# SOONER M A G A Z I N E

**SUMMER 2009** 

Volume 29 ■ Number 4



# contents

#### 4 OU, I LOVE YOU

Armed with camera, crew, script, actors and the audacity to believe in their creative talent, students in Film and Video Studies hit the campus to make a movie.

# 9 THE JOY OF LEARNING

Courses are offered in the no-pressure classrooms of a program tagged OLLI. Faculty compete to teach them; Boomers with active minds can't get enough of them.

# 14 THE DARWIN DILEMMA

Two hundred years after his birth and 150 since *The Origin of Species*, the debate rages on, with the real Darwin to be found on the shelves of the OU library.

## 19 BUILDING A PERENNIAL POWER

With national success almost within her grasp, Sooner softball coach Patty Gasso almost gave up and returned to California—then something wonderful happened.

#### 22 GOING THE DISTANCE FOR STUDENTS

Wagner Hall is becoming destination central for Sooner collegians from the day they enter the University until they fill out that all-important graduation registration card.

## 28 VORTEX2

For five intense weeks this summer, more than 100 scientists, researchers and students spread over the Central Plains to give new meaning to storm chasing.



GE Z



PAGE 9

**PROLOGUE** • INSIDE FRONT COVER

**Letters** • Page 2

**POSTSCRIPT:** THE GRADUATE COLLEGE

• Page 32

THE GOSSIPS • INSIDE BACK COVER

ON THE COVER • Following the formula made famous by *Paris, Je t'aime*, film student Travers Jacobs sets his own love story amid iconic campus landmarks in "OU, I Love You" on Page 4. *Photo by Robert Taylor* 

#### **EDITOR**

Carol J. Burr

# ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Lynette Lobban

#### ART DIRECTOR

George T. Dotson

## STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Robert Taylor

#### **PUBLISHER**

The University of Oklahoma Foundation Inc. Guy L. Patton, President

Archived copies of *Sooner Magazine* are available on the University of Oklahoma Foundation Inc. web site: http://www.oufoundation.org.

**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 members of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association. Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not reflect the official position of the University of Oklahoma or the University of Oklahoma Foundation Inc.

Copyright 2009 by the University of Oklahoma Foundation Inc. Address all inquiries and changes of address to: Editor, Sooner Magazine, 100 Timberdell Road, Norman, OK 73019-0685. Phone: 405/321-1174; email: soonermagazine@ou.edu. Letters to the editor must be signed and are submitted with the understanding that they may be reproduced; emailed letters must include name, address and phone number for verification. Letters not intended for publication should be so marked.