# SOONER

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"We're five miles from OU," challenged rancher Paul Travis when his vivacious wife Doris lamented her lack of a college education. Ten years later the former showgirl, now an 88-year-old Phi Beta Kappa, received her bachelor's degree.

#### 8 ON DRAWING BIRDS FROM LIFE

The late George Miksch Sutton loved birds, art, science, music and the English language and pursued each with the talent and grace that made him an OU legend. This previously unpublished article is like a visit with an old friend.

#### 13 CULTIVATING THE PERFECT SETTING

The 47 men and women of the OU landscape department are charged with the monumental task of creating and maintaining a 1,700-acre horticultural showplace for students, faculty, staff and visitors to the Norman campus.

#### 20 SOONER IN SPACE

In 1955 no one took seriously Shannon Lucid's dream of exploring outer space. She was, after all, an eighth grader and a *girl* at that. But her determination never wavered. Next summer she will be onboard a fourth NASA mission.

#### 25 "ONEGAISHIMASU, RINN-SENSEI!"

Armed with language skills acquired during a year of East Asian studies in Australia, a former *Sooner Magazine* staffer signed on as an English teacher in a rural Japanese community and found that learning is a two-way street.



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#### ON THE COVER

Ziegfeld Follies girl at 14, movie actress, successful businesswoman. Doris Eaton Travis yearned for the college education she had missed. After 10 years of uncommon dedication, she has become at 88 OU's oldest graduate. Story on Page 3. Sooner Magazine is published quarterly by the University of Oklahoma Foundation Inc. with private funds at no cost to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma. The magazine is printed by the Transcript Press, Norman, Oklahoma, and is intended primarily for private donors to the University of Oklahoma and life members of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association.

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