As a token of appreciation of the services of the father of Oklahoma chemistry to the chemistry department of the University of Oklahoma, and to the University of Oklahoma and to the state of Oklahoma, Alpha Eta chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma, professional chemistry fraternity, unveils and hangs upon the walls of the library of the chemistry department to remain there permanently this picture of Dr Edwin DeBarr, first head of the chemistry department."

Doctor DeBarr, deeply moved, expressed his appreciation of the honor and spoke of his appreciation of the fact that the students with whom he had been associated had gone ahead in the educational world to new achievements.

Faculty members who had been associated with Doctor DeBarr prior to 1908 were guests at the banquet held in the Varsity shop following the initiation and unveiling.

Woman manager

Miss Ollibel Collins, '32 journ., of Norman, was elected business manager of The Whirlwind, of which Bill Moore, '32 journ., of Sand Springs, will be editor for 1932.