Former University of Oklahoma President W. B. Bizzell was instrumental in organizing the OU Dads’ Association.

On October 17, 1925, 272 fathers of University of Oklahoma students met in response to an invitation from University President W. B. Bizzell to organize the OU Dads’ Association. The association was founded on a permanent basis on November 7 of that year by Dr. Bizzell; R. W. Hutto, Norman banker; E. B. Johnson, and H. L. Muldrow, Emil R. Kraetli, secretary of the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents, and secretary to Dr. Bizzell, also attended the organizational meeting.

Johnson became the group’s first president, Muldrow was elected secretary, and Hutto was treasurer.

Johnson, a prominent local rancher and enthusiastic OU booster, furnished the turkey from his ranch for the annual Dads’ Day banquet for several years following his term of office.

Muldrow served as association secretary for 19 years, retiring from office in 1944. A Mason (he was at one time the youngest 33rd-degree Mason in the world), Muldrow proposed the idea of a Masonic dormitory at OU and served on the dormitory’s board of control. The building is now the Institute of Child Development, 544 Elm Avenue.
During his 30 years of active participation in the Dads’ Association, Kraettli authored the resolutions proposed by the resolutions committee at each annual meeting. He also served as secretary for 10 years and was named secretary-emeritus in 1956.

Hutto was treasurer of the Dads’ Association for 38 years, retiring in 1963.

The purpose of the Dads’ Association as stated in its constitution is (a) to give the dads of University students an opportunity to learn more about the organization and policies of the University, (b) to provide an agency through which the regents, president, and several faculties may become better acquainted with each other and with the dads of students, (c) to bring about a closer cooperation among the dads, regents, the president, faculties, members of the University of Oklahoma Association, and the students of the University, and (d) to provide an agency through which the authorities of the University may more effectively present the needs of the University to the people of the state and to the governing bodies and officials thereof.

To accomplish the goals of the Dads’ Association, the constitution provides that a first, second and third vice president be elected from each of eight districts in the state.

Ever since 1927 the association has awarded scholarships each year to an outstanding senior man and an outstanding senior woman.

A student committee plans the details of Dads’ Day each fall. The day centers around a football game for which dads are given an opportunity to buy half-price tickets when they join the association. The weekend also includes a student variety show and open houses in fraternity and sorority houses and residence halls.

Awards are presented on Dads’ Day in recognition of the youngest dad present, the oldest dad, the dad with the most daughters attending OU, the dad with the most sons attending OU, and the dad with the most children enrolled, as well as the dad coming the farthest from out of state to attend the meeting and the dad coming the farthest in Oklahoma.

In 1938, the first of many scholarships was given to deserving students who might not otherwise be able to stay in school. Those first 25 scholarships were for $6 each — covering a $3 library fee and a $3 student health fee.

In 1977-78, 36 scholarships were awarded at a total cost of $8,150. The amount of money distributed and the number of scholarships involved have varied over the years, reflecting the rising cost of tuition and variations in association receipts from memberships, but the average amount given each year since 1955 has been between $5,000 and $7,000.

In addition, several special scholarships have been established.

A George L. Cross scholarship in the amount of $500 was established when Dr. Cross retired in 1968 after 25 years as president of the University.

Another $500 scholarship honors Emil Kraettli for his long service to the Dads’ Association.

On the occasion of OU’s 75th anniversary in 1965-66, a special distinguished service scholarship of $1,500 was awarded.

The Dads’ Association supported the bond issues which built Ellison Infirmary (now Ellison Hall) and furnished the lounge area.

The association also passed a resolution in 1964 supporting the creation of a school of dentistry.

However, through the years, the Dads’ Association’s chief mission has been helping students — by recognizing their achievements, through scholarships, and by making the needs of the University known to state leaders.

The Dads’ Association Executive Committee meets annually on Dads’ Day to conduct its business and to recognize the Outstanding Senior Man and Outstanding Senior Woman, the Outstanding Senior in each undergraduate college, and the Cross and Kraettli Scholarship winners.

In 1965, Dr. George L. Cross and OU Dads’ Association President Clinton Braden present Dads’ Day trophies to Jane England and R. N. Dunagan.
J. I. Goins, Ardmore, president, OU Dads' Association, and his daughter, Sally, who was a senior majoring in philosophy in 1956.

Presidents of the OU Dads' Association

E. B. Johnson, 1925-26
Judge R. A. Hefner, 1926-27
Judge B. B. Barefoot, 1927-28
Ed Overholser, 1928-29
Dr. W. E. Grisso, 1929-30
Dr. W. E. Grisso, 1930-31
Judge Frank M. Bailey, 1931-32
Judge E. F. Lester, 1932-33
George A. Meacham, 1933-34
Judge Edgar S. Vaught, 1934-35
Dr. W. W. Groom, 1935-36
C. S. Storms, 1936-37
John E. Turner, 1937-38
Earl A. Brown, 1938-39
Dr. J. R. Hinshaw, 1939-40
Walter Morris, 1940-41
Judge Albert C. Hunt, 1941-42
Frank A. Sewell, 1942-43

Frank A. Sewell, 1943-44
H. L. Muldrow, 1944-45
Norman W. Brillhart, 1945-46
Joseph Claude Looney, 1946-47
Charles B. Duffy, Ponca City, 1947-48
George D. Hann, Dallas, Texas, 1948-49
Grady Harris, Alex, 1949-50
T. Howard McCasland, Duncan, 1950-51
Joe Curtis, Pauls Valley, 1951-52
Judge Dick Jones, Oklahoma City, 1952-53
Fisher Muldrow, Norman, 1953-54
Richard Wheatley, Vinita, 1954-55
J. I. Goins, Ardmore, 1955-56
Dr. Paul V. Galloway, Tulsa, 1956-57
J. Lawrence Muir, Enid, 1957-58
Ralph Sewell, Oklahoma City, 1958-59
Clarence McIlroy, Chickasha, 1959-60
Virgil Medlock, Fitzhugh, 1960-61
Tom Garrett, Oklahoma City, 1961-62
David O. Howe, Ada, 1962-63
Dr. J. M. McMillan, Vinita, 1963-64
Clint Braden, Norman, 1964-65
Clint Braden, Norman, 1965-66
Edward F. Cagle, Lawton, 1966-67
Warren Pickering, Oklahoma City, 1967-68
Edwin Chapman, Bristow, 1968-69
J. Paul Johnson, Ponca City, 1969-70
O. T. McCall, Norman, 1970-71
Albert M. Donnell, McAlester, 1971-72
Dr. Charles Graybill, Lawton, 1972-73
Larry E. Stephenson, Ponca City, 1973-74
John H. Patten, Norman, 1974-75
John R. Wallace, Miami, 1975-76
Ollie M. Askins, Duncan, 1976-77
Gene Edwards, Amarillo, Texas, 1977-78

Judge R. A. Hefner, president, OU Dads' Association in 1926-27.
The young man behind the silver cup is Carl Albert. He, along with Velma Jones received the Dads' Association awards in 1931 as outstanding seniors. Albert is former Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Each year since 1927, the OU Dads' Association has honored students who have distinguished themselves in scholarship, all-around activities and service. The winners of the Outstanding Senior Man and Outstanding Woman awards have been:

**1927**—Dillon Anderson, McKinney, Texas, and Nell Weaver, Tulsa

**1928**—Bruce Drake, Oklahoma City, and Mex Rodman, Oklahoma City

**1929**—Ed Patterson, Oklahoma City, and Verona Browning, Geary

**1930**—Carl Albert, McAlester, and Velma Jones, Bristow

1931—Alvan Muldrow, Norman, and Louise Hahl, Sand Springs

1932—Fred Newton, Cushing, and Eloise Chandler, Tulsa

1933—Earl Sneed, Jr., Tulsa, and Margaret Roys, Norman

1934—James F. Hawes, Norman, and Winifred Ketchum, Tulsa

1935—Charles Follansbee, Eufaula, and Betty Hume, Anadarko

1936—Stewart Mark, Oklahoma City, and Ruth Clark, Tulsa

1937—Arthur Ellsworth, El Reno, and Ellen Ash, Cordell

1938—Ben Burdick, Oklahoma City, and Margaret Davis, Norman

1939—George T. Montgomery, Durant, and Betty Sue Armstrong, Ponca City

1940—Thomas Madison Boyd, Norman, and Mary McLaury, Snyder

1941—Helen Slesnick, Oklahoma City, and Charles Nesbitt, Jr., Norman

1942—Dick F. Boyd, Norman, and Amy Hill, Cherokee

1943—Herbert Keener, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Lylith Medberry, Clinton

1944—Bonita Fitzwater, Dallas, Texas

1945—Ann Hardy Braddock, Norman

1946—Patricia Bynum, Henryetta, and Levona Williams, Oklahoma City

1947—Bette Jean Yarger, Madill, and Charles Leland Ward, Oklahoma City

1948—Martha Meacham, Norman, and Clee Fitzgerald, Caddo

1949—Patricia Stath, Oklahoma City, and Harold Coulter, Houston, Texas

1950—Edith Hume Long, Roanoke, Virginia, and Theodore Webb, Fort Worth, Texas

1951—Nadine Norton, Oklahoma City, and James I. Miller, Okmulgee

1952—Dorothy Young, Oklahoma City, and Bill Spohrer, Drummond

1953—Pat Sessions, Idabel, and Gerald Glahn, Bartlesville

1954—Joyce Gregory, Oklahoma City, and Arnold Fagin, Oklahoma City

1955—Caroline Brunozi, Lahaina, Hawaii, and Bev Blackwood, Norman

1956—James C. Johnson, Broken Bow, and Loy Ferguson, Edmond

1957—J. Stephen Beckman, Bartlesville, and Margaret Losey, Oklahoma City

1958—Jerry Wayne Fronterhouse, Oklahoma City, and Sunya Sanger, Mangum

1959—Roy B. Adams, Wewoka, and Janice K. Hann, Dallas, Texas
1960—James H. Rice, Norman, and Harriet Wildman, Oklahoma City
1961—Robert Owen, Bartlesville, and Robbie Tiffany, Shawnee
1962—Gerald L. Gamble, Jefferson, Texas, and Cynthia Ann Curtis, Midwest City
1963—James B. Hawks, Decatur, Georgia, and Loma Linda Lavell, Tulsa
1964—Billi Kay Smith Fogg, Stroud, and Donald Roy Crews, Oklahoma City
1965—R. N. Dunagan, Perry, and Jane England, Ada
1966—Kyle Mc Carter, Norman, and Janie Leigh Potts, Edmond
1967—Bill Cook, Norman, and Linda Phillips, Zenia, Ohio
1968—Mary Ann Reed, Norman, and Duane Draper, Norman
1969—Jim Sharrock, Ponca City, and Sherry Jones, Shawnee
1970—Larry Huffman, Norman, and Cindy Burner, Norman
1971—Cleta Deatherage, Oklahoma City, and Robert Terrell, Lawton
1972—Skip Stephens, Chickasha, and Janet Janzen, Clinton
1973—Jimmie Lee, Singapore, and Lauren Fuller, Norman
1974—Betty Reed, Roswell, New Mexico, and Tim Tabor, Oklahoma City
1975—Graydon Dean Luthey, Jr., Tulsa, and Julie Ann Jacobs, Oklahoma City
1976—Marsha Ray, Sulphur, and Alan Synar, Muskogee
1977—Carl Barrington, Marlow, and Maria Tully, El Reno

University of Oklahoma President Paul F. Sharp congratulates the 1977 winners, Maria Tully and Carl Barrington.
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