



## IN 1994 FEW COULD HAVE IMAGINED WHAT AN AMAZING DIFFERENCE THE DAVID BOREN YEARS WOULD MAKE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

**P**resident's Leadership Class alumni returning to the campus – even those who had been here during the 23 years of David L. Boren's tenure as president – are startled by the ongoing transformation that has taken place. While historic landmarks remain, they look better than ever. Additions, renovations, expansion, beautification – and inside those hallowed walls, new programs, even new colleges, state-of-the-art equipment – supported by exceptional faculty, highly qualified students, public service projects and volunteerism – taking place on all three OU campuses.

Among the more than 30 new programs established, perhaps the first to assault the senses is First Lady Molly Shi

Boren's beautification efforts, leading to OU's designation as one of the 25 most beautiful campuses in America – but there is so much more. The International Studies emphasis has been transformative, leading to a new college, with three study centers abroad in Italy, Mexico and Brazil. The OU Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City has added the Stephenson Cancer Center (recently named a National Cancer Institute Designated Cancer Center), the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center, a new College of Allied Health, the David L. Boren Student Union and acquisition of the Presbyterian Research Park. A whole new campus now exists for OU-Tulsa and the nation's first School of Community Medicine has been formed in partnership with the University of Tulsa.

Zippering through just some of other new and repositioned programs: the Residential Colleges, Faculty-in-Residence, Honors Fellows, housing diversity, President's Trophy, flat-rate tuition, OU Cousins, revitalized Oklahoma Memorial Union and addition of its new

Leadership Wing, University (Faculty) Club restoration, the Center for Creation of Economic Wealth and Institute for Quality Communities, a new School of Biomedical Engineering and such student traditions as the Ring Ceremony, Sooner Yearbook, Arbor Day, Senior Class Gift, Adopt-a-Prof, Leadership Carving Party, Safe Ride, and programs in expository writing and religious studies.

New, expanded or renovated facilities since 1994 number 60 on the Norman Campus – from Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium to the fine arts buildings to Bizzell Library to classrooms and laboratories, athletic facilities and research centers. The Health Sciences Center counts 16 construction and update projects, while five more have transformed OU-Tulsa.

Add in the private support and general good will that has characterized this period in Sooner history, and the conclusion is inevitable: David and Molly Shi Boren – and the University they served – have had a colossal run.



The Paul Moore statue of President David L. Boren stands in the garden north of Monnet Hall, overlooking Parrington Oval and the statue of his mentor, President George L. Cross.

## THE GALLOGLY ERA WILL BEGIN JULY 1, 2018

As the university prepared for a gala celebration honoring retiring President David Boren, the OU community was also welcoming his successor, OU law alumnus and major benefactor James L. "Jim" Gallogly. It was a familiar sight in the packed Molly Shi Boren Ballroom – red and white balloons, the music of The Pride, spirit squads and accolades – all for this highly regarded business executive known for his transformative leadership style in management of large and complex organizations.

Gallogly, 65, is former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of LyondellBasell, a company he guided in record time from Chapter 11 bankruptcy to a position as

one of the world's largest petrochemical, polymers and refining companies. Previously he served for 29 years in executive roles with ConocoPhillips, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company and Phillips Petroleum Company and earlier was in private law practice in Denver.

The philanthropic support that he and his wife, Janet, have given to higher education, at OU and elsewhere, is wide-ranging. He is a member of the OU Gallogly College of Engineering Board of Visitors and the University of Colorado Engineering Advisory Council and serves on the executive committee of the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Board of Visitors in Houston.

## NO SAD GOODBYES, JUST CELEBRATION OF DECADES OF REMARKABLE SERVICE

**F**or the past nearly 24 years, David and Molly Shi Boren have hosted an astonishing array of special events. In the belief that the University of Oklahoma should be a destination point for the entire state, they have supervised the transformation of OU's campuses – Norman, Oklahoma City and Tulsa – into architecturally impressive, gloriously landscaped gems – all the while advancing nationally recognized academic programs. Then they brought in top-tier speakers and name entertainers, sponsored musical and dramatic performances and supported nationally successful athletic competitions. They made students an essential part of the equation, along with faculty, staff, alumni and community members. Weekend after weekend, and weekdays, too, there was always something going on at the University of Oklahoma.

On April 20-22, 2018, the University Community returned the favor to the retiring presidential couple. It was a Celebration to remember.

### THE APPRECIATION DINNER

On Friday night in the Embassy Suites Ballroom, an estimated 1,800 gathered to thank the Borens for those two decades, to toast their good health, wish them well in the years to come and view an impressive array of video tributes. And what would a Boren event be without a noted keynote speaker? In this case it was a familiar face, the best-selling historian and Boren friend David McCullough. The evening concluded with The Pride of Oklahoma leading the crowd in “Boomer Sooner,” “Oklahoma!” and “The OU Chant.”



And one more time, President Boren lifts his forefinger and joins in the singing of “The OU Chant.”



An estimated 1,800 celebrants sat down to dinner in the Embassy Suites Ballroom on April 20 in tribute to OU's 13th president, David L. Boren, Oklahoma's most famous and honored public servant, on his retirement after more than 23 years as the University of Oklahoma's chief executive.



**PLC AND CRIMSON CLUB TOO** – Several members of PLC double as members of Crimson Club, serving as hosts for OU's special events – and none was more special than the Celebration Dinner for retiring President David L. Boren. Left to right at top are Annie Coffey, Christine Murrain and Dylan Rodolf; bottom, from left, are Maddie Roper, Gagan Moorthy and Michael Thomas.



While the actual statue stood in a driving rain just outside Oklahoma Memorial Union, President Boren demonstrates his approval of the statue's representation unveiled in the Will Rogers Room.



The unveiling of his statue of President David Boren brought a deluge of congratulations to the acclaimed sculptor, OU's Paul Moore.



OU Regent Phil and Jo Albert, of Tulsa, who are also PLC parents, attended the preview party for the unveiling of the Boren statue.

### THE DEDICATION

Heavy rain on Saturday morning – reminiscent of the weather on Presidential Inauguration Day in 1995 – moved the ceremonial portion of the unveiling of the Paul Moore statue of the 13th President inside the Union. The statue itself stood unfazed in the garden west of the Oklahoma Memorial Union, next to Monnet Hall where a young David Boren earned his OU law degree. From that vantage point, the Boren statue has a clear view of the statue of his mentor, George L. Cross.

### STUDENT LEADERS REUNITED

Following the dedication ceremony, it was the alumni's turn to gather for a Leadership Reunion Lunch in the Union's Will Rogers and Clarke-Anderson Rooms. Former members of the President's Leadership Class, Crimson Club, Pe-et, and the President's Community Scholars caught up and shared memories that flowed like water from the many Boren-inspired fountains throughout the campus.

### THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERT

One of the Borens' favorite events, the annual President's Concert, capped off the weekend festivities on Sunday, taking on special meaning for the retiring presidential couple. Featured were the combined OU Choirs, select soloists and the University Orchestra, performing Copeland's "Appalachian Spring" and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, "Pathétique."



OU staff members at the Leadership Reunion luncheon – Craig Hayes, left, Nanette Shadid Hathaway and Jill Quintana Hughes – were members of PLC '91, were PLC student advisers, named to Pe-et and graduated in President David Boren's first OU Class of 1995. Hathaway is the current PLC director.



Not only was First Lady Molly Shi Boren delighted with the soaring music of the President's Concert, she was overcome when senior Skye Singleton, who has been the soloist leading "The OU Chant" at events this year, presented her with an arm bouquet of flowers in – you guessed it – red and white.

## THE UNIVERSITY HAS ITS 14TH PRESIDENT AND PLC HAS ITS 8TH PRESIDENTIAL SPONSOR



George L. Cross  
1943-1968



J. Herbert Hollomon  
1968-1970



Paul F. Sharp  
1971-1978



William S. Banowsky  
1978-1984



Frank E. Horton  
1985-1988



Richard L. Van Horn  
1989-1993



David L. Boren  
1994-2018



James L. Gallogly  
2018-Present

**A**

long with all the other responsibilities and challenges that a new president of the University of Oklahoma inherits is the special relationship with the 125 freshmen members of the President's Leadership Class by serving as PLC's principal sponsor. It doesn't take long for the new chief executive to realize that this is a unique group of young people, carefully chosen for their leadership potential, capable of contributing immeasurably to the quality of campus life and eventually to the community, state and nation. Presidents, having their own priorities, participate in the life of PLC in different ways, some more directly than others. But there is never any doubt that PLC is the President's Class.

The Class had its origin in 1961 with the desire of President George L. Cross to attract to OU Oklahoma's outstanding high school student leaders, many of whom were attending out-of-state colleges. To create a program for this purpose, Cross turned to his assistant, David A. Burr, and together they put together the President's Leadership Class, which has grown in size and stature for 57 years, providing a leadership training template for a number of other institutions across the country. President George and Cleo Cross took a personal interest in PLC, then numbering 57, and many of the weekly meetings were held in their home, now known as Boyd House.

J. Herbert Hollomon, who succeeded Cross in 1968, was less personally involved during his brief two-year tenure, but the next president, Paul F. Sharp, and his wife, Rose, were very invested in PLC. Meetings had been held largely on campus since Hollomon moved the presidential home to a residential neighborhood, but the Sharps often entertained the PLCers. Even after his retirement in 1978, the couple were frequent PLC speakers.



PLC Student Advisers Emily Humphreys, left, and Carlos Rubio Regalado, right, were part of a group of campus leaders welcoming President Designate Jim Gallogly at a pre-announcement reception in the Crawford University Club.

William S. Banowsky sponsored PLC from 1978 to 1984, and he and his wife, Gay, continued the Sharps tradition of hosting PLC. When Frank E. Horton arrived for his three-year stint as president, PLC was preparing for its first reunion – the 25th. A second reunion was held five years later, but by that time Richard L. Van Horn was president, 1989-1993.

Fittingly, the PLC reunion that set the standard, the 50th, occurred during the nearly quarter-century tenure of David L. Boren. Many things about Boren's presidency equated that of his role model, George Cross – length of service, love of teaching, openness to students and faculty – and commitment to PLC. One can imagine that such involvement, and that of First Lady Molly Shi Boren, will have a place in their retirement years.

OU's President Designate, James L. Gallogly, is no stranger to the PLC concept. Before coming to OU College of Law, he received a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. He later made a major gift to UCCS, which included support for that institution's Chancellor's Leadership Class.

## SHARING HER BEAUTY SECRETS IS BIG BUSINESS FOR PLC'S "NYAKIO"

If you believe Thomas Wolfe that “you can’t go home again,” you might want to talk to PLC ’91 alumna and cosmetics entrepreneur Nyakio Kamoche Grieco. For a week last fall, Kamoche Grieco was all over her home town – talking to DECA students at her old school, Norman High; joining a Dream Course panel on entrepreneurship in the Price College of Business; speaking to her Kappa Kappa Gamma sisters, Panhellenic, and the Innovation Hub; promoting her cosmetics line, Nyakio, at outlets of new business partner Ulta; giving interviews; and reconnecting with old friends.

When Nyakio took her OU business degree to Los Angeles, her expectation was a career in the entertainment industry, first at a talent agency, then in management and production. But she eventually realized that her love was for the fashion and make-up part of the business. The next step, developing her own line of cosmetics, was a natural, applying beauty



PLC ’91 alumna Nyakio Kamoche-Grieco is becoming a force in the highly competitive cosmetics industry.

secrets she had learned from her Kenyan grandmother and mother to a wide variety of products that would benefit any sort of skin.

Nyakio’s parents, history professors Jidlaph and Njambi Kamoche, came to the U.S. from Kenya to pursue their educations. Nyakio was born in New York and lived in New Jersey until the late Jid Kamoche brought the family to Norman in 1977, establishing the African and African-American Studies program and becoming one of OU’s most distinguished and admired faculty members.

Meanwhile, Nyakio was spending her summers in Kenya with her grandparents, who were coffee growers, learning the natural ingredients that African women use to preserve their extraordinarily beautiful skin. For the last 12 years, this American beauty has been incorporating ingredients from all over the world into her Nyakio brand of bath and body products, skin care and cosmetics. Initially operating as a sole proprietor on family-and-friends funding, Nyakio found a partner in Sundial Brands, who had the resources to take Nyakio to the next level – and who

shared her vision to make a contribution as well as a profit.

One illustration of her passion to empower women, for instance, was her discovery that while the best source of shea butter was to be found in Ghana, it wasn’t being harvested and processed because obtaining good water required women of the villages to spend all their time toting water from miles away. Nyakio’s parent company built them a water system and then a processing plant where the women could work while the girls could go to school.

Closer to home in LA, where she lives with her husband, fine arts bronze sculptor David Grieco, and children Luisa and Rocco, Nyakio devotes time to mentoring young girls in STEM courses. Her mission is convincing them that they can compete in business where science and math are involved – a bias she herself had to overcome.

The big leap forward for the Nyakio brand has been the one-year exclusive with 300 Ulta stores nationwide, announced in March of 2017. “I’ve curated beauty secrets from my family, friends and travels around the world and translated them into a full line of skincare based on cultivated global beauty secrets, cultural traditions and ethically and sustainably sourced ingredients,” Nyakio says. “I’ve been inspired by everything that’s been shared with me; I’m now sharing the best in global skincare with every woman.”



Once again, the Homecoming Royalty were members of the President’s Leadership Class and also David A. Burr Scholars. From left are the 2017 King and Queen, seniors Cameron Burleson, Coffeerville, Texas, and Visha Patel, Mustang, and their 2016 counterparts, Sarah Stagg, from Tulsa, and David Doshier, from Verdigris.

*PLC Alumni Newsletter* is published twice a year for former members of the President’s Leadership Class by the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association, 900 Asp Avenue, Suite 428, Norman OK 73019. *JP Audas, Associate Vice President for Alumni and Development*  
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## HOLLINGSWORTH EXCELS AS CANCER WARRIOR BY DAY, CREATIVE WRITER ON WEEKENDS

**A**lan Berch Hollingsworth, PLC '67, BA '71, MD '75, all from OU, is best known as medical director of Mercy Breast Center in Oklahoma City and one of his specialty's top experts in the risk analysis, genetics and breast MRI screening. But there is another side to the good doctor that is drawing renewed attention in the publishing world with his latest book – a nonfiction murder mystery involving the death of his maternal grandfather, Marlow hotelier Albert Berch.

Berch himself was something of a mystery; even his family knew little of his early life before he appeared in Marlow at age 27, first as a barber and eventually hotel proprietor. Marlow was a sundown town in 1923 when the KKK was at its zenith. Berch made the fatal decision of hiring a black man as a porter, allowing him to live in the hotel, costing both men their lives, shot when a mob stormed the lobby. There were many witnesses, and two of the mob were convicted and served short prison terms.

Hollingsworth's grandmother, Lulu, never discovered the identity of the persons she was convinced were behind the murders. His mother, Almarian, began writing in midlife, and before her death she had filled in some of the blanks. Hollingsworth took up the story in 2011 and five years of further research became *Killing Albert Berch*, which he believes nails the culprits. "Part of the intrigue," he said, "is for the reader to make a judgment call as to whether or not I've closed the case."

Although he ventured into creative writing in his 20s, success didn't come to the weekend writer until his 50s with the publication of his first novel, *Flatbellies*, a well-received coming of age tale of a high school golf team, set in a version of his hometown of El Reno, and its sequel, *University Boulevard*. On the professional side



Dr. Alan Berch Hollingsworth, PLC '67, BA '71, MD '75, is a man of many talents.

he has written extensively with commentaries, book chapters and a book on breast cancer screening controversies.

Hollingsworth's current enthusiasm centers on his role as co-investigator on a \$2.5 million grant from the National Cancer Institute with Dr. Bin Zheng and Dr. Hong Liu from the Norman campus' School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. It is extremely rare for

NCI to fund such a town-gown collaboration (Mercy and OU), a massive undertaking involving the computer analysis of 4,000 mammograms performed at Mercy, in an attempt to select patients properly and efficiently for breast MRI screening.

Hollingsworth has a history of pioneering in his specialty. Before moving to Mercy, he was the founding medical director of the OU Institute for Breast Health, Oklahoma's first multidisciplinary breast clinic. He also was the first holder of the G. Rainey Williams Chair in Surgical Breast Oncology.

Fifty years after beginning his OU career as a member of the 1967-68 President's Leadership Class, Hollingsworth recalls the tremendous opportunity PLC offered small-town freshmen. "PLC provided a network of friends immediately upon arrival on the Norman campus," he said. "These new colleagues, from a variety of backgrounds, had the common desire to make a difference in the world. I take great delight in following their accomplishments."



**PLC SENIORS** – A group of PLC members of the OU graduating Class of 2018 gather in the David A. Burr Park gazebo following the annual senior ceremony in which they received their PLC pins and became official alumni of the President's Leadership Class.

## FOR HER HONOR JUDGE BARNES, MENTORING IS A PART OF LIFE

**M**entoring is a major component of the President's Leadership Class Program, coming as it does from many sectors of the university community – even from alumni, which made Deborah Browsers Barnes a perfect choice for the annual PLC Alumni Panel in spring 2017. Barnes, PLC '72, had a multi-faceted perspective to offer the Class freshmen from her experience as a judge on the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals, a career in private practice, at the Oklahoma Supreme Court and in major corporate positions.

As a student, attorney and judge, Judge Barnes has racked up honor upon honor. A native of Sand Springs, she earned her bachelor's in journalism/public relations from OU and a juris doctor degree with distinction from the Oklahoma City University School of Law, graduating first in her class. After private practice in Oklahoma City and a stint as a staff attorney at the Supreme Court, she moved to Tulsa as an executive with Transok and then ONEOK, Inc. She was a partner in the firm of Crutchmer, Browsers and Barnes when Governor Brad Henry appointed her to the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals in 2008. She was twice reelected by statewide vote in 2010 and 2014, the year she also was elected chief judge.

Judge Barnes has held leadership positions in various legal and civic associations and been honored for her service. *The Journal Record* listed her among the Women of the Year in 1997, 2012 and 2013; she was inducted into the Sand Springs Education Foundation's Hall of Fame; and received the Outstanding OCU Law Review Alumni Award and the Spotlight Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association Women in Law Committee. She has served on the OCU Law Executive Board since 2001.

The consistent thread running through her professional citations is her passion for mentoring, notably as the recipient of the 2017 Tulsa County Bar Association's James C. Lang Mentoring Award and for her work with the Tulsa Public Schools. She credits her husband Ronald Barnes' grandfather, OU's revered legal icon Maurice Merrill, as the first mentor for them both. The family tradition never waned. Ronald Barnes' father was the late Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court B. Don Barnes, and the couple's son, OU law graduate Grayson M. Barnes, PLC '05, practices with his father in the Barnes Law Firm in Tulsa.



Whether a PLC-acquired skill or just a natural one, Judge Deborah Barnes has become known and honored for her mentoring in her Tulsa community.

Twice a cancer survivor, Deborah Barnes' life philosophy is equally applicable in her advice to the many judicial interns she has guided and the members of PLC. Work hard, have a strong faith in God, and fill your lives with invaluable family and friends and meaningful work, she says. "Stay connected in your community. Be bold and not afraid to find your gifts. Follow your dreams and never give up. Find mentors and mentor others." Marry well, she advises. Find a partner in life who will support you as you support him or her in becoming the best person you both can be. "Life is a journey of ups and downs," she continues, "but find the currency of joy – not merely success."

Judge Barnes recalls her undergraduate days in the '70s as a turbulent time with the Vietnam war, campus protests, racial integration, beginnings of equal rights for women with opportunities in professional schools such as law and architecture. "The glass ceiling was not really even a concept," says the woman who later cracked it. "The world has changed so much for PLCers today.

They need to take advantage of what their predecessors have established for them and blaze the trail for those who will come after." And, oh, yes, she adds: "Boomer Sooner!"



**SPRING SLEEPOVER** – Taking advantage of the first warm nights, members of PLC 2017-18 staged their annual Sleepover, with at least three members – Mackenzie Wright, top, Alejandra Cruz and Abraham Mendieta – finding strategically placed trees to hang their hammocks.



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U.S. Postage  
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University of Oklahoma

This publication, printed by the University-Printing Services, is issued by the University of Oklahoma. 4,220 copies have been prepared and distributed at a cost of \$3,817.00 to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma, 5/18.

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## BOB OKELLO PUT PLC-HONED LEADERSHIP SKILLS TO WORK IN A GIVE-BACK TO UGANDA

When Robert Okello returned home to his rural village in Uganda in the summer of 2014 from his first year away in a United World College high school in Norway, he was an instant celebrity. It was not only because he had won the prestigious Davis Scholarship that was opening the whole world to him, but also because he brought with him a school-leased laptop computer – the only one in a neighborhood of nearly 7,000 inhabitants.

Okello became an impromptu computer instructor, working every day of his break with young people of the area to impart a few basic skills – a couple of his friends even sleeping over at his house to maximize time on the laptop. He quickly realized that such training was a valuable tool to combat the massive youth unemployment that daily threatens the stability of his very young country, something he termed “a ticking time bomb.”

When the UWC Davis Scholarship brought him to the University of Oklahoma

in fall 2016, he knew he would find a way to pay forward to his peers in Uganda for his remarkable opportunities. The following summer, “Bob” – as he is known at OU where he was the first international student in the President’s Leadership Class – was back in Barlwala village armed with ten brand-new computers in a freshly revamped location with 27 enrolled students and projection of 5,000 beneficiaries within the next two years.

Funding for this ambitious undertaking came from a grant Okello was awarded by the Projects for Peace, an initiative available to Davis Scholars worldwide. Additional sustaining support came from a strategic partnership with a community-based non-profit social business operating in Uganda, East Africa, to empower promising individuals with the skills and resources to fight against poverty through job training, internships and mentorship programs.

Then Okello, who is now a junior majoring in African Development Engineering, found to his surprise that none of the U.S. computer vendors shipped internationally. The computers had to be sent to his OU address. The OU Alumni Association stepped in with \$1,000 for shipping, and Bob did the rest.

Local stakeholders became involved with the site renovation. Furniture was made in-house. The opening on July 31 was a community celebration. The happiest attendee was the engineering student from OU. For Robert Bob Okello, it was a dream come true.

“In an age when technology is driving impactful changes all around us every single day, no youth should be left behind,” he said. “I hope this project will empower young people in Northern Uganda through digital literacy to ensure their full engagement in building a peaceful society for all.”